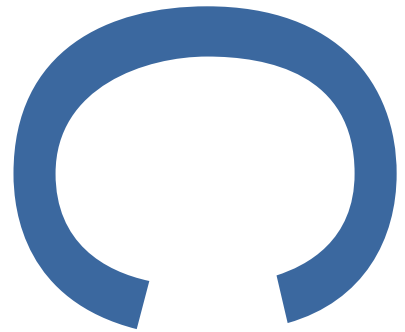


**BIGGIN LANE, RAMSEY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE:**

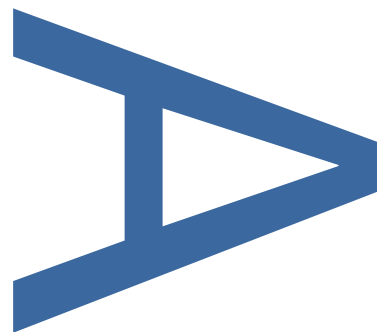
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**



**PCA REPORT NO: R13507**

**SITE CODE: ECB5220**

**NOVEMBER 2017**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

## Biggin Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

**Local Planning Authority:** Huntingdonshire District Council

**Planning Reference:** 16/01530/OUT

**Central National Grid Reference:** TL 2771 8470

**Site Code:** ECB5220  
**Report No.** R13507  
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*Figure 2: Detailed site location*

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*Figure 4: Plan of trenches 2, 5, 6 and 7 overlain on geophysical survey*

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*(Figures are bound at the end of the report)*



## ABSTRACT

*This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Biggin Lane, Ramsey, between the 4th and 12th October 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Abbey Properties Cambridgeshire Ltd in advance of potential residential development of the site. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.*

*The evaluation identified a predominantly Middle Iron Age (400 - 100BC) system of boundary and enclosure ditches extending across Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 7 in the north-western part of site. Trenches 2 and 5 contained two sides of a rectilinear enclosure and a linear field boundary. The linear boundary extended eastwards and was also revealed in Trenches 5 and 7. A substantial ditch in Trench 6 represents a further Middle Iron Age boundary ditch which was later re-cut in the Roman period.*

*The preservation of the finds assemblage was generally poor and the amount and variation of finds was low, however, the assemblages collected were sufficient to date the activity on the site. The low number of finds suggests that activity on the site was agricultural in nature, rather than settlement based.*

*Two ditches forming a possible trackway in Trench 9 contained no dateable material, but may date to the post-medieval period. A significant amount of modern demolition material, including now disused services, was encountered to the north and south of Biggin Lane, resulting from the use as well as decommissioning and demolition of parts of RAF Upwood airfield.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at Biggin Lane, Ramsey (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 2771 8470) between the 4th and 12th October 2017 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Abbey Properties Cambridgeshire Ltd. in advance of proposed residential development of the site.
- 1.3 Following stipulations made by Cadent Gas (October 2017), which prevented excavation within 15m of the potential gas main on the site, only 11 of the originally agreed trenches were able to be excavated. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with an updated Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Christiane Meckseper of PCA (Meckseper 2017).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine, where possible under the constraints, the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains in the available areas of 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 eleven trenches were excavated and recorded. This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire Archaeological Stores.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site is Oxford Clay Formation Sedimentary Bedrock with superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Oadby Member Diamicton (British Geological Survey 2017).

### **2.2 Topography**

2.2.1 Ramsey lies on flat ground at the edge of the Cambridgeshire Fens. Several watercourses, including the 'High Lode' drain into an old course of the River Nene at 0m AOD to the north of Ramsey. The proposed development site is located on slightly higher ground at the south-western edge of Ramsey and lies between c.10m and 20m AOD. The site comprises arable fields.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General**

3.1.1 The following archaeological background has been collated from data from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) (licence no. 17-2885) and the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2016) and Brief (CHET 2017). Numbers given in brackets in the following text are CHER asset and event identifiers. Measurements are given from an approximate central point of the proposed development area at TL 27740 84589.

#### **3.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations**

3.2.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the reinforcement of a pipeline located along the eastern boundary of the land parcel north of Biggin Lane (ECB3453). This recorded an undated posthole, ditch and soil layer (MCB19364).

3.2.2 At Field Road c.200m north of the site geophysical survey and trial trenching revealed a cluster of intercutting early to Middle Iron Age pits (ECB4136). Medieval ridge and furrow features were also present (MCB 20288).

3.2.3 To the west of the site an evaluation at Upwood Airfield recorded seven undated ditches (ECB4575). The ditches were on similar alignments to those of existing field boundaries and are therefore interpreted to date to the post-medieval to modern periods (MCB20815).

#### **3.3 Geophysical Survey**

3.3.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken on the proposed development site in April 2017 (Magnitude Surveys 2017). This identified primarily features, services and demolition debris associated with the site's former use as an airfield. Most of the features correlate well with those shown on historic and modern maps. Agricultural activity in the form of plough furrows and a former field boundary was also identified.

3.3.2 The exception is a series of ditch-like anomalies towards the north-western end of the site, which are distinct from surrounding features. These were



interpreted as being of possible archaeological origin.

### **3.4 Prehistoric to Roman (800BC – 410AD)**

3.4.1 A Bronze Age palstave axe and chisel were reported being found in Ramsey in the 1920's (02810), although the exact location cannot be determined. A trial trench evaluation located 520m to the north of the site located a series of intercutting pits dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age by associated pottery (MCB20288).

3.4.2 A late Iron Age/early Romano-British settlement is recorded at Owl's End Road, approximately 990m to the south-east of the site, with evidence of a ditch and rectilinear enclosure (10115). The settlement appears to have been abandoned in the later Roman period, possibly due to flooding.

3.4.3 Approximately 870m to the north-east of the site fragments of a Roman decorated Samian bowl (01550) was recovered during groundworks for a school. Another sherd of Roman pottery is recorded as being found in the vicinity (07807) but exact location is unclear.

3.4.4 A silver Roman coin, reign of Tiberius, was located approximately 730m to the south-east of the site. A series of undated boundary ditches (MCB18127) located in Station Road, around 705m to the east of the site, yielded a small quantity of Roman tile. To the south of the site, approximately 730m, a series of gullies dating to the Roman period were located during archaeological evaluation (MCB19643) and appeared to part of a Roman ditch system. Three sherds of grey ware pottery dating to the 2nd century were recovered from the gullies.

### **3.5 Saxon**

3.5.1 No major archaeological evidence of Saxon occupation has been located in the study area to date. Several residual sherds of pottery from the Early (MCB18127), Middle (10115) and Late Saxon (MCB16326/MCB16483) periods have been located in Ramsey during various archaeological excavations, all within the radius of the study area.

### **3.6 Medieval**

- 3.6.1 Approximately 260m to the west of the site is the site of the former Biggin House, built in the 16th century on the location of a moated site of a medieval hospital which shows as a crop mark of earthworks (01033). To the north of the site at a distance of 550m a geophysical survey revealed medieval ridge and furrow earthworks with associated pottery (MCB20288). A medieval pit containing pottery was located 730m to the north-east (MCB20326).
- 3.6.2 Earthworks (10115) recorded at Owl's End Road, 990m to the south-east of the site, indicate a deserted settlement associated with agricultural activity such as crop storage or processing. Settlement patterns have been recorded here from the later Iron Age and appeared to continue to include 12th and 13th century activity including a small moated site, ridge and furrow and enclosure earthworks, a platform and oven.
- 3.6.3 A medieval ditch (15308) located approximately 1km to the north-east of the site containing pottery was recorded during an evaluation following the line of 'The Great Whyte' thoroughfare through the town. A further evaluation in the same area found pits and ditches dating to the 14th to 15th centuries containing lead fishing weights (MCB16899). An evaluation (MCB 16326) in Ramsey High Street, 1km to the north-east, recorded land that was reclaimed in the late 13th century as well as features and finds dating from the 13th and 14th centuries representing activity in the backyards of properties fronting the High Street.
- 3.6.4 An evaluation in the High Street, (MCB16483), approximately 1km to the north-east of the site revealed medieval ditches and a posthole containing domestic pottery from the 11th to 14th centuries. Again there was evidence of levelling layers from the 12th and 13th centuries indicating the reclamation of formally flooded land and hence occupation in this area of the town.
- 3.6.5 The remains of a 14th century (MCB17333) and a 15th century building (MCB16664) and a 15th century wall (MCB17478) have been located just outside of the study area along 'The Great Whyte' road running north-west to

south-east through the town indicating the establishment of medieval settlement in the town in these periods.

### 3.7 **Post-Medieval**

3.7.1 Post-medieval remains and features of note within and just outside the study area include a standing timber-framed barn located 895m to the south-east of the site (02836); archaeological evaluation 1km to the north-east in Ramsey High Street (MCB16326) located levelling layers, a cobbled surface and remains of a barn.

### 3.8 **Modern**

3.8.1 The potential development site lies adjacent to and partially includes now disused remains of Upwood Airfield (CP15153), a WWI and WWII airfield and former Royal Air Force station, which was under the control of the United States Air Force from 1981. After the end of the Cold War many of the activities at Upwood were curtailed and its facilities dismantled from the mid-1990s onwards<sup>1</sup>. The former airfield is now largely agricultural land but some parts are still used by gliding clubs.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF\\_Upwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAF_Upwood) [Accessed 17/10/2017]

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Excavation and Sampling**

4.1.1 A total of eleven 50m long trenches were excavated to the north and south of Biggin Lane (fig 1). The trenches were located to test anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017). The majority of the southern field could not be evaluated at this stage due to the uncertain location of a medium pressure gas main and the constraints stipulated by Cadent Gas.

4.1.2 The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator. Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 20-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.09m-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.

4.1.3 Trench 16 was re-machined after the monitoring meeting in order to remove a layer of lower subsoil that had originally been thought to be natural clay.

4.1.4 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. Three metal finds (discussed below) were retrieved by metal detector from the spoil heaps. Archaeological features were scanned by metal-detector prior to excavation. A 90l 'bucket sample' was sorted at the end of each trench, this revealed no additional finds.

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

4.1.6 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

## 4.2 **Recording Methodology**

- 4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.2.2 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.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

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

5.1.2 Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 contained archaeological features (figs 4 and 6). These are discussed first. Trenches 1, 3, 4, 8, 15 and 16 contained no archaeological features. Those trenches are described using trench tables only. In all trench tables “Average Depth (m)” refers to depth below ground level.

### **5.2 Overburden and natural geological deposits**

5.2.1 In the northern field, overburden in all trenches comprised friable dark brown sandy clay silt topsoil (100) which was between 0.27m and 0.47m thick. Subsoil (101) comprised a compact mid brownish grey clay silt with occasional small pebbles and flint which ranged from 0.05m to 0.30m in thickness.

5.2.2 In the southern field, overburden in both trenches comprised friable dark brown topsoil (129) between 0.23m to 0.45m thick. An upper, modern subsoil (130) was composed of compact mid grey brown clay silt with occasional chalk nodules, ranging from 0.17m to 0.6m thick. This lay above a layer of airfield demolition rubble (124) and (131) present in Trenches 15 and 16 respectively (discussed below). The demolition rubble in turn overlay an older subsoil (125) and (123) which was 0.20m – 0.28m thick.

5.2.3 Demolition rubble associated with the modern airfield at the site was found both in the northern and southern fields. In the southern field it was present in Trenches 15 and 16, comprising mid brown grey gravelly silt, with frequent CBM, concrete fragments, old service pipe fragments and small stones, layers (124) and (131) respectively (figs 5 and 6).. In Trench 15 this was left in situ due to the large number of service pipes. In Trench 16 it was removed by machine where possible but left in situ in some places, also due to the

presence of service pipes (Figure 5 shows the location and direction of services left in situ marked as layer '131').

5.2.4 In Trench 15 the demolition material ranged from 0.2m to 0.3m thick. In Trench 16 it was 0.36m to 0.43m thick. In the northern field, another large area of modern demolition material associated with the airfield (132) was found in Trench 6. It extended 30m from the southern end of the trench and comprised light brown grey gravelly silt with frequent CBM, large chalk and concrete fragments, and an old service pipe fragment. It was left in situ.

5.2.5 Natural (102) in all trenches comprised mid orange brown sandy clay with moderate small to medium flint gravel inclusions and moderate small chalk flecks. This was mixed with patches of medium brown grey clay with moderate small chalk inclusions.

### 5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 contained two Middle Iron Age boundary ditches oriented northwest-southeast.

5.3.2 Ditch [110] was 1.10m wide and 0.25m deep, with steeply sloping sides and concave base. It contained a single fill (111) of mid to light greyish brown clayey silt from which was recovered one Middle Iron Age sherd, 125g of fragmentary animal bone, and one worked flint.

5.3.3 Ditch [112] was 1.70m wide and 0.50m deep, with an irregular profile; steeply sloping on the northeast side and stepped on the southwest side, with a concave base. It contained a single fill (113) of mid to dark brown silty clay. Present were 49g of Middle Iron Age pottery, and one worked flint.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2-4, 6	Plate 6	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 40m	Level of Natural (m OD): 16.22-15.68	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.31	0.30
Subsoil	(101)	0.31-0.44	0.30-0.47
Natural	(102)	0.44+	0.47+
<b>Summary</b>			

Trench 2 was located parallel to the western edge of the development area. The trench contained two Middle Iron Age ditches.

## 5.4 Trench 5

5.4.1 Trench 5 contained two Middle Iron Age boundary ditches, one oriented northwest-southeast, the other northeast-southwest.

5.4.2 Ditch [109] was 1.30m wide and 0.43m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained an upper fill (108) of mid grey brown sandy silt, and a lower fill of mid yellow brown sandy silt. Present in fill (108) was one Middle Iron Age potsherd and 128.5g of cattle bone.

5.4.3 Ditch [114] was 1.80m wide and 0.48m deep, with an irregular profile; steeply sloping on the southeast side, and stepped on the northeast side, with a concave base. It contained a single fill (115) comprising mid to light brown clay silt. 179.5g of animal bone and 39g of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were present in this fill.

TRENCH 5		Figures 2-5	Plates 2, 5	
Trench Alignment: ENE-WSW		Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 16.22-15.00	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		WSW End	ENE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.26	0.28	
Subsoil	(101)	0.26-0.35	0.28-0.33	
Natural	(102)	0.35+	0.33+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 2 was located centrally in the development area. The trench contained two Middle Iron Age ditches.				

## 5.5 Trench 6

5.5.1 Trench 6 contained one large Middle Iron Age boundary ditch and a Roman ditch, oriented northwest-southeast. An area of modern disturbance (132) likely linked to demolition of the airfield was present in the southern half of the trench.



5.5.2 Ditch [116] was 3.14m wide and 0.92m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a v-shaped base. It contained four fills; a base fill (127) of mid grey firm clay with moderate charcoal inclusions, a lower middle fill (126) of mottled orange and green brown clay silt with moderate charcoal inclusions, a higher middle fill (128) of mid to dark brown silt, and an upper fill (117) of mottled orange brown and grey silty clay. In fill (127) two sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were present, as well as a very small amount of fragmentary animal bone. Fill (126) contained one possibly intrusive sherd of Roman pottery and a small amount of CBM and animal bone. In fill (117) small amounts of worked flint, shell, and CBM were present, as well as 196.5g of animal bone and 86.5g of Middle Iron Age pottery. No finds were present in fill (128).

5.5.3 Ditch [118], truncating Ditch [116] from above, was 6.20m wide and 0.48m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (119) composed of mid grey brown silt. Recovered from this fill were five potsherds (one possibly residual Middle Iron Age sherd, and four Roman sherds dating from AD150-250), 165g of CBM fragments, and a small amount of animal bone.

TRENCH 6	Figures 2-4, 6		Plates 3, 8	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 16.24-16.21		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.29	0.34	
Subsoil	(101)	0.29-0.37	0.34-0.47	
Demolition Rubble	(132)	0.37-0.48	-	
Natural	(102)	0.48+	0.47+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 2 was located at the western edge of the development area. The trench contained one Middle Iron Age ditch and one Roman ditch, as well as a large area of modern demolition rubble extending from the southwest end of the trench.				

## 5.6 Trench 7

5.6.1 Trench 7 contained one boundary ditch oriented northwest-southeast.

5.6.2 Ditch [120] was 2.10m wide and 0.65m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a v-shaped base. It contained two fills; a lower fill (121) of mid grey brown clay silt and an upper fill (122) of mid to dark grey brown silt with moderate charcoal inclusions. In fill (122) one Roman potsherd of AD50-200 date and 27g of fragmentary animal bone were present.

TRENCH 7	Figures 2-4, 6		Plate 7	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 5.58-5.86		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.29	0.36	
Subsoil	(101)	0.29-0.38	0.36-0.44	
Natural	(102)	0.38+	0.44+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 2 was located near the eastern edge of the development area. The trench contained one boundary ditch.				

## 5.7 Trench 9

5.7.1 Trench 9 contained two linear ditches oriented northwest-southeast.

5.7.2 Ditch [104] was 0.81m wide by 0.14m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (103) of mid brown grey sandy silt, which had no finds present.

5.7.3 Ditch [106] was 0.78m wide by 0.09m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (105) of mid yellow brown sandy silt, containing no finds.

TRENCH 9	Figures 2-5		Plates 1, 4	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 15.96-15.82		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.40	0.40	
Subsoil	(101)	0.40-0.50	0.40-0.43	
Natural	(102)	0.50+	0.43+	
<b>Summary</b>				

Trench 2 was located at the southern edge of the northern field of the development area. The trench contained two parallel undated shallow ditches.

## 5.8 Trenches 1, 3, 4, 8, 15 and 16

5.8.1 Trenches 1, 3, 4, 8, 15 and 16 contained no archaeological features and deposits. The following tables summarise the information for each trench.

<b>TRENCH 1</b>	<b>Figures 2, 3</b>		<b>Plate -</b>	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 14.84-13.62		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>		
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>	
Topsoil	(100)	0.30	0.31	
Subsoil	(101)	0.30-0.35	0.31-0.37	
Natural	(102)	0.35+	0.37+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 1 contained no archaeological features.				

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figures 2, 3</b>		<b>Plate -</b>	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 40m	Level of Natural (m OD): 15.93-14.76		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>		
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>	
Topsoil	(100)	0.20	0.19	
Subsoil	(101)	0.20-0.40	0.19-0.33	
Natural	(102)	0.40+	0.33+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 3 contained no archaeological features.				

<b>TRENCH 4</b>	<b>Figures 2, 3</b>		<b>Plate -</b>	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 40m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.96-13.73		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>		
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>	
Topsoil	(100)	0.30	0.28	
Subsoil	(101)	0.30-0.50	0.28-0.48	

Natural	(102)	0.50+	0.48+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 4 contained no archaeological features.			

<b>TRENCH 8</b>	<b>Figures 2-4</b>	<b>Plate -</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 40m	Level of Natural (m OD): 15.03-15.66	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>NW End</b>	<b>SE End</b>
Topsoil	(100)	0.28	0.37
Subsoil	(101)	0.28-0.35	0.37-0.45
Natural	(102)	0.35+	0.45+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 4 contained no archaeological features. A small area of modern disturbance, likely refuse related to agricultural activity or RAF Upwood airfield demolition, was found truncating the natural geology midway through the trench extending into the southwest baulk.			

<b>TRENCH 15</b>	<b>Figures 2, 3, 5</b>	<b>Plate -</b>	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 16.04-16.49	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>N End</b>	<b>S End</b>
Topsoil	(129)	0.28	0.25
Upper Subsoil	(130)	0.28-0.48	0.25-0.47
Demolition Rubble	(124)	0.48-0.68	0.47-0.72
Lower Subsoil	(125)	0.68-1.0	0.72-1.0
Natural	(102)	1.0	1.0
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 15 contained no archaeological features. Modern airfield demolition rubble was found intruding into a lower subsoil overlying the natural geology.			

<b>TRENCH 16</b>	<b>Figures 2, 3, 5, 6</b>	<b>Plate -</b>	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 15.45-14.88	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>

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Topsoil	(129)	0.23	0.24
Upper Subsoil	(130)	0.23-0.40	0.24-0.40
Demolition Rubble	(131)	0.40-0.80	0.40-0.74
Lower Subsoil	(123)	0.80-1.0	0.74-1.0
Natural	(102)	1.0	1.0
<b>Summary</b>			
<p>Trench 16 contained no archaeological features. Modern airfield demolition rubble was found intruding into another modern lower subsoil overlying, and in places truncating, the natural geology.</p>			

## 6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 6.1 The Metal Finds

By Ruth Beveridge

6.1.1 Three copper alloy objects were retrieved from the top soil of Trenches 2, 3 and 4 and recorded as small finds. All of them are unstratified.

6.1.2 SF 1 (Trench 3) is a piece of copper alloy waste with a vesicular texture associated with slag.

6.1.3 SF 2 (Trench 2) is a cast, flat sheet mount. It is rectangular in plan, with a pointed apex and opposing terminal forked. It has three circular attachment holes, one through the apex and one each in the points of the forked end. It is slightly bent. This form of mount could have been used as either a dress or furniture fitting. It is undated, and whilst the patina does suggest some antiquity, it is difficult to establish whether the object is of Roman or much later date.

6.1.4 SF 3 (Trench 4) is a fragment of copper alloy sheet, square shaped in plan, with horizontal ribbing on the front. On the reverse is an integral attachment stud. It is from an unknown object and is also of uncertain date.

### 6.2 Ceramic Building Material

6.2.1 Only a small amount of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was collected from across the site, and is tabulated below. The CBM fragments were retrieved from the fills of the Middle Iron Age ditch [116] and its Roman re-cut [118] in Trench 6. The fragments were too small to be diagnostic and therefore were not sent for specialist analysis.

CUT	CONTEXT	FINDS TYPE	SAMPLE NO	SAMPLE TYPE	MATERIAL	NO OF FRAGS	WEIGHT (g)
116	117	bulk			CBM	13	111.5
118	119	bulk			CBM	15	165
116	126	bulk			CBM	1	4.5
116	117	sample	1	Bulk	CBM		7
116	127	sample	2	Bulk	CBM		12

Table 1: Context information for CBM

### 6.3 **The Prehistoric Pottery**

By Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

#### 6.3.1 Introduction

An assemblage comprising 33 sherds (191g) of handmade prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation, displaying a low mean sherd weight (MSW) of 5.7g. This measurement is representative of the assemblage's typically small sherd size, with all apart from 4 sherds (12% by sherd count) being of a small (<4cm) size. A single sherd of this assemblage may be residual, due to the presence within the fill of 4 sherds of Roman pottery (See Section 6.4).

#### 6.3.2 Methodology

All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single entities). Sherds weighing less than 1g were classified as crumbs (total 6g) and were recorded by context, fabric (where visible) and weight in the catalogue, but do not form part of this analysis. Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (all classifiable pottery within this assemblage was handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim and shoulder, the vessel was also classified using a series devised by J.D Hill and L. Horne (2003) for later Iron Age pottery. All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (85% by sc); sherds measuring 4-8cm

were classified as 'medium' (15% by sc), and sherds over 8cm in diameter were classified as 'large' (0%).

### 6.3.3 Assemblage Characteristics

A range of fabrics were recorded in the assemblage (Table 2), all of which can be accommodated within the range of later Iron Age pottery in Cambridgeshire (Brudenell and Braddock 2004). Fabrics where the dominant or only inclusion present was sand (Q) was most common within the assemblage, accounting for 57% of the pottery by sc. The sand used is typically fine, and predominantly present in moderate to common quantities, giving the pottery an abrasive finish.

The shelly fabrics, or those in which other calcareous inclusions were dominant accounted for 36% of the assemblage by sc and were less well sorted, and in some cases contained other secondary inclusions such as sand or flint. These fabrics were the only fabrics used to produce pottery possibly relating to the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition (possibly scored pottery comprised 2 sherds; 6% of the assemblage by sc), further examples of which were found nearby at Field Road (Chapman 2014).

Very small quantities of pottery containing grog were also present within the assemblage, although it was always mixed with other tempers. These sherds were not of a markedly different finish or appearance to the other sherds present in the assemblage, which suggests they did not form a part of the 'Belgic' or 'Aylesford-Swarling' pottery tradition of the Late Iron Age (Thompson 1982), but are more likely to represent local variations in clay recipes. The use of grog does however suggest a date later in the Middle Iron Age-Late Iron Age is more probable for the assemblage.

Apart from the scoring discussed above, the pottery assemblage was almost completely undecorated, with only two sherds displaying a smoothed finish, as such the pottery from the site is essentially a plain ware assemblage.



GQ1	Rare to sparse fine subangular grog, rare fine sand
C1	Moderate to common fine to moderate calcareous inclusions (Blocky)
CFQ1	Moderate fine to coarse calcareous inclusions (Blocky), rare fine to moderate calcined flint, rare to sparse fine to coarse sand
CQ1	Moderate to common fine to coarse calcareous inclusions (Blocky), rare to sparse fine to coarse sand
CQ2	common fine to very coarse calcareous inclusions (Blocky), rare to sparse sand
Q1	Sparse to moderate fine sand
Q2	Moderate to common fine sand (very rare larger inclusions/grains)
QG1	Sparse to moderate fine sand, rare fine subangular grog
QV1	Sparse to moderate fine sand, rare short linear voids (vegetable?)
S1	Common to very common linear (platey) shell

Table 2: Pottery fabric series

6.3.4 Based on the total number of different rims or bases recovered, the assemblage is estimated to include fragments of at least 6 different vessels (6 rims), although the variety of fabrics indicates that the true figure is likely to be considerably higher, albeit not quantifiable due to the lack of diagnostic sherds. These were commonly simple flat or rounded forms, although two examples did exhibit external thickening. The only form that could be identified in the assemblage was a simple near upright rim with a slack, rounded shoulder (2 examples; Hill and Horne 2003 Type A); which is the most common form type identified within Middle Iron Age assemblages in Cambridgeshire, usually forming in excess of 60% of site assemblages.

6.3.5 The assemblage can be best placed in the later Iron Age, with the majority of the pottery belonging to the Middle Iron Age plain ware tradition. Very small quantities of possibly scored pottery were also present; although the potsherds in question were so small the presence of this decorative characteristic cannot be fully confirmed. Considering the location of much of North Cambridgeshire at the fringes of the East Midlands Scored Ware tradition, it is possible that these sherds represent locally produced versions of that tradition, if not direct imports from the Nene Valley region proper. Small quantities of pottery (4 sherds: 12% by sherd count) containing grog within their fabrics (admixed with sand) were also present, which suggests at

least a part of the assemblage may date towards the end of the Middle Iron Age/beginning of the Late Iron Age, a period when the use of grog temper, often as part of 'Belgic' type pottery started to become more prevalent. There have been no previous phases of work at the site; therefore this report describes the totality of the prehistoric pottery recovered to date.

6.3.6 Due to the small size of the assemblage, and the limited number of contexts it derived from there is little to be gained from a detailed analysis of the nature of different feature assemblages, with the generally small size and somewhat abraded nature (10 sherds slightly or heavily abraded, 30% by sherd count) being suggestive of the gradual accumulation of material through typical processes of breakage and discard. The ceramics are in a stable condition.

Context	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric type	Number of sherds	Wt (g)	Overall context date
108	109	Ditch	GQ1	1	3	M-LIA
111	110		QV1	1	4	MIA
113	112		Q1, CQ1, CQ2	9	49	MIA
115	114		CFQ1, GQ1, Q1, Q2	4	39	MIA/LIA
117	116		Q2, S1, QG1, C1, CFQ1	15	80	MIA
119	118		Q1	1	4	MIA (residual?)
127	116		C1	2	12	MIA

Table 3: Pottery quantification by context

### 6.3.7 Discussion

The definite dating of the pottery assemblage is problematic, due to the

small nature of the assemblage and the relative lack of diagnostic sherds. Having stated this, the dominance of sandy and shelly fabrics indicates that the assemblage is unlikely to date to before the start of the Middle Iron Age (Hinman 2004), before which flint tempered Post-Deverel Rimbury pottery is the main pottery tradition found within the region (Brudenell 2012). This assigned date is supported by the general absence of decoration and where recoverable, the presence of slack or weakly shouldered vessels with typically simple flattened or rounded rims. These features suggest that the bulk of the assemblage belongs to the Middle Iron Age plain ware tradition, commonly found throughout Cambridgeshire and the surrounding counties. Although beginning at the junction of the Early and Middle Iron Age (400-300 BC), this pottery tradition is long lived, and in some cases continues through the Late Iron Age into the early centuries AD, especially in northern East Anglia. In Cambridgeshire pots of this Middle Iron Age 'type' can be replaced by wheel or hand made Late Iron pottery of 'Belgic' type, continue in conjunction with this later tradition or maintain their dominant position in isolation.

- 6.3.8 The presence of vessels resembling East Midlands Scored Ware can be used to suggest a date range of c. 400 BC-AD 50 (Elsdon 1992), although further subdivision within this range cannot be attempted from the extremely limited numbers of scored sherds recovered. The second aspect of the assemblage that may provide a more concise date range is the presence within the assemblage of grog tempered pottery. Although grog tempered pottery can be found within Middle Iron Age assemblages in small quantities, such as at Greenhouse Farm, Fen Ditton (Hill and Braddock 1999), where it formed 0.4% of the assemblage it is more commonly associated with the Late Iron Age in general and 'Belgic' forms in particular within Cambridgeshire, for example nearby at Little Paxton (Hancocks 2003). The grog tempered sherds present at the site were undiagnostic, and as such could belong to either the Middle or Late Iron Age. However, the presence of these sherds in small numbers hints that the assemblage may have a date towards to end of the Middle Iron Age, possibly into the earlier part of the Late Iron Age. Based on the combination of these pottery types, a broad

date in the 3rd to 1st century BC can tentatively be suggested for the assemblage as a whole.

## 6.4 The Roman Pottery

By Katie Anderson

6.4.1 A very small assemblage of Roman pottery totalling six sherds weighing 52g was recovered from the evaluation. All of the pottery was examined and recorded in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Perrin 2011) and using the standard terminology and codes advocated by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (Symonds 2002).

Context	Cut	Trench	No	Wt(g)	Spotdate
119	118	6	4	28	AD150-250
122	120	7	1	21	AD50-200
126	116	6	1	3	AD50-200

Table 4: Roman pottery quantification by context

6.4.2 Four sherds of pottery (28g) were recovered from Ditch [118], Trench 6, comprising two refitting sherds (20g) from an East Gaulish Dragendorff 33 cup, with a worn interior indicative of grinding, dating AD150-250. A small shell-tempered sherd (1g) and a buff sandyware body sherd (7g) were also recovered from this fill. A single buff sandy ware body sherd (3g) was recovered from context (126)/[116], Trench 6 dating AD50-200. The final sherd comprised a coarse oxidised sandyware body sherd (21g) which derived from fill (122) Ditch [120], dating AD50-200.

## 6.5 The Environmental Results

By Kate Turner

### 6.5.1 Introduction

This report summarises the findings of the rapid assessment of two bulk samples taken during the archaeological evaluation of land near Biggin Lane, Ramsey. These samples were taken from the fill of a single field boundary ditch, the context information for which is given in Table 5.

The aim of this assessment is to:

- 1: Give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples;
- 2: Determine the environmental potential of these samples;
- 3: Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

Context No.	Cut	Context type	Context category	Trench number	Interpretation
117	116	Ditch	Fill	6	Natural infilling of field boundary ditch [116]
127	116	Ditch	Fill	6	Fill of field boundary ditch [116]

Table 5: Context information for environmental samples

### 6.5.2 Methodology

Two environmental bulk samples, of twenty-four and thirty-six litres in volume respectively, were processed using the flotation method; material was collected using a 300 µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1 mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4 mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1-10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly frequent (11-30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31-100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).

The light residue (>300 µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material.

### 6.5.3 The Residues

Preservation of environmental material in the heavy residues was poor.

Wood charcoal was recorded in both samples, with the greatest abundance, over one-hundred pieces, being reported in sample <2>. None of this material is of a suitable size for species to be established however; therefore, it is of limited diagnostic value.

Sample <2> was found to contain a moderate amount of terrestrial and freshwater mollusc shells. *Lymnaea* sp. (pond snails) were the most abundant, with between eleven and thirty complete shells identified. Lesser numbers of the terrestrial genus *Vallonia* sp. were also recovered, along with a low concentration of juvenile specimens and fragments of shell. Juvenile shells were also recorded in sample <1>, and both samples yielded a small amount of highly fragmented marine shell from which species could not be determined.

Zooarchaeological material, in the form of large and/or small mammalian bone, was identified throughout the assemblage, though concentrations were generally low (<10 specimens per type, per sample). Sample <2> yielded the greatest diversity of remains, with both large and small mammals recorded, as well as a moderate amount of fragmented material, which could not be immediately identified.

Cultural artefacts, specifically pottery and daub were also found in this sample though, again, densities were low (<10 pieces). A small amount of worked flint was additionally recovered. Sample <1> contained a low number of brick fragments, as well as a moderate amount of possibly struck flint artefacts.

All the material collected from the heavy residue has been catalogued and passed to the relevant specialists for further assessment. A full account of the material reported is given in Table 6.

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	117	127
Feature No.	116	116
Volume of bulk (liters)	24	36
Volume of flot (milliliters)	5	12

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	117	127
Feature No.	116	116
Method of processing	F	F
HEAVY RESIDUE		
Charcoal		
Charcoal >4 mm		
Charcoal 2-4 mm	1	1
Charcoal <2 mm	1	4
Molluscs		
Lymnaea sp.		2
Vallonia sp.		1
Terrestrial shell (juveniles)	1	1
Terrestrial shell (fragments)	1	2
Marine shell (fragments)	1	1
Bone		
Large animal bone	1	1
Small animal bone		1
Bone fragments		2
Other material		
Pottery		1
Brick	1	
Daub		1
Worked flint		2
Struck flint	3	

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

Table 6: Environmental flots

#### 6.5.4 The Flots

Both of the processed samples produced flots, of five and twelve millilitres in volume respectively. As with the heavy residues, wood charcoal was recovered in moderate concentrations, though no significantly sized material was observed in either sample.

Plant macrofossils were present throughout the sample set. Seeds were the most common, reported in both samples in moderate concentrations, with

sample <1> containing the greatest density of material. Species diversity was limited, with each context yielding less than five individual taxa. Wetland specimens, specifically duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) were recorded in moderate frequencies, with between thirty and one-hundred seeds recorded in each deposit, indicating that at some point the containing ditch is likely to have become filled with stagnant water. Sample <1> also contained a moderate amount of nettle (*Urtica* sp.) seeds, along with a low concentration of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and mustard (*Brassicaceae* spp.). A small amount of rush (*Juncus* sp.), another indicator of waterlogged ground, was additionally identified in sample <2>.

A single charred cereal grain, of the genus *Triticum* sp. (wheat), was reported in sample <1>.

The snail assemblage was large and well preserved in both of the sampled contexts. Terrestrial and freshwater specimens were identified, though the majority of examples, as with the residues, were of species of pond snail (*Lymnaea* sp.), commonly found in wet, or waterlogged, environments. Both samples also contained a small amount of *Gyraulus crista* (nautilus ram's horn) shells, another type usually present in aquatic environments, including waterlogged ditches. The highest concentration of land shell was reported in sample <1>, which contained between thirty and one-hundred specimens of *Vallonia* sp., a genus whose species are associated with dry, open grassland, as well moist pasture. A small density of this type was also reported in sample <2> (<30 shells). Both samples contained a substantial juvenile assemblage.

Low numbers of insect/worm eggs were reported in both samples, along with a small amount of insect remains in sample <1>. A single bone from a small mammal/amphibian was also found in this deposit.

Other environmental material, in the form of intrusive modern rootlets and/or grasses was present in low concentrations in samples <1> and <2>. This, and the moderate number of both juvenile and adult shells of the contemporary burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula*, also found in both flots,



may be an indication of low level contamination, by bioturbation.

6.5.5 A full account of the material reported in the flots is given in Table 7.

Sample no.		1	2
Context No.		117	127
Feature No.		116	116
Volume of bulk (liters)		24	36
Volume of flot (milliliters)		5	12
Method of processing		F	F
FLOT RESIDUE			
Charcoal			
Charcoal >4 mm			
Charcoal 2-4 mm		2	2
Charcoal <2 mm		3	3
Frag. of ID size		X	X
Seeds			
Brassicaceae spp.	Mustards	1	
Chenopodium sp.	Goosefoots	1	
Juncus sp.	Rushes		1
Lemna sp.	Duckweeds	3	3
Urtica sp.	Nettles	3	1
Cereals			
Triticum sp.	Wheat	1	
Other plant macrofossils			
Roots/tubers (undiff.)		1	1
Modern grasses			1
Molluscs			
Cecilioides acicula	Terrestrial	2	2
Gyraulus crista	Freshwater	2	2
Lauria cylindracea	Terrestrial	2	1
Lymnaea sp.	Freshwater	3	3
Vallonia sp.	Terrestrial	3	2
Vertigo sp.	Terrestrial	1	2
Vitrea sp.	Terrestrial		1
Juveniles (no ID)		3	3
Broken shell			2
Other remains			
Insect remains		1	

Sample no.	1	2
Context No.	117	127
Feature No.	116	116
Insect/worm eggs	2	2
Coal/vitreous material	1	
Small animal bone	1	

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

Table 7: Assessment of environmental flots

### 6.5.6 Conclusion

In summary, the preservation of botanical remains in the Biggin Lane assemblage was generally poor; with only a moderate amount of seeds identified, in a limited range of taxon groups. However, the molluscan assemblage was substantial and better preserved.

## 6.6 The Faunal Remains

By Kevin Reilly

### 6.6.1 Introduction and Methodology

A small number of animal bones were recovered (both by hand and by bulk sampling) from a number of ditches and in particular from the later Iron Age/Roman feature: a somewhat larger ditch in the central part of the site.

The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered. The sample collections were washed through a modified Siraf tank using a 1mm mesh and the subsequent residues were air dried and sorted. A concerted effort was undertaken to refit as many bones as possible, noting the actual number of fragments prior to refitting.

### 6.6.2 Description of Faunal Assemblage

The site provided a total of 162 bones, 97 by hand recovery and 65 from 2 bulk samples. Following refitting the former total reduces to 64 fragments. A large part of the assemblage had suffered some surface erosion (root etching), while the method of recovery had caused a moderate level of fragmentation, as visible by the number of bones with fresh breaks (the difference between the original and refitted totals). There is very little gnawing, perhaps suggestive of fairly rapid burial. All of the bones were recovered from ditch fills, these essentially Iron Age in date with the exception of ditch [118], a recut of the underlying ditch [116] (both in Trench 6), which provided a few Roman potsherds.

The distribution of bones by trench and feature are shown in Table 8. Clearly these were entirely taken from trenches in the central part of the study area and in particular from the two ditches in trench 6. These collections are principally composed of cattle and sheep/goat bones, with a minor representation of equid, pig and dog; alongside some amphibians and small rodents (mice or voles) taken from the ditch [116] samples. Both cattle and sheep feature a mix of skeletal parts signifying dumps of general waste. There are relatively few ageable bones but these two species appear to be mainly represented by adult individuals, with the notable exception of a very young (foetal/neonate) sheep metatarsal from ditch [116]. This is an indication of locally bred stock. In addition there is very little butchery, in fact limited to a single chopped cattle-size rib. Here it is conceivable that the noted levels of preservation may have diminished the survival of cut marks. In particular if the lighter instruments, as the knife, were more commonly used.

6.6.3 Finally, the equid bone is a loose maxillary tooth (probably a molar) from an adult individual, while the dog bones represent three metapodials from a juvenile animal.

Trench:	2	5		6		7	Total
Ditch:	110	109	114	116	118	120	
Species							
Cattle	1	2	3	2		1	31
Equid	1						1
Cattle-size	3		2	11(2)	6		22(2)
Sheep/Goat	2		6	5	1	1	17
Pig					2		2
Sheep-size	1		2	7(56)	3		13(56)
Dog					3		3
Amphibian				(4)			(4)
Small rodent				(3)			(3)
Grand Total	8	2	12	25(65)	15	2	64(65)

Table 8: Species representation amongst the hand collected and sieved (in brackets) bones sorted by trench, feature and species using refitted total fragment counts

#### 6.6.4 Conclusion

This is a rather small assemblage which nevertheless shows some potential, here in relation to the clear concentration of bones in the northern area. There are other sites in this general area with notable bone collections but these tend to be near Peterborough or Cambridge or out towards Ely (information taken from PCA archives and Pirnie and Albarella and Pirnie 2008). Thus the recovery of only a moderately sized assemblage from further excavation at this site would undoubtedly have a local significance.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1.1 Archaeological features were found to the north of Biggin Lane, close to the western site boundary, in the form of a series of boundary ditches. All ditches correspond well with the location of features identified by the geophysical survey. Ditches [112] and [114] in Trenches 2 and 4 respectively, seem to form two sides of the same Middle Iron Age enclosure that may have extended beyond the western site boundary. Ditches [110], [109] and [120] in Trenches 2, 6 and 7 respectively may be part of a further Middle Iron Age boundary ditch to the immediate north of the enclosure, extending further eastwards. A large boundary ditch in Trench 6, ditch [116], was situated on the same orientation as the enclosure ditches to the north. The ditch can be dated to the Middle Iron Age but probably continued to be in use as a boundary into the Late Iron Age period, as it was re-defined in the Roman period by re-cut [118].
- 7.1.2 The presence of a small amount of residual Late Iron Age (100BC - AD 50) ceramic evidence from the ditch fill in Trench 5 suggests activity of that date in the wider area, if not on the site itself.
- 7.1.3 The relatively small size of the finds assemblages, as well as their lack of variation, may reflect the agricultural nature of the activity at the site, located some distance away from any focus of settlement.
- 7.1.4 The site is part of a landscape of known activity and/or settlement remains dating from the Middle Iron Age to the Roman period. The nearest possible evidence of known settlement is a Late Iron Age/Romano-British site c. 990m south of the potential development area (CHER ref: 10115). Early to Middle Iron Age pitting (CHER ref: MCB20288), but without evidence of settlement, was recorded c.520m north of Biggin Lane.
- 7.1.5 In Trench 9 a possible trackway was identified in the form of two parallel ditches. These are likely to be associated with medieval or post-medieval activity as their fills were distinctively different to the Iron Age/Roman features, however, no finds were present.
- 7.1.6 The evaluation encountered significant areas of modern truncation,

predominantly to the south of Biggin Lane. This is related to the activity during the use and subsequent decommissioning of the RAF Upwood airfield installations which were in use from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century until the early 1990s.

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## 10 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	-	Topsoil	1-9
101	-	Layer	-	Subsoil	1-9
102	-	Layer	-	Natural	1-9
103	104	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	9
104	104	Cut	Ditch	Modern activity	9
105	106	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	9
106	106	Cut	Ditch	Modern activity	9
107	109	Fill	Ditch	Natural silting	5
108	109	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	5
109	109	Cut	Ditch	Field boundary	5
110	110	Cut	Ditch	Field boundary	2
111	110	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	2
112	112	Cut	Ditch	Enclosure	2
113	112	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	2
114	114	Cut	Ditch	Enclosure	5
115	114	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	5
116	116	Cut	Ditch	Field boundary	6
117	116	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	6
118	118	Cut	Ditch	Field boundary	6
119	118	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	6
120	120	Cut	Ditch	Boundary	7
121	120	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	7
122	120	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	7
123	-	Layer	-	Lower subsoil	16
124	-	Layer	-	Modern airfield demolition	15
125	-	Layer	-	Lower subsoil	15
126	116	Fill	Ditch	Natural infilling	6
127	116	Fill	Ditch	Silting	6
128	116	Fill	Ditch	Deliberate infilling	6
129	-	Layer	-	Topsoil	15, 16
130	-	Layer	-	Subsoil	15, 16
131	-	Layer	-	Modern airfield demolition	16

Context Number	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
132	-	Layer	-	Modern airfield demolition	6

## 11 APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-298609

### Project details

Project name Biggin Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire

Short description Trial trench evaluation. 11 trenches to the north and south of Biggin Lane, Ramsey were excavated. Large parts of the southern field could not be evaluated due to the unknown location of a medium pressure gas main. A geophysical survey had been undertaken prior to the trenches which had revealed anomalies in the northern field. The trenches revealed middle Iron Age enclosures, and a large Iron Age/Roman boundary ditch in Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 7 in the northern field. A possible undated trackway was revealed in Trench 9. The remaining trenches were blank. Trenches 15 and 16 in the southern field contained layers of airfield debris and demolition rubble, mixed with disused services.

Project dates Start: 04-10-2017 End: 14-10-2017

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ECB5220 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type DITCH Iron Age, DITCH Roman,

Monument type POTTERY Middle Iron Age, POTTERY Late Iron Age, POTTERY Roman,

Monument type ANIMAL BONE None

### Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE RAMSEY Biggin Lane, Ramsey

Postcode PE26 1LU

Study area 5.5 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 2771 8470 52.444930172543 -0.120755316429 52 26 41 N 000 07  
14 W Point

---

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Organisation

Project brief Andy Thomas  
originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeology  
originator

Project Christiane Meckseper  
director/manager

Project supervisor Laura Malric-Smith

Type of Abbey Developments  
sponsor/funding  
body

---

Project archives

Physical Archive CCC County Archaeology Store  
recipient

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"

Digital Archive CCC County Archaeology Store  
recipient

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
available

Paper Archive CCC County Archaeology Store  
recipient

Paper Media "Context  
available sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished  
Text"

---

Project  
bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Biggin Lane, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Malric-Smith, L

Other R13507

bibliographic  
details

Date 2017

Issuer or Pre-Construct Archaeology  
publisher

Place of issue or Pampisford  
publication

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Entered by Christiane Meckseper (chmeckseper@gmail.com)

Entered on 9 November 2017

## 12 PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 9 showing Ditches [104] and [106], view east



Plate 2: Ditch [114] in Trench 5, view north-east





Plate 2: Trench 6 showing Ditch [118], view south





Plate 4: Ditch [106] in trench 9, view north-west



Plate 5: Ditch [109] in Trench 5, view north-west





Plate 6: Ditch [112] in Trench 2, view east



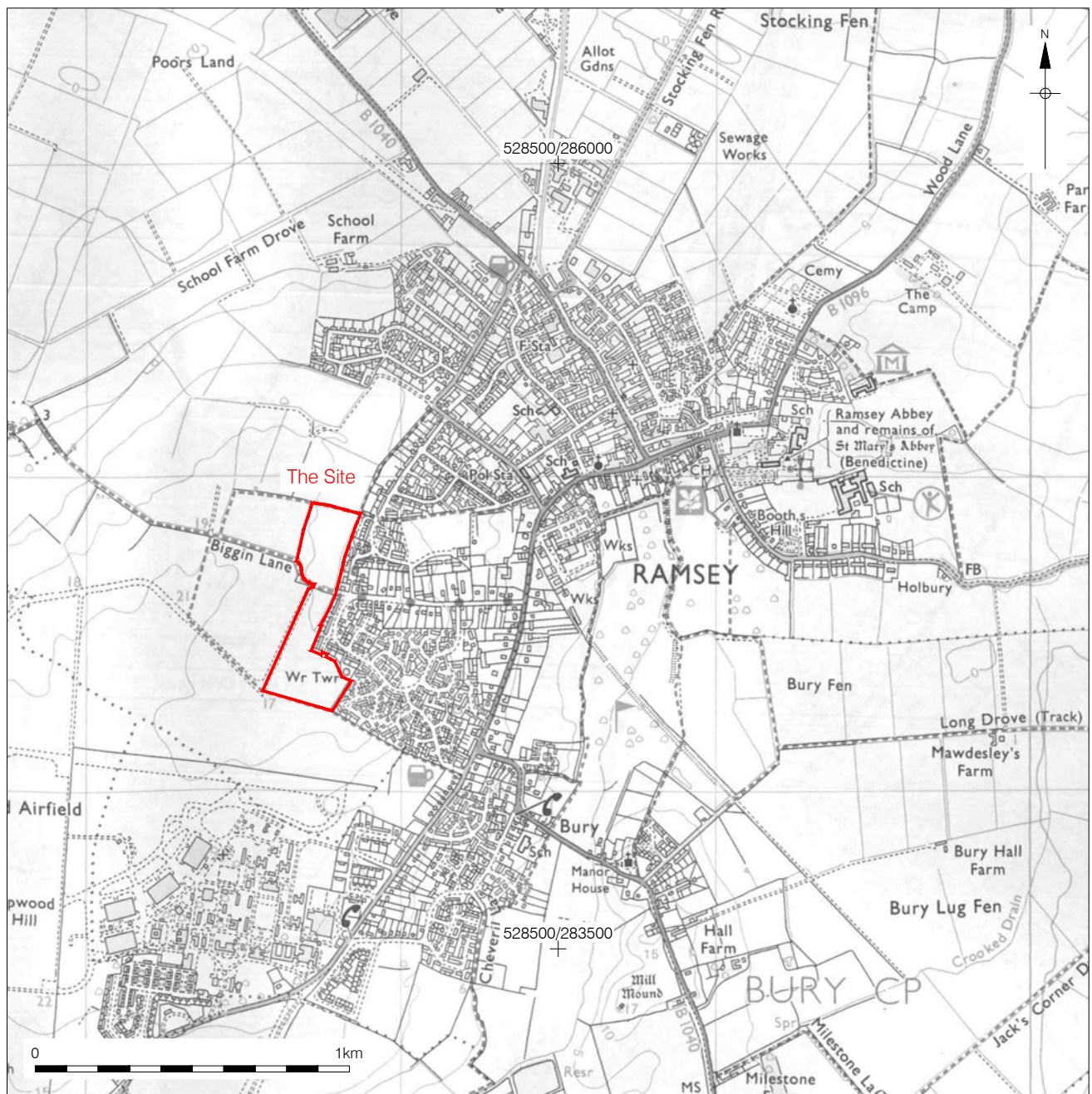
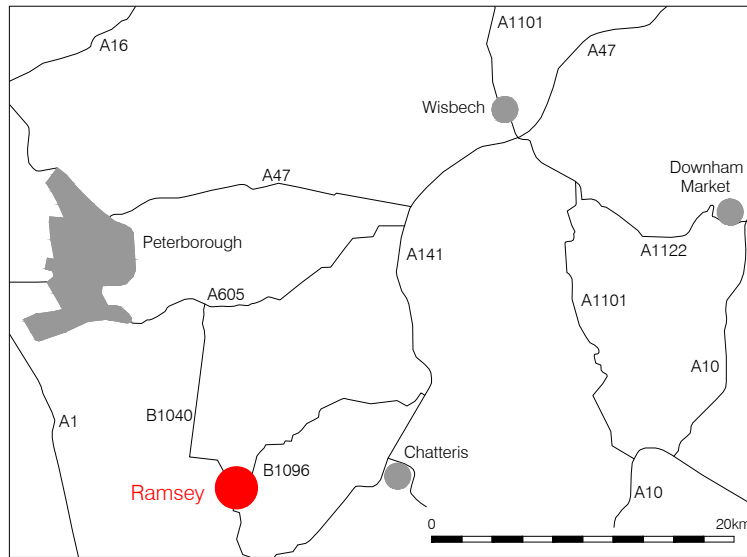
Plate 7: Ditch [120] in Trench 7, view north-west





Plate 8: Ditches [116] and [118] in Trench 6, view north-west

## **13      FIGURES**



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:500,000 and 20,000 at A4



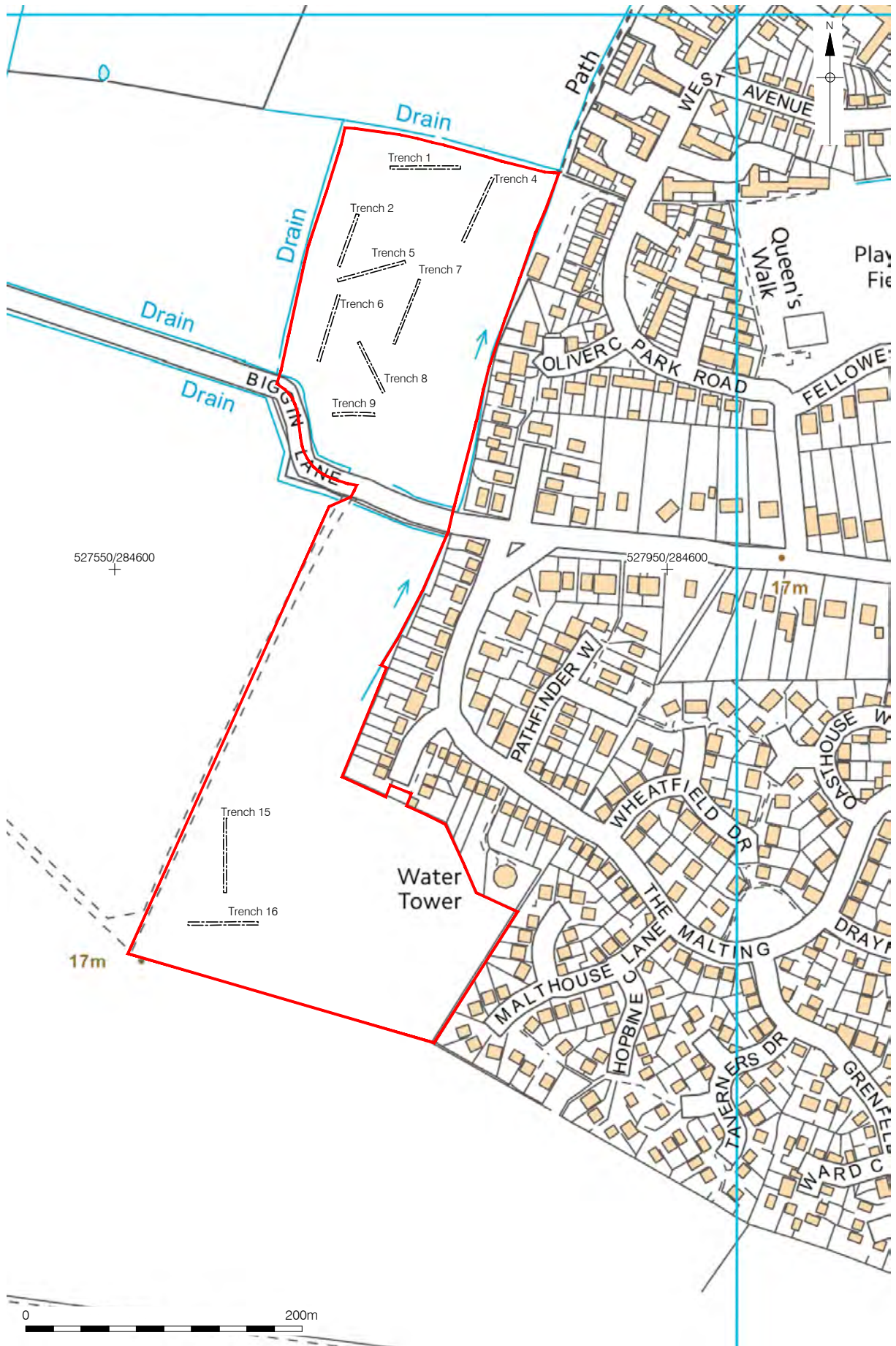
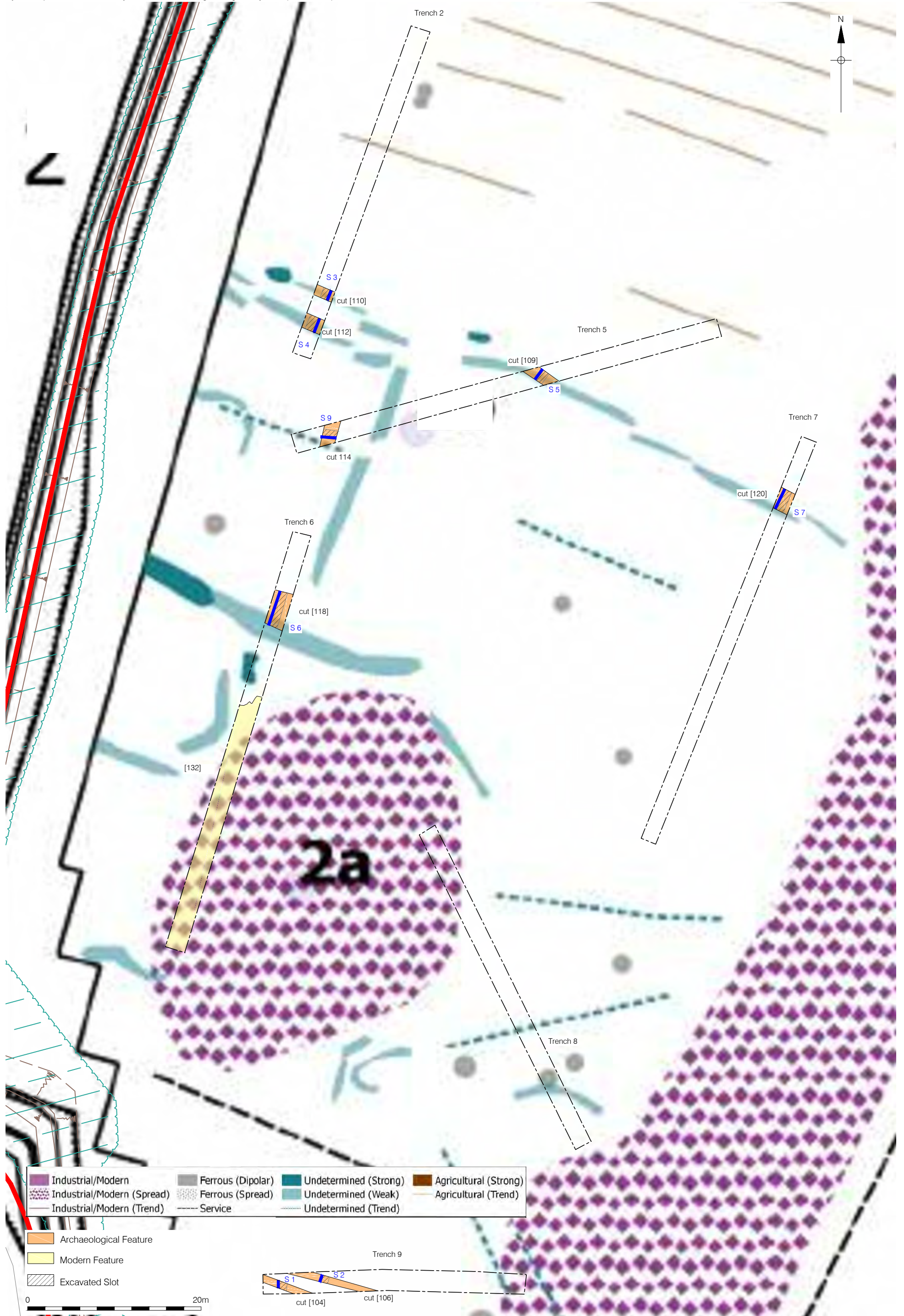


Figure 2  
 Detailed Site Location  
 1:4,000 at A4

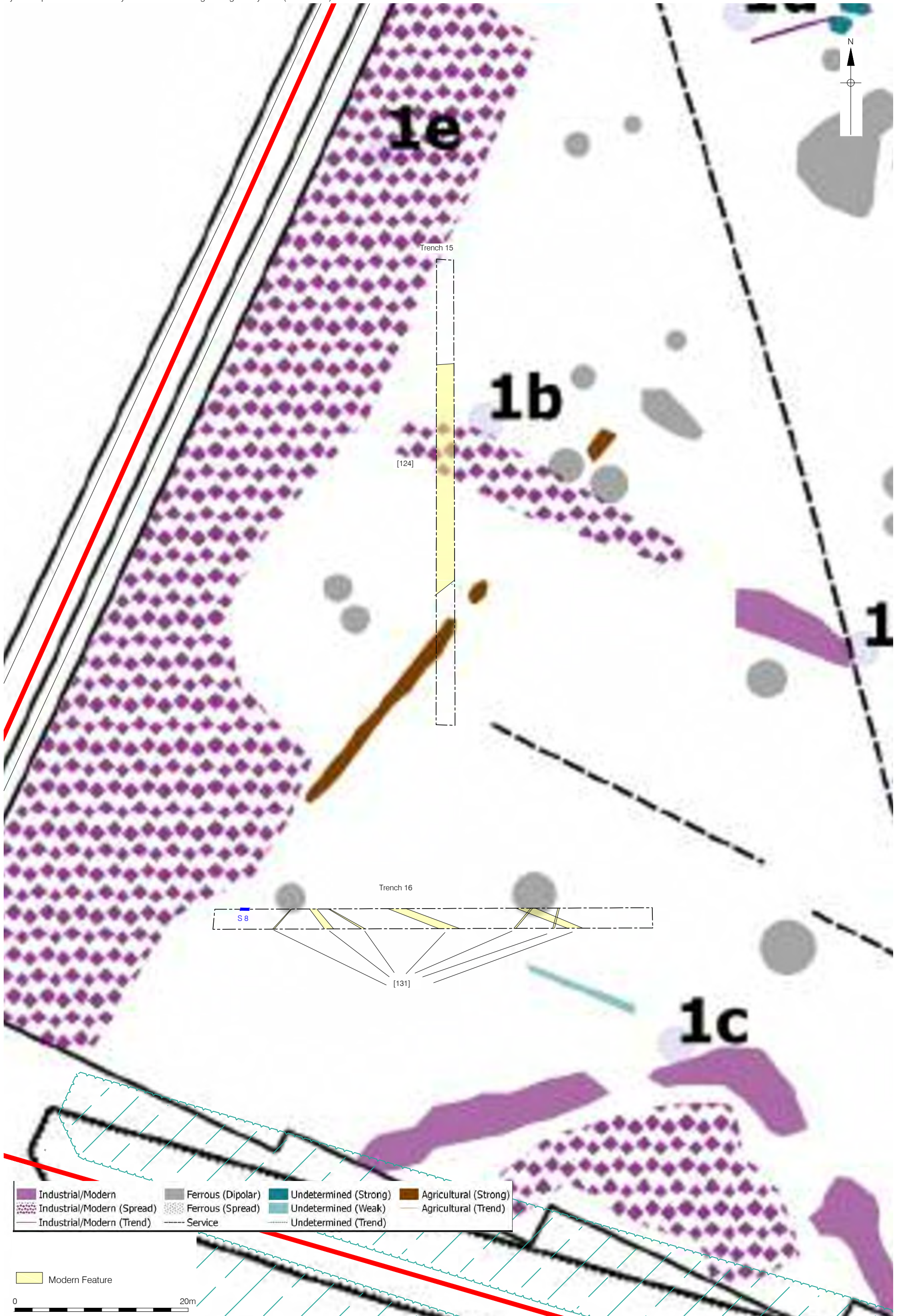


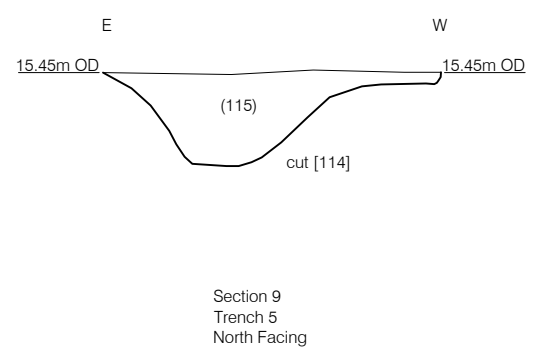
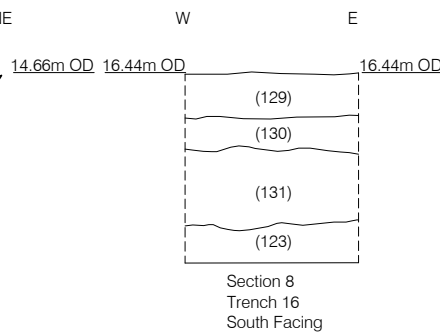
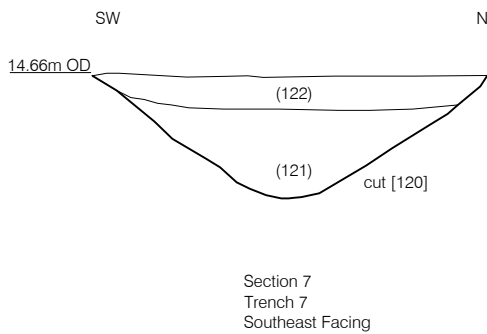
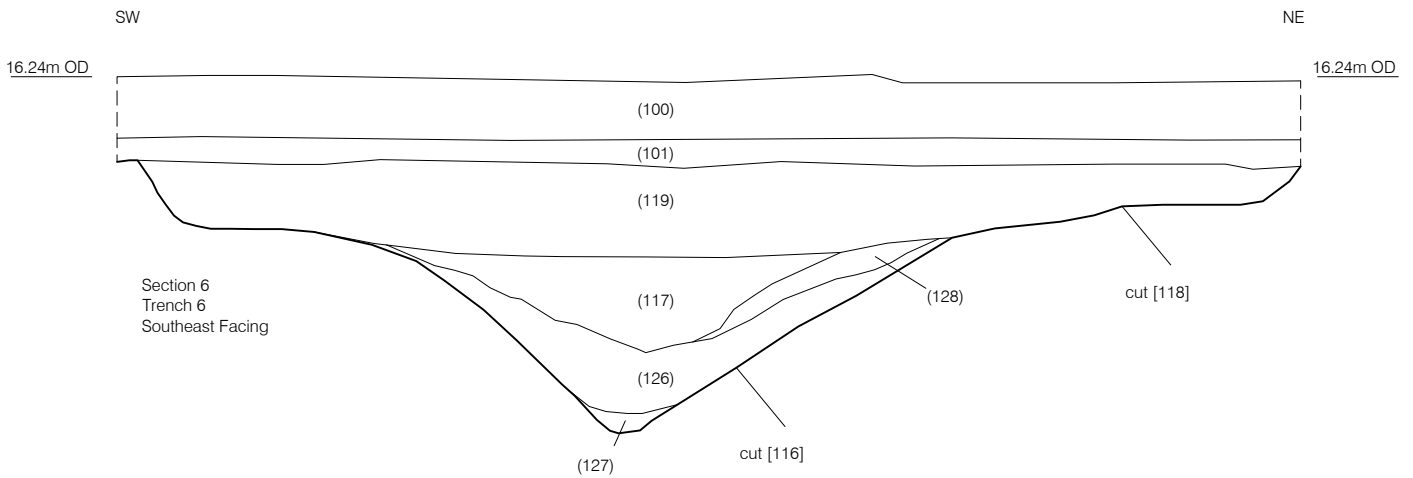
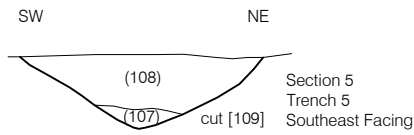
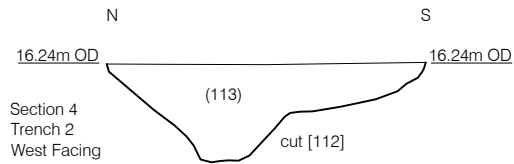
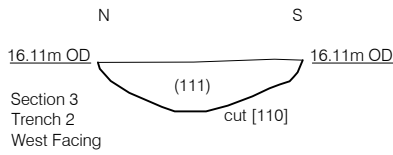
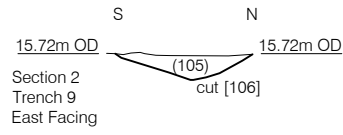
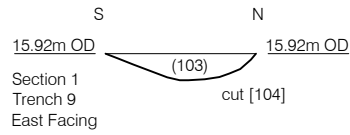












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