

# The Waste Management Park Waterbeach

An Archaeological Evaluation.



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**The Waste Management Park, Waterbeach**  
*An Archaeological Evaluation*

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### ***Non Technical Summary***

*Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Waste Management Centre, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2010. Within the 24 trenches a number of archaeological features were identified including probable prehistoric burnt pits, a continuation of several Romano-British ditches seen in previous excavations including boundary ditches and a possible trackway, and several substantial undated features including a watering hole/well and probable enclosure ditch.*

## **Introduction**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 on land adjacent to the Waste Management Centre, Ely Road, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, prior to a planning application. Commissioned by Donarbon Ltd, the evaluation aimed to establish the presence, date, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains. The evaluation was carried out and this report was produced in accordance with an archaeological specification written by the CAU (Beadsmoore 2010) in response to a brief by Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (HET). The specification and evaluation were approved and monitored by an Archaeological Officer from the HET.

### *Location, Topography and Geology*

The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is centred on TL 486 688 and covered c.6.16 hectares. It is located on former agricultural land along the 'Fen Edge', and is bordered by the Waste Management Centre to the northeast, Beach Drain to the northwest, Ely Road (the A10) to the southeast and agricultural land to the southwest (see Figure 1 and 2). The PDA is in a slight hollow, with the centre of the site averaging 2.25m OD, the northwest end 2.80m OD and the southeast end 2.60m OD. Underlying geology was 2<sup>nd</sup> Terrace River Gravels overlaying Kimmeridge Clay and Lower Green Sand (British Geological Survey 1978).

### *Archaeological Background*

The CAU has carried out a series of archaeological investigations in relation to the expansion of the Waste Management Centre since 1992 (Wait 1992, Oswald 1992, Gibson 1999, Masser 2002, Cooper & Whittaker 2004, Ranson 2008, Slater 2009 and Tabor 2010) and their findings are briefly summarized below.

### *Prehistoric*

Worked and burnt flint scatters dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods have been identified in several locations within the surrounding 'Fen Edge' landscape. An example of this is a Neolithic flint scatter found alongside a paleochannel and several pits containing preserved worked wood, bone and burnt flint at Gravel Diggers Farm 500m north of the PDA (Oswald 1992). Excavations adjacent to the PDA have identified a possible Iron-Age ditch (Ranson 2007) and two small pits, one of which yielded Late Bronze Age pottery (Slater 2009), whilst slightly further to the north a series of undated pits, postholes and a round structure were tentatively dated as prehistoric due to the presence of burnt and worked flint (Cooper & Whittaker 2004).

### *Romano-British*

Ely Road (the A10) which borders the southeast edge of the PDA is believed to be the route for Akeman Street, a Roman Road which linked Cambridge with Ermine Street to the south and The Fens to the north. Whilst just to the west of the PDA is Car Dyke, a probable canal dug along the western Fen Edge during the Roman period.

A Romano-British temple has been identified from cropmarks as having existed 350m north of the PDA, which due to its potential size could have been an important regional ritual centre, whilst excavations by the CAU within the Waste Management Centre have established the presence of dense Romano-British activity. This has included agricultural boundaries and enclosures, a probable droveway/trackway, several structures, preserved midden deposits which contained significant quantities of material culture including a total of 135 coins, and a preserved buried soil (Ranson 2008, Slater 2009, Tabor, 2010). Several of the Romano-British boundaries and the trackway are projected to cross the PDA, and the northern corner is adjacent to dense archaeology seen in one of the previous excavations (Tabor 2010).

### *Medieval and Post-Medieval*

Neglect of the Romano-British drainage systems is one of the factors believed to have led to seasonal flooding of these low lying Fen Edge areas during the medieval period which resulted in activity at this time largely focusing on the nearby villages of Waterbeach and Cottenham. One exception to this is Denny Abbey located on a gravel island 400m east of the PDA which was established by Benedictine monks in 1159 AD. The Beach Ditch which borders the northwest edge of the PDA is also believed to have its origins in the medieval period (Ravensdale 1974). The area was probably brought back into agricultural use in the late medieval/early post-medieval period when large areas of Fenland were drained, and aerial photographs suggest the presence of ridge and furrow across the area.

### *Methodology*

The PDA was evaluated by 24 trenches totalling 860.6m in length (a 3.1% sample of the area). The trenches primarily targeted potential archaeology that had been identified with geophysics and aerial photography. Also, a greater concentration of trenches was placed within the northwest half of the PDA due to the high density of archaeology encountered during previous phases of work within the immediate vicinity.

Topsoil and underlying deposits were removed under archaeological supervision with a 20-ton tracked 360° machine using a 2.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. A datasheet detailing the characteristics of each trench was generated and a photographic record taken. Excavation of exposed archaeological features was carried out using hand tools. The recording followed a CAU modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990) whereby feature numbers, F. were assigned to stratigraphic events and numbers [fill] or [cut] to individual contexts. The evaluation trenches were planned at 1:50 and individual sections drawn at 1:10. Soil removed during machining and all exposed features were scanned by metal detector, and bulk environmental samples were taken where appropriate. All work was carried out in strict accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation and with the recommendations of FAME (Allen & Holt 2010) and in accordance with a site specific risk assessment and the CAU Health and Safety policy. The CAU assigned site code is ERW 10 and CHER number ECB3438.

## *Archive*

A total of 152 contexts from 39 features were excavated and recorded and artefacts including Roman pottery, burnt clay, animal bone, worked and burnt flint and burnt stone were recovered. The documentary records and accompanying artefacts have been assembled into a catalogued archive in line with Appendix 6 of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and are being stored at the CAU offices.

## **Results**

### *Metal Detecting Survey*

In two of the most recent phases of work at the Waste Management Centre (Ranson 2008 and Tabor 2010) a large number of metal objects, and specifically Romano-British coins were recovered from both spoil and features. However, despite a thorough metal detecting survey, this phase only yielded a few small post-medieval and modern artefacts including a horse-shoe from post-medieval ditch **F.100** and several modern buttons and nails recovered from the topsoil.

### *Trenches*

Of the 24 trenches, five of them (Tr.4, 11, 12, 15 and 19) contained no archaeological deposits or features, whilst the density of archaeology within the remaining trenches varied markedly (see Trench Plan on Figure 3). Appendix 3 lists the general information of each trench and the features located within them.

### *Prehistoric*

Trenches 1 and 2, located close to the southeast boundary of the PDA, contained several burnt pits, **F.102**, **F.105**, **F.107**, **F.110** and **F.128** which all had very dark grey/black sandy silt fills with frequent charcoal and burnt flint inclusions. **F.107** and **F.110** alone contained 1830g and 1838g of burnt flint within them respectively (see Table 1), although no definitive dating evidence for any of these features was recovered. However, their form, character and the presence of so much burnt flint does suggest they are probably prehistoric in origin.

Feature	Context	Trench	Burnt Flint (g)
102	120	2	742
102	125	2	34
107	137	2	1821
110	144	1	1666
110	145	1	161
128	227	1	189

**Table 1:** Burnt Flint

### *Romano-British*

A substantial Romano-British boundary ditch on a S-N orientation (**F.127**), which contained a small Samian pot sherd (see Appendix 1) was present in Tr.8. This feature

was a recut of **F.138**, which in turn was a recut of ditch **F.137**, suggesting the boundary was re-established on a number of occasions. A post-medieval/modern drainage ditch, **F.134**, truncated **F.127** and appeared to follow the same alignment as the earlier features. This series of ditches were also observed, but not excavated, in Tr.10, and they clearly traverse the whole of the PDA. A very similar set of features (**F.129-133**) on the same orientation were excavated in Tr.17. Here, the boundary was re-established four times (see section on Figure 5), with **F.133** being the earliest ditch and **F.129** the latest. Very few finds were recovered from these ditches, although a single sherd of Romano-British pot was found within ditch **F.130**. This series of features were also observed, but not excavated, in Tr.13, and the geophysics results suggest they traverse the whole of the PDA. Both of these series of features were excavated in two previous phases of work (Ranson, 2008 and Slater 2009) as shown on Figure 3.

The central part of the PDA, located between these two series of Romano-British boundary ditches, (Tr.8-13), contained almost no archaeological features apart from two small undated pits in Tr.8 and a post-medieval ditch (**F.100**).

Towards the north-western half of the site, ditch **F.115** in Tr.18 turned 90° and appeared to be the southern arm of an enclosure seen in two previous excavations (Ranson 2008 & Tabor 2010). It contained a small quantity of Romano-British pottery (see Appendix 1) and appeared to merge with an (unexcavated) ditch towards the southwest end of the trench. The two (unexcavated) parallel southwest-northeast orientated ditches seen at the southwest end of Tr.18 had a gap of 4m between them and were interpreted in a previous excavation (Ranson 2008) as being a Romano-British droveway or trackway. The eastern most one of these ditches was also present in Tr.23 where it cut ring-ditch **F.116**. Two parallel ditches (**F.101** and **F.103**) were again present in Tr.22. In Tr.22 there was a gap of 3.75m between them and each had very similar profiles and fill sequence suggesting they are contemporary, and were part of the same trackway.

### *Undated*

Trenches 2, 3 and 7 each contained a small ditch (**F.108**, **F.126** and **F.135** respectively), whilst in Tr.5 two parallel gullies (**F.120** and **F.121**) and a more substantial ditch (**F.122**) which contained a single undiagnostic flint flake, were identified. All of these features were undated, although they share the same, fairly sterile, mid grey, sandy silt fill, and were sealed by the subsoil suggesting they are pre-medieval, and probably of a similar date.

Two fairly substantial ring-ditches were identified within the PDA, **F.116** in Tr.23 and 23a and **F.118** in Tr.16. Both were undated and had very different profiles (see comparative sections on Figure 5) and fill types. **F.116** had an internal diameter of c.12.5m and was cut by an (unexcavated) Romano-British trackway ditch. It had a V-shaped profile, and the fill was primarily mid grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal, but no finds were recovered. In comparison, **F.118** had an internal diameter of c.7.75m and a possible (unexcavated) internal posthole. It had a broad, flat base with almost vertical sides and the fill was primarily very dark grey sandy silt, although no finds were again recovered.



Two other, substantial, undated features were located towards the western end of the PDA; **F.101**, a probable enclosure ditch in Tr.21/22 and **F.106**, a watering hole/well in Tr.20. Figure 4 shows photographs and sections of both these features. Ditch **F.101** appeared to be turning in Tr.21, probably forming the corner of an enclosure. It was 3.60m wide and 1.10m deep with several clear slumping and silting layers within it suggesting a gradual infilling. The only finds recovered was a small quantity of animal bone from the middle of the fill sequence. Only half of watering hole/well **F.106** was exposed in Tr.20 although it appeared to be circular, with a diameter of 3.70m and depth of 1.69m. The feature was quarter sectioned and demonstrated a clear sequence of slumping, redeposited natural and silt layers, some of which, in the middle of the fill sequence contained significant amounts of charcoal. The feature was clearly infilled over a period of time, although as with **F.101**, very few finds were present. The few finds included a residual Neolithic flint blade in the upper-most fill and a modest amount of animal bone (see Appendix 2) including a highly degraded cattle skull. A small abraded sherd of Early Bronze Age pottery (see Appendix 1) was recovered from a lens of charcoal/burnt material in the lower half of the fill sequence, although it is unclear whether this single sherd is residual or not. A further two undated pits and three undated postholes were also present within Trenches 20-22, although it is unclear how they relate to the more substantial features.

### *Post-Medieval*

Three post-medieval features were recorded across the PDA. **F.100** was a moderate sized ditch which crossed the whole area on a southeast-northwest orientation and was observed in Trenches 3, 9, 13, and 16. Ditch **F.134** was perpendicular to **F.100** on a southwest-northeast orientation and was seen in Tr.8 and 10 and **F.123** in Tr.5 was deemed to be a post-medieval furrow.

## **Discussion**

The burnt pits seen in Trenches 1 and 2 were identified and targeted from the geophysics results, which appeared to show several of these features unevenly dispersed across this part of the PDA. No similar features however have been found in previous phases of excavation within the area, for instance the Late Bronze Age pit identified in 2008 excavation (Slater 2009) had no burnt flint and a very sterile light grey fill. Whilst the group of probable Late Iron-Age pits/postholes identified in the 2004 excavations (Cooper & Whittaker 2004) also had light-mid grey fills and only small quantities of burnt flint (*c.*40g in total). Therefore it is difficult to put the burnt pits into their local context at this stage, beyond suggesting they are almost certainly prehistoric.

The two ring-ditches are a type of feature also not previously seen in excavations within the Waste Management Centre and without dating evidence it is again difficult, currently, to put them into their local context. However, with an internal diameter of *c.*7.5m and the presence of internal postholes, it is probable **F.118** in Tr.16 is a structure, whereas **F.116** in Tr.23, with an internal diameter of *c.*12.5m and a much more substantial ditch was probably not structural and is potentially a truncated round barrow.

The watering hole/well had comparable dimensions to a similar feature identified in the 2007 excavations (Ranson 2008), however that feature had a different profile, clear evidence of waterlogging and significant quantities of finds, including a well preserved possible ritual bone deposit. **F.106** from this excavation however had a very different fill sequence, with significant amounts of slumping and redeposited natural, no evidence for waterlogging, and the recovered animal bone was in poor condition. This, together with the single sherd of Early Bronze Age pot does suggest this feature is potentially prehistoric in date.

Probable enclosure ditch, **F.101**, also had a significant amount slumping and redeposited natural within it, and this type of fill sequence was not observed within the dateable Romano-British features. Additionally, this ditch was on a very different alignment to both the trackway and the other ditches (including the medieval feature; Beach Ditch) within the PDA, suggesting it to, may be prehistoric.

The very small number of finds recovered from the Romano-British ditches suggests the PDA is outside of the dense area of occupation/activity seen in previous phases, with ditch **F.115** in Tr.18 probably delineating the edge of that activity. The two series of ditches seen in Trenches 8 and 10, and, 13 and 17 respectively would have been parallel to the Roman road of Akeman Street (the A10) and probably represent boundaries aligned from it. The number of less substantial ditches seen in several of the trenches (for example **F.108**, **F.125**, **F.126**) could potentially be internal divisions within those boundaries, creating a field-system, although without dating evidence this is difficult to ascertain for certain at this stage.

Out of the 24 trenches only five of them lacked archaeological features, and despite the relatively low density of dateable finds, the evaluation has helped to characterise the high potential for archaeological remains within the PDA. It has identified significant activity, particularly towards the north-western half of the site and also the potential for prehistoric features towards both the southeast and northwest sections of the PDA.

#### **Acknowledgements**

The work was commissioned by Donarbon Ltd, and the site was monitored by Dan McConnell (HET). Emma Beadsmore was the project manager and thanks go to Katie Anderson for assisting the author on site and Bryan Crossan for assisting on site, surveying and digitizing the trenches.

## Appendix 1 – Roman Pottery

*Katie Anderson*

A small pottery assemblage was recovered from the evaluation, totalling six sherds and weighing 166g. All of the material was examined and details of fabric, form and decoration were recorded along with any other information deemed significant.

Five of the sherds were dated as Romano-British, including one Central Gaulish Samian sherd (12g) from a Dr37 bowl, dating 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD from **F.127**. The decoration comprised ovolo and leaf decoration. All of the remaining sherds were coarsewares, which are likely to have been locally made, including a sherd from a Horningsea greyware combed jar, dating 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The other greywares were all non-diagnostic and therefore could only be dated Romano-British.

A small, abraded Early Bronze Age pottery sherd (Knight pers comm.), weighing 1g was recovered from the large watering-hole, **F.106**.

Overall the quantity and condition of the assemblage allows for little discussion on the nature of activity at the site and also implies that the sherds may be residual. The contrast in terms of quantity and quality of pottery (particularly Roman) recovered from previous phases of excavation (Anderson 2007, Anderson 2009), highlights that this evaluation was very much on the periphery of any Roman activity.

Context	Ft.	Tr.	Fabric	No.	Wt(g)	Form	Type	Dec	Date
236	127	8	CG SAM	1	12	Bowl	Dr37	Ovolos and leaf	2nd-3rd AD
173	115	18	Horningsea GW	1	106	Jar	Body	Combing on int. and ext.	2nd-4th AD
173	115	18	CS GW	1	30	Unknown	Body		RB
173	115	18	CS GW	1	8	Unknown	Body		RB
212	130	17	CS GW	1	9	Unknown	Body		RB
159	100	20	Shell-temp	1	1	Unknown	Body		EBA
				6	166				

**Table 2:** Sherd summary

## Appendix 2 – Faunal Remains

*Vida Rajkovaca*

### Introduction

This evaluation represents a continuation of archaeological investigations in the area and resulted in the recovery of a small faunal assemblage totalling 14 assessable specimens. Only five trenches contained faunal material (Tr.1, 2, 18, 20 and 22). The majority of the remains came from the western portion of the site, i.e. Tr. 18, 20 and 22, and the material was hand-collected.

### Methodology

The zooarchaeological investigation followed the system implemented by Bournemouth University with all identifiable elements recorded (NISP: Number of

Identifiable Specimens) and diagnostic zoning (amended from Dobney & Reilly 1988) used to calculate MNE (Minimum Number of Elements) from which MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) was derived. Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972), Hillson (1999) and reference material from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge. Unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size categories where possible. This information is presented in order to provide a complete fragment count.

### *Preservation*

The majority of the assemblage showed moderate to quite poor state of preservation. Out of ten contexts examined, eight were recorded as quite poor, with the remainder two being recorded as moderate. If we look at the number of fragments corresponding to each of these categories, out of 14 assessable specimens, three showed moderate state of preservation with minimum weathering or surface modification compared to 11 fragments with severe erosive damage and iron pan concretions adhering to the surface.

## **Results**

Out of 14 assessable fragments, eight were recovered from prehistoric and Romano-British features located in Tr.22. Cattle were the prevalent species, followed by sheep, pig, horse and red deer. The summary is given in Table 3. All of the domesticates recorded in this assemblage were represented with meat-bearing portions of the skeleton, whilst red deer is represented with an antler portion.

Trench	Feature	Context	Date	NISP	Species
1	F.128	[227]	Prehistoric	1	Red deer
2	F.105	[134]	Prehistoric	1	Cow
18	F.115	[173]	RB	2	Horse, sheep-sized mammal
20	F.106	[155]; [163]	Undated	2	Cow, sheep-sized mammal
22	F.101	[105]; [106]; [109]	Undated	4	Cow, pig and cattle-sized mammal
22	F.103	[113]	RB	1	Sheep-sized mammal
22	F.111	[148]	RB	3	Cow, sheep and cattle-sized mammal

**Table 3:** Distribution of fragments by context, feature, trench and phase

The small faunal record recovered from this phase of investigations is quantitatively inadequate for propositions about animal use. The absence of measurable and ageable specimens precludes further considerations of site's economy; however, the presence of three main livestock species is in keeping with the majority of domestic assemblages recovered in Britain.

### Appendix 3 – Trench and Feature Summary

Trench 1								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 1 contained two features, a circular burnt pit and a linear feature which was also possibly a burnt pit.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.35
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	30.00
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/ Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
110	Burnt Pit	Circular	144	F	-	-	BF, BS	Prehistoric
			145	F	-	-	BF	
			146	C	1.25	0.37	-	
128	Linear/Pit	SE-NW	227	F	-	-	BF, BS, BN	Prehistoric
			228	F	-	-	None	
			229	C	1.50	0.40	-	

Trench 2								
General Description							Orientation	S-N
Trench 2 contained four features. A small linear and two large and one small burnt pits.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	28.60
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/ Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
102	Large Burnt Pit	Oval	120	F	-	-	BC, BF, BS	Prehistoric
			121	F	-	-	None	
			122	F	-	-	None	
			123	F	-	-	None	
			124	F	-	-	None	
			125	F	-	-	BF, FL	
			126	F	-	-	None	
			127	F	-	-	None	
			128	F	-	-	None	
			129	F	-	-	None	
			130	F	-	-	None	
			131	F	-	-	None	
			132	F	-	-	None	
			133	C	1.65	0.61	-	
105	Burnt Pit	Circular	134	F	-	-	BN	Prehistoric
			135	C	0.60	0.17	-	
107	Burnt Pit	Oval	136	F	-	-	FL, BF, BS	Prehistoric
			137	F	-	-	None	
			138	C	1.20	0.43	-	
108	Ditch	SW-NE	139	F	-	-	None	Undated
			140	C	0.60	0.21	-	

Trench 3								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 3 contained two linears, one of which was modern and was unexcavated.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.10
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	58.00
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
126	Ditch	SE-NW	205	F	-	-	None	Undated
			206	C	0.75	0.31	-	

Trench 4								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.10
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	22.00

Trench 5								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 5 contained two small gullies, a ditch, a furrow and an unrecorded tree throw.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.30
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.11
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	49.50
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
120	Gully	SW-NE	194	F	-	-	None	Undated
			193	C	0.50	0.30	-	
121	Gully	SW-NE	196	F	-	-	None	Undated
			195	C	0.37	0.12	-	
122	Ditch	SW-NE	198	F	-	-	FL	Undated
			197	C	1.90	0.27	-	
123	Furrow	SW-NE	200	F	-	-	None	Medieval/Post-Medieval
			199	C	0.95	0.09	-	

Trench 6								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 6 contained a single linear.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.26
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	18.50
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
124	Linear	SE-NW	202	F	-	-	None	Undated
			201	C	2.20	0.22	-	

Trench 7								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 7 contained a single small ditch.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	18.00
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
135	Ditch	SW-NE	238	F	-	-	None	Undated
			239	C	1.20	0.34	-	

Trench 8								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 8 contained three parallel intercutting ditches and two small pits.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.29
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.23
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	34.65
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
127	Ditch	S-N	232	F	-	-	None	Romano-British
			234	F	-	-	None	
			235	F	-	-	None	
			236	F	-	-	PT	
			230	C	3.20	0.65	-	
134	Ditch/Field Drain	SW-NE	237	F	-	-	None	Modern
			231	C	2.20	0.70	-	
136	Small Pit	Circular	240	F	-	-	None	Undated
			241	F	-	-	None	
			242	C	1.10	0.30	-	
137	Ditch	S-N	244	F	-	-	FL	Romano-British
			245	F	-	-	None	
			246	F	-	-	None	
			243	C	>1.40	0.55	-	
139	Pit	Circular	252	F	-	-	None	Undated
			252	C	0.70	0.18	-	

Trench 9								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 9 contained a single unexcavated post-medieval/modern linear.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.29
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.15
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	74.00

Trench 10								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 10 contained an unexcavated Romano-British boundary ditch.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.29
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.16
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	23.85

Trench 11		
General Description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or deposits.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	18.70

Trench 12		
General Description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 12 contained no archaeological features or deposits.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.12
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	49.50

Trench 13		
General Description	Orientation	SE-NW
Trench 13 contained an unexcavated Romano-British boundary ditch and post-medieval/modern linear.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.25
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	38.35

Trench 14								
General Description							Orientation	SE-NW
Trench 14 contained a single small ditch.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	18.00
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
125	Ditch	SW-NE	203	F	-	-	None	Undated
			204	C	0.75	0.33	-	

Trench 15		
General Description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or deposits.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.28
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.13
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	39.50

Trench 16		
General Description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 16 contained a post-medieval/modern linear, a ditch, a gully, a ring-ditch and an unexcavated posthole located within the ring-ditch.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.24
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.20
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	101.00



Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/ Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
F.100	Ditch	SW-NE	100	F	-	-	FE, FL	Post-Medieval/Modern
			101	F	-	-	None	
			102	F	-	-	None	
			103	C	1.40	0.30	-	
F.117	Ditch	SE-NW	184	F	-	-	None	Undated
			185	F	-	-	None	
			186	F	-	-	None	
			187	F	-	-	None	
			188	C	1.20	0.56	-	
F.118	Ring-Ditch	Curving	189	F	-	-	None	Undated
			190	C	1.12	0.40	-	
F.119	Gully	SW-NE	191	F	-	-	None	Undated
			192	C	0.45	0.27	-	

Trench 17								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 17 contained a Romano-British boundary ditch reestablished several times, with F.129 being the latest phase and F.133 the earliest.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.21
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.16
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	43.17
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/ Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
129	Ditch	S-N	207	F	-	-	None	Romano-British
			208	F	-	-	None	
			209	F	-	-	None	
			210	F	-	-	None	
			211	C	2.40	0.80	-	
130	Ditch	S-N	212	F	-	-	PT	Romano-British
			213	F	-	-	None	
			214	F	-	-	None	
			215	C	>0.80	0.65	-	
131	Ditch	S-N	216	F	-	-	None	Romano-British
			217	F	-	-	None	
			218	F	-	-	None	
			219	C	>1.00	0.76	-	
132	Ditch	S-N	220	F	-	-	None	Romano-British
			221	F	-	-	None	
			222	F	-	-	None	
			223	F	-	-	None	
			224	C	>0.70	0.65	-	
133	Ditch	S-N	225	F	-	-	None	Romano-British
			226	C	1.10	0.30	-	

Trench 18								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 18 contained two (unexcavated) Romano-British probable trackway ditches and an enclosure ditch.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.33
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.12
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	42.95

Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/ Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
115	Enclosure Ditch	E-W	173	F	-	-	PT, BN	Romano-British
			174	F	-	-	None	
			175	F	-	-	None	
			176	C	1.00	0.57	-	

Trench 19								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 19 contained no archaeological features or deposits.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.24
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.13
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	27.35

Trench 20								
General Description							Orientation	SE-NW
Trench 20 contained a substantial watering hole/well and a small pit.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.27
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.13
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	7.75
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/ Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
106	Watering hole/well	Circular	154	F	-	-	FL	Undated
			155	F	-	-	BN, BS	
			156	F	-	-	None	
			157	F	-	-	None	
			158	F	-	-	None	
			159	F	-	-	PT	
			160	F	-	-	None	
			161	F	-	-	None	
			162	F	-	-	None	
			163	F	-	-	BN	
			164	F	-	-	None	
			165	F	-	-	None	
			166	F	-	-	None	
			167	F	-	-	None	
			168	C	3.70	1.69	-	
109	Small pit/hearth	Oval	141	F	-	-	BC, BS	Undated
			142	F	-	-	None	
			143	C	0.93	0.17	-	

Trench 21								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 21 contained a substantial probable enclosure ditch (see Trench 22), a pit and two intercutting postholes.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.31
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.11
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	50.65
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/ Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
112	Pit	Circular	152	F	-	-	None	Undated

			153	C	1.90	0.30	-	
113	Posthole	Circular	169	F	-	-	None	Undated
			170	C	0.40	0.13	-	
114	Posthole	Circular	171	F	-	-	None	Undated
			172	C	0.40	0.08	-	

Trench 22								
General Description							Orientation	SE-NW
Trench 22 contained a substantial enclosure ditch, two probable Romano-British trackway ditches and a posthole.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.37
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.16
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	18.50
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
101	Enclosure Ditch	S-N to E-W (corner)	104	F	-	-	None	Undated
			105	F	-	-	BN	
			106	F	-	-	BN	
			107	F	-	-	None	
			108	F	-	-	None	
			109	F	-	-	BN	
			110	F	-	-	None	
			111	F	-	-	None	
			112	C	3.60	1.10	-	
103	Ditch	SW-NE	113	F	-	-	BN	Romano-British
			114	F	-	-	None	
			115	F	-	-	None	
			116	F	-	-	None	
			117	C	2.00	0.65	-	
104	Posthole	Circular	118	F	-	-	None	Undated
			119	C	0.35	0.10	-	
111	Ditch	SW-NE	147	F	-	-	None	Romano-British
			148	F	-	-	BN	
			149	F	-	-	None	
			150	F	-	-	None	
			151	C	2.20	0.60	-	

Trench 23								
General Description							Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 23 contained a ring-ditch which was cut by an (unexcavated) Romano-British trackway ditch.							Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.24
							Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	0.14
							Width (m)	2.20
							Length (m)	43.70
Feature No.	Feature Type	Shape/Orientation	Context No.	Cut/Fill	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Artefacts	Archaeological Period
116	Ring-Ditch	Curving (circular)	177	F	-	-	None	Undated
			178	F	-	-	None	
			179	F	-	-	None	
			180	C	1.20	0.50	-	

Trench 23a		
General Description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 23a was excavated from Trench 23 in order to confirm the presence of the ring-ditch. It was unexcavated in this trench.	Avg. Topsoil Depth (m)	0.24
	Avg. Subsoil Depth (m)	14.00
	Width (m)	2.20
	Length (m)	4.00

Artefact Key: PT = pottery, BC = burnt clay, BN = animal bone, BS = burnt stone, BF = burnt flint, FL = flint, FE = iron object.

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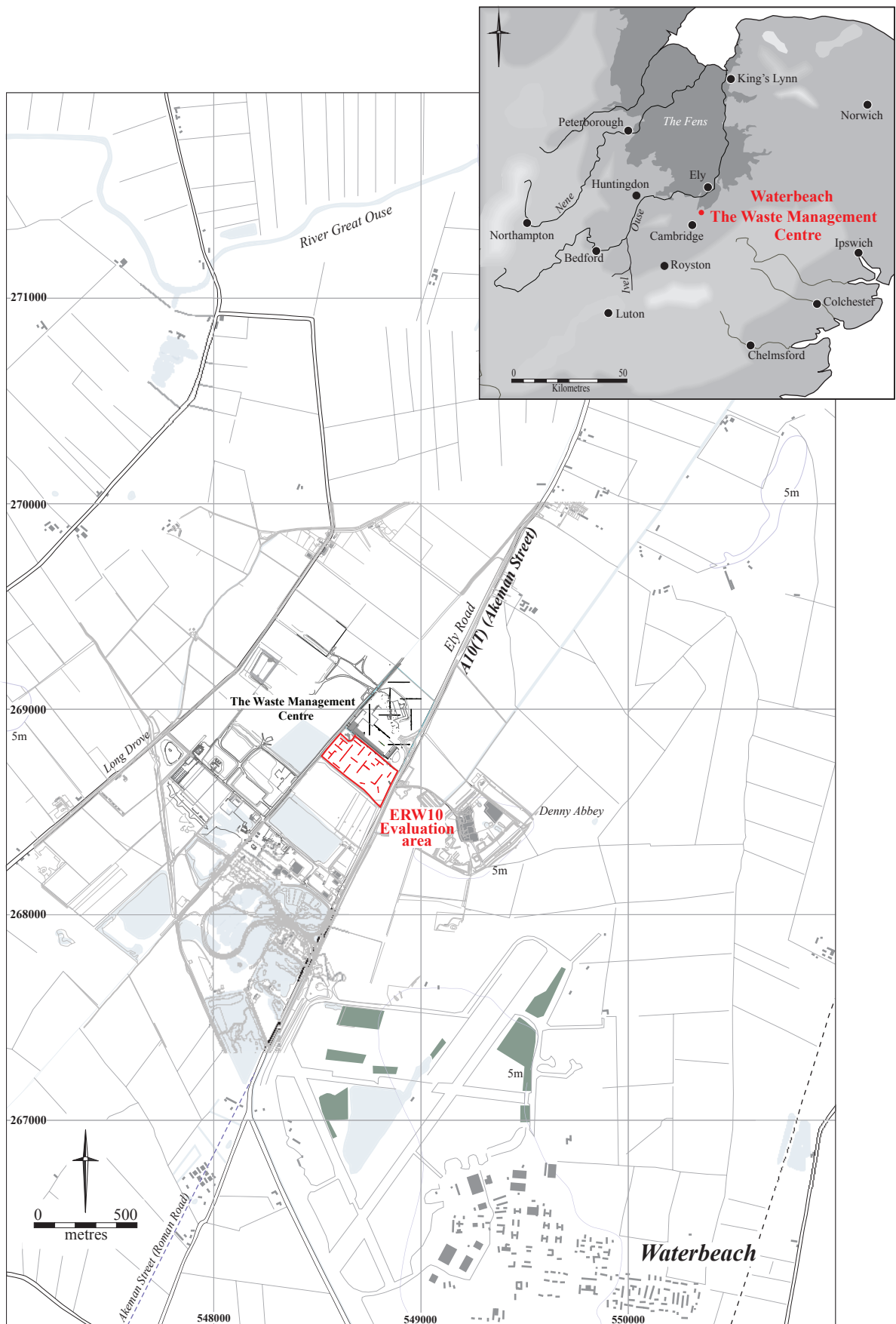


Figure 1. Location map.

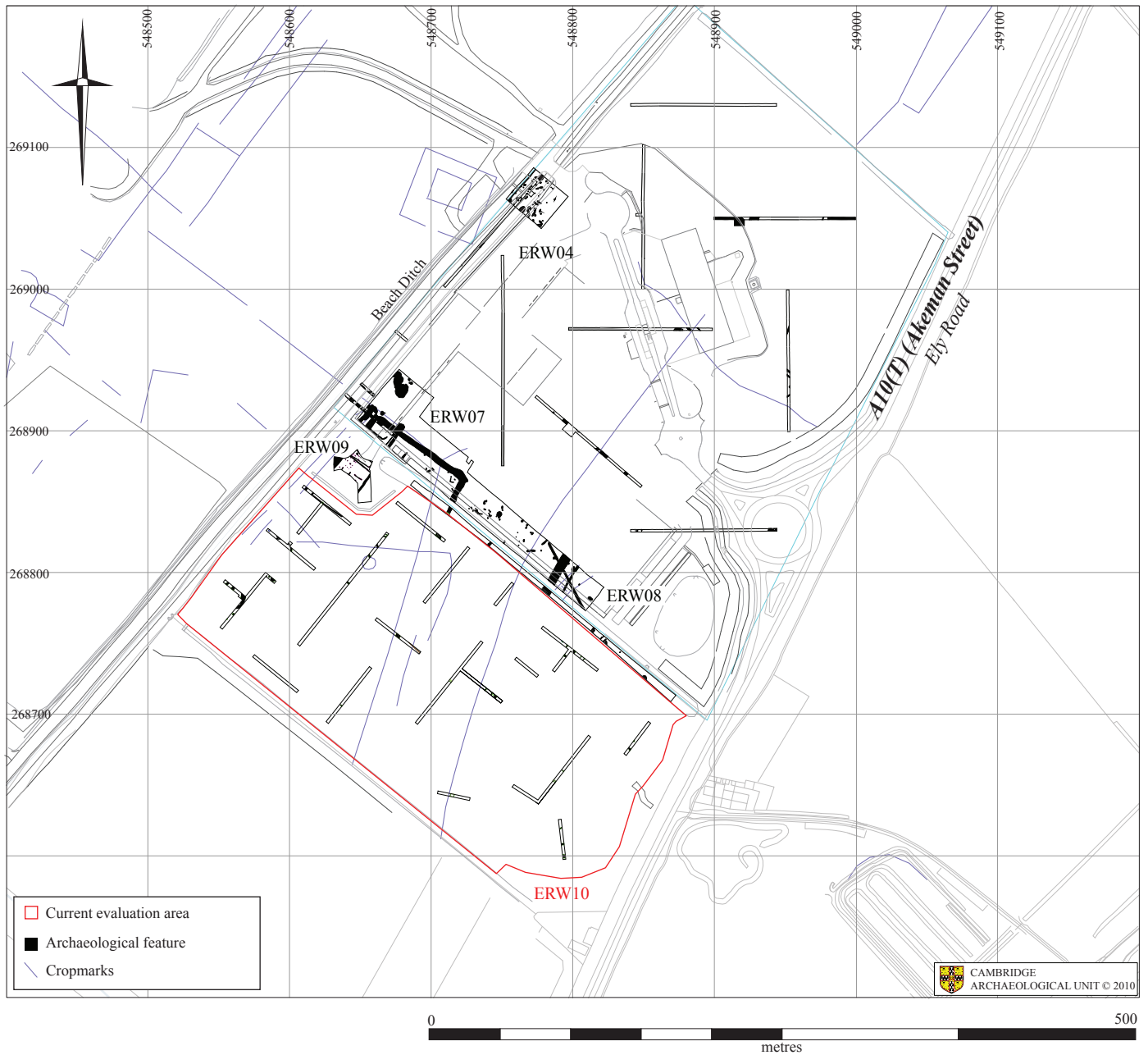


Figure 2. Trench Plan with surrounding cropmarks and previous archaeological phases

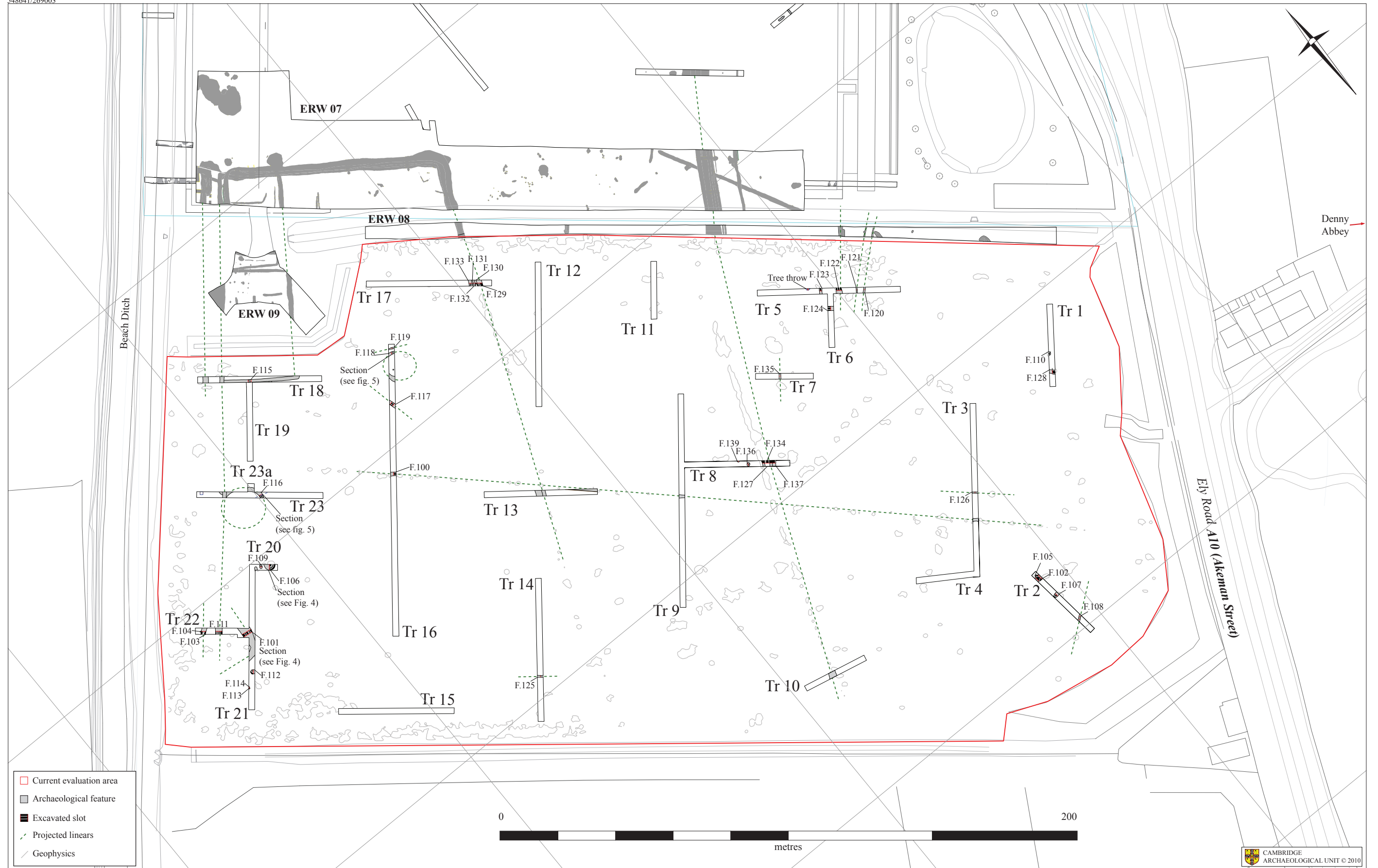


Figure 3. Trench Plan of site ERW10



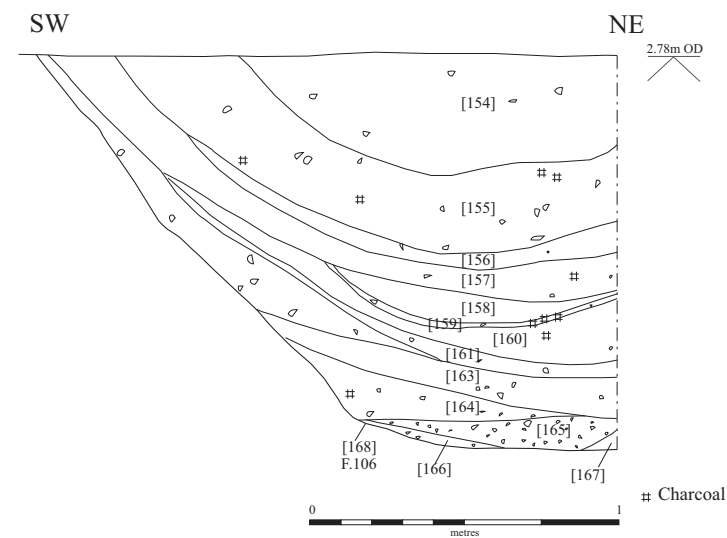
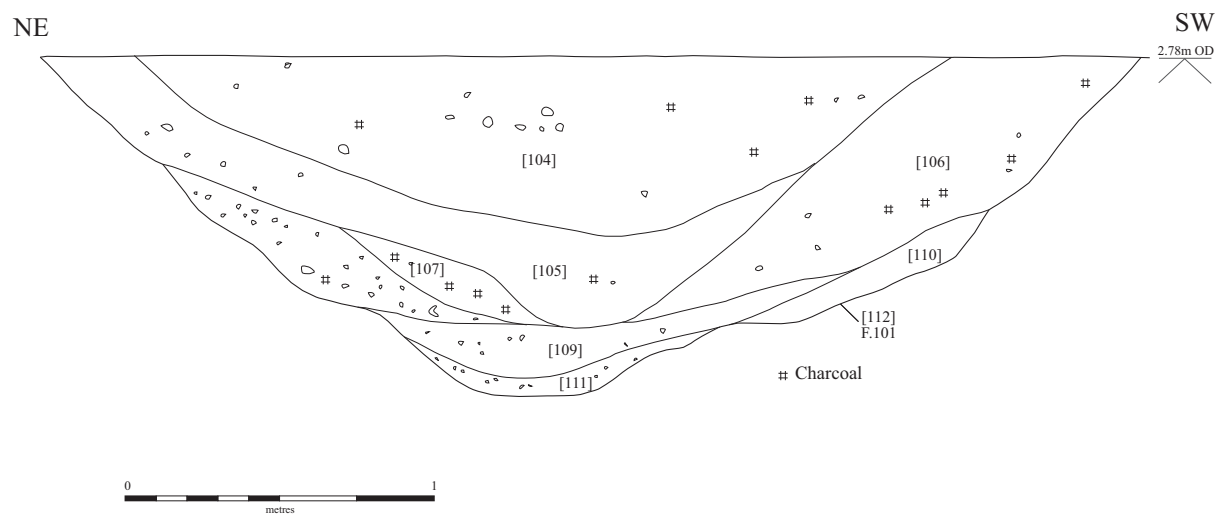


Figure 4. F. 101 - Probable Enclosure ditch in Tr. 22 with photograph (left) and F.106 well / watering hole in Tr. 20 (right)

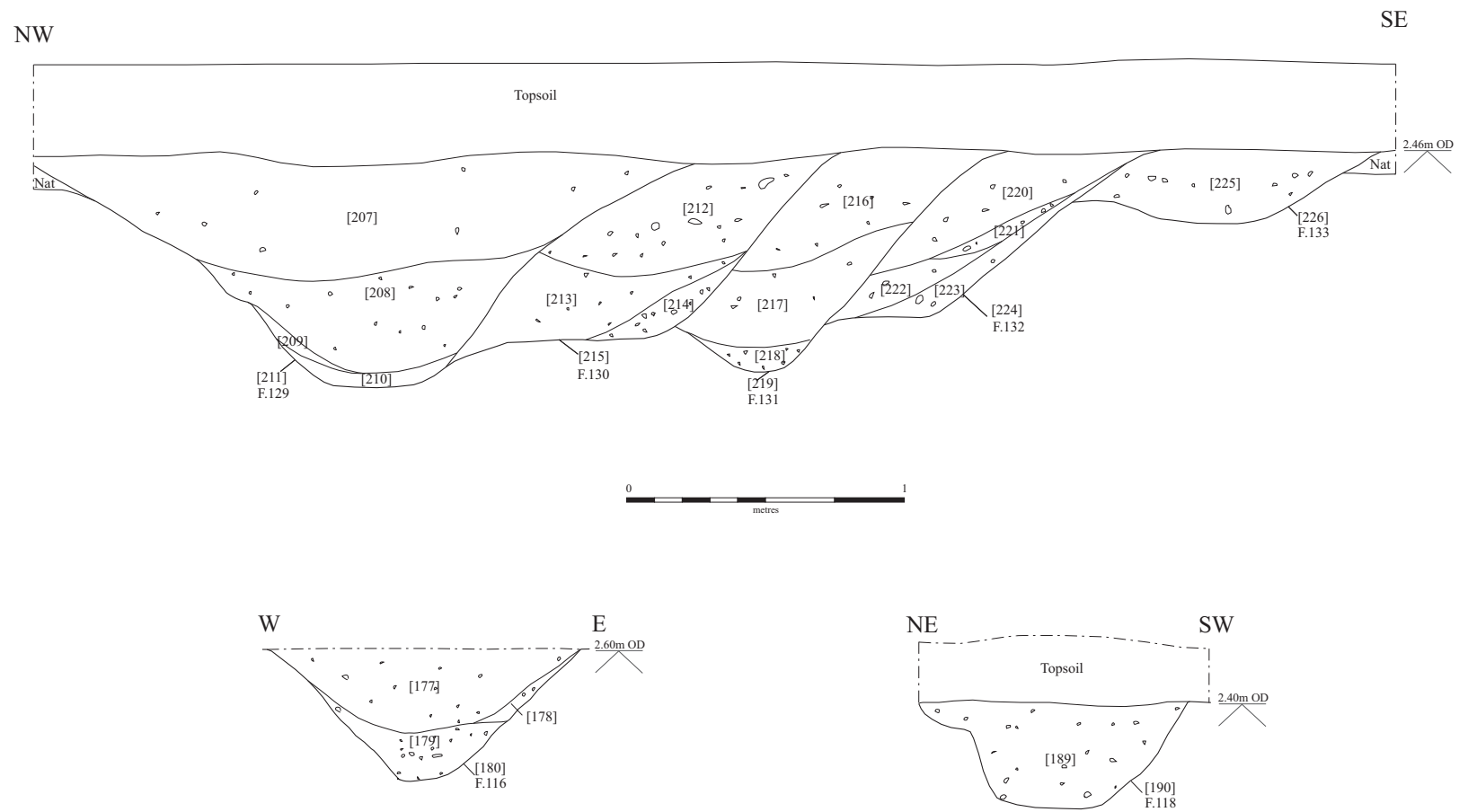


Figure 5. Romano-British field boundary ditch, re-established several times (top) Undated ring ditches F. 116 in Tr. 23 and F. 118 in Tr. 16 (bottom)

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**OASIS ID: cambridg3-89821**

### Project details

Project name	The Waste Management Park, Waterbeach: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Cambridge Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Waste Management Centre, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, between the 18th and 29th of October 2010. Within the 24 trenches a number of archaeological features were identified including probable prehistoric burnt pits, a continuation of several Romano-British ditches seen in previous excavations including boundary ditches and a possible trackway, and several substantial undated features including a watering hole/well and probable enclosure ditch.
Project dates	Start: 18-10-2010 End: 29-10-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	BURNT PITS Early Prehistoric
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCHES Roman
Monument type	ENCLOSURE DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	WATERING HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	POSSIBLE BARROW Early Prehistoric
Monument type	RING DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Early Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process      Pre-application

## Project location

Country      England

Site location      CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE WATERBEACH The Waste Management Park, Waterbeach An Archaeological Evaluation

Postcode      CB25 9PQ

Study area      6.16 Hectares

Site coordinates      TL 486 688 52.2967804586 0.179368850654 52 17 48 N 000 10 45 E Point

Height OD / Depth      Min: 2.25m Max: 2.80m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation      Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Project brief originator      Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator      Emma Beadsmoore

Project director/ manager      Emma Beadsmoore

Project supervisor      Matthew Collins

Type of sponsor/ funding body      Developer

Name of sponsor/ funding body      Donarbon Ltd

## Project archives

Physical Archive recipient      Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Physical Archive ID      ERW 10

Physical Contents      'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient      Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Digital Archive ID      ERW 10

Digital Contents      'none'

Digital Media available      'GIS','Geophysics','Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient      Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Paper Archive ID      ERW 10

Paper Contents      'Survey'

Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Diary','Drawing','Map','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey ','Unpublished Text'
-----------------------	--

## Project bibliography 1

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