

Land East of Eagle Business Park, Phase 2, Yaxley

An Archaeological Evaluation



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Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on Land East of Eagle Business Park, Yaxley, in advance of proposed development by Barnack Estates UK Ltd, comprising business park units. The fieldwork comprised trenching, which revealed a number of features including ditches, a pit alignment, postholes and a burnt mound feature which are indicative of an Iron Age presence similar to that found nearby in other fen-edge locations.

INTRODUCTION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on Land East of Eagle Business Park, Phase 2, situated on Broadway, Yaxley (Figure 1). The Proposed Development Area (PDA) totals c.7.4 ha and is centred on National Grid Reference TL 1974 9356. The work was carried out over the course of two weeks between 4th December 2017 and 16 December 2017 and comprised a program of planned and judgemental machine-dug trenching, hand-excavated archaeological investigations and GPS survey.

The investigation was carried out on behalf of Barnack Estates UK Ltd. The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by the CAU (Beadsmoore and Gibson 2017) in response to a brief provided by Cambridgeshire HET (Gdaniec 2017).

Geology and Topography

The PDA is currently arable farmland. The area to the west has been recently developed into a business park; the rest of the surrounding area remains arable fields. The PDA is located at an approximate average of 10m AOD but slopes downwards in two directions to the east and south meaning land in the southeast corner is at a considerably lower height than the average (see Figure 4 for contours illustrated via LiDAR data (Environment Agency website, accessed December 2017)). The lower land to the south and east would have been located on the shores of Whittlesey Mere before drainage in the 17th century. The underlying geology is boulder clay (British Geological Survey website, accessed December 2017).

Archaeological Background

Sparse earlier prehistoric activity has been identified in the vicinity of the PDA. Little has been recorded from the immediate surroundings: a single pit at Vicarage Way produced prehistoric flints and a Palaeolithic hand axe has been reported from Yaxley Yard. In the wider area, background levels of residual Mesolithic and Neolithic flint were found at Stanground South (Taylor *et al.* 2011).

Significant Bronze Age activity has been recognised in the wider landscape on the western shores of Whittlesey Mere. In particular, at Stanground South, situated c. 3km to the north of the PDA, a multi-period site included Bronze Age remains ranging from a wide droveway, several post-built structures, four burnt mounds with associated troughs, hearths, hollows and pits, to over 70 cremations (Taylor *et al.* 2011). Further afield, the Flag Fen basin, c. 5km to the north, has produced the best preserved Bronze Age structures in England at Flag Fen (Pryor 2001) and Must Farm (Gibson *et al.* 2010). The palaeochannel at Must Farm produced many waterlogged wooden artefacts including fish traps and log boats (Robinson *et al.* 2015), and on dryland sites, barrows (Evans *et al.* 2005; Knight & Murrell 2011) and burnt mounds (Tabor 2010; Knight *et al.* 2015) have been recorded. In the same area, at Bradley Fen, Bronze Age settlement and burnt mounds were also found (Knight & Brudenell forthcoming).

Fewer Bronze Age remains have been identified within the immediate environs of the PDA. At Farcet Fen, approximately 1km to the north, an Early Bronze Age discoidal knife and a Late Bronze Age socketed axehead were found (CHER 02936).

The PDA is located in the vicinity of Iron Age and Roman settlement as identified in recent excavations at Broadway Fields, Yaxley (Brown 2008; SCB21110/MCB16368). Here, Late Iron Age enclosures and roundhouses are succeeded by large Early Roman enclosures which are extended further in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Iron Age pits and lithics have also been reported at Park Close, Yaxley (Clarke 2013, SCB36932) and Iron Age ditches were identified at the Yaxley Library site, Broadway (Haskins 2012, SCB22250). In the wider landscape, substantial Iron Age settlement has been recorded at Stanground South (Taylor *et al.* 2011), where enclosures, post-built structures and 20 roundhouses have been excavated.

Roman occupation activity has also been identified in the immediate vicinity at what is now the Broadway Business Park (MCB1740) and further Roman remains, stray pottery sherds and finds were found to the north of Eagle Business Park extending to Farcet (e.g. MCB1767 MCB1729). This area of Roman activity is situated on an elevated, dry ridge above the fen basin at an elevation of approximately 10-15m AOD. The area of activity is part of a connected series of contemporary settlements, including Stanground South (Taylor *et al.* 2011), which stretch to Stanground along the fen edge on the c.10-15m contour. Furthermore, in the wider area, at Park Farm, Stanground, a production site for Nene Valley Grey Ware has been identified as being active during the 2nd century AD (see Dannell *et al.* 1993).

In addition, the PDA is close to areas of Medieval agriculture and settlement in the parish of Yaxley (e.g. CHER 07851, CHER 01427 CHER 01028).

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation trenching programme comprised 1100m of planned trenching in 23 trenches (covering a total of 3% of the PDA), plus 3 judgemental trenches requested by Cambridge Historic Environment Team (CHET) (trenches 24-26, see Figure.2). Trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket operated under direct archaeological supervision. Trenches were located using GPS with Ordnance Datum (OD) heights obtained.

Bucket sampling was undertaken with 90 litre samples inspected for archaeological material at intervals of approximately 35m. Spoil heaps and archaeological features were metal detected. Potential archaeological features were planned either by GPS or by hand at a scale of 1:20 and subsequently sample excavated with all archaeological finds retained and appropriate environmental sampling undertaken. A written record of archaeological features was created using the CAU recording system (a modification of the MoLAS system) and sections were drawn at an appropriate scale. Appropriate photographs were taken as records of the investigations.

RESULTS

Spot-dating has been undertaken for the ceramic assemblage, with most sherds dated to the Middle Iron Age period (see Beats below). Three sherds recovered from bucket sampling and other scrutiny of the subsoil have been dated to the early Later medieval/Post-medieval period (see Cessford below). Small burnt stone, burnt clay, animal bone and flint assemblages were also recovered.


Nine trenches contained archaeological features, four trenches contained colluvial and/or alluvial deposits and thirteen trenches contained neither. Immediately below are the results for trenches containing archaeology. The section on Depositional Sequence contains the results for trenches exhibiting colluvial and/or alluvial sediments. The records for other trenches can be found in Appendix 1.

Archaeological Findings

A total of 19 features were investigated in eight trenches, seven of which were located in the southern half of the PDA (Figure 3). The eighth, Trench 21, was located in the northwest corner of the area. Trench 25 contained archaeological features in a pit alignment that were not hand-excavated as an appropriate sample of these features had already been investigated in Trenches 7 and 26. Features were identified by numbers beginning at F.500 and interventions in those features were labelled from [100.01]. Bulk samples for environmental processing were taken from secure contexts in seven features. One column sample was taken from F.511 for geomorphological analysis.


Trench 4

Four features were encountered in Trench 4. Three of which, F.511, F.513 and F.514, are shallow hollows filled via silting and possibly by a spread of material from the fourth feature, F512, which is a burnt mound (Figure 5a). No readily dateable material was retrieved from these features, though assemblages of burnt stone, flint and bone were recovered. Bulk samples were taken from all four features.

Trench 4									
Length (m)		75		Deposit Depths					
Width (m)		1.8		Ploughsoil (m)		0.25-0.65			
Orientation		NE-SW		Subsoil (m)		0.15-0.17			
									
F. No	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Findings	Description	Date
F.511	Hollow	113.01	Fill	Unknown	>2.8	c.0.3	BS	Mid brown/grey clayey silt, occasional small stones.	Prehistoric
		113.02	Fill					Mottled mid grey and grey/brown clayey silt	
		113.03	Cut					Gentle straight sides. Flat/concave base	
F.512	Burnt Mound	112.01	Fill	Unknown	>7.4	>0.5	BN, FL, BS	Dark grey organic rich silt, occasional charcoal, frequent burnt stone	Prehistoric
		112.02	Fill					Mottled grey and orange slightly clayey silt, few medium-sized stone, frequent manganese flecks.	
		112.03	Cut					Shallow, concave sides. Flat/concave base.	
F.513	Hollow	114.01	Fill	Unknown	c. 3.6	>0.23		Dark grey silt, medium frequency burnt stone, flecks of manganese.	Prehistoric
		114.02	Fill					Dark grey and orange clayey silt with frequent manganese flecks	
		114.03	Cut					Gentle straight sides. Flat/concave base.	
F.514	Hollow	115.01	Fill	Sub-oval	0.5	0.1		Pale brown/grey silt, few medium-sized stones	Prehistoric
		115.02	Cut		0.5	0.1		Gentle sloping sides. Flat base	
TP1	Test Pit	113.01	Fill	-	c.2	c.0.4		Mid brown/grey clayey silt, occasional small stones.	Prehistoric
		113.02	Fill					Mottled mid grey and grey/brown clayey silt	


Trench 6


Trench 6 contained two large ditches, F.500 and F.515 (see Figure 5b), and a third ditch, F.516, of which only 0.25m was apparent at the north-eastern end of the trench. No dateable material was retrieved from features in this trench though a small assemblage of animal bone, burnt clay and flint was recovered from both F.501 and F.515.


Trench 6									
Length (m)		75			Deposit Depths				
Width (m)		1.8			Ploughsoil (m)		0.41-0.55		
Orientation		NE-SW			Subsoil (m)		0.08-0.11		
									
F. No	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Description	Date
500	Ditch	101.01	Fill	NW/SE Linear				Mixed, mid red/orange/brown clayey silt, occasional charcoal flecks, occasional small stones.	Undated
		101.02	Cut		0.9	0.61		Steep, straight sides. Concave base.	
515	Ditch	118.01	Fill	NW/SE Linear			BC, BN	Mixed, pale grey, pale grey/brown and pale orange/brown clayey silt, few small stones and large stone	Undated
		118.02	Cut		1.83	1.12		Steep, straight/convex. Concave base.	
516	Ditch	119.01	Fill	NW/SE Linear			BN	Mixed, pale grey, pale grey/brown and pale orange/brown clayey silt.	Undated
		119.02	Cut		>0.25	>0.15		Straight sides. Not based.	

Trench 7 (Trench 25 and 26)

In Trench 7, two pits, F.500 and F.510 (see Figure 5c), seemed to form a pit alignment. Trenches 25 and 26 were excavated to find any possible continuation of this proposed alignment. Further pits were encountered in both Trench 25 to the north and Trench 26 to the south. One additional pit (F.509) in Trench 26 was hand-excavated in order to provide a comparative. Burnt clay and flint were recovered from F.500 and F.509 respectively.

Trench 7									
Length (m)		40		Deposit Depths					
Width (m)		1.8		Ploughsoil (m)			0.3		
Orientation		NW-SE		Subsoil (m)			0.13-0.21		
									
F. No.	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Description	Date
500	Pit	100.01	Fill	Sub-oval			BC	Dark orange/grey/brown clayey silt occasional charcoal flecks and small stones.	Prehistoric
		100.02	Fill					Mid brown/orange silty clay, few flecks of manganese..	
		100.02	Cut		1.19	0.51		Moderate/steep sides. Concave base.	
510	Pit	110.01	Fill	Sub-oval				Dark orange/grey/brown clayey silt occasional charcoal flecks and small stones.	Prehistoric
		110.02	Fill					Mid brown/orange silty clay, few flecks of manganese..	
		110.03	Cut		1.1	>0.38		Moderate/steep sides. Concave base.	

Trench 25									
Length (m)		20		Deposit depths					
Width (m)		1.8		Ploughsoil (m)			0.29		
Orientation		NW-SE		Subsoil (m)			0.13-0.14		
									

Trench 26									
Length (m)		20		Deposit depths					
Width (m)		1.8		Ploughsoil (m)			0.30-0.32		
Orientation		NW-SE		Subsoil (m)			0.13-0.14		
									
F. No	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Description	Date
509	Pit	109.01	Fill	Sub-circular			FL	Mid orange/brown clayey silt, occasional medium-sized stone and manganese.	Prehistoric
		109.02	Fill					Mid brown/orange silty clay, moderate frequency manganese flecks.	
		109.03	Fill					Mid brown/orange silty clay, moderate frequency manganese flecks.	
		109.04	Fill					Mid grey/brown clayey silt, occasional medium stone and manganese flecks.	
		109.05	Cut		1.27	0.64		Moderate/steep sides. Concave base.	


Trench 8

The majority of features (F.502 – F.505) found in Trench 8 were encountered in a pit cluster at the southern end of the trench (see Figure 5d). A single, shallow, linear feature (F.518) at the northern end may be geological. Abraded ceramic sherds found in F.502 and F.503 indicate an Iron Age date for these features.

Trench 8									
Length (m)		77			Deposit depths				
Width (m)		1.8			Ploughsoil (m)		0.3-0.43		
Orientation		NE-SW			Subsoil (m)		0.13-0.2		
									
F. No.	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Description	Date
502	Pit	102.01	Fill	Sub-circular			PT, BN	Dark grey clayish silt, frequent charcoal flecks	Iron Age
		102.02	Fill					Mid grey/orange silty clay, occasional charcoal and manganese.	
		102.03	Cut		0.68	0.34		Moderate/steep straight sides. Concave base	
503	Pit	103.01	Fill	Sub-oval			PT	Mid grey clayey silt, patches of yellow clay, occasional charcoal flecks.	Iron Age
		103.02	Cut		>0.8	0.15		Gentle sides. Concave/uneven base.	
504	Pit	104.01	Fill	Sub-circular			BC	Dark grey clayey silt, frequent charcoal.	Iron Age
		104.02	Fill					Mid grey/brown silty clay, moderate charcoal flecks	
		104.03	Fill					Pale yellow/grey silty clay.	
		104.04	Cut		>1.8	0.38		Gentle/moderate sides and concave base.	
505	Pit	105.01	Fill	Sub-circular				Dark grey clayey silt with orange mottling, occasional charcoal.	Iron Age
		105.02	Fill					Pale grey clayey silt	
		105.03	Fill					Yellow clay with patches or grey clay	
		105.04	Fill					Mid grey clayey silt.	
		105.05	Fill					Dark grey clayey silt.	
		105.06	Cut		1.12	0.42		Uneven, moderate sloping sides. Uneven,concave base	
518	Linear	121.01	Fill	NW/SE Linear				Mixed, orange/brown sandy/silty clay, few small stone inclusions, few manganese flecks, stripe of mixed yellow/blue/grey clay.	Undated
		121.02	Cut		0.32	0.5		Shallow with gentle sides and concave/flat base.	


Trench 9

A single potential feature was exposed in Trench 9. F.517 was an irregularly-shaped linear feature on a NE/SW alignment from which no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 9									
Length (m)		20		Deposit depths					
Width (m)		1.8		Ploughsoil (m)			0.43-0.47		
Orientation		NW-SE		Subsoil (m)			0 -0.14		
									
F. No.	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Description	Date
517	Linear	120.01	Fill	NE/SW Linear				Pale pinkish grey/brown clayey silt, few gravel and rare manganese flecks.	Undated
		120.02	Cut		1.36	0.42		Straight, medium gradient sides. Very uneven base.	


Trench 12

A single feature was exposed in Trench 12. F.506 was a linear feature on a NW/SE alignment from which no artefacts were recovered.

Trench 12									
Length (m)		20		Deposit depths					
Width (m)		1.8		Ploughsoil (m)			0.47-0.55		
Orientation		NW-SE		Subsoil (m)			0-0.22		
									
F. No.	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Description	Date
506	Ditch	106.01	Fill	NE/SW Linear				Orange/brown/grey clayey silt, occasional charcoal flecks and small stones.	Undated
		106.02	Cut		0.61	0.22		Gentle, concave sides. Concave base.	

Trench 21

In Trench 21, two post holes, F.507 and F.508 (Figure 5e), were found. No archaeological material was recovered from these features. Trench 24 was excavated to find any possible continuation of activity in this area which is distinctly separated from the concentration of archaeological activity in the southern end of the field. No further archaeological features were found.

Trench 21									
Length (m)		20			Deposit Depths				
Width (m)		1.8			Ploughsoil (m)		0.25		
Orientation		NW-SE			Subsoil (m)		0-0.11		
									
F. No.	Type	Context	Type	Shape	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Description	Date
507	Post hole	107.01	Fill	Sub-circular				Dark brown clayey silt, occasional gravel and few charcoal flecks.	Undated
		107.02	Cut		0.32	0.35		Steep, straight sides. Flat/concave base.	
508	Post hole	108.01	Fill	Sub-circular				Pale orange/brown clayey silt, occasional gravel and charcoal.	Undated
		108.02	Cut		0.31	0.34		Steep, straight sides. Uneven/concave base.	

Depositional Sequence

Soil stratigraphy was found to be variable across the trenches. In places, the ploughsoil had been artificially increased via the spreading of material removed from a previous phase of work on the adjoining business park leading to highly variable ploughsoil depths (min. = 0.2m and max. = 0.78m). Deeper volumes of topsoil were concentrated in the trenches in the southwest becoming gradually shallower to the north and east. The shallowest ploughsoil depths were situated in Trenches 22 and 24 on the higher elevation to the northwest. The variability in ploughsoil depth meant that contours exhibited at the surface were not representative of the topography of the geological layer.

Pink/orange clayish silt subsoil was present at locations in every trench though patchy and shallow in those trenches situated on the higher ground to the west. This was particularly difficult to distinguish from geological levels in the afore-mentioned trenches as the boundary was diffuse and the two sediments similar in colour and composition. Due to the variability of the underlying geology this diffuse boundary was

difficult to identify in many places, in some cases resulting in trenches cut 20-25cm into the geological sediment in order to be certain no archaeological remains went undiscovered. The geology was found to be identifiable by patches of large stone or purer blue/yellow clay where these existed.

In three trenches (17, 20 and 23), a colluvium was found to have collected where the natural geology dropped more steeply on the eastern edge of the PDA. The pink/orange/brown colluvial silts were fine and homogeneous. Accumulations of a maximum of 0.85m were discovered in Trench 17 where the natural geology dropped by c.0.9m in less than 5.5m creating a relatively steep slope towards what would have been the edge of the mere.

Alluvial silts were noted in trenches in the east of the PDA capped by subsoil and, in Trenches 20 and 23, within the colluvial layer/s. In Trench 20 this took the form of a defined erosion channel (4.75m wide and over 0.38m deep) and silts derived from associated flooding events situated to either side of the channel. In Trenches 2 and 23 the silts were not in well-defined channels but seem to be derived from flooding episodes of channels not located by the evaluation trenching.

The depositional sequence is undated due to the lack of relationships with archaeological remains. Where possible, and to appropriate safe depths, colluvial or alluvial silts were removed to allow archaeological remains to be discovered within or beneath these deposits, though none were found. Test pits were dug by mechanical excavator in several trenches to illuminate sedimentation sequences. In Trench 4 TP1 elucidated feature depth and character. TP 3 in Trench 17 showed the depth of colluvium to be approximately 0.85m and deepening towards the eastern end of the trench. In Trench 20, TP4 (Figure 5f) and TP5 exposed the edges and profile of the erosion channel and its associated stratigraphy. Despite steps in the trench edges, the walls of the trench were considered unsafe at depths beyond 1.5m and the full depth and profile of the erosion channel was not exposed.

Baulks of alluvium were left in place for further investigation in Trench 2 (Baulk 1) and Trench 23 (Baulk 2). Bulk environmental samples of alluvial silts were taken from both these baulks and in-situ deposits in Trench 23. A test pit, TP2, was hand-excavated in Baulk 2 to provide an example of any potential artefacts. None were found.

Metal Detection, Bucket Sampling and Surface Finds

The metal detector survey produced a single artefact from the subsoil. This was a fragment of farm machinery which was clearly modern and discarded on site. No metal artefacts were found in the ploughsoil or archaeological features.

Bucket sampling results were similarly poor. A total of 3240 litres of the subsoil was sampled in 36 locations. These were positioned at approximately every 35m of trenching. For shorter trenches there was one bucket sampling location and for longer trenches two bucket sampling locations were investigated. From these 36 samples a total of two artefacts were recovered. A single piece of very abraded pottery found in the sample from Trench 4 has been approximately dated to the Later medieval period (see Cessford below). A piece of burnt stone was also found.

In Trench 14 a single piece of glazed red earthenware was recovered from the subsoil exposed by machine excavation. In Trench 4 the site's single surface find, SF1, was several refitting sherds of similar glazed red earthenware. Both have been dated to approximately the 16th or 17th century (see Cessford below) and are, like the Later medieval sherd from Trench 4, likely the result of manuring. Of the three other artefacts recovered from the subsoil, one was burnt flint recovered from Trench 4 and the others were flint debris encountered in Trench 4 and Trench 13.

CONCLUSIONS

The features encountered in the trenching demonstrate a concentration of archaeological activity in the southern area of the PDA. Most of the features are as yet undated due to the scarcity of pottery recovered, but are likely to be prehistoric. The ceramic remains that were encountered were from Trench 8 and have been approximately dated to the Iron Age period. Potential Iron Age activity may relate to settlement found to the west at Broadway Fields (Brown 2008). The positioning of features on the lowest slopes of the PDA and linears oriented from upslope to the mere-edge suggest that activity may have been focussed on the edges of the mere which could have supplied water for livestock as well as hunting and gathering opportunities. The linear ditches exposed in Trench 6 were potentially droveway ditches for channelling livestock to the mere or surrounding meadow.

The concentration of hollows and spreads around the burnt mound feature are consistent with patterns shown at other nearby sites with burnt mounds including Stanground South (Taylor *et al* 2011). Other features associated with burnt mounds at Stanground South included sub-rectangular troughs with timber bases, hearths, pits and post-built structures. The potential for finding one or more of these features associated with the burnt mound of the PDA is high. Further work to determine the extents and dates of the features exposed by Trench 4, and any additional features not yet exposed, would add considerably to the knowledge of prehistoric land use in the area.

There is an apparent lessening in the density of archaeological activity in the northern half of the PDA. Only two post hole features were encountered in the furthest north-western trench. Despite judgemental trench, Trench 24, exposing additional area, no further features were encountered in this area. In addition, no artefacts from metal detecting, bucket sampling or investigation of exposed subsoil were found to the north of Trenches 13 and 14. It is therefore likely that archaeological remains are, at most, sparsely distributed in the northern area.

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SPECIALIST STUDIES

Iron Age pottery – *Kate A. Beats*

A total of 34 sherds (115g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from F.500, F.502 and F.503. With a mean sherd weight of 3.4g, this small and highly fragmentary assemblage is likely to range in date from the Early Iron Age (c. 800 BC-350 BC) to the Middle Iron Age (c. 350 BC-AD 43), suggesting sporadic activity during the Iron Age. The majority of sherds were produced in grog-tempered fabrics, closely followed by shell-tempered fabrics. Decorative features were limited to three small sherds with smoothed surfaces.

Pit F.502 yielded the vast majority of this assemblage, with evidence of a minimum of two vessels. The first vessel, dated to the Early Iron Age, represented by two rim sherds, forms a small jar with upturned rim and curved body, similar to vessels recovered from Haddenham (Hill & Braddock 2006, pg. 166, 81). The fabric temper varies across the surface, which is roughly made. This vessel also offers the only evidence of food preparation, with carbonised residue found on the inner. A rim sherd from the second vessel, produced in a quartz fabric, has a form reminiscent of the simple slack-shouldered open vessel commonly found in Cambridgeshire (Hill & Horne 2003, 174, Type A).

Feature	NoSh	Wgt (g)
500	1	1
502	31	103
503	2	11
Total	34	115

Table 1: Iron Age pottery by feature

Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery – *Craig Cessford*

A very small quantity of medieval and Post-Medieval pottery was recovered (5 sherds, 62g). None of the material derives from archaeological features and such a small quantity of material is not necessarily indicative of occupation in the immediate vicinity. The pottery may well relate to agricultural activities some distance from contemporary settlement.

<119> Tr.4 bucket sample. Heavily abraded rim sherd of coarseware with a grey core. Probably 14th-15th century. 1 sherd, 22g.

<122> Tr.4 S.F.1. Three body sherds of abraded glazed red earthenware. 16th-19th century, probably 16th-17th century. 3 sherds, 22g.

<125> Tr.14 subsoil. Rim sherd of glazed red earthenware. 16th-17th century. 1 sherd, 18g.

Faunal remains – Vida Rajkovača

A small assemblage was recovered, with a raw count of 61 fragments and a weight of 328g. Some 24 assessable specimens were recorded, of which 11 were identified to species (Table 1?).

The preservation of bone was variable across the site. Material from Trench 8 (especially F.502) showed a good level of preservation overall, though bone from Trench 6 was quite poorly preserved, with severe weathering, exfoliation and longitudinal cracks on longer bone shafts. Bone from Trench 4 was also poorly preserved, in keeping with the potential prehistoric date for the burnt mound and spreads of material recorded in this trench. This difference in state of preservation could be suggestive of a later date for the material from F.502, for example.

Animal bone came from a number of features, mainly grouped in the southern half of the PDA and trenches 4, 6, 7 and 8. Cattle were identified based on loose teeth, phalanges, tibia and a radius fragment. Two mid-shaft portions of sheep/ goat metatarsi were identified, as well as pig loose teeth and enamel fragments of a male mandibular canine. The remainder of the assemblage was made up of mostly unidentifiable crumbs of mammalian bone.

Taxon	<i>F.500 (Tr.7)</i>	<i>F.501 (Tr.6)</i>	<i>F.502 (Tr.8)</i>	<i>F.503 (Tr.8)</i>	<i>F.504 (Tr.8)</i>	<i>F.512 (Tr.4)</i>	<i>F.515 (Tr.6)</i>	<i>F.516 (Tr.6)</i>	Total NISP
Cow	.	1	2	.	.	2	1	1	7
Sheep/ goat	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	2
Pig	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	2
Sub-total to species	.	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	11
Cattle-sized	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Sheep-sized	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Mammal n.f.i.	.	.	7	.	.	4	.	.	11
Total	1	2	10	1	1	6	2	1	24

Table 2: Number of Identified Specimens for all species from all features – breakdown by feature; the abbreviation n.f.i. denotes that the specimen could not be further identified.

Although the data is quantitatively insufficient for discussions about site economy, this is clearly an assemblage that could offer some insight into the character of prehistoric occupation of the site.

Flint – Leanne Robinson Zeki

A very small quantity of flint was recovered (8 sherds, 64g). None of the material could be identified as a tool or as diagnostic in any way. A single piece was identified as burnt (13g). Three out of eight pieces were derived from the subsoil. The remaining five pieces were found in F.503, F.512 and F.515.

	No.	Wgt (g)	Burnt
F.503	1	3	-
F.512	3	27	-
F.515	1	4	-
Tr 4 Bucket Sample	1	13	yes
Tr 4. Subsoil	1	5	-
Tr 13 Subsoil	1	12	-
Total	8	64	

Table 3: Flint found at EBP17

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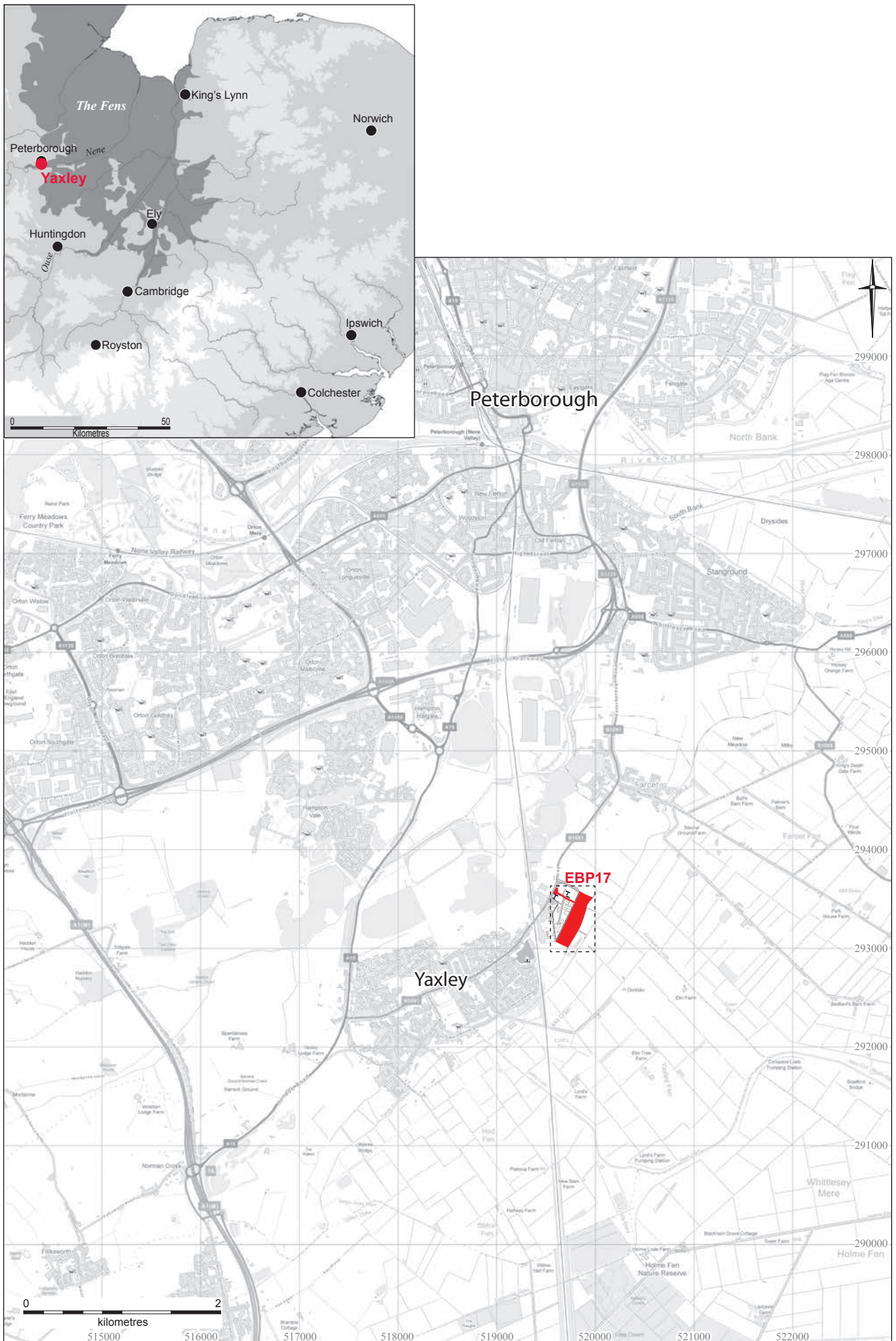


Figure 1. Location map

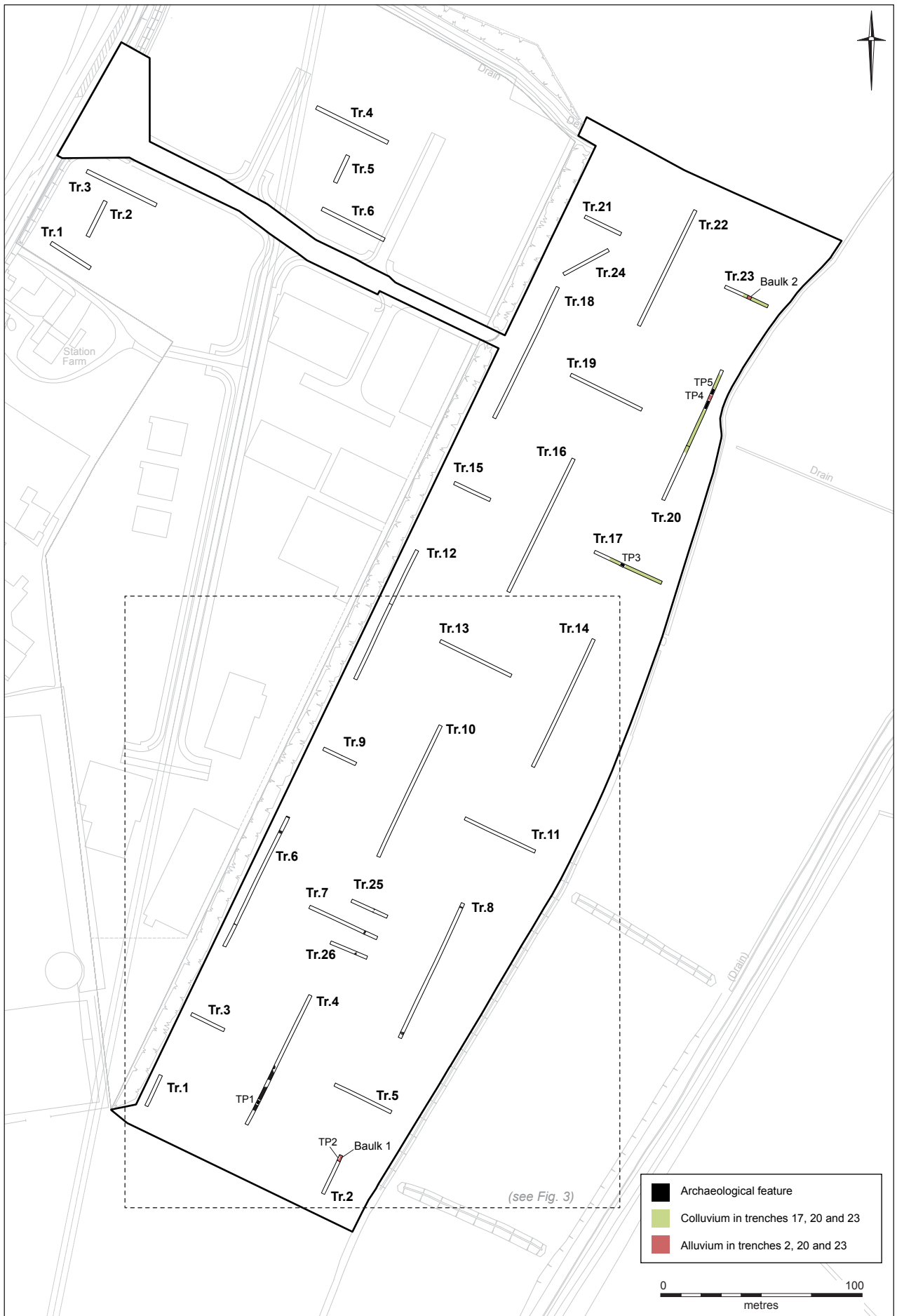


Figure 2. Trench plan

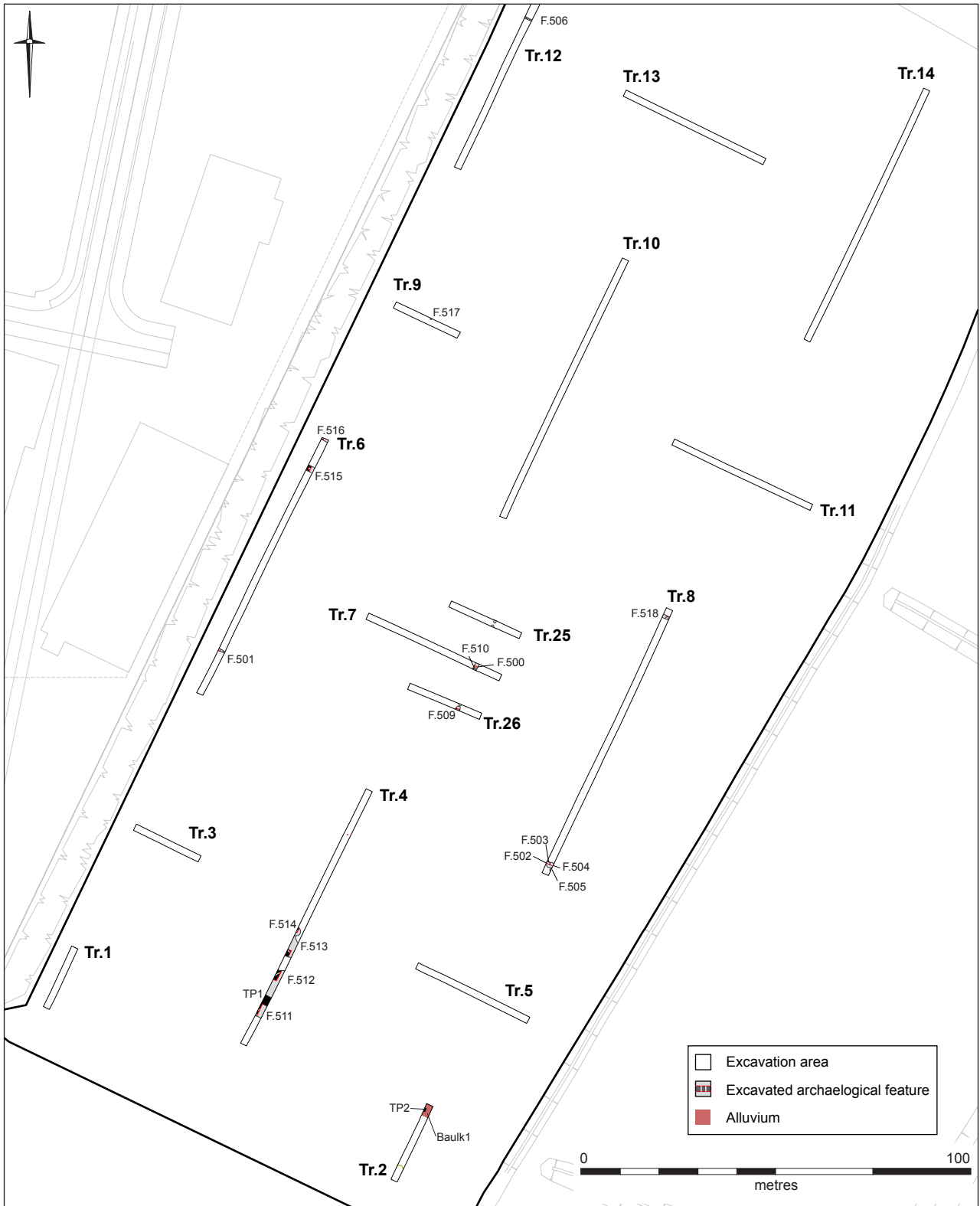


Figure 3. Trench plan inset



Figure 4. Plan of LiDAR data (Environment Agency website accessed December 2017) showing PDA and contours



Figure 5a. F.512 burnt mound (Trench 4)



Figure 5b F.515 deep ditch (Trench 6)



Figure 5c. F.500 & F.510 in pit alignment (Trench 7)



Figure 5d. F.502-F.505 pit cluster (Trench 8)




Figure 5e. F.508 post hole (Trench 21)





Figure 5f. TP4 southern end of erosion channel (Trench 20)


Figure 5. Photographs of various features


APPENDIX: Additional Trench Tables


Trench 1			
Length (m)	20	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.65
Orientation	NE-SW	Subsoil (m)	0.1-0.3
			


Trench 2								
Length (m)	20	Deposit Depths						
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.38-0.43					
Orientation	NE-SW	Subsoil (m)	0.1-0.15					
								
No.	Type	Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds/sample <>	Description	Date
Baulk1	Baulk	111.01	Layer	c.3	c. 0.35	-	Alluvial spread: 3m length left in-situ for testing (of 12m spread, no particular form, capped by subsoil).	Undated
TP2	Test Pit	111.01	Layer	1	c. 0.35	<9>	1mx0.6m test pit through alluvial silt [111.01] = mid compaction, mid blue/grey clayish silt.	Undated


Trench 3			
Length (m)	20	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.67-0.78
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.05--0.15
			


Trench 5			
Length (m)	20	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.44-0.75
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.08--0.2
			


Trench 10			
Length (m)	75	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.2-0.31
Orientation	NE-SW	Subsoil (m)	0.13--0.19
			



Trench 11			
Length (m)	39.5	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.25-0.35
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.1 --0.11
			
<p>Notes: Alluvial spread in patches at eastern end same as [111.01] up tp 0.15m in depth.</p>			


Trench 13			
Length (m)	35	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.22-0.31
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.09--0.15
			


Trench 14			
Length (m)	72	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.27-0.31
Orientation	NE-SW	Subsoil (m)	0.15-0.22
			


Trench 15			
Length (m)	20	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.34-0.5
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.09--0.12
			

Trench 16			
Length (m)	20	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.34-0.5
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.09--0.12
			

Trench 17										
Length (m)		37.5			Deposit Depths					
Width (m)		1.8			Ploughsoil (m)		0.24-0.49			
Orientation		NW-SE			Subsoil (m)		0.18-0.27			
										
No.	Type	Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds/sample <	Description	Date		
TP3	Test Pit	122.01	Layer	c.2.5	c. 1.4	-	Colluvial accumulation: Machine-dug test pit demonstrating 0.85m depth of very homogeneous fine, smooth red/orange clayey silt with occasional manganese specks. Deposit continues to eastern extent.	Undated		


Trench 18								
Length (m)		75			Deposit Depths			
Width (m)		1.8			Ploughsoil (m)		0.28-0.31	
Orientation		NE-SW			Subsoil (m)		0.14-0.2	
								


Trench 19			
Length (m)	40	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.35-0.37
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.09--0.11
			


Trench 20			
Length (m)	75	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.3-0.4
Orientation	NE-SW	Subsoil (m)	0.15-0.16
			

Notes: Alluvial spread = c. 10m extending to northern end of trench. Alluvial channel = 4.75m wide and more than 0.38m deep cutting colluvial accumulation. Colluvium accumulation = 42.6m wide and at least 0.3m deep.

No.	Type	Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds/sample <>	Description	Date
TP4	Test Pit	124.01	Layer	c.2.75	0.11		Alluvial spread: pale grey/blue clay silt	Undated
		125.01	Layer		>0.38		Alluvial channel: dark grey/blue clay silt with occasional rooting.	Undated
		126.01	Layer		0.17		Colluvial accumulation: mid pink/orange/brown clay silt	Undated
TP5	Test Pit	127.01	Layer	c.1.90	0.1		Alluvial spread: pale grey/blue clay silt	Undated
		128.01	Layer		>0.33	<11>	Alluvial channel: dark grey/blue clay silt with occasional rooting.	Undated
		129.01	Layer		0.3		Colluvial accumulation: mid pink/orange/brown clay silt	Undated

Trench 22			
Length (m)	65	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.24-0.31
Orientation	NE-SW	Subsoil (m)	0.11--0.16
			

Trench 23								
Length (m)	25	Deposit Depths						
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.3-0.39					
Orientation	NW-SE	Subsoil (m)	0.16-0.27					
								
No.	Type	Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Finds/sample <>	Description	Date
Baulk2	Baulk	123.01	Layer	c.3	c. 0.55	<10>	Alluvial spread: mid brown/grey clay silt.	Undated

Trench 24			
Length (m)	25.5	Deposit Depths	
Width (m)	1.8	Ploughsoil (m)	0.23-0.35
Orientation	WSW-ENE	Subsoil (m)	0-0.12
			

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OASIS ID: cambridg3-305665

Project details

Project name	Eagle Business Park, Phase 2, Yaxley
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on Land East of Eagle Business Park, Yaxley, previous to development by Barnack Estates UK Ltd, comprising business park units. The fieldwork comprised trenching, which revealed a number of features including ditches, a pit alignment, postholes and a burnt mound feature which are indicative of an Iron Age presence similar to that found nearby in other fen-edge locations.
Project dates	Start: 04-12-2017 End: 16-12-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	EBP17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5299 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PITS Iron Age
Monument type	PIT ALIGNMENT Iron Age
Monument type	BURNT MOUND Uncertain
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	HOLLOW Uncertain
Significant Finds	SHERD Iron Age
Significant Finds	SHERD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	DEBITAGE Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"

Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE YAXLEY Land East of Eagle Business Park, Phase 2, Yaxley
Postcode	PE7 3FW
Study area	7.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1974 9356 52.526360859789 -0.234785633966 52 31 34 N 000 14 05 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.34m Max: 10m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	David Gibson
Project director/manager	David Gibson
Project supervisor	Leanne Zeki
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Barnack Estates UK Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	EBP17
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	EBP17
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store

Paper Archive ID EBP17
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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