Red Brick Farm, Edgerley Drain Road Peterborough

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Red Brick Farm, Peterborough

Archaeological Evaluation Assessment Report

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land at Red Brick Farm, Peterborough (TL 219996) (Figure 1) between 21st November and 29th November 2017.

Neolithic pits and Bronze Age ditches were identified in Trenches 1-5 (Figure 2 and Figure 3) in the western third of the Evaluation Area, which was on the river Nene first-terrace gravels (Horton et al, 1974. 60). The Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence of peats, alluvial silts and buried soil was encountered and recorded across the majority of the Evaluation Area.

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land at Red Brick Farm, Peterborough (TL 219996) between 21st November and 29th November 2017 (site code RBF17).

The evaluation was carried out in response to outline planning permission for development of the Evaluation Area. Work was carried out in accordance with a Project Design Specification (Patten, 2017) produced by CAU based on the Archaeological and Heritage Assessment prepared by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of the Church Commissioners for England (Johns, 2017).

LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The Evaluation Area of the Proposed Development Area (PDA) comprises 9.45 hectares of land on the eastern edge of Peterborough, bounded to the west and south by industrial estates, and to the north and east by open agricultural land. The PDA is located on the edge of the Flag Fen Basin and is relatively level at a height of 2–3m OD, with the highest point at the northern end of the PDA, where the ground rises to 5m OD. The underlying geology consists of Oxford Clay overlain by river terrace sand and gravel, and much of the PDA is overlain by Nordelph Peat (Patten, 2017. 1.2.1). The PDA is currently agricultural land in arable use.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A number of significant archaeological finds and excavations have been made within the area around the PDA and recorded in the Peterborough Historic Environment Record (HER). Between 1971 and 1978, a number of excavations were undertaken throughout Fengate which revealed extensive Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman activity, including extensive Bronze Age enclosures and droveways. Between 1998 and 2006, at The Broadlands, 350m to the west of the PDA, Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust undertook a series of investigations (HER 50541, 51183, 51245, 51246, 51422; Nicholson, 2007) that identified activity spanning the Middle Bronze Age to the Late Romano-British period. To the north of the PDA, and prior to the development of the industrial estate in 2002, archaeological investigations were undertaken at Oxney Road by Soke Archaeological Services (HER 51752; Britchfield, 2002) and at Parnwell Way by Oxford Archaeology (HER 51307; 51404; 51687-91; 51705-7; Webley, 2007). In 2004, to the west of the PDA an excavation was undertaken by the CAU in advance of development at Edgerley Drain Road (HER 51415, 51682; Evans *et al*, 2009), that identified Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman activity, including an extensive Middle Bronze Age field system and droveway.

A single Palaeolithic handaxe (HER 07562) is recorded within a 1km study area of the PDA along with a Mesolithic Tranchet axe head within a small pit (HER 51198, 51199). Neolithic activity has been identified within the study area with settlement recorded through excavation to the north (HER 51298, 51412) and south-west (HER 51212). To the west of Edgerley Drain Road Neolithic artefacts were recovered from pits and tree throws (HER 51151, 51216, 51415, 51418), and to the south-east of the PDA a possible Neolithic roundhouse was excavated as part of the excavation of Northey Barrow undertaken by Time Team (HER 50584).

280m to the south of the PDA is Flag Fen, an internationally important Bronze Age archaeological site and scheduled ancient monument (1406460). The site comprises the preserved waterlogged remains of a raised trackway (causeway) formed of over 60,000 timber posts and 250,000 wooden planks arranged in a series of five rows that extended across part of the Flag Fen Basin, with a platform constructed 160m from the causeway's eastern end (Pryor, 2001). At present, the platform site is a visitor attraction (Flag Fen Archaeology Park) with a preservation hall and reconstructions.

To the west of the PDA was a Bronze Age barrow (HER 03111). Further west a number of artefacts have been recorded within the industrial estate (HER 50420), some of which were associated with a barrow known as 'Herdsman's Hill', destroyed by gravel extraction prior to 1921 (HER 03002). A Bronze Age field system has also been identified at a number of nearby sites (HER 51567, 11072, 51211). To the southwest of the PDA, archaeological excavations in the 1970s identified a large complex of Bronze Age enclosures, droveways, and settlement that extended from the 'landfall' of the Flag Fen causeway across the Fengate area (HER 11928, 53537). To the north, a number of finds have been recorded including Collared Urn burials (HER 03012, 50204) and apparent Bronze Age settlement (HER 02963).

Roman settlement has been identified to the west side of the PDA (HER 02984), with a number of Roman artefacts recorded in the vicinity (HER 02969; 02987; 02988). The route of the Roman Fen Causeway, a Roman road that is thought to have connected Peterborough to Denver, Norfolk, has been recorded to the south of the PDA, with sections investigated at Flag Fen (HER 50710) and Fengate where the gravel agger was excavated in the 1971–78 excavations (HER 51784). It has subsequently been identified during watching briefs in 2006 (HER 51446) and 2008 (HER 51785); and in an evaluation at the Flag Fen Visitor Centre in 2007 (HER 51438). Further Roman remains have been found as part of a multi-period site prior to the construction of the industrial estate, some 350m to the west of the Evaluation Area. Remains at land off The Broadlands included a ditched enclosure (HER 51680), and Roman remains at an adjacent development site, were shown to be buried under an extensive palaeosol (HER 51739, 51760). Roman remains were also excavated in advance of the development of the industrial estate to the north of

the Evaluation Area, at Parnwell Way (HER 51689, 51704, 51707). A possible temple site has been identified as a series of cropmarks on aerial photographs 900m to the north-east of the PDA (HER 08370).

Within the PDA a series of cropmarks have previously been identified (HER 08377). These are of an enclosure and ditch and, considering the landscape, they are probably either prehistoric or Roman in date.

METHODOLOGY

The initial programme outlined in the Project Design Specification was to excavate seventeen 50m x 2m trenches (Patten, 2017. 3.3). However, as trenching progressed from west to east it became clear that the potential for further archaeological features beyond the gravel terrace was very low. Furthermore, all trenches continuing east would far exceed 1m in depth and would require stepping along their entirety. It was therefore agreed by the Peterborough City Council archaeologist that a programme of test pitting should take place instead of trenching from that point, with a focus on exposing and recording the Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence. Ten 50m x 2.1m trenches and thirteen 5m x 3m test pits were excavated.

Trenches and test pits were excavated with a 360º 30 tonne machine with a 2.1m wide toothless bucket under direct supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Trenches were located with a Leica System GPS and planned using a combination of Leica System GPS and detailed 1:50 plans produced by hand. Discrete features were 50–100% excavated and 1m slots were excavated in linear features. Bulk samples were taken from archaeological features and column samples from the sediment sequence. All archaeological finds were retained. A written record of archaeological features and soil sequences was created using the CAU recording system (see below). A digital photographic record of the trenching programme was also maintained.

The CAU recording system is an adaptation of the MoLAS system (Spence 1994) designed to be more appropriate to ‘extensive’ rural settings and to facilitate effective organisation of stratigraphic data and finds plotting. The system uses the Feature (F.) (ditch, pit, posthole etc.) as the main interpreted entity. Each feature is assigned an individual number with a context group number (e.g. 100) also being assigned to each individual slot excavated in that feature; context numbers are derived from this context group number (e.g. 100.01, 100.02 etc.). The context sheet forms the basis of the written archive but can be supplemented by Feature sheets (for complex features) as well as ‘specialist’ sheets such as skeleton and timber sheets. All sections are drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.

The work was carried out in full accordance with the CIFA’s *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

RESULTS

A plough soil which varied between 0.25m and 0.5m in depth was present across the Evaluation Area. A thin subsoil was encountered only in patches in the western third of Evaluation Area at 0.16m thick at its deepest. Details of the Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence are in the individual trench descriptions below. The natural varied between mixed blue grey and yellow clay and mixed yellow orange sandy gravel. The location of features and changes in stratigraphy were measured from the northernmost end of each trench.

Trench 1 was machined to a depth of 0.58m at the northwest end, due to its siting on the edge of the gravel terrace, deepening to 1.23m at the southeast end as the Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence was encountered.

Overlying deposits were recorded from the base of the subsoil to the natural (Figure 4). Peat and alluvial layers were encountered from 29m, deepening to the southeast end. They comprised: desiccated peat (0.05m maximum depth); red brown peat (0.14m maximum depth); wind-blown or alluvial lens (0.01m maximum depth); black brown peat (0.21m maximum depth); and alluvium (0.11m maximum depth). Buried soil was encountered from 47.2m, deepening to 0.21m at the southeast end. A natural interface or buried soil was encountered in the north-western two thirds of the trench at 0.1m in depth.

A NE-SW ditch (**F.511**) was identified 9.2m from the northwest end of the trench, cut into the gravel terrace (Figure 2 and Figure 3). It contained a single fill of dark grey brown soft sandy silt with frequent rooting and small–medium-sized stone inclusions from which one flint was recovered. The ditch was linear in plan (0.52m in width; 0.04m in depth) with very gently sloping sides and a concave base. The shallow depth suggests that only the base survives. This ditch, in combination with those found in neighbouring Trenches 4 and 5, is likely to form a continuation of a Bronze Age field system excavated in the immediate vicinity of the Evaluation Area (see Discussion and Figure 5).

A pit (**F.512**) was identified 37.5m from the northwest end of the trench, cut into the gravel below the peat sequence (Figure 2 and Figure 3). It contained a single fill of mid brown grey clay silt with moderately frequent small to medium stone inclusions from which prehistoric pottery (see Pottery) and flint was recovered and Sample 106 was taken. It was oval in plan (1.07m in width; 0.16m in depth) with shallow, sloping sides and a flat base. This pit is part of prehistoric occupation on the edge of the gravel terrace (see Discussion).

Trench 2 was machined to a depth of 0.72m at the northwest end, due to its siting on the edge of the gravel terrace, deepening to 1.15m at the southeast end as the Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence was encountered.

Overlying deposits from the base of the subsoil to natural comprised: peat, which deepened from 0.09m to 0.34m from northwest to southeast; alluvium, encountered

only in the south-eastern third of the trench (0.06m maximum depth); a wind-blown or alluvial lens, only in the middle third of the trench (0.06m maximum depth); re-deposited natural, possibly upcast (see Discussion, Figure 4 and Figure 7), only at the southeast end (0.11m maximum depth); orange grey buried soil (0.09m–0.12m in depth); and brown grey buried soil, encountered from 48m, which deepened to 0.19m at the southeast end (Figure 4).

A tree throw (**F.505**) was identified and excavated 11.5m from the northwest end of the trench (Figure 2 and Figure 3). It contained three fills: an upper fill of mid brown grey soft grey silt with flecks of charcoal; a middle fill of dark black organic rich soft silt; and a lower fill of light yellow grey silt with flecks of charcoal. It was irregular–oval in plan (0.88m in width; 0.2m in depth) with shallow, sloping sides and an irregular base. No finds were recovered. This is typical of several tree throws revealed across the Evaluation Area (see Discussion).

Trench 3 was machined to a depth of 0.58m at the northwest end deepening only slightly to 0.7m at the southeast end because the whole trench was situated on the gravel terrace.

The overlying deposits from the base of the subsoil to natural comprised only a natural interface or buried soil (mottled orange grey silt sand) which shallowed slightly from 0.14m at the northwest end to 0.1m at the southeast end.

Pit (**F.504**) was identified and excavated 22.1m from the northwest end of the trench (Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 6). It contained three fills: an upper fill of mid brown grey sand silt with manganese mottling, occasional charcoal and rooting; a middle fill of dark blue grey sand silt with occasional medium stone and charcoal inclusions from which Sample 100 was taken; and a lower fill of mid brown orange compacted silty gravelly sand. This pit was 100% excavated and Early Neolithic pottery (see Pottery and Figure 6) was recovered from all three fills in both halves, as well as one piece of animal bone (cow, right astragalus) in the lowest fill. It was circular in plan (1.5m in width, 0.52m in depth) with steep–vertical sides and a concave–flat base.

Pits **F.508** and F.504 were intercutting but the relationship was too diffuse to determine (Figure 4). Pit F.508 (Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 6) contained two fills: an upper fill of mottled mid brown grey with orange sand silt with occasional charcoal and large stone inclusions from which Sample 102 was taken; and a lower fill of mottled mid grey orange silty gravelly sand. This pit was 100% excavated and Early Neolithic pottery (see Pottery) was recovered from both fills in both halves, as well as one flint in the uppermost fill. It was circular in plan (0.8m in width, 0.39m in depth) with steep–vertical sides and a concave–flat base.

Three possible pits were identified in a cluster approximately 5m southeast of F.504 and F.508 (Figure 2 and Figure 3). All these pits are part of a wider area of

contemporary pitting and occupation on the edge of the gravel terrace (see Discussion).

A tree throw (**F.503**) was identified and excavated 35m from the northwest end of the trench (Figure 2 and Figure 3). It contained two fills: an upper fill of mid grey soft sand silt with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions; and a lower fill of mottled mid brown grey orange soft sand silt with occasional small stone and charcoal inclusions. It was irregular in plan (1.11m in width, 0.35m in depth) with irregular sides and an irregular base. No finds were recovered. This is typical of several tree throws revealed across the Evaluation Area (See Discussion).

Trench 4 was machined to a depth of 1.1m at the northeast end, due to its location closest to the edge of the gravel terrace, deepening to 1.25m at the southwest end with the Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence.

Overlying deposits from the base of the subsoil to natural comprised: desiccated peat (0.09–0.15m in depth); red brown peat (0.18–0.28m in depth); a wind-blown or alluvial lens encountered only in the north-eastern two thirds of the trench (0.02m maximum depth); black peat (0.19–0.22m in depth); and buried soil (0.14–0.18m in depth) (Figure 7).

Four shallow linear features were identified and excavated in this trench from which no finds were recovered (Figure 2 and Figure 3). **F. 506**, **F.507** and **F.509** run roughly parallel with each other NE–SW. **F.510** runs NW–SE. There is a fifth possible linear which runs perpendicular to F.509, possibly forming the corner of a field boundary. These ditches, in combination with others in neighbouring Trenches 1 and 5, are likely to form a continuation of a Bronze Age field system excavated in the immediate vicinity of the Evaluation Area (see Discussion and Figure 5).

Ditch F.506 contained a single fill of mid brown grey sand silt with frequent rooting. It was linear in plan (0.5m in width, 0.13m in depth) with very gently sloping sides and a concave–flat base.

Ditch F.507 contained two fills: an upper fill of mid brown grey soft sand silt with frequent rooting; and a lower fill of mixed light yellow grey and mid brown grey sand silt with frequent rooting. It was linear in plan (0.48m in width, 0.19m in depth) with steep, sloping sides and an irregular base.

Ditch F.509 contained a single fill of mid brown grey soft silt with frequent rooting. It was linear in plan (0.37m in width, 0.08m in depth) with very gently sloping sides and a concave,-irregular base.

Ditch F.510 contained a single fill of mid orange brown grey silt with occasional small stone inclusions and frequent rooting. It was linear in plan (0.45m in width, 0.05m in depth) with very gently sloping sides and a concave,-irregular base.

Trench 5 was machined to a depth of 1.3m at the northeast end, due to its siting in the Flag Fen Basin, shallowing to 0.8m at the southwest end which was on the edge of the gravel terrace.

The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: black peat which shallowed from 0.37m to 0.18m in depth from northeast to southwest; dark brown alluvium, encountered only in the north-eastern two thirds of the trench (0.11m maximum depth); orange grey alluvium, only in the middle of the trench (0.17m maximum depth); blue grey alluvium, only in the north-eastern third (0.15m maximum depth); and buried soil (0.06m – 0.11m).

Two shallow linear features (**F.500** and **F.501**) running parallel to each other WNW–ESE in the southwest half of the trench are likely to be prehistoric in date (Figure 2 and Figure 3). These ditches, in combination with others in neighbouring Trenches 1 and 4, are likely to form a continuation of a Bronze Age field system excavated in the immediate vicinity of the Evaluation Area (see Discussion and Figure 5).

Ditch F.500 (Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 6) contained a single fill of dark grey brown sand silt with occasional small–medium stone inclusions and rooting from which one flint was recovered. It was linear in plan (0.75m in width, 0.13m in depth) with very gently sloping sides and an irregular base.

Ditch F.501 contained a single fill of dark grey brown sand silt with occasional small–medium stone inclusions and rooting from which no finds were recovered. It was linear in plan (0.63m in width, 0.1m in depth) with very gently sloping sides and an irregular base.

A tree throw, **F.502**, contained a single fill of dark grey brown sand silt with occasional small–medium stone inclusions and rooting from which no finds were recovered. It was irregular in plan (0.92m in width, 0.04m in depth) with very gently sloping sides and an irregular base. This is typical of several tree throws revealed across the Evaluation Area (see Discussion).

Trench 6 was machined to a depth of 1.05m at the northwest end, deepening to 1.24m at the southeast end as it continued further into the Flag Fen Basin.

The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: desiccated peat, only in the north-western two thirds of the trench (0.14m maximum depth); alluvium (0.1–0.2m in depth); black peat (0.4m in depth); and buried soil (0.26–0.17m in depth).

No archaeological features were present.

Trench 7 was machined to a depth of 1.16m at the northwest end, deepening to 1.42m at the southeast end as it continued further into the Flag Fen Basin.

The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: desiccated peat, only in the south-eastern third of the trench (0.08m in depth); red brown peat (0.24m–0.33m in depth); dark brown alluvium, only in the south-eastern two thirds, which deepened to 0.25m at the southeast end; light grey alluvium, only in the north-western two thirds (0.25m maximum depth); and buried soil, only in the southeast two thirds, which deepened to 0.37m at the southeast end.

No archaeological features were present.

Trench 8 was machined to a depth of 1.5m at the northeast and southwest ends, rising to 1.15m in the middle, following the undulating edge of the Flag Fen Basin.

The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: desiccated peat (0.2m–0.12m in depth); alluvium, only at the ends of the trench (0.15m maximum depth); black peat (0.4m–0.46m in depth); and buried soil (0.2m–0.22m in depth).

No archaeological features were present.

Trench 9 was machined to a depth of 1.44m – 1.47m.

The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: desiccated peat (0.18m–0.11m in depth); alluvium, encountered from 20m, which deepened to 0.23m at the southwest end; black peat (0.5m–0.32m in depth); and buried soil (0.22m–0.27m in depth).

No archaeological features were present.

Trench 10 was machined to a depth of 1.3m – 1.4m.

The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: desiccated peat, encountered up to 30m (0.2m maximum depth); red brown peat (0.35m - 0.47m in depth); reed peat (0.2m - 0.24m in depth); and buried soil (0.26m - 0.15m in depth).

No archaeological features were present.

Test Pit 1 was machined to a depth of 1.6m.

The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: desiccated peat (0.08m in depth); red brown peat (0.15m in depth); alluvium (0.15m in depth); brown black peat (0.22m in depth); reed peat (0.23m in depth); and buried soil (0.33m in depth).

Test Pits 2 -13 all contained the same sequence of deposits. The trenches were machined to a depth of 1.16m–1.53m. The overlying deposits from the base of the plough soil to natural comprised: desiccated peat (0.09m–0.15m in depth); red brown

peat (0.38m–0.68m in depth); reed peat (0.1m–0.23m in depth); and buried soil (0.12m–0.27m in depth).

SPECIALIST RESULTS

Pottery – Mark Knight

Three features produced prehistoric pottery: F.504, F.508 (Trench 3) and F.512 (Trench 1). The majority of the material came from F.504, which yielded 48 sherds, including large and small fragments belonging to at least two different Early Neolithic Peterborough Ware vessels. Heavy T-shaped rims, deep necks, exaggerated shoulders together with incised and impressed decoration (herring-bone motifs) characterised its assemblage. An additional 26 sherds of the same form and fabric, but potentially a different vessel, came from the adjacent F.508. A single very small and abraded sherd from F.512 was undiagnostic other than its fabric (medium hard with possible grog) was consistent with later Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age types.

Environmental analysis

Sample 100, from pit F.504 and Sample 106 from pit F.512 each yielded one charred seed. Other bulk samples taken yielded only occasional flecks of charcoal. Due to the paucity of informative material produced they have not been subject to further analysis.

DISCUSSION

The evaluation at Red Brick Farm offered a rare glimpse of Early Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age activity on the western gravel-terrace edge of the Flag Fen Basin, with the basin sediments encountered over much of the evaluation area and plateauing at c0.1m OD. The sequence at Red Brick Farm bridges those studied at Edgerley Drain Road, immediately to the west of the Evaluation Area on the gravel terrace (Beadsmoore, 2005), and those at Flag Fen to the southeast, in the basin (Pryor, 2005). The changes in the sequence from fen-edge to Flag Fen Basin are summarised by French (French, 2003. 100, Table 7.1). The 'ragged' interface between the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age buried soil and overlying peat at Red Brick Farm (Figure 7) is very similar to that at Edgerley Drain Road, and therefore the same interpretation of physical disturbance by livestock movement or arable farming can be applied (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 123). This interpretation is supported by evidence of a Middle Bronze Age field system on these sites, discussed below.

Three tree throws were revealed in the evaluation (Figure 2 and Figure 3): F.505 (Trench 2), F.503 (Trench 3), and F.502 (Trench 5), from which no finds were recovered. Tree throws excavated at the adjacent Edgerley Drain Road sites (Beadsmoore, 2005) and The Broadlands (Nicholson, 2007) have been dated to the Neolithic period (Nicholson, 2007. 2), and a similar date can be postulated for these at Red Brick Farm. The fen edges were cleared of woodland in stages between the Neolithic period and Early Bronze Age to increase the area of useable land, ever reducing due to the rising water table (Scaife, 2001. 351ff).

Pits F.504 and F.508 (Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4 and Figure 6), which produced Early Neolithic Peterborough Ware, were located in Trench 3, in the south-western corner of the evaluation area. Three further pits were revealed but not excavated in this trench. Pit F.512 (Figure 2 and Figure 3), dated to the later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, was located in the north-western corner, in Trench 1. In terms of spatial distribution, density, proportions and dates, these pits resemble evidence from adjacent sites to the west of the PDA: Edgerley Drain Road (Beadsmoore, 2005) and Land off Vicarage Farm Road (Vaughan & Trevarthen, 1998. and Beadsmoore, 2007). On these sites pits were dispersed in small groups, pairs or isolated. Each pit produced only one type of pottery, which ranged from Early Neolithic Plain Bowl and Peterborough Ware to Late Neolithic Grooved Ware, Beaker and Early Bronze Age Collared Urn (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009, 124).

The pits at Red Brick Farm are most likely part of the Neolithic and Bronze Age activity revealed in excavations in the immediate vicinity. They add to our understanding of prehistoric usage of the Flag Fen Basin, which on the Fengate edge is currently based on sites either entirely on the gravel terrace or in the basin, by demonstrating the continuation of dense activity right up to the fen edge,

revealing the transition from gravel terrace to basin, and fitting into the wider landscape of Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation (Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 5).

The eight ditches identified may form part of a field system (Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 5), though being only exposed in trenches the exact layout cannot be determined at this stage: F.511 (Trench 1), F.506, F.507 and F.509 (Trench 4) are aligned NE–SW; F.500, F.501 (Trench 5), F.510 and another possible ditch (Trench 4) are aligned WNW–ESE. A Bronze Age date is most likely based on a shared alignment with the well-attested Bronze Age field systems in the immediate area (Figure 5). The Red Brick Farm ditches appear to form a continuation of the system of Middle Bronze Age droveways and paddocks revealed at Edgerley Drain Road (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 116). Further evidence of the same system has been recorded at Broadlands (Nicholson, 2007. 3), the Paving Factory, Global Doors and Land off Vicarage Farm Road (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 116).

The paucity of finds from the Red Brick Farm ditches (F.500 and F.511 produced one flint each) is typical of Bronze Age field boundaries and can therefore, paradoxically, support their attributed dating. Field system ditches excavated in the immediate area produced 27 Grooved Ware and five Beaker sherds from Edgerley Drain Road (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 175), only a few sherds of Deverel-Rimbury from Broadlands, and no finds from the Global Doors or Paving Factory sites (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 116).

Upcast bank material sealing a buried soil was seen in section at the south-eastern end of Trench 2 (Figure 4 and Figure 7), which may indicate the presence of a ditch just beyond. This is perhaps a continuation of one of the droveway ditches or drainage channels revealed at Land Off Vicarage Farm Road (Beadsmoore, 2007) based on the strong similarity with these features' sections showing upcast bank material sealing buried soil (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 120). Further comparable sections were seen associated with the Bronze Age field system ditches at Fourth Drove and the Depot Site (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 178).

The full extent of Bronze Age utilisation of the basin is as yet unknown. It is thought that the field system was laid out primarily to manage the seasonal movement of livestock between the wetter fen edges and dryer gravel terraces (Pryor, 2001. xviiii). It has been noted that the enclosures continue south and east of the Evaluation Area on a slightly different alignment which may be because they follow the changing contour of the fen edge (Figure 5), or may indicate that they are part of a different system altogether (Beadsmoore & Evans, 2009. 179).

The Evaluation Area is situated on two key areas which are rarely exposed: the transitional zone from gravel terrace to fen basin, and the point at which the alignment of the fen edge changes (Figure 2, Figure 4, and Figure 5). As such, it has the potential to further our current understanding of these field systems and the surrounding prehistoric landscape.

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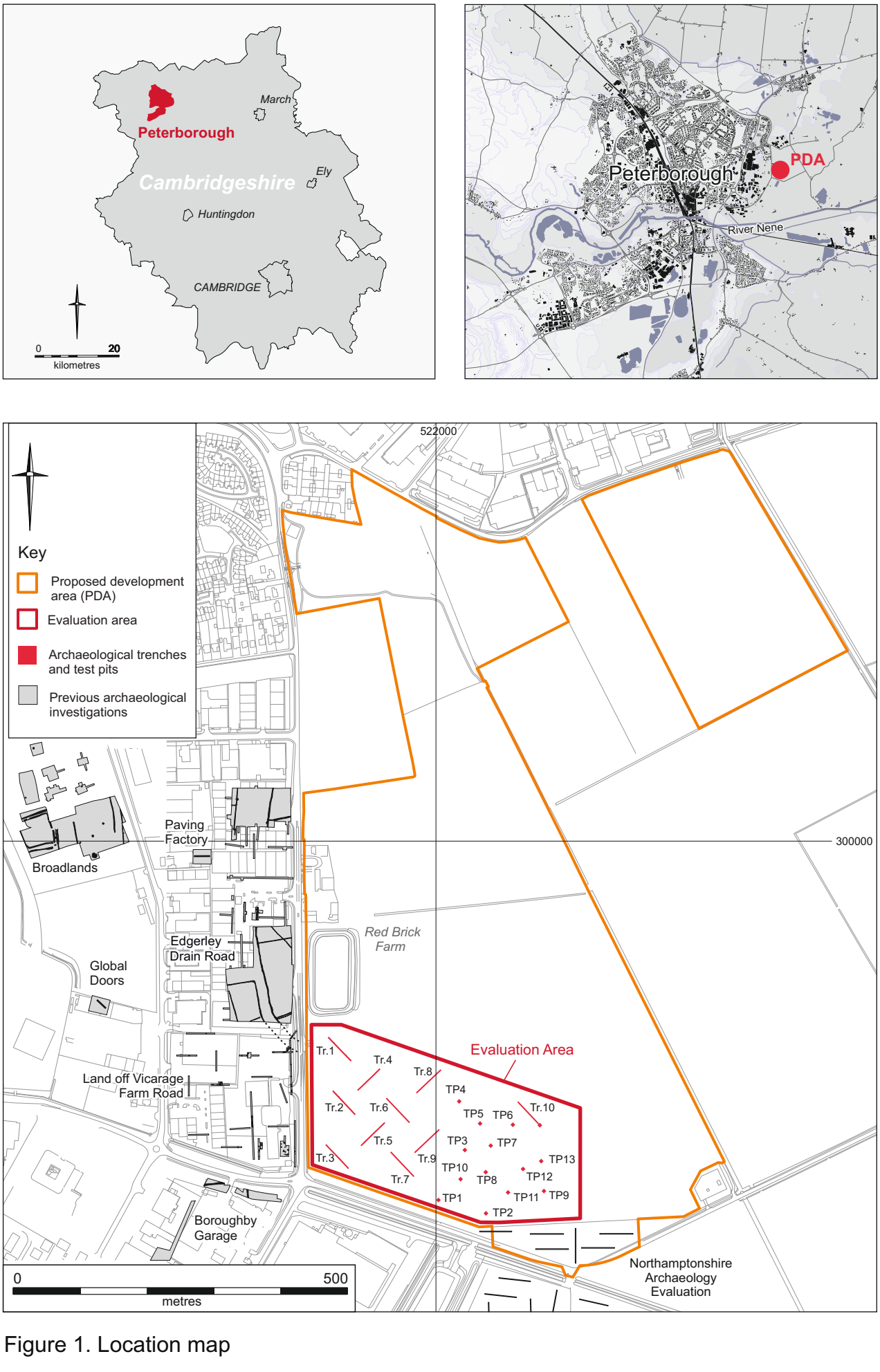


Figure 1. Location map

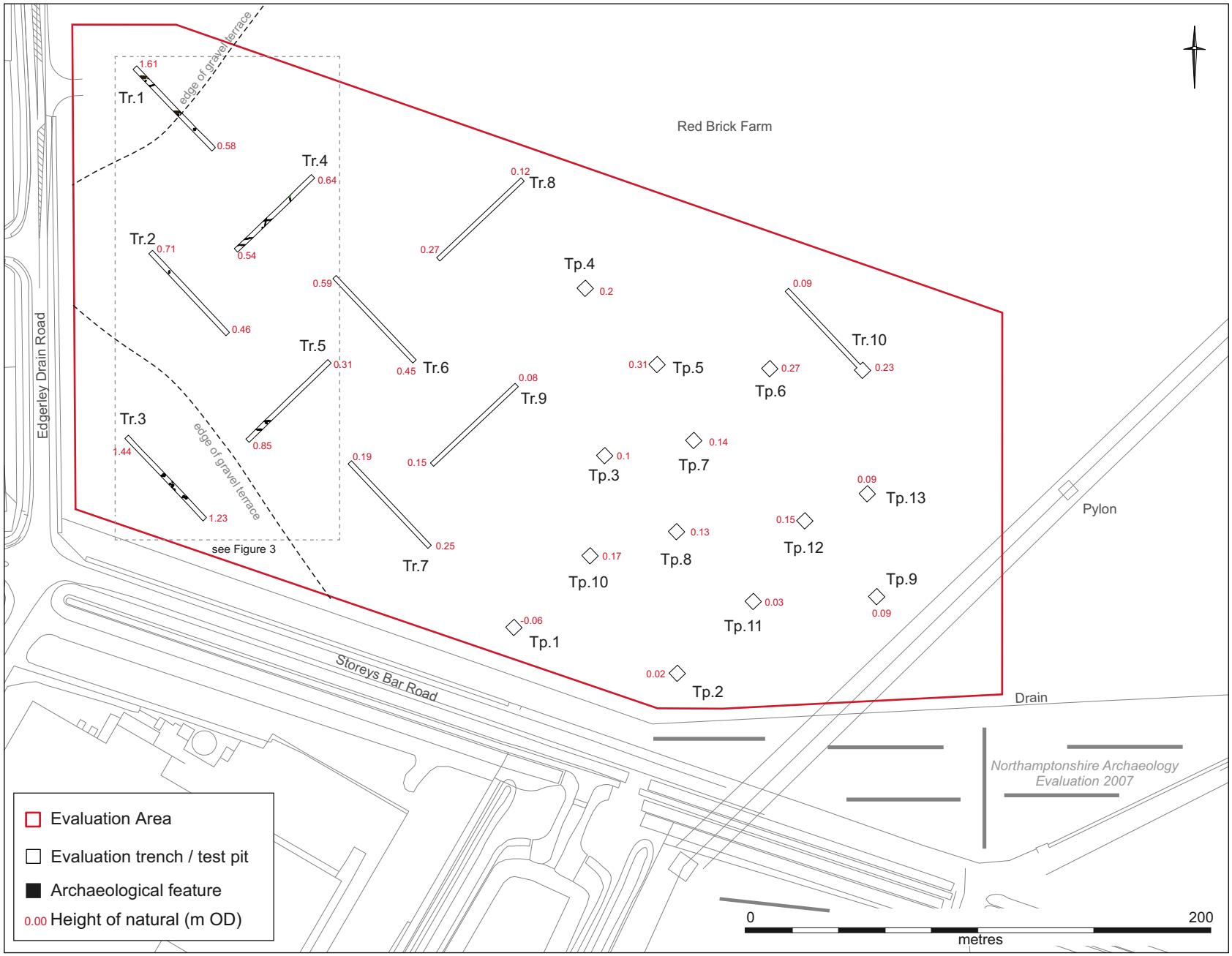


Figure 2. Trench plan

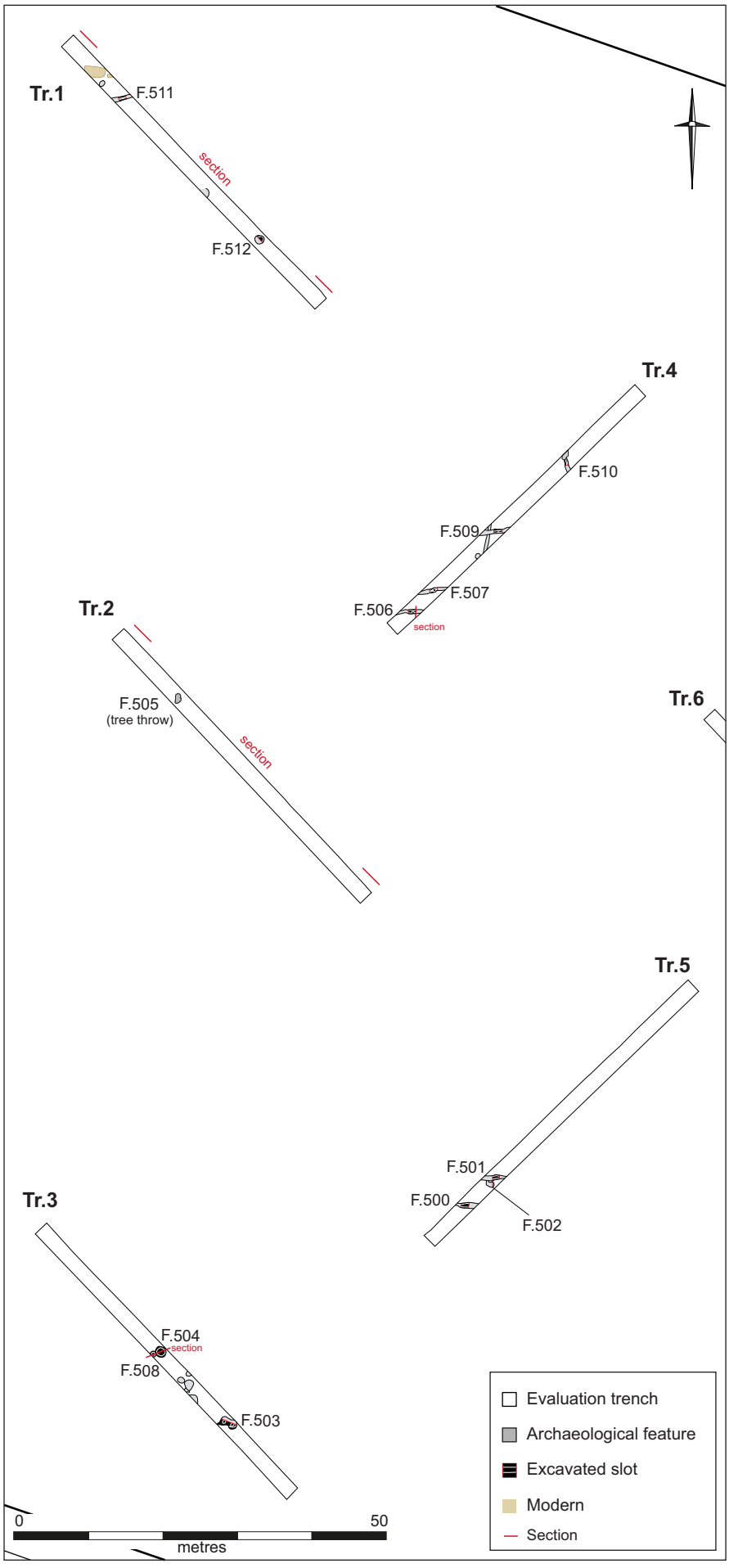


Figure 3. Detail of trenches containing archaeological features

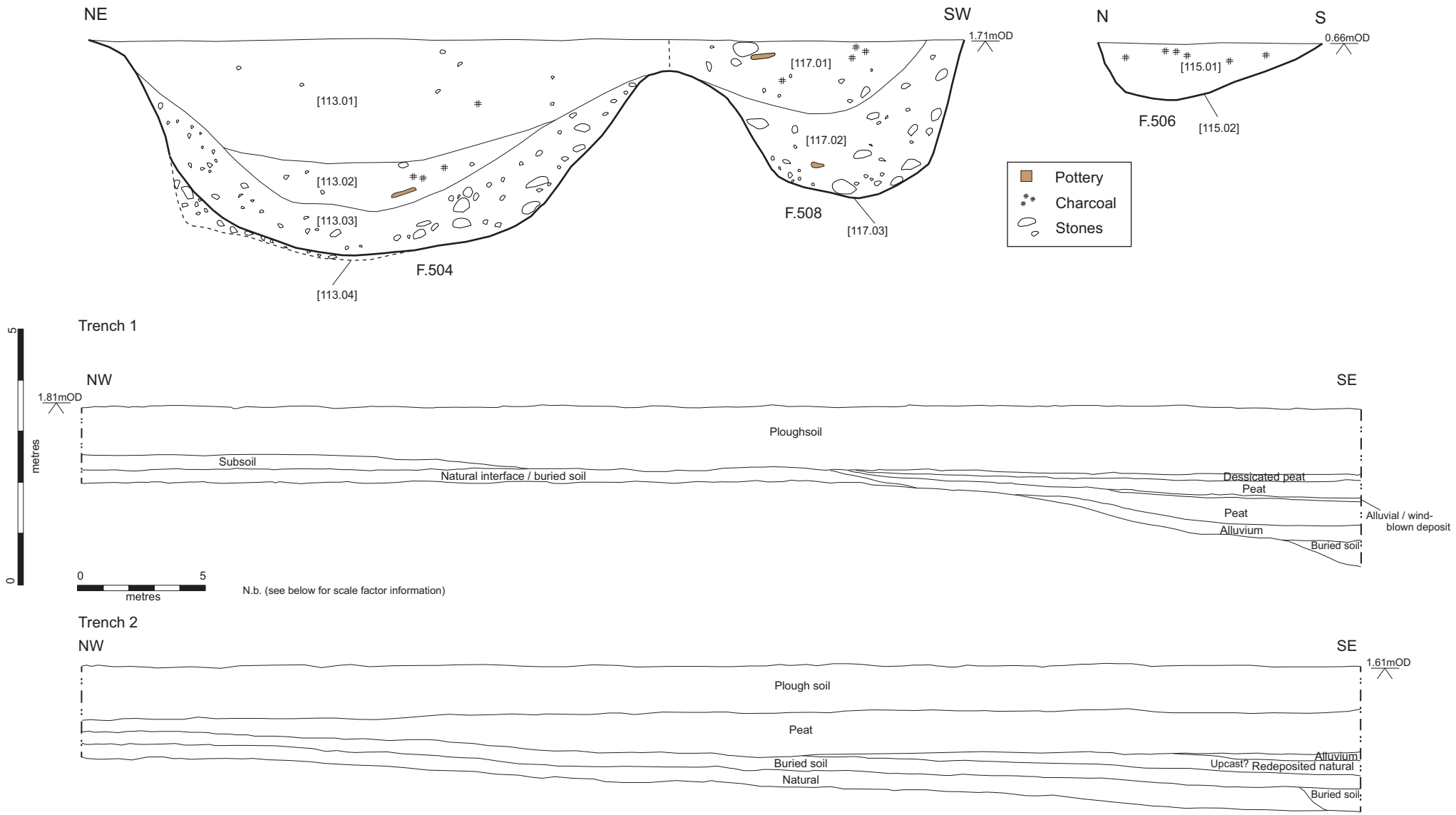


Figure 4. Sections of F.504, F.508 and F.506 (above), with schematic profile of trenches 1 and 2 (below). NB. Horizontal scale reduced by a factor of 50% for lower trench sections

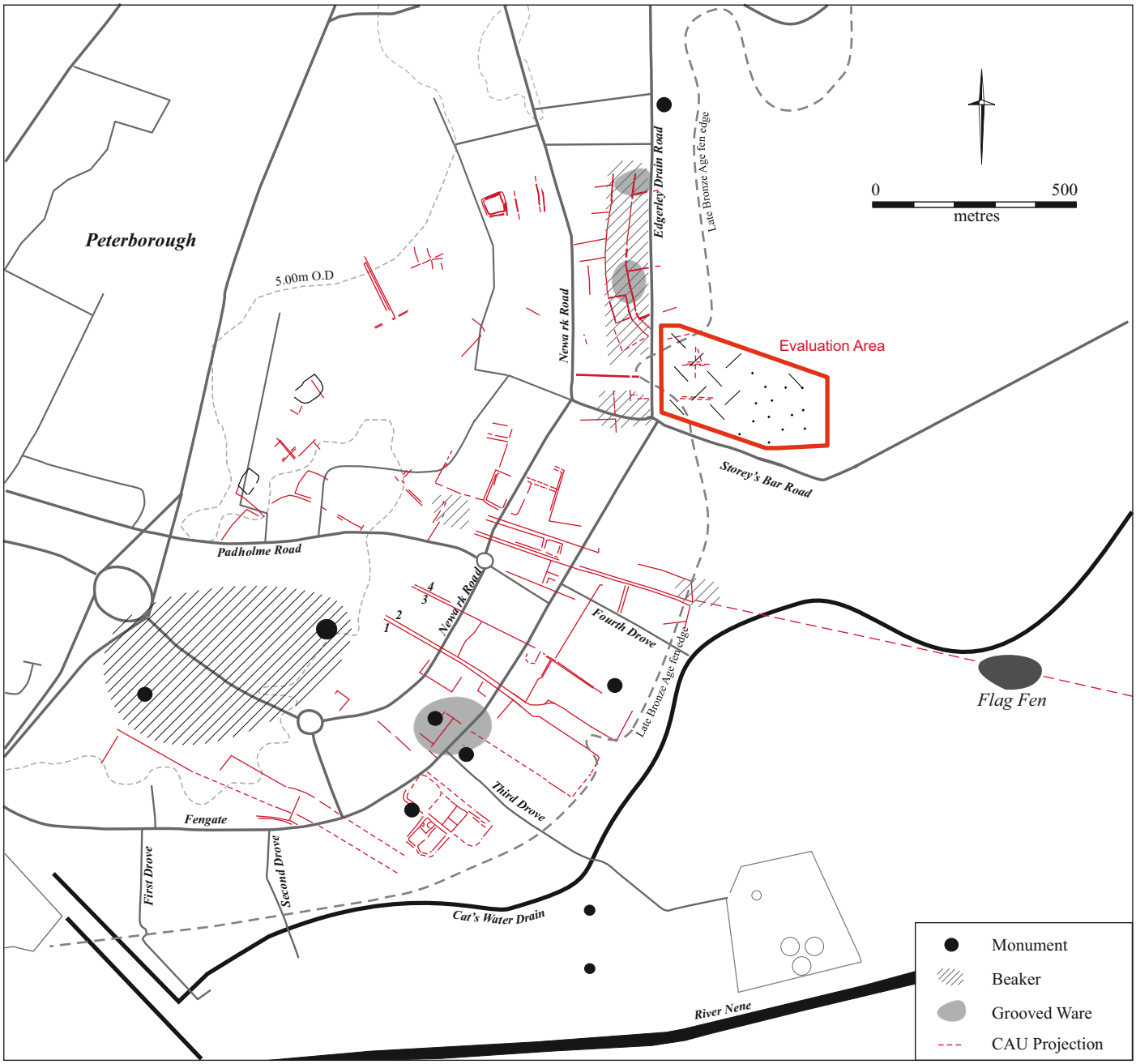


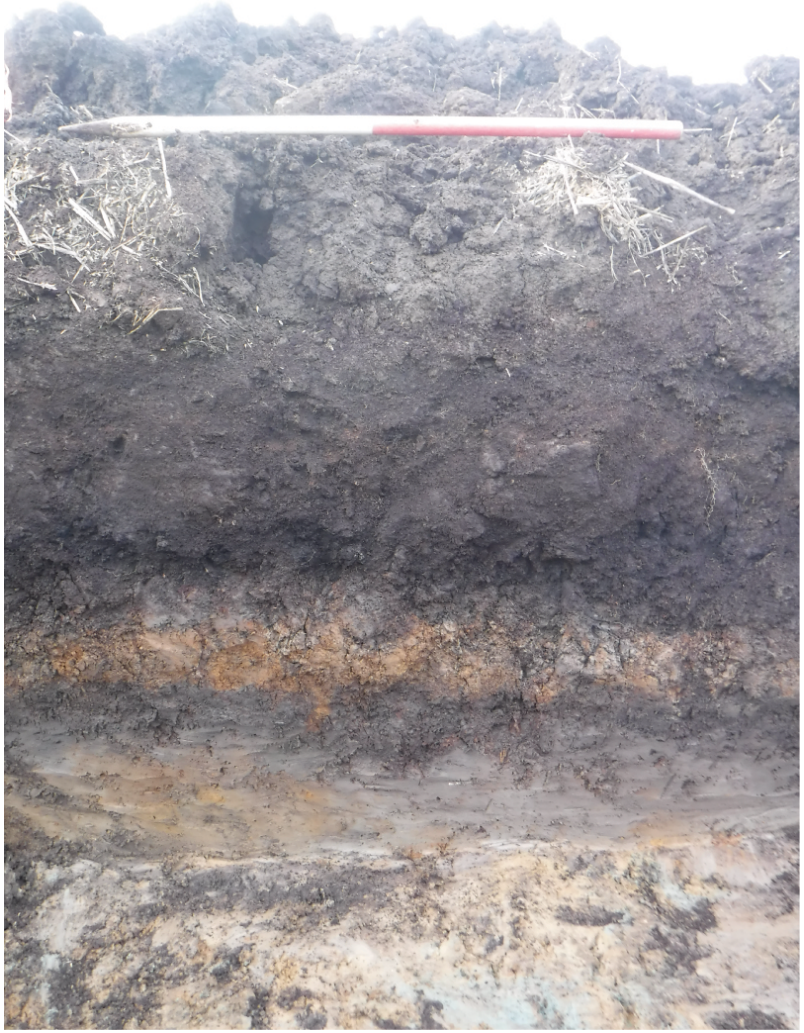
Figure 5. The Neolithic and Bronze Age Fengate landscape including ditches at Red Brick Farm

Peterborough Ware in situ. F.504, Trench 3

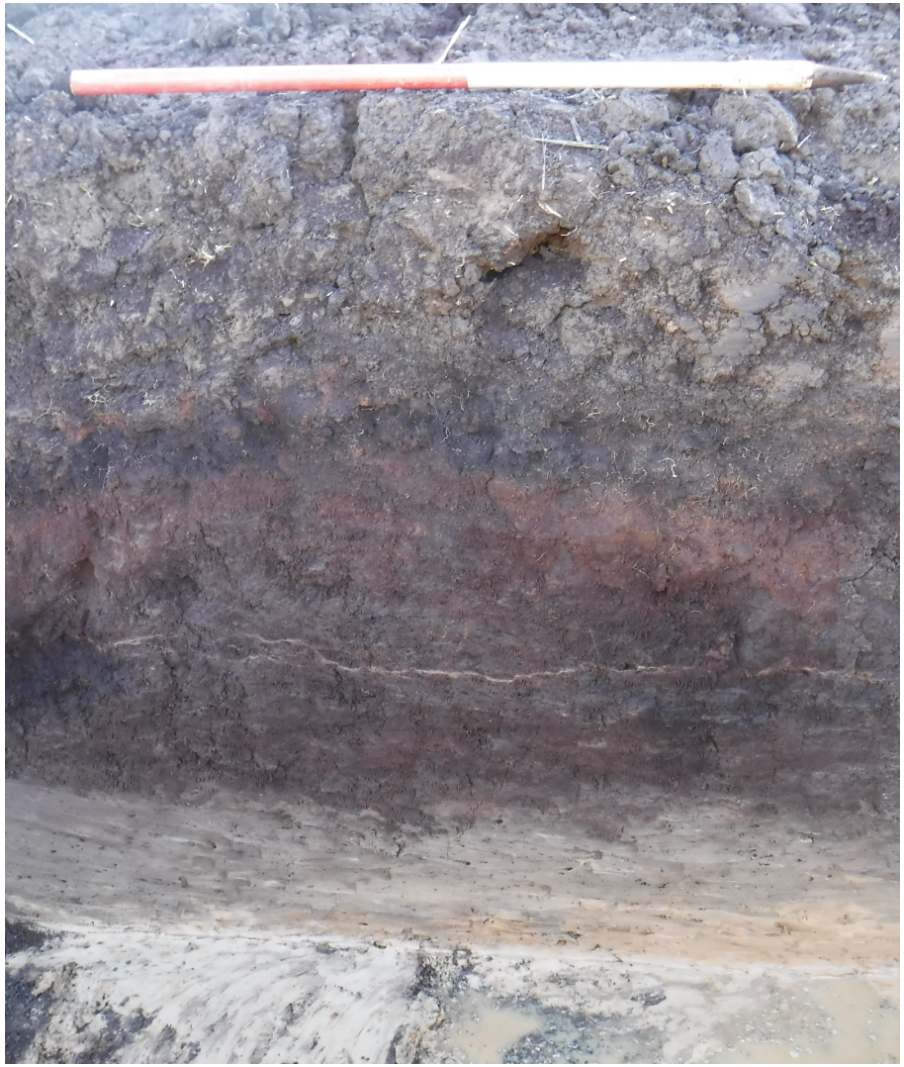
Field system ditch F.500, Trench 5

Neolithic pits F.504 and F.508 in Trench 3

Figure 6. Photographs



Trench 2 section showing ‘upcast’



Trench 4 section

Figure 7. Photographs

Trench 1		
	***Archaeology***	Modern and prehistoric activity
	Orientation	NW-SE
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.811 – 2.194
		deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.39 - 0.48 - 0.5
	Subsoil Depth (m)	0.1 - 0 - 0
	Dessicated Peat Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.05
	Peat (red brown) Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.14
	Alluvial/ wind-blown lens (mid orange grey clay sand) Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.01
	Peat (dark black brown) Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.21
	Alluvium (dark grey brown peat silt) Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.11
	Buried soil (mottled light-mid orange grey brown heavily reeded silt) Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.21
	Natural interface/ buried soil (light blue grey with orange mottling silt sand) Depth (m)	0.1 - 0.1 - 0
	Depth of Trench NW-SE (m)	0.58 - 1.23
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	49.5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed orange sand gravel
	General Description	
	Machined to a depth of 0.58m at the northwest end, due to its siting on the edge of the gravel terrace, deepening to 1.23m at the southeast end as the Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence was encountered. Modern activity and a shallow, undated NE-SW linear was identified on the gravel 9.2m from the NW end and a prehistoric pit was identified 37.5m from the NW end on the gravel below the peats. Both the linear and pit were excavated.	

Feature No.	*Feature Type*	*Context No.*	*Cut/Fill/ Layer*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Finds*	*Comments*
511	ditch	122.01	fill	0.52	0.04	FL x1	dark grey brown soft sandy silt with frequent rooting and small-medium stone inclusions.
		122.02	cut				linear in plan with very gently sloping sides and a concave base
512	pit	123.01	fill	1.07	0.16	PT, FL	mid brown grey clay silt with moderate small to medium stone inclusions from which sample 106 was taken
		123.02	cut				oval in plan with shallow sloping sides and a flat base

Trench 2

Archaeology	tree throw
Orientation	NW-SE
Height at ground level (m OD)	1.429 – 1.612
	deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
Plough soil Depth (m)	0.43 - 0.37 - 0.35
Peat (black) Depth (m)	0.09 - 0.27 - 0.34
Alluvium (mid grey brown clay silt) Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.06
Alluvial/ wind-blown lens (light yellow grey silt sand) Depth (m)	0 - 0.06 - 0
Redeposited natural (upcast?) (light grey yellow silt clay) Depth	0 - 0 - 0.11
Buried soil (dark mottled orange grey sand silt) Depth (m)	0.09 - 0.12 - 0.1
Buried soil (mid brown grey silt) Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.19
Depth of Trench NW-SE (m)	0.72 - 1.15
Width (m)	2.1
Length (m)	50
Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	light grey yellow clay

General Description

The Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence was encountered throughout this trench, deepening gradually from NW to SE. One tree throw was identified and excavated 11.5m from the NW end of the trench.

Feature No.	***Feature Type***	***Context No.***	***Cut/Fill/ Layer***	***Width (m)***	***Depth (m)***	***Finds***	***Comments***
505	tree throw	114.01	fill	0.88	0.2	none	mid brown grey soft grey silt with flecks of charcoal
		114.02	fill				dark black organic rich soft silt
		114.03	fill				light yellow grey silt with flecks of charcoal
		114.04	cut				irregular-oval in plan with shallow sloping sides and an irregular base.

Trench 3

Archaeology	Neolithic activity
Orientation	NW-SE
Height at ground level (m OD)	1.932 – 2.021
	deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
Plough soil Depth (m)	0.44 - 0.3 - 0.42
Subsoil Depth (m)	0 - 0.16 - 0
Natural Interface or buried soil (mottled orange grey soft silt sand) Depth (m)	0.14 - 0.08 - 0.1
Depth of Trench NW-SE (m)	0.58 - 0.7
Width (m)	2.1
Length (m)	50
Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	light orange yellow sand gravel

General Description

The trench was situated on the gravel terrace, its base sloping gradually downwards from NW to SE towards the edge of the terrace.

Feature No.	*Feature Type*	*Context No.*	*Cut/Fill/ Layer*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Finds*	*Comments*
503	tree throw	112.01	fill	1.11	0.35	none	mid grey soft sand silt with moderate small stone and charcoal inclusions
		112.02	fill				mottled mid brown grey orange soft sand silt with occasional small stone and charcoal inclusions.
		112.03	cut				irregular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base
504	pit	113.01	fill	1.5	0.52	PT	mid brown grey sand silt with manganese mottling, occasional charcoal and rooting
		113.02	fill			PT	dark blue grey sand silt with occasional medium stone and charcoal inclusions from which sample 100 was taken
		113.03	fill			PT	mid brown orange compacted silty gravelly sand
		113.04	cut				circular in plan with steep-vertical sides and a concave-flat base. W half of pit

508	pit	117.01	fill	0.8	0.39	PT	mottled mid brown grey with orange sand silt with occasional charcoal and large stone inclusions from which sample 102 was taken
		117.02	fill			PT	mottled mid grey orange silty gravelly sand
		117.03	cut				circular in plan with steep-vertical sides and a concave base. W half of pit
504	pit	118.01	fill	1.5	0.52	PT	mid brown grey sand silt with manganese mottling, occasional charcoal and rooting
		118.02	fill			PT	dark blue grey sand silt with occasional medium stone and charcoal inclusions from which sample 101 was taken
		118.03	fill			PT, BN	mid brown orange compacted silty gravelly sand
		118.04	cut				circular in plan with steep-vertical sides and a concave-flat base. E half of pit
508	pit	119.01	fill	0.8	0.39	PT, FL	mottled mid brown grey with orange sand silt with occasional charcoal and large stone inclusions from which sample 103 was taken
		119.02	fill			PT	mottled mid grey orange silty gravelly sand
		119.03	cut				circular in plan with steep-vertical sides and a concave base. E half of pit

Trench 4

Archaeology	four shallow ditches
Orientation	NE-SW
Height at ground level (m OD)	1.739 – 1.787
	deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
Plough soil Depth (m)	0.35 - 0.3 - 0.45
Dessicated Peat Depth (m)	0.12 - 0.15 - 0.09
Peat (dark red brown) Depth (m)	0.22 - 0.28 - 0.18
Alluvial/ wind-blown lens (mid yellow grey clay silt) Depth (m)	0.02 - 0.01 - 0
Peat (black) Depth (m)	0.22 - 0.19 - 0.21
Buried soil (mid blue brown grey organic rich, reeded silt) Depth (m)	0.18 - 0.17 - 0.14
Depth of Trench NE-SW (m)	1.1 - 1.25
Width (m)	2.1
Length (m)	50
Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed blue and yellow clay

General Description

The base of this trench sloped slightly downwards from NE to SW. The Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence was encountered throughout this trench; deepening from SW to NE. Four shallow, undated linears were identified and excavated in this trench. F506, 507 and 508 run roughly parallel with each other NE-SW. F510 runs NW-SE.

Feature No.	***Feature Type***	***Context No.***	***Cut/Fill/ Layer***	***Width (m)***	***Depth (m)***	***Finds***	***Comments***
506	ditch	115.01	fill	0.5	0.13	none	mid brown grey sand silt with frequent rooting
		115.02	cut				linear in plan with very gently sloping sides and a concave-flat base
507	ditch	116.01	fill	0.48	0.19	none	mid brown grey soft sand silt with frequent rooting
		116.02	fill				mixed light yellow grey and mid brown grey sand silt with frequent rooting
		116.03	cut				linear in plan with steep sloping sides and an irregular base

509	ditch	120.01	fill	0.37	0.08	none	mid brown grey soft silt with frequent rooting
		120.02	cut				linear in plan with very gently sloping sides and a concave-irregular base
510	ditch	121.01	fill	0.45	0.05	none	mid orange brown grey silt with occasional small stone inclusions and frequent rooting
		121.02	cut				linear in plan with very gently sloping sides and a concave-irregular base

Trench 5

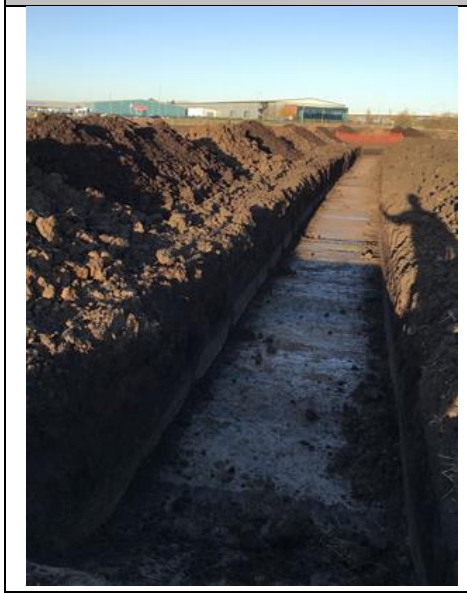
Archaeology	two ditches and a tree throw
Orientation	NE-SW
Height at ground level (m OD)	1.608 – 1.654
	deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
Plough soil Depth (m)	0.41 - 0.49 - 0.49
Peat (black) Depth (m)	0.37 - 0.32 - 0.18
Alluvium (dark brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0.11 - 0.11 - 0
Alluvium (mottled orange grey silt clay) Depth (m)	0 - 0.17 - 0
Alluvium (light blue grey silty clay with orange mottling) Depth (m)	0.15 - 0 - 0
Buried soil (dark brown grey organic rich silt clay) Depth (m)	0.06 - 0.11 - 0.09
Depth of Trench NE-SW (m)	1.3 - 0.8
Width (m)	2.1
Length (m)	50
Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed grey and orange clay and sand

General Description

The base of this trench sloped gradually downwards from just beyond the edge of the gravel island at the SW end into the Flag Fen Basin at the NE. Two shallow, undated linears running parallel to each other WNW - ESE in the SW half of the trench were identified and excavated.

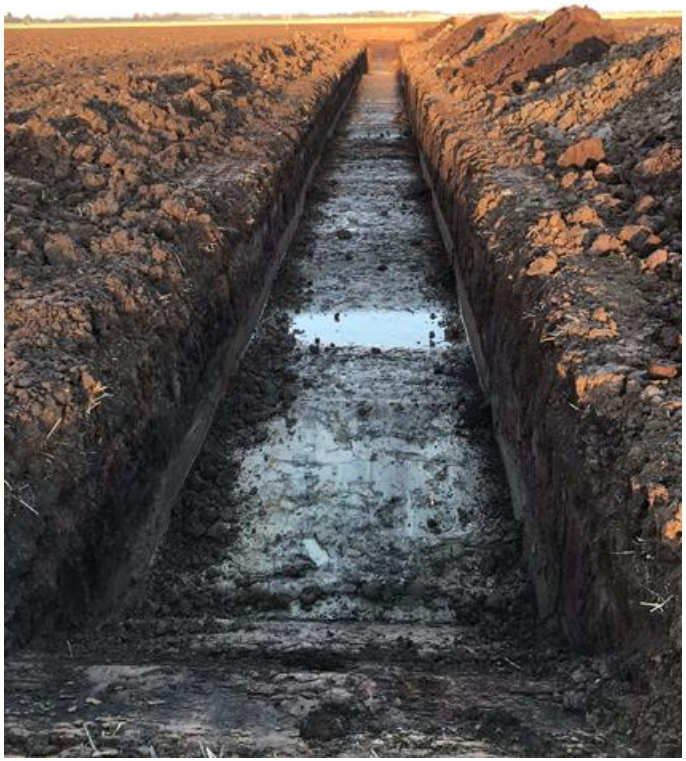
Feature No.	*Feature Type*	*Context No.*	*Cut/Fill/ Layer*	*Width (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Finds*	*Comments*
500	ditch	105.01	fill	0.75	0.13	FL x1	dark grey brown sand silt with occasional small-medium stone inclusions and rooting
		105.02	cut				linear in plan with very gently sloping sides and an irregular base
501	ditch	106.01	fill	0.63	0.1	none	dark grey brown sand silt with moderate small-medium stone inclusions and rooting
		106.02	cut				linear in plan with very gently sloping sides and a concave-irregular base

502	tree throw	107.01	fill	0.92	0.04	none	dark grey brown sand silt with moderate small-medium stone inclusions and rooting
		107.02	cut				irregular in plan with very gently sloping sides and an irregular base

Trench 6		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Orientation	NW-SE
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.641 – 1.690
		deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.4 - 0.3 - 0.35
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.08 - 0.14 - 0
	Alluvium (dark brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0.1 - 0.2 - 0.1
	Peat Depth (m)	0.4 - 0.4 - 0.4
	Buried soil (light brown organic rich reeded silt) Depth (m)	0.26 - 0.17 - 0.2
	Depth of Trench NW-SE (m)	1.05 - 1.24
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	48
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey silt and gravel

Trench 7		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Orientation	NW-SE
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.348 – 1.668
		deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.42 - 0.4 - 0.35
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0 - 0 - 0.08
	Peat (red brown) Depth (m)	0.24 - 0.33 - 0.3
	Alluvium (dark brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0 - 0.16 - 0.25
	Alluvium (light grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.25 - 0.13 - 0
	Buried soil (mottled orange grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0 - 0.26 - 0.37
	Depth of Trench NW-SE (m)	1.16 - 1.42
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	50
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed grey and orange clay

Trench 8



Archaeology	none
Orientation	NE-SW
Height at ground level (m OD)	1.636 – 1.771
	deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
Plough soil Depth (m)	0.4 - 0.35 - 0.32
Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.2 - 0.12 - 0.12
Alluvium (dark brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0.08 - 0 - 0.15
Peat (black) Depth (m)	0.4 - 0.45 - 0.46
Buried soil (mixed blue brown grey organic rich gritty silt) Depth (m)	0.22 - 0.22 - 0.2
Depth of Trench NE-SW (m)	1.52 - 1.5
Width (m)	2.1
Length (m)	47
Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

General Description

This trench was deepest at the ends, rising up to 1.15m below ground level in the middle. Two peat layers were encountered below the plough soil throughout this trench, separated towards the NE and SW extremities by a layer of alluvium.

Trench 9		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Orientation	NE-SW
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.547 – 1.589
		deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.4 - 0.35 - 0.40
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.12 - 0.18 - 0.11
	Alluvium (dark brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0 - 0.1 - 0.23
	Peat (black) Depth (m)	0.5 - 0.5 - 0.32
	Buried soil (mid brown grey organic rich gritty silt) Depth (m)	0.22 - 0.23 - 0.27
	Depth of Trench NE-SW (m)	1.47 - 1.44
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	48
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Trench 10		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Orientation	NW-SE
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.489 – 1.531
		deposit depths at 0m - 25m - 50m
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.37 - 0.4 - 0.34
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.2 - 0.2 - 0
	Peat Depth (m)	0.35 - 0.35 - 0.47
	Reed peat (light brown organic rich silt peat) Depth (m)	0.2 - 0.2 - 0.24
	Buried soil (dark blue brown organic rich sand silt) Depth (m)	0.2 - 0.26 - 0.15
	Depth of Trench NW-SE (m)	1.4 - 1.3
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	44
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 1		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.536
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.32
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.08
	Peat (red brown peat) Depth (m)	0.15
	Alluvium (dark brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.15
	Peat (brown black peat) Depth (m)	0.22
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.23
	Buried soil (dark grey brown clay silt) Depth (m)	0.33
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.6
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 2		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.391
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.3
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.14
	Peat Depth (m)	0.5
	Reed peat (mid orange grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.1
	Buried soil (mixed blue grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.13
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.37
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 3		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.628
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.4
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.1
	Peat (red brown) Depth (m)	0.55
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich sand silt with gravel) Depth (m)	0.17
	Buried soil (dark grey brown organic rich sand silt) Depth (m)	0.15
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.53
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 4		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.605
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.4
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.1
	Peat Depth (m)	0.58
	Reed peat (mid orange brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0.1
	Buried soil (dark grey brown organic rich sand silt with shell inclusions) Depth (m)	0.25
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.4
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 5		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.466
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.28
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.15
	Peat Depth (m)	0.38
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0.1
	Buried soil (dark grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting) Depth (m)	0.12
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.16
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 6		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.465
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.25
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.1
	Peat Depth (m)	0.4
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.1
	Buried soil (dark grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting and shell inclusions) Depth (m)	0.2
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.2
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 7		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.381
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.35
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.1
	Peat Depth (m)	0.35
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.1
	Buried soil (mid grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting) Depth (m)	0.18
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.24
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 8		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.326
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.38
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.13
	Peat Depth (m)	0.48
	Buried soil (mid grey brown organic rich sand silt with rooting) Depth (m)	0.27
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.46
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 9		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.573
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.3
	Peat (upper part containing large pieces of bog oak, lower part finer) Depth (m)	0.68
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.1
	Buried soil (very mixed dark grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting and patches of light yellow silt sand) Depth (m)	0.26
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.48
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey clay gravel

Test Pit 10		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.652
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.35
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.15
	Peat Depth (m)	0.6
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich peat silt and gravel) Depth (m)	0.16
	Buried soil (dark grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting and gravel) Depth (m)	0.22
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.48
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 11		
	***Archaeology***	tree throw
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.397
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.35
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.13
	Peat Depth (m)	0.4
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.19
	Buried soil (very mixed dark grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting and patches of light yellow silt sand) Depth (m)	0.16
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.37
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 12		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.453
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.32
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.12
	Peat Depth (m)	0.5
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich silt) Depth (m)	0.12
	Buried soil (dark grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting) Depth (m)	0.24
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.3
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel

Test Pit 13		
	***Archaeology***	none
	Height at ground level (m OD)	1.538
	Plough soil Depth (m)	0.35
	Desiccated Peat Depth (m)	0.09
	Peat Depth (m)	0.48
	Reed peat (mid grey brown organic rich peat silt) Depth (m)	0.23
	Buried soil (mid grey blue brown organic rich sand silt with rooting) Depth (m)	0.16
	Depth of Test Pit (m)	1.45
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	5
	Trench Natural (Non-Scientific)	mixed yellow and grey sand gravel
	General Description	
	column tins 104 and 105 were taken	

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: cambridg3-305836

Project details

Project name	Red Brick Farm, Peterborough. Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land at Red Brick Farm, Peterborough (TL 219996) between 21st November and 29th November 2017. Ten 50m x 2.1m linear trenches and thirteen 5m x 2.1m test pits were excavated. Archaeological features were identified in trenches in the west third of the site, which was on the river Nene first terrace gravels. Six possible pits were identified, three of which were excavated (trenches 1 and 3) and dated to the Neolithic period. Eight linear features were identified, seven of which were excavated (trenches 1, 4 and 5) which are likely to form part of a Bronze Age enclosure system. The Flag Fen Basin sediment sequence of peats, alluvial silts and buried soil was encountered and recorded across the majority of the site, deepening from west to east.
Project dates	Start: 21-11-2017 End: 29-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PCCHER54107 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	RBF17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Neolithic
Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Environmental Sampling","Measured Survey","Metal Detectors","Sample Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE PETERBOROUGH PETERBOROUGH Redbrick Farm,

	Peterborough
Postcode	PE1 5NL
Study area	9.45 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 219 996 52.580159110732 -0.200740181177 52 34 48 N 000 12 02 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: -0.06m Max: 1.61m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Ricky Patten
Project director/manager	David Gibson
Project supervisor	Ricky Patten
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Church Commissioners for England

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	RBF17
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	RBF17
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	RBF17
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Red Brick Farm, Edgerley Drain Road, Peterborough. Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Barrett, H
Other	CAU Report No.1390

bibliographic details	
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	CAU
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge
Description	Cambridge Archaeological Unit Archaeological Evaluation Assessment Report. Digital PDF
Entered by	Hannah Barrett (hlmb3@cam.ac.uk)
Entered on	19 January 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice