

**LAND NORTH OF BABRAHAM  
ROAD, SAWSTON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE:**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

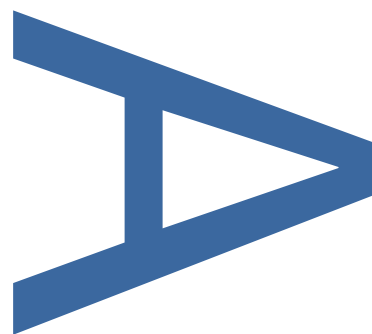
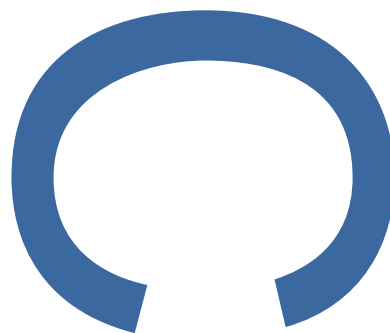
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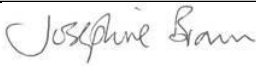

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

# LAND NORTH OF BABRAHAM ROAD, SAWSTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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## **Land North of Babraham Road, Sawston, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation**

<b>Local Planning Authority:</b>	<b>South Cambridgeshire District Council</b>
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## ABSTRACT

*Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land north of Babraham Road, Sawston, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 4954 5010) from 24th to 28th June 2019. The trenching followed a magnetometer survey, which identified a number of linear anomalies crossing the site.*

*The trenching confirmed the archaeological origin of a number of the linear anomalies in the north and east of the site. The other geophysical anomalies were either not present upon excavation or were of natural origin.*

*The evaluation uncovered two linear features in the east of the site (Trenches 11 and 12), which had been identified by the geophysical survey. Based on the surviving profiles of these features, it is suggested that they represent an east–west routeway consisting of a flat-bottomed 'hollow-way' flanked by a smaller boundary ditch. Both ditches contained Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age (c. 1150/1100–750 BC) pottery, suggesting occupation in the vicinity. The ditches also contained concentrations of Late Neolithic struck flints and knapping debris, suggesting that they were cut through earlier in-situ flint scatters.*

*Further probable trackway and field boundary ditches were identified in the central northern area of the site (Trenches 3, 4 and 6) but the excavated slots produced no finds. A posthole directly adjacent to one of these ditches (Trench 3) contained early Roman (mid- to late-1st-century AD) pottery, but there was no stratigraphic relationship between the two features.*

*The west and south of the site contain scattered natural features and undated pits; the topsoil and subsoil in the trenches in this area (16, 19–24) contained a low-density distribution of predominantly later prehistoric (Bronze Age–Iron Age) struck flint.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land north of Babraham Road, Sawston, Cambridgeshire, CB22 3JH (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 4954 5010) from 24th to 28th June 2019 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Hill Partnerships Ltd. in response to an archaeological condition attached to planning consent for residential development of the site and construction of 158 new dwellings with access, parking, landscaping and associated infrastructure (South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Ref: S/3729/18/FL). Due to the location of the site in an area of known archaeological potential, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET) recommended that a condition be placed on any planning consent requiring that a scheme of archaeological work be undertaken. The first phase of work was a geophysical (magnetometer) survey (Magnitude Surveys; Salmon 2019), followed by a trial trench evaluation to assess the site's archaeological potential. Further phases of fieldwork and post-excavation analysis may be required by CHET.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Tom Woolhouse of PCA (Woolhouse 2019) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Gemma Stewart of CHET (Stewart 2019). The evaluation also adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014a and b).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology, and to enable the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy for any archaeological remains present within the development area(s).

- 1.5 A total of 24 evaluation trenches were excavated, 14 of which measured 50m in length and 2m in width, and ten of which measured 25m in length and 2m in width, totalling 950m of trenching or 1900m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2). These provide an approximate 5% sample of the 3.7ha development site.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. Upon completion of the fieldwork programme and transfer of title, the site's material and documentary archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store. The site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service or another publicly accessible CoreTrustSeal certified repository.

## **2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

- 2.1.1 Sawston is a large village 11km south of Cambridge, in the valley of the river Cam. The site is on the eastern edge of the village, on the north side of Babraham Road and directly east of Dale Manor Business Park. It is currently in use as arable farmland and has an area of 3.7ha.

### **2.2 Geology**

- 2.2.1 The site is located on chalk bedrock of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation; no superficial geological deposits are recorded in the area (British Geological Survey 2019). The natural deposits identified during the course of the evaluation consisted of an off-white weathered chalk (102).

### **2.3 Topography**

- 2.3.1 The site is largely flat, with a slight slope down from the east to the north-west, from 26.36m above Ordnance Datum (OD) to 24.14m OD, a change of 2.22m. In the wider landscape, there is a slight slope down to the north, towards the river Cam/Granta, located just over 1km away.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Evidence of early prehistoric activity in the area, perhaps associated with the courses of the rivers Cam/ Granta, is suggested by a chance find of a Palaeolithic flake c. 200m east of the site (CHER 06323).
- 3.2 Archaeological investigations directly north of the site identified scattered prehistoric activity and a concentration of later Roman features, including enclosures, trackways, pits, layers of finds-rich 'dark earth', and a 3rd-century juvenile inhumation accompanied by two ceramic vessels (CHER ECB4278; MCB20412; Figure 1 Site 7). These features appeared to be part of a large Roman rural settlement, linked to contemporary settlements in the wider area by a trackway leading east along the Granta valley. To the south-west of the current site is a cropmark complex (CHER 04118; Figure 1 Site 20) of rectangular enclosures, of probable Iron Age to Roman date.
- 3.3 Archaeological investigations at Lynton Way, c. 150m south of the present site, revealed a Late Bronze Age enclosure containing part of a possible roundhouse and other associated evidence of settlement (Weston, Newton and Nicholson 2007; CHER MCB16829; Figure 1 Site 4). Further enclosures are recorded on Babraham Road, c. 900m west of the site, at 16–20 Cambridge Road (CHER MCB17152; Figure 1 Site 5), and a D-shaped enclosure is visible as a cropmark c. 650m to the west (CHER 09743; Figure 1 Site 21). Archaeological investigations at the Old Police Station, c.1km west of the site, revealed remains of a Roman road (CHER CB15777; Figure 1 Site 25). Further cropmarks of ring-ditches (CHER 09354; Figure 1 Site 22) and elements of an enclosure and field system (CHER 09050; Figure 1 Site 19) are present to the south.
- 3.4 A recent evaluation to the north-west of the site, at Dale Manor Business Park, revealed evidence of ground disturbance and made ground across much of the site, but possible prehistoric (Iron Age) ditches and pits survived in the south of the site, possibly forming the corner of an enclosure (CHER ECB5181; MCB26669; Figure 1 Site 26).
- 3.5 The field boundary at the eastern edge of the current site is the former route of

the Sawston to Haverhill railway line (CHER 06326; Figure 1 Site 14).

- 3.6 A geophysical (magnetometer) survey of the site was carried out by Magnitude Surveys on 15th April 2019 (Salmon 2019). The principal result of the survey was the identification of a set of east-north-east- to west-south-west- and east–west-aligned linear anomalies crossing the northern and eastern parts of the site. These were interpreted as being of probable agricultural origin and are marked in brown on the trench plans accompanying this report (Figures 2–5). Other, weaker, linear trends were also identified (shown in blue on the plans), including a possible ring-ditch-type anomaly in the west of the site (targeted by evaluation Trenches 18 and 19) and a possible set of small enclosures towards Babraham Road in the south-west (targeted by Trenches 21–23). Likely cultivation-related anomalies and natural geological features were also recorded.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised fourteen 2m x 50m trial trenches and ten 2m x 25m trial trenches, totalling 950m or 1900m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2). Trenches were targeted to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey of the site (Magnitude Surveys; Salmon 2019). Other trenches were positioned to test apparently 'blank' areas on the geophysics, while others were distributed evenly across the remainder of the site, in order to provide a representative sample of the whole development area (excluding the western boundary, where a sewer main is located).
- 4.1.2 Trench locations were agreed with the client and CHET prior to commencement of the evaluation; no significant changes to the proposed trench layout were made during the fieldwork.

### **4.2 Excavation Methodology**

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Topsoil and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in shallow, even spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present above the level of the natural geological horizon.
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and 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 and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica GS014 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 individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. 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'). 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 evaluation and 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 during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and 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 Linear features were investigated by means of slots across them measuring 1m. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be clearly discerned in plan, relationship slots were excavated in order to determine inter-feature relationships; these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

#### **4.5 Environmental Sampling**

4.5.1 A total of six bulk samples, 20–40 litres in volume, were taken to extract and

identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The aim of this sampling was to investigate the past environment and economy of the site, the diet of the past inhabitants and the agricultural basis of any settlement(s). An additional aim of the sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals. These samples were taken from sealed deposits.

#### **4.6 Artefact Characterisation**

- 4.6.1 As the field was under a crop of wheat at the time of the evaluation fieldwalking could not be carried out. Therefore, in order to characterise the artefact content of the overburden deposits on the site, 90 litres of soil from the topsoil and subsoil (where present) horizons was hand-sorted at the ends of each 25m trench and at the ends and mid-point of each 50m trench. The finds recovered are noted in the trench descriptions (Section 6 and Appendix 3).

## 5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

### 5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	6
Context sheets	208
Plan registers	0
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	33
Trench record sheets	24
Photo register sheets	4
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	1

### 5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	472
GPS survey files	4
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

### 5.3 Physical Archive

Struck flint	70 pieces	
Burnt flint	1 (13.2g)	
Pottery	11 (162g)	
Ceramic building material (CBM)	4 (171g)	Discard
Glass	-	
Briquetage	-	
Small Finds	-	
Slag	-	
Animal bone	2 fragments	
Shell	-	
Environmental bulk samples	6	
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	15	
Monolith samples	0	

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **6.1 Overview**

- 6.1.1 The results of the archaeological trenching are described below, with all technical data relating to individual features and deposits tabulated in Appendix 2 and details of the deposit sequence within each trench presented in Appendix 3. The reason for the location of each trench is discussed in Appendix 3, with regard to the presence/ absence of geophysical anomalies.
- 6.1.2 Features and deposits within each trench are first divided into feature type, before being described in ascending numerical cut order. The archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the topsoil or subsoil, unless otherwise stated.
- 6.1.3 The principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of two parallel linear features in the east of the site, which had previously been identified by the geophysical survey. These features potentially represent a routeway consisting of a wide, flat-bottomed ditch, flanked by a smaller ditch. Both ditches produced finds dating them to the Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age. Further ditches were identified, mainly in the north of the site; these corresponded with geophysical anomalies but did not contain any dating evidence.

### **6.2 Blank Trenches (Figure 2)**

- 6.2.1 Nine trenches (Trenches 2, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 24) were blank, containing no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

### **6.3 Trench 1 (Figure 3; Plate 1)**

- 6.3.1 Trench 1 contained a single natural feature.
- 6.3.2 Natural Feature [175] (Figure 3) was irregular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base, measuring 2.3m+ in length, 1.45m in width and 0.22m in depth. It contained two fills: a lower fill (174) of light orangey-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (173) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

### **6.4 Trench 3 (Figure 3)**

- 6.4.1 Trench 3 contained a north-east- to south-west-aligned ditch and a single

posthole. The ditch was also present in Trenches 4 and 6 to the west (Slots [177] and [145], respectively) and was identified in the geophysical survey. Another possible north-east to south-west linear anomaly identified by the geophysics passed through the north end of Trench 3, but no corresponding archaeological feature was present.

6.4.2 Ditch [187] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m in width and 0.17m in depth. It contained a single fill (186) of light reddish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

6.4.3 Posthole [189] (Figure 3) was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base, measuring 0.35m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.17m in depth. It contained a single fill (188) of light reddish-brown sandy silt which contained two sherds of Roman pottery (129g; mid- to late-1st-century AD) and a crumb of baked clay. Posthole [189] was directly beside Ditch [187]; the features did not intercut.

6.4.4 Natural Feature [191] (Figure 3) was irregular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base, measuring 2m+ in length, 1.4m in width and 0.35m in depth. It contained a single fill (190) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

## **6.5 Trench 4 (Figure 3)**

6.5.1 Trench 4 contained five north-east- to south-west-aligned ditches, three of which were present on the geophysical survey. One of the ditches was also identified in Trenches 3 and 6, to the east and west, respectively (Slots [187] and [145]). Another ditch [181] might also be a continuation of a ditch seen in Trench 6 (Slot [142]). Another possible north-east to south-west linear anomaly identified by the geophysics passed through the north end of Trench 4, but no corresponding archaeological feature was present. Ditches [181] and [179] were parallel and spaced 4–5m apart, possibly forming a trackway. The topsoil (100) contained two small fragments of late medieval to early post-medieval peg tile and a retouched flint flake of possible Late Neolithic–Early Bronze Age date.

- 6.5.2 Ditch [177] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, with moderately-sloping sides and an irregular base, measuring 0.6m in width and 0.12m in depth. It contained a single fill (176) of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. No finds were present.
- 6.5.3 Ditch [179] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, with moderately-sloping sides and an irregular base, measuring 0.82m in width and 0.14m in depth. It contained a single fill (178) of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. No finds were present.
- 6.5.4 Ditch [181] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.72m in width and 0.18m in depth. It contained a single fill (180) of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. No finds were present.
- 6.5.5 Ditch Terminus [199] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, terminating to the south-west, with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base, measuring 1m in width and 0.4m in depth. It contained a single fill (198) of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. No finds were present.
- 6.5.6 Ditch Terminus [201] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, terminating to the north-east, with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base, measuring 0.5m in width and 0.29m in depth. It contained a single fill (200) of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. Ditch Terminus [201] abutted Ditch Terminus [199]. No finds were present.

## **6.6 Trench 5 (Figure 3)**

- 6.6.1 Trench 5 contained two natural features.
- 6.6.2 Natural Feature [183] (Figure 3) was sub-circular in plan with moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 1.22m in length, 1m+ in width and 0.22m in depth. It contained a single fill (182) of dark orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.6.3 Natural Feature [185] (Figure 3) was sub-circular in plan with moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 1m in length, 0.86m+ in width and 0.18m in

depth. It contained a single fill (184) of dark orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

## **6.7 Trench 6 (Figure 3; Plate 2)**

- 6.7.1 Trench 6 contained four ditches, three aligned broadly east to west and one aligned north to south (in which two slots were excavated), and three of which were identified in the geophysical survey. Two of the ditches were also identified in Trenches 3 and 4, to the east (Slots [187], [177] and [181]).
- 6.7.2 Ditch [142] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned east to west, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.17m in width and 0.18m in depth. It contained a single fill (141) of dark greyish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.7.3 Ditch [145] (Figure 3; Figure 6 Section 12; Plate 3) was linear in plan and aligned east to west, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.1m in width and 0.42m in depth. It contained two fills: a lower fill (144) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (143) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.7.4 Ditch [149] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned east to west, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.6m in width and 0.32m in depth. It contained three fills: a lower fill (148) of mid-yellowish-brown silty sand, a middle fill (147) of mid-greyish-brown sand and an upper fill (146) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.7.5 Ditch [151] (Figure 3) was linear in plan and aligned north to south, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.3m in width and 0.11m in depth. It contained a single fill (150) of mid-greyish-brown silty sand. Slot [172], through the same ditch (Figure 3), was linear in plan and aligned north to south, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 0.29m in width and 0.08m in depth. It contained a single fill (171) of dark greyish-brown silty sand. 'Ditch' [151]=[172] was ephemeral and sinuous in appearance and might be of natural origin. No finds were present.

## **6.8 Trench 7 (Figure 3; Plate 4)**

- 6.8.1 Trench 7 contained a cluster of five intercutting pits, and three discrete natural features.
- 6.8.2 Natural Feature [134] (Figure 3) was irregular in plan with gentle sides and an irregular base, measuring 1m+ in length, 1.2m in width and 0.07m in depth. It contained a single fill (133) of mid-greyish-brown silty clay. No finds were present.
- 6.8.3 Natural Feature [137] (Figure 3) was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base, measuring 1.5m in length, 1.2m in width and 0.35m in depth. It contained two fills: a lower fill (136) of light orangey-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (135) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.8.4 Natural Feature [140] (Figure 3) was sub-circular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base, measuring 1.3m in length, 1.3m in width and 0.24m in depth. It contained two fills: a lower fill (139) of light orangey-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (138) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.8.5 Pit [156] (Figure 3; Figure 6 Section 15; Plate 5) was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.9m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.65m in depth. It contained four fills: a basal fill (155) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt, a lower fill (154) of dark greyish-brown sandy silt, a middle fill (153) of light greyish-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (152) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.8.6 Pit [159] (Figure 3; Figure 6 Section 15; Plate 5) was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.7m in length, 0.33m in width (truncated) and 0.4m in depth. It contained two fills: a lower fill (158) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (157) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.8.7 Pit [163] (Figure 3; Figure 6 Section 15; Plate 5) was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, measuring 1.2m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.6m in depth. It contained three fills: a lower fill (162) of light greyish-brown



sandy silt, a middle fill (161) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (160) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

6.8.8 Pit [167] (Figure 3; Figure 6 Section 15; Plate 5) was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, measuring 1m in length, 0.98m in width and 0.65m in depth. It contained three fills: a lower fill (166) of mid-greyish-brown clayey silt, a middle fill (165) of dark greyish-brown clayey silt and an upper fill (164) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present. A soil sample <1000> taken from fill (165) contained abundant wood charcoal, but no cereal remains.

6.8.9 Pit [170] (Figure 3; Figure 6 Section 15; Plate 5) was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.7m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.5m in depth. It contained two fills: a lower fill (169) of light greyish-brown clayey silt and an upper fill (168) of mid-greyish-brown clayey silt. No finds were present.

6.8.10 Pits [156], [159], [163], [167] and [170] formed an intercutting cluster at the south end of Trench 7. The regular, steep-sided profiles of at least two of the pits suggest they are manmade features, as does the presence of a dump of charcoal in one. However, the absence of other finds makes it difficult to suggest a date or function.

## **6.9 Trench 10 (Figure 3)**

6.9.1 Trench 10 contained a possible ditch or natural feature.

6.9.2 Feature [207] (Figure 3) was linear in plan with gentle sides and a concave base, measuring 2m+ in length, 1.43m in width and 0.15m in depth. It contained a single fill (206) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. The fill of the feature was very leached in appearance, suggesting a natural origin, but its profile and shape in plan were fairly regular, so Feature [207] may be a ditch. No finds were present.

## **6.10 Trench 11 (Figure 4; Plate 6)**

6.10.1 Trench 11 contained two parallel east- to west-aligned ditches, which were

identified in the geophysical survey. One of the ditches was also identified in Trench 12, to the east (Slot [195]). The ditches were cut into the fill of an underlying natural geological feature, possibly a solution hollow, which was also identified by the geophysics. The narrow spacing between the ditches (0.75m) poses problems for interpretation as a trackway, but it is possible that Ditch [205], with its broad, flat-bottomed profile, may itself have been a sunken track or 'hollow-way', flanked by a parallel boundary ditch [203] on its north side. Two struck flint flakes, one Neolithic or Bronze Age, were found in the subsoil (101).

6.10.2 Ditch [203] (Figure 4; Figure 6 Section 31; Plate 7) was linear in plan with steep sides and a flat base, measuring 2m+ in length, 1m in width and 0.35m in depth. It contained a single fill (202) of mid-greyish-brown clayey silt, which contained five sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery (21g; c. 1100–750 BC). A soil sample <1001> contained a small amount of charcoal and a single unidentifiable charred cereal grain.

6.10.3 Ditch [205] (Figure 4; Figure 6 Section 32; Plate 7) was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 2m+ in length, 2.7m in width and 0.35m in depth. It contained a single fill (204) of mid-greyish-brown clayey silt which contained three sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery (7g; c. 1100–750 BC) and one fragment of bank vole maxillary tooth (likely intrusive). A sherd of early Roman pottery (5g; mid- to late-1st-century AD) was found on the ditch's surface.

## **6.11 Trench 12 (Figure 4)**

6.11.1 Trench 12 contained two east- to west-aligned ditches, which were identified in the geophysical survey. One of the ditches was also identified in Trench 11, to the west (Slot [205]).

6.11.2 Ditch [195] (Figure 4) was linear in plan with gently-sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 2m+ in length, 2m in width and 0.12m in depth. It contained a single fill (194) of mid-brownish-grey silty clay. No finds were present.

6.11.3 Ditch [197] (Figure 4) was linear in plan with steep sides and a concave base, measuring 2m+ in length, 0.5m in width and 0.23m in depth. It contained a

single fill (196) of mid-brownish-grey silty clay. No finds were present.

#### **6.12 Trench 13 (Figure 4)**

- 6.12.1 Trench 13 contained a single north-west- to south-east-aligned ditch, identified in the geophysical survey but interpreted there as being of likely natural geological origin.
- 6.12.2 Ditch [193] (Figure 4; Figure 6 Section 25) was linear in plan with moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 2m+ in length, 1.7m in width and 0.35m in depth. It contained a single fill (192) of mid-orangey-brown silty sand which contained no finds.

#### **6.13 Trench 17 (Figure 3; Plate 8)**

- 6.13.1 Trench 17 contained a single natural feature.
- 6.13.2 Natural Feature [132] (Figure 3; Plate 9) was irregular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base, measuring 1.16m+ in length, 0.42m in width and 0.12m in depth. It contained a single fill (131) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

#### **6.14 Trench 20 (Figure 5)**

- 6.14.1 Trench 20 contained a single natural feature. Three struck flint flakes and a retouched flake were found in the topsoil (100).
- 6.14.2 Natural Feature [106] (Figure 5) was irregular in plan with gently sloping sides and an irregular base, measuring 2m in length, 0.8m+ in width and 0.2m in depth. It contained a single fill (105) of mid-brown sand. No finds were present.

#### **6.15 Trench 21 (Figure 5)**

- 6.15.1 Trench 21 contained three intercutting pits and a natural feature. The pits broadly correspond with the position of a geophysical anomaly, interpreted there as a weak linear trend.
- 6.15.2 Pit [108] (Figure 5; Figure 6 Section 1; Plate 10) was sub-circular in plan with moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m+ in length, 0.75m+ in width and 0.24m in depth. It contained a single fill (107) of light orangey-brown

sandy silt. No finds were present.

- 6.15.3 Pit [110] (Figure 5; Figure 6 Section 1; Plate 10) was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a flat base, measuring 0.8m+ in length, 1.3m+ in width and 0.21m in depth. It contained a single fill (109) of light orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.15.4 Pit [112] (Figure 5; Figure 6 Section 1; Plate 10) was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and an irregular flattish base, measuring 0.9m+ in length, 2.05m in width and 0.42m in depth. It contained a single fill (111) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt, which contained a Mesolithic–Early Neolithic flint prismatic blade.
- 6.15.5 Natural Feature [130] (Figure 5) was irregular in plan with moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 2.5m in length, 1.45m in width and 0.25m in depth. It contained a single fill (129) of mid-orangey-brown clayey silt. No finds were present.

## **6.16 Trench 22 (Figure 5; Plate 11)**

- 6.16.1 Trench 22 contained four pits and a natural feature. None of the weak linear trends identified by the geophysics were found to be present. The topsoil (100) contained a fragment of late medieval to early post-medieval peg tile and a later prehistoric struck flint flake.
- 6.16.2 Pit [117]=[128] (Figure 5) appeared to be sub-circular in plan with steep sides and an irregular base, measuring 6.5m in length, 2m+ in width and up to 0.85m in depth in the excavated slots. Two slots were excavated. Slot [117] (Figure 6 Section 2) contained four fills: a basal fill (116) of mid-yellowish-brown sandy silt, a lower fill (115) of light brownish-grey sandy silt, an upper fill (114) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt which contained a later prehistoric struck flint flake and a piece of debitage, a sheep/ goat molar, and a small piece of slate, and a top fill (113) of mid-orangey-brown clayey silt. Slot [128] (Plate 12) contained four fills: a basal fill (127) of mid-yellowish-brown sandy silt, a lower fill (126) of light brownish-grey sandy silt, a middle fill (125) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt and an upper fill (124) of mid-orangey-brown sandy silt. Pit [117]=[128] appeared to be a large chalk/ clunch quarry pit.

- 6.16.3 Pit [119] (Figure 5) was sub-circular in plan with moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 1.32m in length, 1.28m+ in width and 0.11m in depth. It contained a single fill (118) of light orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.16.4 Pit [121] (Figure 5) was sub-circular in plan with moderate sides and a concave base, measuring 0.73m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth. It contained a single fill (120) of light orangey-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.
- 6.16.5 Natural Feature [123] (Figure 5) was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 3m in length, 1m+ in width and 0.81m in depth. It contained a single fill (122) of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

#### **6.17 Trench 23 (Figure 5)**

- 6.17.1 Trench 23 contained a single natural feature. A flake core and five chronologically undiagnostic flint flakes/ pieces of debitage were found in the topsoil (100).
- 6.17.2 Natural Feature [104] (Figure 5) was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and an irregular base, measuring 0.6m in length, 0.3m+ in width and 0.1m in depth. It contained a single fill (103) of mid-orangey-brown silt. No finds were present.

## 7 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Lithics

By Ella Egberts

#### Introduction

- 7.1.1 The evaluation resulted in the recovery of quantities of struck flint and a small amount of unworked burnt stone. The assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued by context and this includes further descriptive details of the material (Appendix 4). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance.

#### Quantification

	Decortication flake	Core shaping/quartring	Flake	Flake fragment	Blade-like flake	Blade	Blade fragment	Debitage <15mm	Core shaping blade	Core rejuvenation	Core	Retouched	Conchoidal chunk	Miscellaneous	Burnt (no.)	Burnt (wt:g)
Total	4	5	25	11	3	6	9	26	1	1	3	5	2	2	1	13.2

Table 1: Quantification of struck and burnt flint from evaluation at Babraham Road, Sawston

- 7.1.2 A total of 70 struck flakes and blades, three cores, 26 pieces of micro-debitage (flakes and flake fragments less than 15mm in maximum dimension), two conchoidally shattered flints, two miscellaneous pieces and one unworked burnt stone (13.2g) were recovered from the evaluation at Babraham Road, Sawston (Table 1). Most of the material was recovered from two pits and two ditches (Contexts (111) (Pit [112], Trench 21), (114) (Pit [117], Trench 22), (202) (Ditch [203], Trench 11) and (204) (Ditch [205], Trench 11), 14 pieces were found in the topsoil, and three pieces came from the subsoil. Some micro-debitage was found in the topsoil and subsoil; however, the majority was recovered from residues of bulk soil samples taken from the two ditches (Samples <1001> and <1002>).

#### The Assemblage

### Raw Material

- 7.1.3 The struck flints are made from a mix of grey to light grey flint and some translucent dark grey to grey flint. Cortex is of nodular, thin nodular or weathered nodular character. The raw material may have been obtained from Pleistocene river terrace deposits or glaciogenic deposits found in the vicinity of the site. The bedrock at the site and in the wider area consists of chalk (Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation, Melbourn Rock Member, Zigzag Chalk Formation) (British Geological Survey 2019), which may have been exploited directly for fresh nodular flint, though its presence also resulted in the incorporation of relatively fresh flint nodules within the overlying superficial deposits, which would therefore also have provided easily accessible good-quality flint.

### Condition

- 7.1.4 All the struck flint is in fresh to chipped condition, suggesting that at least some of the material had moved to some extent after discard. The material from the ditches and pits generally appears less chipped than the material from the subsoil and topsoil, which indicates that the material from the archaeological features is less reworked than the non-stratified material.

### Description

- 7.1.5 The assemblage of struck flint from Babraham Road is technologically and typologically homogeneous and characteristic of early prehistoric flint-working, though the assemblage contains a few crudely struck flakes and miscellaneous pieces which may be of later prehistoric (later Bronze Age–Iron Age) date. The majority of the material is well-knapped and systematically produced, such as the long, fine, prismatic blade with a notch from Context (111) and the blade core (149.8g) from context (202). Interestingly, the ditches contained large quantities of flakes and blades which can be described as core preparation waste. Many of the flakes and blades from Context (202) appear to come from the same nodule, though no pieces could be refitted. The other ditch ([205], Fill [204]) contained a large flake resembling a core tablet, although the flaked platform might also be the result of faceting. This ditch also contained two backed knives, one made on a small blade fragment, the other on a large,

curved flake which shows evidence of heating. Its edge is crushed and flaked, possibly resulting from use, though the heating has caused the flint to become brittle and easily damaged. These pieces, as well as the large faceted flake and flake with dihedral striking platform from the subsoil (101), are reminiscent of later Neolithic flint-working. The core-shaping waste and thinning flakes from the two ditches would fit in well with this proposed date for the struck flint. One worked flint found in the topsoil (100) is atypical and difficult to date. It is a thick, wide flake, with cortex along the right edge, steep flake removals along the left edge and thin, invasive flaking across almost the entire dorsal face. This flake is possibly of later Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age date, though none of its technological and typological characteristics are easily interpreted and related to a particular flint-working tradition. Later prehistoric flint-working is possibly represented in the badly detached flake from Context (114) and some miscellaneous pieces from the topsoil and subsoil. The latter consist of crude flakes, in chipped condition, with possible steep edge-retouch, though it is difficult to distinguish this from post-depositional damage.

#### Significance

- 7.1.6 The flint assemblage from the Babraham Road evaluation is relatively substantial. In particular, the assemblages from the two ditches seem to represent relatively large proportions of groups of knapping waste. As the ditches are dated to the Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age, and the technological and typological characteristics of the flint suggest a Late Neolithic date for the lithics, it is possible that the ditches cut through earlier flint scatters. The material therefore indicates that people were present and knapping flint on the site during the Late Neolithic period and possibly during the Mesolithic period. The few pieces of later prehistoric flint could be contemporary with the dated archaeological features, though the small number of struck flints datable to this period suggests that flint-working was not a major activity at the site during the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age.

#### Recommendations

- 7.1.7 The struck flint assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued, and no further analytical work is recommended. Nevertheless, it does demonstrate



prehistoric activity at the site which any further fieldwork could potentially elucidate. The presence of groups of knapping waste indicates that flint-working occurred locally at the site and that there is potential for the presence of preserved knapping floors, where these deposits have not been cut by later features. From the point of view of the lithic material, any further fieldwork should focus on obtaining as large and closely contextually defined lithic assemblage as possible, in order to attempt to understand the nature, extent and chronology of any prehistoric lithic-based activities. Should further work be considered, the assemblage reported upon here should be redocumented in conjunction with any additional flint-work following the completion of the archaeological fieldwork programmes. Should sufficient quantities of lithic artefacts be procured from any future fieldwork, full metrical, typological and technological analysis may be warranted.

## 7.2 Prehistoric Pottery

### By Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

#### Introduction

- 7.2.1 A very small assemblage comprising eight sherds (28g) of handmade prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation, displaying a low mean sherd weight (MSW) of 2.8g. A further 2g of baked clay was also recovered. The pottery derived from three contexts, relating to three linear features, one of which may have been a hollow-way. The assemblage can be assigned to a single period, the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (LBA–EIA) (Table 2). No other phases of work have been undertaken on the site; as such this report encompasses the totality of the site assemblage to date. The ceramics are in a stable condition. This report provides a quantified description of the assemblage with a brief discussion.

Context	Cut	Feature type	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Overall context date	Fabrics (sherd no./ weight (g))	Reason for date
188	189	Posthole	1	2	Roman	BC (res)	-
202	203	Ditch	5	21	LBA–EIA	FL-rs-fc (4/19) FL-rs-fcQU-r-f (1/2)	Fabric

204	205	Ditch (Hollow- way?)	3	7	LBA–EIA	FL-sm-fm	Fabric
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Table 2: Prehistoric pottery by context

## Methodology

- 7.2.2 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Fabric groups are designated based on abbreviated codes, recorded as INCLUSIONTYPE–frequency-size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric type (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as a single sherd). Sherds weighing less than 1g that did not exhibit diagnostic features were classified as 'crumbs' and were recorded by context and weight in the catalogue (7g). Unless considered appropriate due to the presence of diagnostic traits, absence of whole sherds etc., these crumbs do not form a further part of this analysis. Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (all sherds in the assemblage are handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (100% by SC); sherds measuring 4–8cm would have been classified as 'medium' (0% by SC) and sherds over 8cm in diameter would have been classified as 'large' (0% by SC). The assemblage contains a minimum of 2 vessels, based on the two rim sherds present.

## Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age

- 7.2.3 The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery assemblage was recovered from three features during the evaluation, two of which were located in Trench 11: Ditch [203] and Ditch [205]. The remaining assemblage was residual in Posthole [189] in Trench 3.
- 7.2.4 Posthole [189] produced a single sherd of baked clay. The feature also

produced a crumb of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron pottery in a fine calcined flint fabric. Based on the presence of Roman pottery within the same deposit, this material is considered to be residual.

- 7.2.5 Ditch [203] produced five sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery, mainly composed of a calcined flint-tempered fabric, with a single sherd also having sand as an inclusion. The feature assemblage only includes a single rim, an undiagnostic flat-topped form (Type 1). This rim sherd can be refitted with two other sherds, providing the only partial profile within the assemblage. Although this is insufficiently complete to assign to a form, the profile appears to be a relatively simple, straight-sided vessel with a small, upright neck and rim.
- 7.2.6 Ditch [205] produced three sherds of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery, entirely composed of a calcined flint-tempered fabric. In contrast to Ditch [203] the fabric is relatively fine. The feature assemblage includes a single rim, of the same flat-topped form as that from Ditch [203] (Type 1).
- 7.2.7 The small size and undiagnostic nature of the pottery assemblage severely limit its interpretative value and the confidence that can be given to the assigned date range. The calcined flint temper that dominates the assemblage is common to various prehistoric periods, and as such is not particularly diagnostic. Therefore, its assignation to the Post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition, and the corresponding suggested Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date is mainly based upon the fine, well-fired, and in some cases exceedingly thin nature of the sherds (<4mm), as well as the well-formed, flat-topped rims, which are more indicative of a later prehistoric date. Although further refining the date range within the broad Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age period is not possible based on such a limited assemblage, it should be noted that the use of calcined flint as an exclusive temper within pottery fabrics is more characteristic of Late Bronze Age Plain Ware assemblages (75.1% by weight in the region for Mature Plain Wares (Brudenell 2012, table 5.5, 173)), as opposed to the Decorated Wares of the Early Iron Age, which utilise sandy or mixed fabrics to a greater extent.

## Discussion

- 7.2.8 The assemblage is small and relatively undiagnostic, making analysis problematic. However, the assemblage can be tentatively assigned to a single period, the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (1150/1100–400/350 BC), based principally on fabric.

## 7.3 Roman Pottery

### By Katie Anderson

- 7.3.1 A small assemblage of Roman pottery, totalling three sherds weighing 134g, was recovered from the evaluation. All of the pottery was examined and recorded in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Perrin 2011).
- 7.3.2 A large grog-tempered body sherd (92g), from a combed storage jar, was recovered from fill (188) of Posthole [189], in Trench 3. The fabric and form suggest a mid-1st-century AD date, although this form spanned the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. A further oxidised sandy ware body sherd, from a combed jar, also came from this feature. This sherd is early Roman in date, with the decoration suggesting a mid–later-1st-century AD date.
- 7.3.3 One body sherd (5g) from a closed, sandy reduced ware vessel was recovered from fill (204) of Ditch [205], in Trench 11. The sherd has tooled horizontal line decoration, and dates to the early Roman period (mid- to late 1st century AD).
- 7.3.4 Overall the pottery suggests a background presence in the mid-1st century AD.

## 7.4 Building Materials

### By Kevin Hayward

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Mortar spot date
(100) Trench 4	SAW1; SAW3	Late medieval to early post-medieval peg tile; fine sandy fabric with coarse shelly moulding sand; 49g; 14mm; 1 fragment, medieval, 15g; 8mm; lipped peg	2	1180	1800	1400	1800	1400–1800	No mortar

Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Mortar spot date
		tile							
(100) Trench 22	SAW1	Late medieval to early post-medieval peg tile; fine sandy fabric with coarse shelly moulding sand; 100g; 13mm thick	1	1400	1800	1400	1800	1400–1800	No mortar
(100) Trench 24	SAW2	Medieval peg tile; glaze; 16g; thin coarse quartz grit fabric with red iron oxide; 8mm thick	1	1200	1500	1200	1500	1200–1500	No mortar

Table 3: Ceramic building material

7.4.1 The very small assemblage from the evaluation at Babraham Road, Sawston (4 fragments; 171g) consists almost entirely of medieval to early post-medieval peg tile. An example from Trench 24 has glaze typical of peg tile dating from AD 1200 to 1500, while another example, from Trench 4, is very narrow, with a distinct lip on the edge, features also consistent with medieval peg tile.

## 7.5 Animal Bone

By Karen Deighton

7.5.1 A small quantity of animal bone was hand-collected from a single context during the evaluation, with some further material recovered from the residue of an environmental sample. The animal bone fragments were identified as follows:

7.5.2 Fill (114) of Pit [117]. A sheep/goat mandibular first or second molar.

7.5.3 Fill (204) of Ditch [205], Sample <1002>. One bank vole maxillary tooth.

## 7.6 Environmental Remains

By Kate Turner

### Introduction

7.6.1 This report summarises the results of assessment of the environmental remains from six bulk soil samples taken during archaeological evaluation on land at Babraham Road, Sawston. These samples were taken from the fills of five

ditches: [142], [145], [149] (all in Trench 6), [203] and [205] (Trench 11), and a pit, [167] (Trench 7).

The aim of this assessment is to:

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

#### Methodology

- 7.6.2 Six environmental bulk samples were processed using the flotation method; material was collected using a 300µm mesh for the light fraction and a 1mm mesh for the heavy residue. The heavy residue was then dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1–10 items), '2' indicates that occurrence is fairly frequent (11–30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31–100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material (>100 items).
- 7.6.3 The flot (>300µm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope at 10x magnification, to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example, roots and modern plant material. Macro-botanical identifications were carried out using standard reference catalogues (Cappers et al. 2012; Jacomet 2006; Jones et al. 2004; Neef et al. 2012). Nomenclature for economic plants follows Van Zeist (1984) and for other plant taxa follows Stace (1991). Molluscs were identified with reference to Kerney (1999).
- 7.6.4 Material collected from the heavy residues has been catalogued and passed to the relevant specialists for further assessment. A full account of the sample contents is given in Appendix 5.

## Results

### Preservation

- 7.6.5 Plant material was preserved in the Babraham Road assemblage though the medium of carbonisation. Overall, recovery of ecofacts was poor in this sample set, with wood charcoal and snails being the most commonly observed remains.

#### Sample <1000>, Context (165), Pit [167] (Trench 7)

- 7.6.6 One environmental sample was taken from the fill of a pit, [167]. An abundance of fragmented wood charcoal was recorded in this context, consisting of over one hundred specimens, between thirty and one hundred of which are of a suitable size for species to be determined (>4mm in length/width). Carbonised seeds and cereals are absent. A small assemblage of terrestrial molluscs was recovered; specimens of *Carychium* and *Vallonia* were identified, along with juveniles, and shells of the subterranean species *Cecilioides acicula*, which is usually considered to be an indicator of post-depositional disturbance when it is observed in archaeological deposits. Seeds, the condition of which suggests they are likely to be intrusive, modern plant material, roots/rhizomes, and insect remains were observed in the flot fraction, all of which are further evidence for bioturbation having occurred within this context.

#### Sample <1001>, Context (202), Ditch [203] (Trench 11)

- 7.6.7 A bulk sample thirty litres in volume was collected from the fill of a ditch, [203]. Environmental remains are rare in this feature; charcoal was extracted, but overall the fragment count is low, comprising less than fifty specimens in total. No pieces of identifiable size were observed. A single charred cereal grain (*Poaceae* – *Cerealia*) was recovered; however, species could not be determined due to the significant level of combustion damage. A large quantity of mollusc shells are present. The bulk of these are of non-native burrowing snails; however, specimens of *Candidula intersecta/gigaxii*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia*, all of which are commonly found in open and/or dry habitats, were also identified.
- 7.6.8 Coal and fragmented bone were extracted from the flots, and pottery and struck flint from the retent. Roots and intrusive seeds were frequently recognised,

which suggest the likelihood of disturbance.

Sample <1002>, Context (204), Ditch [205] (Trench 11)

- 7.6.9 One bulk sample was taken from the fill of a ditch, [205]. The environmental assemblage found in this sample is similar to that observed in previous deposits. Wood charcoal is present; however, counts are relatively low, comprising less than one hundred pieces overall, and no viable fragments for identification were recovered. Seeds and cereals are absent, with the exception of several unburnt specimens, which are likely to be intrusive. Shells of terrestrial snails, specifically those common to dry or damp open grasslands or meadows were identified: *Candidula intersecta/gigaxii*, *Vallonia* and *Pupilla muscorum*, along with juveniles and snail eggs. The finds assemblage consists of a small amount of pottery, struck flint, animal bone and pumice. Roots, shells of subterranean snails and non-contemporary insect remains are common in the flot.

Sample <1003>, Context (144), Ditch [145] (Trench 6)

- 7.6.10 A single sample was taken from [145], a ditch in Trench 6. Snails are relatively frequent in this feature, with between thirty and one hundred specimens recorded; *Vallonia*, *Candidula* and *Pupilla muscorum* were, again, recovered, along with a small concentration of *Pomatias elegans*, a snail found in areas of open woods and shrublands, and *Carychium minimum/tridentatum*, which is suggestive of a damper habitat. Wood charcoal is present in low concentrations, comprising less than thirty pieces in total, all of which are in the lowest size category, <2mm in length/width, and thus unsuitable for species identification. Roots, shells of burrowing snails, and intrusive seeds were recorded, which may be evidence of post-depositional disturbance.

Sample <1004>, Context (148), Ditch [149] (Trench 6)

- 7.6.11 Sample <1004> was taken from the fill of Ditch [149]. With the exception of a moderate concentration of terrestrial mollusc shells, of the species *Candidula intersecta/gigaxii*, *Cochlicopa lubrica*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Vallonia*, the bulk of which inhabit dry, open grasslands or meadows, a single carbonised seed of chamomile (*Anthemis* sp.), and a minimal amount of wood charcoal, none of



which is of significant size, environmental material is absent. No finds are present, and a large quantity of roots and intrusive seeds were recovered from the flot residue, which suggests the likelihood of bioturbation.

Sample <1005>, Context (141), Ditch [142] (Trench 6)

- 7.6.12 One sample, <1005>, was taken from the fill of Ditch [142]. A significant abundance of *Candidula intersecta/gigaxii* shells were recognised, which suggests a dry or open environment, along with specimens of *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia* and *Pomatias elegans*, which inhabit a similar range. Shells of *Carychium minimum/tridentatum* were recovered, which present the possibility of damper periods. A small amount of heavily fragmented charcoal was also found in this deposit, though no remains of identifiable size. Roots and intrusive seeds were frequently observed.

#### Discussion

- 7.6.13 Archaeobotanical remains, particularly carbonised seeds and cereals, are poorly represented in this sample set, and any remains that are present are in such low concentrations as to be considered non-diagnostic. The wood charcoal assemblage is likely to constitute the spent waste from domestic activity, though the low abundance and small fragment size of material in all contexts apart from Pit [167] suggests that the bulk of this may be present as a result of wind scatter or other post-depositional processes. The terrestrial mollusc assemblage is generally indicative of dry, open grasslands or meadows, with a small concentration of shells that may be suggestive of periods/ areas of damper ground conditions.

#### Taphonomic Considerations

- 7.6.14 Moderate to high concentrations of roots, intrusive seeds, insect remains and shells of subterranean snails were observed throughout the assemblage. These are likely to be evidence of post depositional disturbance, and the potential for re-working of smaller archaeobotanical specimens should be borne in mind if any attempt is made to use environmental remains to date deposits where other cultural material is scarce.

#### Recommendations for Further Work

7.6.15 With the exception of wood charcoal, preservation of archaeobotanical material in the Babraham Road assemblage is relatively poor. Preservation of wood charcoal is good in Sample <1000>, which contains a moderate concentration of identifiable fragments. While additional specialist analysis is not suggested on this material, there is potential that some specimens might be suitable for radiocarbon dating should this be required at any future stage. Species identifications should be undertaken before any such attempt, in order to determine viability. Rapid assessment has shown that there is potential for carbonised material to be preserved at this site. Should any future fieldwork be undertaken this potential should be reflected in the environmental sampling strategy, and samples should, where possible, be collected from well-sealed deposits, with little evidence for bioturbation.

## 8 DISCUSSION

### 8.1 Eastern Area, Trenches 10–15: Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age 'Trackway' and Residual Late Neolithic Flint-Working (Figure 7)

- 8.1.1 The principal result of the evaluation is the identification of a set of parallel east–west-aligned Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age ditches in the east of the site (Trenches 11 and 12).
- 8.1.2 The spacing of the ditches (0.75m) is too narrow for them to have demarcated the two sides of a trackway. However, the broad, flat-bottomed profile of Ditch [205] (2.7m wide x 0.35m deep) might indicate that this was itself a sunken track or 'hollow-way', flanked on its north side by a contemporary boundary ditch ([203]). The pottery assemblage from the ditches is small (total 8 sherds (28g) between the two ditches in Trench 11), but it is consistently handmade, in fabrics containing calcined flint temper, which is suggestive, together with the two rim forms, of the Post-Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition of the late 2nd and early 1st millennium BC (c. 1150/1100–750 BC). The sherds are small and abraded but this localised concentration might nevertheless indicate the presence of Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age occupation somewhere in the near vicinity.
- 8.1.3 The 'trackway' extends for at least 70m and is located on a slight rise (25–26m OD) in the eastern corner of the site. The ditches were identified by the geophysical survey and interpreted as anomalies of likely agricultural origin.
- 8.1.4 The relatively large flint assemblage from the same ditch slots ([203] and [205], Trench 11) is of earlier date than the pottery, with the waste flakes and retouched pieces mainly being diagnostic of later Neolithic (c. 3000–2200 BC) flint-working techniques. The micro-debitage recovered from the bulk soil samples includes large parts of the knapping sequence and suggests that Late Neolithic surface scatters were once present and had been cut through by the later prehistoric ditches.
- 8.1.5 No evidence of the weak linear geophysical trends targeted by Trenches 13 and 14 was found, and these are probably likely to have been shallow

cultivation-related features, i.e. plough furrows. An irregular geophysical anomaly at the east end of Trench 13, interpreted as a probable natural geological feature, corresponded with a linear feature [193] that had a fairly regular profile in the excavated slot and may actually have been a north-west- to south-east-aligned ditch. A narrow linear feature [207] on the same alignment in Trench 10 had a very leached 'natural' appearance but may also have been a ditch. It is interesting to note that a very sinuous, narrow linear feature ([151]=[172]) in the north end of Trench 6 was also on this same north-west to south-east alignment. It is therefore possible that there was a series of ephemeral north-west- to south-east-aligned ditches across the site, which were mostly not picked up by the geophysics. Their roughly perpendicular alignment to the east-north-east to west-south-west ditches recorded in Trenches 3, 4 and 6 could indicate that they are parts of a related field boundary system.

## **8.2 Northern Area, Trenches 1–6 and 8: Undated Trackway or Field Boundary Ditches and Roman Posthole (Figure 7)**

- 8.2.1 Archaeological features were also identified in the central northern area of the site and mainly correspond with a set of east-north-east- to west-south-west-aligned linear anomalies identified by the magnetometer survey. These were found to be a set of parallel ditches extending across the site for at least 140m, though no dating evidence was found in any of the excavated slots in Trenches 3, 4 and 6. The close spacing (4–5m) of Ditches [142]=[181] (probably continuations of the same feature) (Trenches 6 and 4, respectively) and Ditch [179] (Trench 4) would fit identification as a trackway. Ditch [145]=[177]=[187] (Trenches 6, 4 and 3, respectively), followed a parallel alignment 10–13m north of the northern 'trackway' ditch and could have been a related field boundary or an earlier/ later demarcation of one side of the trackway.
- 8.2.2 A posthole on the north side of Ditch [187], in Trench 3, contained two sherds of mid- to late-1st-century Roman pottery, including a fairly large sherd from a combed storage jar. There was no stratigraphic relationship between the posthole and the ditch, so the feature does not help to date the ditches.

8.2.3 Trench 1 was positioned to investigate a series of six other parallel east-north-west- to west-south-west-aligned linear anomalies identified by the geophysics in the north of the site. However, there was no evidence of any of these within the trench.

### **8.3 Western Area, Trench 7 and Trenches 18–23: Scattered Undated Pits and Natural Features; Residual Later Prehistoric Struck Flint**

- 8.3.1 Trench 7, in the west of the site, contained three natural features, as well as a cluster of intercutting pits ([156], [159], [163], [167] and [170]). At least two of these pits had regular, steep-sided profiles suggestive of a manmade origin, but no artefacts were present. Pit [167] contained a dark deposit with abundant wood charcoal (Sample <1000>), but the mollusc shells and other remains in the soil sample suggest considerable modern disturbance.
- 8.3.2 Trenches 18 and 19 were positioned to target a possible ring-ditch-type geophysical anomaly, but no evidence of this was found to be present.
- 8.3.3 Trenches 21–23 were positioned to investigate an area of possible small enclosures suggested by weak geophysical trends. In the event, no evidence of enclosure boundaries or other linear features was present. A number of discrete natural features and possible pits were recorded. Pit [117]=[128], in Trench 22, was a large (6.5m diameter) clunch/ chalk quarry pit, which contained two struck flints including a crudely struck flake of probable later prehistoric type, as well as a small piece of slate in one of its upper fills. Pit [112] contained a well-made Mesolithic–Early Neolithic prismatic blade. It is not clear whether these struck flints were in-situ and genuinely date the contexts in which they were found. Indeed, there was a general low-density distribution of unstratified struck flint flakes and debitage across the south-western part of the site (Trenches 16, 19–20 and 22–24; Appendix 4). Where diagnostic, these are mostly characteristic of later prehistoric (Bronze Age–Iron Age) flint-working. Small amounts of struck flint that was 'knocking around' on the ground/ topsoil in this area could easily have become incidentally incorporated into cut features, either when they were dug or as they filled in.

#### **8.4 Southern Area, Trenches 9, 16–17 and 24: 'Blank' Area**

- 8.4.1 These trenches were positioned to investigate several weak linear anomalies/trends identified by the magnetometer survey. In the event, none of these was present. Trench 17 contained a single natural feature. A piece of flint debitage was found in the subsoil in Trench 16.

#### **8.5 Efficacy of Magnetometer Survey**

- 8.5.1 The magnetometer survey was, overall, fairly successful in identifying archaeological features at the site. Approximately half the suggested 'agricultural' anomalies (brown on the plans) turned out to be real trackway and/or field boundary ditches. None of the weak 'undetermined' trends (blue on the plans) were genuine. Irregular anomalies interpreted as natural in the geophysics report (light green on the plans) consistently turned out to be solution hollows and other geological features, as expected.

#### **8.6 Archaeological Context and Relationships with Other Local Sites**

- 8.6.1 The presence of a Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age trackway and possible occupation evidence is interesting in light of a known Late Bronze Age (c. 1100 BC) settlement enclosure and possible associated cropmark field/ enclosure system just 350m to the south-west (Weston et al. 2007; CHER MCB16829; Figure 1 Site 4). However, the alignment of the trackway does not obviously relate to the position of this part-excavated settlement.
- 8.6.2 The east–west alignment of the trackway might instead indicate a connection with the other Bronze Age enclosures recorded to the west, for example at 16–20 Cambridge Road (CHER MCB17152; Figure 1 Site 5), and c. 650m to the west, where a D-shaped enclosure is visible as a cropmark (CHER 09743; Figure 1 Site 21). Elements of an enclosure and field system, of potential later prehistoric date, are present a few hundred metres to the south/ south-east of the site (CHER 09050; Figure 1 Site 19). Recent archaeological evaluation to the north-west of the site, at Dale Manor Business Park, found prehistoric (Iron Age?) ditches and pits, the former possibly forming the corner of an enclosure (CHER ECB5181; MCB26669; Figure 1 Site 26). The current site is therefore situated in a landscape with considerable evidence for Bronze and Iron Age

occupation, and the presence of a routeway potentially linking some of these sites with other small farming settlements or field systems in the area would be unsurprising.

- 8.6.3 The slight evidence for early Roman activity on the present site might link with the large Roman rural settlement recorded by trial-trenching in fields a short distance to the north (CHER ECB4278; MCB20412; Lees and Anderson 2014; Figure 1 Site 7), though this appears to be mainly later Roman (3rd-/4th-century AD) in date. A cropmark complex of rectangular enclosures 400m south-west of the current site may be Iron Age to Roman (CHER 04118; Figure 1 Site 20).
- 8.6.4 Archaeological investigations at the Old Police Station, c. 1km west of the site, revealed the remains of a Roman road junction, the meeting point of an early course of Ashwell Street with a previously unknown Roman route along the Cam valley (CHER CB15777; Figure 1 Site 25). The roads and two ditched enclosures, possibly Roman military camps, appeared to date to the 1st century AD and, as such, would be broadly contemporary with the small-scale early Roman evidence on the present site.

## **8.7 Research Potential**

- 8.7.1 The need for further research into inter-relationships between settlements, variations and changes in settlement types, and their implications for social organisation, together with questions surrounding the development of Bronze Age field systems have been highlighted as priorities for research in the East Anglian archaeological regional research agendas (Medlycott 2011, 20–21).
- 8.7.2 For artefacts, there is a major need for better typological identification of later Bronze Age pottery, linked, where possible, with close radiocarbon dating, to refine understanding of regional ceramic chronologies (ibid.). Study of the development, frequency and significance of flint-working throughout the Bronze Age would also be useful. Other research topics and questions might become relevant depending on the results of any future fieldwork at the site.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

- 9.1 The principal result of the evaluation on land north of Babraham Road, Sawston, is the identification of an east–west trackway or possible 'hollow-way' on the slight rise in the eastern part of the site (Trenches 11 and 12). The associated pottery from the trackway ditches is Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age (c. 1150/1100–750 BC) and might indicate occupation in the vicinity.
- 9.2 A concentration of Neolithic struck flint in the ditch fills, including both working debris and retouched pieces, suggests that the ditches were cut through earlier in-situ scatters of knapping waste in this part of the site (Trenches 11 and 12).
- 9.3 A series of undated east-north-east- to west-south-west-aligned ditches, possibly forming another trackway and an associated parallel field boundary, crossed the central northern part of the site (Trenches 3, 4 and 6). The sterile appearance of the ditch fills suggests that they are of some antiquity; their alignment is slightly offset from the LBA–EIA trackway, suggesting a different date. A posthole directly adjacent to one of these ditches (Trench 3) contained early Roman (mid- to late-1st-century AD) pottery, but there was no stratigraphic relationship between the two features.
- 9.4 Archaeological activity in the west and south of the site was limited, mainly consisting of scattered discrete natural features and undated pits. There was a low-level distribution of struck flint flakes and debitage, much of it probably later prehistoric (Bronze Age–Iron Age), in the topsoil and subsoil in the south-west of the site (Trenches 16–23).
- 9.5 Any decisions about the need for further excavation or other mitigation at the site will be made in consultation with CHET.



## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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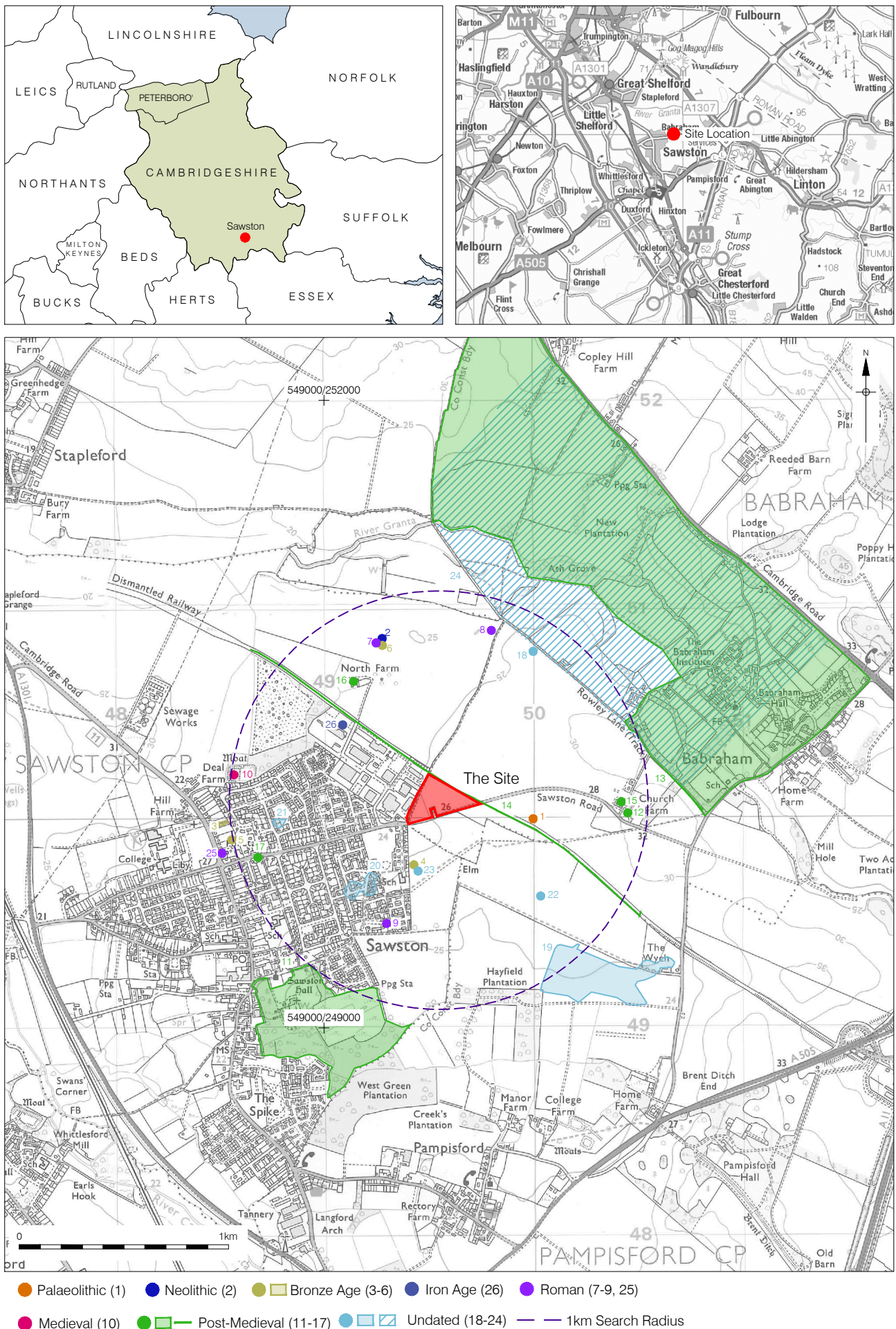
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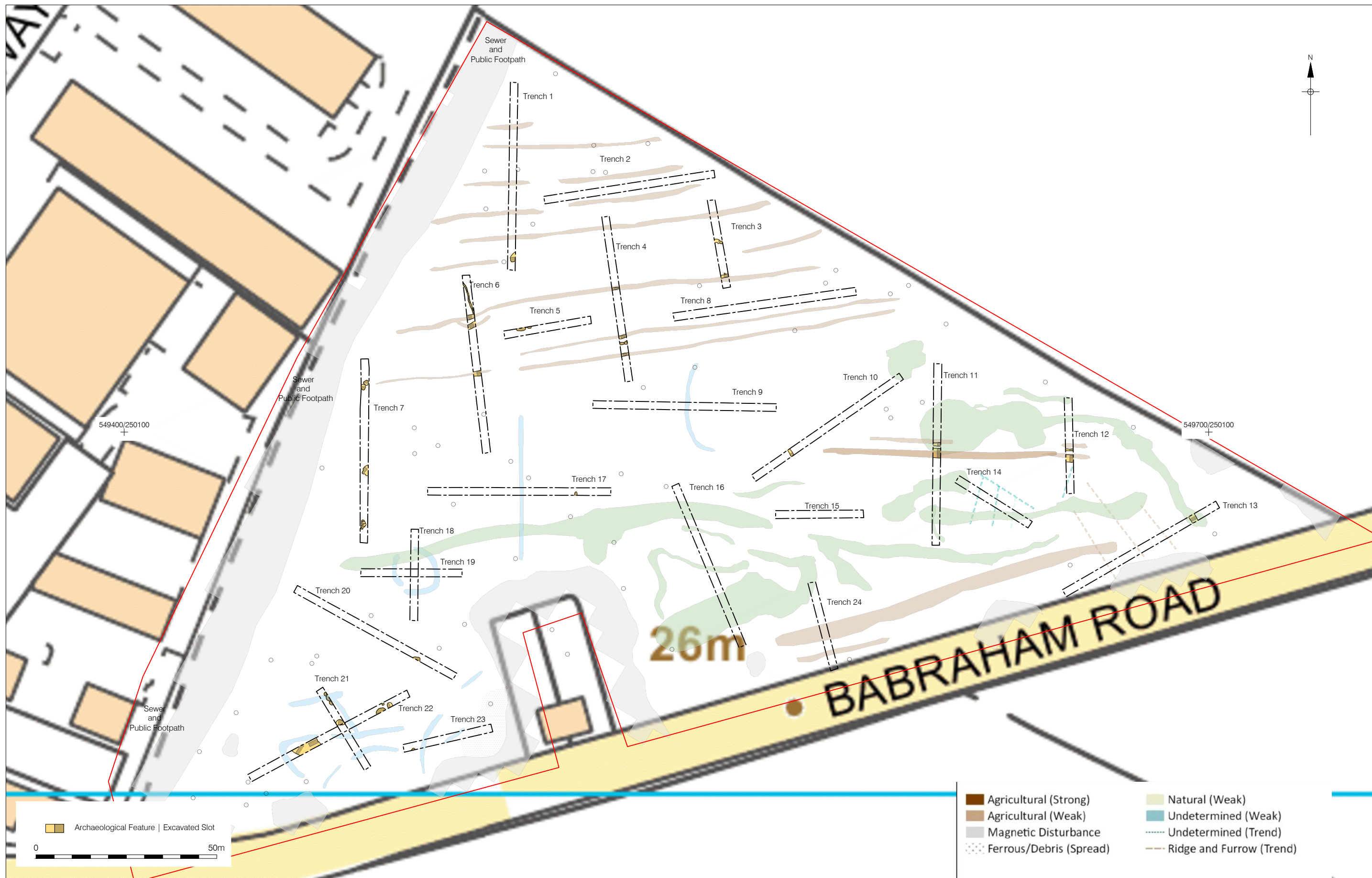
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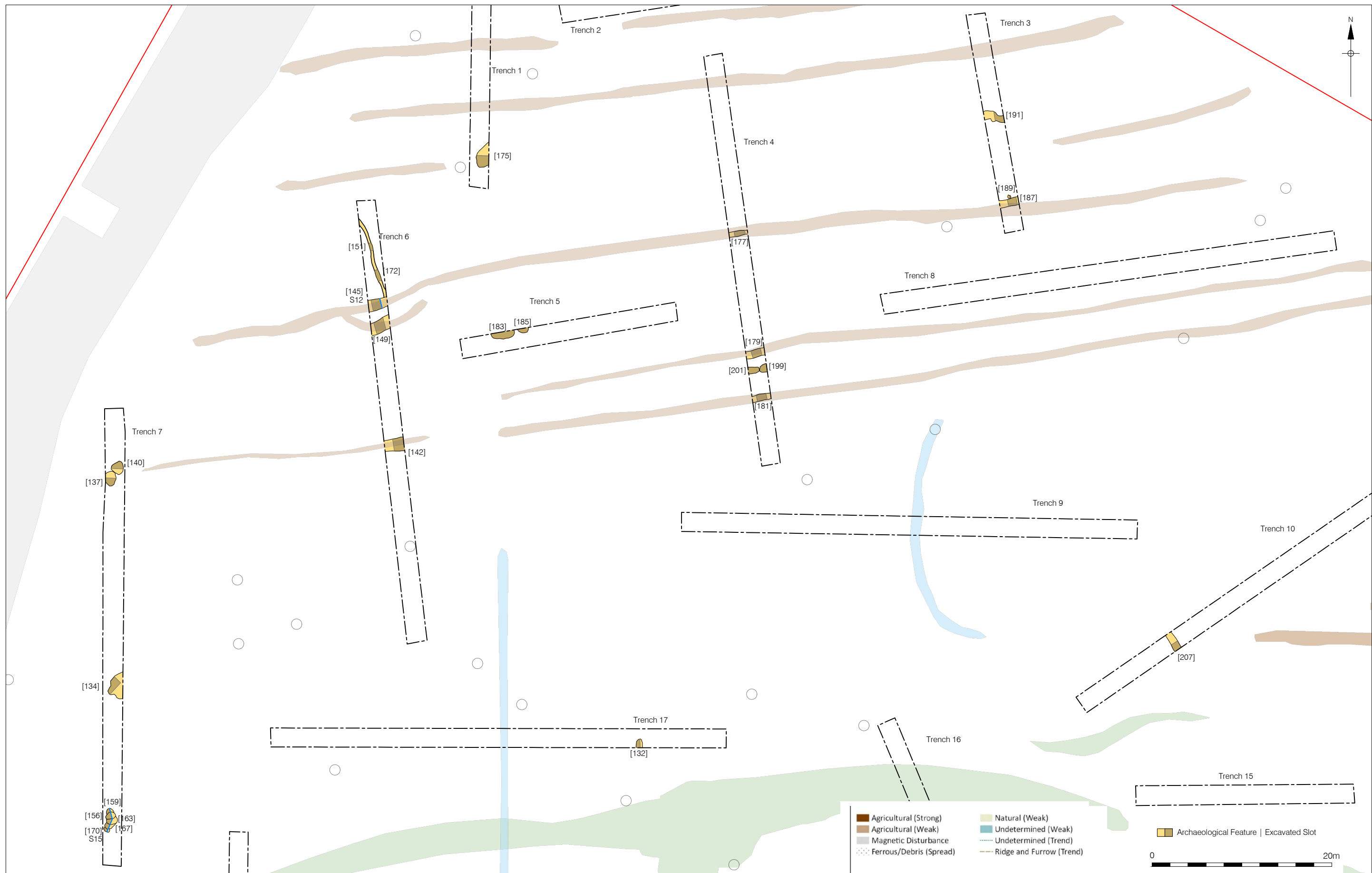
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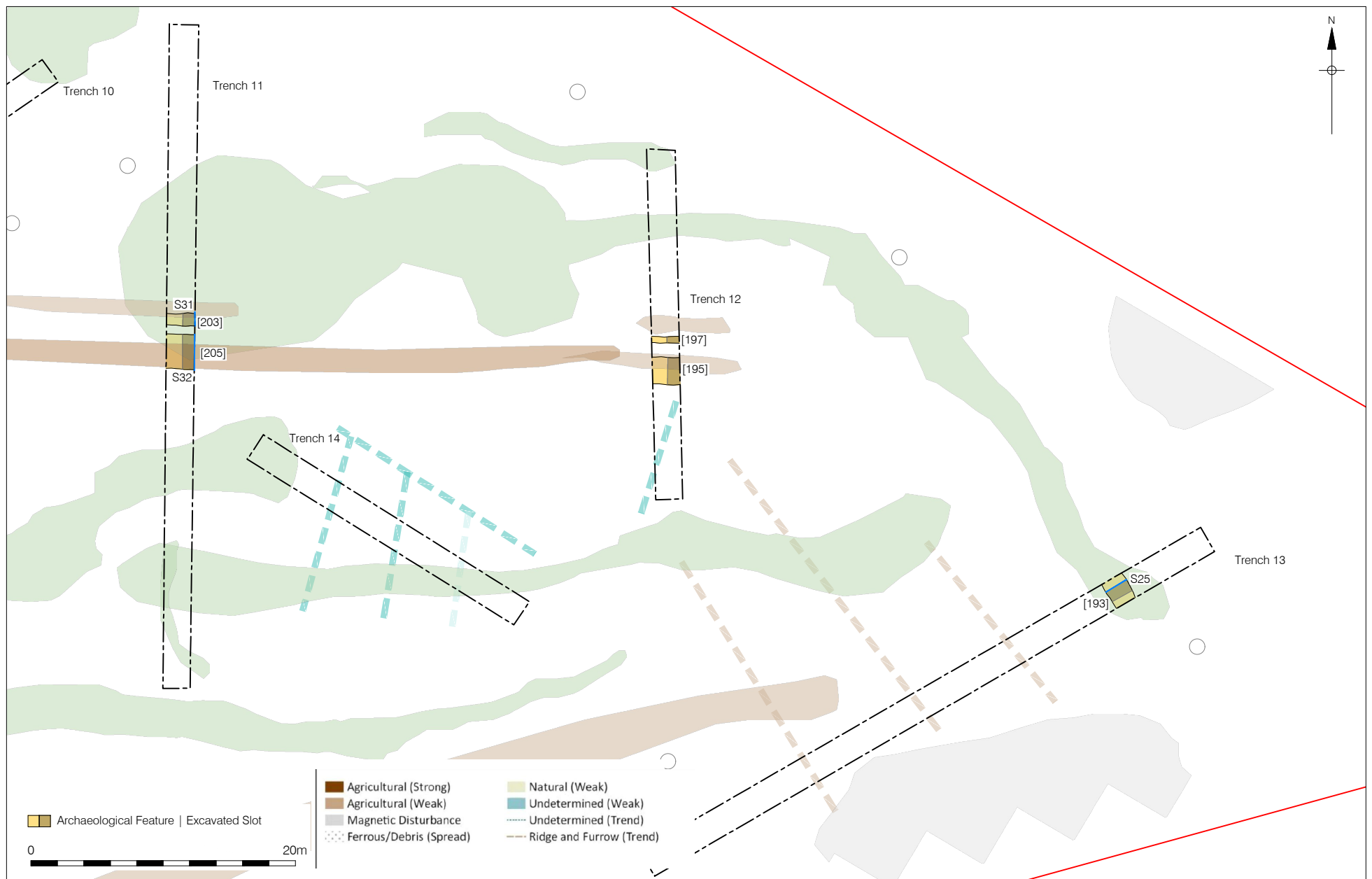


Figure 4  
Trench 11, 12, 13, 14  
1:400 at A4



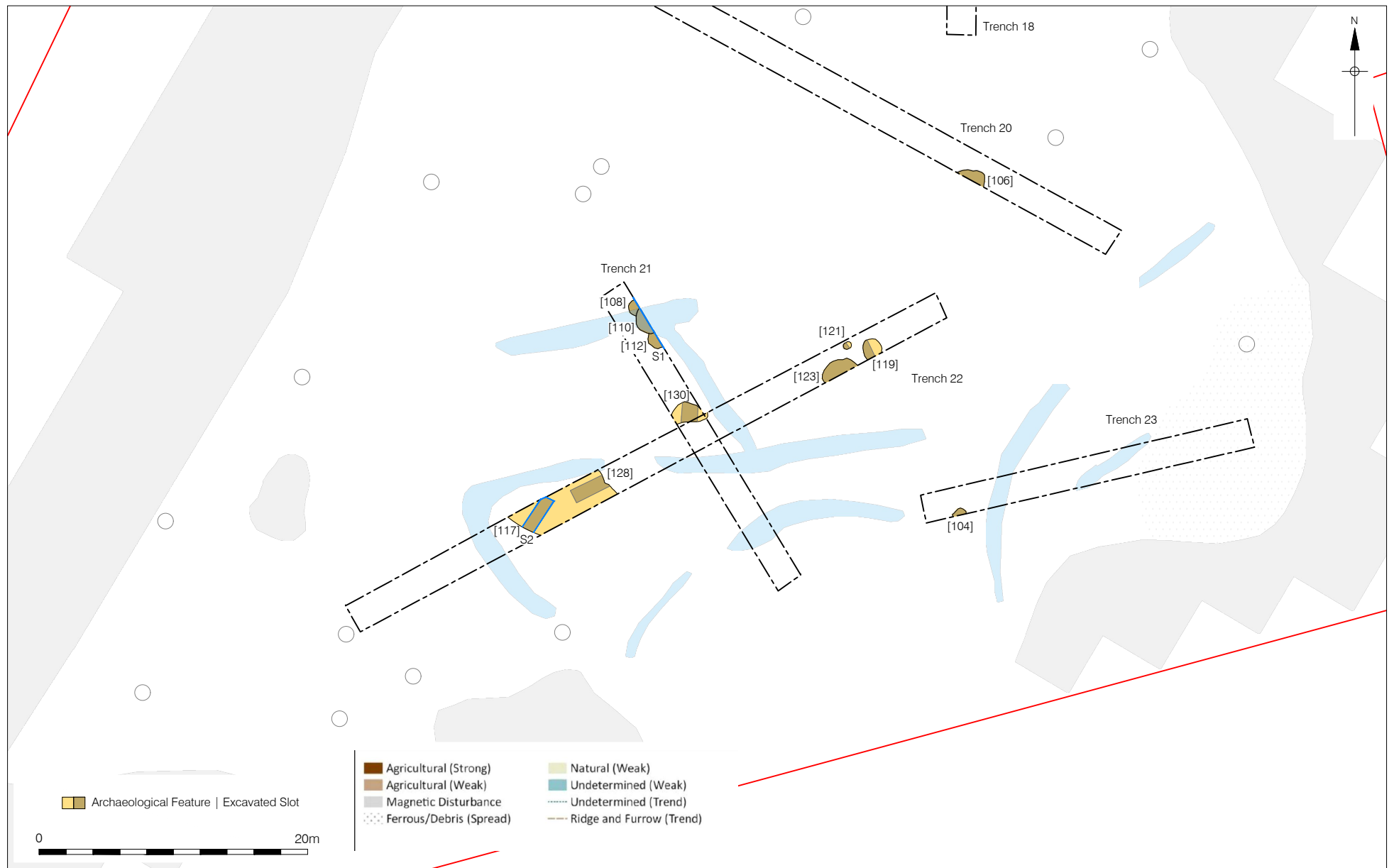


Figure 5  
Trench 21 and 22  
1:400 at A4

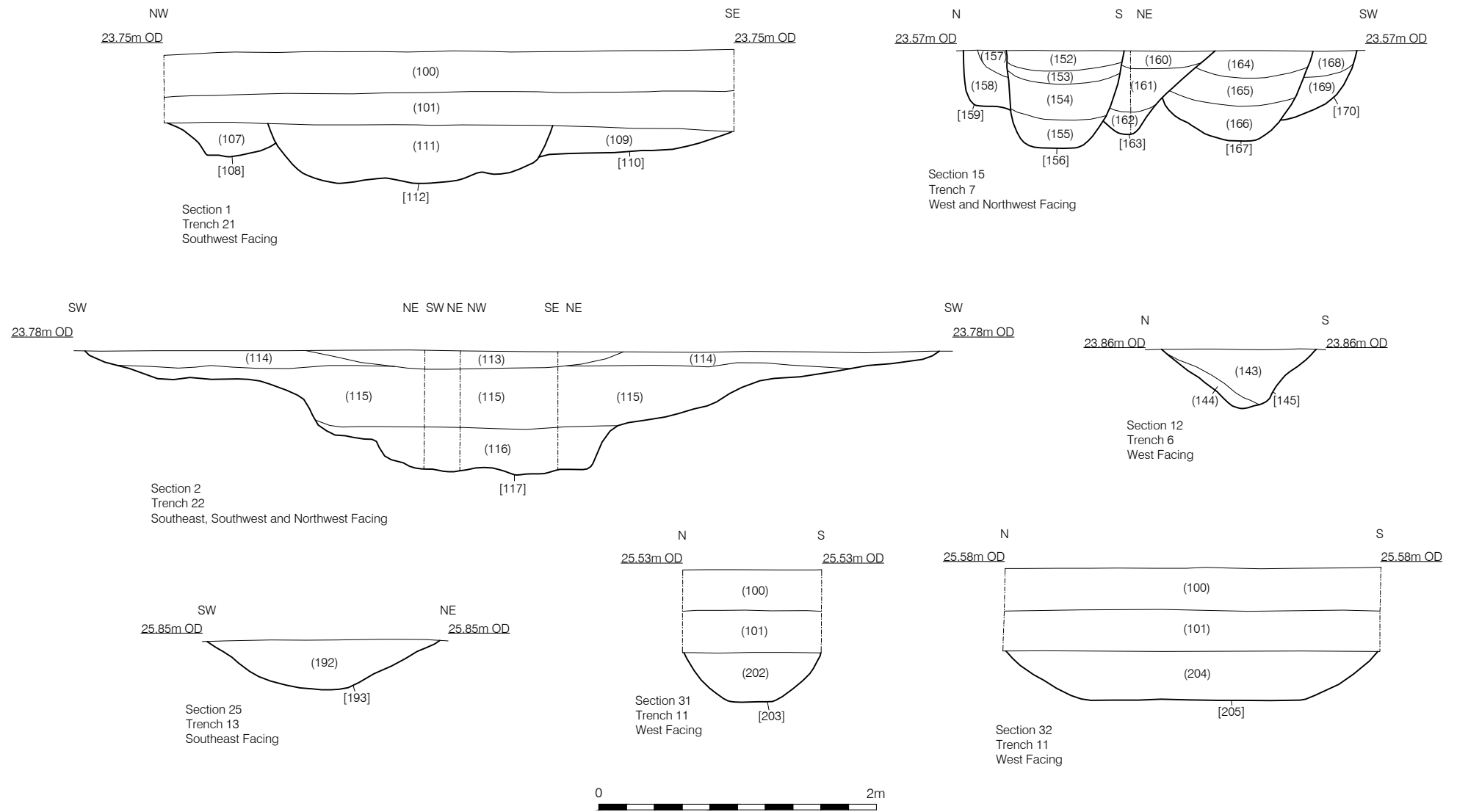
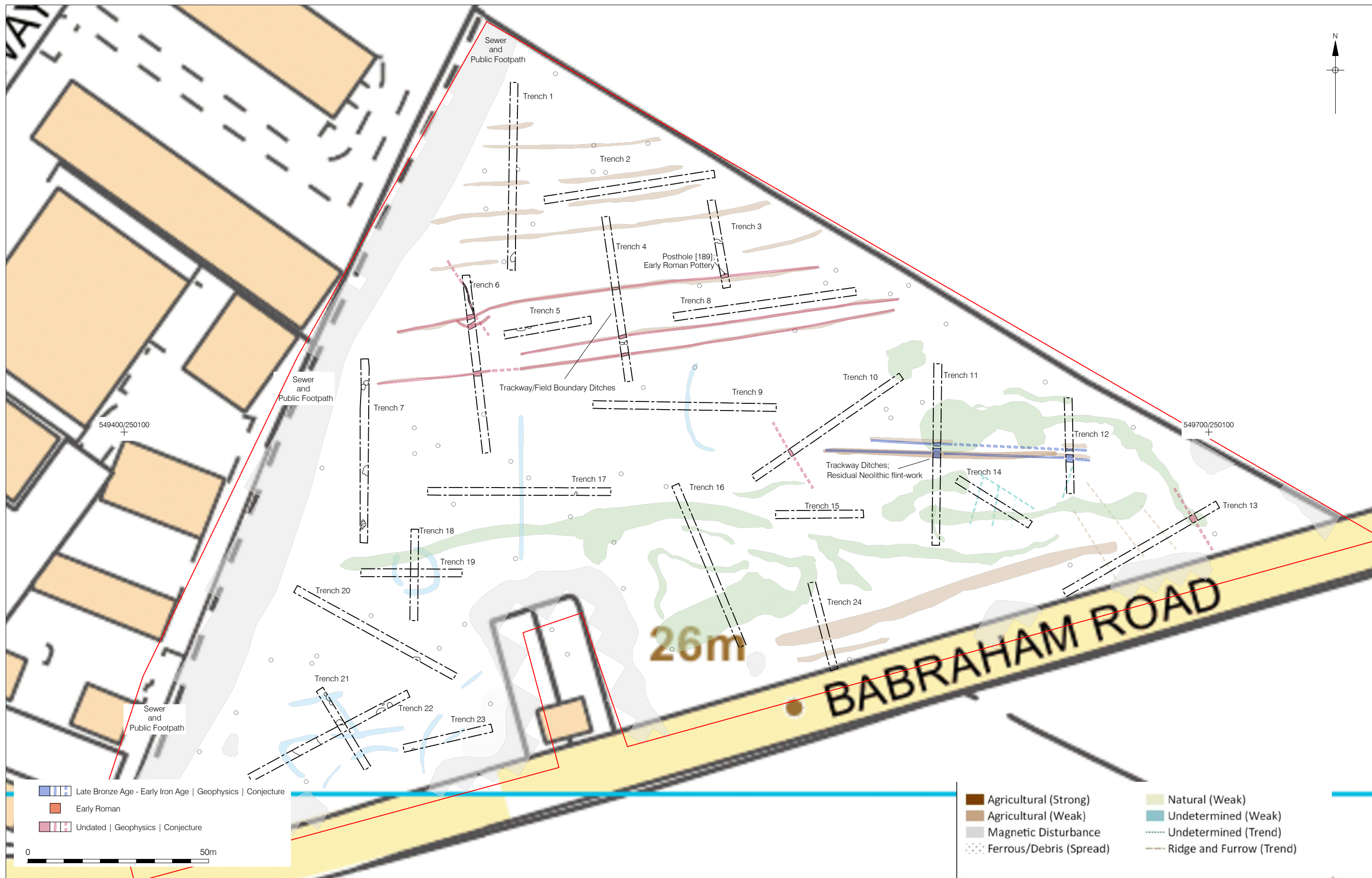


Figure 6  
Selected Sections  
1:40 at A4





## 13 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, view south



Plate 2: Trench 6, view south



Plate 3: Ditch [145], Trench 6, view west



Plate 4: Trench 7, view south





Plate 5: Pits [156], [159], [163], [167], [170], Trench 7



Plate 6: Trench 11, view south





Plate 7: Trackway formed by parallel Ditches [203] and [205], Trench 11  
(both are cut into the fill of an underlying geological feature, possibly a solution hollow,  
identified by the geophysics)



Plate 8: Trench 17, view west





Plate 9: Natural Feature [132], Trench 17, view west



Plate 10: Pits [108], [110] and [112], Trench 21, view east





Plate 11: Trench 22, view south-west



Plate 12: Quarry pitting [128], Trench 22, view west

## 14 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category
100	0	0	Layer	Topsoil
101	0	0	Layer	Subsoil
102	0	0	Layer	Natural
103	104	23	Fill	Natural Feature
104	104	23	Cut	Natural Feature
105	106	20	Fill	Natural Feature
106	106	20	Cut	Natural Feature
107	108	21	Fill	Pit
108	108	21	Cut	Pit
109	110	21	Fill	Pit
110	110	21	Cut	Pit
111	112	21	Fill	Pit
112	112	21	Cut	Pit
113	117	22	Fill	Pit
114	117	22	Fill	Pit
115	117	22	Fill	Pit
116	117	22	Fill	Pit
117	117	22	Cut	Pit
118	119	22	Fill	Pit
119	119	22	Cut	Pit
120	121	22	Fill	Pit
121	121	22	Cut	Pit
122	123	22	Fill	Natural Feature
123	123	22	Cut	Natural Feature
124	128	22	Fill	Pit
125	128	22	Fill	Pit
126	128	22	Fill	Pit
127	128	22	Fill	Pit
128	128	22	Cut	Pit
129	130	21	Fill	Natural Feature
130	130	21	Cut	Natural Feature
131	132	17	Fill	Natural Feature
132	132	17	Cut	Natural Feature
133	134	7	Fill	Natural Feature
134	134	7	Cut	Natural Feature
135	137	7	Fill	Natural Feature

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category
136	137	7	Fill	Natural Feature
137	137	7	Cut	Natural Feature
138	140	7	Fill	Natural Feature
139	140	7	Fill	Natural Feature
140	140	7	Cut	Natural Feature
141	142	6	Fill	Ditch
142	142	6	Cut	Ditch
143	145	6	Fill	Ditch
144	145	6	Fill	Ditch
145	145	6	Cut	Ditch
146	149	6	Fill	Ditch
147	149	6	Fill	Ditch
148	149	6	Fill	Ditch
149	149	6	Cut	Ditch
150	151	6	Fill	Ditch
151	151	6	Cut	Ditch
152	156	7	Fill	Pit
153	156	7	Fill	Pit
154	156	7	Fill	Pit
155	156	7	Fill	Pit
156	156	7	Cut	Pit
157	159	7	Fill	Pit
158	159	7	Fill	Pit
159	159	7	Cut	Pit
160	163	7	Fill	Pit
161	163	7	Fill	Pit
162	163	7	Fill	Pit
163	163	7	Cut	Pit
164	167	7	Fill	Pit
165	167	7	Fill	Pit
166	167	7	Fill	Pit
167	167	7	Cut	Pit
168	170	7	Fill	Pit
169	170	7	Fill	Pit
170	170	7	Cut	Pit
171	172	6	Fill	Ditch
172	172	6	Cut	Ditch

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category
173	175	1	Fill	Natural Feature
174	175	1	Fill	Natural Feature
175	175	1	Cut	Natural Feature
176	177	4	Fill	Ditch
177	177	4	Cut	Ditch
178	179	4	Fill	Ditch
179	179	4	Cut	Ditch
180	181	4	Fill	Ditch
181	181	4	Cut	Ditch
182	183	5	Fill	Natural Feature
183	183	5	Cut	Natural Feature
184	185	5	Fill	Natural Feature
185	185	5	Cut	Natural Feature
186	187	3	Fill	Ditch
187	187	3	Cut	Ditch
188	189	3	Fill	Posthole
189	189	3	Cut	Posthole
190	191	3	Fill	Natural Feature
191	191	3	Cut	Natural Feature
192	193	13	Fill	Ditch
193	193	13	Cut	Ditch
194	195	12	Fill	Ditch
195	195	12	Cut	Ditch
196	197	12	Fill	Ditch
197	197	12	Cut	Ditch
198	199	4	Fill	Ditch
199	199	4	Cut	Ditch
200	201	4	Fill	Ditch
201	201	4	Cut	Ditch
202	203	11	Fill	Ditch
203	203	11	Cut	Ditch
204	205	11	Fill	Ditch
205	205	11	Cut	Ditch
206	207	10	Fill	Natural Feature
207	207	10	Cut	Natural Feature

## 15 APPENDIX 3: TRENCH TABLES

TRENCH 1		Figures 2 & 3; Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: N–S	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.98–24.27m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.32m
Subsoil	(101)	0.1m	0.15m
Natural	(102)	0.42m+	0.49m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 1 was located in the northern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate several linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained a single natural feature. None of the east–west linear anomalies identified by the geophysics were present.</p>			

TRENCH 2		Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.21–24.71m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.34m	0.39m
Subsoil	(101)	0.1m	0.07m
Natural	(102)	0.46m+	0.48m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate an area of 'blank' space identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.</p>			

TRENCH 3		Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.6–24.67m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.29m
Subsoil	(101)	0.14m	0.14m

Natural	(102)	0.44m+	0.45m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 3 was located in the northern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate two linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained a ditch, which corresponded with the southern of the two geophysical anomalies, a posthole and a natural feature.</p>			

TRENCH 4		Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.32–24.63m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.27m	0.25m
Subsoil	(101)	0.15m	0.17m
Natural	(102)	0.44m+	0.44m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 4 was located in the northern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate several linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained five ditches, three of which corresponded with geophysical anomalies.</p>			

TRENCH 5		Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.01–24.2m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Subsoil	(101)	0.11m	0.12m
Natural	(102)	0.45m+	0.46m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 5 was located in the northern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate an area of 'blank' space identified in the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained two natural features.</p>			

TRENCH 6	Figures 2 & 3; Plate 2
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Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.85–24.06m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.39m
Subsoil	(101)	0.07m	0.19m
Natural	(102)	0.35m+	0.61m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 6 was located in the northern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained four ditches, three of which corresponded with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p>			

TRENCH 7		Figures 2 & 3; Plate 4	
Trench Alignment: N–S	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.66–23.9m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.17m	0.19m
Natural	(102)	0.48m+	0.5m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 7 was located in the western part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate an area of 'blank' space identified in the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained five pits and three natural features.</p>			

TRENCH 8		Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.54–25.02m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.37m	0.33m
Subsoil	(101)	0.08m	0.07m
Natural	(102)	0.47m+	0.42m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 8 was located in the northern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate an area of 'blank' space identified by the</p>			

geophysical survey.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 9		Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.23–24.75m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.31m	0.32m
Subsoil	(101)	0.22m	0.17m
Natural	(102)	0.55m+	0.5m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 9 was located in the central part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained no archaeologically significant archaeological features or deposits. There was no feature corresponding with the geophysical anomaly.</p>			

TRENCH 10		Figures 2 & 3	
Trench Alignment: NE–SW	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.7–25.47m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.32m
Subsoil	(101)	0.09m	0.11m
Natural	(102)	0.41m+	0.45m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 10 was located in the eastern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate a 'blank' area identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained a single possible ditch or natural feature.</p>			

TRENCH 11		Figures 2 & 4; Plate 6	
Trench Alignment: N–S	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.58–25.63m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.37m	0.39m



Subsoil	(101)	0.18m	n/a
Natural	(102)	0.57m+	0.41m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 11 was located in the eastern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained two parallel ditches, one of which contained pottery and struck flint suggestive of a Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age date. The ditches corresponded with two linear geophysical anomalies.</p>			

TRENCH 12		Figures 2 & 4	
Trench Alignment: N–S	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.99–26.09m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.34m	0.35m
Natural	(102)	0.34m+	0.35m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 12 was located in the eastern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained two ditches. The ditches corresponded with two linear geophysical anomalies.</p>			

TRENCH 13		Figures 2 & 4	
Trench Alignment: NE–SW	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.8–26.05m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.38m	0.37m
Subsoil	(101)	n/a	0.17m
Natural	(102)	0.38m+	0.55m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 13 was located in the eastern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained a single ditch, which corresponded with a geophysical anomaly interpreted</p>			

as a natural geological feature.

TRENCH 14		Figures 2 & 4	
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.88–26.02m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)	0.09m	0.12m
Natural	(102)	0.4m+	0.44m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 14 was located in the eastern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained no archaeologically significant archaeological features or deposits.</p>			

TRENCH 15		Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.76–25.34m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.39m	0.38m
Subsoil	(101)	n/a	0.09m
Natural	(102)	0.41m+	0.58m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 15 was located in the central part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate a 'blank' space identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.</p>			

TRENCH 16		Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.17–24.55m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.34m	0.32m
Subsoil	(101)	0.1m	n/a
Natural	(102)	0.45m+	0.33m+
Summary			

Trench 16 was located in the central part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 17		Figures 2 & 4; Plate 8	
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.78–24.41m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.31m	0.33m
Subsoil	(101)	0.13m	0.14m
Natural	(102)	0.47m+	0.5m+

#### Summary

Trench 17 was located in the central part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.

The trench contained a single natural feature.

TRENCH 18		Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: N–S	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.83–23.88m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.29m
Subsoil	(101)	0.14m	0.13m
Natural	(102)	0.46m+	0.44m+

#### Summary

Trench 18 was located in the western part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

The trench contained no archaeologically significant archaeological features or deposits. There was no evidence of any feature(s) corresponding with the curvilinear geophysical anomaly.

TRENCH 19		Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: E–W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.79–23.94m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	

		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.28m
Subsoil	(101)	0.07m	0.11m
Natural	(102)	0.36m+	0.41m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 19 was located in the western part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits. There was no evidence of any feature(s) corresponding with the curvilinear geophysical anomaly. A struck flint was found in the topsoil (100).</p>			

TRENCH 20		Figures 2 & 5	
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.69–23.89m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.29m
Subsoil	(101)	0.36m	0.24m
Natural	(102)	0.66m+	0.56m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 20 was located in the south-western part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate an area of 'blank' space identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained a single natural feature.</p>			

TRENCH 21		Figures 2 & 5	
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.7–23.73m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.35m
Subsoil	(101)	0.14m	0.13m
Natural	(102)	0.45m+	0.5m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 21 was located in the south-western part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate several linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p>			

The trench contained three pits and a natural feature. The former may have corresponded with one of the geophysical anomalies, but there was otherwise no sign of the possible features identified by the geophysics.

TRENCH 22		Figures 2 & 5; Plate 11	
Trench Alignment: NE–SW	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.79–23.85m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.35m	0.27m
Subsoil	(101)	0.23m	n/a
Natural	(102)	0.6m+	0.27m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 22 was located in the south-western part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained four pits and a natural feature, none of which corresponded directly with the geophysical anomalies.</p>			

TRENCH 23		Figures 2 & 5	
Trench Alignment: NE–SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 23.89–24.01m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.31m	0.29m
Subsoil	(101)	0.19m	0.19m
Natural	(102)	0.5m+	0.49m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 23 was located in the south-western part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate a linear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained a single natural feature. There was no evidence of any feature corresponding with the geophysical anomaly.</p>			

TRENCH 24		Figure 2	
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.98–25.16m	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	

		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3m	0.31m
Subsoil	(101)	n/a	0.32m
Natural	(102)	0.32m+	0.64m+
<p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 24 was located in the southern part of the site. It was positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and to investigate two linear anomalies identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>The trench contained no archaeologically significant archaeological features or deposits. No features corresponding with the geophysical anomalies were identified. A fragment of medieval peg tile and a prehistoric struck flint flake were found in the topsoil (100).</p>			

## APPENDIX 4: LITHIC CATALOGUE

Context	Cut	Description	Sample	Decortication flake	Core shaping/quarterning	Flake	Flake fragment	Blade-like flake	Blade	Blade fragment	Debitage <15mm	Core shaping blade	Core rejuvenation	Core	Retouched	Conchoidal chunk	Miscellaneous	Burnt stone (no.)	Burnt stone (wt: g)	Cortex	Condition	Suggested date range	Description
100		Topsoil	TR24			1														Nodular	Slightly chipped	Prehistoric	Slightly crude flake?
100		Topsoil	TR23			1					3			1		1				Weathered nodular	Chipped	?	Very small single platform flake core (21.5g). Undiagnostic flake and debitage pieces.
100		Topsoil	TR22			1														Weathered nodular	Slightly chipped	?LBA/IA	Unsystematic, wide flake with cortical stiking and slightly obtuse striking platform. Some mortar? Other fragment is thermal spall, discarded.
100		Topsoil	TR19														1			Nodular	Chipped	Prehistoric	Thermal spall with some negative flake scars and some "inverse" (on the thermally flaked face) small flake removals/retouch? used tool?
100		Topsoil	TR20			2									1		1			Weathered nodular	Chipped	L-Prehistoric	Flake with cortex and some ?steep retouch on the distal end. Misc piece like from TR19. Damage? Two undiagnostic flakes.
100		Topsoil	TR4												1					Thin nodular	Chipped	?L-Neo/EBA	Thick, wide flake with cortex along the right edge and steep flake removals along the left edge and thin, invasive flaking almost all across the flake.
101		Subsoil	TR11			2														Nodular	Fresh	Neo/BA	Flake with dihedral striking platform, cortical distal end. Other flake is thin, small and undiagnostic.
101		Subsoil	TR16								1									NA	Chipped	Prehistoric	Micro-debitage.
111	112	Pit	TR21												1					NA	Fresh	Meso/E-Neo	Long, fine, well made prismatic blade with carefully trimmed platform. Notched.
114	117	Pit	TR22			1					1									NA	Slightly chipped	L-Prehistoric	Badly detached flake with a crushed proximal edge and a flake removal on the dorsal face, possibly a badly detached flake from a core.
202	203	Ditch	TR11	1001		2	2		1	2	13									Weathered nodular	Slightly chipped	Meso/E-Neo	Fine, well struck flakes, blade fragments: shaping flakes and blades. Micro-debitage blade like characteristics.
202	203	Ditch	TR11		3	2	9	1	3	4	5	3		1				1	13.2	Nodular	Fresh	Meso/E-Neo	Core preparation waste. Many flakes and blades seem from same raw mat. Maybe same nodule. Some slightly darker flints maybe other nodule. One blade core (149.8g) with only two blade removals and one failed removal, possibly early abandoned.
204	205	Ditch	TR11	1002	1		2					5	1			1				Thin nodular	Fresh	Meso/E-Neo	Core shaping blade, thin decortication flake fragment, very thin and fresh shaping/thinning flakes
204	205	Ditch	TR11		3	4	8		1	2				1	1	2				Nodular	Fresh/slightly chipped	L-Neo/EBA	Core preparation waste. Large core rejuvenation flake/core tablet or facettted platform (L-Neo). One ?flake fragment burnt (decoloured and fire-crazed). One retouched distal end of blade and retouched large flake (backed-knife) which is moderately burnt (fire-crazed). Small, weathered nodular flint globule with two small flake removals (41.8g). Some possible earlier material and some bit later





Sample No.	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005
Context No.	165	202	204	144	148	141
Feature No.	167	203	205	145	149	142
Trench No.	7	11	11	6	6	6
Context Type	Fill	Fill	Fill	Fill	Fill	Fill
Feature Type	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Volume of bulk (litres)	4	30	32	12	13	14
Volume of flot (millilitres)	95	110	200	30	50	52
Method of processing	F	F	F	F	F	F
<i>Candidula intersecta/gigaxii</i>		1	3	1	1	3
<i>Carychium</i> spp.	1			1		
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	1	4	4	2	3	3
<i>Cochlicopa</i> spp.					1	3
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>		2	2	1	1	4
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	1	3	2	2	1	3
Snail eggs		3	1	2	3	3
Juveniles shells - undiff.	1	3	3	2	3	4
<b>Other remains</b>						
Bone fragments		1				
<b>Biological remains</b>						
Insect remains	1	2	3	1	2	1
<b>Industrial waste</b>						
Coal		1	1			
Black vitreous material		2	1	2	1	2

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

## OASIS ID: preconst1-360299

### Project details

Project name	Land at Babraham Rd, Sawston: Evaluation
Short description of the project	The trenching confirmed the archaeological origin of a number of linear geophysical anomalies in the north and east of the site. The other geophysical anomalies were either not present upon excavation or were of natural origin. The evaluation uncovered two linear features in the east of the site (Trenches 11 and 12), which had been identified by the earlier geophysical survey. Based on the surviving profiles of these features, it is suggested that they represent an east-west routeway consisting of a flat-bottomed 'hollow-way' flanked by a smaller boundary ditch. Both ditches contained Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (c. 1150/1100-750 BC) pottery, suggesting occupation in the vicinity. The ditches also contained concentrations of Late Neolithic struck flints and knapping debris, suggesting that they were cut through earlier in-situ flint scatters. Further probable trackway and field boundary ditches were identified in the central northern area of the site (Trenches 3, 4 and 6) but the excavated slots produced no finds. A posthole directly adjacent to one of these ditches (Trench 3) contained early Roman (mid- to late-1st-century AD) pottery, but there was no stratigraphic relationship between the two features. The west and south of the site contain scattered natural features and undated pits; the topsoil and subsoil in the trenches in this area (16, 19-24) contained a low-density distribution of predominantly later prehistoric (Bronze Age-Iron Age) struck flint.
Project dates	Start: 24-06-2019 End: 28-06-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5863 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	S/3729/18/FL - Planning Application No.
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 Late Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Roman
Significant Finds	POT Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition

Position in the planning process      After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE SAWSTON Land North of Babraham Road
Postcode	CB223JH
Study area	3.7 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4954 5010 52.12850851049 0.184881500554 52 07 42 N 000 11 05 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 24.14m Max: 26.36m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Central
Project brief originator	Gemma Stewart
Project design originator	Tom Woolhouse
Project director/manager	Tom Woolhouse
Project supervisor	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne
Type of sponsor/funding body	Hill Residential
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hill Residential

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB5863
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB5863
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","Geophysics","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB5863
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"
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## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land North of Babraham Road, Sawston, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Woolhouse, T. and Morgan-Shelbourne, L.
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Date	2019
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