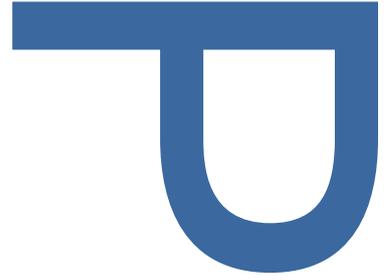
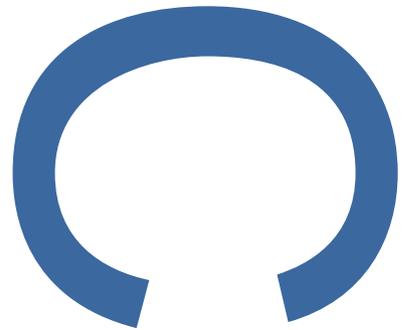


**LAND AT CRANE FARM,  
FIFTY ROAD,  
MANEA,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**



**REPORT ON AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

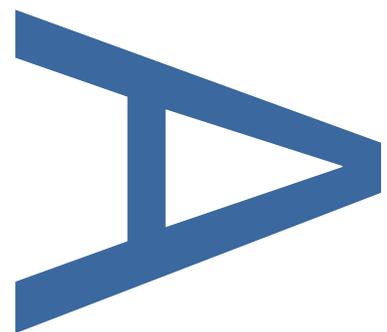


**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
Fenland District Council**

**May 2019**

**PCA Report NO. R13678**

**ECB5840**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**Land at Crane Farm, Fifty Road, Manea,  
Cambridgeshire:**

**Report on an Archaeological Evaluation**

Quality Control

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**Land Southwest of Crane Farm, Fifty Road, Manea,  
Cambridgeshire:**

**Report on an Archaeological Evaluation**

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**CHER Event Number:** ECB5840

**Local Planning Authority:** Fenland District Council

**Planning Reference:** F/YR18/0908/F

**Central National Grid Reference:** TL 5003 9303

**Written and Researched by:** Andrew Failes & Margaret Leman

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April 2019**



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**PCA Report Number R13678**

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## Summary

*This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land southwest of Crane Farm, Fifty Road, Manea, Cambridgeshire. Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd commissioned the archaeological work on behalf of A & E G Heading Ltd. The aim of the work was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.*

*The investigation revealed a number of post-medieval claying trenches and pits. Claying pits and marl pits are a common agricultural feature of the Cambridgeshire Fenland. These occurred across the site and were recorded in all fifteen trenches. At least three distinct phases of claying were identified. A single undated ditch was revealed that probably dates to the post-medieval period or earlier and two modern field boundary/drainage ditches were identified.*

*A programme of auger survey was carried out in the southern end of the site which revealed a sequence of dark blue grey clay, which contained intermittent deposits of peat, overlain by alluvial clays and silts.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 GENERAL BACKGROUND**

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land southwest of Crane Farm, Fifty Road, Manea, Cambridgeshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR TL 5003 9303). The evaluation took place from 25<sup>th</sup> March - 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

1.1.2 The site lies within the civil parish of Manea within the administration of Fenland District Council and is located approximately 9km southeast of March and 4km northeast of the village of Manea (Figures 1 and 2). It comprises a single area of square shape with a rectangular area to the southwest and covers an area of approximately 2.9ha.

1.1.3 During the investigation fifteen trenches were excavated; thirteen trenches measured 50m in length and two measured 30m in length.

1.1.4 Trial trenching was selected as the most appropriate method to characterise the archaeology of the proposed development area. The aim of the trial trenching evaluation was to identify and record any surviving archaeological remains and/or deposits that may be impacted upon during the proposed development.

1.1.5 The archaeological works sought 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.

1.1.6 This report describes the results of the archaeological evaluation. The site archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire Museums Service under event number ECB5840.

### **1.2 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

1.2.1 The archaeological work was commissioned by the Robert Doughty Consultancy Ltd on behalf of A & E G Heading Ltd.

1.2.2 The development comprises a proposed anaerobic digestion plant, associated infrastructure, lagoon and feedstock clamps, as detailed in planning application F/YR18/0908/F, submitted to Fenland District Council.

1.2.3 National Planning Policy on archaeology and built heritage is set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Published in February 2019, National Planning Framework: Planning for the Historic Environment (NPPF) provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the investigation and preservation of archaeological remains.

1.2.4 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance NPPF, by Local policy and by other material considerations (DCLG 2019).

1.2.5 The Historic Environment Service of Cambridgeshire County Council, as archaeological advisors to Fenland District Council, advised an archaeological evaluation of the site was required, and prepared a brief for the works.

1.2.1 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA 2019) following receipt of a Brief of requirements from, and consultation with, the Historic Environment Service of Cambridgeshire County Council (2019).

### **1.3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

1.3.1 The solid geology of the site is Ampthill Clay Formation mudstone of the Jurassic period. This is overlain by tidal flat deposits of clay and silt, deposited up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period. Former water courses have been identified close by and at the site (British Geological Survey Viewer [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

1.3.2 The site is on flat level ground of the Fenland at about 0m OD.

### **1.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

1.4.1 A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) revealed several archaeological features and finds in the wider area around Manea, mostly from Manea Fen.

#### **Prehistoric**

1.4.2 In the Manea area, Palaeolithic tools (CHER 05981) and Neolithic stone axes (CHER 05981a) have been recovered, along with Bronze age artefacts, including a halberd (CHER 05862) and a socketed axe (CHER 05861). A ploughed out Bronze Age round barrow (CHER 05969) has been identified to the northwest of Manea village and the Iron Age fort of Stonea Camp is about 4km west of the proposed development site.

1.4.3 Nearer to the site, to the northwest, cropmarks of a trackway and possible enclosures have been identified from aerial photographs. However, an investigation of the area yielded no significant finds or features (CHER 05996). To the southeast of the site are further cropmarks which appear to define a possibly rectangular enclosure and three possible circular enclosures, though natural cropmarks of roddens rather obscure possible archaeological features (CHER 09206).

1.4.4 Cropmarks of various remains, including circular features, rectangular enclosures, and linear features have been identified 1-2km to the northeast in Norfolk (NHER 16618; 2477; 20027; 20026). These are mostly undated, though a ring ditch is thought to represent a Bronze Age barrow.

### **Iron Age – Romano-British**

1.4.5 Areas of Iron Age and Roman occupation have been identified in the vicinity. Pottery and a dark occupation deposit suggest an area of Iron Age and Roman settlement (CHER 10899; 10899A). Roman settlement is known on the north side of Manea and pottery and metalwork has been found (CHER 06048; 05981c; MCB 7359). A hoard of Roman pewter was also found in the area (CHER 05867; 05868; MCB 7140).

### **Medieval**

1.4.6 There were no entries in the CHER for archaeological evidence dating to the medieval period.

### **Post-Medieval**

1.4.7 Post-medieval farms recorded on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps are located to the northeast and southeast of the site (MCB 26731 and 26732). The former survives though the other is no longer extant.

## **2 PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

### **2.1 PROJECT AIMS**

2.1.1 The project was 'threat-led' with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. Therefore, the broad aim of the archaeological project was to inform the local planning authority and the client regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site. Archaeological trial trenching was selected as the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site.

2.1.2 Additional aims of the project were:

- To compile a site archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as all artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered;
- To compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories (e.g. stratigraphic, artefactual etc.).

### **2.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

2.2.1 The regional research framework *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011) was referenced for specific research criteria

2.2.2 The archaeological evaluation will address the following objectives:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation any archaeological remains affected by the investigation;

- To assess where appropriate any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

2.2.3 In addition, the evaluation will seek to address the following research objectives:

- To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any prehistoric to late Iron Age activity;
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Romano-British activity within the area;
- To confirm the presence or absence of Saxon/medieval activity; and
- To confirm the presence or absence of any post-medieval activity.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

3.1.1 The evaluation took place in accordance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a); PCA is a CIfA registered organisation (number 23) and operates within the Institute's 'Code of Conduct' (CIfA 2014b). The evaluation trenches were laid out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation, as accepted by the Historic Environment Service for Cambridgeshire County Council.

3.1.2 All trial trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with toothless ditching buckets. Deposits were removed in spits to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the clearly defined top of the natural sub-stratum, whichever was reached first. All potential archaeological features were identified and marked at the time of machine clearance of overburden.

3.1.3 All exposed deposits were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual approved for use in Cambridgeshire, including written, photographic and drawn records.

3.1.4 Test sondages were excavated through 'natural' deposits in trial trenches to confirm the appropriate geological horizons were reached.

3.1.5 A linear sequence of auger holes, executed using a hand auger to a maximum of 2m below ground level were driven through the base of Trenches 4 - 6, which were located

in the area of the proposed lagoons (which are intended to extend a maximum of 2m depth below present ground level). This was in order to examine the deposit sequence below the trench bases.

- 3.1.6 Hand sorting of c. 90 litres of topsoil and subsoil (a machine bucket's contents) at either end of trenches (and in trenches 50m or longer, at the centre), took place in order to recover artefactual material.

## **3.2 RECORDING METHODOLOGY**

- 3.2.1 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.

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

- 3.2.3 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 utilising PCAs printed pro forma.

- 3.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.

- 3.2.5 All finds encountered 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.

## **3.3 POST-FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY**

- 3.3.1 Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (HE 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.

- 3.3.2 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of twenty archaeological contexts were defined within the six trenches. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix 1). A written summary of the archaeological finds was then compiled, as described in Section 4 with a discussion and chronological sequencing of the site in Section 5.

- 3.3.3 Artefactual material from the evaluation consisted of one fragment of probable late post-medieval lead water pipe, which had been crushed flat. Specialist examination of the find was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 4, with a report in Appendix 3.

3.3.4 No other categories of organic or inorganic artefactual material were represented. None of the material recovered during the evaluation required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.

3.3.5 The complete site archive will be packaged for long-term storage and curation marked in accordance with *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Cambridgeshire* (2017). In preparing the site archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2011), the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker 1990), and the relevant ClfA publication (ClfA 2014c) will be adhered to.

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 NATURAL DEPOSITS**

4.1.1 Natural deposits across the site generally consisted of firm, light orangey grey firm silty clay (contexts 101, 206, 302, 401, 501, 604, 801, 901, 1001, 1101, 1201, 1301, 1401 and 1501). Bands of light yellowish brown silt were also present across the site (contexts 113, 201, 301, 502, 601, 701, 802, 902, 1002, 1102, 1202, 1302, 1402 and 1502).

### **4.2 ADDITIONAL DEPOSITS**

4.2.1 Topsoil across the site generally consisted of a friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with a thickness of 0.3m – 0.5m (contexts 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400 and 1500).

4.2.2 All fifteen trenches contained archaeological features; these trenches are discussed below.

### **4.3 DEPOSITS AND FEATURES IDENTIFIED BY TRENCH**

#### **Trench 1**

4.3.1 A light yellowish brown silt (113) deposit was identified at the base of trench 1 towards the western end. A total of five 'claying pits/trenches' were identified in this trench truncating the natural deposits. Claying pits [104] (Plates 8-9), [106] and claying trenches [102] and [110] were oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment. Claying trench [108] was oriented northeast – southwest. The cuts were typical of this feature type, with vertical to undercut steep sides, fairly flat, bases and widths ranging from 1.11m to 0.83m. The fills were for the most part indistinguishable from each other and comprised friable to loose, black peat (103, 105, 107, 109, 111). Claying trench [110] contained two deposits, a black peat (111) at the base, which was overlain by a firm dark brownish grey silty clay (112) deposit.

4.3.2 A modern ditch/field boundary was identified near the centre of the trench, oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment. This feature was not excavated as it contained modern brick, glass and other material.

4.3.3 Meal detecting of topsoil from this trench recovered a fragment of crushed lead pipe, probably post-medieval in date (Appendix 3).

### **Trench 2**

4.3.4 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 2 was recorded in a sondage at the northern end of the trench and consisted of mid brownish grey silty clay (206). This was overlain by mid grey and orange brown silty clay (201) which was recorded throughout the trench.

4.3.5 Cutting into the natural silty clay were four linear features. Three of these were identified as post-medieval claying trenches. As there was an abundance of this type of feature at the site, it was decided in consultation with the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Officer, that only a sample would be excavated. This was in order to recover any possible dating evidence. It was decided that two claying trenches/pits per trench would be investigated.

4.3.6 The two claying trenches investigated were at perpendicular angles. Claying trench [202] was aligned northeast – southwest, while [204] was oriented northwest – southeast. Both had steep to undercut sides, measuring approximately 0.2m deep by 1m wide and were filled with dark black friable peat (203, 205). The third feature of this type was aligned northwest – southeast but was not excavated.

4.3.7 A modern ditch/field boundary was identified in the northern half of the trench. This was oriented on a northwest – southeast alignment and contained modern brick and other material. This is the same ditch/field boundary which was observed in Trench 1.

### **Trench 3**

4.3.8 Trench 3 contained seven examples of claying trenches/pits; three were oriented on northeast to southwest alignment, while four were oriented northwest – southeast. This suggests two separate phases of claying. A slot was excavated through one example of each of the phases in the southern half of the trench. These were assigned context numbers [305] and [303] and were very similar in form, measuring 1m in width and ranging in depth from 0.12 – 0.1m deep with steep sides. Cut [305] contained dark reddish black peat (306), while [303] was filled with friable black peat (304).

4.3.9 Representative Section 18 in this trench demonstrates the sequence of ploughsoil (300) overlying alluvial clay (301) (Plate 5), observed throughout much of the site.

### **Trench 4**

4.3.10 This trench revealed seven sections of claying trenches and pits that extended intermittently throughout the length of the trench on a northeast – southwest alignment

(Plate 3). There were also seven claying trenches/pits identified perpendicular to this. In the southern half of the trench, a relationship slot was excavated through NE-SW aligned claying trench [403] and NW-SE aligned claying trench/pit [405]. It was determined that [403] truncated claying trench [405]. Both of these features were filled with friable black peat deposits (402, 404). However, the fill (404) of [405] contained some grey clay near the top of the deposit. This allowed a relationship to be determined as the grey clay component was clearly truncated by [403].

4.3.11 Another two slots were excavated through claying pits/trenches in this trench. Claying pit [407] measured 2m in length by 1m wide and belonged to the series of pits and trench sections which extended intermittently throughout the length of the trench. As such these probably belong to the same phase. Claying trench/pit [409] near the northern end of the trench measured 0.92m wide and was aligned northwest – southeast. Both features had typical claying trench profiles (steep vertical to undercut sides and fairly flat bases) and were filled with friable black peat (406, 408).

#### **Trench 5**

4.3.12 Nine claying pits were observed in Trench 5, four of which were aligned northeast – southwest and the other five were oriented on a northwest – southeast alignment. Two of these features were investigated [503, 505] and found to have typical claying trench/pit profiles, measuring approximately 1m in width and ranging in depth from 0.3m – 0.4m. Both features contained homogenous fills of friable black peat (504, 506).

4.3.13 At the western end of the trench a modern field boundary ditch was identified which aligned with the current field edge. This feature contained modern brick which was not retained.

4.3.14 Representative Section 16 (Plate 7) demonstrates the sequence of ploughsoil (500) overlying possible roddon silts (501), that was observed in parts of some trenches.

#### **Trench 6**

4.3.15 A total of three claying trenches/pits were identified in this trench aligned northeast – southwest. Claying trench [603] in the southern half of the trench was investigated and found to have a typical claying trench profile, measuring approximately 0.8m wide by 0.25m deep. It contained a single fill of friable black peat (602).

#### **Trench 7**

4.3.16 This trench contained a series of thirteen claying pits, on the same northwest – southeast alignment running the entire length of the trench (Plate 4), as well as three claying pits on a perpendicular alignment. Slots were excavated through two examples [702, 704] which had typical claying pit profiles (Plate 11), measuring approximately 0.9m wide and ranging in depth from 0.12m – 0.17m depth. Both features were filled with friable black

peat (703, 705).

#### **Trench 8**

4.3.17 A total of nine claying trenches/pits were identified in this trench, aligned northwest - southeast and northeast – southwest. In the southern end of the trench two of the northwest – southeast aligned claying trenches were investigated [803, 805] and found to be directly adjacent to each other (Plate 12). The close proximity of these two claying trenches on the same alignment suggests there have been two phases of claying activity both oriented northwest to southeast. The claying pits/trenches that are perpendicular to these suggest at least three phases of claying are represented in this trench. Claying trenches [803] and [805] had typical profiles and dimensions and were filled with deposits of friable black peat (804, 806). A third typical claying trench cut [807] was investigated in the northern half of the trench and was filled with friable black peat (808).

#### **Trench 9**

4.3.18 Trench 9 contained seven claying pits or trenches, all oriented on a northwest to southeast alignment. Of these, two were examined. Feature [903] (Plate 10) in the southwestern part of the trench and feature [905] near the centre. Both had typical profiles and dimensions and were filled with friable black peat (904, 906). At least two phases of claying are represented in this trench as two of the claying trenches identified were located only 0.35m apart.

#### **Trench 10**

4.3.19 Seven linear claying trenches and rectangular claying pits were observed in Trench 10. Two of these were examined [1003, 1006] and had similar dimensions, measuring approximately 0.7m wide by 0.1m deep. These are somewhat thinner and less substantial than other claying trenches/pits at the site. However this is probably due to ploughing extending into the natural silts and clays in this area, probably a result of undulation in the underlying deposits.

#### **Trench 11**

4.3.20 This trench revealed three claying pits/trenches oriented northeast - southwest and a single claying trench/pit perpendicular to these just visible extending from the trench edge in the northwestern end of the trench. Claying trenches/pits [1103] and [1105] were investigated. Cut [1103] had a typical claying trench/pit profile and measured 0.8m wide by 0.13m deep. Only the very base of claying trench/pit [1105] was observed and as such, the profile could not be recorded. It had a width of c. 1.5m which suggests that two claying pits/trenches might be intercutting here. Both features were filled with friable black peat (1104, 1106).

### **Trench 12**

4.3.21 A total of seven claying trenches/pits were recorded in this trench along with a linear feature [1203] in the northern end of the trench, oriented on a northwest – southeast alignment. Linear cut [1203] had slightly concave to convex sides and a concave base, measuring 2.58m wide by 0.46m deep (Plate 13). It contained two fills, the first of which comprised friable black peat (1205) up to 0.18m thick. This was overlain by what appears to be slumping of redeposited natural, comprised of light yellowish brown silt (1202). The final fill in the sequence consisted of firm dark grey clay (1206) with orange mottle. This feature possibly represents the remains of a ditch. The black peat fill in the base of the feature suggests it may be contemporary with the claying trenches recorded at the site.

4.3.22 Claying trenches [1207] and [1209] were aligned northwest – southeast and north-east – southwest respectively, with typical profiles and dimensions. They both contained fills of friable black peat (1208, 1210).

### **Trench 13**

4.3.23 Trench 13 revealed two typical claying trenches [1303, 1305] filled with friable black peat (1304, 1306). These were oriented on northwest – southeast and northeast – southwest alignments.

### **Trench 14**

4.3.24 Of three claying pits/trenches identified in this trench, two were investigated and assigned cut numbers [1405] and [1403]. These had typical profiles and dimensions and were filled with the same deposit of friable black peat (1404, 1406) observed in claying trenches throughout the site.

### **Trench 15**

4.3.25 A total of five evenly-spaced, northeast to southwest aligned linear claying trenches were observed in Trench 15, two of which were examined. These had typical profiles and dimensions. As with the other claying pits and trenches on the site, features [1503] and [1505] contained fills of friable black peat, (1504) and (1506) respectively.

## **4.4 HAND SORTING RESULTS**

4.4.1 Sorting of c. 90L of soil from either end of each trench (and the middle for trenches that were 50m in length) produced no artefactual material.

## **4.5 AUGER SURVEY RESULTS**

4.5.1 The auger survey was carried out in Trenches 4 – 6 and revealed a deep sequence of mineral soils (silts and clays) beneath the bases of the trenches. Auger holes were assigned numbers and will be referred to as BH 1 – 12 (Fig 6).

4.5.2 In Trench 5 (BH 1 – 4) the earliest deposit encountered was a soft light blue grey clay

(2011), with occasional flecks of peat, which was separated from an indistinguishable deposit of light blue clay (2009) by deposits or lenses of peat (2010) which were identified in BH 1, 3 and 4. The light blue clay deposit (2009) occurred at 0.56m – 0.88m below the base of the trench. In BH 1, a thin deposit of peat (0.01m thick) was encountered at 0.91m below the trench base. In BH 3, the peat was more substantial with a thickness of 0.15m and occurred at a greater depth of 1.69m below the trench base. In BH 4, peat was encountered at 1.02m below the trench base and was 0.06m thick. The peat was soft to friable and blackish brown in colour. Soft blue grey clay deposit (2011) continued below the peat to the limit of the auger hole, 1.95m below the base of the trench.

4.5.3 The blue grey clay deposits were overlain by silty clays (2001, 2002, 2003) ranging in colour from light brownish grey to bluish greyish brown with orange mottle and clayey silt (2000) deposits which were mid brown in colour with grey mottle.

4.5.4 In Trench 4 (BH 5 – 8) the same sequence of soft blue grey clay deposits (2011, 2009), with intermittent deposits or lenses of of peat (2010), overlain by silty clays (2004, 2005, 2006) was recorded. The soft blue grey clay (2009) was recorded between 0.68m – 0.72m below the base of the trench. Peat deposits were only observed in BH 7 and 8, where they were 0.10m thick and occurred at 1.2m below the base of the trench. The soft blue grey clay (2011) continued to the limit of the auger holes, 1.83m below trench base.

4.5.5 The sequence was again repeated in Trench 6 (BH 9 – 12) where the soft blue grey clay (2009) was encountered between 0.9m – 1.05m below the base of the trench. Peat deposits (2010) occurred in BH 9 and 10 at depths of 1.2m and 1.1m below the trench base and had a 0.10m thickness. Soft blue grey clay (2011) continued below these deposits to the limit of the auger holes at 1.8m below the trench base.

4.5.6 The blue grey clays were overlain by light brownish grey clayey silt (2007) and light brownish grey clay deposits (2008).

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 SUMMARY**

5.1.1 The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. Interpretation has been added to the data, and these phases have been correlated with recognised historical and geological periods. The following describes the archaeological sequence as determined by the relative dates of the finds.

5.1.2 An abundance of claying pits or trenches were identified across the site, occurring in all

fifteen trial trenches. At least two examples in each trench were examined. No artefactual evidence was recovered from the claying trenches.

## **5.2 PHASE 1: NATURAL SUB-STRATUM**

5.2.1 Phase 1 represents the natural geological material exposed within all fifteen trenches; this is the superficial geology of tidal flat deposits of clay and silt. The majority of natural deposits comprised alluvial silty clays. Lighter coloured silt deposits were identified in a number of trenches and may represent roddon silts; marine deposits of mineral soils that have filled former channels of rivers and brooks in the peat fenland (Plates 3 & 6).

5.2.2 A programme of augering was carried out in the area of the proposed lagoons. This identified a sequence of soft blue grey marine clay which contained intermittent deposits of peat (Fig 6).

## **5.3 PHASE 2: UNDATED**

5.3.1 A single possible ditch of uncertain date was recorded in Trench 12. This probably represents a former field boundary. One of the upper fills contained peat, which suggests it may be contemporary or earlier than the post-medieval claying pits recorded across the site.

## **5.4 PHASE 3: POST-MEDIEVAL**

5.4.1 Claying pits/trenches were identified in all fifteen trial trenches. 'Claying trenches' and 'marl pits' are a common feature of the Cambridgeshire fenland and are thought to span the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century.

5.4.2 The process of 'claying' involved digging trenches through ploughsoil in order to obtain the underlying clay and spreading the clay on the surface to be mixed with soil (Fussell 1951). This was done as a way to reduce erosion and improve soil fertility.

5.4.3 Claying trenches have an interesting social history. The first farmers to 'clay' their land dug haphazard holes across fields to extract clay, as such, this was a slow laborious process. This changed when the 'old toolmen' or 'dykers' (the specialised workers who dug and maintained the dykes in the fenland) employed their dyke digging methods (and tools) to dig claying trenches. These were trenches cut c. 2 ft wide with clay spread 4 yards on either side with trenches spaced c. 8 ft apart to ensure coverage (Fussell 1951). This was shown to be a quicker and better way to extract the clay and as a result the 'old toolmen' secured a weekly wage for themselves during the winter months when the high water table in the fens prohibited 'dyking' (Porter 1969, 169).

5.4.4 The claying trenches/pits identified at the site were typical of this feature type, displaying steep, often undercut sides and flat bases. They were observed on two alignments, northwest – southeast and northeast – southwest, suggesting two distinct phases of claying. In some trenches, claying pits were observed directly adjacent to each other and

on the same alignment (Plates 12 & 14). As these are too close to have been dug at the same time, this suggests a third phase of claying at the site.

5.4.5 The practice of claying, in this area, spans the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. A number of claying pits were excavated in each trench in order to retrieve dateable material which would give a finer resolution with regards to when this activity was taking place. However, no artefactual or other dateable material was recovered from these features.

## **5.5 PHASE 4: MODERN**

5.5.1 Modern features at the site comprised a field boundary ditch at the southwestern corner of the site and a larger field boundary/drainage ditch observed in Trenches 2 and 3 (Figs 2 & 3).

## **6 CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 SUMMARY OF PROJECT DATA**

6.1.1 The evaluation revealed one possible ditch of uncertain date alongside at least three different phases of 'claying' and two modern field boundary/drainage ditches.

6.1.2 In each trench, a number of claying pits/trenches were excavated in order to collect dateable material. However, no artefacts were recovered from the fills of these features.

6.1.3 Hand sorting of c. 90L of soil from either end of each trench (and the middle for trenches that were 50m in length) produced no artefactual material.

6.1.4 Auger survey results in the area of the proposed lagoons revealed a sequence of grey blue marine clay with intermittent peat deposits overlain by clayey silts and clay alluvium.

### **6.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS AND POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORK**

6.2.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to inform the Local Planning Authority, as advised by the Cambridgeshire County Council's archaeological advisor, and the client regarding the extent, depth and nature of archaeological deposits within the location of the proposed development.

6.2.2 Based on the results of the archaeological evaluation, further archaeological works are considered unlikely. Any decision regarding further archaeological work will be at the discretion of Cambridgeshire County Council's archaeological advisor.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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*The evaluation was carried out by the fieldwork team at PCA Newark and was managed by Gary*

*Taylor of PCA Newark. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Ray Murphy and Mark Roughly of PCA's CAD department.*

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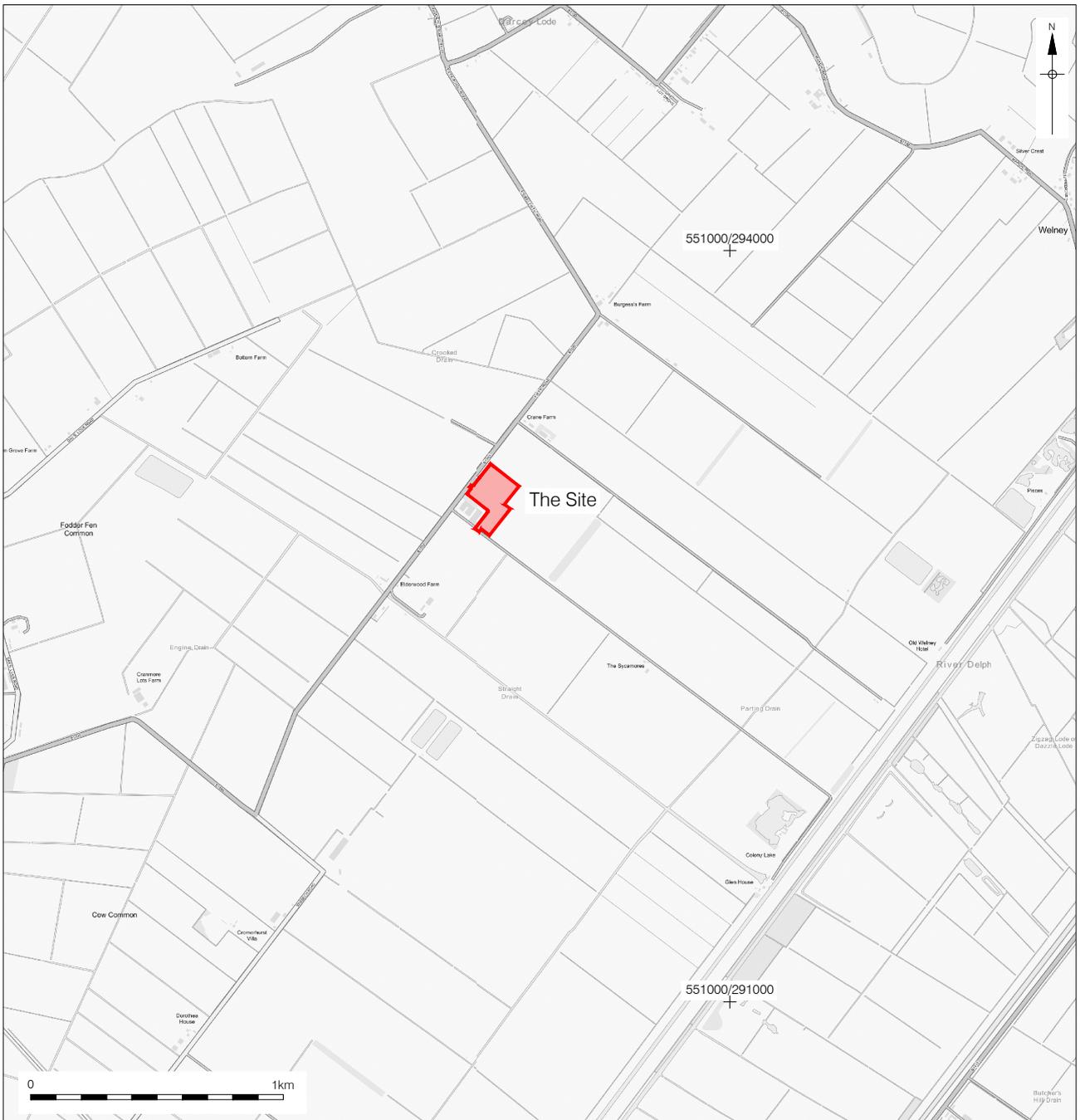
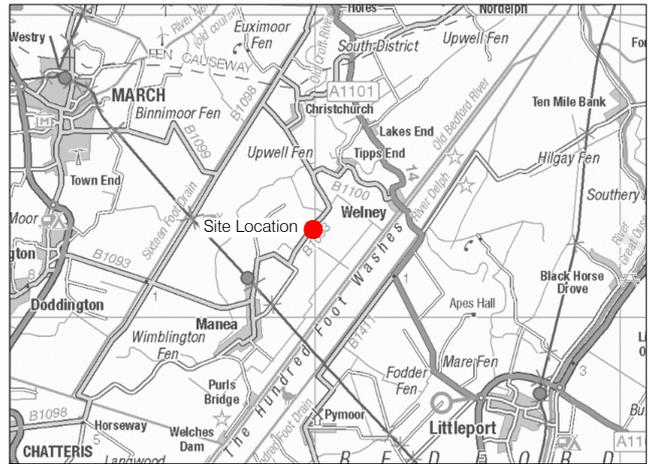
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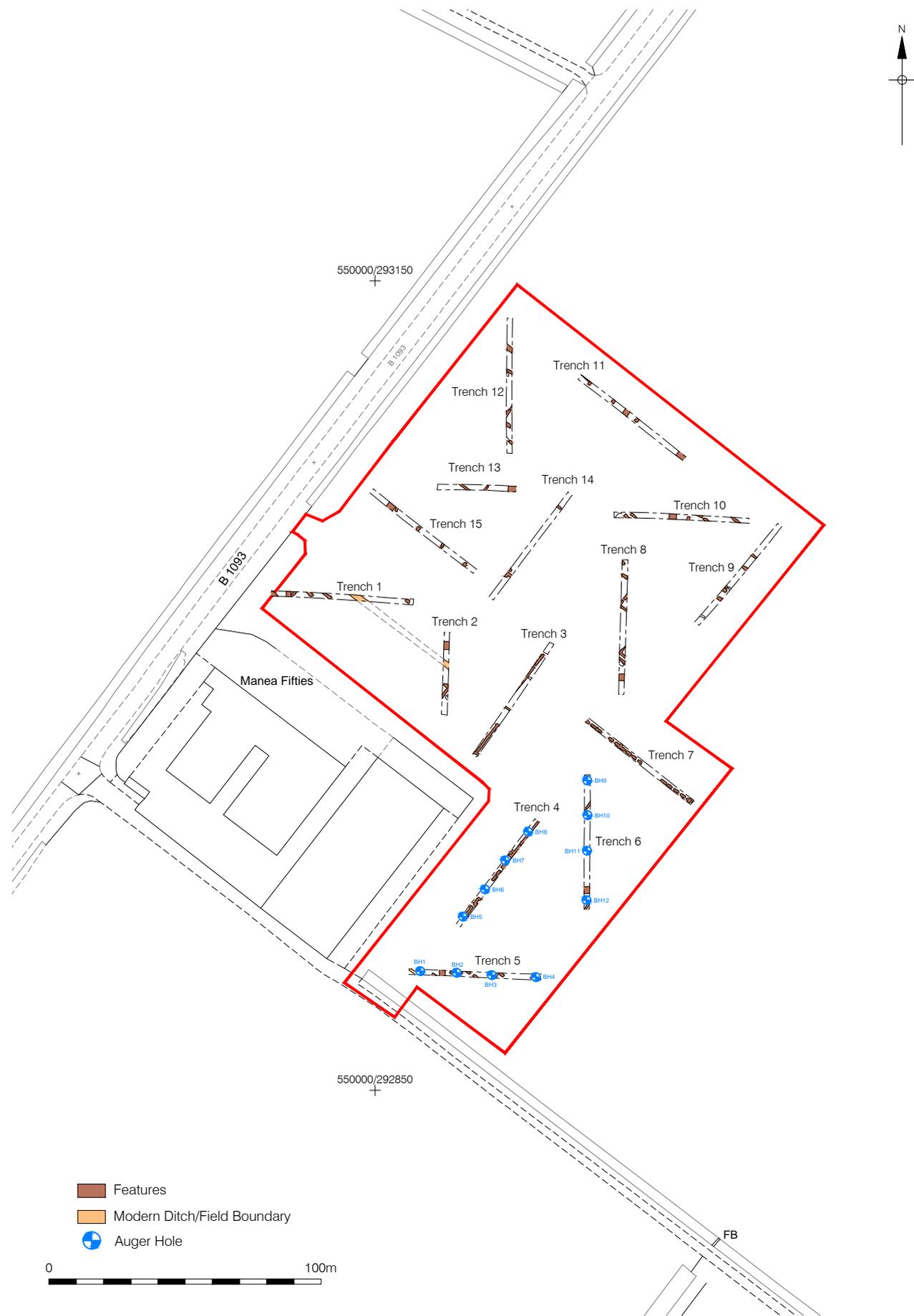
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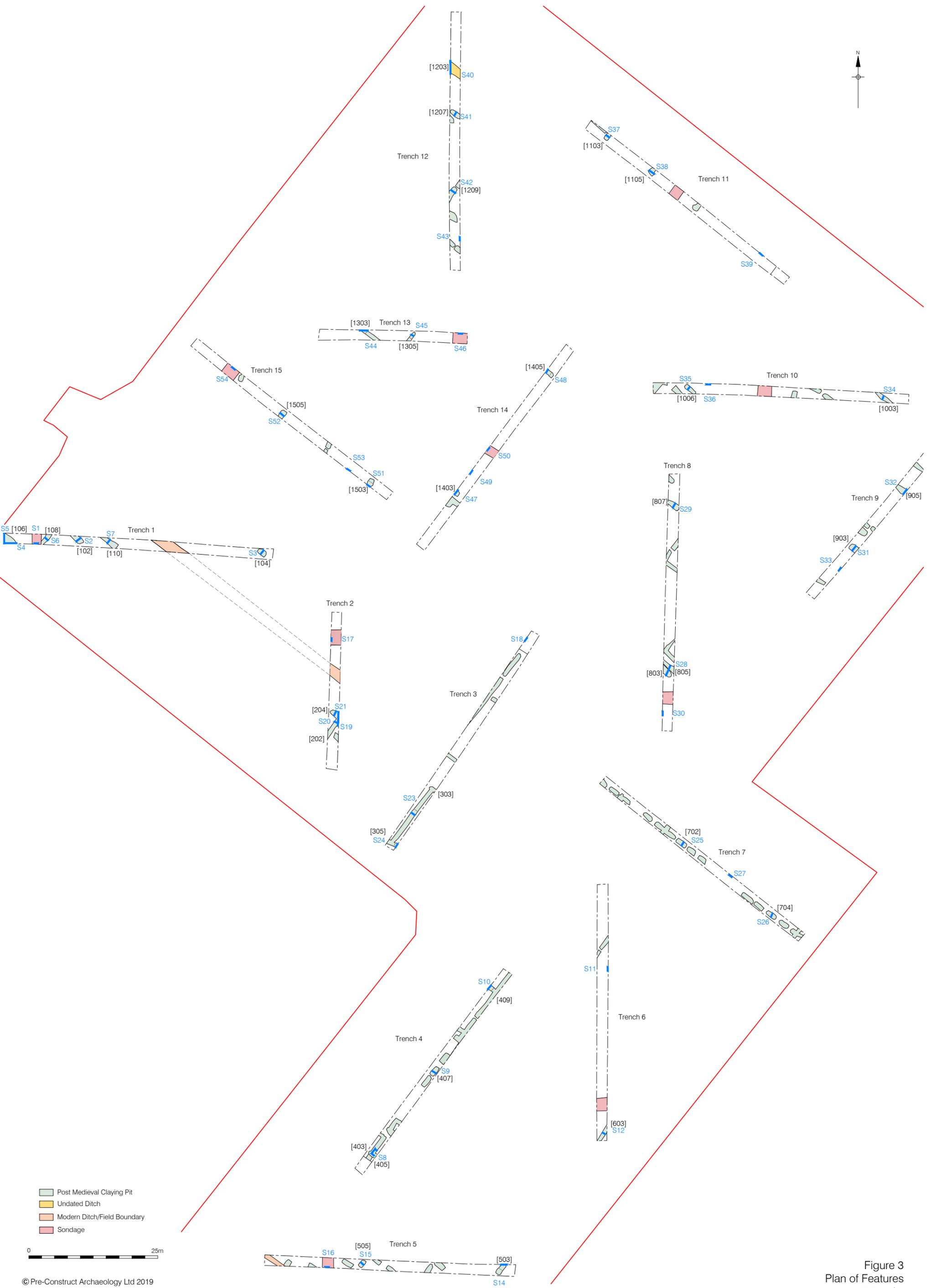
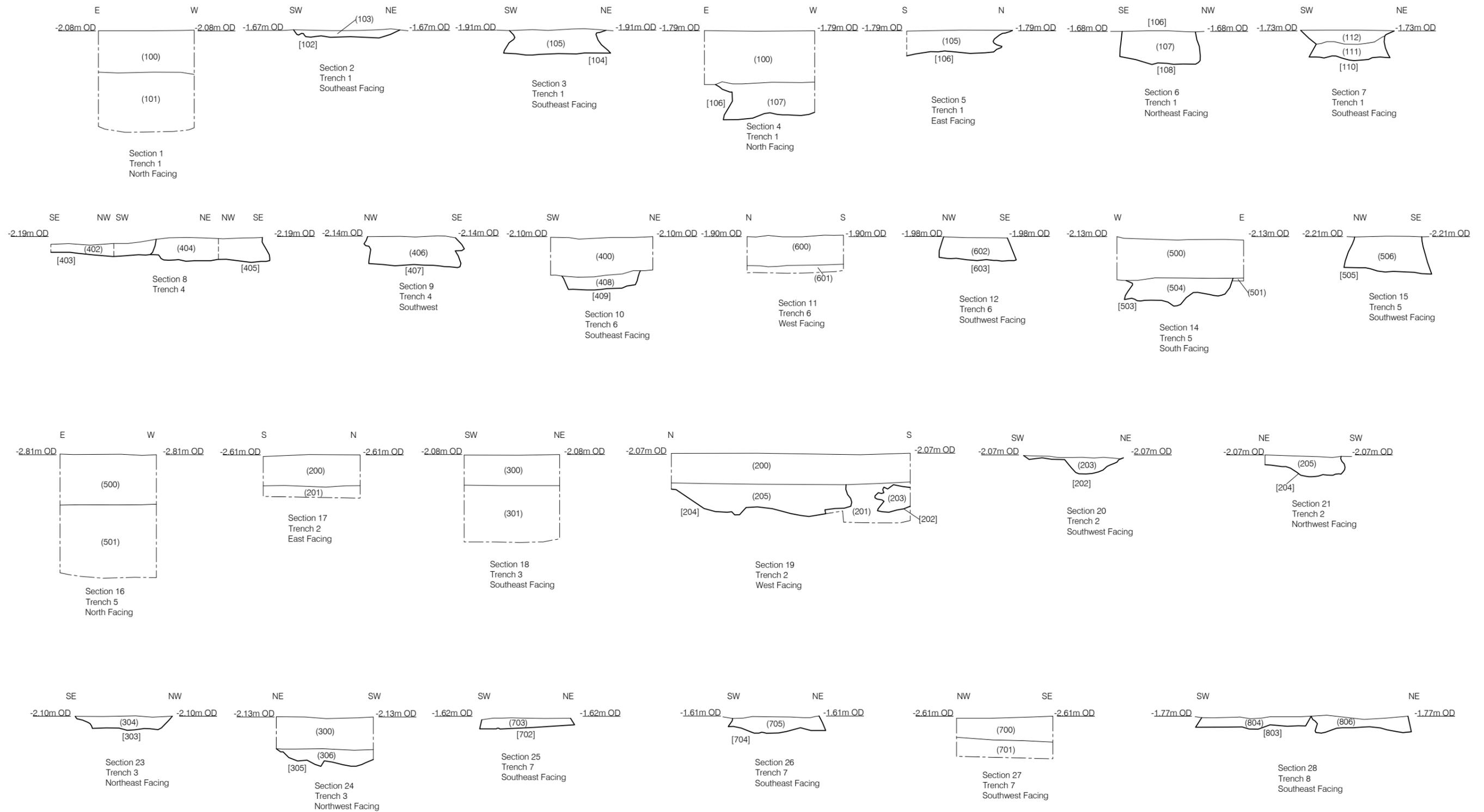
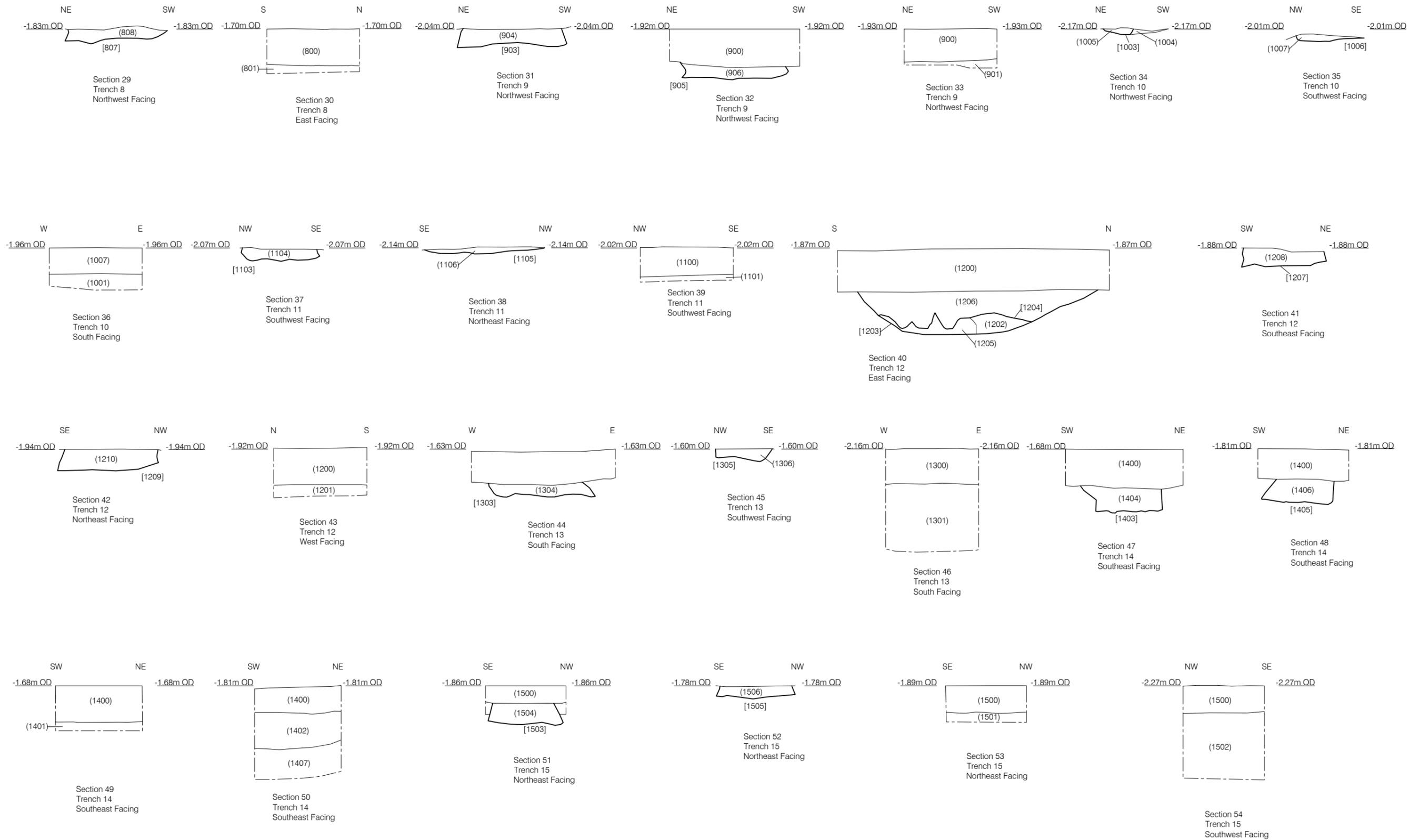
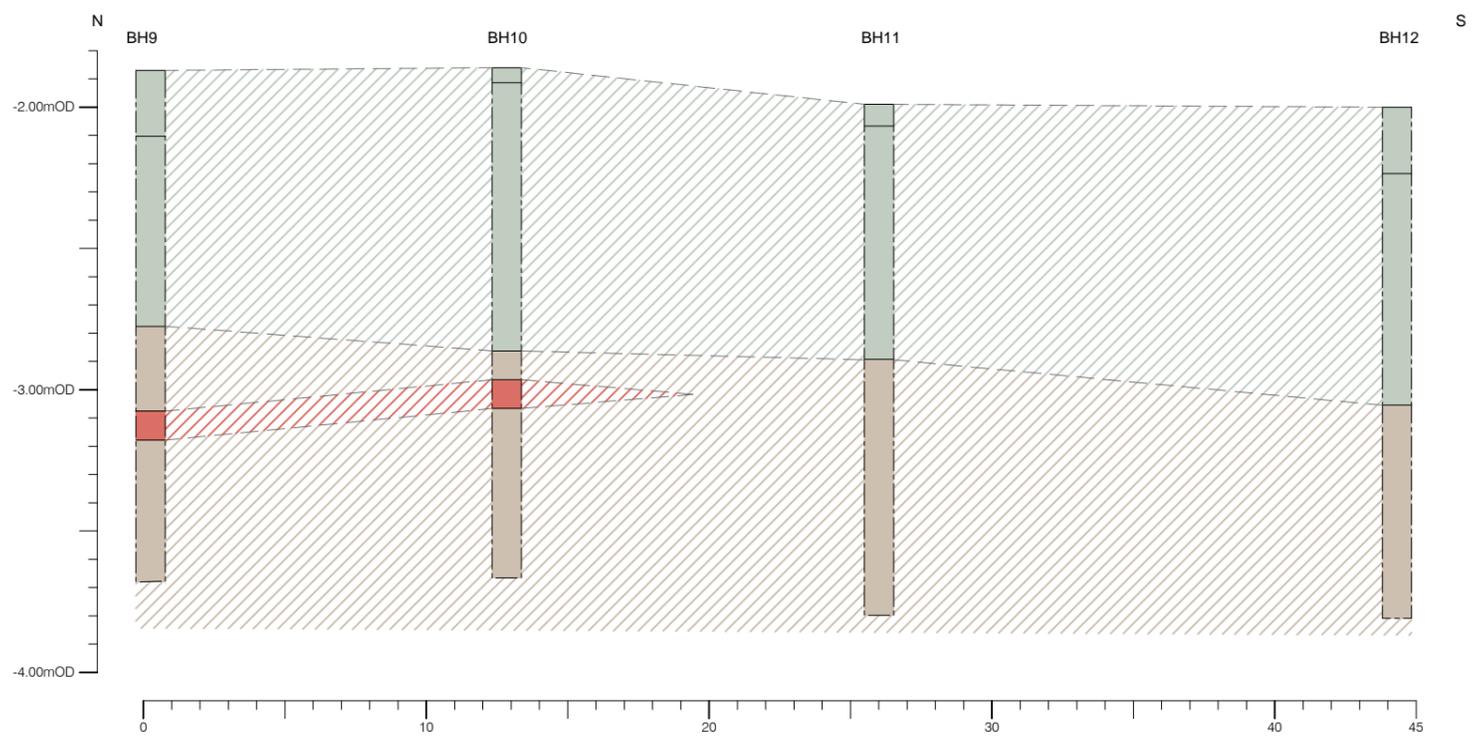
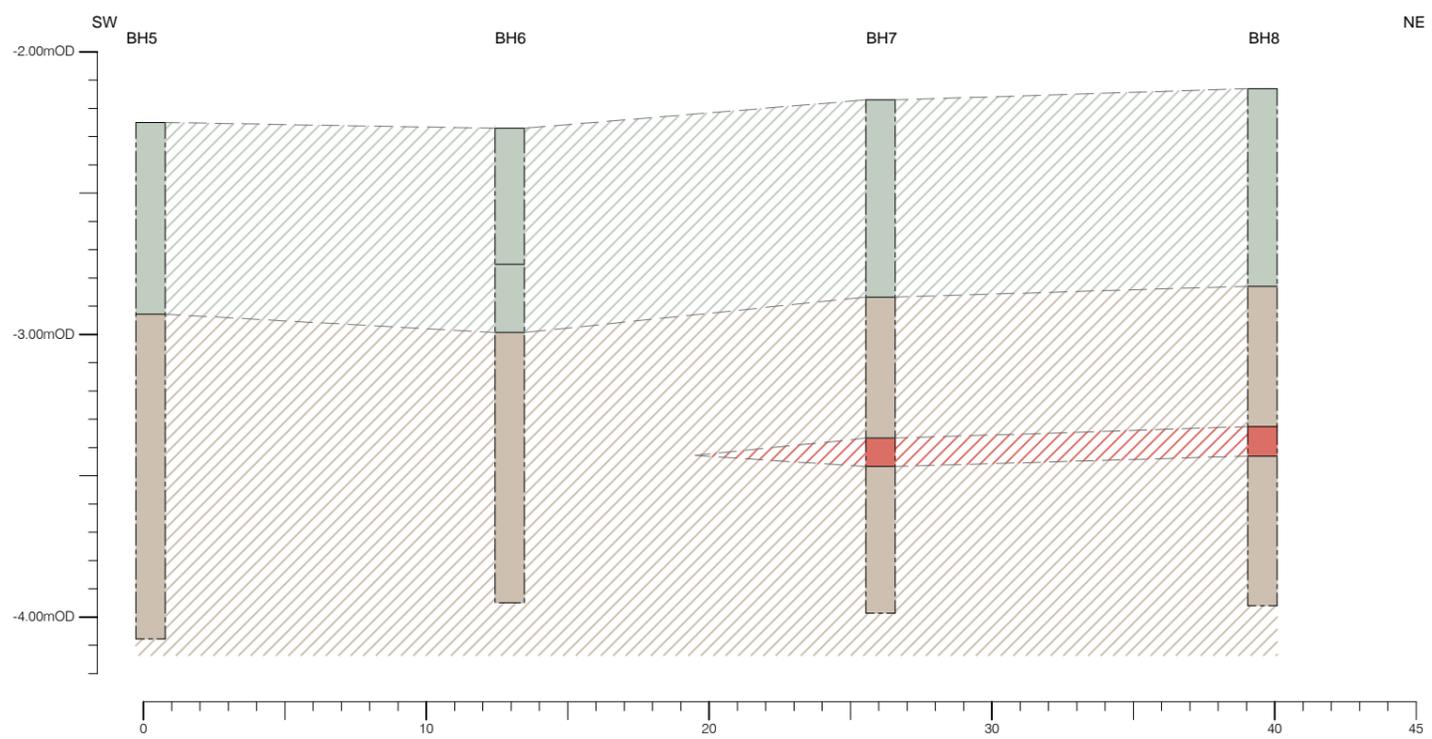
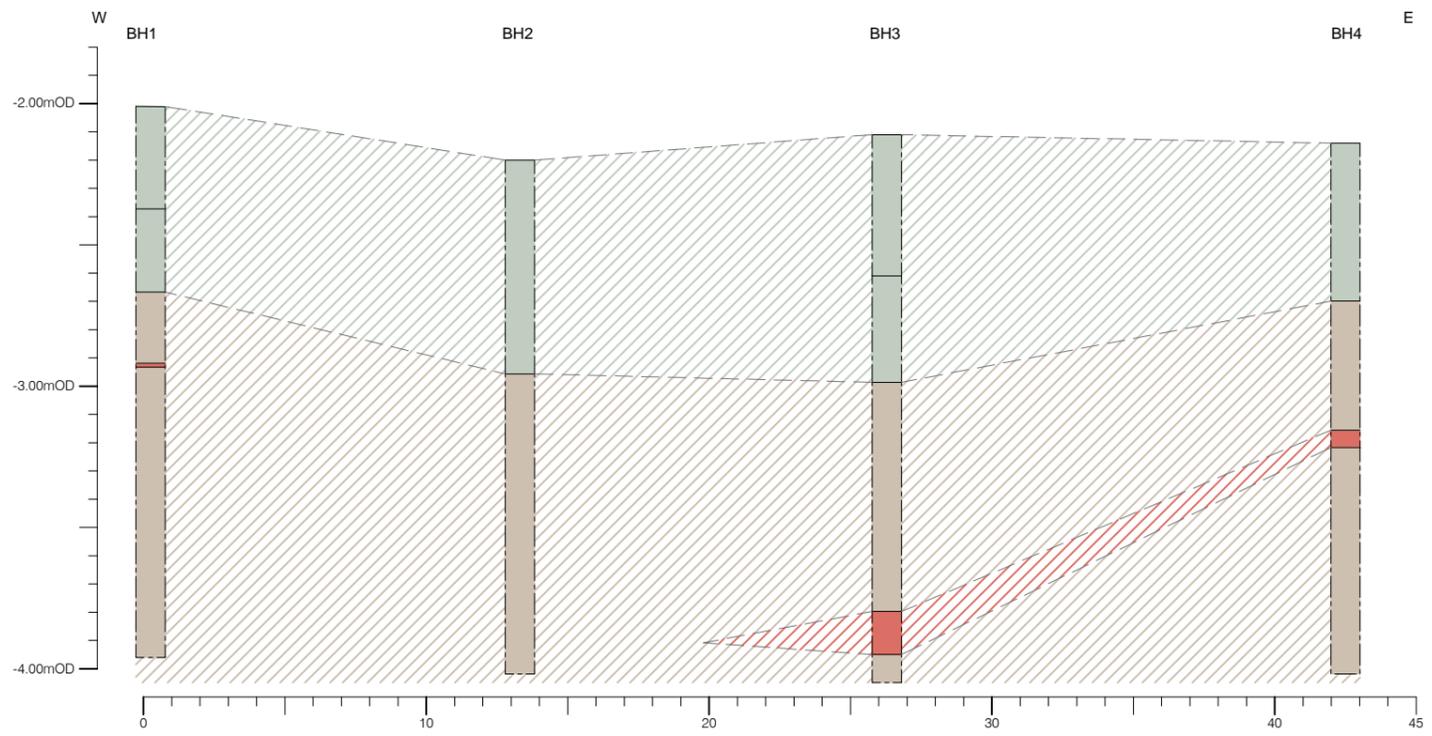


Figure 3  
Plan of Features  
1:625 at A3







-  Alluvial and Silty Clays
-  Peat
-  Blue Grey Clay

## **Appendix 1: Site Photographs**



Plate 1: View of the site from the northeast corner, looking southwest.



Plate 2: View of the site from the south, looking north.



Plate 3: Trench 4, looking west, showing claying trenches/pits on two alignments.



Plate 4: Trench 7, looking south, showing claying pits running through length of trench.



Plate 5: Trench 3, Section 18, representative section showing ploughsoil overlying laminated (possible roddon) silts (301).



Plate 6: Trench 12, looking south, showing possible roddon silts (1202).



Plate 7: Trench 5, Section 16, representative section showing ploughsoil overlying alluvial clay (501).



Plate 8: Trench 1, looking north, claying pit [104].



Plate 9: Trench 1, Section 3, showing steep undercutting sides of claying pit [104]



Plate 10: Trench 9, Section 31, showing steep to undercutting sides of claying trench [903].



Plate 11: Trench 7, Section 26, showing profile of claying pit [704].



Plate 12: Trench 8, Section 28, showing claying trenches [803] and [805] on same alignment and directly adjacent



Plate 13: Trench 12, Section 40, possible ditch [1203].



Plate 14 : Trench 12 looking north, showing three phases of 'claying' activity, two on perpendicular alignment and one parallel but too close to be of the same phase

## Appendix 2: Context Index

Abbreviations: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation; their dimensions in metres (in the order length x width x depth; or diameter x depth); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

| Trench | Context | Category | Description   |                    |            | Interpretation          | Dimensions (m)   | Above      | Below |
|--------|---------|----------|---|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|-------|
|        |         |          | Colour  | Texture            | Inclusions |                         |                  |            |       |
| 1      | 100     | Layer    | Dark grey brown   | Friable silty clay | -          | Topsoil                 | 0.4 thick        | 101<br>113 | -     |
|        | 101     | Deposit  | Mid bluish grey with orange mottling                              | Firm silty clay    | -          | Natural                 | >0.62 thick      | -          | 100   |
|        | 102     | Cut      | Oval in plan with very shallow, straight sides and irregular base |                    |            | Cut of very shallow pit | 1.9 x 1.1 x 0.08 | 101        | 103   |
|        | 103     | Fill     | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | -          | Fill of pit [102]       | 1.9 x 1.1 x 0.08 | 102        | 100   |
|        | 104     | Cut      | Oval in plan with steep, undercutting sides and a flat base       |                    |            | Cut of claying pit      | 1.8 x 1.1 x 0.26 | 101        | 105   |
|        | 105     | Fill     | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | -          | Fill of pit [104]       | 1.8 x 1.1 x 0.26 | 104        | 100   |

|   |     |         |   |                    |   |                       |                    |     |     |
|---|-----|---------|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|
|   | 106 | Cut     | Possibly oval in plan with steep, undercutting sides and a flat base                                |                    |   | Cut of claying pit    | >1.7 x >1.1 x 0.37 | 101 | 107 |
|   | 107 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [106]         | >1.7 x >1.1 x 0.37 | 106 | 100 |
|   | 108 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NE-SW alignment with steep, undercutting sides and flat base                    |                    |   | Cut of claying trench | >2.4 x 0.8 x 0.34  | 101 | 109 |
|   | 109 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [108]         | >2.4 x 0.8 x 0.34  | 108 | 100 |
|   | 110 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment with moderately steep, undercutting sides and an irregular base |                    |   | Cut of claying trench | >2.9 x 1 x 0.3     | 101 | 111 |
|   | 111 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Lower fill of [110]   | >2.9 x 1 x 0.2     | 110 | 112 |
|   | 112 | Fill    | Dark brownish grey  | Silty clay         | - | Upper fill of [110]   | >2.9 x 1 x 0.1     | 111 | 100 |
|   | 113 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown   | Friable silt       | - | Natural silts         | >0.1 thick         | -   | 100 |
| 1 |     |         |   |                    |   |                       |                    |     |     |
|   | 200 | Layer   | Dark brown  | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil               | 0.32 thick         | 201 | -   |
|   | 201 | Deposit | Mottled mid grey and orangey brown  | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural silt layer    | >0.2 thick         | 206 | 200 |
| 2 |     |         |   |                    |   |                       |                    |     |     |

|   |     |         |  |                    |   |                    |                 |            |     |
|---|-----|---------|--|--------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|------------|-----|
| 2 | 202 | Cut     | Linear with NE-SW alignment, moderate sides and an irregular base            |                    |   | Claying trench     | >3 x >0.8 x 0.2 | 201        | 203 |
|   | 203 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [202]      | >3 x 0.8 x 0.2  | 202        | 200 |
|   | 204 | Cut     | Linear with SE-NW alignment, steep, undercutting sides and an irregular base |                    |   | Claying trench     | >2 x 1 x 0.18   | 201        | 205 |
|   | 205 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [204]      | >2 x 1 x 0.18   | 204        | 200 |
|   | 206 | Deposit | Mid grey   | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits   | >0.5 thick      | -          | 201 |
| 3 | 300 | Layer   | Dark brown   | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil            | 0.32 thick      | 301<br>302 | -   |
|   | 301 | Deposit | Light yellow grey  | Sandy clayey silt  | - | Natural silt layer | >0.9 thick      | -          | 300 |
|   | 302 | Deposit | Mid grey   | Silty clay         | - | Natural deposits   | >0.2 thick      | -          | 300 |
|   | 303 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NE-SW alignment, moderate sides and irregular base       |                    |   | Claying trench     | >10 x 1 x 0.15  | 302        | 304 |
|   | 304 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [303]      | >10 x 1 x 0.15  | 303        | 300 |

|     |     |  |  |                 |                |                       |                        |     |     |
|-----|-----|--|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
| 3   | 305 | Cut  | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, moderately sloped, irregular sides and irregular base |                 |                | Claying trench        | >1.8 x >1 x 0.2        | 302 | 306 |
|     | 306 | Fill   | Brownish black   | Friable peat    | -              | Fill of [305]         | >1.8 x >1 x 0.2        | 305 | 300 |
| 4   | 400 | Layer  | Dark grey brown  | Firm silty clay | -              | Topsoil               | 0.4 thick              | 401 | -   |
|     | 401 | Deposit  | Mid bluish grey  | Firm grey clay  | -              | Natural deposits      | >0.1 thick             | -   | 400 |
|     | 402 | Fill   | Brownish black   | Friable peat    | -              | Fill of [403]         | 0.7 wide x 0.16 thick  | 403 | 400 |
|     | 403 | Cut  | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep sides and irregular base                        |                 |                | Claying trench        | 0.7 wide x 0.16 deep   | 401 | 402 |
|     | 404 | Fill   | Brownish black with grey patches at the top  | Friable peat    | -              | Fill of [405]         | >0.7 wide x 0.25 thick | 405 | 400 |
|     | 405 | Cut  | Linear in plan with NE-SW alignment, steep, undercutting sides and flat base               |                 |                | Claying trench        | >0.7 wide x 0.25 thick | 401 | 404 |
|     | 406 | Fill   | Brownish black   | Friable peat    | -              | Fill of [407]         | 1.04 wide x 0.32 deep  | 407 | 400 |
| 407 | Cut | Linear in plan with NE-SW alignment, steep, undercutting sides and flat base |  |                 | Claying trench | 1.04 wide x 0.32 deep | 401                    | 406 |     |

|   |     |         |   |                     |   |                  |                      |            |     |
|---|-----|---------|---|---------------------|---|------------------|----------------------|------------|-----|
|   | 408 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat        | - | Fill of [409]    |                      | 409        | 400 |
|   | 409 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep sides and irregular base                         |                     |   | Claying trench   | 0.8 wide x 0.2 deep  | 401        | 408 |
| 5 | 500 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Friable silty clay  | - | Topsoil          | 0.5 thick            | 501<br>502 | -   |
|   | 501 | Deposit | Mottled mid yellowish grey and mid orangey grey   | Firm silty clay     | - | Natural deposits | >0.75 thick          | -          | 500 |
|   | 502 | Deposit | Light orangey brown   | Friable clayey silt | - | Natural silts    | >0.1 thick           | -          | 500 |
|   | 503 | Cut     | Rectangular or linear in plan with steep and steep undercutting sides and an irregular base |                     |   | Claying trench   | 1.04 wide x 0.3 deep | 501        | 504 |
|   | 504 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat        | - | Fill of [503]    | 1.04 wide x 0.3 deep | 503        | 500 |
|   | 505 | Cut     | Rectangular in plan with steep, undercutting sides and a flat base                          |                     |   | Claying trench   | 0.9 wide x 0.4 deep  | 501        | 506 |
|   | 506 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat        | - | Fill of [505]    | 0.9 wide x 0.4 deep  | 505        | 500 |
| 6 | 600 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Firm silty clay     | - | Topsoil          | 0.3 thick            | 601        | -   |

|   |     |         |   |                     |   |                  |                      |     |     |
|---|-----|---------|---|---------------------|---|------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|
| 6 | 601 | Deposit | Mid orangey grey  | Firm clayey silt    | - | Natural deposits | >0.1 thick           | -   | 600 |
|   | 602 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat        | - | Fill of [603]    |                      | 603 | 600 |
|   | 603 | Cut     | Linear in plan with SW-NE alignment with steep, undercutting sides and a flat base            |                     |   | Claying trench   | 0.9 wide x 0.24 deep | 604 | 602 |
|   | 604 | Deposit | Mid bluish grey with mid orangey grey patches   | Firm clay           | - | Natural deposits | -                    | -   | 600 |
| 7 | 700 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Friable silty clay  | - | Topsoil          | 0.3 thick            | 701 | -   |
|   | 701 | Deposit | Light brown mottled with light orangey brown  | Friable clayey silt | - | Natural deposits | >0.2 thick           | -   | 700 |
|   | 702 | Cut     | Rectangular in plan with NW-SE alignment with steep, undercutting sides and a flat base       |                     |   | Claying trench   | 2.24 x 1 x 0.12      | 701 | 703 |
|   | 703 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat        | - | Fill of [702]    | 2.24 x 1 x 0.12      | 702 | 700 |
|   | 704 | Cut     | Rectangular in plan with NW-SE alignment with steep, undercutting sides and an irregular base |                     |   | Claying trench   | 2.24 x 1 x 0.17      | 701 | 705 |
|   | 705 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat        | - | Fill of [704]    | 2.24 x 1 x 0.17      | 704 | 700 |

|   |     |         |  |                    |   |                  |                    |            |     |
|---|-----|---------|--|--------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|------------|-----|
| 8 | 800 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown   | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil          | 0.4 thick          | 801<br>802 | -   |
|   | 801 | Deposit | Mottled mid grey and mid orangey grey                            | Firm clayey silt   | - | Natural deposits | >0.1 thick         | -          | 800 |
|   | 802 | Deposit | Light orangey brown  | Firm clayey silt   | - | Natural silts    | >0.1 thick         | -          | 800 |
|   | 803 | Cut     | Sub-oval in plan with steep sides and flat base                  |                    |   | Claying pit      | >1.72 x 1.2 x 1.1  | 801        | 804 |
|   | 804 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [803]    | >1.72 x 1.2 x 1.1  | 803        | 800 |
|   | 805 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep sides and convex base |                    |   | Claying trench   | >2.3 x 1.05 x 0.18 | 801        | 806 |
|   | 806 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [805]    | >2.3 x 1.05 x 0.18 | 805        | 800 |
|   | 807 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep sides and convex base |                    |   | Claying trench   | >2.1 x 1.1 x 0.15  | 801        | 808 |
|   | 808 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [807]    | >2.1 x 1.1 x 0.15  | 807        | 800 |
| 9 | 900 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown   | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil          | 0.36 thick         | 901<br>902 | -   |

|    |      |         |   |                    |   |                       |                    |              |      |
|----|------|---------|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|------|
| 9  | 901  | Deposit | Mottled mid-dark grey with orangey grey                                       | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits      | >0.1 thick         | -            | 900  |
|    | 902  | Deposit | Light yellowish brown   | Friable silt       | - | Natural silt deposits | -                  | -            | 900  |
|    | 903  | Cut     | Rectangular in plan with steep, undercutting sides and a convex base          |                    |   | Claying trench        | >1.45 x 1.3 x 0.2  | 901          | 904  |
|    | 904  | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [903]         | >1.45 x 1.3 x 0.2  | 903          | 900  |
|    | 905  | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep sides and an irregular base        |                    |   | Claying trench        | >1.25 x 1.2 x 0.14 | 901          | 906  |
|    | 906  | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [905]         |                    |              |      |
| 10 | 1000 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil               | 0.3 thick          | 1001<br>1002 | -    |
|    | 1001 | Deposit | Mottled mid-dark grey with orangey grey                                       | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits      | >0.2 thick         | -            | 1000 |
|    | 1002 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown   | Friable silt       | - | Natural silt deposits | -                  | -            | 1000 |
|    | 1003 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, shallow concave sides and a concave base |                    |   | Claying trench        | >3 x 0.7 x 0.07    | 1001         | 1004 |

|    |      |         |  |                    |   |                       |                       |              |      |
|----|------|---------|--|--------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------|
| 10 | 1004 | Deposit | Mottled dark grey and dark orangey grey  | Firm clay          | - | Re-deposited natural  | 0.4 wide x 0.06 thick | 1003         | 1000 |
|    | 1005 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1003]        | >3 x 0.7 x 0.07       | 1003         | 1000 |
|    | 1006 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, shallow concave sides and an irregular base             |                    |   | Claying trench        | >2.6 x 0.7 x 0.1      | 1001         | 1007 |
|    | 1007 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1006]        | >2.6 x 0.7 x 0.1      | 1006         | 1000 |
| 11 | 1100 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown   | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil               | 0.3 thick             | 1101<br>1102 | -    |
|    | 1101 | Deposit | Mottled mid grey and yellowish grey  | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits      | >0.05 thick           | -            | 1100 |
|    | 1102 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown  | Friable silt       | - | Natural silts         | -                     | -            | 1100 |
|    | 1103 | Cut     | Rectangular or linear in plan with NE-SW alignment, steep sides and an irregular base        |                    |   | Claying pit or trench | >1.15 x 0.85 x 0.15   | 1101         | 1104 |
|    | 1104 | Fill    | Brownish black   | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1103]        | >1.15 x 0.85 x 0.15   | 1103         | 1100 |
|    | 1105 | Cut     | Linear or rectangular in plan with NE-SW alignment, very shallow sides and an irregular base |                    |   | Claying pit or trench | >1.3 x 1.3 x 0.07     | 1101         | 1106 |

|    |      |         |   |                    |   |                                  |                   |              |      |
|----|------|---------|---|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|
| 11 | 1106 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1105]                   | >1.3 x 1.3 x 0.07 | 1105         | 1100 |
| 12 | 1200 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil                          | 0.4 thick         | 1201<br>1202 | -    |
|    | 1201 | Deposit | Mottled mid grey and yellowish grey   | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits                 | >0.15             | -            | 1200 |
|    | 1202 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown   | Friable silt       | - | Natural silts                    | -                 | -            | 1200 |
|    | 1203 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment and moderate, slightly concave/steep undercutting sides and a flat base |                    |   | Linear feature – claying trench? | >2 x 2.6 x 0.46   | 1202         | 1205 |
|    | 1204 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment and irregular sides and base  |                    |   | Re-cut of [1203]                 | >2 x >1 x 0.4     | 1205         | 1206 |
|    | 1205 | Fill    | Mottled dark grey and orangey grey  | Very firm clay     | - | Fill of [1203]                   | >2 x 1 x 0.2      | 1203         | 1204 |
|    | 1206 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1204]                   | >2 x 1.8 x 0.4    | 1204         | 1200 |
|    | 1207 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep, slightly undercutting sides and an irregular base               |                    |   | Claying trench                   | >2 x 0.9 x 0.2    | 1201<br>1202 | 1208 |
|    | 1208 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1207]                   | >2 x 0.9 x 0.2    | 1207         | 1200 |

|    |      |         |   |                    |   |                    |                 |              |      |
|----|------|---------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|------|
| 12 | 1209 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NE-SW alignment, steep, slightly undercutting sides and an irregular base     |                    |   | Claying trench     | >2 x 1.1 x 0.23 | 1201         | 1210 |
|    | 1210 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1209]     | >2 x 1.1 x 0.23 | 1209         | 1200 |
| 13 | 1300 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil            | 0.4 thick       | 1301<br>1302 | -    |
|    | 1301 | Deposit | Light orangey grey  | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits   | >0.7 thick      | -            | 1300 |
|    | 1302 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown   | Friable silt       | - | Natural silt layer | >0.1 thick      | -            | 1300 |
|    | 1303 | Cut     | Linear in plan with a NW-SE alignment, steep sides undercutting on one side and an irregular base |                    |   | Claying trench     | >3 x 1.3 x 0.2  | 1301<br>1302 | 1304 |
|    | 1304 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1303]     | >3 x 1.3 x 0.2  | 1303         | 1300 |
|    | 1305 | Cut     | Linear in plan with a NE-SW alignment, steep sides and a concave base                             |                    |   | Claying trench     | >2 x 0.6 x 0.2  | 1301         | 1306 |
|    | 1306 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1305]     | >2 x 0.6 x 0.2  | 1305         | 1300 |
| 14 | 1400 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil            | 0.4 thick       | 1401<br>1402 | -    |

|    |      |         |   |                    |   |                    |                   |              |      |
|----|------|---------|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------|
| 14 | 1401 | Deposit | Light orangey grey  | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits   | >0.1 thick        | -            | 1400 |
|    | 1402 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown   | Friable silt       | - | Natural silt layer | >0.4 thick        | -            | 1400 |
|    | 1403 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep sides and a flat base                          |                    |   | Claying trench     | >0.8 x 1 x 0.3    | 1401         | 1401 |
|    | 1404 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1403]     | >0.8 x 1 x 0.3    | 1403         | 1400 |
|    | 1405 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NW-SE alignment, steep sides undercutting on one side and a flat base |                    |   | Claying trench     | >1.8 x 0.8 x 0.3  | 1401         | 1406 |
|    | 1406 | Fill    | Brownish black  | Friable peat       | - | Fill of [1405]     | >1.8 x 0.8 x 0.3  | 1405         | 1400 |
| 15 | 1500 | Layer   | Dark greyish brown  | Friable silty clay | - | Topsoil            | 0.3 thick         | 1501<br>1502 | -    |
|    | 1501 | Deposit | Light orangey grey  | Firm silty clay    | - | Natural deposits   | >0.1              | -            | 1500 |
|    | 1502 | Deposit | Light yellowish brown   | Friable silt       | - | Natural silt layer | >0.8              | -            | 1500 |
|    | 1503 | Cut     | Linear in plan with NE-SW alignment, steep undercutting sides and an irregular base       |                    |   | Claying trench     | >1.5 x 0.9 x 0.25 | 1501         | 1504 |

|    |      |      |  |              |   |                |                   |      |      |
|----|------|------|--|--------------|---|----------------|-------------------|------|------|
| 15 | 1504 | Fill | Brownish black   | Friable peat | - | Fill of [1503] | >1.5 x 0.9 x 0.25 | 1503 | 1500 |
|    | 1505 | Cut  | Rectangular in plan with NE-SW alignment, steep undercutting sides and an irregular base |              |   | Claying trench | >1.5 x 1 x 0.15   | 1501 | 1506 |
|    | 1506 | Fill | Brownish black   | Friable peat | - | Fill of [1505] | >1.5 x 1 x 0.15   | 1505 | 1500 |

## Appendix 3: The Finds

by Gary Taylor

An artefact recovered during investigations at Fifty Road, Manea (ECB5840) is reported, below.

The find was examined and reported in accordance with ClfA guidelines (2014).

### The Metal

#### Introduction

A single metal item weighing 1440g was recovered.

#### Results

| Context | Material | Description   | No. | Wt(g) | Context date        |
|---------|----------|---|-----|-------|---------------------|
| 100     | lead     | Pipe, squashed flat, length about 23cms, diameter about 5-6cm, little corrosion | 1   | 1440  | Late post-medieval? |

#### Provenance

The metal find was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1 (100). It was retrieved by metal detecting.

#### Discussion

A single section of lead pipe was found. It probably served as a water pipe. It is minimally corroded and probably no earlier than the late post-medieval period.

#### Potential

As a single item of uncertain but probably late post-medieval date, the object is of limited potential and can be discarded.

#### References

ClfA, 2014 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

#### Abbreviations

ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

No. Number

Wt(g) Weight (grams)



The lead pipe was selected for discard following consultation with Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET).

## **Appendix 4: OASIS Form**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: preconst1-350513**

### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | Land southwest of Crane Farm, Fifty Rd, Manea   |
| Short description of the project       | A trial trench evaluation of 2.9ha of agricultural land in the Cambridgeshire Fens, in advance of a proposed anaerobic digestion plant, associated infrastructure, lagoon and feedstock clamps. This investigation revealed a single undated ditch, which is likely post-medieval and an abundance of post-medieval claying trenches/pits, recorded across the site. Modern features were represented by two field boundaries/drainage ditches. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 25-03-2019 End: 05-04-2019   |
| Previous/future work                   | No / Not known  |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECB5840 - Sitecode  |
| Type of project                        | Field evaluation  |
| Site status                            | None  |
| Current Land use                       | Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m   |
| Monument type                          | DITCH Uncertain   |
| Monument type                          | CLAYING PIT Post Medieval   |
| Monument type                          | FIELD BOUNDARY Modern   |
| Significant Finds                      | LEAD PIPE Post Medieval   |
| Methods & techniques                   | "Augering","Sample Trenches"  |
| Development type                       | Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)  |
| Prompt                                 | Planning condition  |
| Position in the planning process       | Not known / Not recorded  |

### Project location

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Country       | England  |
| Site location | CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND MANEA Land south of Crane Farm, Manea, Cambridgeshire |

Study area 2.9 Hectares  
Site coordinates TL 5003 9303 52.514083317573 0.211187450855 52 30 50 N 000 12 40 E  
Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA Newark  
Project brief originator Gemma Stewart  
Project design originator Gary Taylor  
Project director/manager Gary Taylor  
Project supervisor Andy Failes  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store  
Physical Archive ID ECB5840  
Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store  
Digital Archive ID ECB5840  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store  
Paper Archive ID ECB5840  
Paper Contents "Survey"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Land south of Cranes Farm, Manea, Cambridgeshire  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Failes, A and Leman, M.  
Other bibliographic details R13678  
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## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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