LAND AT STATION ROAD, FOXTON, CAMBRIDGSHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION. ARCHIVE REPORT

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS: S/2148/16/OL

PCA REPORT NO: R.13862

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OCTOBER 2019

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land at Station Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Excavation. Archive Report

Local Planning Authority:	**South Cambridgeshire District Council**
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Site Code:	**ECB5403**
Planning Reference:	**S/2148/16/OL**
Report No.	**R.13862**
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CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological excavation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Station Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 4088 4841) between 25th and 29th April 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hill Residential Ltd, in response to a planning condition.

The excavation identified a series of ditches which formed part of a rectilinear enclosure system, which was not previously identified as the majority of the ditches were located in the gaps between the archaeological evaluation trenches. Parts of the enclosure system showed evidence of being recut suggesting it was in use for a sustained period. An articulated sub-adult cattle foot was recovered from one of the ditches. This was sent for radiocarbon dating and returned a date of between 1528-1419BC (95.4% SUERC-87332). By and large the ditches respected one another indicating that they were fairly contemporary representing related elements of a gradually evolving landscape. The evaluation identified a possible ring-ditch in one of the trenches which turned out to be the corner of the enclosure identified in the excavation.

The general lack of recovered finds evidence may suggest that the site is not in close proximity to contemporary settlement, with the evidence suggesting rather that it was agricultural in nature lying on the peripheries of any associated settlement.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Station Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire, CB22 6SA (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 2148 4841) between 25th and 29th March 2019 (Figure 1; Plate 1).

1.1.2 The site is located in the northern part of the village of Foxton, 11km south-west of Cambridge and 9km north-east of Royston. The site is bounded to the east by properties fronting onto Station Road, commercial premises to the south, the grounds of Villiers Park Educational Trust to the north and by open pasture to the west. It has an overall area of approximately 0.8ha.

1.1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, on behalf of Hill Residential Ltd, in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the redevelopment of the site (Planning Reference: S/2148/16/OL).

1.1.4 A trial trench evaluation of the site, carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in December 2018, revealed a series of undated ditches, scraps of Roman pottery were recovered but this was likely intrusive with the only other Roman pottery found within the subsoil. What was thought to be a ring-ditch was identified in the evaluation, but this turned out to be the corner of an enclosure.

1.1.5 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA (Hobbs 2019) in response to an archaeological brief from Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Ccouncil Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) (Gdaniec 2019). The brief states that, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, any planning permission granted for development of the site should be subject to the following archaeological conditions:

1. No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has

been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording

b. The programme for post-investigation assessment

c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording

d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation

e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/ organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

g. The site investigation shall be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

2. No building shall be occupied until the site investigation and post-investigation assessment has been completed, submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Condition 1 and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition.

1.1.6 The main aims of the excavation were to 'preserve by record' any archaeological remains present within the areas identified by the County Brief for mitigation excavation, to assess the significance of those remains in a local, regional or national research context, as appropriate, to realise the site's

research potential through a programme of post-excavation analysis and research, and to disseminate the results of the project through publication where appropriate.

1.1.7 This archive report describes the results of the excavation and their significance and provides a proposal for dissemination of the project results through publication as a short note within Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society journal. Following completion of the project and the transfer of title, the site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The superficial deposits are River Terrace Deposits- sand and gravel. These deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey (BGS); Website 1).

2.1.2 The underlying bedrock geology is of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation- chalk. This sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 94 - 101 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS; Website 1).

2.2 Topographically

2.2.1 The site, which covers an area of c. 0.075ha, is located on the western edge of the village of Foxton. Foxton is located c.10km south-west of Cambridge. Foxton Brook is located c.0.85km to the west of the site and the River Cam is located c.1.2km to the north.

2.2.2 The site is bordered to the east by properties fronting on to Station Road, commercial premises to the south, the grounds of the Villiers Park Educational trust to the north and open pasture to the west. A belt of mature trees split the site roughly in two, running alongside this band of trees were three water pipes.

2.2.3 Topographically, the site is situated on relatively flat ground at the southern edge of the floodplain of the River Cam, c.15m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). To the south of the site the ground rises gradually towards Chalk Hill and West Hill, which overlook the village from the south, at c.34m aOD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, as recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). It is situated to the south of cropmark settlement and enclosures (House 2015 and Lloyd-Smith 2018). This background is drawn from the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2015), the archaeological brief (Gdaniec 2019) as well as any pertinent grey literature.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 A Neolithic pit and a prehistoric ditch were identified during work on the Foxton Recreation Ground c.500m to the south-east of the PDA (CB 15568). Further Neolithic pits have been recorded in the area during the construction of the Duxford gas pipeline c.900m to the west of the site (CB 14690).

3.2.2 An evaluation at Shepreth Road (ECB 4396; House 2015) c.250m south-west of the site identified a Bronze Age barrow which was associated with a Late Bronze Age settlement comprising ditches, clusters of pits and postholes.

3.2.3 Further Bronze Age ring ditches have been identified on aerial photographs c.500m south-west of the site (CB 18631) and on geophysical surveys (MCB 17776 and CB 15638) c.800m south-west of the site.

3.3 Iron Age

3.3.1 Two Iron Age roundhouses have been recorded in a geophysical survey carried out on school playing fields, c.300m south of the site (MCB 19183). Further investigations, c.800m to the west, uncovered Iron Age pits, one of which contained a cremation (CB 14689).

3.3.2 An evaluation to the south of Shepreth Road (ECB 5395; Lloyd-Smith 2018), c.500m south-west of the site, identified evidence for Iron Age settlement. This consisted of a complex of enclosures, likely representing settlement, with associated field boundaries and stock enclosures.

3.3.3 An excavation carried out near Barrington Road (HER 04209a), c.700m to the north, identified further Iron Age activity.

3.4 Roman

3.4.1 Roman activity has been recorded, c.800m to the west near Foxton Brook, including a substantial settlement and cemetery (CB 14689). This was associated with the Iron Age settlement, indicating continuity into the Roman period.

3.4.2 A series of cropmarks, relating to a complex of enclosures (HER 08626) and a trackway (HER 08629), were identified c.500m to the north and north-west of the site. Further metal finds have been recovered from the area during metal detecting (HER 11564 and 17717).

3.4.3 Metal finds have been recovered during metal detecting, c.350m to the south-west, on a site which was subsequently subject to a geophysical survey. However, no archaeologically significant features were identified.

3.5 Saxon

3.5.1 Saxon inhumations have been recorded c.200m to the northeast (HER 03996), c.500m to the north (HER 03989), and c.700m to the north of the study site. The southern-most inhumations seem to mark the southern edge of the burials as no further inhumations have been found in excavations to the south.

3.5.2 Metal detecting c. 350m southwest of the study site recorded a single strap fitting of possible Saxon date (HER 10266a). Further metal detecting c.500m to the southwest of the study site has recovered two Saxon brooches.

3.5.3 No evidence of settlement remains dating to the Saxon period has been uncovered in the area, although the settlement at Foxton is mentioned in the Domesday Book (AD1086).

3.6 Medieval

3.6.1 The medieval church of St. Lawrence, which originally dates to the 12th century, lies c.300m south of the current site. The medieval core of the village was likely to have been located along High Street during this period, c.300m south of the study site, near to St. Lawrence's Church.

3.7 Post-medieval

3.7.1 The closest listed buildings are two listed buildings (18 and 22 Station Road) located c.100m to the east of the study site.

3.7.2 Within c.250m of the study site are a Pigeon house (HER 10417; 125m southeast), a farm (HER 04125; 200m east) and a Dovecote at Herod's Farm (HER 10418; c.230m southeast). These entries suggest the developed area of post-medieval Foxton was similar to that of the medieval period, although development was now extending north along Station Road.

3.7.3 The site of a pumping windmill is shown on late 19th-century maps c. 150m to the west of the site (MCB24417) and the site of the now-demolished Foxton Hall is located c. 50m to the north (MCB24418).

3.7.4 The earliest maps that shows the site in any detail date to around 1830. At this time Station Road was known as Stockers Lane Road.

3.7.5 With the exception of changes in the arrangement of field boundaries and surrounding development along Station Road, the site has remained as farmland until the present time.

3.8 Aerial Photography

3.8.1 Aerial photographic assessment of the site (Air Photo Services 2016) showed no features of archaeological interest within the site's boundaries, other than post-medieval/modern field boundaries and modern services.

3.9 Geophysical Survey

3.9.1 A geophysical survey (GSB 2016) was carried out on the site which confirmed the results of the aerial photography: it showed no features of archaeological interest within the site's boundaries, other than post-medieval/modern field boundaries and modern services.

3.10 Evaluation

3.10.1 A trial trench evaluation of the site was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in December 2018 (Jones 2018). A total of seven trial trenches (totalling 187.5m) were excavated. The evaluation identified four

ditches, on varying alignments, as well as what appeared to be part of a ring-ditch. The slight variations in ditch alignments suggested the potential for different periods, or at least differing phases of activity. The general lack of recovered finds evidence suggested that the site was away from settlement, not within the settlement 'core'.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The excavation comprised an open area, c.25m x 30m, defined by the extents of the more significant archaeology identified in evaluation Trenches 4, 5 & 7 which was agreed with CCCHET.

4.1.2 The evaluation identified four ditches, on varying alignments, as well as what appeared to be part of a ring-ditch.

4.2 Excavation Methodology

4.2.1 Ground reduction during the excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 21-ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the natural geological deposits (102).

4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and sand-hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

4.3.1 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.

4.3.2 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 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]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as ‘fills’). Multiple sections excavated across a single feature were later grouped

together by unique 'group numbers', signified here by capitals: e.g. Ditch 1. The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated during the excavation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out prior to stripping the topsoil, after the topsoil stripping as well as throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. No metal finds were recovered aside from objects of clear modern date, which were not retained.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits which were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

4.4.2 Where the stratigraphic relationship between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant record sheets. Excavation also focused on ditch terminals as these are known to have often been focal points for deliberate deposits of artefacts.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 As no clear dating was recovered from any of the features on the site coupled with the fact that the samples taken during the evaluation returned no useful data and were heavily disturbed by modern intrusions, no further samples were taken.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Type	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Context register sheets	2	2	4
Context sheets	23	31	54
Section register sheets	1	1	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	13	12	25
Trench record sheets	7	0	7
Photo register sheets	1	1	2
Small finds register sheets	0	0	0
Environmental register sheets	1	1	2

5.2 Digital Archive

Type	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Digital photos	180	136	316
GPS survey files	3	3	6
Digital plans	1	1	2
GIS project	0	0	0
Access database	1	1	2

5.3 Physical Archive

Type	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Pottery	3/ 5g	1/ 6g	4/ 11g
Animal bone	20	47	67
Environmental bulk samples	2	0	2
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	4	0	4
Other Samples: C-14	0	1	1

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 The excavation revealed a part of an enclosure system, with a potential recut identified in its south-eastern delineation. Further ditches were identified which formed part of a wider system of field boundaries.

6.1.2 One tree throw was also identified which truncated Enclosure 1 (Ditch 1).

6.2 Middle Bronze Age (1,600 – 1,100BC)

6.2.1 The ditches identified on the site belonged to the Middle Bronze Age period. Whilst the majority of the slots excavated yielded no dating evidence, it was possible to assign the ditches to this period due to the recovery of an articulated cattle foot which returned a radiocarbon date of between 1528-1419BC (95.4% probability; SUERC-87332).

Enclosure 1 (Ditch 1 & Recut 1; Figure 4)

6.2.2 Enclosure 1 was present in the northern part of the excavation area, with only parts of the western and southern delineations present within the excavation area. Given the general lack of finds within the enclosure it is unlikely to be located in close proximity to contemporary settlement.

6.2.3 The evaluation phase mis-identified part of this enclosure as being a ring-ditch. The suspected ring-ditch turned out to be the corner of the enclosure identified within the excavation. The identification of the ring-ditch in the evaluation was clouded by the presence of the tree throw as well as indistinct geology.

Ditch 1 (Slots [151], [155], [182], [165], [117], [161], [175])

Ditch 1 (Figure 4) was aligned north-west to south-east extending for c.20m before turning through 90° to become aligned north-east to south-west continuing for c.9m into the limit of excavation. The ditch measured between 0.94m-1.45m wide and 0.25m-0.44m deep with moderate to steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill consisting of mid- to dark grey brown silty sand. An articulated sub-adult cattle foot was recovered from the base of this ditch which was radiocarbon dated returning a date of 1528-1419BC (95.4% probability; SUERC-87332).

Recut 1 (Slots [180], [176])

Recut 1 (Figure 4) was aligned north-east to south-west continuing for c.6.75m from the limit of excavation. The ditch measured between 0.88m-0.97m wide and 0.2m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill consisting of pale grey brown silty sand. No dating evidence was recovered from this ditch.

Ditch 2 (Figure 4)

6.2.4 Ditch 2 was present in the south-eastern part of the excavation area. It formed part of the enclosure system identified on the site.

Ditch 2 (Slots [178], [172])

Ditch 2 (Figure 4) was aligned north-west to south-east continuing for c.11.5m from the limit of excavation. The ditch measured between 0.83m-1.08m wide and 0.32m-0.4m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill consisting of pale yellowish- brown silty sand. One sherd (6g) of probable Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery (1100-750BC) was recovered from the base of the ditch terminus (Slot [178]).

Ditch 3 (Figure 4)

6.2.5 Ditch 3 was present in the southern part of the excavation and bisected the gap between Ditches 1 and 2 (Figure 4). This was likely to have been a later addition to the complex of ditches and enclosures given the fact that it bisects the two ditches whilst simultaneously respecting their alignments. This suggests that the aforementioned ditches were still extant at this time.

Ditch 3 (Slots [153], [119], [157], [159], [115], [169])

Ditch 3 (Figure 4) was aligned north-east to south-west continuing for c.26m before turning through 45° to become aligned east-west continuing for c.3.5m into the western limit of excavation. The ditch measured between 0.77m-1.18m wide and 0.18m-0.29m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill consisting of pale grey brown silty sand. No dating evidence was recovered from this ditch.

6.3 Tree throw (Figure 4)

6.3.1 One tree throw ([123]=[163]) was recorded during the excavation, identifiable by its irregular shape in plan and profile, diffuse edges, no finds and its fill

which merged imperceptibly with the natural geology.

Tree throw [123]=[163] (Figure 4) truncated Ditch [165] and measured 2.94m in length, 2.74m in width and 0.35m in depth. It was circular in plan with steep sides and an irregular base. It contained a single fill of mid- brownish grey silty sand. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Prehistoric Pottery

Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Introduction

7.1.1 A single sherd (6g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the excavation. The preceding evaluation did not recover any prehistoric ceramics, as such this report describes the totality of the prehistoric assemblage recovered from the site.

Methodology

7.1.2 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). Fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. The sherd was weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (handmade). Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (100%) of the assemblage).

Summary and Discussion

7.1.3 A single sherd derived from fill (177) of Ditch [178] (Table 1).

Context	Cut	Feature type	No. of sherds	Wt(g)	Overall context spot date	Fabric
177	178	Ditch	1	6	LPH (LBA-EIA?)	ShF1

Table 1: Prehistoric pottery quantification

ShF1	Common fine to coarse platey shell (<4mm), sparse fine to moderate calcined flint

Table 2: Prehistoric pottery fabrics

7.1.4 The sherd was an undiagnostic bodysherd, meaning it could only be dated by its fabric composition; inclusions of rich shell (Sh) and calcined flint (F) in the fabric (Table 2). The use of calcined flint in fabric recipes is found throughout prehistory, and as such cannot provide a well-defined date range for the sherd. Calcined flint does however generally fall out of common use towards the end of the Early Iron Age in East Anglia, and as such the sherd is unlikely to be of a later date than this period. Similarly, shelly fabrics are frequently found in areas surrounding the East Anglian fens throughout prehistory, as fossil shell

is found within the clays (Amphill, Kimmeridge and Oxford Clays) which are located at the fringes of the fen basin. Given these limitations, the fabric composition, as well as the relatively thin, fine, well fired nature of the sherd suggests a broadly later prehistoric (Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (1150/1100-400/350 BC)) date is most appropriate.

7.2 Animal bone

By Ryan Desrosiers

Introduction

7.2.1 Animal bone was recovered from six features, which yielded a total of 67 fragments of animal bone. These remains, weighing a total of 533.2g, comprised of taxa from two taxonomic orders: mammals and birds.

Methodology

7.2.2 The animal bone recovered from the site was identified, recorded, and quantified (NISP) to species level whenever possible. In the case of unidentifiable fragments, like long bone shaft fragments or vertebral fragments, classification into size classes (e.g. cattle sized, sub-adult cattle sized, or rat sized) as per Rielly (2018) was attempted. During the recording of individual elements recovered, additional attributes including species, bone portion, condition, taphonomy, pathology, or anthropogenic alteration to elements were noted. Specimens for which mass could not be determined were assigned an assumed weight of 0.01g. Attempts were made by the analyst to refit all possible elements within contexts, with the total number of fragments being additionally noted.

7.2.3 The majority (70.14%) of the animal bone found on the site was collected by hand, with the remaining minority of remains (29.86%) recovered through environmental sampling. All environmental samples were taken from sealed archaeological contexts during the evaluation phase.

Description of faunal assemblage

7.2.4 67 animal bone fragments from six undated contexts were recovered from the site. After refitting, 67 fragments were reduced to a total of 50 specimens.

Species	(105) [106]	(107) [108]	(150) [151]	(154) [155]	(160) [161]	(174) [175]	Grand Total
Cattle			1	13	6	5	25
Cattle sized					14	1	15
Bird		4					4
Small Mammal		4					4
Unidentified	7	5		2	5		19
Grand Total	7	13	1	15	25	6	67

Table 3: Animal bone by context

7.2.5 Common domesticated species including cattle are the most abundant within in the Foxton assemblage (Table 3). Additionally, while only present in smaller quantities, small mammals, birds and unidentifiable mammal remains were collected during both hand collection and environmental sampling. The bird and small mammal bone was recovered from an undated feature identified in Trench 6 during the evaluation phase.

7.2.6 Overall, the state of preservation of the assemblage is relatively poor. The majority of fragments (both hand-collected and environmentally sampled) displayed evidence of extraneous taphonomic factors influencing preservation, including root etching, water wear, and acidic soil conditions. No specimens from Foxton display direct evidence of human consumption or alteration. Additionally, a portion of specimens recovered from features could only be identified to size class (cattle sized) throughout the assemblage.

7.2.7 Notably, an articulated sub-adult cattle foot was recovered from the singular fill (174) of ditch [175]. This specimen was selected for radiocarbon dating and yielded a date of 1528-1419BC (95.4% SUERC-87332).

Conclusions

7.2.8 An assessment of the faunal remains present suggests that cattle likely played a role in the day to day subsistence at the site based on the degree of their abundance in the hand collected portion of the assemblage. However, this could merely reflect the bias is survival- cattle being more robust.

7.2.9 Very few conclusions can be drawn from the recovered faunal assemblage. As the smaller identifiable taxa present are species which would not commonly be part of the Bronze Age landscape and would not have been exploited for subsistence, nor do any show signs of consumption, it can be assumed that the non-domesticate portion of the assemblage recovered is of non-anthropogenic origin. Spatially, no areas appear to be favoured for deposition, nor do any features

8 DISCUSSION

8.1.1 The initial trial trench evaluation identified features which likely dated to the later prehistoric period. However, the only available dating evidence was two abraded Roman sherds which were likely to have been intrusive, found within the top fill the ditch in Trench 3. The lack of finds evidence therefore suggested that the site was not within a settlement 'core'. The differing alignments of the ditches in the evaluation suggested the potential for multiple periods, or at least different phases of activity, being represented.

8.1.2 The excavation, however, revealed more evidence for prehistoric activity, though only one sherd of probable Later Bronze Age pottery was recovered. This prehistoric date is further corroborated by the recovery of an articulated cattle foot, which was sent for radiocarbon dating, returning a date of between 1528-1419BC (95.4% probability; SUERC-87332).

8.2 Bronze Age Ditches

8.2.1 The majority of the features recorded were Bronze Age ditches. This lack of dating evidence could indicate that these ditches are of the peripheries of contemporary settlement. However, given the fact that Middle Bronze Age settlement do not always leave a finds rich ‘signature’ it is possible that contemporary settlement is located nearby.

8.2.2 The recovery of the single sherd of probable Late Bronze Age pottery may suggest periodic cleaning of the enclosure ditches was undertaken and suggest that the enclosure system was still in use during the Late Bronze Age.

8.2.3 A number of sites in Foxton have uncovered evidence for prehistoric settlement, or at least agricultural activity, in the environs of the current site. These, in general, share some of the same characteristics as the current site such as being associated with sparse artefactual evidence and share similar alignments.

8.2.4 The closest evidence was a Late Bronze Age settlement identified at Shepreth Road (House 2015), located c. 250m to the south of the current site. It is possible that the Shepreth Road site fits the same pattern as identified at Station Road with Late Bronze Age settlement within an enclosure system

established in Middle Bronze Age.

8.2.5 Another site off Shepreth Road site (Lloyd-Smith 2018) identified part of a rectangular enclosure which was dated to the Iron Age period. Interestingly, this enclosure also contained extremely sparse pottery assemblages (merely two pottery sherds). Given the sparse dating it is plausible that the apparent Iron Age enclosure may in fact be part of the wider Middle Bronze Age enclosure system with the Iron Age pottery being intrusive, potentially washing in as the enclosure was infilling. Therefore, again it may fit the pattern identified at Station Road site with later periods potentially reusing enclosures which were established in the Middle Bronze Age.

8.2.6 An excavation at Mortimers Lane (Thatcher & Rees 2009) uncovered evidence for an Iron Age phase: relating to roundhouse gullies and boundaries. The artefactual evidence suggested that the settlement was of relatively low status, indicative of a largely agricultural economy and lifestyle.

8.3 A comment on the Roman evidence

8.3.1 The presence of a small amount of Roman material suggests that the site may have seen activity in the Roman period, presumably relating to a field system. A nearby site at Herods Farm (Macaulay 1995) recorded Roman settlement remains, which is likely the focus for the Roman activity in the area at this time with the current site well into the agricultural hinterland.

9 PUBLICATION PROPOSAL

9.1 General

9.1.1 It is proposed to publish the results of the project as a note in the county archaeological journal, Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society ('PCAS').

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Ltd on behalf of Hill Residential Ltd for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed for PCA by Mark Hinman. The author would like to thank the site team: Rory Fisher, Rachael Thomas and Iza Anderle for their hard work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department.

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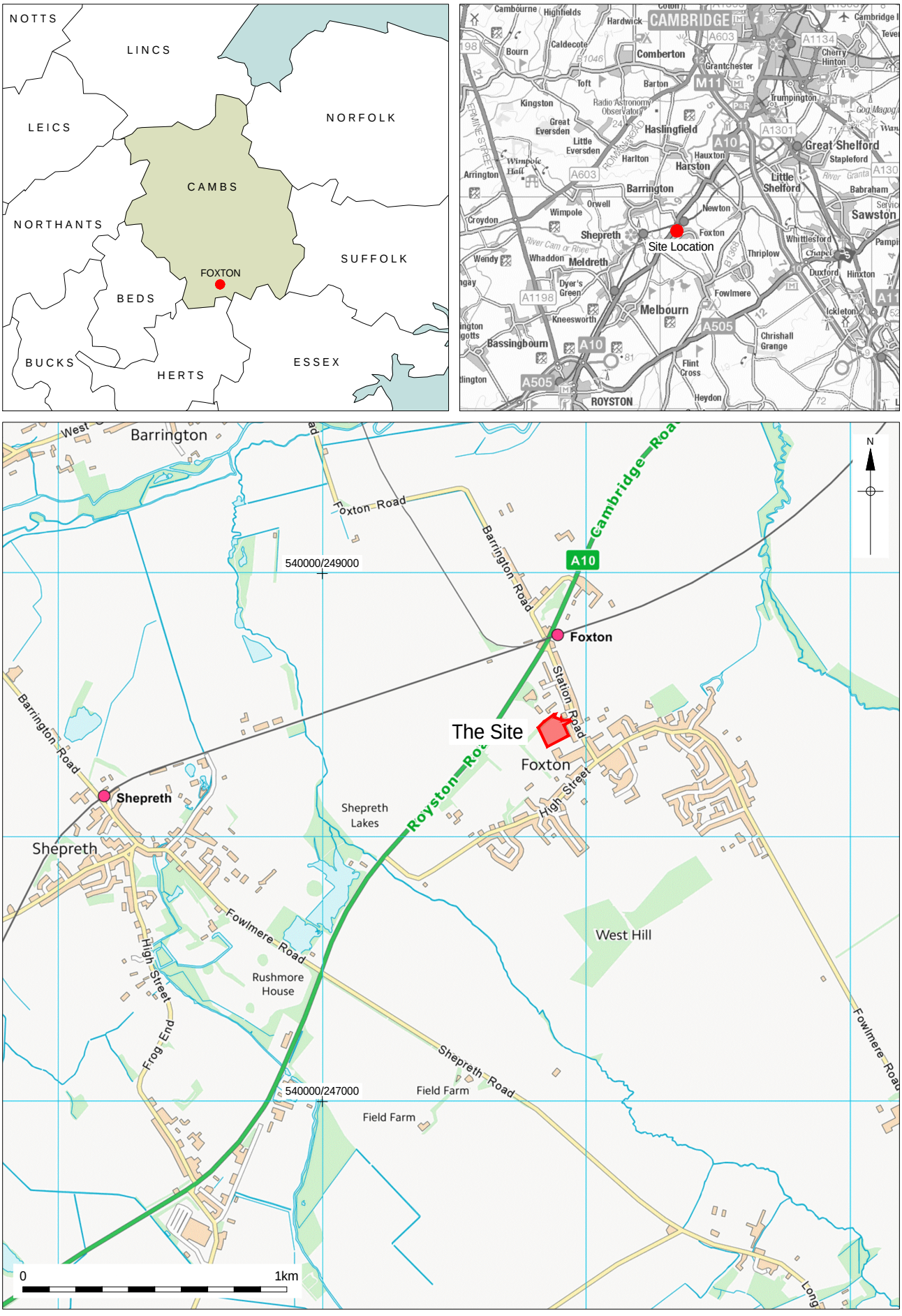

28/05/19 RS

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000, 1:25,000 & 1:20,000 at A4

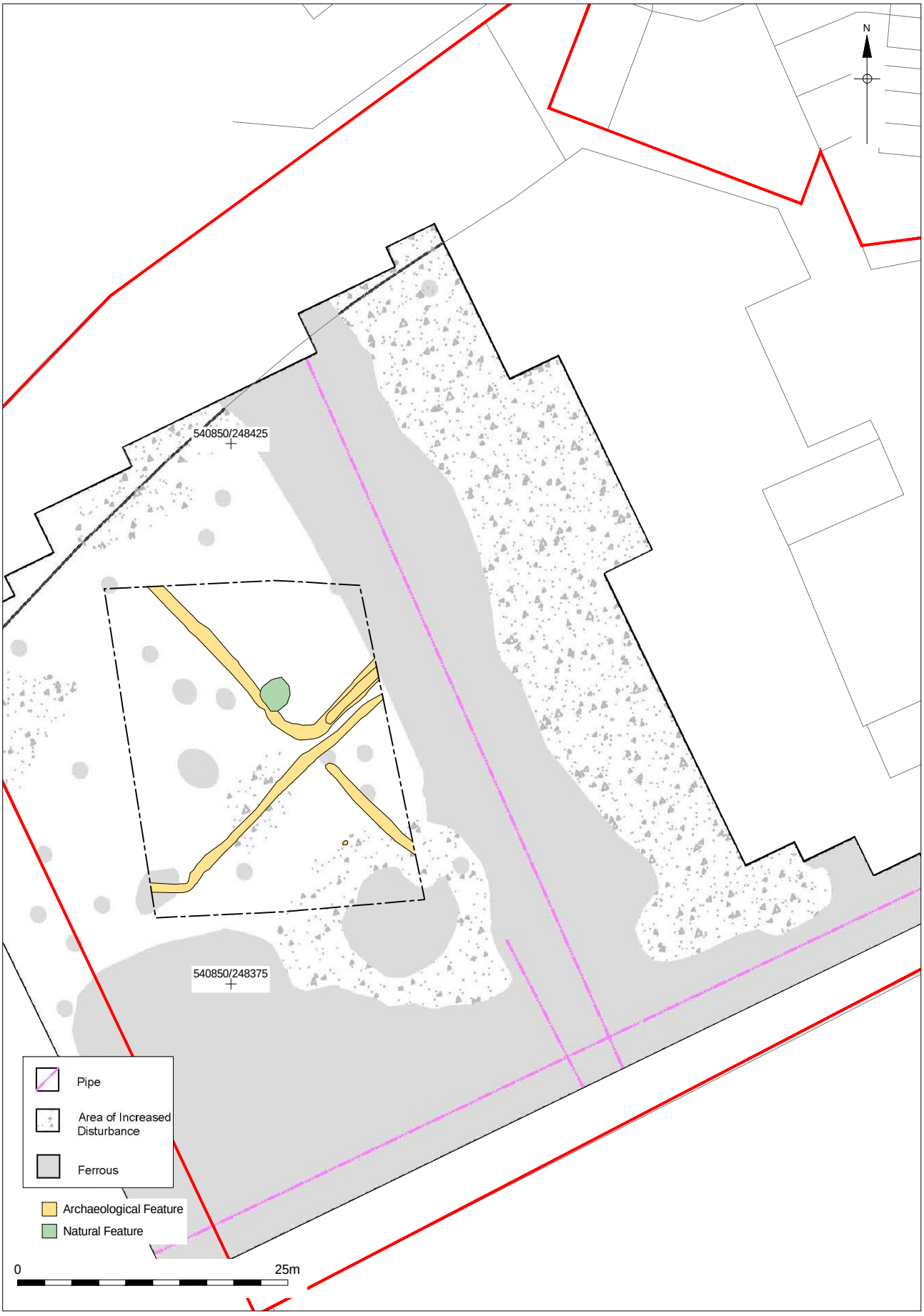

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Figure 2
Detailed Site Location with Geophysics Interpretation
1:500 at A4

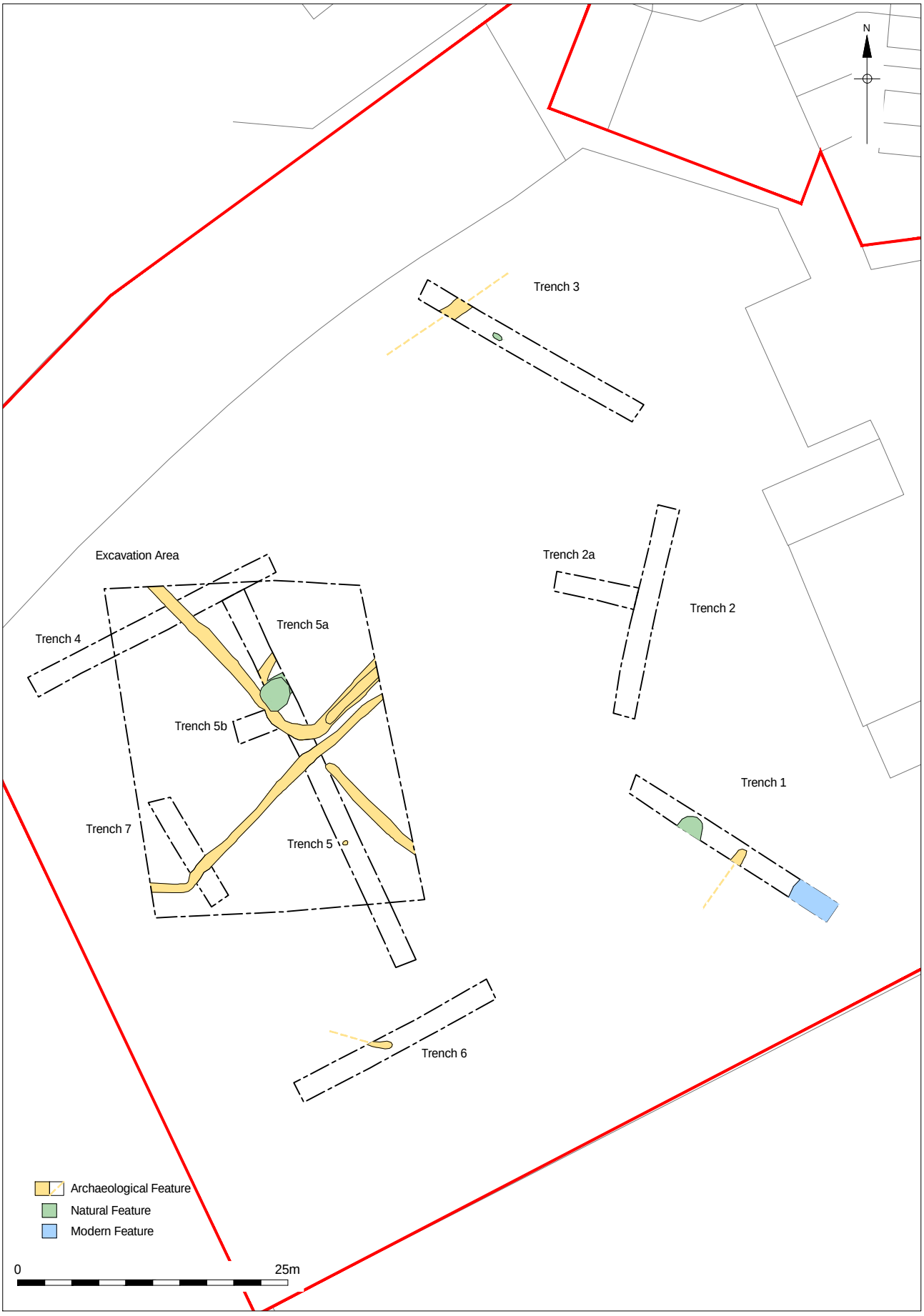
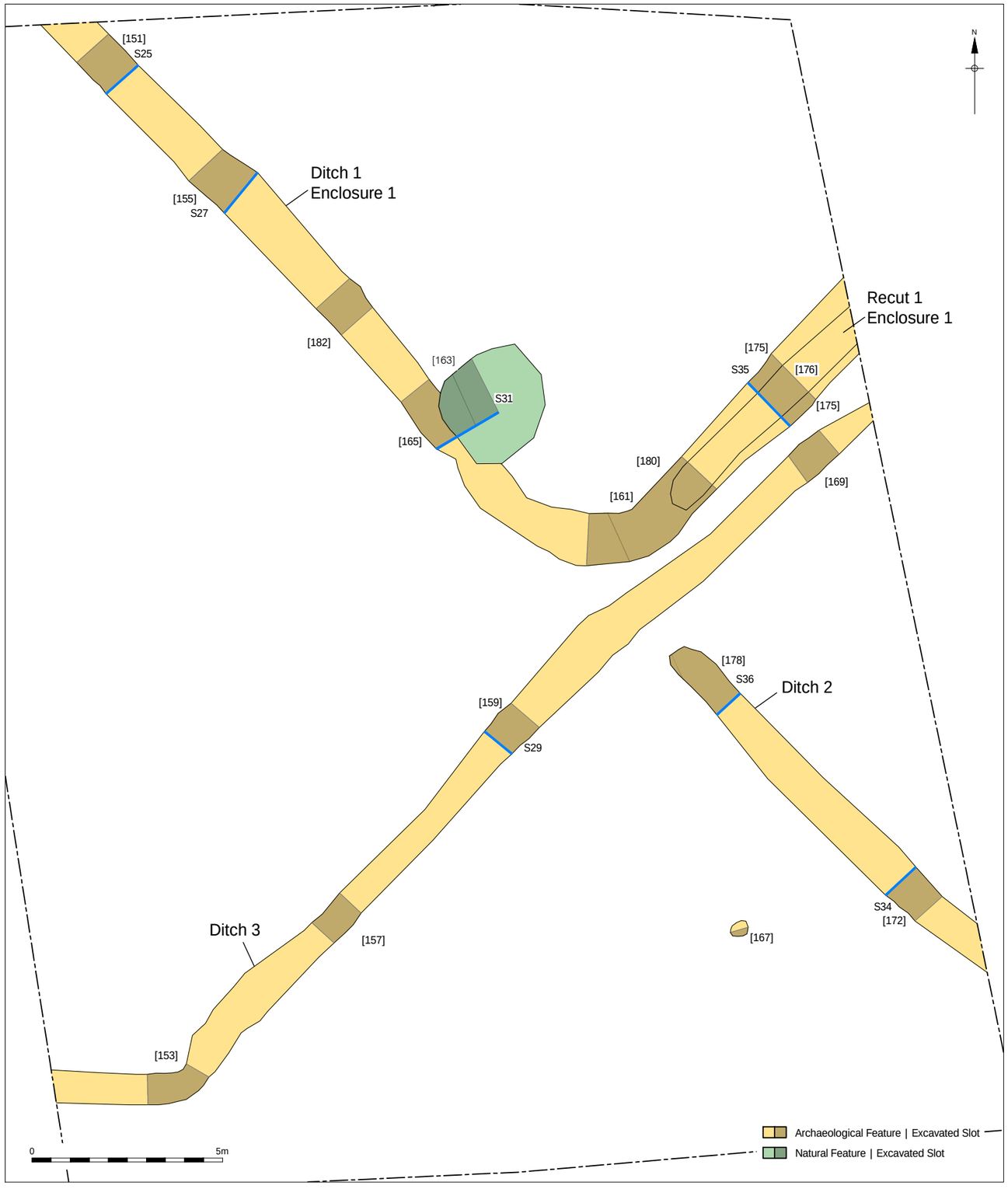
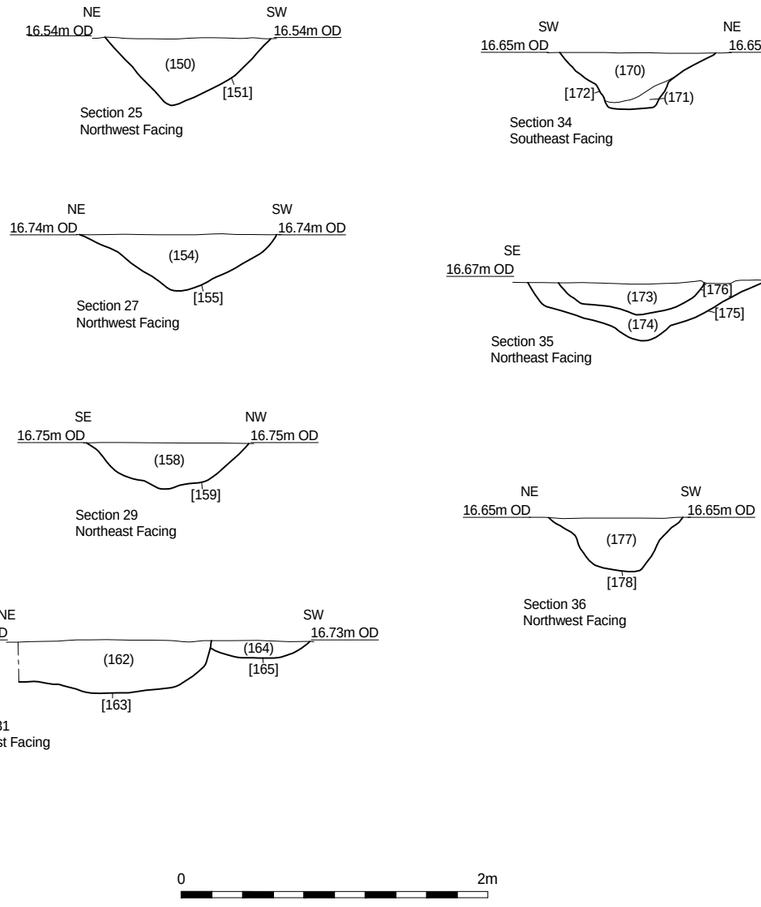


Figure 3
Detailed Site Location with Evaluation Trenches
1:500 at A4





28/05/19 RS

Figure 4
Phase Plan and Sections
Plan 1:125; Sections 1:40 at A3

13 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: The excavation area, view north-east

Plate 2: Enclosure 1 and Ditch 3, view south-west

Plate 3: Enclosure 1, Slot [175] & Recut 1, Slot [176], view west

Plate 4: Enclosure 1 Slot [165] & tree throw [163], view south-east

Plate 5: Enclosure 1, view south-east

Plate 6: Ditch 2, view north-west

Plate 7: Ditch 2, Slot [172], view north-west

Plate 8: Ditch 3, view north-east

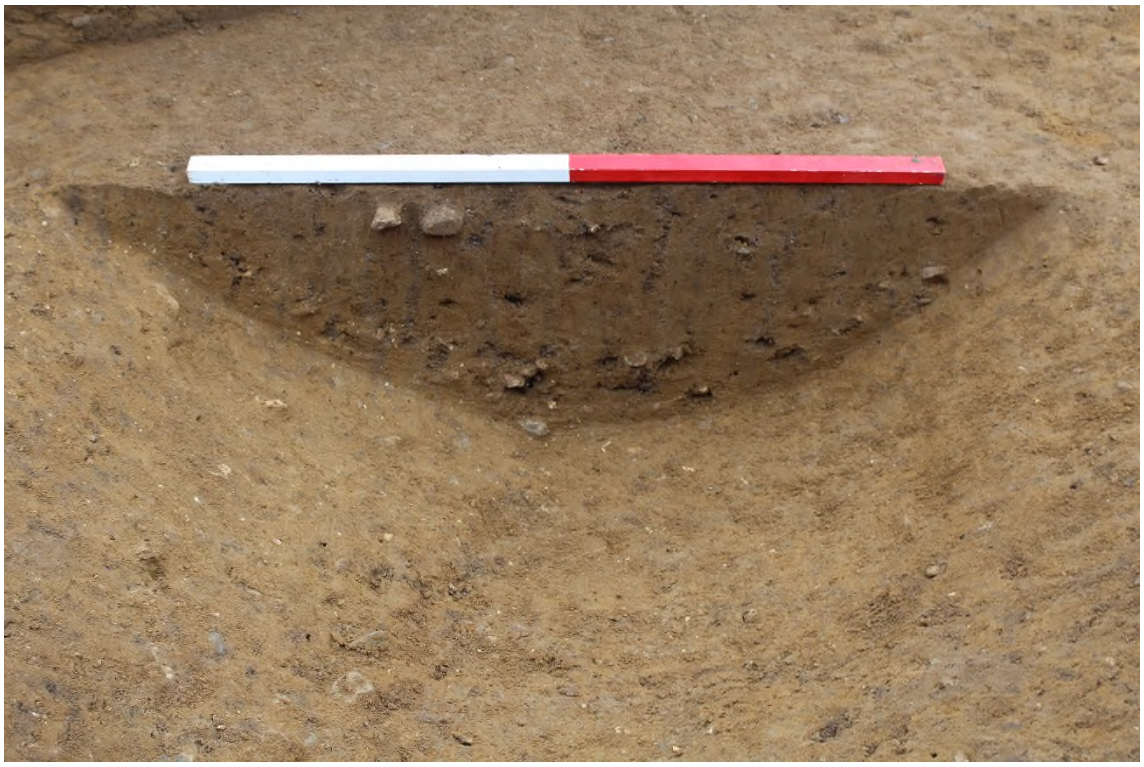


Plate 9: Ditch 3, Slot [157], view south-west

Plate 10: Post-hole [167], view north

14 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Period Name	Group Name
100	100	0	Layer	Topsoil	n/a	n/a
101	101	0	Layer	Subsoil	n/a	n/a
102	102	0	Layer	Natural	n/a	n/a
103	103	1	Cut	Natural	n/a	n/a
104	103	1	Fill	Natural	n/a	n/a
105	106	3	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
106	106	3	Cut	Ditch	n/a	n/a
107	108	6	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
108	108	6	Cut	Ditch	n/a	n/a
109	110	1	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
110	110	1	Cut	Ditch	n/a	n/a
111	106	3	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
112	106	3	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
113	0	0	Layer	Colluvium	n/a	n/a
114	115	5	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
115	115	5	Cut	Ditch	n/a	n/a
116	117	5	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
117	117	5	Cut	Ditch	n/a	n/a
118	119	7	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
119	119	7	Cut	Ditch	n/a	n/a
120	121	5	Fill	Ditch	n/a	n/a
121	121	5	Cut	Ditch	n/a	n/a
122	123	5	Fill	Natural	n/a	n/a
123	123	5	Cut	Natural	n/a	n/a
150	151	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
151	151	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
152	153	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
153	153	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
154	155	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
155	155	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
156	157	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
157	157	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
158	159	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
159	159	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
160	161	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
161	161	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
162	163	n/a	Fill	Tree Throw	n/a	n/a
163	163	n/a	Cut	Tree Throw	n/a	n/a
164	165	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
165	165	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
166	167	n/a	Fill	Posthole	Middle Bronze Age	n/a
167	167	n/a	Cut	Posthole	Middle Bronze Age	n/a

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Period Name	Group Name
168	169	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
169	169	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 3
170	172	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 2
171	172	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 2
172	172	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 2
173	176	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1 Recut
174	175	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
175	175	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
176	176	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1 Recut
177	178	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 2
178	178	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 2
179	180	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1 Recut
180	180	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1 Recut
181	182	n/a	Fill	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1
182	182	n/a	Cut	Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Ditch 1

15 APPENDIX 3: RADIOCARBON DATING RESULTS

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Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Director: Professor F M Stuart Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

19 July 2019

Laboratory Code	SUERC-87332 (GU51628)
Submitter	Sîan O'Neill Pre-Construct Archaeology The Granary Rectory Farm Pampisford CB22 3EN
Site Reference	ECB5403
Context Reference	174
Sample Reference	10
Material	Bone : Animal
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-21.8 ‰
$\delta^{15}N$ relative to air	6.5 ‰
C/N ratio (Molar)	3.3
Radiocarbon Age BP	3204 ± 30

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

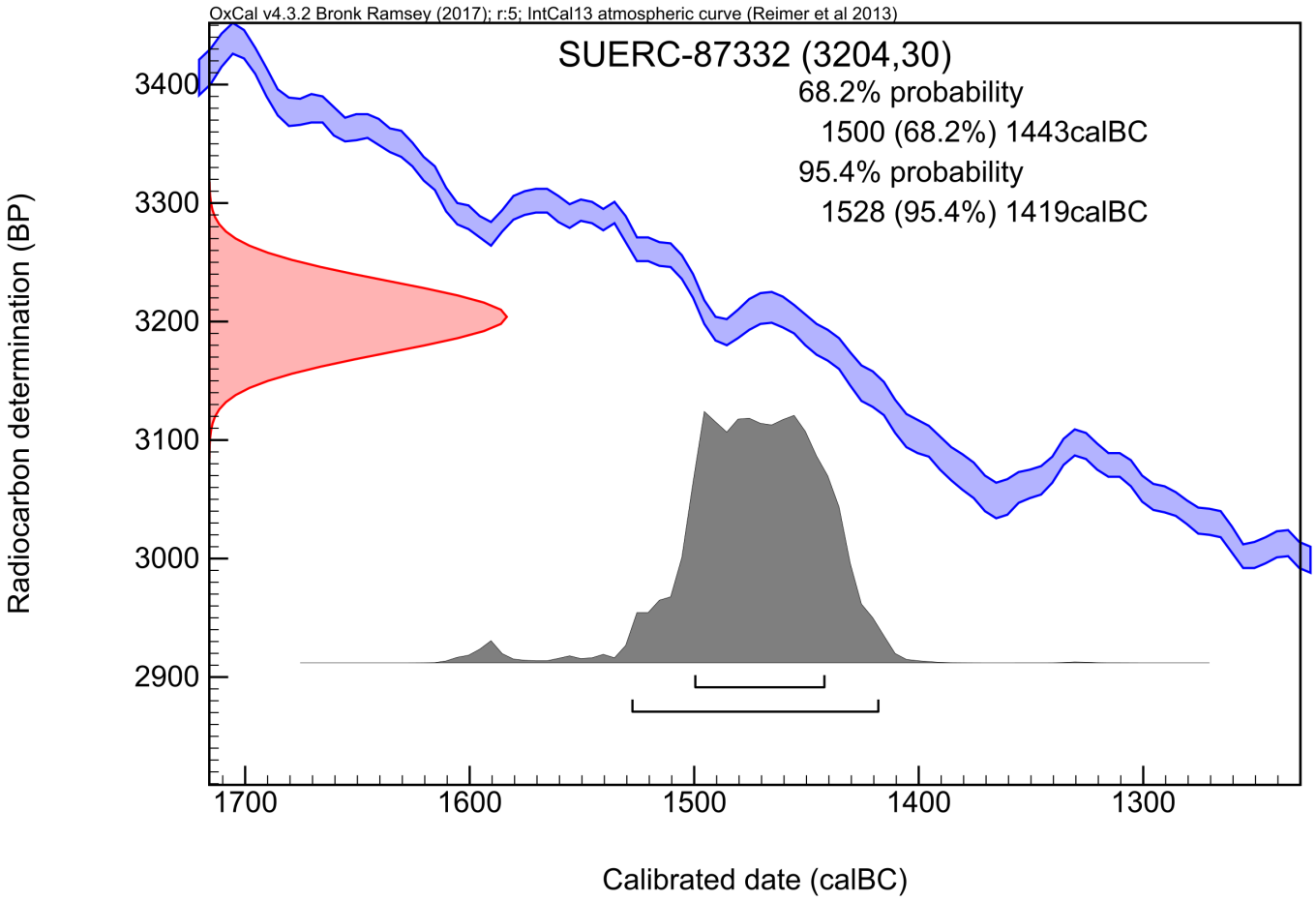
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23.*

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

Checked and signed off by :



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60*

† Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon 55(4) pp.1869-87*

16 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-353150	
Project details	
Project name	Land at Station Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Excavation. Post-Excavation Assessment
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an archaeological excavation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Station Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 4088 4841) between 25th and 29th April 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hill Residential Ltd, in response to a planning condition. The excavation identified a series of ditches of which one formed part of a rectilinear enclosure, which was not previously identified as it ran in the gaps between the archaeological evaluation trenching. The enclosure ditch showed evidence of being recut suggesting it was in use for a sustained period. An articulated sheep foot was recovered from the enclosure ditch which was sent for radiocarbon dating. The other ditches present on the site formed likely formed part of an associated field system. By and large the ditches respected one another which indicates that they were extant at the same time, or at least fairly contemporary representing a gradually evolving landscape. The evaluation of the site identified a ring-ditch in one of the trenches, this, unfortunately, turned out to be the corner of the enclosure identified in the excavation. The general lack of recovered finds evidence suggests that the site is not in close proximity to contemporary settlement rather that the site was agricultural in nature lying on the peripheries of settlement.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2019 End: 29-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5403 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Iron Age
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE FOXTON Land at Station Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Excavation. Post-Excavation Assessment

Postcode	CB22 6SA
Study area	0.075 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4088 4841 52.115604122746 0.057744194566 52 06 56 N 000 03 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 16.59m Max: 16.8m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Cambridge HET
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Matthew Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Physical Archive ID	ECB5403
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Digital Archive ID	ECB5403
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Media available	"Database","Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility
Paper Archive ID	ECB5403
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	Land at Station Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Excavation. Post-Excavation Assessment
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, M.
Other bibliographic details	R.13862
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Pampisford
Description	A-4 bound report including figures, plates and appendices

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