

Littleport Cemetery, Littleport Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation Assessment



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1. Summary

Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook a trenched evaluation on open farmland located to the north of Littleport, Cambridgeshire, in advance of the proposed development of the site as a cemetery. The evaluation identified the presence of a 'roddon' within the western half of the development area; several small, shallow, undated linears; and a large number of post-medieval clay extraction pits located towards the eastern end of the site. Also identified was a layer of dumped, probable Romano-British, briquetage material abutting the roddon.

2. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land to the north of Littleport, Cambridge, prior to the proposed development of the area into a cemetery and allotments. The evaluation was commissioned by Littleport Parish Council and was carried out from the 28th to the 31st of October 2013. It aimed to establish the presence, date, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains within the Proposed Development Area (PDA). This report details the results of the evaluation, together with an assessment of the archaeological evidence in relation to the regional research framework, (Brown & Glazebrook 2000).

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

The PDA centred on TL 5672/8775 and is located approximately 500m north of the centre of Littleport, Cambridgeshire. It is bordered to the north by open farmland and the A10; Horsely Hale (lane) and open farmland to the west; open farmland and Fen to the east and horse paddocks to the south, (see Figure 1). Currently the PDA is open farmland, and at the time of the evaluation was covered in stubble.

The development area lies off the edge of the Littleport ‘*island*’, which consists of a promontory of Kimmeridge Clay overlain with Boulder Clay that rises above the surrounding Nordelph Peat. Instead, the underlying geology of the PDA consists of Marine Alluvium salt marsh deposits (the Terrington Beds) overlain by the Nordelph Peat, (BGS 1980); with a *roddon* consisting of water-lain sand deposits, rising above these layers towards the western edge of the PDA. The site slopes downwards from the top of the roddon, which coincides with the western edge of the PDA, from a high of 2.30m AOD to -0.60m AOD along the eastern edge.

2.2 Archaeological Background

Very little in the way of early prehistoric activity is known or recorded within the immediate vicinity of the PDA, and this consists solely of the recovery of stray or residual worked flints. For example a flint scraper was recovered *c.*500m to the northeast (CHER 07239) and another lithic ‘*implement*’ was recovered *c.*600m to the east (CHER 07235). Furthermore; to the north, west and east of the PDA, numerous palaeochannels and braided streams/run-off channels have been identified, suggesting the area was a wet environment prone to flooding from shifting river courses and marine inundations (based on the presence of underlying marine alluvium).

However, a Bronze Age settlement consisting of pits; a hearth; and a burnt mound (ECB 3510), has been identified approximately 450m to the southwest of the PDA and several archaeological investigations have recorded extensive Romano-British remains within close proximity to the southern and northern edges of the site (see Figure 1). To the south this consists of evidence for a Romano-British settlement including a possible stone-built, high status building (CHER 11961); together with a roundhouse, stock enclosures, pits and midden deposits, and industrial scale salt-making (salterns) located approximately 250m southwest of the PDA (PCAS 1996). Also recorded approximately 350m to the southeast (NMR 1353392) was a quantity of dumped Romano-British briquetage, although no contemporary features were associated with

this material; and a section of Romano-British canal (NMR 1344722), located 200m to the south of the PDA. To the north of the site, further Romano-British activity, following the line of the roddon for the Old Croft River, was identified during investigations carried out prior to the construction of the Ely bypass (A10). This included evidence for extensive salt-works c.350m northwest of the PDA (CHER 07223); evidence for salt-working and settlement activity, including an inhumation c.275m to the north; and further salt-making and settlement evidence c.300m to the northeast (CHER 10939). Further to the north, investigations carried out as part of the Fenland Project identified extensive evidence for the use of the Old Croft River roddon and its tributaries for the production of salt, with the raised level of the roddon forming a spine of dry land which could be used as a base from which to exploit the surrounding resources of the Fens (Hall 1996). Therefore the position of the old Croft River roddon within the western half of the PDA suggests there is a high potential for encountering further Romano-British activity.

There is no evidence for medieval archaeological activity within the immediate vicinity of the PDA, with the area probably being drained for agricultural use in the post-medieval period. This suggests the possibility that related contemporary features may be encountered across the site.

2.3 Methodology

The proposed cemetery and allotments cover an area of 2.21 ha and were evaluated by 14 trenches totalling 590.3m in length (a 5.80% sample of the area). The trenches were placed in order to fully sample the area, whilst giving appropriate stand-off from electricity pylons and cables which run across the southwest corner of the site.

Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist primarily by a tracked 21-ton 360° machine using a 2.20m toothless ditching bucket. Trench 3 and 4, located in the southwest corner of the development area were, due to the restrictions on vehicle movements under the electricity cables, excavated by a 1-ton 360° machine using a 1m toothless bucket. Removed topsoil, underlying deposits and all exposed features were scanned by metal detector for artefacts and a digital photographic record of open trenches and exposed features was taken. Excavation of archaeological features was carried out using hand tools with 1m slots excavated in linears; pits and postholes half sectioned and bulk environmental samples were taken where appropriate. The recording followed a CAU modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990) whereby feature numbers, F. were assigned to stratigraphic events and numbers [fill], [cut] or [layer] to individual contexts. The evaluation trenches were planned at 1:50 and individual sections drawn at 1:10. All trenches were surveyed using GPS.

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 CAU assigned site code is LCS 13 and the event number is ECB 4042.

2.4 Archive

A total of 58 contexts from 13 layers and 15 features were excavated and recorded and artefacts including briquetage; worked flint, and glass were recovered and catalogued. All documentary records and accompanying artefacts have been assembled into a catalogued archive in line with Appendix 6 of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and are currently being stored at the CAU offices.

3. Results

No features dating to the prehistoric period were identified within the trenches, although two undiagnostic worked flints were recovered from the topsoil of Trench 6 suggesting the possibility of low-level prehistoric activity within the area. The metal detector survey was also unproductive, with no pre-modern artefacts recovered. A number of archaeological features and deposits were identified during this evaluation however; and due to the differing nature of the underlying topography/geology across the PDA the results will be presented in two parts, each broadly representing two distinct areas.

3.1 Trenches 1-7

Trenches 1-7 were located within the western half of the PDA which sloped downwards from the top of the roddon (see Figures 2 and 3). The trenches were characterised by a relatively shallow, slightly sandy, clay topsoil averaging 0.38m. Underlying the topsoil in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 and the western halves of Trenches 1 and 5 was the upper water-lain 'laminated' sand deposits of the roddon. Whilst, towards the eastern ends of Trenches 1 and 5, the depth of overburden increased with the layers of water-lain sand sloping downwards before ending approximately midway along the two trenches.

Two ditches, **F.013** in Trench 2 and **F.004** in Trench 5 were cut into the roddon deposits. **F.013** (see Figure 4) was slightly more substantial than **F.004** (see Figure 5), but both were infilled with similar mid brownish grey sandy silts. No dating evidence was recovered from either of these features; however both were orientated northwest-southeast and probably form part of the same ditch system. Furthermore, both ditches are aligned with the current field system layout, suggesting they are potentially post-medieval in date. Also cut into the roddon deposits in Trench 2 were two large, rectangular, modern pits of indeterminate purpose.

Abutting against the sand deposits of the roddon and laying above the underlying peat in Trench 5 was a complex series of deposits and layers (see Trench section in Figure 6). Several of these layers appeared to consist of deliberate dumping, and possible mounding of material along the edge of the roddon. Layer [154] for example consisted of a pale grey 'ashey' material, which contained significant quantities of (probable Romano-British) briquetage material (see Appendix 1) together with occasional charcoal. Above this layer were further layers of dumped material (layers [153] and [160]) which also contained briquetage, suggesting waste material from the salt-making process was dumped off the edge of the roddon on a large scale over a period of time. Above these layers was a deposit of brownish grey silts, ([148] and [149])

which contained no artefacts and probably represents a putative former land-surface; which in turn was partially overlain by lenses of pale greyish yellow water-lain sand deposits likely being formed by material washing/eroding off the top of the roddon.

In Trenches 6 and 7 the topsoil overlay a thin to moderate layer consisting of lenses of laminated soft, pale yellowish grey sand upto 0.35m in depth; which in turn overlay the Nordelph peat, which averaged 0.25m deep, and the marine alluvium deposits (see Figure 5). Three (unexcavated) post-medieval/modern clay extraction pits were identified in Trench 7, but no other features were present in either trench. The sand deposits were probably formed by material washing/eroding off of the top of the roddon during periods of flooding.

3.2 Trenches 8-14

Trenches 8-14 were located within the eastern half of the PDA on a broadly flat area averaging -0.50m AOD and were characterised by relatively shallow, slightly clayey, peaty topsoil averaging 0.30m deep overlying a thin layer of peat which averaged 0.25m deep. In several of the trenches a further thin layer of silvery grey clay (upto 0.13m deep) was also present which probably represented a relict (or buried) soil. All of these deposits were metal detected for artefacts but none were present. Underlying these deposits were the marine alluvial clays of the Terrington beds (BGS 1980).

Cutting into the marine alluvium were a large number of oval/square pits which were laid out in rows and often inter-cut each other (see Figure 2). Five of these features were excavated, **F.001**, **F.002** and **F.003** (see Figure 4) in Trench 14 and **F.014** and **F.015** in Trench 11. They were generally very similar, with steep or undercutting sides, broad flat bases and averaged 1.20m wide and 0.40m deep. All were infilled with the same dark grey/black topsoil and peat derived fill, and were probably originally dug in-sequence, with the spoil generated from one pit being used to infill the last one. The only artefact recovered was a fragment of post-medieval glass from the lower fill of **F.003**, and, as all of these features were observed to cut through the peat layer, it is likely they date to the post-medieval or modern period. Similar features have been recorded on numerous sites within the Cambridgeshire Fens (for example Collins 2007 and 2012) and are interpreted as being clay-extraction pits for the purpose of 'claying the fields'. This was a process where the underlying clay was extracted and mixed with the overlying lighter peaty soils in order to reduce the risk/level of topsoil erosion particularly from wind.

Also present within the eastern trenches were several small, shallow linear features including **F.005** and **F.006** in Trench 10; **F.007-F.010** in Trench 9; and **F.011** and **F.012** in Trench 11. All of these features had a similar profile, averaging 0.65m wide and 0.09m deep, and were infilled with dark grey clay silt. Also, no artefacts were recovered from any of them. All of these features were sealed by the peat layer suggesting they are of some antiquity, however; it remains unclear whether these are true features, or as seems more likely, small run-off channels or other water-related natural features. This is based upon several factors, including the curving, irregular nature of several of them and the fact none of these features align with each other; the lack of accompanying artefacts or related features; the very low-lying nature of the eastern half of the PDA; and the presence in the surrounding landscape of numerous braided paleochannel systems.

4. Discussion

The presence of layers of dumped Romano-British briquetage against the edge of the roddon is likely a result of the dumping of waste material from nearby salterns; although the absence of datable features that could be associated with this industry suggests the process of extracting salt from brine may have been carried out beyond the limits of the PDA. However; evidence from other salt-working sites along the Old Croft River further to the north (Hall 1996) indicates the roddon itself was used for settlement and other industrial activities, and therefore the presence of further Romano-British activity within the western half of the PDA cannot be ruled out. The presence of other dumps of briquetage material within the immediate area (for example, NMR 1353392) taken with the presence of a Roman leat/channel (NMR 1344722), which were often used to regulate the flow of salt water, also indicates the PDA is located within an area of large scale salt production during the Roman period.

Overall this evaluation has demonstrated that the eastern half of the PDA contained only limited or modern archaeological remains; however; the identified Romano-British deposits within the eastern half, add to the growing picture of the extensive nature of the salt-making industry from that period, which is present along the northern fringes of Littleport and along the roddon of the Old Croft River.

6. Acknowledgements

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by the Littleport Parish Council. Monitoring was undertaken on behalf of CHET by Dan McConnell. Alison Dickens was the CAU project manager; Jon Moller (CAU) undertook the digitising of site plans and site surveying, and Tony Baker, Katie Hutton and Matt Jones (CAU) assisted the author on site.

Appendix 1 – Briquetage

Simon Timberlake

A total of **5.03 kg** of briquetage was recovered from the two dump deposit contexts sampled within Trench 5. The largest proportion of this by weight (3.066 kg) came from context [148], but the largest number of pieces and different briquetage elements came from context [154]. The latter contained many of the elements most likely to be fragments from briquetage vessels (brine pans).

Some six different burnt clay fabrics were identified, although the principle differences noted were between Fabrics 1 and 3, the latter being the sandier/ more organic, more carefully moulded, and more strongly fired type; this consisting mostly of ‘body sherds’ making up either vessel sides or else a series of wide hollow ‘cup-like’ flat-topped vessel supports (or pedestals). Another contrasting fabric type (Fabric 6) most likely made up the crude furnace ‘bricks’ or *in situ*. moulded/ pressed clay floor/ sides of the saltern hearth platform, and it is interesting that the thickest salt scale/ salt slag deposit was to be found on the outer surface of the largest piece of this.

One of the recovered elements of briquetage (labelled in Bag 1 <003> as (a)) was provisionally interpreted as being the corner of a very shallow thin-walled brine pan with the traces of the wet clay ‘clips’ adhering, and as such this (and the crudely-made solid pedestal support labelled as (b)) shares similarities with the fragments of briquetage associated with the Late Iron Age/ Early Roman brine pan and hearth arrangement described at Ingoldmells Beach, Addlethorpe, Lincolnshire (Crosby in Lane & Morris 2001). On the other hand, the broken pieces from at least three well-fired and moulded hollow ‘cup-like’ pedestals (<003> (g) + (h)) recovered from the same Littleport assemblage seem different again, giving an initial impression of being ‘later’, and perhaps therefore associated with a different phase of local salt working, yet brought together here simply as a result of clearance and dumping. This may of course be quite misleading if what we are looking at two differently made types of briquetage, both of which were necessary for operating this particular sort of hearth.

The possible presence of ‘bricks’ here might have helped to date this process, given that they were also a common constituent of the Medieval (14th-century AD) Parson Drove saltern site near Wisbech St. Mary, Cambridgeshire. However, on further examination of this very limited assemblage these large fragments of ‘blocky’ clay seem much more likely to be the broken-up remains of a hearth floor or sides (during excavation these were broken off from a ‘much larger dumped block’ which remained in section – M. Collins *pers com.*). This type of structural briquetage was referred to by Morris (see Lane & Morris 2001, 372) as including possible ‘raised flooring slabs’ (such as those overlying the hearth flues and chambers). These ‘slabs’ probably supported the evaporating pans, an arrangement which was superseded by the Late Roman period, when metal vats begin to be used; the latter supported by much more robust pedestals located above the below-ground flues. The ‘cup-like’ pedestals from this site may of course be examples of the latter.

In conclusion, the provisional assessment of this assemblage is that we are most likely looking at briquetage associated with Roman period salt working. However, this may represent a more mixed assemblage, with elements from Late Iron Age-Early Roman as well as Late Roman sites or levels. At the moment, the possibility of Medieval working here cannot be excluded entirely.

The current evaluation was located just off the roddon of the Old Croft River and lies towards the southern end of a string of Early Roman salt working sites within an area clearly of some significance to Roman Fenland salt production (Hall 1996). Sites 7-51 (see Hall *ibid.* Figure 13, 25-29), all of which were located 2-5 km to the north of the current one have revealed evidence for hut platforms (4.8-7.5m wide), 'brick and clay daub hearths reinforced with wheat straw chaff', and the traces of 'settling tanks' into which salt water could be run off and left to settle before use. A large amount of (mostly Early Roman) pottery was also recovered nearby. The fuel used in the salt-making process all seems to have been peat cut from the surrounding fen. The origin of the salt is most likely the water draining off the top of the surrounding Terrington Beds (marine sediment), as well as the sea water channelled off from the active creek channels at times of maximum tide.

Fabric types

Fabric 1 pink to variegated cream coloured slightly micaceous silty fabric with cracks representing poor mixing (homogenisation). Occasional inclusions of yellowish clay grog (<4mm), small burnt-out organic, and either crushed shell or bone.

Fabric 2 gritty light brown-yellow coloured silty fabric, strongly reddened (oxidised) on interior and exterior, with moderate well rounded quartz sand and grit (<2mm diameter). Hand-moulded with very small amount of mica.

Fabric 3 hard slightly porous 'biscuit-type' fabric which is dark brown - brick red in colour, with occasional small burnt-out organic plus broken flint and rounded quartz grit inclusions (<3mm) as well as paler coloured grog particles (<4mm). Crudely moulded.

Fabric 4 soft pinky-red silty fabric with voids (10-15%) and occasional-moderate inclusions, mostly of grog (<3mm)

Fabric 5 similar to Fabric 3 but more green-brown in colour internally and considerably more porous with abundant burnt-out organic and impressions of reed/grass

Fabric 6 yellow-white hard biscuit-like porous clay-rich fabric with faint pinkish grey -brown patches and occasional small voids from burnt-out organic and air plus inclusions of shell and/or chalk - not completely homogenous.

Cat no.	Con text	Weight (g)	No. of pieces	Colour/ text/ inclusions	Fabric type	Moulded form	Dimensions (mm)	Interpreted element	Notes
Bag 1 <003> (a)	154	82	1	light pink-white/cream silty fabric poorly mixed	1	shallow flat container	80 x 60 x 30 with 7mm thick walls	corner of briquetage pan with clay 'clips'?	no salt scale ; form similar to LIA-Early Roman
<003> (b)	154	122	1	similar – with more burnt-out organic (grass/reeds)	1	broken clay 'cylinder'	80 (high) x 70 (diam) x 40	'squat cylindrical pedestal' ?	faint trace salt scale
<003> (c)	154	66	1	similar - with fingerprint smear in clay	1	thin base	85 (long) x 60 (wide) x 7-20 (thick)	base of pan with adhering clay (waster?)	
<003> (d)	154	18	1	similar	1	shallow pan rim	45 x 45 x 15 (rim height)	edge rim of briquetage pan (waster)	faint salt scale along rim
<003> (e)	154	252 (total)	6	similar – all fairly amorphous distorted pieces of BC	1	indistinct	30 to 80 diam	uncertain – broken supports?	some salt reddening
Bag 2 (f)	154	52	1	reddish sandy fabric with green discoloured extern	2	straight rim handmoulded 'pot'	60 x 65+ (tall) x 9 (thick)	small 'pot like' vessel for lifting or boiling brine	salt reddened interior + salt scale (with peat) extern
(g)	154	160	1	brick-red colour throughout/ sandy	3	flat topped hollow cylinder	75 (tall) x 95 (diam) with 10-14mm thick walls	wide hollow 'cup-like' pedestal for heavier brine pans	top pressed flat + salt scale extern
(h)	154	90	2	similar (dk brown intern)	3	ditto	35 (tall) x 60 x 50 (10-20mm thick walls) : orig c.100mm dia	ditto	ditto
(i)	154	254	3	similar but some with more grog inclusions	3	possibly rounded sides vessel	70 – 90 long and 10-12mm thick walls	sides of coarse made broken-up + brine pans?	salt reddened and scale on inside and ext
(j)	154	18	1	pinky with coarse inclus	4	finger-pressed lump	35 x 30 x 20	possibly a clay 'clip' for pans	
(k)	154	850	34	pinky-red to brick-red to green-brown and red	3 + 5 (50% each)	all rounded mould sides body sherds	30- 80 (7-18 mm thick)	sides of hollow pedestals + broken brine pans	some heavily salt scaled – internal + extern
Bag 3 <002> (l)	148	86	4	pinky-buff-cream col with finger pressed	4	amorphous except one as infill join	35-60	uncertain – poss as wet clay 'clips'	
<002> (m)	148	30	1	ditto	4	faintly cylindrical: concave sides + top	20mm (tall) x 40mm (diam)	'squat cylindrical pedestal' ?	
<002> (n)	148	94	1	pinky-cream col silty fabric	1	moulded base/top with finger press side	20mm (high) x 90 x 75	probably side or edge of clay hearth?	
<002> (o)	148	154	1	reddish sandy	3	straight rounded edge + rim	85 (high) x 90 (diam) 13mm thick	either hollow pedestal or part vessel	slight salt scale exter

Cat no.	Con text	Weight (g)	No. of pieces	Colour/ text/ inclusions	<i>Fabric type</i>	Moulded form	Dimensions (mm)	Interpreted element	Notes
<002> (p)	148	10	1	yellow-white clay	6	amorphous	40	fragment of a briquetage hearth brick	
<002> (q)	148	236	9	mid-grey-brown to brick red sandy fabric with reddened ext	2 + 5	body sherds	30-70	either hollow pedestal or part vessel	several with salt scale
<002> (r)	148	2456	25	yellow-white clay with pink-brown band	6	moulded/ pressed block/ layer	200mm (deep) + 50x140 (face)	briquetage furnace brick/ floor surface	deep crust of salt scale/slag

Appendix 2 – Trench and Feature Tables

Trench 1		
General Description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 1 contained a modern pit and a layer of post-medieval made-ground. The western half of the trench was located on a Roddon, whilst the eastern half dropped down through peat into the Fen clays.	Base of Trench. AOD (m)	W: 1.06. E: -0.75
	Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.34
	Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.45
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	50.00

Trench 2									
General Description								Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 2 contained two modern, rectangular pits and a small ditch. The trench was located on top of a Roddon.								Base of Trench. AOD (m)	1.13
								Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.33
								Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.25
								Width (m)	2.20
								Length (m)	25.00
Feature No.	Feature Type	Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
13	Ditch	-	135	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
13	Ditch	-	136	F	-	-	-	None	
13	Ditch	-	137	F	-	-	-	None	
13	Ditch	-	138	F	-	-	-	None	
13	Ditch	-	139	F	-	-	-	None	
13	Ditch	NW-SE	140	C	1m Slot	1.16	0.47	-	

Trench 3		
General Description	Orientation	N-S
Trench 3 contained no archaeological features. Exposed within the base of the trench were the upper sand layers of the Roddon.	Base of Trench AOD (m)	1.34
	Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.47
	Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.10
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	23.00

Trench 4		
General Description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 4 contained no archaeological features. Exposed within the base of the trench were the upper sand layers of the Roddon.	Base of Trench. AOD (m)	0.41
	Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.27
	Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.22
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	30.00

Trench 5									
General Description								Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 5 contained a single ditch. The north-western half of the trench was located on the Roddon which dropped down through the peat onto the underlying clay to the southeast. Above the peat was a layer of dumped briquetage (see Results section).								Base of Trench. AOD (m)	NW: 1.07. SE: - 0.68
								Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.45
								Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.50
								Width (m)	2.20
								Length (m)	50.00
Feature No.	Feature Type	Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
4	Ditch	-	111	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
4	Ditch	W-E	112	C	1m Slot	0.89	0.21	-	

Trench 6									
General Description								Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 6 contained no archaeological features.								Base of Trench. AOD (m)	-0.74
								Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.30
								Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.60
								Width (m)	2.20
								Length (m)	48.50

Trench 7									
General Description								Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 7 contained three (unexcavated) post-medieval clay extraction pits.								Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)	-0.81
								Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.35
								Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.65
								Width (m)	2.20
								Length (m)	49.50

Trench 8									
General Description								Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 8 contained seven (unexcavated) post-medieval clay extraction pits.								Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)	-0.76
								Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.50
								Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.60
								Width (m)	2.20
								Length (m)	49.00

Trench 9									
General Description								Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 9 contained seven (unexcavated) post-medieval clay extraction pits. Also present were several small, shallow linear features.								Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)	-0.74
								Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.40
								Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.20

Trench 14 cont:									
							Width (m)		2.20
							Length (m)		49.80
Feature No.	Feature Type	Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
7	Linear	-	117	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
7	Linear	NW-SE	118	C	1m Slot	0.50	0.02	-	
8	Linear	-	119	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
8	Linear	NW-SE	120	C	1m Slot	0.70	0.02	-	
9	Linear	-	121	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
9	Linear	Curving	122	C	1m Slot	0.50	0.03	-	
9	Linear	-	123	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
9	Linear	Curving	124	C	1m Slot	0.55	0.04	-	
10	Linear	-	125	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
10	Linear	NE-SW	126	C	1m Slot	1.00	0.15	-	

Trench 10									
General Description							Orientation		NW-SE
Trench 10 contained numerous (unexcavated) post-medieval clay extraction pits. Also present were two small, shallow linear features.							Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)		-0.72
							Avg. Top Soil (m)		0.30
							Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)		0.20
							Width (m)		2.20
							Length (m)		49.00
Feature No.	Feature Type	Orientation	Context No.	Cut/ Fill	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
5	Linear	-	113	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
5	Linear	NE-SW	114	C	1m Slot	0.75	0.10	-	
6	Linear	-	115	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
6	Linear	NE-SW	116	C	1m Slot	0.65	0.12	-	

Trench 11									
General Description							Orientation		NW-SE
Trench 11 contained eight post-medieval clay extraction pits, two of which was excavated. Also present were two small, shallow linear features.							Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)		-0.82
							Avg. Top Soil (m)		0.30
							Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)		0.40
							Width (m)		2.20
							Length (m)		49.50
Feature No.	Feature Type	Orientation/ Shape	Context No.	Cut/ Fill	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
11	Linear	-	131	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
11	Linear	NE-SW	132	C	1m Slot	0.75	0.08	-	
12	Linear	-	133	F	-	-	-	None	Undated
12	Linear	NE-SW	134	C	1m Slot	0.60	0.08	-	
14	Pit	-	141	F	-	-	-	None	Post-medieval
14	Pit	Square	142	C	1.15	1.15	0.35	-	
15	Pit	-	143	F	-	-	-	None	Post-medieval
15	Pit	Circular	144	C	N/A	1.15	0.40	-	

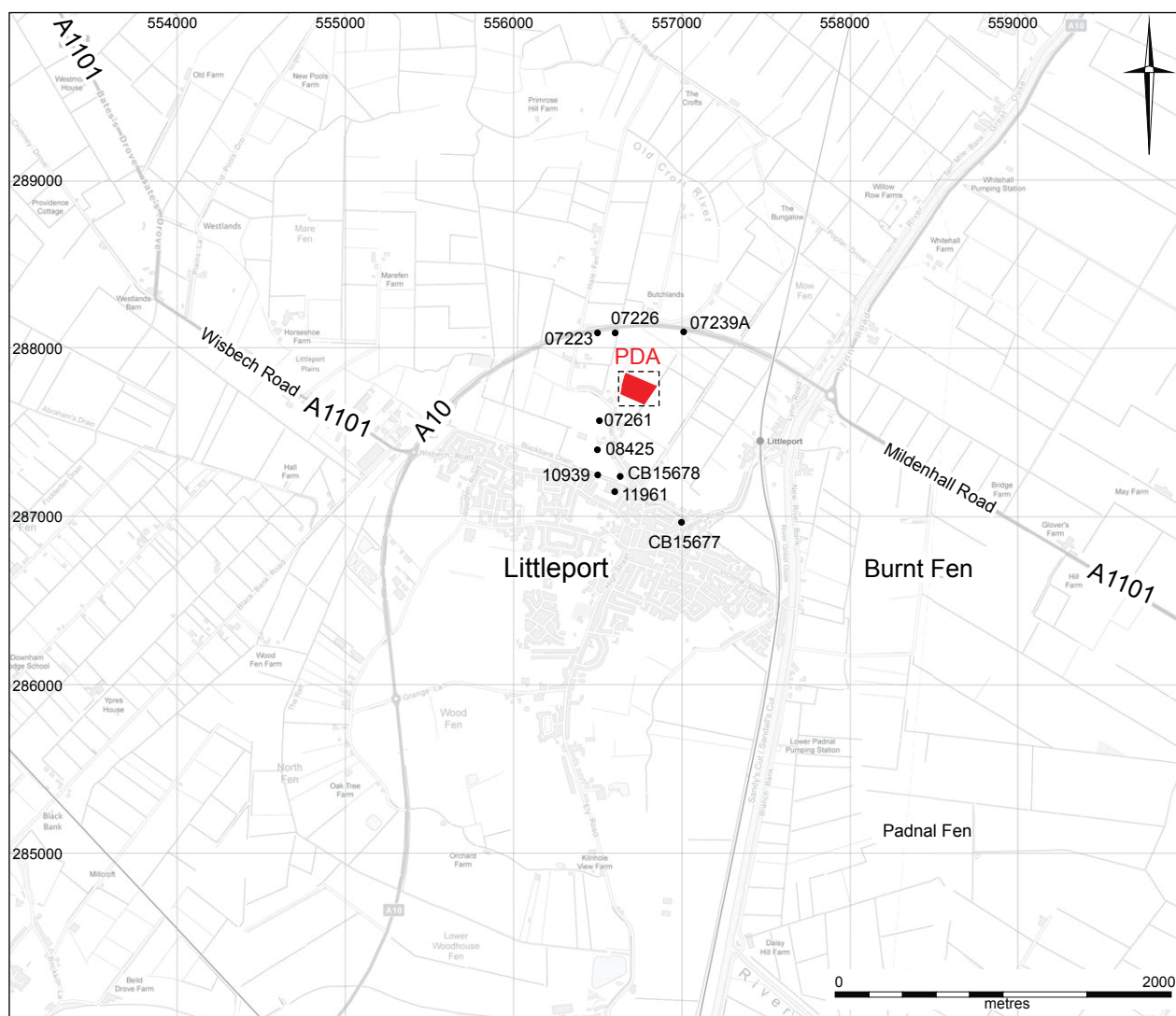
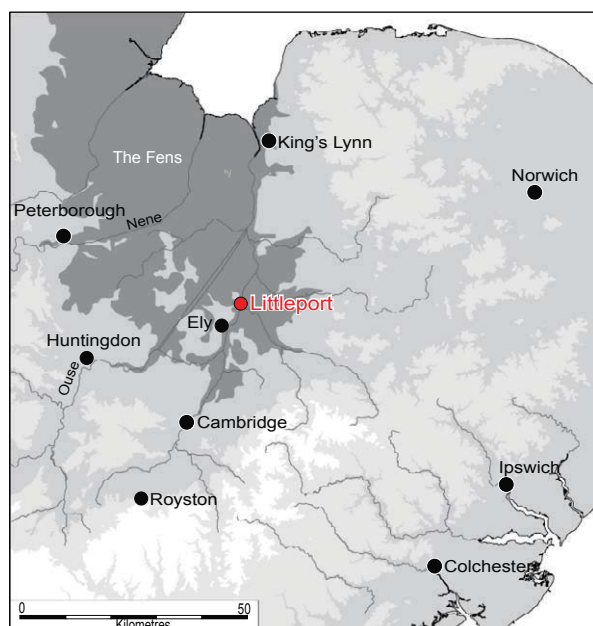
Trench 12		
General Description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 12 contained no archaeological features.	Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)	-0.8
	Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.30
	Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.40
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	20.00

Trench 13		
General Description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 13 contained seven (unexcavated) post-medieval clay extraction pits. No other archaeological features were present.	Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)	-0.86
	Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.24
	Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	48.50

Trench 14									
General Description								Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 14 contained numerous post-medieval clay extraction pits, three of which was excavated. No other archaeological features were present.								Base of Trench. Level AOD (m)	-0.85
								Avg. Top Soil (m)	0.27
								Avg. Underlying Deposit Depth (m)	0.40
								Width (m)	2.20
								Length (m)	48.50
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
1	Pit	-	100	F	-	-	-	None	Post-medieval
1	Pit	-	101	F	-	-	-	None	
1	Pit	-	102	F	-	-	-	None	
1	Pit	Oval	103	C	1.27	1.20	0.40	-	
2	Pit	-	104	F	-	-	-	None	Post-medieval
2	Pit	-	105	F	-	-	-	None	
2	Pit	-	106	F	-	-	-	None	
2	Pit	-	107	F	-	-	-	None	
2	Pit	Oval	108	C	>0.70	>0.40	0.65	-	Post-medieval
3	Pit	-	109	F	-	-	-	Glass	
3	Pit	Oval	110	C	>0.72	>0.50	0.45	-	

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• 07239A = CHER numbers of Romano-British salt-working and settlement sites

Figure 1. Location plan.

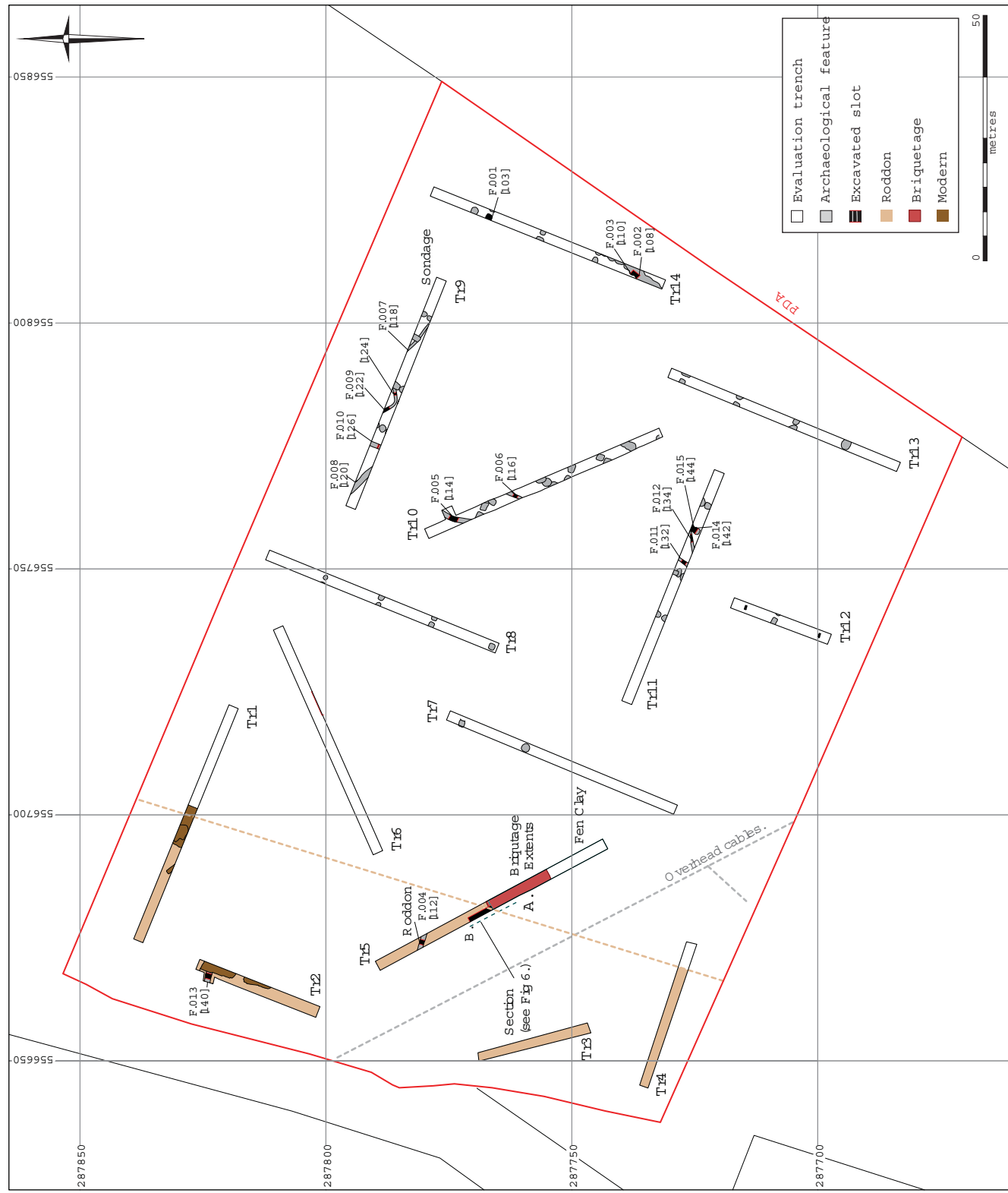


Figure Trench plan.

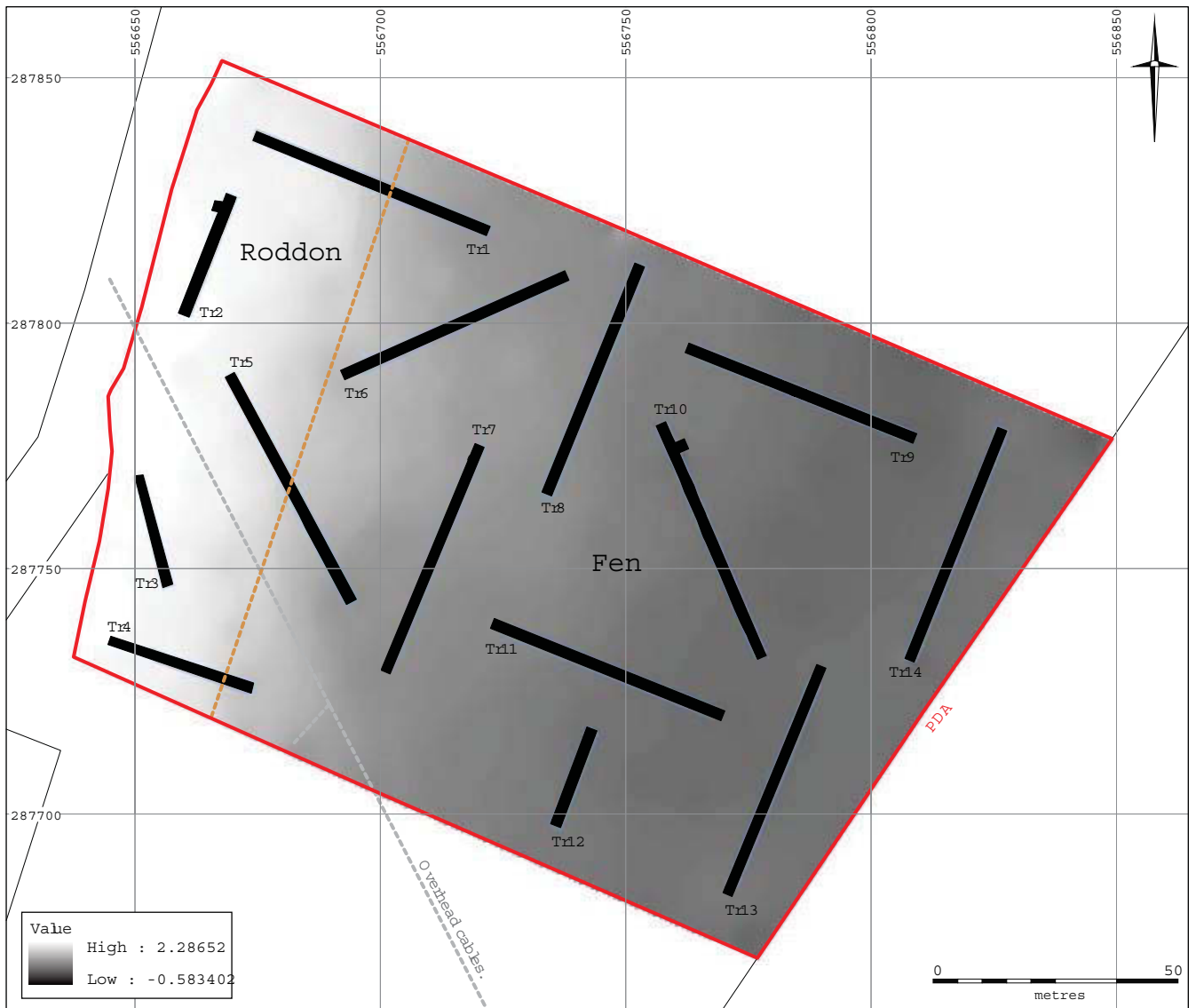


Figure 3. Plan of topographical survey in a rodson.



Figure 4. Photographs of Ditch F.013, (above) Trench 2 and Claying pits F.002 and F.003 (below).



Figure 5. Photographs of layers in Trench 6 and ditch F.004 in Trench 5.

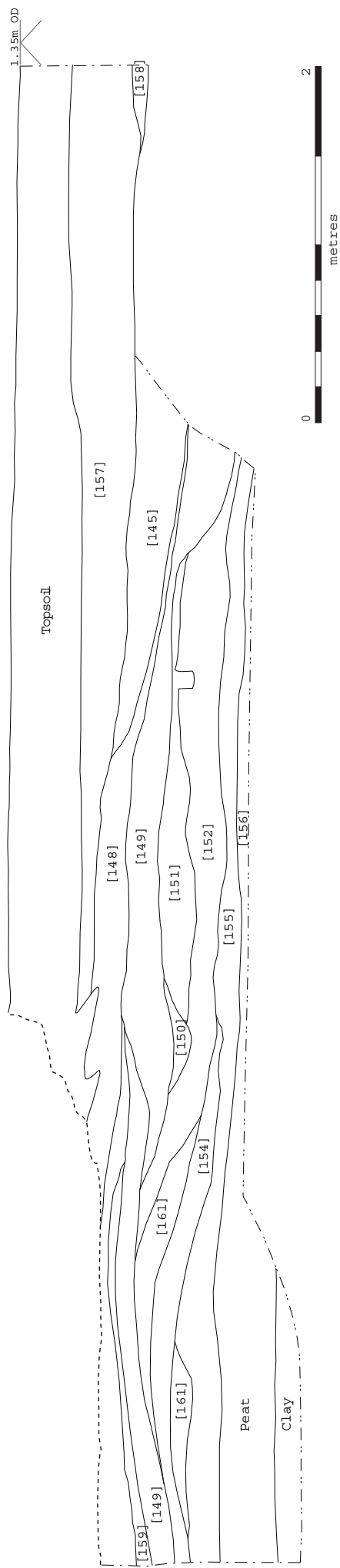


A.

SE

B.

NW



Trench 6 . Photograph and section of layers in Trench 5 .

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-164310

Project details

Project name	Littleport Cemetery Littleport, Cambridgeshire An Archaeological Evaluation Assessment
Short description of the project	Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook a trenched evaluation on open farmland located to the north of Littleport, Cambridgeshire, in advance of the proposed development of the site. The evaluation identified the presence of a 'roddon' within the western half of the development area; several small, shallow, undated linears; and a large number of post-medieval clay extraction pits located towards the eastern end of the site. Also identified was a layer of dumped, probable Romano-British, briquetage material abutting the roddon.
Project dates	Start: 28-10-2013 End: 31-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LCS 13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4042 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	RODDON Uncertain
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Modern
Significant Finds	BRIQUETAGE Roman
Methods & techniques	"Metal Detectors","Sample Trenches"
Development type	Cemetary and allotments
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE LITTLEPORT Littleport Cemetery Littleport, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	CB6 1PU
Study area	2.21 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 5672 8775 52 0 52 27 53 N 000 18 25 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: -0.60m Max: 2.20m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Alison Dickens
Project director/manager	Alison Dickens
Project supervisor	Matthew Collins
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parish Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Littleport Parish Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	LCS 13
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	LCS 13
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	LCS 13
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Littleport Cemetery Littleport, Cambridgeshire An Archaeological Evaluation Assessment
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Collins, M.
Other bibliographic details	1195
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	CAU
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Description	A4 booklet; Pdf file.
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