

CAM ARC Report Number 901

Prehistoric and Roman remains at Norwood Road, March

An Archaeological Evaluation, Excavation and Watching Brief

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CHER Event Number: ECB 2346
Date of works: SEPTEMBER 06
Grid Ref: TL 4123 9772

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation at Norwood Road, March in August 2006 (NGR TL 4123 9772) revealed evidence of Roman and possible prehistoric occupation. A mitigation exercise was required which involved preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains at the north of the site and a small excavation to the south-west of the site.

Excavation took place between 11th and 16th September 2006 at short notice before the evaluation report was written. The results of both phases of work and a subsequent watching brief are included in this report.

In the evaluation phase, Roman remains were located in the north-west quarter of the site. These were found in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 with a single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from an east to west aligned ditch in Trench 7. The features in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 comprise mainly large ditches backfilled with charcoal-rich and relatively finds-rich fills. No finds were recovered from trenches to the south of these although it is clear that the north to south aligned ditches in Trenches 2 and 4 continued into Trenches 2, 5 and possibly 6. It is likely that these ditches are all part of a field system but that the ones in the northern trenches are likely to be close to occupation and may have doubled as property boundaries and have consequently been filled with rubbish deposits. There is some evidence to suggest that prehistoric activity was also taking place in the north-west quarter of the site since one large pit in Trench 1 contained struck flints. It is also possible that shallow, undated features (i.e. postholes and a possible beam slot) in Trenches 3 and 6 to the south may be evidence of prehistoric structures.

In the excavation phase an area 28m by 29m was opened in the south-western part of the development area. This revealed a number of Iron Age/ Roman ditches which were part of a field system. In addition post-medieval structural remains were uncovered.

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1 Introduction

Between 14th and 18th August 2006, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Norwood Road, March (NGR TL 4123 9772 – Fig 1) by staff of CAM ARC (formerly the Archaeological Field Unit). This revealed substantial survival of archaeological remains. Following discussions with Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA), a mitigation exercise involving re-design of part of the site to preserve the remains *in situ* was undertaken. In addition an excavation took place in the southern part of the development area between 11th and 16th September 2006, where the archaeological deposits were too shallow to allow preservation *in situ*.

The proposed development includes construction of 56 houses and the project was commissioned by Willmott Dixon.

This archaeological evaluation and excavation were undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by of the CAPCA; Planning Application, supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC. Since the construction programme on site had already commenced, no evaluation report was produced because of the tight deadline. By agreement with CAPCA, the results from three levels of investigation (namely evaluation, excavation and watching brief) are included in this report.

From the outset it was envisaged that the archaeological work undertaken would aid the identification of prehistoric and Roman remains on the gravel island of March. In view of the landscape context of the site and close proximity of salting sites and other prehistoric /Roman sites there was a high potential for the survival of archaeological remains. The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC.

2 Geology and Topography

The proposed development lies in the northern part of March on the glacial gravels. The site is located on a former low lying gravel capped island in the northern Cambridgeshire fen, on the 4m contour line. Glacial Till deposits are present across the site where there is a localised absence of March Gravels.

3 Archaeological Background

3.1 Prehistoric

Lying on an island in the fens, March has been a focus of settlement from the prehistoric times onwards. Stray Mesolithic & Neolithic finds have been made in the area (HER 05210 & 08455). Bronze Age implements have been found (HER 04588) and an Iron Age bowl recovered (HER 05922).

Cropmarks have been noted in the fields around March (eg HER 08976 & 09381) and the investigation of an earthwork site at Estover Road (ECB497 – James & More 1985) prior to residential development revealed Bronze Age and Late Iron Age activity followed by Roman enclosures.

The Fenland Survey (Hall 1987) suggests that this part of March was dry land throughout the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. By the Iron Age it appears that the land to the west was marsh/rough ground and there was an inlet, which probably ran close to the development area.

Most relevant to the site, at an evaluation and excavation at the Northern County Offices c.200m to the east (O'Brien & Keir 2002 & 2003), a number of Late Bronze Age–Mid Iron Age features were recorded including a 'crouched' inhumation. A further phase of activity covered the Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

Bronze Age and Roman features came from the Whitemoor Sidings site (ECB 2014 - Hall 2004) c 750m to the north whilst evidence of salt-making came from Cedar Close (ECB 1394) to the south-east of the site (Hickling 2003).

An evaluation at Creek Road (ECB 1321) produced undated ditches and pits, but these features are likely to be prehistoric (Kenney 2003).

3.2 Roman and later periods

Roman remains are frequent within this area, both from stray finds (eg HER 05905 & 05927) and during archaeological evaluations and excavations. The Fen causeway Roman Road runs to the east of the site and may have had a Romano-British origin.

An early Roman settlement and salt-making site was found at Longhill Road, north of the present development site (Atkins 2003).

Saxon and medieval evidence from March is sparse though the settlement is known to date from documentary sources. However the

land north of the River Nene, as the current site is, appears to have been meadows or fen on the basis of place names. A late medieval roadside drainage ditch was located at Grays Lane (Whittaker 1998).

4 Methodology

The evaluation

The objective of the evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.

Ten trenches totalling 330m length were excavated using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. After machining was completed the trenches were recorded using CAM ARC's standard archaeological recording systems.

Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

The excavation

The objective of the excavation was to preserve by record those archaeological deposits that could not be preserved *in situ*.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.

In this phase an area 28m by 29m was opened in the south-western part of the development area. The depth of overburden and the depth of the foundations of the housing development determined the location of the excavated area. After machining was completed the area was recorded using CAM ARC's standard archaeological recording systems.

Site location, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

5 Results of the evaluation

General

This evaluation has demonstrated the presence of prehistoric and Roman remains in the form of pits and field ditches (Figs 2 & 3).

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 20m long and varied in depth from 0.90m-0.95m. Significant prehistoric and Roman features uncovered in this trench included a large pit and boundary ditch.

In the western part of the trench a large pit (**11**) containing prehistoric flints was observed. The pit had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.65m wide and 0.61m deep and contained three fills (8, 9, 10). The lower fill (10) was dark grey clayey silt that contained occasional small gravel. Fill 9 was a mid grey silty clay which produced no artefacts. The upper fill (8) was a light brown grey clayey silt which contained worked flint and animal bone.

In the eastern part of the trench, a ditch (**7**) was uncovered. This was aligned north-west to south-east and contained Roman pottery. It measured 1m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a grey-green silty clay (6) with occasional gravel. This fill also contained animal bone. This ditch may represent part of a field boundary belonging to a large Roman field system.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was 15m long and varied from 0.85m-0.90m in depth and was located on a north to south alignment. It should be noted that this trench merged in with Trench 1 at its southern end.

The ditch measured 0.85m wide and 0.35m thick and truncated ditch (**13**). It contained a single mid grey/orange silty clay fill and had concave sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.30m wide and 0.11m deep and contained a single mid grey brown silty clay. The size and character of this ditch suggests it may have formed a Roman boundary ditch.

The most notable feature observed in this trench was a large ditch (**15**) which ran the length of the trench.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was 30m long and 0.70m deep and ran on an east-west alignment.

A number of archaeological features including postholes, a ditch, a beamslot and a possible pit were uncovered in this trench. In the western end of the trench a large pit (**41**) was revealed part of which ran into the southern and western end of the trench. It measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and contained mid orange grey silty clay fill (40). Finds recovered from this fill included pottery and animal bone.

In the centre of the trench an isolated posthole **45** was uncovered. This posthole had concave sides and measured 0.25m wide and 0.12m deep. It contained a single dark grey fill (44) which produced no finds.

Further to the east ditch **37**, posthole **43** and a possible gully (**39**) were identified. Ditch **37** ran from north to south and had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.65m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a single light grey silty clay fill (36). Posthole **43** measured 0.25m wide and 0.10m deep and contained a greyish brown silty clay. Gully **39** ran on a northwest-southeast alignment and had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.38m wide and 0.11m deep and contained a light orange grey clay sand fill (38).

Trench 4

Trench 4 was 50m long 0.80m deep and ran on a north-west to south-east alignment. Gully **63** measured 0.45m wide and 0.10m and ran on a north-south alignment. It contained a mid brown silty fill (62) with no inclusions or finds.

In the southern end of the trench an undated north-south aligned ditch (**65**) was identified. It measured 0.45m wide and 0.10m deep and contained a single mid brown silty sand.

The most notable observation in this trench was the presence of a large ditch (**73**) at the centre. This ditch measured 1.6m wide and 0.50m deep and produced no artefacts. The size and character of this ditch suggests a major field boundary. This ditch truncated small gully **63**.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was 30m long and 0.70m deep and ran on a north-east to south-west alignment. In the centre of the trench a ditch (**47**) measuring 0.90m wide and 0.18m deep was observed. This ditch had concave sides and a sloping base and contained a light grey clayey silt fill. In the north-eastern part of the trench a large ditch (**49**) was revealed that represents a field boundary. This ditch measured 0.70m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a light orange grey clay silt fill

(48). A modern pit truncated ditch **49**. This pit measured 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a light grey silty sand (50).

Trench 6

Trench 6 was 25m long 0.5m deep and ran on a north-east to south-west alignment. A significant number of features were observed in this trench including ditches (**55** and **35**), pits (**51** and **33**) and postholes (**57** and **59**).

In the south-west corner of the trench a boundary ditch (**55**) was revealed. It measured 0.70m wide and 0.30m thick and contained a pale greyish brown silty clay. To the east was a large pit (**51**) that had concave sides and sloping base. It measured 0.61m wide and 0.21m deep and contained a light grey silty sand fill (50). Further to the east ditch **35** truncated pit **51**. Ditch **35** was 0.87m wide and 0.37m deep and was located on a north-south alignment. It had concave sides and a sloping base and contained a single mid dark grey brown silty sand fill (34). To the east of ditch **35** was a large oval pit that was partially obscured by the edge of excavation. This pit (**33**) had concave sides and flatish base. It measured 0.50m wide and 0.07m deep and contained a mid grey silty sand (33).

In the centre of the trench was a square pit **23** which measured 0.70m wide and 0.25m deep. It contained a single dark brown silty fill (22) which produced a small fragment of Roman Niedermendig lava quern stone.

In the north-eastern part of the trench a group of postholes (**57**, **59** and **61**) were uncovered and formed some kind of undefined structure. Posthole **57** measured 0.22m wide and 0.10m deep and had concave sides and a sloping base. It contained a single dark brownish grey silty clay fill (56). Posthole **59** measured 0.20m wide and 0.15m deep and had concave sides and a sloping base. It contained a single dark brownish grey silty clay fill (58). Posthole **61** measured 0.19m wide and 0.17m deep and had concave sides and a sloping base. Its fill was a single dark brownish grey silty clay fill (60) which contained Roman pottery.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was 50m long 0.7m deep and ran on a north to south alignment. A number of undated features including a ditch, and postholes were identified in the centre of the trench.⁹ The most significant feature uncovered was a large boundary ditch (**27**) which ran on an east-west alignment. Ditch **27** had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 1.6m wide and 0.45m deep and contained two fills 26 and 66. The earliest fill (66) was a dark brown sandy clay which

produced. The uppermost fill was a mid grey silty clay which contained no artefacts. A sub-rectangular pit (**25**) was cut into ditch **27**. Pit **25** measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and had concave sides and a sloping base. It contained a single dark grey silty clay fill (**24**).

Other features uncovered in this trench included two postholes. Posthole **31** measured 0.15m wide and 0.30m deep and contained a single dark brown silty sand (**30**). Posthole **29** was 0.27m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was 15m long 0.7m deep and ran on a north to south alignment. A single unexcavated ditch (**68**) was identified in the southern part of the trench. This is on a very similar alignment to ditch **27**.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was 30m long and 0.60m deep and ran on a northwest-southeast alignment. A number of features were identified including a large ditch (**19**) in the centre of the trench and a small pit **21** in eastern part of the trench. Ditch **19** measured 0.50m deep and 1.5m wide and had concave sides and a sloping base. It contained three fills (**17**, **18** and **74**). The earliest fill (**74**) was a black clay silt (0.04 deep) which was rich in organic material. Fill **18** was a brown silty clay which was 0.28m deep with no inclusions. The uppermost fill (**17**) was a grey greenish silty clay which was 0.18m deep. The small pit **21** measured 0.50m wide and 0.37m deep and had concave sides and a sloping base. It contained a greyish brown silty sand fill (**20**) which had occasional gravel inclusions.

Ditch **19** represents post-medieval activity and pit **21** was undated.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was 30m long and 0.70m deep and was aligned on a northeast-southwest direction. In the centre of the trench a large ditch **71** was uncovered. A section was excavated across the ditch which was 1m wide and 0.70m deep. Two fills were identified (**69** and **70**). The lower fill (**69**) was 0.35m deep and consisted of a dark grey clay fill. The upper fill (**70**) was 0.35 dark brown silty clay.

6 Results of the excavation

The results of the excavation can be broadly divided into two distinctive periods; Late Iron Age and Roman, which are characterised by the ditches present across the excavated area, and post-medieval remains (Figs 4 & 5).

Late Iron Age and Roman

Ditches (229, 231 and 248)

The excavation revealed three parallel ditches (**229**, **231** and **248**) that roughly ran on a north-south alignment. These can be linked to the Iron Age /Roman field system which was identified in Trenches 6 and 7 in the evaluation.

On the basis of the alignments and other morphological characteristics it is possible to suggest that these ditches form two distinctive phases. Ditches **248** and **229** may form a coherent rectangular paddock within one coherent phase, while **231** represents a later phase. More precise phasing is hindered by the lack of finds.

A section was excavated across ditch **229** which measured 0.85m wide and 0.32m deep. This ditch had concave sides with a sloping base and contained two fills 227 and 228. The earliest fill 228 consisted of dark orange brown sandy clay with occasional stones. The uppermost fill 227 was a dark brown grey sandy clay and contained no finds.

In the south-western part of the development area a north-south aligned ditch (**248**) was identified. A section measured 1m wide and 0.05m deep was excavated across the ditch in the south-western part of the site. Its fill (247) was a light greyish brown silty clay which produced no finds.

A section measuring 1m wide and 0.32m was excavated across ditch **231**. This ditch contained a single dark orange brown sandy clay fill which contained no finds. It was 25m long and ran on a northwest-southeast alignment.

Post-Medieval

A series of postholes were identified in the southern part of the excavated area. The group of postholes that ran north-south (**246**, **244** and **224**) may represent a fence line or building. This alignment of postholes may in turn link in to the east-west group of postholes (**222**, **220**, **212**, and **210**) to form some kind of structure.

Postholes 246, 244 and 224

Posthole **246** was the most southerly posthole in this group. It measured 0.52m wide and 0.35m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. It was oval in plan and contained a single fill (245) which was a dark grey clay/silt. The character of the fill is very similar to other postholes within the southern part of the excavated area.

Further to the north was posthole (**244**). This was oval in plan and had concave sides with a flattish base. It measured 0.42m wide and 0.10m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay.

Posthole **224** was rectangular in plan and had concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.37m wide and 0.38m deep and contained a dark grey clay/silt (223). This posthole contained post-medieval building material.

Postholes 222, 220 212 210 and 202

This is an interesting group of postholes that ran on an east-west axis and may have formed a fence line relating to a post-medieval paddock field system or alternatively an ephemeral building. Of particular note was posthole **220**, which truncated ditch **231**, implying that the postholes are later than the ditch systems.

Posthole **222** located to the east of **224** was sub-rectangular in plan with concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.30m wide and 0.26m deep and contained a dark grey clay silt (223).

Further to the east was a sub-rectangular posthole (**220**) that had concave sides with a flatish base. It measured 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a dark grey clay silt (219). This posthole truncated ditch 231 and contained post-medieval finds.

Immediately to the east of ditch **231** was a sub-circular posthole (**212**). It measured 0.30m wide and 0.20m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. Its fill (211) was a dark grey clay silt with occasional small gravel. No finds were recovered from this context.

Approximately 2m to the east, posthole **212** was a sub-rounded posthole (**210**) with concave sides and flat base. It measured 0.30m wide and 0.20m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay fill (211). No finds were recovered from this context.

In the south-eastern corner of the site a circular posthole (**202**) which had concave sides and a flat base. Its fill (201) was a dark grey clay silt which contained occasional gravel.

Posthole 234, 236, 238 and 240

A number of postholes (**234, 236, 238 and 240**) were identified in the centre of the development area. This group of postholes are not as evenly spaced as postholes observed elsewhere.

Immediately to the east of ditch **231** was a sub-oval posthole (**234**) which had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.25m wide and 0.19m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay 233. Approximately 3m to the east of posthole **234** was an oval posthole (**236**) which had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.40m wide and 0.21m and contained a dark grey silty clay (235).

Further to the north of posthole (**236**) there is rectangular posthole (**338**) with concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.41m wide and 0.12m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay 337. Posthole **240** was 0.42m wide and 0.30m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay (239).

Other Features

Two shallow pits/natural features were identified across the excavated area. In the southern part of the site a large shallow pit (**216**) was investigated. This circular pit had very shallow sides with a flat base. It measured 1.3m wide 2.7m long and 0.03m deep and contained a dark grey silty clay. To the south of pit (**216**) was a shallow pit (**218**) which was 1.3m long 1.9m wide and 0.03m deep. It was irregular in plan with concave sides and a flat base. Its fill was a dark brown grey silty sand (217) with an abundant amount of small stones. No finds were recovered from this feature, which may have been a tree bowl or natural feature. In the north-west corner of the site, post-medieval sheep burial 252 was observed. The cut for this burial was 1.30m wide and 0.09m wide. It contained a dark grey silty clay which had a moderate amount of gravel. An articulated cow was also recorded.

7 Watching Brief

Between 2/10/06 and 3/10/06 CAM ARC conducted a Monitoring and Watching Brief of two service trenches in the western part of the development area. Observations of Trench 1 which ran on an east-west alignment highlighted a large ditch which was 2m wide and 0.7m deep. The fill of this ditch consisted of a dark grey silty clay with a moderate amount of gravel. This ditch is probably comparable with ditch **27** which was recognised in Trench 7.

8 Discussion

The evaluation demonstrated the presence of significant prehistoric and Roman remains including boundary ditches, postholes and pits. Most trenches contained archaeological features but the greater density of features were identified in the north-west corner of the development area (ie Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4). It should also be noted that significant remains in the form of undated ditches and postholes were identified in south-west corner of the site (Trenches 5 and 6).

Evidence from Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 is characteristic of a fen edge type landscape with ditches probably representing Iron Age and Roman field boundaries on the March gravel island. Ditches **71** and **19** (identified in Trenches 9 and 10) may represent post-medieval drainage ditches or roddons.

Despite the discovery of a number of features in the excavation, interpretation was hampered by the low density of finds (Appendices 1 & 2). The ditches encountered are likely to have formed part of a Late Iron Age/Early Roman agricultural landscape linked to the settlement of March.

One of the most significant observations in the excavation was a series of roughly parallel ditches. Their differing alignments and stratigraphic relationships imply several phases of field systems. It is possible that a Late Iron Age field system was superseded by a later Roman layout. The material culture recovered from these ditches was extremely limited considering the size of the area uncovered.

9 Conclusions

The project has made a limited contribution to the understanding of Prehistoric / Roman March. The most notable observation to emerge from the results of the evaluation was the presence of a Roman field/paddock type arrangement located in the north-west quarter of the site, in trenches 1, 2 and 4. It is likely that all ditches exposed in the evaluation and excavation are all part of a field system but those in the northern trenches are likely to be in close proximity to occupation and may have functioned as property boundaries, consequently filled with rubbish deposits.

There was evidence of prehistoric activity taking place in the north-west quarter of the site since one large pit in Trench 1 contained only struck flints.

There was a significant absence of Roman salt making on this site, which was surprising considering that neighbouring sites such as Longhill Road (Atkins 2003) and Creek Road (Kenny 2003) had evidence for large scale salt-making.

The excavation and watching brief added very little to the results of the evaluation. The most significant observation was a series of roughly parallel ditches. Many of the ditches revealed could be traced to the features in trenches in the evaluation.

Their differing alignments and stratigraphic relationships implied several phases of the field system. It is possible that a Late Iron Age field system was superseded by a later Roman layout.

10 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Willmott Dixon who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray. Thanks are also due to Louise Bush, Alex Howe, and Claire Martin, who assisted with the fieldwork and survey. Elizabeth Popescu was the editor, the illustrator was Séverine Bézie and Stephen Macaulay spot dated the pottery.




The brief for archaeological works was written by Adrian Scruby, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation and excavation.

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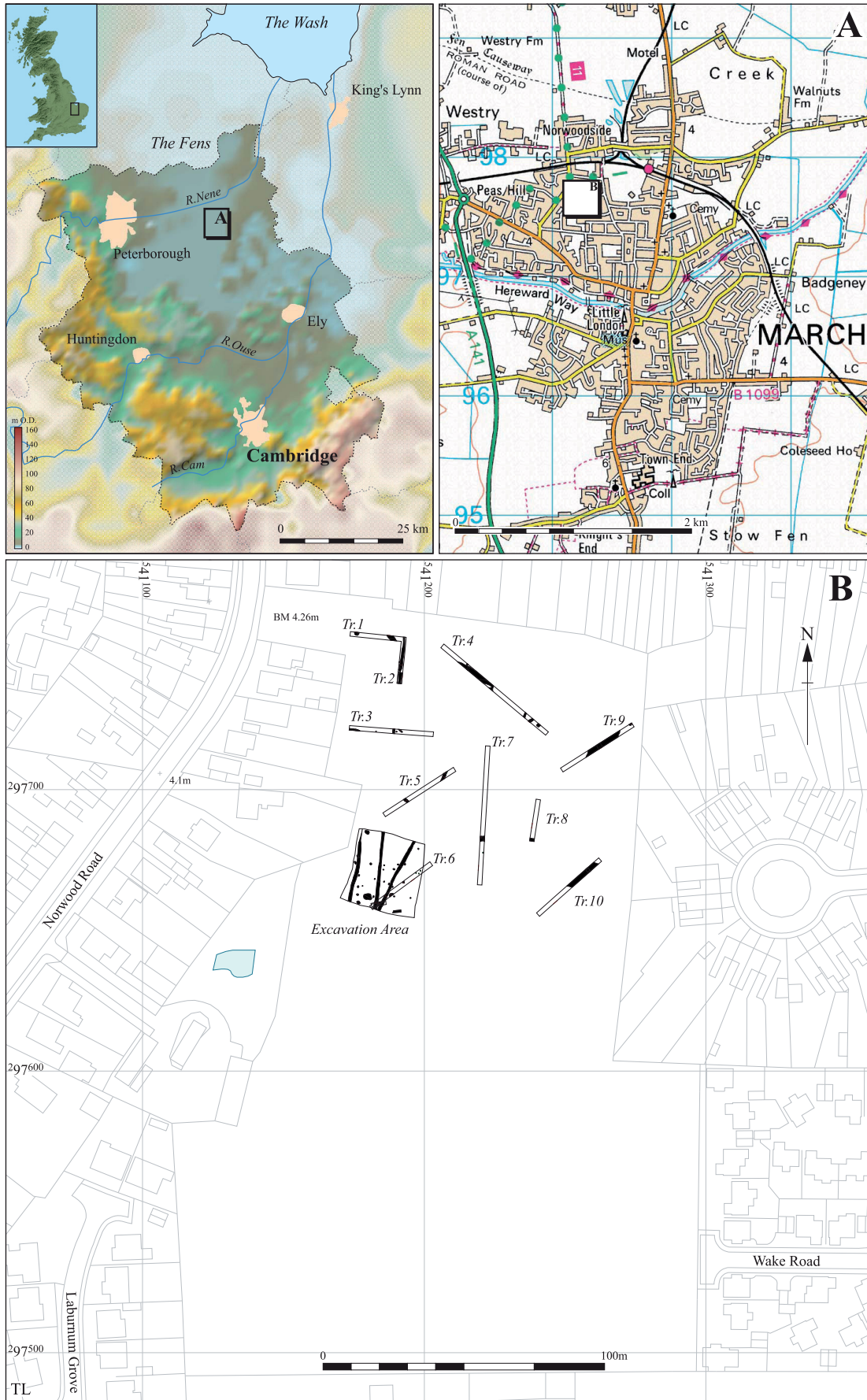
Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	_____
Deposit - Conjectured	-----
Natural Features	_____
Sondages/Machine Strip	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation
Illustrated Section	<u>S.14</u>
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Cut Number	118

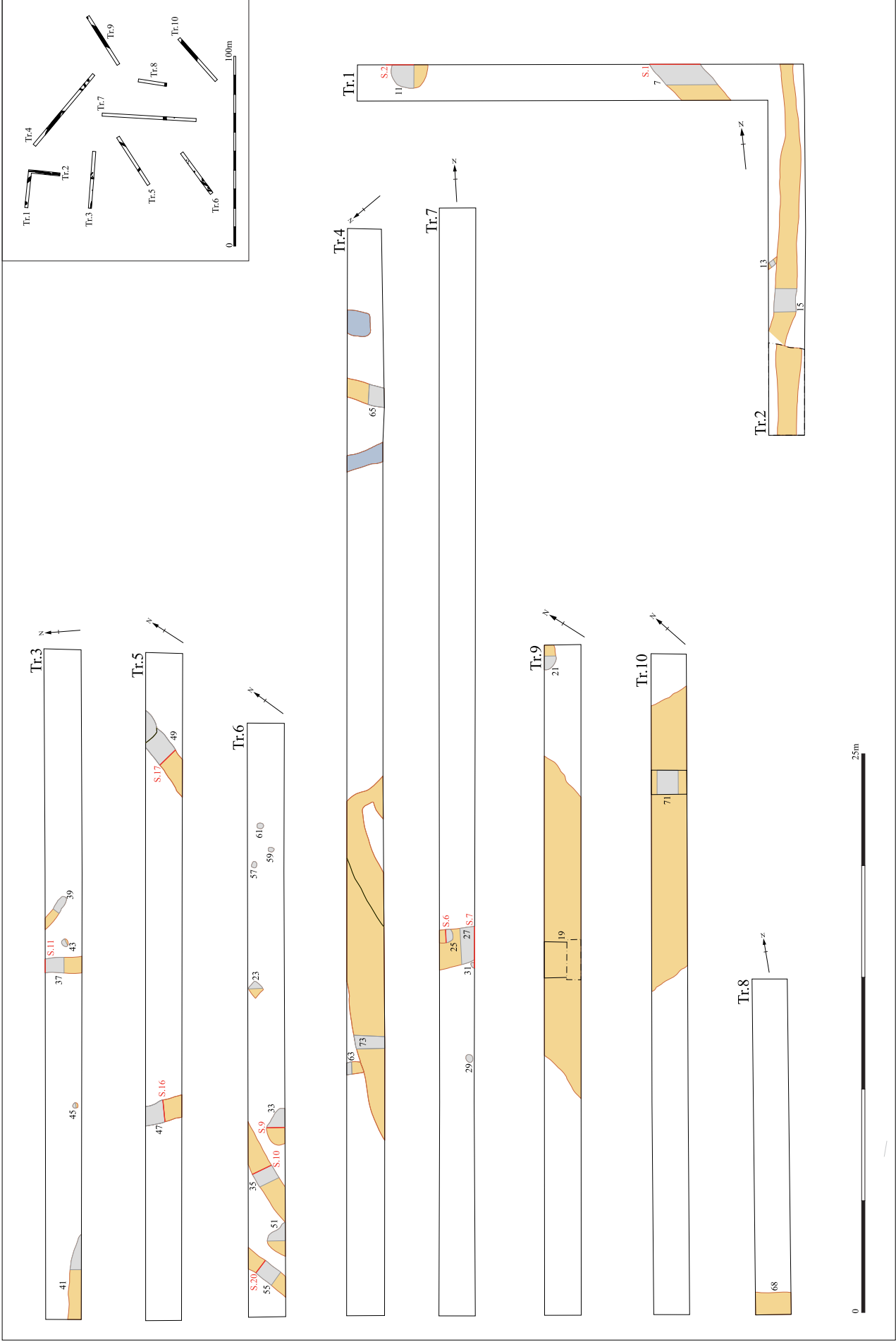
Sections

Limit of Excavation	-----
Cut	_____
Cut-Conjectured	-----
Deposit Horizon	_____
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	-----
Intrusion/Truncation
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	-----
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X
Inclusions	



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Figure 1: Location of excavation area and previous evaluation trenches (features in black)



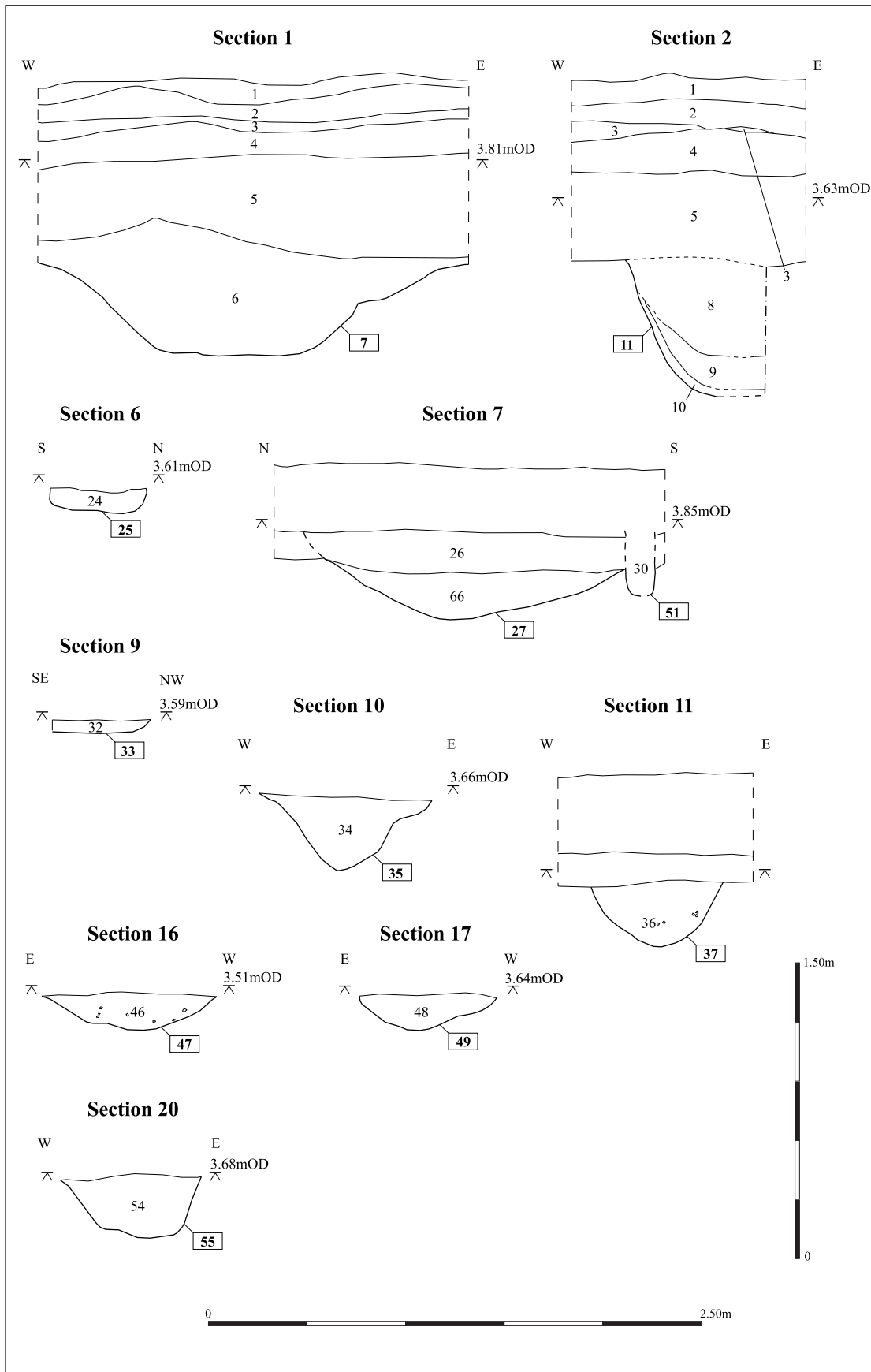


Figure 3: Section drawings - evaluation

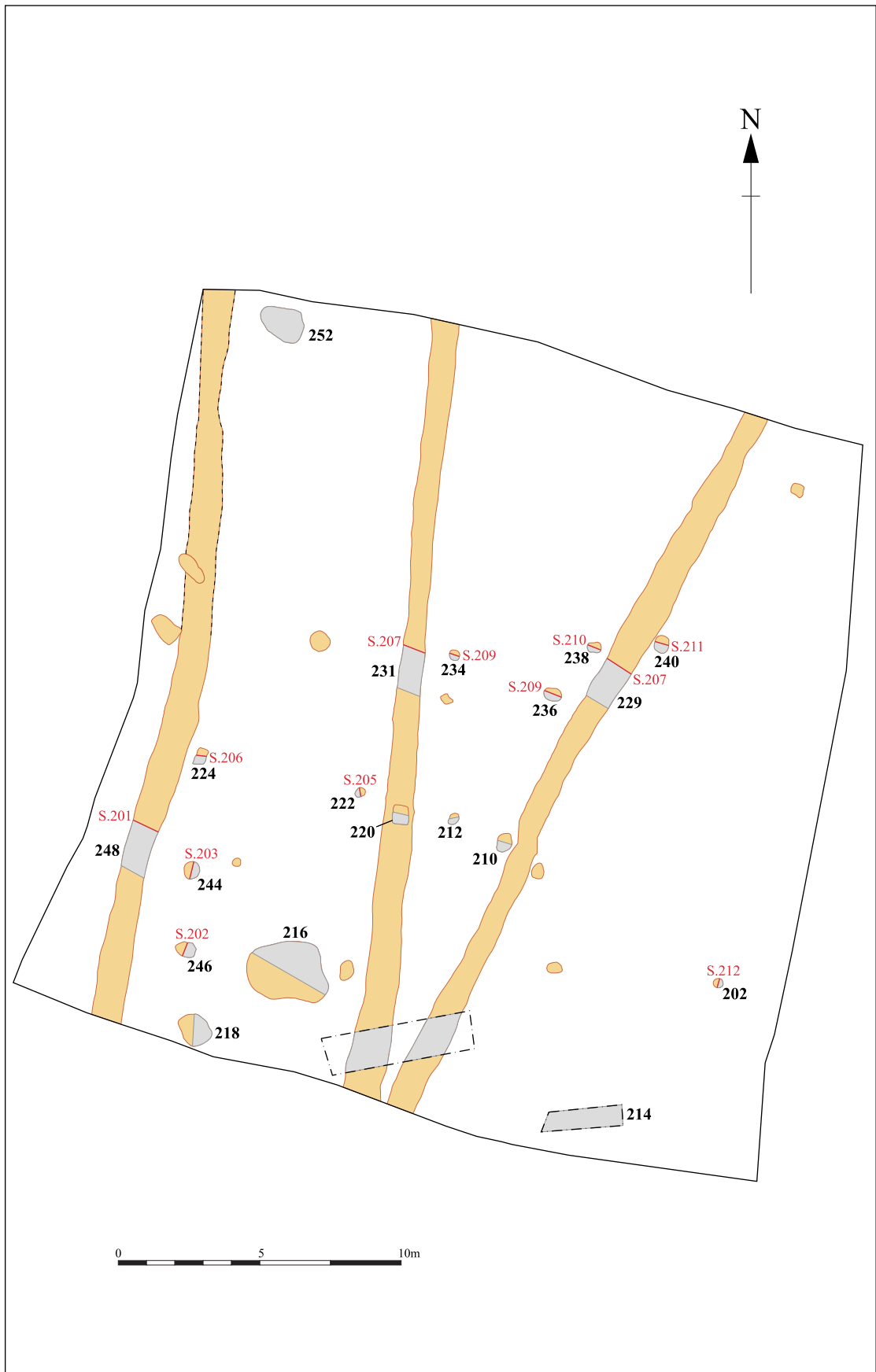


Figure 4: Plan of the excavation area

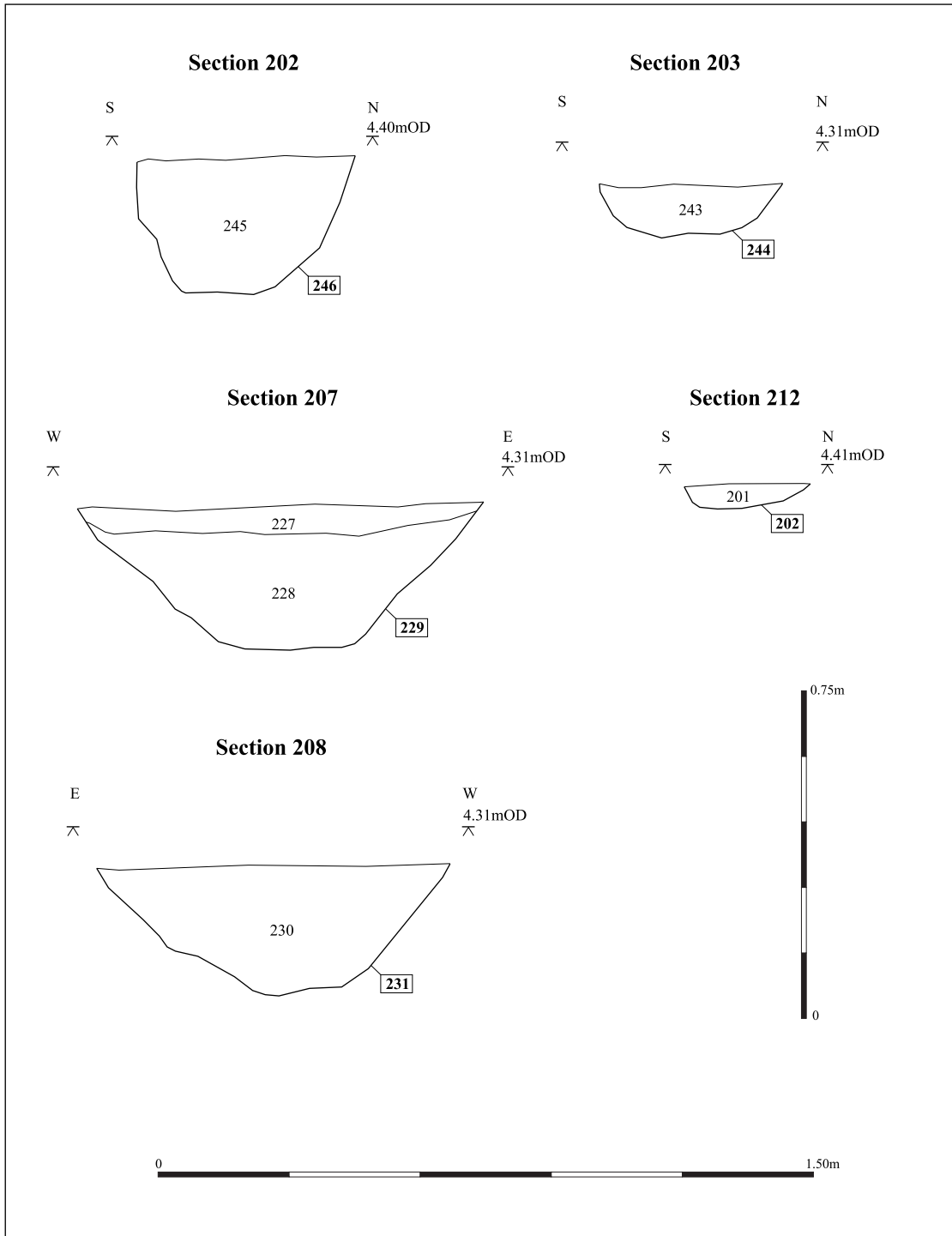


Figure 5: Section drawings - excavation

Appendix 1: Finds

Context	Material	Object Name	Wt (kg)
6	Ceramic	Vessel	0.334
6	Bone	Unworked	0.155
8	Bone	Unworked	0.010
8	Flint	Worked	0.006
22	Bone	Unworked	0.080
24	Glass		0.003
40	Bone	Unworked	0.073
40	Ceramic		0.271
60	Ceramic	Unworked	0.009
66	Ceramic	Vessel	1.594
66	Bone	Unworked	0.041
209	Ceramic	Vessel	0.012
211	Ceramic	Vessel	0.033
228	Flintc	Worked	0.020
233	Ceramic	Vessel	0.023
239	Bone	Unworked	0.002
239	Ceramic	Vessel	0.009
251	Bone	Unworked	9.110
251	Ceramic	Vessel	0.301

Appendix 2: Pottery Spotdating

By Stephen Macaulay

Context	Feature	Description	Context Date Range
06	Ditch 7	Grey Ware Hovingsea x2 Nene Valley Colour Coated Ware x1 Black Burnished Ware2 x1 Shelly ware x1 Nene Valley x1	Mid 2 nd century

This small 2nd to 3rd century Roman assemblage came exclusively from one pit in the north-western part of the site in an area characterised by a high density of features. The vessels identified include some fine table wares and coarse domestic kitchen wares.

In addition small fragments of post-medieval pottery was recovered from contexts 22 (pit 23), 66 (ditch 27) and 60 (posthole 61).

No pottery was recovered from the excavation.

Appendix 3: Lithics

A small Bronze Age assemblage of worked lithics was recovered from the fill of a pit in trench 1 from the evaluation. All of the flints originate from local gravel deposits which make up the March island. All the flints are waste flints and they are not all from the same episode. Some of the flints have evidence of recortication.

Context	Feature	Description	Context Date Range
08	Pit 11	Waste flints x3 Struck flints x1	Bronze Age

Appendix 4: Faunal remains

By Chris Faine

Introduction

A total of 118 “countable” bones were recovered from 4 contexts with 53 fragments being unidentifiable to species (30% of the total sample). The condition of the assemblage is good albeit extremely fragmented in many cases, with the majority of fragmentation being attributed to both butchery and other taphonomic processes.

Methodology

All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. All elements identifiable to species and over 25% complete were included in the database. Loose teeth, caudal vertebra and ribs without proximal epiphyses were noted but not included in any quantification. Elements not identifiable to species were classed as “large/medium/small mammal” but again not included in any quantification. Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Tooth wear was assessed using Grant (1982). Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see Table 1).

Any instances of butchery were noted and recorded using a separate table from the main database. The type of lesion, its position, severity and direction were all noted. The presence of any further taphonomy,

i.e. burning, gnawing etc was also noted. A separate table for any pathology, giving the position and type of lesion was also used.

The assemblage

Table 1 shows the species distribution for the entire assemblage. Cattle remains make up the vast majority of the assemblage (89% of the identifiable sample). The rest of the assemblage is made up of the domestic mammals (sheep/goat & pig), along with smaller amounts of dog. The largest number of identifiable fragments originates from context **251**. These largely consist of cattle remains. Two individuals were recovered; one aged around 7 to 10 months, the other around 2 years of age. No evidence of butchery was found apart from a single chop mark on the mandibular ramus of the older specimen. Elements recovered from both individuals represent a broad range of body parts, including limbs and elements of the axial skeleton. In addition to these two individuals context **251** also contained the butchered calcaneus of an adult pig and the mandible of a sheep of around 1½ years of age.

The remaining contexts yielded only small amounts of bone. Context **6** contained the badly preserved radius and humerus of an adult dog. Context **66** contained the butchered mandible of female pig of around 1½ to 2 years old. Context **40** contained a single portion of cattle radius.

Discussion

The small sample size means that very little further information can be gained from the assemblage. However, the relative completeness of the two cattle skeletons from context **251** and the lack of butchery may possibly suggest deliberate deposition.

References

Dobney, K & Reilly, K. 1988. A method for recording archaeological animal bones: the use of diagnostic zones. *Circaea* 5(2): 79-96

Grant, A. 1982. The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates. In B. Wilson, C. Grigson & S. Payne (eds.) *Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites*. Oxford: BAR British Series 199.

	NISP	NISP%	MNI	MNI%
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	105	89	2	33.3
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	9	7.6	2	33.3
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	2	1.7	1	16.7
Dog (<i>Canis familiaris</i>)	2	1.7	1	16.7
Total	118	100	6	100

Table1: Species distribution for entire assemblage

Appendix 5: Environmental Assessment

by Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

Four bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. A further two samples were taken from the subsequent excavation of the site. The majority of the samples were taken from ditches. One pit was also sampled.

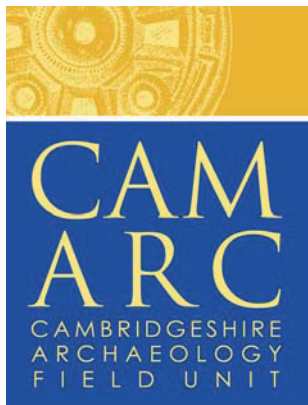
Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts is noted in Table 2

2 Results

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Context Type	Flot vol (ml)	Charred Plant remains	Charcoal	Finds in residue
1	50	55	Ditch	1	-	+	-
2	14	15	Ditch	1	-	+	-
3	6	7	Ditch	4	+	+	-
4	10	11	Pit	8	+	++	Pottery
201	228	229	Ditch	2	-	-	Fragment of cockle shell
202	230	231	Ditch	1	-	+	-

Table2: Environmental samples from MAR NOR 06

Preservation is by charring and flecks of charcoal were present in most of the samples. Sample 4 is entirely comprised of charcoal with a significant volume of 8ml. The only plant macrofossils recovered were fragments of cereal grains that were present in low quantities in Samples 3 and 4.



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