

The Grafham Resilience Scheme, Perry, Cambridgeshire

An Archaeological Evaluation



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Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on open farmland to the south of Perry, Cambridgeshire ahead of the construction of a service reservoir and associated pipeline connection to the main water and forming part of the Grafham Resilience Scheme. 16 Trenches were excavated, revealing three areas of archaeological and settlement activity dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

Introduction

Commissioned by Mott MacDonald on behalf of Anglian Water following a geophysical survey and test-pit monitoring, 16 trenches were originally proposed for excavation between 26th August 2014 and 3rd September 2014 ahead of associated ground-works, construction of a service reservoir and pipeline installations at Grafham Water (Figs 1 & 2). Of these proposed trenches five were excluded from the original fieldwork programme as they were no longer required due to a change in the scheme design with five added to an additional area. Totalling 757.5m of trenching (1363.5sqm), evidence for archaeological activity was identified in all but four of the 16 trenches with the vast majority of features of later Iron Age origin; Medieval or post-Medieval ridge and furrow was found in several trenches (Table 1).

	Furrows	Archaeological Feature	Other (e.g. Drains/ Top & Sub Soils)	Total
Number of Features Recorded	4	30	4	38
Number of Excavated Features	1	30	4	35
Number of Excavated Contexts	2	78	9	89

Table 1: Feature Totals

Archaeological Background

The archaeological background for the area has been previously outlined to which the reader is directed (Collins 2012). In summary, evidence for prehistoric activity within the immediate environs includes a single find-spot of worked flint recorded from Grafham Water Treatment Works (CHER 00485) and residual Neolithic and Early Bronze Age material at HM Prison Littlehey (Brown 139). More significantly, Middle and Late Iron Age occupation evidence was identified during archaeological investigations at the prison, including a watering-hole, possible structures and boundary and enclosure ditches (Brown 2011). Romano-British activity has been identified at Highfield Farm (located less than 150m east Trenches 17-21), which included a kiln, road and cremation cemetery (CHER 00506), as well as continuity of settlement activity and reordering of the enclosures, including one with a palisade (Enclosure E2), found during the excavations at the prison dated the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD (*ibid.* 143-146 & Figure 6). Roman and Saxon metalwork has also been recovered from Highfield Farm, as well as from metal detecting surveys carried out in West Perry.

The PDA straddles three medieval parishes, Perry, Southoe and Midlow and Great Staughton. The site of a medieval hamlet is recorded at Great Staughton and there is extensive evidence of medieval agriculture in the surrounding landscape in the form of ridge and furrow cropmarks (Fig. 2). The southern and western trenches (12-15) fall within the former parkland of Gaynes Hall. The park was first recorded in 1599 but may have earlier Medieval origins. Gaynes Hall itself dates to the early 19th century and is Grade 2* listed. The hall and park were requisitioned for government

use during the Second World War and, post-war, were used as a borstal until 1988 when HM Prison Littlehey was built.

Methodology

A total of 21 trenches were originally proposed to be excavated; however, as a result of changes in the scheme design scheme only 16 trenches were excavated. The trenches were all excavated using a 360° excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket and supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were excavated down to a level where archaeological features were visible; these were planned and hand excavated. Trench sheets were completed for all of the trenches to record section profiles and geological variances and were accompanied by scale plans of all archaeological features (at 1:50) and the recording of excavated features with sections drawn at a scale of 1:10, complimented by digital photographs. The Unit-modified version of the Museum of London (MoL) recording system was employed throughout with all excavated stratigraphic events assigned feature numbers (F.#) and all contexts assigned individual numbers ([context #]). The DA was fixed to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid and a contour survey undertaken with a Global Positioning System (GPS). The Site was identified as GRS14.

Results

Test pit Monitoring (14th April 2014)

Three test pits and two boreholes were located east of the Treatment Works (Fig. 2). Only one test pit, TP501, situated in a pasture field, required archaeological monitoring (the two boreholes and remaining two test pits, dug through a man-made bund/mound, did not).

TP501 was located in the north-west corner of the field. Excavated with a 360 machine fitted with a toothed bucket the test pit measured 1.2m wide by 5m in length and monitored to a depth of c. 1m. Excavation revealed topsoil 0.3m thick overlying light to mid brown silty clay natural subsoil (boulder clay). No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Trenching

Significant archaeological activity was present in three key areas (Table 2) with Iron Age occupation strongly evinced in Sites 1 and 2, areas where enclosures were exposed within the trenches.

Site	Trenches
1	5
2	19, 20
3	6

Table 2: Significant Sites

The three archaeological sites identified in Trenches 5, 6, 19 and 20 revealed areas of settlement related Late Iron Age activity, with evidence of continuity into the Roman period. There is no apparent early Medieval (Anglo-Saxon activity) identified through this fieldwork programme and the exposed and archaeologically investigated ridge and furrow, clearly seen on the geophysical survey results (Bartlett 2014), is either later Medieval or post-Medieval in origin. Finds quantities are presented in Table 3.

Site	Burnt clay	Bone	Burnt stone	Pottery	Slag	Total
1	6 (14)	124 (1586)	16 (3064)	40 (752)	2 (76)	188 (5492)
2		8 (84)		134 (1280)		142 (1364)
3		46 (418)		57 (642)		103 (1060)
Total	6 (14)	178 (2088)	16 (3064)	231 (2674)	2 (76)	433 (7916)

Table 3: Finds quantities by site (weight in brackets)

Site 1

Consisting of nine features, Site 1 was confined to Trench 5 (Fig. 3) and included two pits (F.22, F.23), a shallow pit or tree-throw (F.32) and five ditches (F.24-F.28, F.30, F.31, F.33). In total, some 40 sherds (752g) of Iron Age pottery was recovered from five features, the majority (26 sherds, 456g) from ditch F.24. 124 fragments of bone (1586g) were retrieved from eight features. Burnt stone and fired clay was also recovered from features within the trench, accounting for all of this material from the three sites, attesting to settlement related activity; F.24 contained a burnt fill and interpreted as a cooking dump.

Site 2

Site 2 was identified in Trenches 19 and 20 and was the largest site found during this fieldwork programme. Situated at the eastern end of the proposed resilience scheme to test features identified during the geophysical survey (Bartlett 2014, 8), the site was denoted by 10 linears/ditches, forming probable enclosures (Fig. 4). Eight features (F.2, F.3, F.7, F.9, F10-12, F.14) contained artefacts, predominately Late Iron to Roman pottery (see pottery assessment below). The vast majority of the pottery (111 sherds; 982g) was recovered from F.9 in Trench 20 (Fig. 4), representing 48% of the whole assemblage from all three sites. F.9 most likely represents the southern ditch of enclosure BB identified during the geophysical survey (Bartlett 2014, Fig. 17). Compared to Site 1, however, the quantity of bone recovered was small (only 3% of the whole assemblage). Parallel ditches F.2, F.3, F.4, F.6 and F.7, at right angles to F.6, were not evinced on the geophysical survey, but appear to be related to the enclosure system here (Fig. 4).

Located c. 150m southeast of Site 1, these two locales maybe part of a larger, single settlement swathe found here.

Site 3

Comprising four features, Site 3 was the smallest of the identified sites and found only in Trench 6 (Fig. 4). The evidence consisted exclusively of two NW-SE and one each of a N-S and NE-SW oriented ditches (F.17, F.19, F.20, F.21). These features were all identified during the geophysical survey and form either boundary ditches or part of settlement related enclosure system; however, the profile, orientation and fill of F.19, a mid brown clayey silt, was considered to be a later ditch and either Medieval or post-Medieval in origin. F.20 and F.21 were of a similar profile and fills (dark grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions) from which later Middle Iron Age pottery (57 sherds, 642g) and bone (46 fragments, 418g) was recovered; 37 sherds (330g) and 36 animal bone fragments (336g) from F.20 alone.

Finds Totals

Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
Burnt Clay	6	14
Animal Bone	178	2088
Burnt Stone	16	3064
Pottery	231	2674
Slag	2	76
Total	433	7916

Table 4: Total number of finds by category.

Pottery Assessment (M. Knight)

Cat. No.	Trench No.	Feature	Context	Qty.	Wt(g)	Provisional Date
1	5	22	56	1	42	Late Iron Age
4	5	24	60	26	456	Late Iron Age
7	5	25	64	2	38	Roman
8	5	25	65	8	158	Late Iron Age/Conquest
13	5	30	77	1	40	Late Iron Age
16	5	33	83	2	18	Late Iron Age/Conquest
19	6	17	45	3	128	Late Middle Iron Age
20	6	20	51	37	330	Late Middle Iron Age
22	6	21	54	4	64	Late Middle Iron Age
23	19	11	28	10	20	Late Iron Age
25	19	14	35	1	8	Roman
26	19	14	37	1	6	Roman
27	19	14	39	3	42	Roman
28	6	19	49	1	2	Late Middle Iron Age
29	20	2	3	1	80	Conquest
30	20	3	5	2	10	Conquest
31	20	7	13	1	6	Conquest
32	20	7	15	1	6	Conquest
33	20	9	21	5	208	Conquest
35	20	9	23	106	774	Conquest
37	20	10	26	3	120	Conquest

39	6	21	53	12	118	Late Middle Iron Age
			Total	231	2674g	

Discussion

Following the previous fieldwalking along the proposed resilience scheme (Billington & Tabor 2012; Collins 2013)¹ and known Iron Age sites recorded in the wider environs, the 2014 fieldwork programme confirmed the presence of settlement related activity on three sites identified during the geophysical survey situated between Littlehey Prison, the water treatment works and Highfield Farm. The distribution and type of artefacts found at these three sites indicate that the main settlement focus is close to the features found in Trenches 19 and 20 – Site 2 – and that the burnt stone and animal bone from Site 1 may suggest that it was situated on the edge of a much larger settlement swathe. Alternatively, the spatial interval between the three sites may indicate that during the Late Iron Age and Early Roman periods settlement was relatively high, and that the interval between sites may have been between 200m and 250m.

The presence of a further site located some 200m south of Site 3 (geophysical survey curvilinear enclosure T; Bartlett 2014, Fig. 14) and the evidence from the fieldwork at the prison would support this interpretation (see also Brown 2011, 149 vis Iron Age settlement density). It is also worth noting that this enclosure is slightly off-alignment to the sites reported upon here and thus may be earlier in origin; the later Middle Iron Age pottery recovered from Site 3 (Trench 6) certainly predates that recovered from Sites 1 and 2, indicating an earlier more southerly focus or foci of settlement activity. Similar rectilinear sites are known throughout eastern England, for example the Middle to Late Iron Age site at North West Cambridge (Cessford & Evans 2014), Love's Farm, St Neot's (Hinman 2011), and close to the A14 between Cambridge and Brampton Hatch (Evans *et al.* 2012).

These three sites represent dense utilisation of the landscape during the Iron Age and early Roman periods and similar archaeological evidence can be expected to be found during subsequent investigations in these areas and, potentially, sealed beneath the made ground between Sites 1 and 3. Further evidence of Medieval and post-Medieval ridge and furrow can also be expected.

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¹ Almost exclusively post-Medieval material was recovered.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1							
				Archaeology		Ditch	
				Orientation		N-S	
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.0.24	
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0..156	
				Width (m)		1.8	
				Length (m)		52	
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Silty clay	
				General Description		<p>Field-drains and post-Medieval ditch in western half, Ditches at 31 and 34m.</p>	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings	Comments
34	Ditch	86	Fill	1.4	0.42	-	E-W ditch with steep sides and rounded base. Paired with F.35. Fill is very similar to the subsoil, possibly post-Medieval; trackway not found in Trench 2.
		87	Cut				
35	Ditch	88	Fill	1.3	0.3	-	E-W ditch with steep sides and rounded base. Paired with F.34 to the N. Forms possible trackway running E-W, but not as far as Trench 2 as not present there. Fill is similar to subsoil.
		89	Cut				


Trench 2		
	Archaeology	None
	Orientation	NNE-SSW
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	51
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	Silty clay
	General Description	
Sterile trench with possible E-W ditch at 21m		

Trench 3		
	Archaeology	None
	Orientation	E-W
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.1
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.2
	Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	50
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	Silty clay
General Description		
The trench was located east of Trench 2 across zone of possibly R&F. Trench was sterile		


Trench 4							
				Archaeology		Linear feature?	
				Orientation		NE-SW	
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.35	
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		-	
				Width (m)		1.8	
				Length (m)		50.5	
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Silty Clay	
				General Description		Large, mottled area located at NE end of trench	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill /Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments
29		74	Fill	5?	0.75	-	Stepped and very steep side. The cut is indeterminable; in the trench it appears as though it is a NE-SW linear. It could equally be the edge of a pitting as it was not fully exposed, only the S edge. A large possibly linear feature. There is no material from the feature, only a clay field drain that slopes down into the feature. The north edge is not exposed in the trench, but it does appear as if an edge is present. The flecking in the upper 10cm could suggest some backfilling. It maybe that the feature was cut for post-Medieval drainage with the field drain, or associated with the construction of Grafham Water.
		75	Cut				


Trench 5							
				Archaeology			Iron Age Occupation
				Orientation			NW-SE
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)			0.25
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)			0.19
				Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)			-
				Width (m)			1.8
				Length (m)			47
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)			Silty clay
				General Description			
							<p>This trench was located at the eastern end of Trenches 1 – 5, located to test an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. 11 features were identified within the trench; a pit, two tree-throws and eight ditches, including one re-cut. All of the features were archaeologically tested.</p>
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings	Comments
22	Pit	56	Fill	0.43	0.47	Pot, bone, slag	A small steep-sided pit, flat base, seemingly manually backfilled along with animal remains, pottery sherds and metalworking slag.
		57	Cut				
23	Tree-throw	58	Fill	0.28	0.3	-	Small relatively shallow ditch with very steep sides and flat base. Fill likely to have occurred naturally
		59	Cut				
24	Ditch	60	Fill	2.0	0.83	Pot, bone, burnt stone	Large NNE-SSW oriented boundary ditch or linear. Part of a series of boundary ditches in this area along with F.25 and F.27, both with similar alignments. The ditch has slowly silted up (61) and then has had a dump, possibly several over a short period, of burnt pebbles (60) from possibly cooking pushed into it on its W side. The ditch has then been recut as F.25, slightly further to the E.
		61	Fill				
		62	Cut				
25	Recut of F.24	63	Fill	2.6	0.85	Pot, bone	Recut of ditch F.24, which has then gradually silted up (65) before being rapidly filled in with redeposited natural (64) – to flatten the area; slight dip has then silted up (63). E edge and relationship with F.27 destroyed by field-drain; however, as this ditch (64) was cut by F.26, which is in turn cut by F.27, F.27 must be more recent than F.25
		65	Fill				
		65	Fill				
		66	Cut				


26	Ditch	67	Fill	0.5	0.4	-	E-W linear with steep sides and flat base cutting over F.25, with an obvious difference between dark fill (67) and the redder natural (64), but is cut by N-S ditch F.27. Probably some form of boundary ditch for an enclosure in this area.
		68	Cut				
27	Ditch	69	Fill	1.8	0.53	Bone	N-S linear with steep sides and flat base and two fills – boundary ditch. Latest in a series of boundary ditches in this area – F.24 and F.25 – on a similar alignment to the W. May have also provided drainage.
		70	Fill				
		71	Cut				
28	Ditch	72	Fill	0.5	0.15	Bone	Small shallow ditch with concave base; sandstone in fill.
		73	Cut				
30	Ditch?	76	Fill	1.0-1.4	0.4-0.65	Pot	NE-SW linear with gradual to steep sides and sharp break of slope and concave base. A linear ditch that cuts the trench at an angle, thus two sections excavated; a single sherd of pottery was recovered.
		77	Fill				
		78	Cut				
31	Ditch	79	Fill	1.65	0.53	Bone	NW-SE linear with vertical sides and flat base. Profile would suggest quite modern; animal bone found does not seem appear particularly old. Possible return for a similar NE-SW aligned ditch further to NW in Trench 5.
		80	Cut				
32	Tree-throw	81	Fill	0.9	0.1	Bone	Gentle, rounded based shallow pit or tree-throw. The fill is very mottled; probable tree-throw.
		82	Cut				
33	Ditch	83	Fill	0.68	0.15	Pot, bone	Shallow ditch seemingly backfilled that was unevenly cut into the natural and left with dips on the surface, which have filled naturally.
		84	Fill				
		85	Cut				


Trench 6							
				Archaeology			Iron Age Occupation
				Orientation			E-W
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)			0.2
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)			0.2
				Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)			-
				Width (m)			1.8
				Length (m)			51
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)			Clay
				General Description			
				A total of four features, located within the central third of the trench, were excavated, all ditches and gullies.			
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments
17	Ditch	45	Fill	0.5	0.3	Pot	Steep-sided N-S linear with a V-shaped base, possibly a drainage ditch. IA pottery recovered.
		46	Cut				
19	Gully	49	Fill	0.54	0.18	-	WNW-ESE linear with steep sides and sharp break of slope to a concave base. Possibly Medieval or post-Medieval field boundary.
		50	Cut				
20	Gully	51	Fill	0.75	0.32	Pot, bone	NW-SE linear with steep to vertical sides and sharp break of slope and concave base. A slightly curvilinear ditch with a large quantity of material & dark fill suggests probable settlement activity. A similar ditch and pits found to the W and a large boundary ditch, F.21, to the east. This feature is also significantly deeper to the S and may represent either a change in form or a different feature; however, there was no apparent change in the fill.
		52	Cut				
21	Ditch	53	Fill	0.83	0.53	Pot, bone	NE-SW linear with steep sides and sharp break of slope to a concave base. A deep boundary ditch enclosing settlement activity represented by F.21.
		54	Fill				
		55	Cut				


Trenches 7-11 not machined or excavated during this phase of fieldwork


Trench 12							
				Archaeology		Linear	
				Orientation		E-W	
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.24	
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.13	
				Width (m)		1.8	
				Length (m)		47	
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Clay	
				General Description		Trench located S of a pipeline containing a single undated ditch	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill /Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments
16	Ditch	43	Fill	0.5	0.2	-	N-S linear with steep sides and rounded base containing a mid-grey brown silty clay typical of the area, with occasional pebbles.
		44	Cut				


Trench 13							
				Archaeology		Linear	
				Orientation		NE-SW	
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.21	
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.11	
				Width (m)		1.8	
				Length (m)		36	
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Clay	
				General Description		Trench located across of area of ridge and furrow identified on geophysical survey. Three furrows found in the trench, one excavated.	
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill /Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments
18	Furrow	47	Fill	1.2	0.1	-	Furrow. Part of a N-S aligned ridge and furrow in this field; two more to SE in this trench.
		48	Cut				


Trench 14							
				Archaeology		Hearth?	
				Orientation		N-S	
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.23	
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.15	
				Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)		-	
				Width (m)		1.8	
				Length (m)		41	
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Clay	
General Description		Possible hearth located in the central part of the trench; no finds.					
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/ Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments
15	Pit	40	Fill	0.9	0.1	-	Shallow, oval pit containing a charcoal fill and red burnt clay at the base.
		41	Fill				
		42	Cut				


Trench 15		
	Archaeology	None
	Orientation	N-S
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.23
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.21
	Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	47
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	Clay
	General Description	
	<p>A single trench located to the west of the resilience scheme, no archaeological features were identified with the exception of a single untested furrow at the S end.</p>	

Trench 16							
	Archaeology	Linear					
	Orientation	NE-SW					
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.29					
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.24					
	Width (m)	1.8					
	Length (m)	47					
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	Clay					
	General Description						
	<p>Located E of Trench 6 this contained a single feature and two areas of 'dirty' natural in the eastern end of the trench. Subsoil deeper at the SW end.</p>						
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill /Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	 Finds	Comments
1	Ditch	1	Fill	0.75	0.17	-	Undated ditch with steep sides and flat base; maybe the same feature, F.13, in Trench 18 as on same alignment.
		2	Cut				


Trench 17			
	Archaeology		None
	Orientation		NE-SW
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.22
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.14
	Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)		-
	Width (m)		1.8
	Length (m)		51
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Gravel
	General Description		
	<p>Located close to Trench 21 in an area with few geophysical anomalies. No archaeology.</p>		

Trench 18								
	Archaeology		Ditch					
	Orientation		NE-SW					
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.27					
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.19					
	Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)		-					
	Width (m)		1.8					
	Length (m)		52					
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Gravel					
	General Description							
	<p>Single S-S aligned ditch located in the centre of the trench.</p>							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments	
13	Ditch	32	Fill	1.0	0.25	-	A steep sided ditch with flat base with redeposited clay natural. Possibly a northern continuation of F.1 in Trench 16; similar shape and orientation. Post-Medieval?	
		33	Fill					
		34	Cut					

Trench 19							
				Archaeology			Iron Age Occupation
				Orientation			E-W
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)			0.26
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)			0.21
				Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)			-
				Width (m)			1.8
				Length (m)			55
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)			Clayey Gravel
				General Description			
				This trench was cut in an area with probable ridge and furrow and potential archaeological features. Three features were identified, one consisting of a stony layer. Pottery recovered would suggest an Iron Age date for the features			
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments
11	Ditch	28	Fill	0.37	0.26	Pot	V-Shaped, steep sided NE-SW linear of unknown date. The shape of the feature may suggest a Roman date, although the pottery appears earlier in date.
		29	Cut				
12	Ditch	30	Fill	0.6	0.37	Bone	Undated N-S oriented linear with near vertical sides and flat base. Possibly a boundary ditch and related to F.6 and F.7 in Trench 20 to the E. Geophysical survey suggests this may be part of the enclosure identified on the survey.
		31	Cut				
14	Watering hole	35	Fill	1m slot	0.17-0.7	Pot	Edge of a large irregular feature, shallow at this point. The ceramic appeared water eroded and the slot was much deeper to the W. This may be a watering-hole or natural hollow that has silted up, then capped with a thick layer of subsoil. The fills were dark to mid-grey clayish silt (38), (39) with occasional (35), (37; subsoil) to frequent rounded pebbles (38). Not fully excavated.
		36	Cut				
		37	Fill				
		38	Fill				
		39	Layer				

Trench 20							
				Archaeology		Iron Age Occupation	
				Orientation		N-S	
				Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)		0.27	
				Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)		0.19	
				Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)		-	
				Width (m)		1.8	
				Length (m)		50	
				Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)		Clayey Gravel	
General Description							
<p>This trench was located to test an area with high potential for archaeological activity identified during the geophysical survey. In total, nine features were identified; two tree-throws and eight ditches.</p>							
Feature No.	Feature Type	Context No.	Cut/Fill/Layer	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Comments
2	Ditch	3	Fill	0.8	0.25	Pot	E-W linear with steep sides and flat base. Part of a series of E-W and N-S enclosures; also F.3, F.6 and F.7.
		4	Cut				
3	Ditch	5	Fill	0.5	0.19	Pot	ENE-WSW ditch with gradual sides and rounded base, part of a series of enclosure ditches here.
		6	Cut				
4	Ditch	7	Fill	0.8	0.35	-	ENE-WSW ditch with steep sides and V-shaped profile cut by a later tree-throw F.5. Similar to ditch F.10 to the N.
		8	Cut				
5	Tree-throw	9	Fill	1.3	0.5	-	Tree-throw with disturbed mixed mid brown/grey silty clay with pebbles and chalk clumps.
		10	Cut				
6	Ditch	11	Fill	0.6	0.23	-	ENE-WSE ditch with steep sides and rounded base. Part of a rectangular system. Intersects with F.7 here. Possibly related to F.2, F.3 and to F.12 in Trench 19.
		12	Cut				
7	Ditch	13	Fill	0.45	0.13-0.2	Pot	NNW-SSE ditch with steep sides and rounded base, intersecting with F.6; fill of mid-brown firm clayish silt with occasional pebbles and clumps of chalk. Forms part of a rectangular enclosure with F.6 and F.12 in Trench 19. Cut by a later tree-throw
		14	Cut				
		15	Fill				
		16	Cut				
		17	Fill				
18	Cut						
8	Tree-throw	19	Fill	1.2	0.35	-	Steep sided irregular feature; tree-throw.
		20	Cut				

9	Ditch	21	Fill	2.0	0.65	Pot, bone	Large E-W boundary ditch with steep sides and flat base containing a yellowish brown to dark grey brown clayish silt with occasional moderate pebbles throughout and charcoal fleck. Possibly Roman pottery in basal fill – 2 smashed vessels when feature still open.
		22	Fill				
		23	Fill				
		24	Cut				
10	Ditch	25	Fill	0.75	0.5	Pot, bone	NE-SW oriented linear with steep sides and V-shaped base with basal fill containing mid brown clay and large stone/flint nodules.
		26	Fill				
		27	Cut				

Trench 21		
	Archaeology	None
	Orientation	NE-SW
	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.1
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.2
	Avg. Colluvium Depth (m)	-
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	51
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	Clay
	General Description	
	This trench was located a short distance east of Trench 17. No archaeology.	

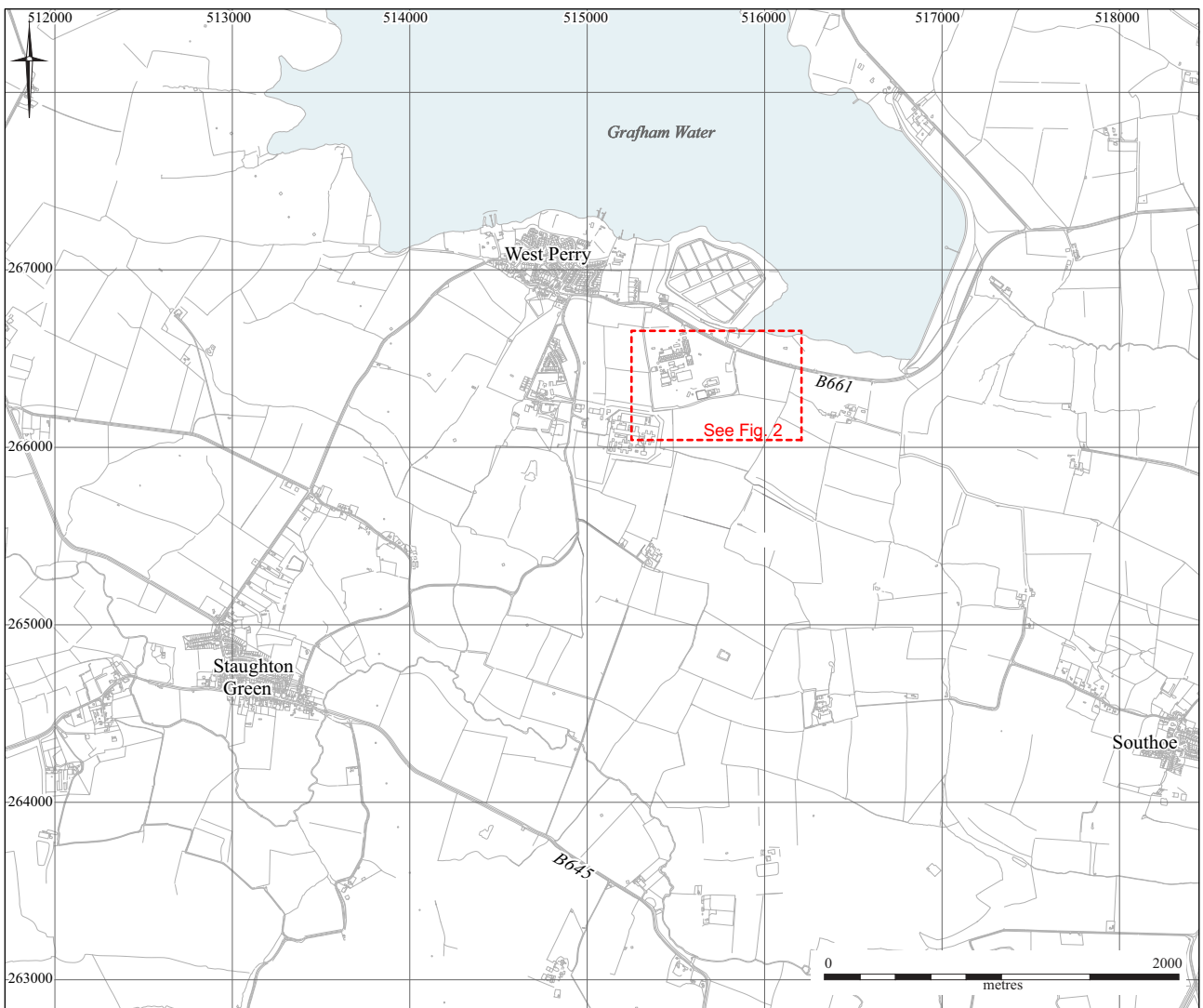
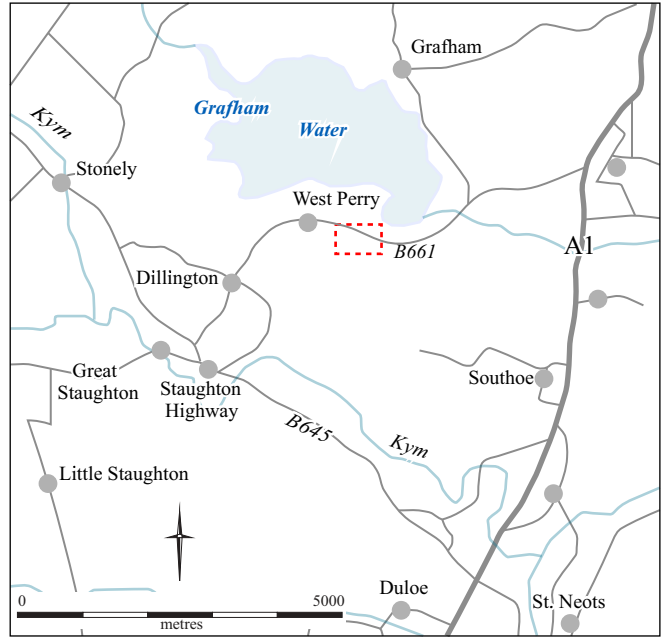
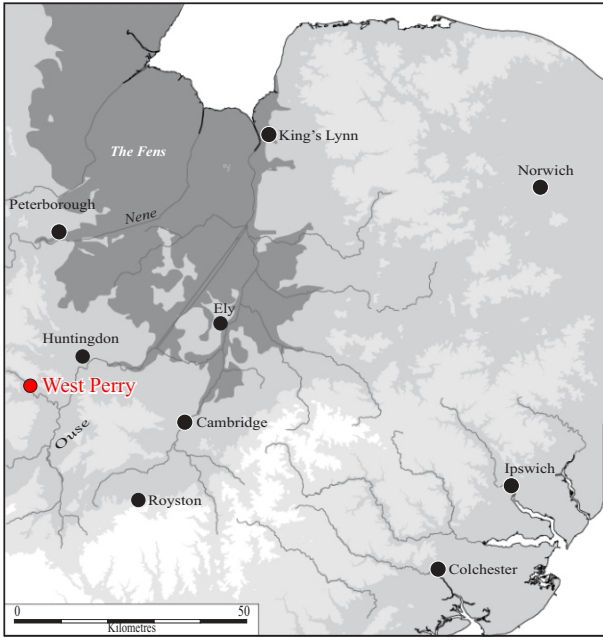


Figure 1. Location plan

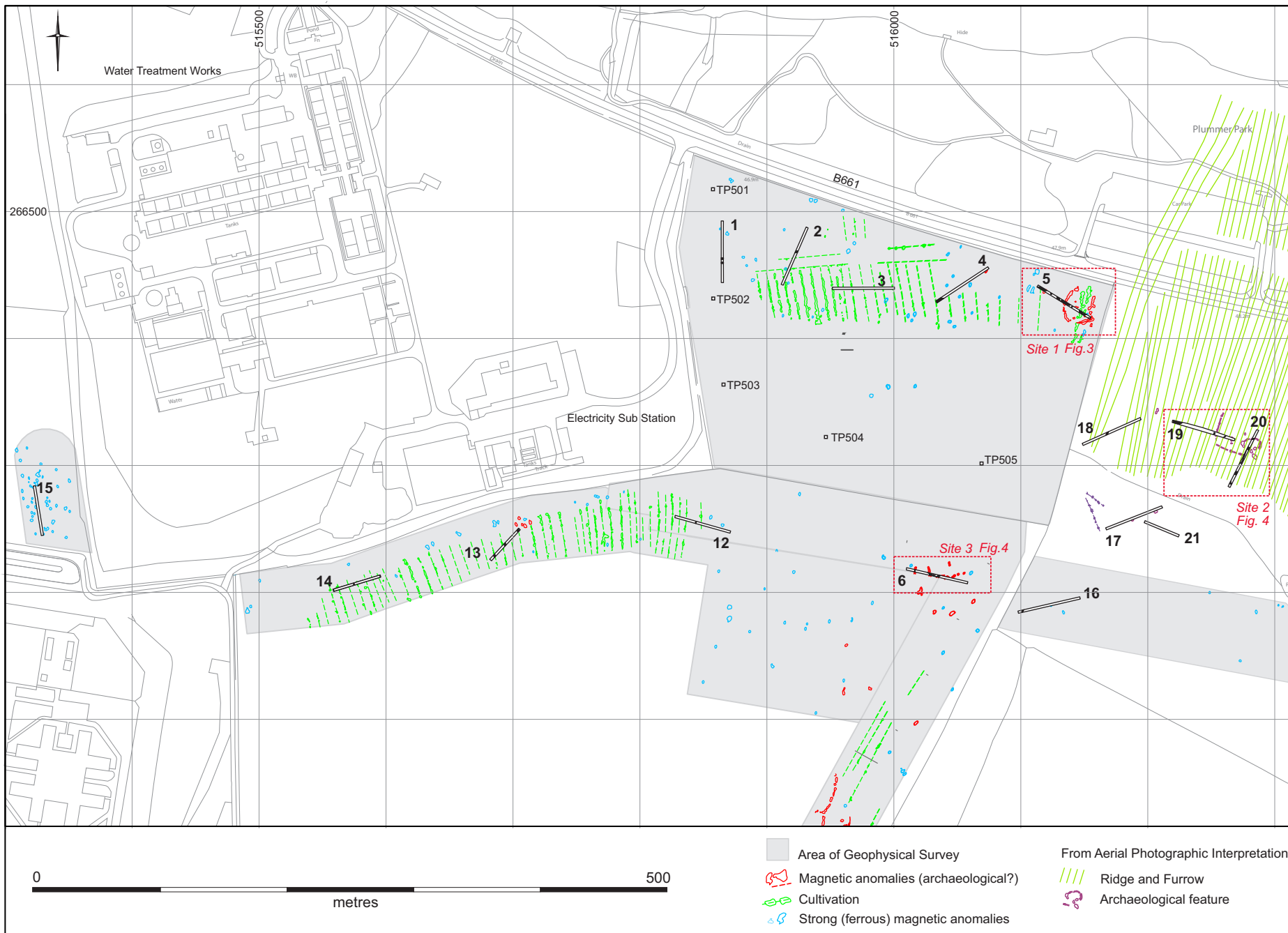
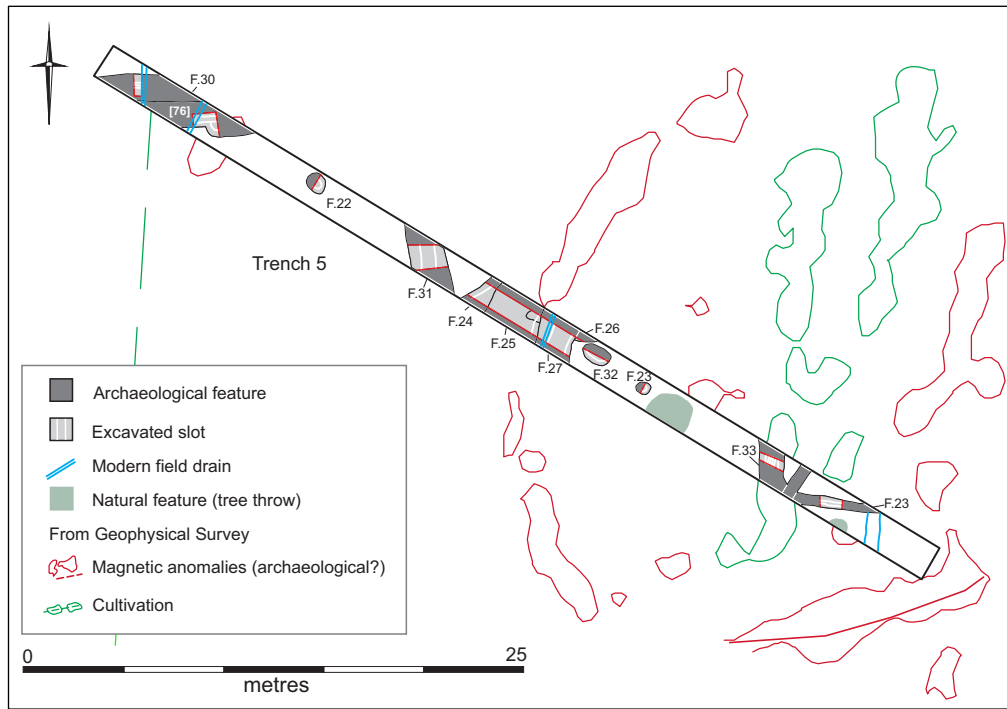


Figure 2. Trench and test pit plan with geophysical and aerial photographic survey results



Photograph of F.27, F.25 and F.24 looking south west

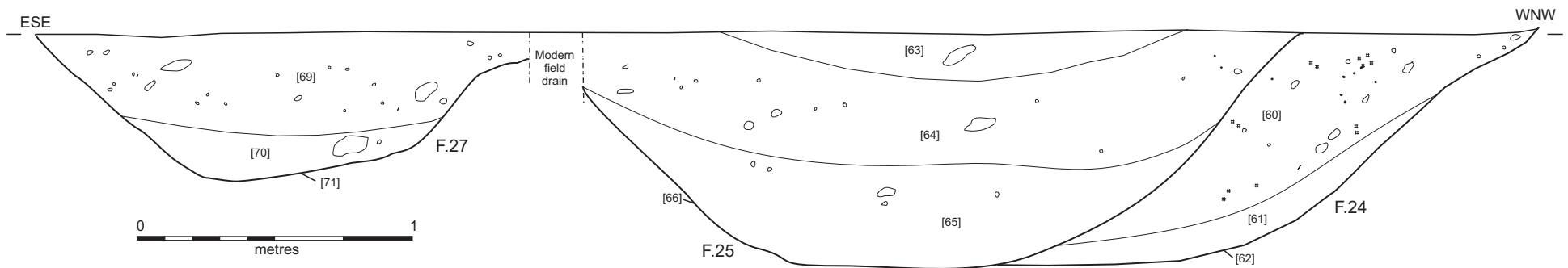
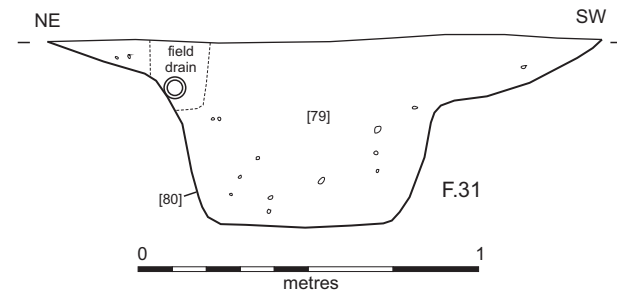


Figure 3. Site 1 Trench plan and results

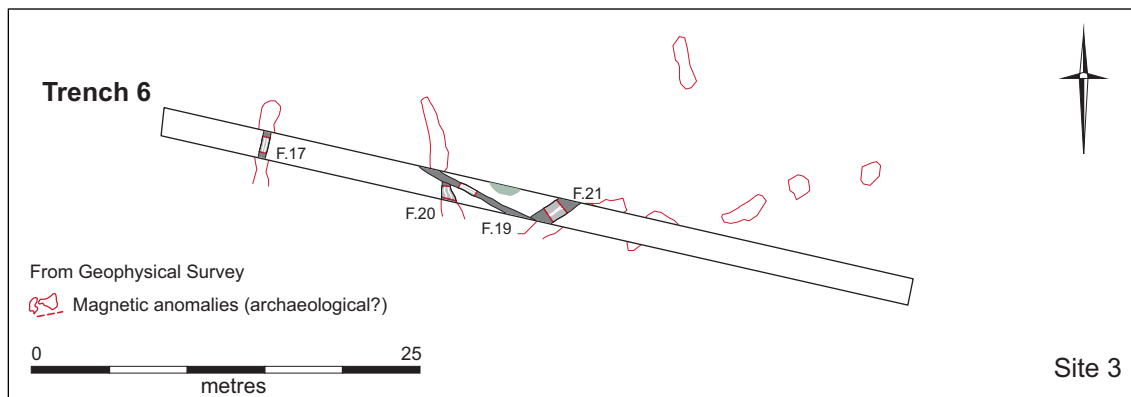
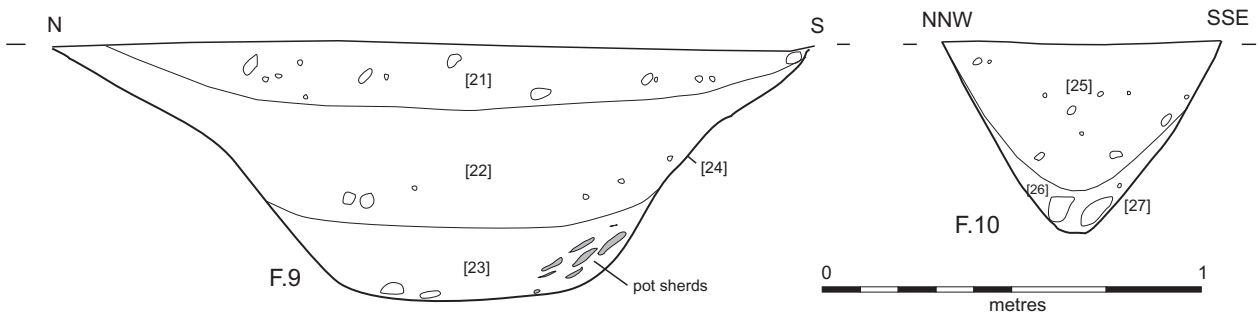
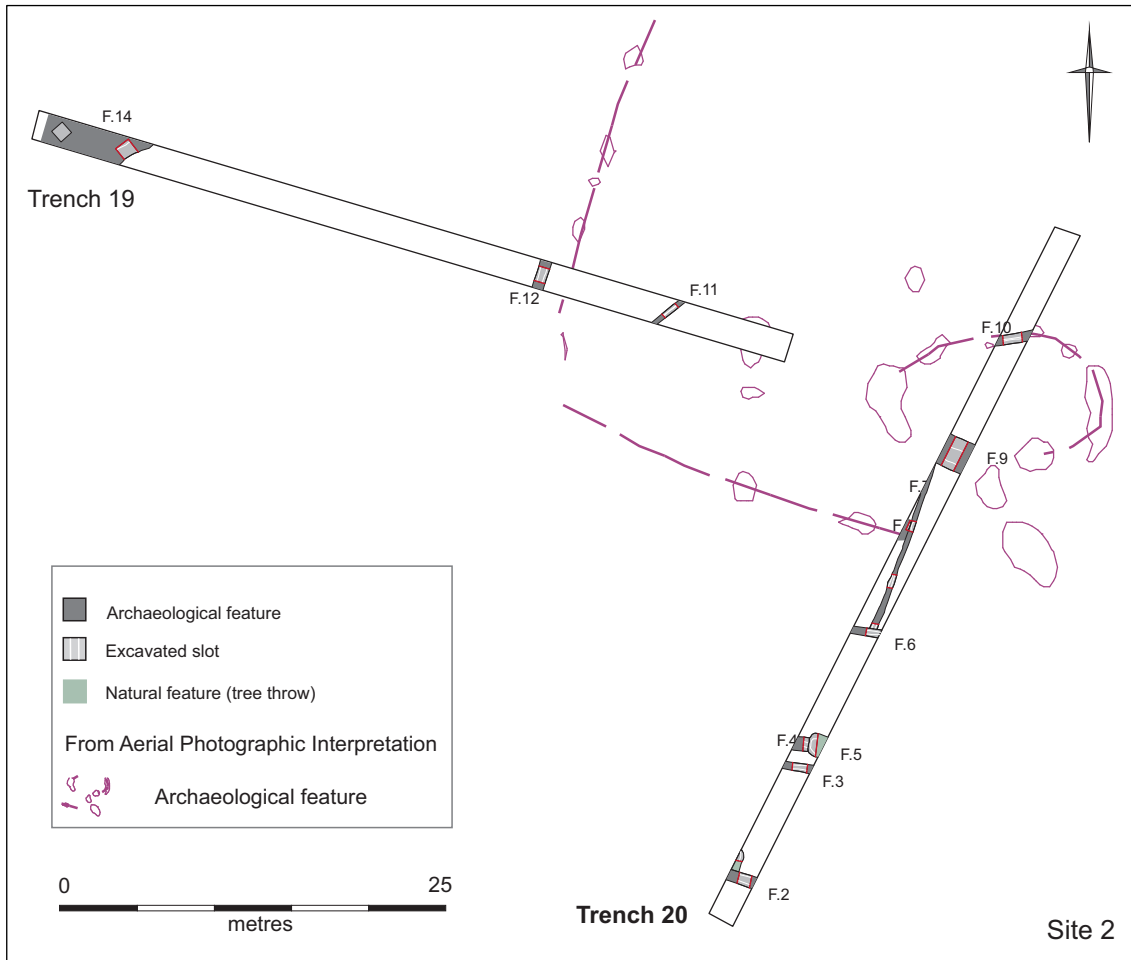


Figure 4. Sites 2 and 3 results

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-190960

Project details

Project name	The Grafham Resilience Scheme, Perry, Cambridgeshire An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on open farmland to the south of Perry, Cambridgeshire along the proposed route of a pipeline forming part of the Grafham Resilience Scheme. 16 Trenches were excavated, revealing three areas of archaeological and settlement activity dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.
Project dates	Start: 26-08-2014 End: 03-09-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3927 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Aerial Photography - interpretation","Fieldwalking","Measured Survey","Sample Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE GREAT STAUGHTON Grafham Water, Perry
Study area	1363.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 15 66 52.2796967296 -0.314099766512 52 16 46 N 000 18 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.00m Max: 50.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	David Gibson
Project director/manager	David Gibson
Project supervisor	Ricky Patten
Project supervisor	Grahame Appleby
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Anglian Water

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	GRS14
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	GRS14
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Geophysics","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	GRS14
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Paper Media available	"Aerial Photograph","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Grafham Resilience Scheme, Perry, Cambridgeshire An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Appleby, G.A.
Other bibliographic details	Report 1259
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Cambridge Archaeological Unit

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Description	Pdf format only
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Entered on	25 September 2014

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