Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norfolk

An Archaeological Evaluation

Matthew Collins

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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Illustrations by Bryan Crossan and Jane Matthews

Cambridge Archaeological Unit
University of Cambridge
Department of Archaeology

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Non Technical Summary

Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation on land located at the western periphery of the village of Blofield, Norfolk; between the 23rd of August and 1st of September 2011. A geophysics survey had identified potential features which several of the trenches targeted, whilst the remaining trenches were evenly distributed across the proposed development area. Several undated and post-medieval ditches and other features were recorded, whilst adjacent to Yarmouth Road a series of medieval ditches, gullies and small pits were present.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) between the 23rd August and 1st of September 2011 on land towards the western periphery of the village of Blofield, Norfolk prior to the application for planning permission for a mixed housing and industrial development. Commissioned by Smith of Honingham, the evaluation aimed to establish the presence, date, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains. The evaluation was carried out and this report was produced in accordance with an archaeological specification written by the CAU (Dickens 2011) in response to a brief by the Archaeological Planning Team at Norfolk County Council. The specification and evaluation were approved and monitored by an Archaeological Officer from that team.

Location, Topography and Geology

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is centred on TL 3290 0970 and covers *c.*9.9 hectares. It is located on agricultural land on the western periphery of the village of Blofield, Norfolk and is bordered by Yarmouth Road (the former route of the A47 between Norwich and Great Yarmouth) to the south and the A47 to the north. To the east lies a residential area, and to the west there is a mixture of housing and commercial property, (see Figures 1 and 2). The PDA is situated on undulating ground with a significant slope rising up from the west and a natural hollow located along the north central edge. The height varies from 16.05m OD at the south-western edge to 16.82m across the central area, to 14.81m OD at the base of the hollow to 18.20m OD towards the eastern limit of the PDA and to 19.47 at the southeast corner adjacent to Yarmouth Road.

The underlying geology is Norwich Crag, with surface drift deposits derived from the Happisburgh Glacigenic Diamicton (boulder clay) and sand (Dickens 2011). The underlying geology revealed in the trenches showed a shift from soft sand with very frequent gravel and flint inclusions in the western trenches, to firmer clayey sand with a much lower gravel and flint frequency in the central and eastern trenches.

Archaeological Background

The PDA is located in a landscape with known archaeological remains, for instance within a 5km radius of the site, 892 finds spots and sites of archaeological and historical interest are recorded on the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and include evidence ranging from the early prehistoric through to the post-medieval and modern eras. A CAU desk-based assessment (Appleby 2010) highlighted many of these, for example; several finds spots close to the PDA include prehistoric flints recovered from the garden of a house bordering the site (NHER 25316); three or four probable Bronze Age ring-ditches *c.*750 southwest of the PDA (NHER 49562); and an extensive series of undated cropmarks indicating rectangular enclosures and linear ditches (NHER 45138-45140) located on the opposing side of the A47. A geophysical survey carried out across the PDA (Bartlett 2011) showed a probable rectilinear enclosure along the northern edge of the area together with several other linear features which are potentially linked to those cropmarks.

The village of Blofield itself is mentioned in the Domesday Book and grew wealthy during the medieval period, primarily from the wool trade. The local manor was owned by the Bishops of Norwich until the 1530's when it passed into private hands and a suggested site for the manorial complex is just to the south of Yarmouth Road, where cropmarks and earthworks are visible. Small excavations within this area have uncovered medieval course-wares and glazed Grimston-ware pot, together with mortar fragments and wall plaster seemingly confirming this, (NHER 12445), although a larger excavation within this area found few features or artefacts relating to this period (Penn 2000). The extent of the medieval activity still remains unclear, although the farm directly opposite the entrance to the PDA is called Manor Farm, suggesting the possibility of manorial related activity close to the road.

Yarmouth Road itself is the former route of the A47, the main route between Norwich and Great Yarmouth and was noted as a post-medieval turnpike.

Methodology

The PDA was evaluated by 20 trenches totalling 760m in length (a 2% sample of the area). Many of the trenches targeted potential archaeological features which had been identified during a geophysical survey (Bartlett 2011), whilst the remaining trenches were placed to evenly sample the area. Due to the presence of public footpaths, several of the trenches were shortened or split where appropriate.

Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist, with a tracked 8-ton 360^{o} machine using a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket. A datasheet detailing the characteristics of each trench was generated and a digital photographic record taken. Soil removed during machining and all exposed features were scanned by metal detector and bulk environmental samples were taken where appropriate. Excavation of archaeological features was carried out using hand tools, with one metre slots excavated in ditches, pits/postholes half sectioned and ambiguous natural features tested. The recording followed a CAU modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990) whereby feature numbers, F. were assigned to stratigraphic events and numbers [fill] or [cut] to individual contexts. The evaluation trenches were planned at 1:50 and individual sections drawn at 1:10.

All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation and with the recommendations of FAME (Allen & Holt 2010) and in accordance with a site specific risk assessment and the CAU Health and Safety policy. The site code and event number are ENF127742.

Archive

A total of 104 contexts from 37 features were excavated and recorded and artefacts including Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pot, tile and brick, animal bone, a quern stone fragment and prehistoric worked flint were recovered and catalogued. The documentary records and accompanying artefacts have been assembled into a catalogued archive in line with Appendix 6 of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and are being stored at the CAU offices.

Results

Metal Detecting Survey

All topsoil and the surface of features were scanned with a metal detector; however the very few artefacts identified were modern and included shotgun cartridges and pieces of iron relating to farm machinery. These were all discarded.

Trenches

During the machining process, the topsoil was scanned by eye for finds, and a low density of worked flint dating from the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic through to the Early Bronze Age (see Appendix 1) was observed within this layer, together with occasional brick/tile and post-medieval pot. The worked flint was in sufficiently low quantities to suggest a transitory or low level amount of activity during those periods within the PDA, and no cut features could be specifically dated to these phases. Several trenches, including Trenches 11, 12b, 13, 16, 19 and 20b contained no archaeological features or deposits and Trench 17 only contained a modern water-pipe. Trench 11 was shortened because towards the northwest the trench sloped steeply downwards into a natural hollow which had subsequently filled with colluvial (hill-wash) deposits. Test-pit 1 was excavated towards the original northwest end of this trench and showed the colluvial deposits to be upto 1m deep and consisting of a sterile mid-dark orange-brown sand (see Figure 6).

Potential features which were identified by the geophysics were targeted by Trenches 1, 4-7, 10, 12a and 18. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 targeted the same northeast-southwest orientated ditch, **F.4**, which also potentially formed the southeast arm of a possible enclosure. This feature averaged 1.10m wide and 0.38m deep and each of the three slots demonstrated an area of rooting and disturbance on their northwest side suggesting the presence of a former hedge-line. The only artefacts recovered from all three slots were two small abraded sherds of pot which could only be dated as Romano-British.

Trench 7 targeted two ditches, **F.33** and **F.34**, which appeared from the geophysics results to form part of an enclosure. **F.33** was a relatively broad but shallow feature measuring 1.45m wide and 0.36m deep, with a disturbed/rooted base and containing a single sherd of Romano-British pot. **F.34** was a more substantial and better defined feature, although clearly dated from the post-medieval period and contained tile, brick and glazed pottery. Trench 4 targeted ditch **F.1** which was very similar in appearance to **F.34** and contained post-medieval tile, whilst the targeted feature within Trench 10 was not present. The ditch targeted in Trench 12a was also not present, although during the machining process, three small parallel gullies on a northeast-southwest alignment were identified cutting from the subsoil layer, so due to their shallow nature this trench was not machined down to the underlying geology. Two of these features, **F.26** and **F.27** were excavated and contained a small quantity of Romano-British pot and Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age worked flint (see Appendix 1). The targeted ditch in Trench 18 (**F.13**) was identified, together with a more substantial, parallel ditch **F.14** which had posthole **F.15** adjacent to it. No artefacts were recovered from any of these features and the fills were pale and sterile suggesting they are some distance from any related settlement activity.

Features not identified in the geophysics results were present in Trenches 2, 3, 9, 14, 15 and 20b. Trench 2 contained a mid sized undated pit, **F.9**, whilst a small undated ditch, **F.2**, and a large medieval quarry pit, **F.3**, was present in Trench 3. A relatively substantial, undated ditch, **F.10**, was present at the northwest end of Trench 9, and a small, circular pit, **F.8**, and possible ditch **F.7** were present approximately midway along this trench. Both of these features were undated, and **F.10** was quite ephemeral and is potentially a natural feature. Ditch **F.10** is very similar in form and profile to the ditch seen in Trenches 15 and 20b (**F.20**) and is potentially the same feature. **F.20** appeared to meander within the trench and a single, abraded sherd of Romano-British pot was recovered from the upper fill, although it is unclear if this is residual.

Trench 8, located adjacent to Yarmouth Road, contained the highest concentration of archaeology observed across the whole PDA. Fifteen features including seven pits, five ditches and three gullies were present (see Figure 4) and most could be dated to the medieval period, *c.*12-13th century AD. None of these features had been detected by the geophysical survey as the layer of hardcore which covers this part of the site, and nearby gas pipe obscured the results. The seven pits were all relatively small and contained low densities of artefacts, apart from **F.12** from which pot, burnt clay/daub and a quern stone fragment were recovered suggesting nearby domestic activity. A bulk environmental sample taken from this feature yielded poor results with only three cereal grains, three wild plant seeds and a low quantity of charcoal recovered; despite the good preservation conditions (see Appendix 2). Three of the ditches were aligned north-south and perpendicular to Yarmouth Road, whilst the remaining linears had varying orientations, including ditch **F.16** which appeared to be curving and clearly cut ditch **F.17**, suggesting at least two different phases of medieval activity here. The individual trench, feature and context results are summarised in Appendix 3.

Discussion

The geophysical survey appears to have given a broadly accurate picture of the density of archaeology with the PDA, with only very few features not seen on that survey identified and recorded. The noticeable exception to this was Trench 8 where the survey results were hindered by a layer of hardcore and a nearby gas pipe. Overall, apart from Trench 8, there was also a very low density of artefacts recovered from features across the site. The possible enclosure and associated ditches identified through the geophysics cannot be definitively dated due to the lack of finds, although the occasional sherd of Romano-British pot recovered does suggest these features date to that period. The low number of finds suggests these features are peripheral to any settlement activity, which is probably related to the dense cropmarks observed on the opposing side of the A47 (NHER 45138-45140).

The three parallel, probable Romano-British gullies, seen in Trench 12a are potentially planting beds typical of this period, and have been noted on several East Anglian sites including Milton Landfill north of Cambridge (Collins 2011), where a series of these features extend over a large area. The lack of evidence for similar features in the nearby trenches suggests these features have either been largely truncated away through ploughing or only extend over a limited area.

Medieval activity seen in Trench 8 is potentially limited to an area next to Yarmouth Road as nearby trenches contained no evidence for activity dating to that period. Furthermore, the relatively steep incline towards the south-western half of the PDA would probably limit any further activity in that direction. However, the exact extent of this activity is unclear as further trenching just to the north was not feasible at this stage due to the presence a gas main. The medieval features are potentially linked to the medieval moated manor located to the south of Yarmouth Road or alternatively represent a previously unidentified western extension of the medieval village of Blofield.

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Appendix 1 – Worked Flint

Lawrence Billington

A small assemblage of 11 worked flints was recovered from the excavations at Blofield, (Table 1). The worked flint is dominated by material derived from secondary sources, generally a translucent grey/brown in colour with hard and abraded cortical surfaces. The material is in relatively fresh condition with only minor edge damage and no recortication.

Trench no.	Context	primary flake	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade/bladelet	tested nodule	totals, worked flint
2	F. 9	1			1		**2**
12	F. 26			2	1		**3**
13	surface		2				**2**
17	surface		1		1		**2**
	F. 39		1			1	**2**
	totals	**1**	**4**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**11**

Table 1: The worked flint assemblage

The assemblage includes a high proportion of pieces deriving from a structured blade based reduction strategy of Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic date. This early material includes three bladelets, one collected from the surface of Trench 17, one from **F.9** and one from **F.26**, which also contained a small tertiary flake with fine platform trimming and negative blade scars on its dorsal surface. The remainder of the assemblage consists of unretouched flake based removals, none of which are strongly diagnostic. Some of these, notably two secondary flakes from the surface of Trench 13 and a broad flake with a cortical platform from **F.39**, are crude and unsystematically produced. Several of the remaining pieces, however, including flakes from Trench 17 and **F.26** are relatively fine. Whilst it is possible these pieces are broadly contemporary with the systematically produced blade based removals recovered, they could also reflect activity in the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age.

Appendix 2 – Bulk Environmental Sample

Anne de Varielles

Methodology

A sample from the 12th-13th century road-side pit was taken to assess the condition and types of finds therein. The sample was processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine. The flot was collected in a 300µm aperture mesh and the remaining heavy residue washed over a 1mm mesh. Both the flot and heavy residue were dried indoors prior to analysis. Sorting of the flot and identification of macro remains were carried out under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification). Identifications were made using the reference collection of the G. Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, university of Cambridge. The >4mm fraction of the heavy residue was sorted by eye by F.Cox and only contained a little burnt stone. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000)

for cereals and Stace (1997) for all other flora. All environmental remains are listed in Table 2.

Preservation and Results

The sample generated a small flot with a very low volume of charcoal, most of which is smaller than 2mm across. Three cereal grains were found along with three common wild plant seeds. They are in relatively good condition, suggesting the pit is unlikely to have contained a much richer assemblage of plant remains. Snails were completely absent but intrusive rootlets do indicate a low level of soil disturbance.

Discussion

Although the absolute quantity of archaeobotanical remains is low, seeds have not been damaged too adversely since deposition. Preservation of plant macro remains is probably quite good across the site and discreet layers should be chosen for further sampling, with the site's spatial arrangement and economy in mind. Environmental indicators such as mollusca, pollen, insects and waterlogged seeds are probably absent across the dry and sandy area. These ecofacts however, may exist in the more clay-rich zone where samples could be taken for information on the cultural and natural environments

Sample number		4
Context		140
Feature		12
Feature type		Pit
Phase/Date		Med.
Sample volume - litres		8
Charcoal volume - mililitres, estimates		<1ml
Flot fraction examined - %		100
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++
Cereal grains and chaff		
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	hulled barley grain	1
Hordeum / Triticum sp.	barley or wheat grain	1
indeterminate cereal grain fragments		1
Non Cereal seeds		
Atriplex patula / prostrata	Oraches	1
Brassica / Sinapis sp.	Cabbage / Mustard	1
Large Poaceae	large wild grass seed	1
Modern rootlets		P

Table 2: Charred Plant Macro Remains from the Bulk Soil Samples
Key: '-' 1 or 2, '+' 3-10, '++' 11-50, '+++' >50 items. P = present

Appendix 3 – Trench, Feature and Context Tables

Trench 1								
General Description							**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 1 contained ditch F.4 and undated posthole F.5.							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.34
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0 - 0.15
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	24.75
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
4	Ditch	SW-NE	118	F	-	-	None	Undated
			119	F	-	-	None	
			120	C	1.10	0.22	-	
5	Posthole	Circular	109	F	-	-	None	Undated
			110	C	0.55	0.13	-	

Trench 2								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 2 contained medium sized, undated pit F.9							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.25
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	24.50
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
9	Pit	Oval	125	F	-	-	FL	Undated
			126	C	1.05	0.37	-	

Trench 3								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 3 contained a small, irregular ditch/possible treethrow F.2 and a probable medieval quarry pit, F.3. Very shallow trench with no subsoil.							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	N/A
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	23.50
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
2	Ditch	SW-NE	113	F	-	-	None	Undated
			114	C	1.30	0.31	-	
3	Quarry Pit	Oval	115	F	-	-	PT	Medieval
			116	F	-	-	None	
			117	C	1.95	0.48	-	

Trench 4								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 4 contained moderate sized, probable post-medieval ditch F.1.							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.21
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	24.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
1	Ditch	SE-NW	111	F	-	-	TL	Post-medieval
			112	C	1.05	0.40	-	

Trench 5								
General Description							**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 5 contained a continuation of undated ditch F.4 with adjacent, parallel hedgeline F.6							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.26
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	24.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
4	Ditch	SW-NE	107	F	-	-	None	Undated
			108	C	1.10	0.32	-	
6	Hedge-line	SW-NE	105	F	-	-	None	Undated
			106	C	0.50	0.15	-	

Trench 6								
General Description							**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 6 contained a continuation of undated ditch F.4							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.40
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.16
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	25.20
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
			102	F	-	-	PT	Undated
4	Ditch	SW-NE	103	F	-	-	None	
			104	C	1.00	0.60	-	

Trench 7								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 7 contained two ditches, F.33 and F.34 and treethrow F.35							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.34
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.39
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	26.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
33	Ditch	SE-NW	185	F	-	-	PT, TL	Romano-British?
			186	F	-	-	None	
			187	C	1.45	0.34	-	
34	Ditch	SE-NW	188	F	-	-	PT, TL	Post-medieval
			189	C	1.00	0.55	-	
35	Tree-Throw	Irregular	198	F	-	-	PT	Romano-British?
			199	C	N/A	N/A	-	

Trench 8								
General Description							**Orientation**	W-E
Trench 8 contained 15 features including seven pits; F.11, F.12, F.18, F.20, F.21, F.31, F.32, five ditches; F.16, F.17, F.23, F.24, F.28 and three gullies; F.19, F.22, F.29. A layer of hardcore had been placed over this trench and the underlying deposits were highly compacted.							**Hardcore Depth (m)**	0.20
							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	49.20
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
11	Pit	Circular	136	F	-		None	Medieval
			137	F	-		None	
			138	F	-	-	None	
			139	C	1.15	0.50	-	
12	Small Pit	Circular	140	F	-	-	BC, PT, WS	Medieval
			141	F	-	0.70	None	
			142	C	0.87	0.35	-	
16	Ditch	SW-NE	150	F	-	-	FL, PT, BS	Medieval
			151	F	-	-	FL, PT	
			152	C	0.77	0.28	-	
17	Ditch	S-N	153	F	-	-	BS	Medieval
			154	F	-	-	None	
			155	C	0.82	0.16	-	
18	Small Pit	Circular	156	F	-	-	None	Undated
			157	C	1.00	0.14	-	
19	Gully	S-N	158	F	-	-	PT	Medieval
			159	C	0.60	0.15	-	
20	Small Pit	Oval	160	F	-	-	PT	Medieval
			161	F	-	-	None	
			162	C	0.74	0.43	-	
21	Posthole	Circular	163	F	-	-	None	Medieval
			164	C	0.30	0.14	-	
22	Gully	S-N	165	F	-	-	BC	Medieval
			166	C	0.38	0.06	-	
23	Ditch	SW-NE	167	F	-	-	PT	Medieval
			168	F	-	-	None	
			169	F	-	-	None	
			170	C	0.70	0.37	-	
24	Ditch	SW-NE	171	F	-	-	PT	Medieval
			172	F	-	-	None	
			173	C	0.85	0.46	-	
28	Ditch	S-N	181	F	-	-	FE	Medieval
			182	F	-	-	BN	
			183	C	0.90	0.35	-	
29	Gully	S-N	190	F	-	-	None	Medieval
			191	C	0.73	0.36	-	
31	Small Pit	Circular	194	F	-	-	None	Undated
			195	C	0.76	0.30	-	
32	Small Pit	Circular	196	F	-	-	None	Undated
			197	C	0.57	0.14	-	

Trench 9								
General Description							**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 9 contained two ditches and a small pit							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.19
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	49.40
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
7	Ditch	SW-NE	127	F	-	-	None	Undated
			128	C	0.82	0.18	-	
8	Small Pit	Circular	129	F	-	-	None	Undated
			130	C	0.55	0.10	-	
10	Ditch	SW-NE	131	F	-	-	None	Undated
			132	F	-	-	None	
			133	C	1.40	0.47	-	

Trench 10								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 10 contained a treethrow							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.27
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	54.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
37	Tree-Throw	Irregular	202	F	-	-	BS	Undated
			203	F	-	-	None	
			204	C	0.80	0.19	-	

Trench 11								
General Description							**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 11 was shortened from 50m to 15m due to the preseence of a public footpath and increasing depth of colluvium deposits. No archaeological features were present.							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.19
							Colluvium Depth (m)	0 - 0.18
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	15.00

Trench 12a								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 12, due to the presence of a public footpath was divided in two. The machining level of trench 12a was left purposely high because three parallel, shallow gullies cut into the subsoil.							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.29
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	13.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
26	Gully	SW-NE	177	F	-	-	FL, PT	Undated
			178	C	0.60	0.18	-	
27	Gully	SW-NE	179	F	-	-	None	Undated
			180	C	0.60	0.18	-	

Trench 12b		
General Description	**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 12b contained no archaeological features or deposits	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.27
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	25.00

Trench 13		
General Description	**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 13 slopes downwards towards the northwest end of the trench resulting in a build-up of colluvium at this end. No archaeological featurers were present.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Colluvium Depth (m)	0 - 0.35
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	48.50

Trench 14								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 14 contained a ditch, F.30 and pit, F.36. The southwest end of this trench was cut short due to the presence of a public footpath.							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	45.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
30	Ditch	SE-NW	192	F	-	-	None	Undated
			193	C	1.20	0.40	-	
36	Pit	Oval	200	F	-	-	None	Undated
			201	C	1.75	0.30	-	

Trench 15		
General Description	**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 15 contained a single, unexcavated ditch which was also seen in Trench 20.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	49.50

Trench 16		
General Description	**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 16 contained no archaeological features or deposits.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.37
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.18
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	49.00

Trench 17		
General Description	**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 17 contained a single modern plastic water pipe. This service had not been identified from the service plans. No archaeological features or deposits were present.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.33
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.19
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	51.00

Trench 18								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 19 contained two parallel ditches, F.13 and F.14 and posthole F.15							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.35
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.22
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	49.50
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
13	Ditch	SE-NW	143	F	-	-	None	Undated
			144	C	1.38	0.30	-	
14	Ditch	SE-NW	145	F	-	-	None	Undated
			146	F	-	-	None	
			147	C	1.90	0.56	-	
15	Posthole	Circular	148	F	-	-	None	Undated
			149	C	0.35	0.12	-	

Trench 19		
General Description	**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench 19 contained no archaeological features or deposits.	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.38
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.17
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	48.60

Trench 20a		
General Description	**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 20, due to the presence of a public footpath was divided in two. No archaeological features or deposits were present in Trench 20a	**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.18
	Width (m)	1.80
	Length (m)	18.00

Trench 20b								
General Description							**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench 20b contained moderate side ditch, F.25.							**Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)**	0.32
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.16
							Width (m)	1.80
							Length (m)	23.00
Feature No.	**Feature Type**	**Shape/ Orientation**	**Context No.**	**Cut/Fill**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Artefacts**	**Archaeological Period**
20	Ditch	SW-NE	174	F	-	-	None	Undated
			175	F	-	-	FL, PT	
			176	C	0.70	0.43	-	

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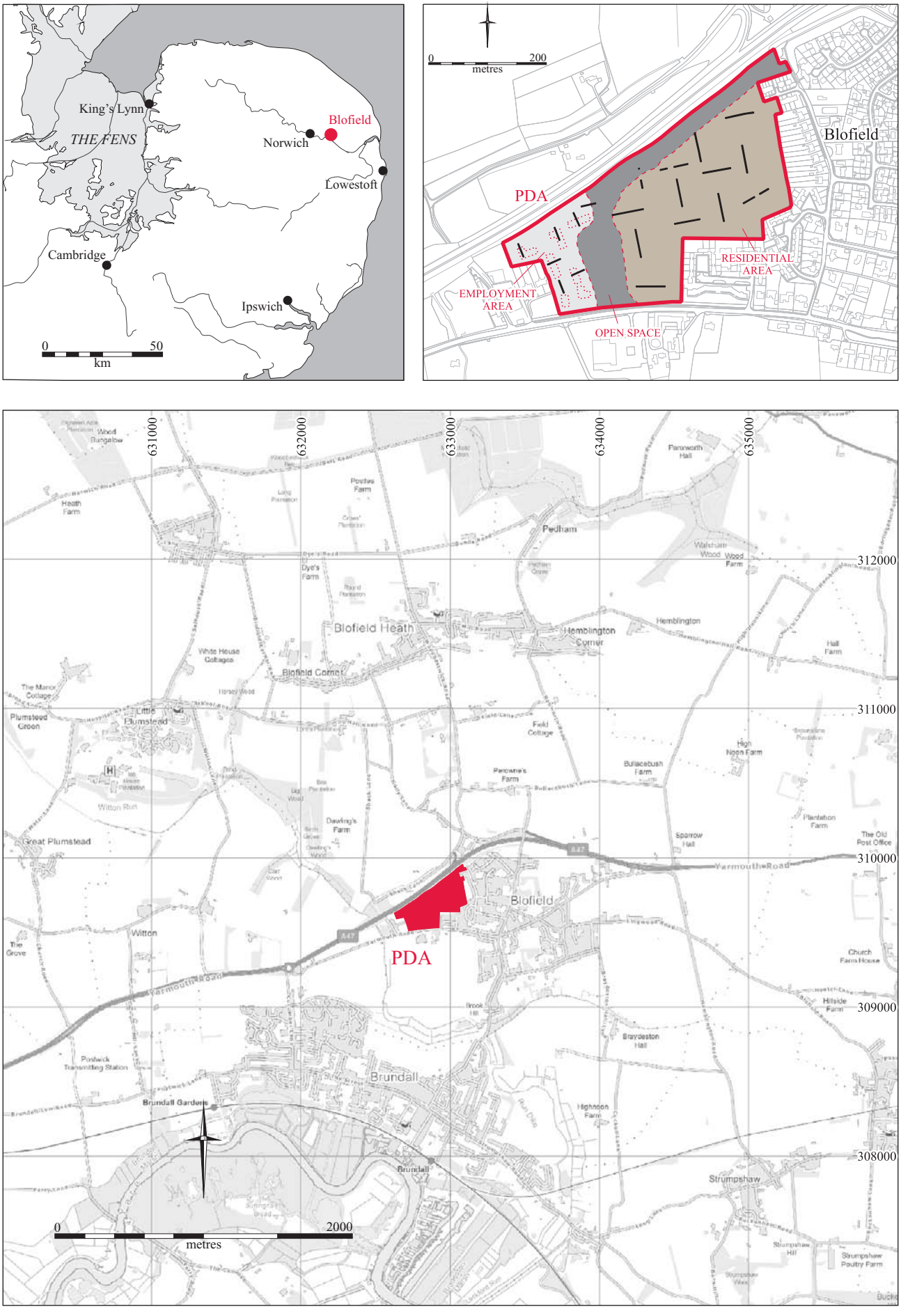

Figure 1. Location and overview of PDA

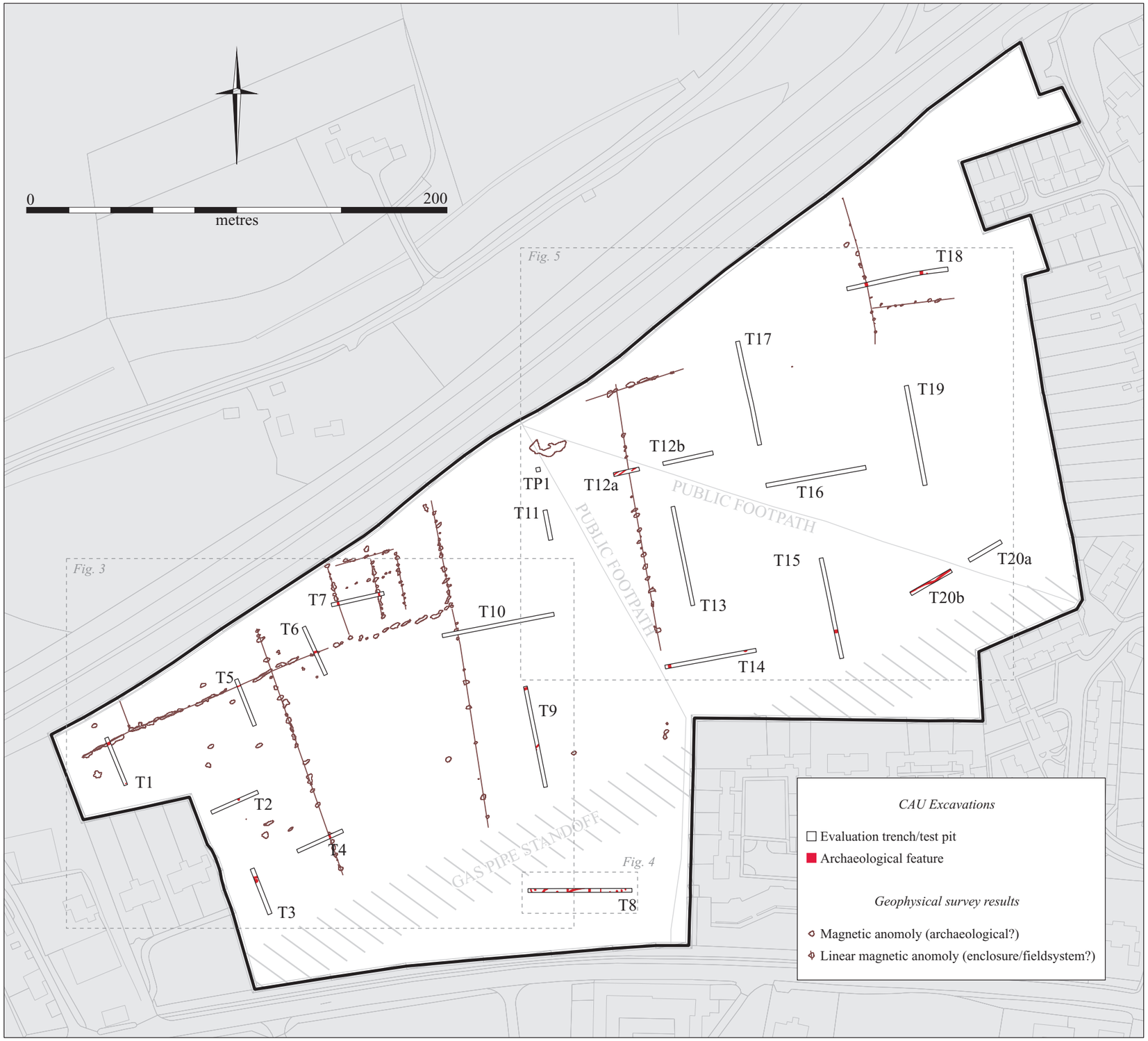

Figure 2. Trench plan with archaeology identified in geophysical survey

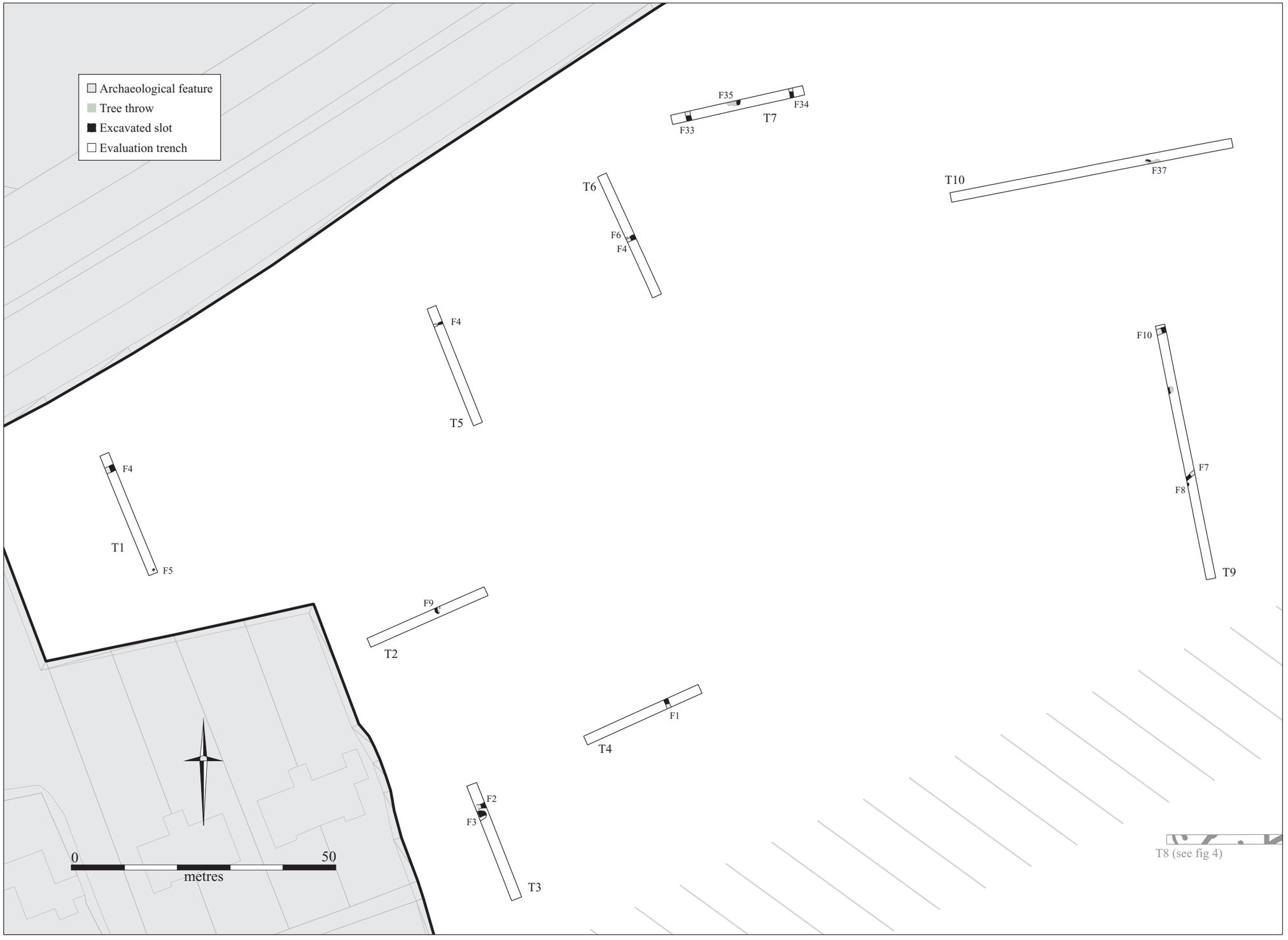

Figure 3. Close-up of western part of site, showing features and excavated slots

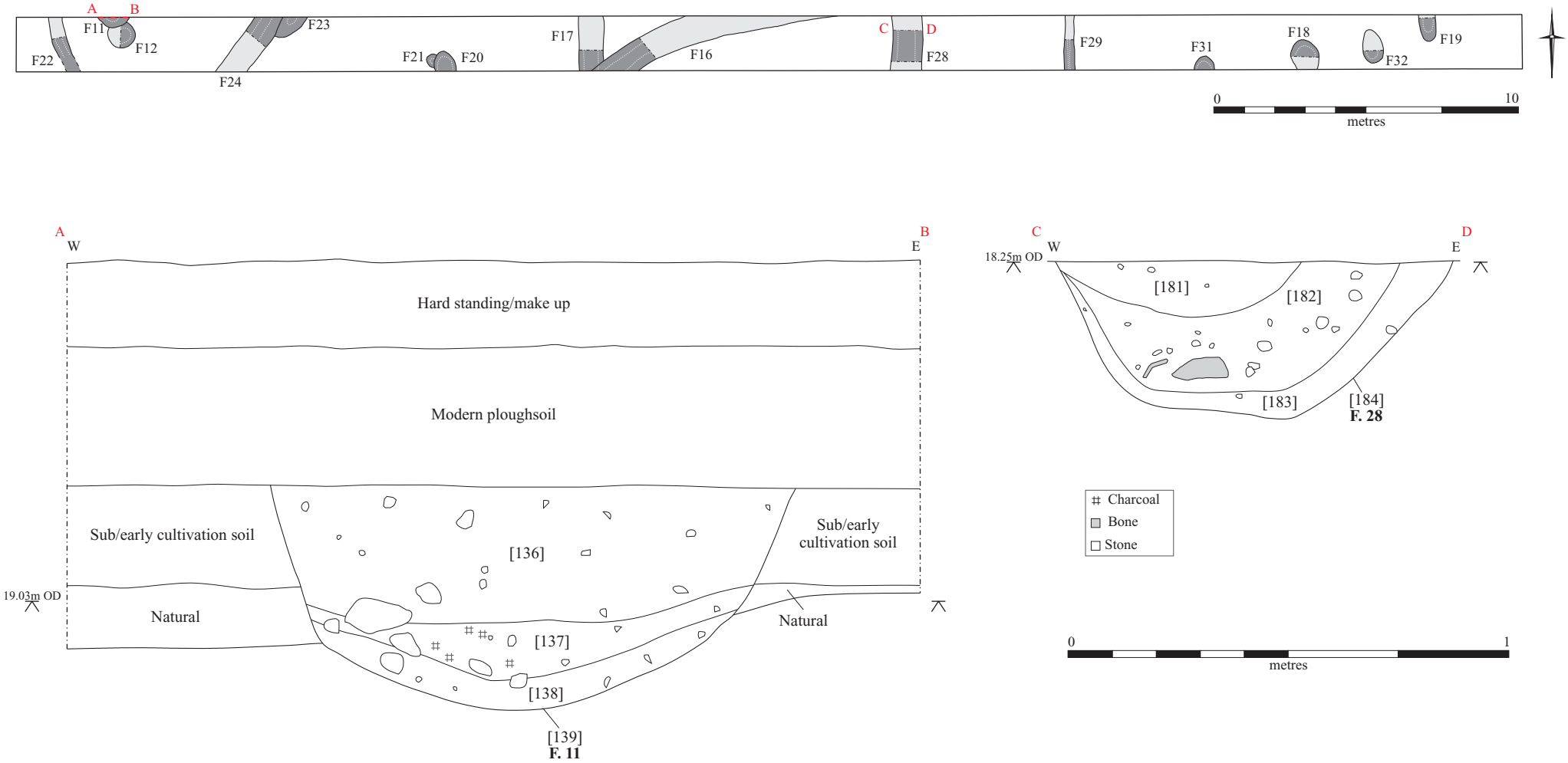

Figure 4. Trench 8 - plan and sections

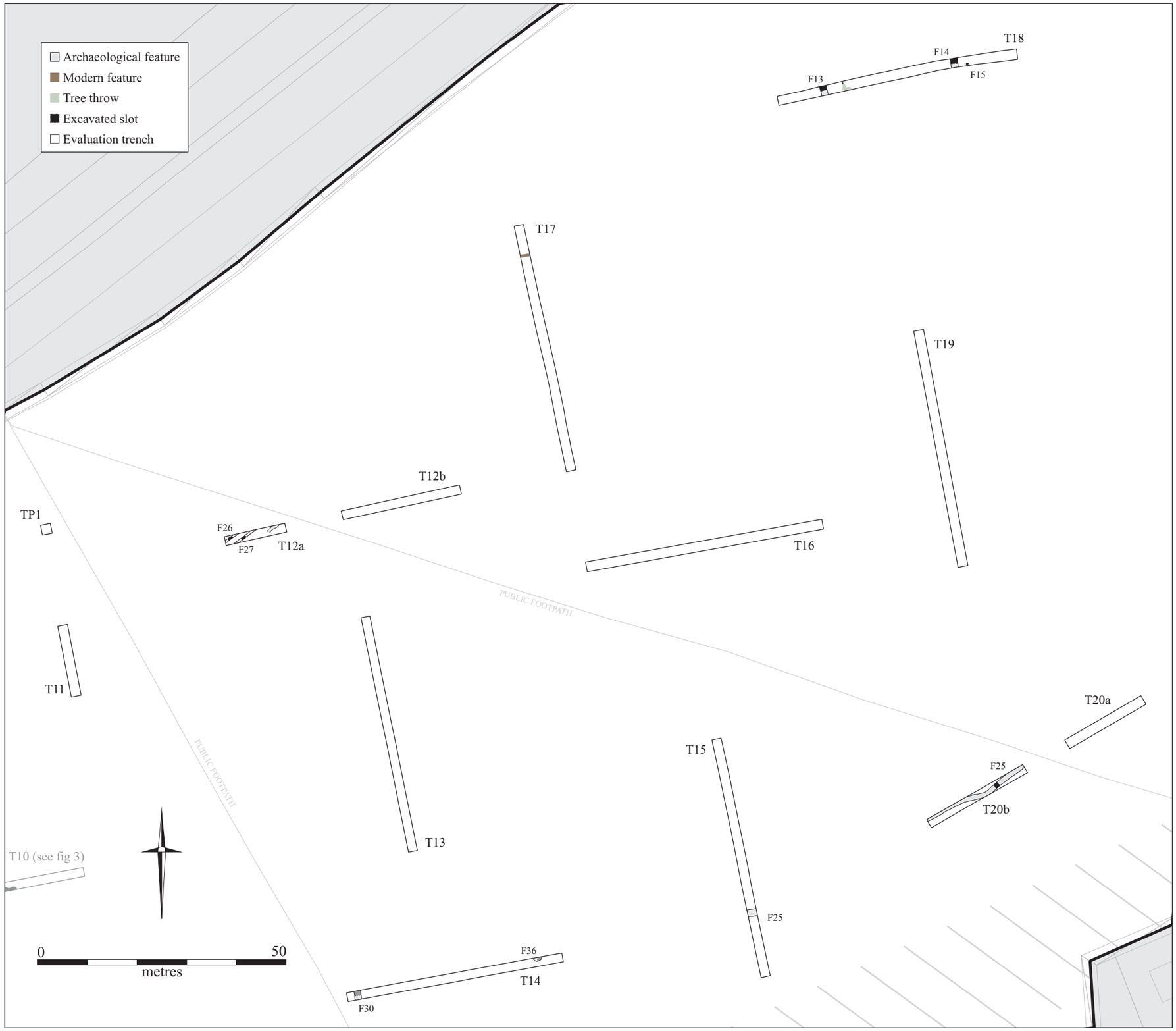

Figure 5. Close-up of eastern part of site, showing features and excavated slots

Figure 6. Deep colluvium deposits in TP1

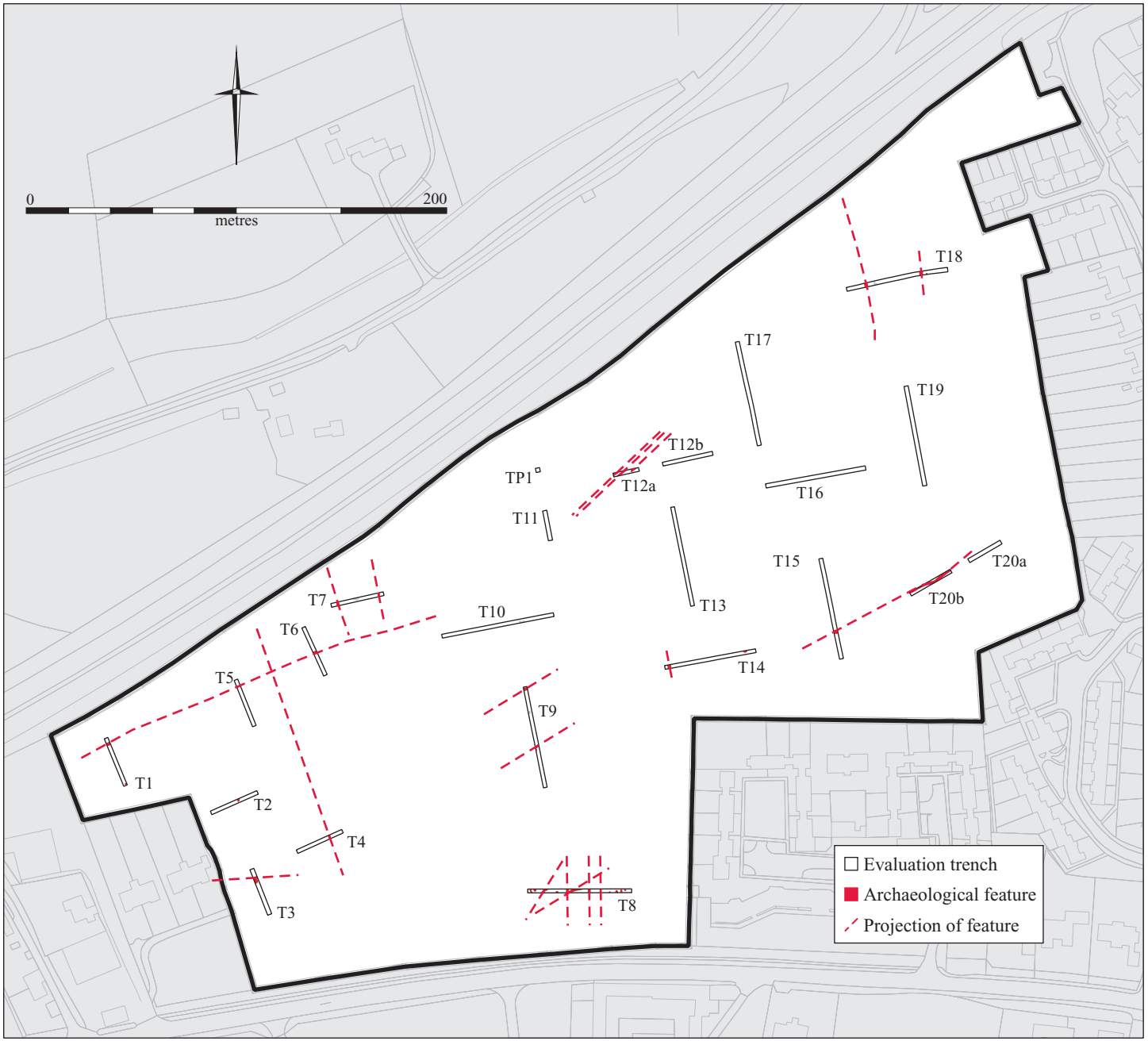

Figure 7. Projections of archaeological features

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: cambridg3-111597

Project details

Project name	Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norfolk An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation on land located at the western periphery of the village of Blofield, Norfolk; between the 23rd of August and 1st of September 2011. A geophysics survey had identified potential features which several of the trenches targeted, whilst the remaining trenches were evenly distributed across the proposed development area. Several undated and post-medieval ditches and other features were recorded, whilst adjacent to Yarmouth Road a series of medieval ditches, gullies and small pits were present.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2011 End: 01-09-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches','Test Pits'
Development type	Rural Residential and Commercial

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND BLOFIELD Yarmouth Road, Blofield, Norfolk
Postcode	NR13 4DS
Study area	9.90 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3290 0970 51.7697099830 -0.07370507937480 51 46 10 N 000 04 25 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 14.81m Max: 18.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Alison Dickens
Project director/ manager	Emma Beadsmoore
Project supervisor	Matthew Collins
Type of sponsor/ funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/ funding body	Smith of Honington

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	ENF127742
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	ENF127742
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'GIS','Geophysics','Images raster / digital photography','Survey'

Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	ENF127742
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Drawing','Manuscript','Map','Report','Section','Survey','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Collins, M.
Other bibliographic details	1053
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Issuer or publisher	CAU
Place of issue or publication	CAU
Description	A4 Booklet. PDF

Entered by	Matthew Collins (mc459@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	10 October 2011

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