

Marston Pit, Cavenham, Suffolk (Quarry Extension)

An Archaeological Excavation



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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Two phases of archaeological investigation were conducted following evaluation trenching in advance of an extension to an existing quarry at Martson Pit. This revealed evidence for prehistoric and post-medieval inhabitation that together adds to the growing understanding of this important landscape. The 8ha site lies upon second river terrace sand and gravel at a height of 15-18m AOD, and is situated in an area noted for the density of its prehistoric settlement and burial, along with Roman and subsequent historic sequences culminating with the site's use during the Second World War as part of Tuddenham airfield.

Prehistoric activity was largely contained within the north half of the site area, with the earliest human presence represented by a small quantity of Early to Late Neolithic surface recovered worked flint as well as from later features. A cluster of nine pits dated to the second half of the Early Iron Age and may represent settlement margins from a timeline that has hitherto been absent from the broader landscape picture. Twenty-five additional pits and postholes could not be assigned by period, although a number of these may also be prehistoric.

Historic-era evidence comprised of a ditch rectilinear enclosure that corresponds with a known nineteenth century oak plantation; this may have been established in response to soil reduction resultant from long-term intensive rabbit burrowing evinced across the site. Lastly, wartime activities were illustrated by two large pits that contained clearance debris including fragments of mortar rounds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Marston Pit. Jess Tipper (County Archaeological Officer for the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) oversaw and monitored the development control of the investigation. David Gibson (CAU) was the Project Manager. The Phase 1 fieldwork was carried out by Tony Baker, Matthew Collins, Ben Saunders and the author; Phase 2 was conducted by Alasdair Wright and Benjamin Neil. Graphics were produced by Bryan Crossan and Vicki Herring, and the site was surveyed by Jon Moller.

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in two phases on land at Marston Pit quarry to the north of the village of Cavenham, Suffolk, in fulfilment of conditions attached to the projected extension of the quarry. Following trenched evaluation (Collins 2013) Phase 1 comprised open area investigation that was carried out between 6th May and 3rd June 2013. Trenched evaluation was conducted as the first part of Phase 2 in March 2015 with targeted open area immediately following this. The following report is an update of that presented for Phase 1 (Brittain 2014) with the inclusion of Phase 2's works and results. The project was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Allen Newport Ltd, and was carried out in response to a brief issued by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of the Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT).

Location, Topography, Geology

Centred at National Grid Reference TL 7655 7207, Marston Pit is situated on the eastern edge of the Breckland farmland approximately 1.5 km north of the village of Cavenham, Suffolk, and 750m to the south of The River Lark (Figure 1). Previous land use of the north half of the development area is agricultural, although having lain dormant for up to a decade, and birch woodland interspersed with farm buildings covered the southern half of the area prior to their demolition or clearance in early 2013. The development area extends across *c.* 8ha, with a north to south elevation of the underlying geology between *c.* 15m and 18m AOD. The underlying geology is glaciofluvial drift of 2nd river terrace sand and gravel deposit.

Archaeological Background

The archaeological potential of the development area has already been provisionally measured (Collins 2006; Rolfe 2006; Brittain 2014). Reference is made here to the most recent research frameworks for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott 2011) and aggregate resources of Suffolk (Robinson 2007), in which particular attention may be centred upon the prehistoric and Romano-British inhabitation observed throughout this area.

Previous open excavation has been carried out to the west of the development area (CAM 040, CAM 032) along with additional trial trenching, fieldwalking and monitoring in the broader vicinity, most notably to the south. The results from these investigations include important evidence for dense prehistoric settlement and burial, along with later Roman and historic sequences culminating with the site's use during World War II as part of Tuddenham airfield.

Mesolithic worked flints have been found at four locations around the development area (CAM 011, CAM 023, CAM 027 and CAM 040) illustrating a broad distribution of surface scattering with occasional more localised clusters. Fieldwalking has similarly identified Neolithic material culture at four locations, including four sherds of Grooved Ware with worked flint at CAM 003. Neolithic features were subsequently found during excavation of CAM 003 (as CAM 040 Area C) alongside further surface finds of worked flint and pottery. Fieldwalking has produced additional evidence for Neolithic activity suggestive of an extensive occupation site

around the east side of Cavenham Mere (CAM 022, CAM 027 and CAM 029). Evidence for Bronze Age activity has been represented by six possible post structures, four possible hearths within charcoal ‘spreads’, and multiple pits with finds of worked stone and pottery, all indicative of settlement-related activity (CAM 040 Area C). Additional features thought to be of a prehistoric date have been identified by trench evaluation to the southwest of the development area (CAM 043).

A linear earthwork (CAM 001) consisting of a large bank with a ditch on its western side (and perhaps also partially surviving on its eastern side) extends over c.1000m north to south from The River Lark at the edge of its flood plain on the east side of the development area. These, ‘The Black Ditches’, are scheduled as an Ancient Monument (SAM old county number 18a), and presumed to be either an Iron Age or Saxon date, although two minor investigations were unable to secure these claims (CAM 032 and CAM 039). A single sherd of Thetford Ware represents the only firm evidence for Saxon visitation to the area (CAM 027).

Roman settlement sites are comparatively numerous, with pottery, metalwork, tile and bone waste having been recovered at five locations through fieldwalking around the Cavenham Mere (CAM 006, CAM 011, CAM 012, CAM 014 and LKD 019).

Notable later activity includes a temporary military camp of 1779 defined by five ditched encampments that lie to the northwest of the development area (CAM 042). Hodkinsons’s 1783 Map of Suffolk shows the development area as part of Tuddenham Fen Heath with no discernable features traversing the site. Similarly, the map of the 1801 Enclosure Award illustrates the development area as being clear of any features (Breen in Rolfe 2006). Oak plantation is illustrated within the southern half of the development area in the Ordnance Survey maps of the 1880s to 1905, along with a minor trackway leading northwest across the site.

In the early stages of World War II a Q-site dummy airfield was established on Cavenham Heath, and near to this in late 1942 (completed in autumn of 1943) the Royal Air Force began to develop Tuddenham bomber airfield consisting of three intersecting runways. FIDO fog clearance burners were installed along one of the runways, and were first used in August 1944. Anti-glider ditches were cut across the heath in a cross-hatch pattern; these, along with the airfield’s runways and buildings, were situated along the south and southwest of the development area. The airfield was abandoned in 1946, but in 1957 the site was selected for a Thor medium range missile unit as a part of Project Emily. The military use of the site ceased with its closure in July 1963 ([http:// www.raf.mod.uk/ bombercommand/s48b.html](http://www.raf.mod.uk/bombercommand/s48b.html)).

Methodology

Phases 1 and 2 (Figures 2-4) each followed specifications previously outlined by the CAU in accordance with design briefs for archaeological investigation issued by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of the Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT). In Phase 2 the open area was defined by the feature distribution identified by the initial opening of 20 trenches totalling 733m in addition to the results from the Phase 1 investigations.

Topsoil and underlying layers were removed under archaeological supervision of a tracked 360° machine using a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand and recorded using the CAU modified version of the MoLAS recording system (Spence 1990). Trenches and features were digitally photographed and then planned at a scale of 1:50, with feature sections planned at 1:10. All plans were correlated with fixed points on the OS grid using a Global Positioning System. Environmental sampling of archaeological deposits was strategically conducted as bulked (bagged) samples. Progress of the excavation was monitored by a County Archaeological Officer of the SCCAS/CT.

Information detailing the character of the features was recorded on a data sheet that, along with the digital photographic record, has been catalogued together within an archive following the procedures outlined in MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006) and the SCCAS (2010). These are being stored with the processed material finds record at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit office under the code CAM 058.

2. RESULTS

Features

A total of forty archaeological features were recorded, comprising of six linears, 34 pits or post-holes, a set of plough-marks and natural burrows. A number of these produced material dating from the Early Neolithic to the mid-twentieth century; eight pits could be securely dated on account of their material evidence, with other features considered to be contemporary on account of their proximity and similarity in character.

The condition of the features was varied, with extensive rabbit burrowing traversing the entirety of the excavation area. Clear evidence for recent burrowing was apparent, although, as discussed below, this may also reflect several centuries of burrowing and perhaps small-scale warren management.

Early Iron Age

Six pits within the northernmost half of the excavation area produced a material assemblage that included pottery dated to the latter half of the Early Iron Age: Features 127, F.128, F.134, F.135, F.303 and F.304 (Figures 5 & 7). Two pairings are evident amongst these sets of these: F.127 and F.128, with F.134 and F.135. Features 303 and F.304 were clustered in a group with three other pits from which no datable material was recovered, but which are likely to be contemporary: Fs. 300, 301 and 302. This brings the total number of early Iron Age pits to nine. Features 300 and F.301 may also represent a third pairing.

Each pit was circular in plan and formed of near vertical sides and a flat base. The pairing is not coincidental, with each pair displaying identical fill patterning and dimensions; in two of the pairs one pit was found to be 0.2m smaller in width but broadly equal in depth (Table 1). The smallest pits, F.300 and F.301, each contained only a single and comparable dark grey sandy silt fill, whereas the other pits, at between 0.32 and 0.75m depth, were filled with 3-5 deposits. Each pit displayed a regular sequence of deposition, with a dark grey basal silt infused with charcoal flecks

and overlain by mottled and occasionally banded soft mid greyish brown or mid yellowish brown sandy silt capped by a firm dark grey sandy silt. The pottery derived from the lower profile and generally from the basal deposits, whereas the burnt and worked flint was predominantly located in the upper, capping deposits.

Regularity of inward tipping of deposits into the pits was only observed in the pairing of F.134 and F.135; this being from their north edge. The basal fill of each of these two pits contained spreads of refitting rim and body sherds that appear to have originated from a single vessel. In total, F.134 contained 7 sherds (170g), with F.135 containing 25 sherds (520g).

F. no.	No. of fills	Length / Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings
127	3	1.45 / 1.32	0.35	FL,BF,PT
128	3	1.6 / 1.5	0.34	FL
134	3	1.46 / 1.4	0.32	FL,PT
135	3	1.7 / 1.66	0.38	FL,PT
300	1	0.93	0.33	-
301	1	0.85	0.23	-
302	4	1.4	0.7	-
303	5	1.75	0.75	PT
304	4	1.45	0.5	FL,PT,FC

Table 1. Early Iron Age pit characteristics.

Post-Medieval and Modern

The southern half of the site was traversed by three lengths of ditch that appear to connect and form an enclosed rectilinear area oriented northwest-southeast. This comprised of features 101, F.109, F.200, F.201, F.203, F.204 and F.205 (Figure 8). including the Phase 1 evaluation, a total of 13 slots were opened across the enclosure's ditch, which illustrated a consistent profile and mottled sandy fill structure: a mouth of 0.98-1.73m width with straight inverted sides breaking moderately to a narrow flat base at a depth of 0.56-0.89m. Two to three deposits of variously shaded grey and brown silt or silty sand filled each slot, each being heavily penetrated by tree roots. No finds were identified from within any of the slots.

Two pits (F.121 and F.125) were found to contain modern metal, glass and other debris, including the remains of ordnance, notably the tails of 3" and 4" mortar rounds. Prior to the latter's finding, excavation of a quarter section was begun over F.121 which displayed a dark banded fill of mixed dark silt and mid orange brown sandy silt, probably representing a combination of backfilled topsoil and subsoil. In plan the feature was near circular, measuring 4.9m by 4.7m, and the sides were straight and near vertical. Excavation was halted at a depth of 0.55m at which point the first signs of ordnance were encountered. Illustrating a comparable plan and dimension with iron metal debris resting upon its surface, it was decided that F.125 would remain unexcavated.

The archive includes notice of a broad swathe of ploughmarks observed as running along a similar alignment to the ditched enclosure. The ploughmarks, recorded as F.123, were documented as a c.32m wide southward swathe starting from c.7m south

of ditch F.101. To the north of this, cropmarks (not recorded) were noted as roughly following a northeast-southwest alignment.

Undated

Datable evidence was absent from 25 pits and post-holes: F.113, F.114, F.115, F.116, F.117, F.118, F.119, F.120, F.122, F.124, F.126, F.129, F.130, F.131, F.132, F.133, F.136, F.137, F.138, F.139, F.140, F.141, F.142, F.143 and F.202 (Table 2).

F. no.	No. of fills	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds
113	1	0.65	0.45	0.1	-
114	3	2.7	1.1	0.72	-
115	1	-	0.6	0.18	-
116	1	-	0.6	0.2	-
117	1	2	0.4	0.7	-
118	1	-	0.4	0.25	-
119	2	-	0.43	0.22	BF
120	2	1.85	1.2	0.4	-
121	1	4.9	4.7	+0.55	-
122	1	-	0.35	0.1	-
124	3	1.75	0.85	0.4	-
126	2	0.7	0.64	0.13	-
129	1	0.32	0.31	0.15	-
130	1	0.8	0.66	0.24	-
131	1	0.8	0.65	0.26	-
132	n/a	0.8	0.6	n/a	-
133	1	-	0.32	0.52	-
136	1	-	0.55	0.08	-
137	1	-	0.35	0.08	-
138	3	1.25	1.2	0.5	-
139	1	0.65	0.6	0.12	-
140	6	4.1	4	2.3	-
141	1	-	0.6	0.11	-
142	2	0.8	0.75	0.3	BF
143	1	0.5	0.47	0.18	-

Table 2. Undated pit and post-holes. F.132 was unexcavated.

Irrespective of the lack of physical evidence, there are a number of factors that point towards a prehistoric date for many of these features. In part this is supported by the distribution of these features predominantly within the northern half of the excavated area in the vicinity of the Early Iron Age pits; however, a modern date may not be discounted for a number of these, such as a series of shallow rectangular features (F.130, F.132, F.133 and F.139) that are likely to be the bases of posts or a fenceline along the northeast edge of the project area. One of these (F.133) cut a post hole (F.141) that contained remains of a wooden stake still lodged within its socket. Filled with mixed dark grey silt deposits and measuring approximately 0.8m by 0.6m with a depth of 0.12-0.5m, these rectangular cuts differed markedly with the other pits and post-holes over the excavated area, and may relate to the wartime activities across the site.

A prehistoric date may account for three otherwise undated pits: F.114, F.117, and F.124 (Figure 8). These were rectilinear in plan (1.75-2.7m by 0.4-1.1m) and each oriented northeast-southwest, and their sides were vertical towards a flat base at depths of 0.4-0.72m. The function of these rectilinear pits is not immediately evident, although the proximity between F.114 and F.124 may suggest a relationship or pairing, and most notably the former of these displays a character distinct from the Early Iron Age pits. The base and lower sides of F.114 were pinkish in colour, indicative of exposure to heat, and against which rested a black layer [233] of sandy silt containing frequent charcoal lumps suggested in Fryer's macroflora assessment to perhaps represent oven fuel. This basal deposit appears to have then been exposed for a period as the pit was left open and unmanaged, filling partially with wind-blown sand [232] that was then sealed by dark grey sandy silt [231] containing rare flecks of charcoal. This final deposit may have derived from a nearby midden, although neither F.117 or F.124 contained charcoal within their fill deposits. Pit F.117 was formed of dimensions similar to F.114, but contained only a single fill with bands of dark grey and mid brown sandy silt and no charcoal. F.124 was the smaller of the three rectangular pits, and contained three deposits, the second of which [264] may again be a wind-blown sand indicative of a period in which the pit was open but unmanaged.

A further 15 pit and post-hole features (F.113, F.115, F.116, F.118, F.119, F.120, F.122, F.126, F.129, F.131, F.136, F.137, F.138, F.142 and F.143) are generally circular with either vertical or slightly concave sides. Although with an average depth of 0.2m the diameter of these varied between 0.31m and 1.85m. Features 119, F.126 and F.142 contained small quantities of burnt flint, and F.126 may be highlighted as this contained a lining of compact clayey silt over the pit's flat base and upon which lay dark grey silt with occasional charcoal and a dense clutch of heat-cracked stones that had been sourced from a water-borne context. During the Phase 1 evaluation an additional four small pits also contained heat-affected stone (F.102, F.104, F.108 and F.110), all of which were located over the north half of the project area. Although undated, a prehistoric timeline is likely for these burnt-stone containing features.

One unusual and undated feature was a large pit or 'shaft', F.140 (Figure 6). This was manually excavated to a depth of 1.2m and to a maximum of 2.4m in two separate quadrants with the use of an auger, at which point a hard stony layer was encountered. In plan the shaft was near circular (4.1m by 4.0m) with slightly inclined sides at its upper profile gradually stepping to a shallow concave face that became increasingly inverted towards the base. A flat base may be postulated on account of the similarity of the depth of the two auger profiles. Four main fill events each comprised slumped and mixed deposits, the uppermost [303] of which being wind-blown sands and a capping of re-deposited gravel. This overlay dark grey clayey silt mixed with mid-brown sandy silt [304] which probably derived from a combination of slumped turf/topsoil and subsoil. Sealed by this was a thick gravelly deposit [305] with soft homogenous mid brownish yellow silty sand. A thin band of dark clayey silt defined the boundary between [305] and the basal fill [306], the latter being a loose and homogenous deposit of mid yellow sandy gravel. Given the proximity of F.140 to the modern rubbish pits of F.121 and F.125, it is possible that this served a similar purpose; however, with the absence of any material culture, and the homogenous nature of the lower deposits in particular, it is equally possible that this was a naturally formed solution hollow filled with a combination of collapsed sides and slumping of the surrounding ground-level overburden.

Environment Data

Macroflora – by Val Fryer

Twelve samples taken for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were submitted for assessment. The samples were bulk floated by CAU and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and fungal sclerotia were also recorded.

Results

Although most assemblages were small (i.e. 0.1 litres in volume or less) and largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, the assemblage from sample 5 (linear pit F.114) was moderately large (circa 1 litre) and contained a very high density of heather (*Ericaceae*) stem along with heather florets, ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) capsules and bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) pinnule fragments. Larger pieces of charred wood and stem were also abundant. During the later prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods, such materials were often used to fuel both domestic and industrial ovens, as they ignited easily and maintained even, high temperature throughout combustion. However, it is unclear whether the Cavenham assemblage could be derived from a similar usage, or whether it simply represents material accumulated during an episode of heathland clearance.

A series of eight samples were taken from fills within four pits of Early Iron Age date. Of these, four contained cereal grains, but although barley (*Hordeum* sp.) was identified, the remaining cereals were too poorly preserved for close identification. A small number of weed seeds were also identified including specimens of ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.). Perhaps most notably, three assemblages (samples 14 and 15 from F.134 and sample 16 from F.142) contained charred seeds of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), a plant commonly found in nutrient-rich conditions on or near dung heaps. Other plant macrofossils were scarce, but did include indeterminate buds and seed fragments.

Other remains were also scarce. The black porous and tarry concretions were all possible residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Flakes of burnt stone were noted within the assemblages from samples 6 (F.126) and 13 (F.135), and sample 11 (F.128) contained what appeared to be charred arthropod remains.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the majority of the assemblages would appear to be derived from small quantities of midden waste, some of which may have been deliberately placed within the pit fills, with the remainder occurring as a result of the accidental accumulation of scattered or wind-dispersed detritus. The assemblage from sample 5 is almost certainly indicative of a quite separate and distinctive activity, but it is currently unclear what form this may have taken.

Although most of the assemblages are not quantifiably viable (i.e. they contain <100 specimens), it is recommended that the charcoal/charred wood from sample 5 is identified and analysed, as this may provide valuable data about the activity which created the assemblage, the local environment of the site and the exploitation of local resources during the prehistoric period in this area of Suffolk.

Fauna – by Vida Rajkovača

Only one bone (1g) was recovered during the excavations, from Early Iron Age pit F.134 [289]. This was identified as the femur of a galliform bird which has most likely originated from modern burrowing disturbance.

Sample No.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	5	6	7
Context No.	267	269	271	273	284	285	288	289	314	233	260	275
Feature No.	127	127	128	128	135	135	134	134	142	114	126	129
Date	EIA	EIA	EIA	EIA	EIA	EIA	EIA	EIA	Prehist.	U/D	U/D	U/D
Cereals												
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x	xfg									
Cereal indet. (grains)		xfg	xfg	x				x				
Dry land herbs												
Chenopodiaceae indet.		xcf										
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> L.							x	x	x			
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.			x									
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i> L.			x									
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	xcf											
Wetland plants												
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.		x										
Other plant macrofossils												
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xx	xx	xx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	xxx	xxxx	x	x	x	x	x	xxxx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	xx	xxx	x			x		xxxx	xx	xx
Charcoal >10mm				x						xxxx	x	x
Charcoal >20mm										xxx		
Charred root/stem	xxx	x	xxx	xx	x	x	x	x	x	xxxx	x	
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	x	x	x	xx	xcf	xcf				xxxx	x	
(florets)										xx		
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> L. (capsules)	xfg	x								xx		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.)Kuhn (pinnule frags.)										xxx		
Indet.buds										x		
Indet.seeds		x		x								
Other remains												
Black porous cokey' material			x			x	x		x			x
Black tarry material	x				x	x		x	x			xx
Burnt stone						x					xx	
Charred arthropod remains				x								
Sample volume (litres)	15	14	15	14	17	14	10	14	12	9	10	3
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	1	0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	10%	100%	100%

Table 3. Environmental flot data

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

fg = fragment cf = compare

LBA = Late Bronze Age Prehist = prehistoric U/D = undated

Material Culture

Worked and Burnt Flint – by Lawrence Billington

A total of 23 worked flints and 46 (458g) unworked burnt flints were recovered from the excavation (Table 4). The majority of the assemblage was found within the fills of cut features whilst four worked flints were collected as surface finds.

Trench	Feature	Type	Context	SF no.	chip	secondary flake	tertiary flake	blade	retouched flake	split nodule	minimally worked core	TOTALS	unworked burnt no.	unworked burnt weight		
	119	Pit	243									0	4	47		
	127	Pit	267			1		1				2	1	4		
			269									0	3	11		
	128	Pit	271				2					2	1	18		
	134	Pit	288			1						1	9	70		
			289									0	11	268		
	135	Pit	284		1							1	1	0.3		
			285	10		1						1	0			
			285	19							1		1	0		
			285		2	1	1						4	1	0.2	
			292				1						1	0		
	142	Pit	314									0	9	31		
	304	Pit	508								1	1	0			
	Surface Finds			28				1				1	0			
				8		1							1	0		
				9						1				1	0	
				27									1	1	0	
14								1						1	1	0.5
32									1					1	0	
41														0	3	4
42								1	1					2	0	
43											1			1	2	4
TOTALS					5	8	3	4	0	1	2	23	46	458		

Table 4. Basic quantification of the flint assemblage.

Raw Materials and Condition

The assemblage is made up entirely of fine grained flint. Generally this material is of high quality although several pieces have incipient thermal flaws and fractures. Surviving cortical surfaces are invariably abraded and hard and whilst some are relatively thick and chalky it seems likely that the vast majority of the assemblage derives from secondary sources of flint rather than directly from the chalk. The condition of the assemblage is varied but generally good, with little edge damage or abrasion. The worked flints are generally very fresh and cortication ('patination') is rare.

Technology and Dating

Although there are few diagnostic pieces present the technological traits of the worked flint clearly indicate that the assemblage is chronologically mixed. Mesolithic

or earlier Neolithic activity is represented by three blade-based pieces, three of these were collected as surface finds and one was recovered as a residual find within the fill of Early Iron Age pit F.127. All of these blade-based pieces are relatively robust and non-prismatic and are more typical of earlier Neolithic flint working than Mesolithic bladelet-based technologies.

The remainder of the assemblage is made up of hard hammer struck flake based material. This material includes flakes with a wide range of morphologies, often relatively broad and thick. Such flake based flint work is not strongly diagnostic and is a typical element of worked flint assemblages from the late Neolithic into the Iron Age. Whilst some of this flintwork is likely to represent earlier activity, the recovery of eight worked flints from Early Iron Age pit F.135 suggests that much of this material may relate to Iron Age flint working, and several pieces show evidence for the highly expedient and unstructured core reduction strategies typical of the Iron Age (Humphrey 2004).

Burnt Flint – With the exception of six surface finds from four trenches, the burnt flint was recovered from the fills of small pits, most notably from Early Iron Age pit F.134, which contained over half of the total assemblage. Whilst some of the burnt flints recovered from the site may have been inadvertently caught up in hearths and fires, the relatively large amount recovered from several of the cut features suggests the intentional heating of flint, perhaps for cooking or some form of craft or processing activity (see Edmonds *et al.* 1999, papers in Hodder and Barfield 2001).

Discussion

The small assemblage of flint from the excavation attests to prehistoric activity at the site from at least the earlier Neolithic to the early Iron Age. The recovery of probable earlier Neolithic material indicates an early presence that was not apparent from the small assemblage recovered during the Phase 1 trial trenching of the site (Collins 2013) which was dominated by flake based material more typical of later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age technologies. The small size of the assemblage suggests that any Neolithic and Bronze Age activity at the site was fleeting and perhaps relates more to occasional task based visitation whilst the worked and burnt flint from pits of Early Iron Age date might suggest somewhat more intensive or persistent activity during this period.

Prehistoric Pottery – by Matthew Brudenell

A small assemblage of handmade Iron Age pottery totalling 32 sherds (744g) was recovered from the excavations. The pottery was retrieved from six contexts relating to five features: F.127 (one sherd, 4g), F.134 (six sherds, 172g), F.135 (21 sherds, 520g), F.303 (two sherds, 10g) and F.304 (two sherds, 38g). The vast majority of the assemblage derived from a single vessel. Overall, the pottery was in good condition with a high mean sherd weight of 24.9g. By count, 25% of the sherds were classified as small (<4cm in size); 71% as medium-sized (4-8cm), and 4% as large (>8cm in size). All pottery was fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2009).

Assemblage characteristics: fabrics, forms and surface treatment

Three fabrics were distinguished in the assemblage, representing sherds from three separate vessels (Table 5). In total, 26 sherds (682g, 91.6% of the assemblage by weight), were in a dense sandy fabric with rare burnt flint (Q1). The sherds were recovered from F.134 (five sherds, 126g) and F.135 (21 sherds, 520g), with three refitting sherds identified between them (Figure 7). There is no doubt that these all belong to the same vessel, with a total of 18 adjoining sherds distinguished (Figure 7). The vessel was a slack-shouldered coarseware jar with a hollowed neck and internally expanded rim, lightly scored on the body, and decorated with fingertip impressions on the shoulder, neck, rim-exterior and rim-top. The rim diameter was 22cm, with around a quarter of the rim circumference intact.

Of the remaining sherds in the assemblage, three were plain and unburnished in a sand and flint tempered fabric (QF1, 50g), one of these being from F.134 and the other two from F.304. Another plain and unburnished sherd from F.127 was in a fabric defined by small sub-rounded voids, possibly deriving from dissolved calcareous inclusions (V1, 4g); this was a shoulder sherd with a small amount of carbonized residue on the exterior. F.303 also produced two refitting sherds of the same fabric plain and burnished sherds of a sand and voided fabric (V1, 8g) but without carbonized residue.

Fabric type	Fabric group	No./(wt.) sherds	% of fabric (by wt.)
Q1	Sand	26/682	91.6
QF1	Sand and flint	3/50	6.8
V1	Voids	3/12	1.6
<i>TOTAL</i>	-	<i>32/744</i>	<i>100.0</i>

Table 5: Pottery fabric frequencies

- Q1: Moderate to common quartz sand with rare medium to coarse flint (1-4mm in size)
QF1: Moderate quartz sand and sparse fine to coarse flint (1-3mm in size)
V1: Moderate fine to medium sub-rounded voids (mainly <1.5mm) and sparse sand. Fabric has a slightly silky texture.

Discussion

Although this assemblage includes a partial vessel profile, its date is somewhat ambiguous as the sandy nature of the fabric (Q1) is fairly typical of the region's Middle Iron Age-type pottery tradition (c. 350-50 BC), whereas the profuse use of decoration on the shoulder, neck and rim, is more characteristic of the Early Iron Age (c. 800-350 BC). On balance, decoration can probably be regarded as the more diagnostic of traits, and since some Early Iron Age assemblages contain a fairly high frequency of sandy wares (Brudenell 2012) – including Suffolk's Early Iron Age type-assemblage from Darmsden (BRK009; Cunliffe 1968; Balkwill 1979) – there are grounds for assigning the pottery to this period. In fact, a date toward the end of this Early Iron Age can be tentatively suggested, c. 500-350 BC.

Recommendations

Given the ambiguities surrounding the date of the ceramics, it would be extremely beneficial to have a radiocarbon date for any short-lived and securely stratified material from F.135 (a seed or possibly bone). This will help to establish the date of the pottery, and that from F.134 (since sherds are refitting). It would also aid in the process of pinning down the Iron Age ceramic chronology in Suffolk, which is still

understood in only outline terms. The need to understand Iron Age pottery chronologies is recognised in the regional research framework (Medlycott 2011, 29), and this would seem a good opportunity to build toward resolving this issue.

Fired Clay

Pit F.304 [508] produced 0.5g of fine silty fired clay in four fragments, all too small for meaningful analysis.

3. DISCUSSION

With the exception of two small outlying pits (F.110 and F.120) and the post-Medieval enclosure in the south half of the project area, the archaeological core was identified over the north half of the project area. Although generally lacking in finds content, the bulk of the features are thought to be later prehistoric and marking the southern edge of a broader settlement area.

Prehistoric

As with previous investigations the project has returned a moderate assemblage of Neolithic worked flint recorded as surface finds as well as residual finds from within later features. With no obviously contemporary features being identified, along with a lack of any truly dense finds clusters, it is acceptable to refer to the assemblage as illustrative of small-scale and short-lived, but perhaps repeated, visitation.

Notably, Bronze Age activity was not represented in the project area and therefore confirms the easterly limit of previously reported occupation (CAM 040 Area C). Nevertheless, the Early Iron Age features, dated by pottery to the latter half of this phase, represent a timeline of activity that hitherto has been absent from the broader landscape picture. Pottery was recovered from five pits; two pairings of pits were identified, with refitting pottery sherds in one of these (F.134 and F.135). A possible third pairing was suggested by two smaller and undated pits (F.300 and F.301) set within a cluster of larger Iron Age pits. The distribution of the Iron Age pits suggests that they all broadly relate to a single occupation area, and undated features containing burnt stone, notably the clay-lined pit of F.126, are likely to also be connected with this.

When combined with the pits and post-holes identified during the evaluation trenching, three main clusters of features may be identified (Table 3); none of these represent any formal structure or specific range of activities, although certain characteristics may be drawn from each of the clusters. Also taking into account the position of the rectangular pits lined with charcoal (F.114, F.117, and F.124) central to the three clusters, some form of interconnection between the clusters is a possibility.

The broader landscape context is difficult to situate, although on the current evidence it would appear that this is clearly not a settlement core. On the current evidence it is likely that this is the southern edge of an unenclosed settlement north and east of the

project area. Moreover, the overall position upon light river valley soils fits with the distribution of Early Iron Age sites elsewhere along the Breckland (Sussams 1996).

Cluster	Features	Characteristics
1	F.112, F.119, F.120 and F.122	Simple pits / post-holes
2	F.104, F.105, F.106, F.107, F.108, F.142 and F.143	Burnt stone and charcoal
3	F.102, F.126, F.127, F.128, F.129, F.134, F.135, F.300, F.301, F.302, F.303 and F.304	Pottery, pairing and burnt stone

Table 6. Pit and post-hole clusters. Open area and evaluation combined.

Medieval and Post-Medieval

Along the Breckland during the Middle Ages rabbit warrening was a way to make productive use of heathland soils deemed too poor for cultivation, which in turn presented a range of employment opportunities such as culling, the preparation and trade – particularly in London – of skins, and specialist crafts such as glove-making. Illegal activities including opportunistic as well as organised poaching were also enthusiastically practiced and profitable. Most warrens in the Middle Ages were open ‘and without physical delimitation’ (Bailey 1988: 4), and it is possible that the density of burrowing at Marsden Pit is a product of small-scale warrening at this time.

At Freckenham, *c.* 9.5km to the west of Cavenham, rabbit warrens were in use since 1295 and up until the sale of the remaining warrens in 1926 (The Breckland Society 2010: 22). The rabbit population was clearly substantial, for in 1551 it was described as ‘increasing and multiplying on the common land’ with the warren lessee subsequently ordered to block up rabbit holes on common land (Bailey 1988: 7). Most of these earlier warrens were large landholdings, but by the 14th century a number of small warrens were created, with one being established at Cavenham between 1313 and 1317 (Bailey 1989: 132). This could have been an important supplement to the local economy, and an innovative diversification of land use in the years leading up to the Black Death; however, by the mid-15th century this appears to have entered into decline, with a small warren at Cavenham that lay vacant without charge of a tenant (Bailey 1988: 11). Nonetheless, it is possible that rabbiting in the area continued into later centuries, for the effects of long-term burrowing may in part have instigated the development of tree-planting plots that are seen on the Ordnance Survey maps from the 1880s to *c.* 1905. Tree-planting steadily increased from the second half of 18th century onwards as a means to counter the effect of burrow overgrazing on sandy soils, by this time regarded as detrimental for more manageable agricultural soils and a major instigating factor of soil erosion and wind-blows. The oak plantation depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 is perhaps a reflection of these historical processes, and appears to have been bounded a small rectilinear ditch and bank (Figure 9), the north of which survived as a shallow earthwork prior to machine removal (Rolfe 2006). The exact date of the plantation is not known, but on the cartographic evidence a date in the second half of the 19th century seems plausible. By the 19th century, rabbit plantations were gradually enclosed by ditches and low banks topped with gorse as a means to tighten the management of warrens, none of which is readily apparent in the excavation area or the broader environs.

Two sizeable pits contained fragments of metal and modern rubbish, including fragments of mortar rounds. This is clearly a result of the activities connected with the landscape during World War II, and its incorporation into the airfield after 1943. These appear to be clearance pits rather than craters, and the possibility of 'live' ordnance should be taken into consideration during future quarry works.

Conclusion

The project has confirmed the presence of consistent but low-frequency Neolithic activity across the Marston Pit environs, and by its absence has provided further grounds for discerning the eastern limit of Bronze Age inhabitation. Importantly, an Early Iron Age phase has now been identified that appears to spread north and eastwards from the project area, perhaps in the form of an unenclosed settlement. This could prove to be significant to the further development of understanding into Suffolk's Iron Age material culture.

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5. FIGURES

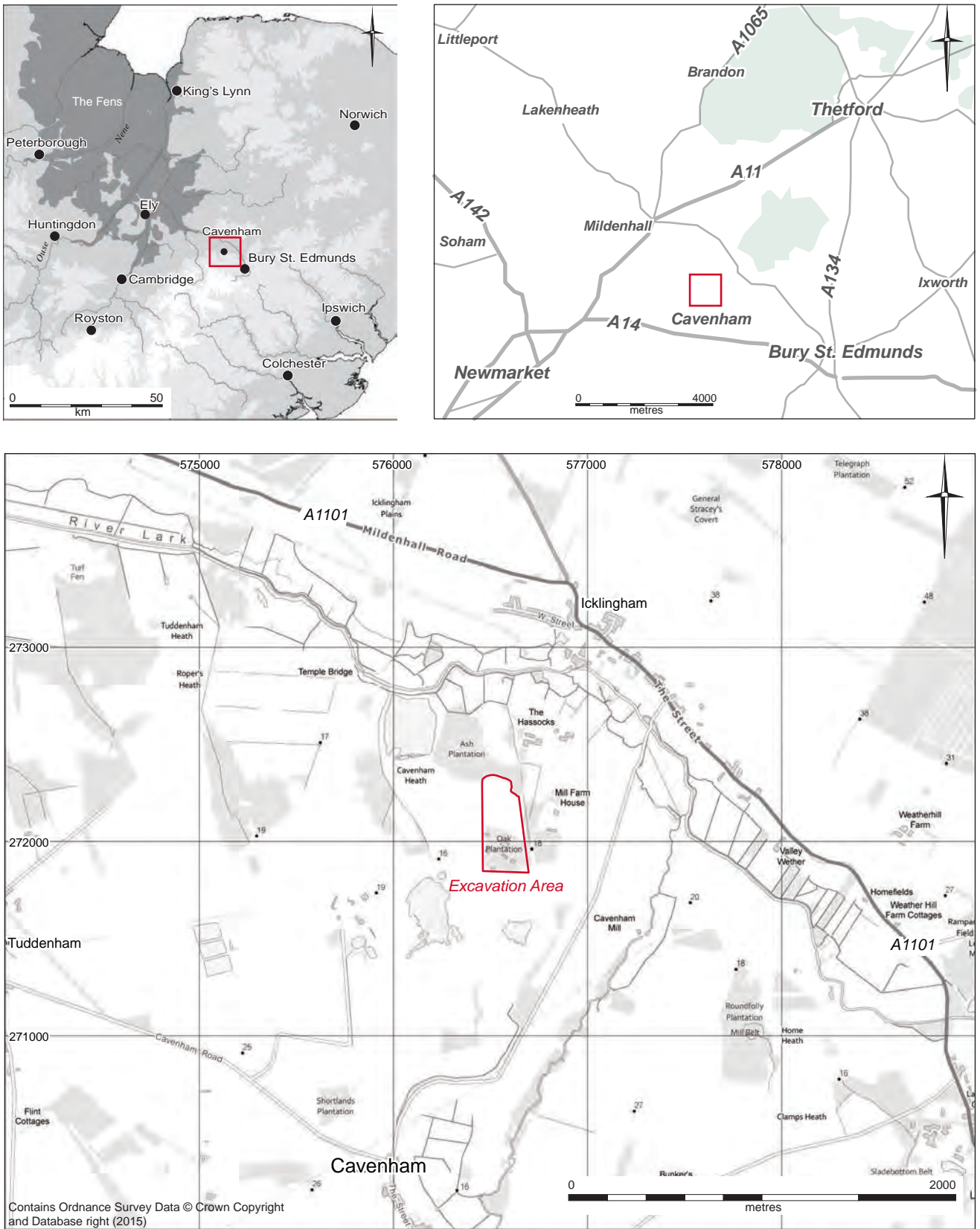


Figure 1. Location Plan

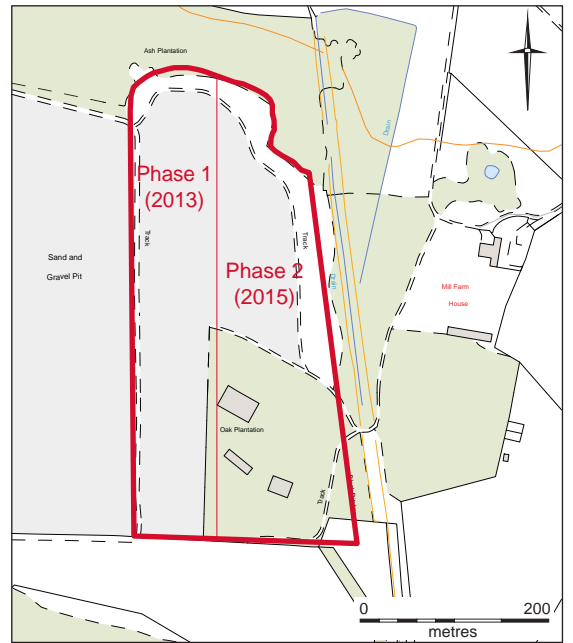
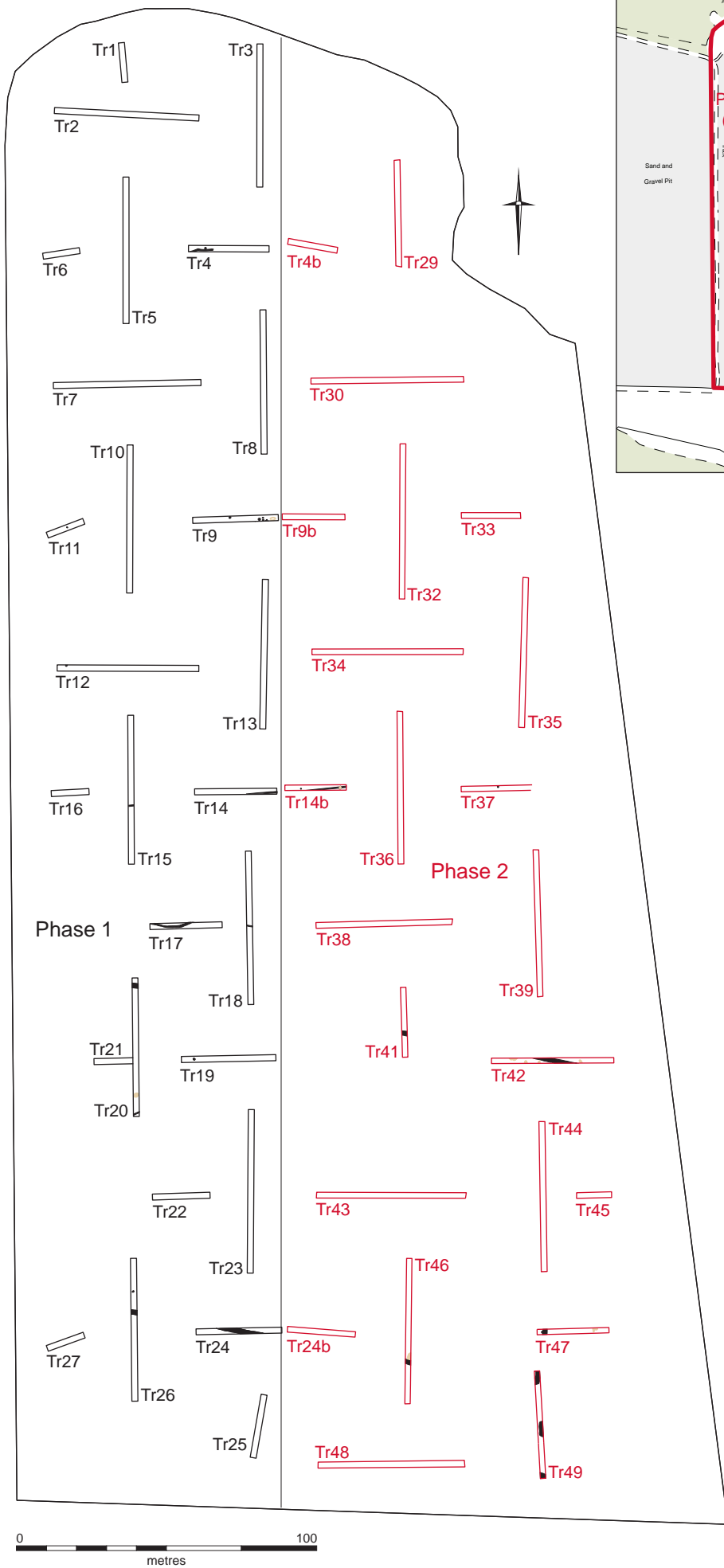


Figure 2. Trench Plan

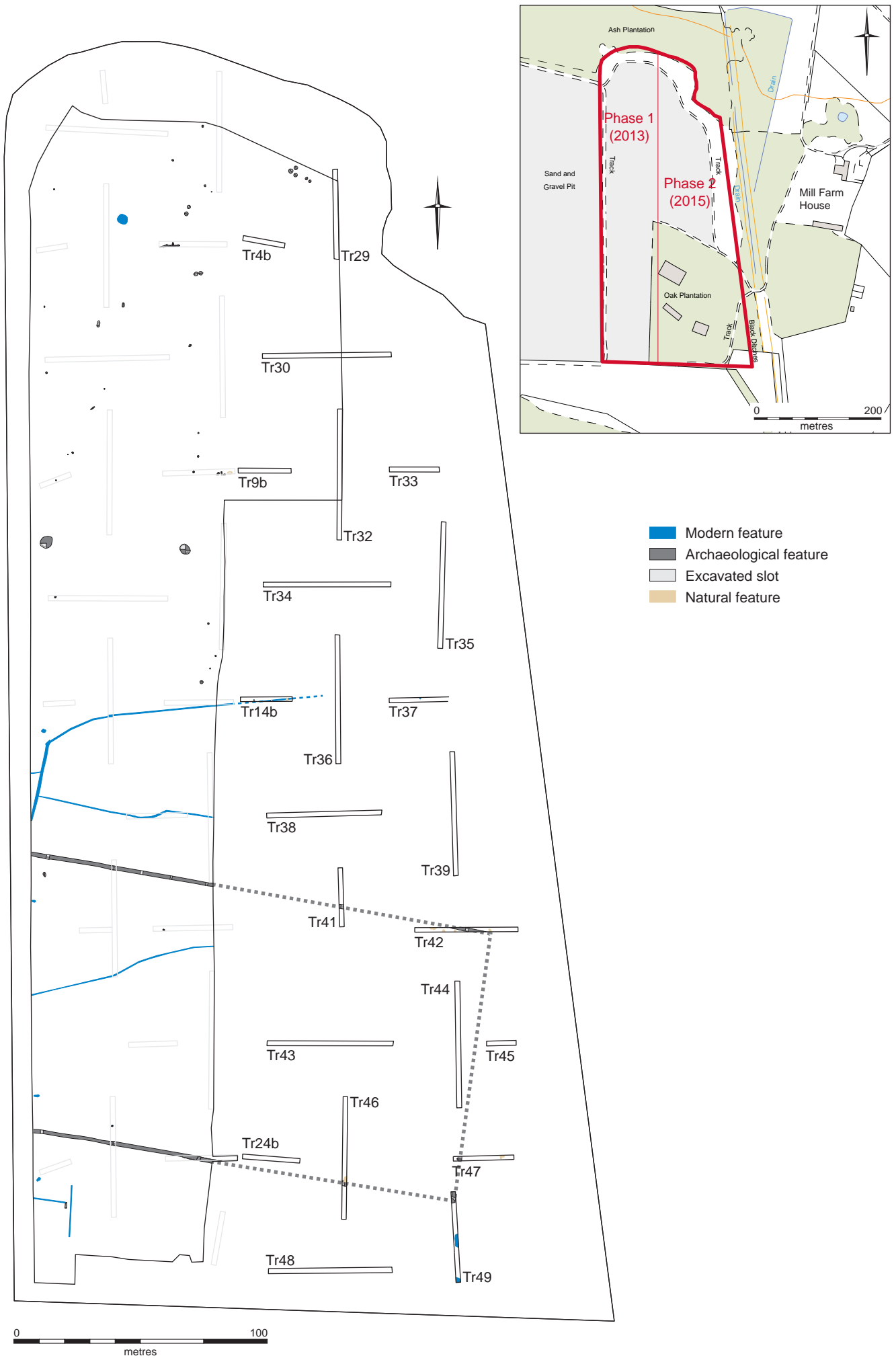


Figure 3. Plan of archaeological features and excavated slots

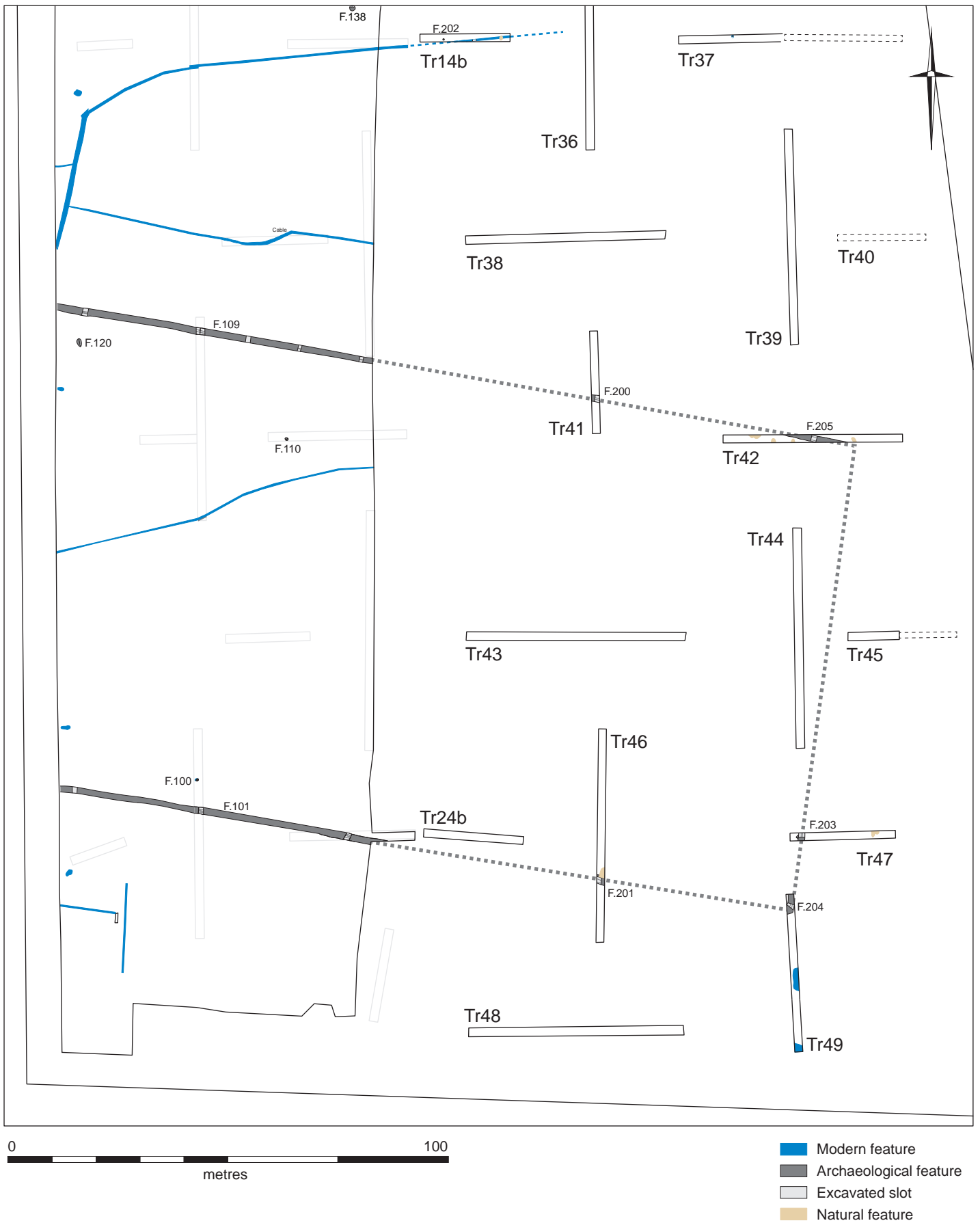


Figure 4. South Area Plan

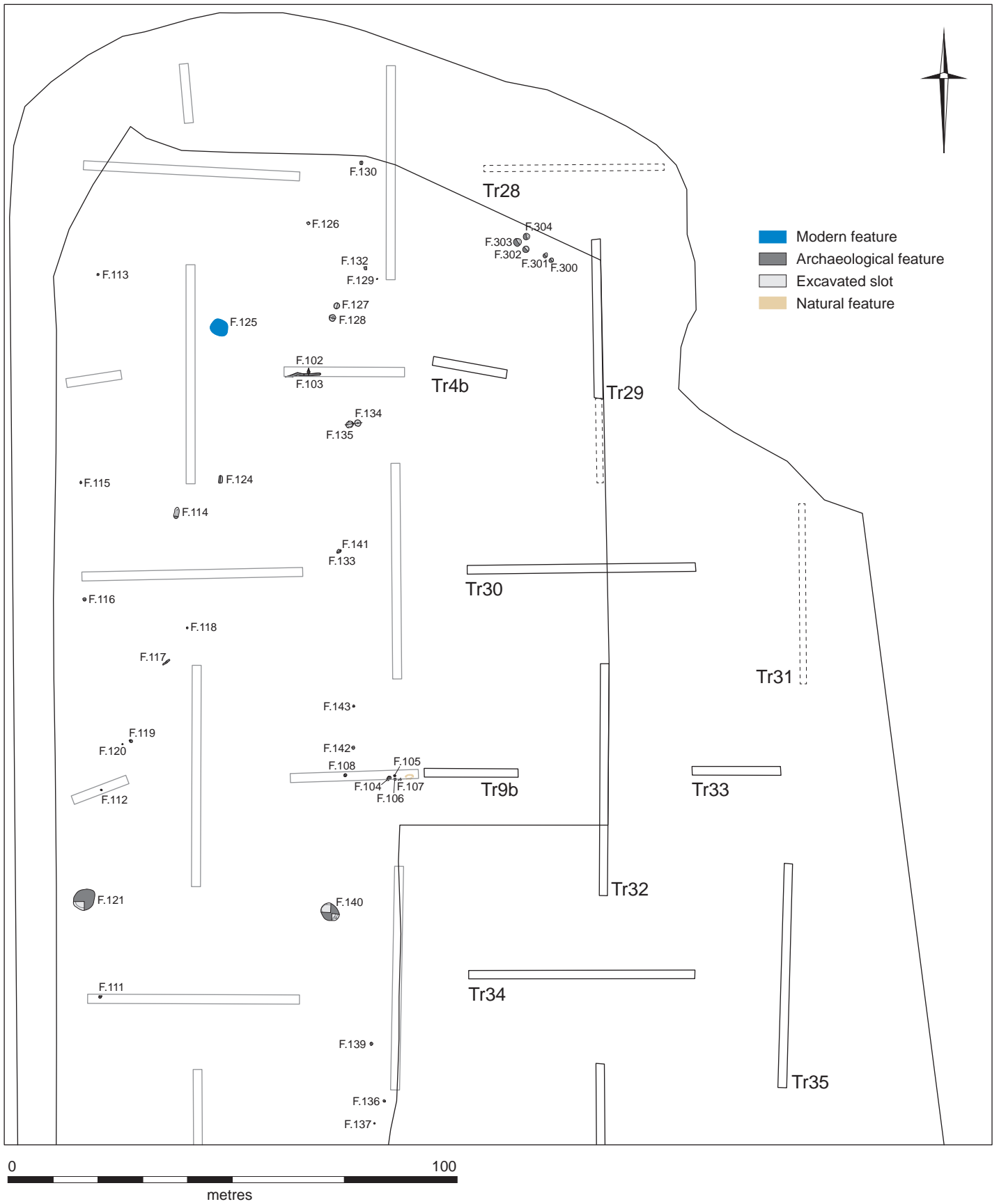


Figure 5. North Area Plan



Figure 6. Photographs of Iron Age pits F.134 and F.135 (top), and F.302-304 (bottom)

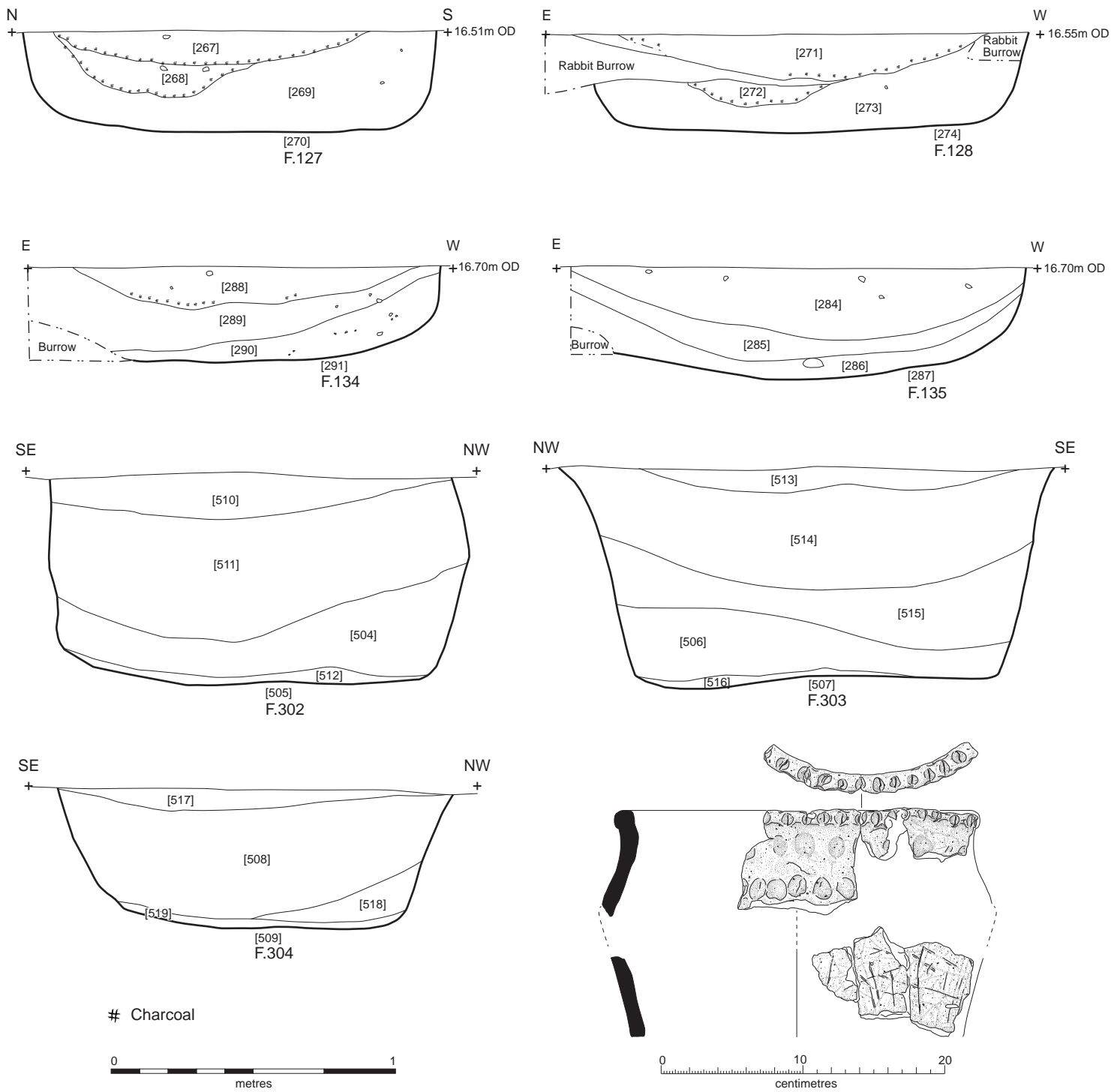


Figure 7. Sections of Iron Age pits and Iron Age pot drawing

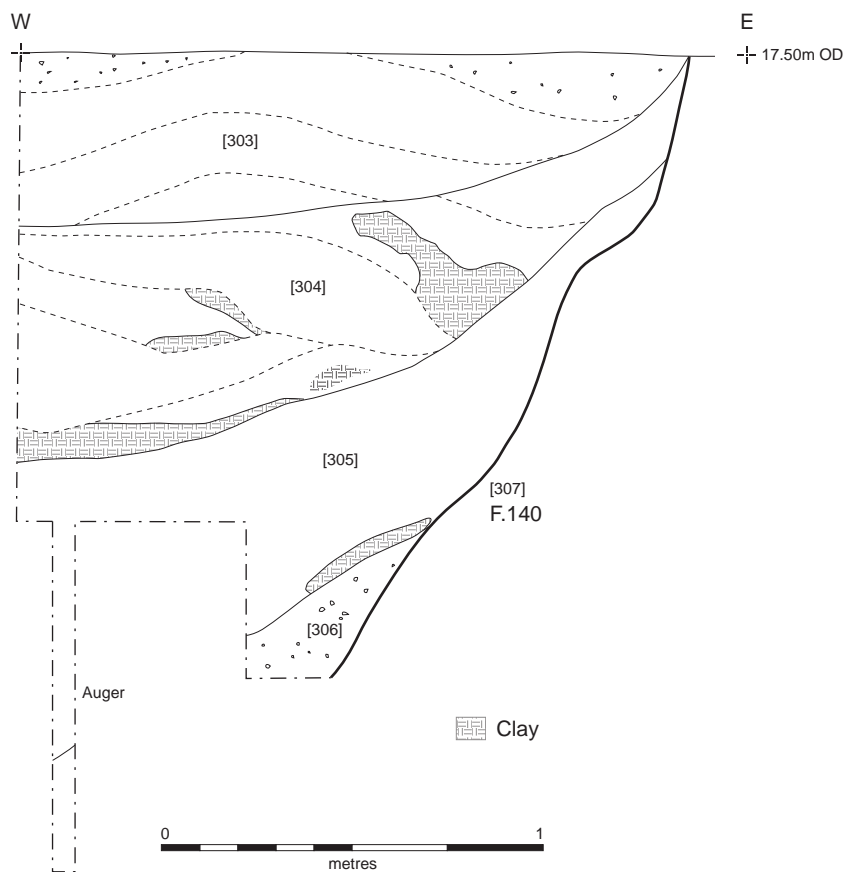
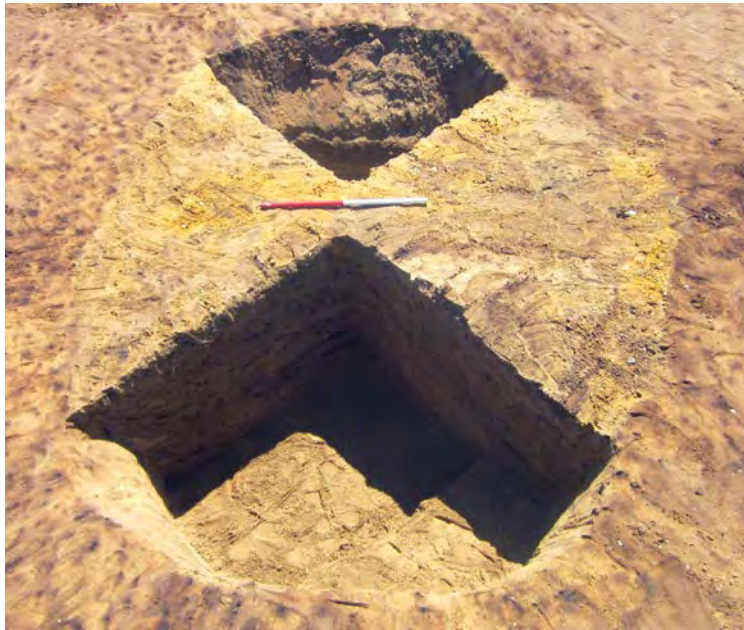


Figure 8. Section and photograph of Pit / shaft F.140

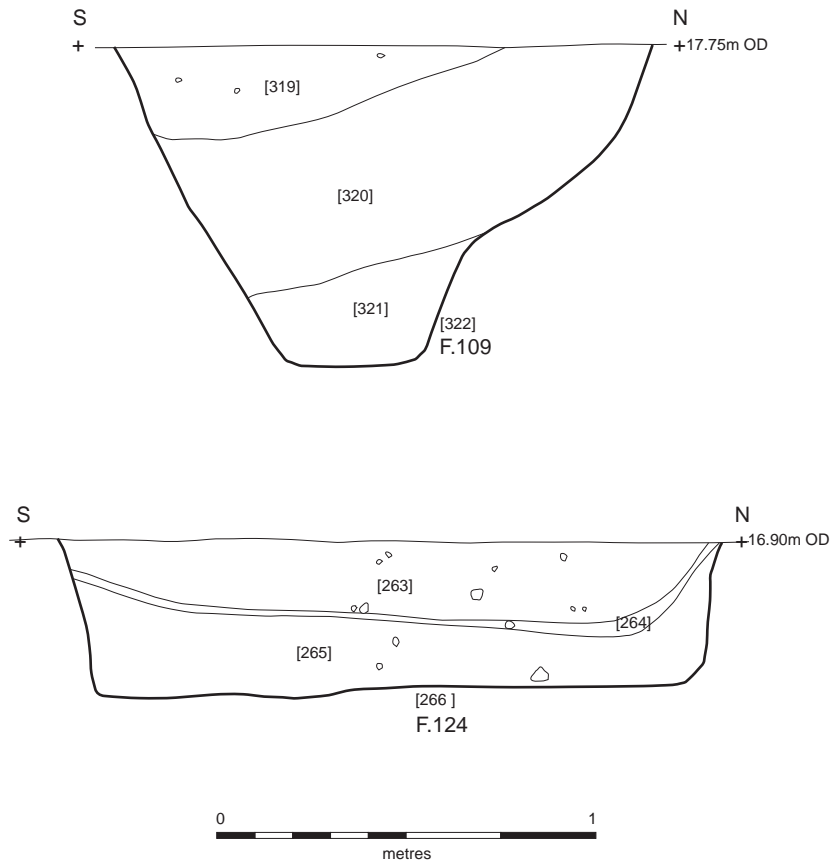


Figure 9. Section of Ditch F.109 and linear pit F.124

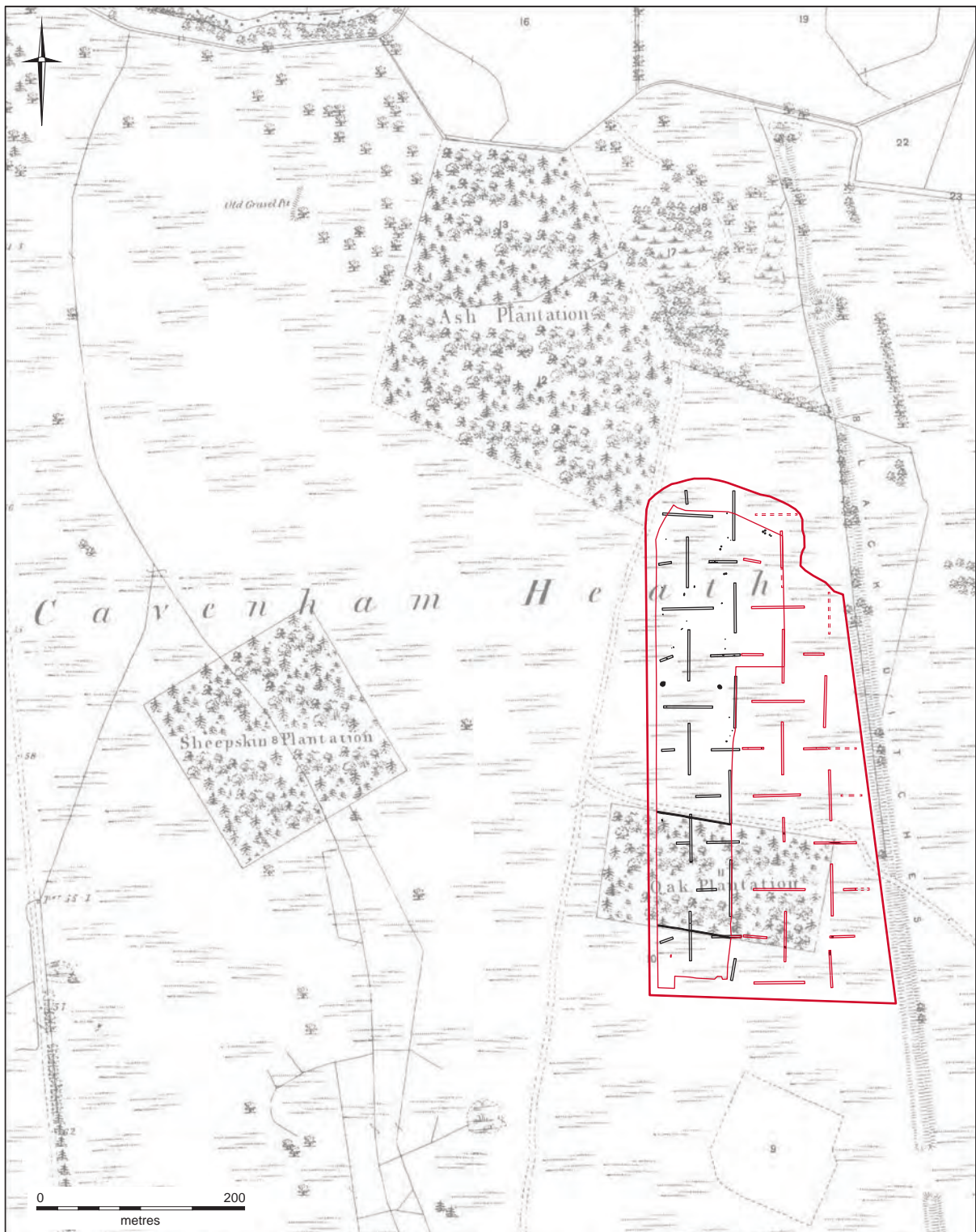


Figure 10. 1880 1st Edition OS map, with excavation area

6. APPENDICES

Feature and Trench Descriptions

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
101		Linear	255	F	Mid grey loose sandy silt with severe rooting and very rare small stones.						Post-Med
			259	F	Mixed greyish brown silty sand with patches of brown and yellow silty sand. Very rare small stones, moderately rooted.						
			256	C	NW-SE ditch with moderate to steep sides and narrow, slightly rounded base		1.35	0.69			
109		Linear	248	F	Mid pale greyish brown silty sand with very occasional small gravel flints.						Post-Med
			249	F	Mid pale greyish brown silty sand with frequent patches of pale brownish yellow sand and rare small gravel flints.						
			250	C	E-W ditch with moderate upper break of slope to very steep straight lower sides with narrow flat base.		1.73	0.71			
			310	F	Mottled mid yellowish brown and mid grey brown soft sandy silt with moderate rooting.						
			311	F	Dark grey soft silt - possible turf formation.						
			312	F	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate rooting.						
			313	C	E-W ditch with moderate upper break of slope to very steep straight lower sides with narrow flat base.		1.15	0.72			
			319	F	Soft dark grey silt with frequent rooting.						
			320	F	Soft mid grey silt with occasional rooting and rare small to medium sub-angular stones c.2-20cm diameter.						
			321	F	Mid brown soft sandy silt.						
			322	C	E-W ditch with moderate upper break of slope to very steep straight lower sides with narrow flat base.		1.42	0.82			
323	F	Soft dark grey silt with frequent rooting.									

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
			324	F	Soft mid grey silt with occasional rooting and rare small to medium sub-angular stones c.2-20cm diameter.						
			325	F	Mid brown soft sandy silt.						
			326	C	E-W ditch with moderate upper break of slope to very steep straight lower sides with narrow flat base.		1.55	0.83			
113		Pit?	229	F	Very dark grey silty sand with rare fine charcoal flecks and rare small stones.						nd
			230	C	Oval in plan with moderately steep sides and slightly rounded base	0.65	0.45	0.1			
114		Pit	231	F	Dark grey sandy silt with rare fine charcoal flecks and small stones. Fill present at both ends of feature, but not in middle						nd
			232	F	Fine redeposited natural sand						
			233	F	Dark grey-black sandy silty with very frequent lumps of charcoal and burnt wood with charcoal flecks. Some heat-treated/exposed sand reddened in colour; possible in-situ burning				5		
			234	C	Rectangular plan with rounded corners. Near vertical sides with flattish base	2.7	1.1	0.72			
115		Pit	235	F	Dark grey sandy silt with rare fine charcoal flecks and small stones. Fill present at both ends of feature, but not in middle						nd
			236	C	Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and rounded base.		0.6	0.18			
116		Pit	237	F	Dark grey sandy silt with rare fine charcoal flecks and small stones. Fill present at both ends of feature, but not in middle						nd
			238	C	Circular in plan with steep sides and flat base.		0.6	0.2			
117		Pit	239	F	Mixed dark grey sandy silt with patches of brown sandy silt. No charcoal and very rare small stones.						Modern?
			240	C	Rectangular plan with vertical sides with flattish base.	2	0.4	0.7			
118		Pit	241	F	Dark grey-black sandy silty with rare fine charcoal flecks and very rare small stones.						nd
			242	C	Circular in plan with steep sides and rounded base.		0.4	0.25			

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
119		Pit	243	F	Dark grey black silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and larger lumps, very rare small stones with some burnt flint.						nd
			334	F	Burnt reddish natural sand around the edges of the feature.					BF (4)	
			244	C	Circular in plan with steep sides and slightly rounded base.		0.43	0.22			
120		Pit	245	F	Dark grey and orange brown silty sand and silt in patchy lenses with rare gravel flints <50mm diam.						nd
			246	F	Pale brownish yellow sand with uneven convoluted lenses of mostly mid yellow brown silty sand but with very occasional dark grey and orange brown silty sand. Rare gravel flints <30mm diam.						
			247	C	Oval in plan (NNW-SSE) with moderately steep sides with concave lower break of slope to flattish base.	1.85	1.2	0.4			
121		Pit	251	F	Mixed topsoil/natural backfill. Finds of ordinance.						Modern
			252	C	Oval in plan with steep sides. Quadrant part-excavated. Base not ascertained.	4.9	4.7	>0.55		MT	
122		Pit	253	F	Dark grey-black sandy silt with very rare fine charcoal flecks and small stones.						nd
			254	C	Circular in plan with moderately steep sides and slightly rounded base.		0.35	0.1			
123		Plough marks	257	F	Mixed sands						Modern
			258	C	E-W. Aligned with ditches F101 and F109. Cutting rabbit burrows.						
124		Pit	263	F	Tips and occasional lenses of mainly brownish yellow and mid-brown silt and silty sand with rare stones <50mm diam and occasional patches of darker sand.						nd
			264	F	A lens of pale silvery grey and dark grey silty sands with fine laminations (wind-blown?).						
			265	F	Similar to [263]						
			266	C	Sub-rectangular (N-S) in plan with rounded corners and moderately steep, near vertical sides with flattish base.	1.75	0.85	0.4			
125		Pit	NA	NA	Unexcavated pit with ordinance debris. See also F.121	4.5	4.2			MT	Modern

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
126		Pit	260	F	Very dark brownish grey silt with ashy sand and occasional charcoal flecks. Frequent heat-affected/shattered flint.				6		Prehistoric
			261	F	Moderately compact pale brownish yellow fine silty sand (a lining?) with rare small stones <20mm diam.						
			262	C	Oval in plan (WSW-ENE) with very steep sides and flat base.	0.7	0.64	0.13			
127		Pit	267	F	Mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks, especially at the fill base.				8	FL,BF	Early Iron Age
			268	F	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks, especially at the fill base.						
			269	F	Mid greyish brown silty sand with rare charcoal flecks.				9	PT	
			270	C	Sub-circular in plan with vertical sides at top and sharp concave break of slope from mid-way in profile. Base is flat.	1.45	1.32	0.35			
128		Pit	271	F	Mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks, especially at the fill base.				10	FL	Early Iron Age
			272	F	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks, especially at the fill base.						
			273	F	Mid greyish brown silty sand with rare charcoal flecks.				11		
			274	C	Sub-circular in plan with vertical sides at top and sharp concave break of slope from mid-way in profile. Base is flat. Burrow damage around edges.	1.6	1.5	0.34			
129		Pit	275	F	Mid to dark grey sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks.				7		Prehistoric?
			276	C	Circular in plan with sharp concave sides and base	0.32	0.31	0.15			
130		Pit/Post-hole	277	F	Mixed light grey, mid-orange and dark grey fine silty sand with patches of coarser sand with rare charcoal flecks.						Post-Med?
			278	C	Rectangular in plan with straight vertical sides and flat base. Truncated by burrowing.	0.8	0.66	0.24			
131		Pit/Post-hole cutting F133	279	F	Mixed light grey, mid-orange and dark grey fine silty sand with patches of coarser sand with rare charcoal flecks.						Post-Med?
			280	C	Rectangular in plan with straight sides and flat base.	0.8	0.65	0.26			
132		Pit/Post-hole	283	C	Sub-Rectangular in plan. Not excavated.	0.8	0.6	NA			Post-Med?

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
133		Post-Hole cut by F131	281	F	Mixed mid-grey and orange sandy silt containing a wooden stake and root.						Post-Med?
			282	C	Sub-Circular in plan with sharp concave sides and shallow concave base.		0.32	0.52			
134		Pit	288	F	Mid to dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal flecks, especially at the basal boundary, and rare rounded stones <5cm diam.				14	FL	Early Iron Age
			289	F	Mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular stones.				15	PT	
			290	F	Mid brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks.						
			291	C	Sub-Circular in plan with straight vertical sides at top breaking mid-way through profile to sharp concave sides with a flat base.	1.46	1.4	0.32			
135		Pit	284	F	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks and small rounded stones <5cm diam.				12	FL	Early Iron Age
			285	F	Mid to light grey brown sandy silt with occasional silvery patches.				13	FL,PT	
			286	F	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt with small to medium stones.						
			287	C	Sub-circular in plan with shallow concave sides (W) and vertical sides at top (E) breaking mid-way through profile to sharp concave side towards a flat base.	1.7	1.66	0.38			
			292	F	Modern rabbit burrow fill.					PT	
136		Pit?	293	F	Soft mid yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and rare small sub-rounded stones <4cm diam.						nd
			294	C	Circular plan with shallow concave sides and flat base.		0.55	0.08			
137		Pit	295	F	Soft dark grey silt with rare charcoal flecks						nd
			296	C	Circular in plan with shallow concave sides and shallow concave base.		0.35	0.08			
138		Pit	297	F	Moderately firm yellowish orange and mid yellowish brown mottled silty sand.						nd
			298	F	Moderately firm very dark grey silty sand with frequent and concentrated charcoal lumps and ash.						

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
			299	F	Soft pinkish silty sand with heat-affected flint and patches of mid-brown silty sand along the east side.						
			300	C	Sub-circular in plan with convex sides at top turning to sharp concave sides towards base. Shallow rounded base.	1.25	1.2	0.5			
139		Pit/Post-hole	301	F	Mixed dark grey and reddish brown soft sandy silt.						
			302	C	Sub-Square in plan with straight vertical sides and flat base truncated by burrowing.	0.65	0.6	0.12			Modern?
140		Pit/Shaft	303	F	Mixed bands of soft soft or loose gravelly sand interspersed with fine grained firm sand - all recorded as a block						nd
			304	F	Mixed bands of mid brown sandy silt and dark grey clayey silt with sandier horizons throughout and occasional gravel patches - recorded as a block						
			305	F	Mid brownish yellow soft silty sand with frequent rounded stones c.2-12cm diameter and dark bands of grey clay silt at the interface with [306]						
			306	F	Light loose sandy gravel						
			307	C	sub-circular plan with near straight sides slightly inverted. Hard stone layer reached at 2.4m with auger, but not hand excavated. Presumed to be base.	4.1	4	>2.4			
			327	F	Light yellow brown blown sands with slight darkening interface.						
			328	F	Mid yellow brown blown sands with slight darkening interface.						
			329	F	Pale yellow sand slumping from edge.						
			330	F	Brownish yellow sands with lense of very dark grey clayey silt at base (re-deposited turf?)						nd
			331	F	Brownish yellow sands.						
			332	F	Very dark grey clayey silt.						
			333	C	Sharp near vertical edges, slightly undulating. Possible base reached by auger (limit at stone layer).	4.1	4	2.3			
141		Pit?	308	F	Mottled and very soft mid brown and dark grey silt.						nd

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
			309	C	Circular in plan with shallow concave profile.		0.6	0.11			
142		Pit?	314	F	Moderately firm dark grey sandy silt with very rare small sub-angular stones with charcoal at base.						Prehistoric?
			315	F	Mottled mid brown and mid yellowish brown silty sands.						
			316	C	Circular in plan with straight sides at top and sharp concave break of slop to near flat base. Burrow damage at base.	0.8	0.75	0.3		BF	
143		Pit	317	F	Dark grey brown moderately firm sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.						Prehistoric?
			318	C	Circular in plan with sharp concave sides and shallow concave base.	0.5	0.47	0.18		BF	
200	41	Linear	403	F	Friable mid grey silty sand						Post-Medieval
			402	F	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand						
			401	F	Friable mid brownish orange silty sand						
			400	C	Oriented E-W with steep inverted near straight sides to flat base.		1.52	0.8			
201	46	Linear	406	F	Friable dark grey silty sand						Post-Medieval
			405	F	Friable light grey and mottled brown silty sand with moderate rooting						
			404	C	Oriented NW-SE with steep inverted near straight sides to flat base.		0.98	0.56			
202	14b	Burrow	408	F	Friable dark grey brown sandy silt						Natural
			409	F	Friable light grey brown sandy silt						
			407	C	Sub-circular burrow with irregular profile			0.31	0.09		
204	49	Linear	416	F	Friable mid reddish brown silty sand						Post-Medieval
			415	F	Friable mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate rooting						
			414	C	Oriented N-S with steep inverted near straight sides to flat base.		1.3	0.83			
205	42	Linear	420	F	Friable dark grey silty sand						Early Iron Age?
			419	F	Friable mid orangey brown silty sand						
			418	F	Friable mid brownish grey silty sand						
			417	C	Oriented E-W with steep inverted near straight sides to flat base.		0.93	0.33			

Feature No.	Trench No.	Basic Feature Description	Context No.	Type	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Sample Nos.	Find types	Phase
301		Pit	502	F	Soft and moderately friable dark greyish brown sandy silt						Early Iron Age?
			503	C	Circular in plan with near straight sides and sharp concave break of slope to flat base.		0.85	0.23			
302		Pit	510	F	Moderately firm and friable dark grey sandy silt						Early Iron Age
			511	F	Slightly mottled soft and moderately friable mid greyish brown and mid brown sandy silt						
			504	F	Similar to [511] with dark grey bands of sandy silt				22		
			512	F	Soft dark grey silt with rare charcoal flecks						
			505	C	Circular		1.4	0.7			
303		Pit	513	F	Moderately firm and friable dark grey sandy silt						Early Iron Age
			514	F	Slightly mottled soft and moderately friable mid greyish brown and mid brown sandy silt						
			515	F	Mid orange soft and moderately friable silty sand						
			506	F	Similar to [514] with dark grey bands of sandy silt				20	PT	
			516	F	Soft dark grey silt with rare charcoal flecks						
			507	C	Circular		1.75	0.75			
304		Pit	517	F	Moderately firm and friable dark grey sandy silt						Early Iron Age
			508	F	Slightly mottled soft and moderately friable mid greyish brown and mid brown sandy silt				20	PT,FL,FC	
			518	F	Mid orange soft and moderately friable silty sand						
			519	F	Soft dark grey silt with rare charcoal flecks						
			509	C	Circular		1.45	0.5			

Phase 2 Trench Descriptions

Trench	4b	9b	14b	24b	29	30	32	33	34	35	36	37
Length (m)	16	20	20	20	35	50	50	20	50	50	50	22
Width (m)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Orientation	E-W	E-W	E-W	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	E-W	N-S	N-S	E-W
Topsoil depth (m)	0.55	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.45	0.52	0.50	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.50	0.54
Subsoil depth (m)	0.15	0.20	0.21	0.20	0.16	0.18	0.20	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.12	0.18

Trench	38	39	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Length (m)	45	50	25	40	50	50	10	50	25	50	35
Width (m)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Orientation	E-W	N-S	N-S	E-W	E-W	N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W	E-W	N-S
Topsoil depth (m)	0.45	0.60	0.42	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.65	0.40	0.48	0.40	0.45
Subsoil depth (m)	0.16	0.16	0.18	0.10	0.16	0.15	0.15	0.30	0.22	0.20	0.18

OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: cambridg3-178348	
Project details	
Project name	Marston Pit, Cavenham, Suffolk (Quarry Extension). An Archaeological Excavation
Short description of the project	Two phases of archaeological investigation were conducted following evaluation trenching in advance of an extension to an existing quarry at Martson Pit. This revealed evidence for prehistoric and post-medieval inhabitation that together adds to the growing understanding of this important landscape. The 8ha site lies upon second river terrace sand and gravel at a height of 15-18m AOD. The earliest human presence was represented by a small quantity of Early to Late Neolithic surface recovered worked flint as well as from later features. A cluster of nine pits dated to the second half of the Early Iron Age and may represent settlement margins from a timeline that has hitherto been absent from the broader landscape picture. Twenty-five additional pits and postholes could not be assigned by period, although a number of these may also be prehistoric. Historic-era evidence comprised of a ditch rectilinear enclosure that corresponds with a known nineteenth century oak plantation; this may have been established in response to soil reduction resultant from long-term intensive rabbit burrowing evinced across the site. Wartime activities were illustrated by two large pits that contained clearance debris including fragments of mortar rounds.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2015 End: 30-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Associated project reference codes	CAM 058 – Sitecode & HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 5 - Mineral extraction
Monument type	PITS Late Prehistoric, PITS Iron Age, PITS Uncertain, PITS Modern, DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LITHICS Neolithic, LITHICS Early Iron Age, POTTERY Early Iron Age
Investigation type / Prompt	"Full excavation", "Open-area excavation" / Planning condition

Project location	
Country	England
Site location / Postcode	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH CAVENHAM Martson Pit / IP28 6PH
Study area	8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7655 7207 52.3178538991 0.590581034224 52 19 04 N 000 35 26 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.00m Max: 18.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator/manager	David Gibson
Project supervisor	Marcus Brittain (Phase 1); Alasdair Wright (Phase 2)
Sponsor type/name	Developer / Marston Pit
Project archives	
Archive recipient / ID	Cambridge Archaeological Unit / CAM 058
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Entered by	Marcus Brittain (mb654@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	30/11/2016