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Archaeological Evaluation

**Oak Tree Park
Norwich Road
Attleborough
Norfolk**

Report No. Y135/14

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd on land adjacent to Oak Tree Park, Attleborough, Norfolk during January 2014. Several medieval ditches and pits were recorded. Along with medieval pottery, other finds included a post-medieval 'crotal bell' and some worked flint.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA). The project was commissioned by The Historic Environment Consultancy Ltd (THEC) on behalf of Tingdene Homes and was undertaken between 23 and 28 January 2014. The CFA code and number for the project is OTPA/2152

The work was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by THEC subsequent to discussions with James Albone, the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) for Norfolk County Council (NCC).

1.2 Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is an irregular parcel of land located on the north-eastern outskirts of Attleborough, Norfolk (Figure 1, NGR TM 0562 9605 centred). The total development sloped very slightly to the north-east, comprised 0.84ha in area at approximately 35m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD). The soils of the area comprise clay to sandy loam, over alluvium, sands and gravels; the underlying bedrock comprises 'Lewes Nodular, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk and Culver Chalk Formations (BGS 2014). At the time of the archaeological works, the site was grassed. Numerous services are known to pass through the site area.

1.3 Previous Archaeological work

No previous archaeological works have been conducted on this site

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of the project, as detailed in the WSI, were;

- To determine if any archaeological remains exist on the development area.
- To assess the condition, survival, quality and significance of any archaeological remains found.
- If archaeological remains are found, further more comprehensive examination may take place, if they will be disturbed by the development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

All work was undertaken according to the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, and relevant Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994, 2007), and CFAs standard procedures, the WSI and Project Brief.

Archaeological features and their locations were tied in with the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum. Features were surveyed using a GPS with a survey-grade accuracy of $\pm 10\text{mm}$.

2.4 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all record sheets, plans and reports, will be ordered according to the specifications in the WSI and indexed to the relevant professional guidance (Brown 2011) and deposited with the relevant museum to an agreed timescale. A summary of the results of the archaeological works will be submitted for inclusion in OASIS.

3. RESULTS

The proposed development site is situated in a low lying area, part of which is historically known to have been a flood plain. The geographical location of the site coupled with heavy and persistent rainfall, leading up to and during the archaeological works provided challenging working conditions, in particular the flooding of trenches from rainfall and rising groundwater. This was particularly a problem in trenches 4 to 7, hampering excavation and the recording of possible features. Heavy rainfall in deep trenches in excess of 1m deep led to the occasional collapsing trench sections. A full context summary is presented as Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figure 2)

The depth of the trench was generally 1m, with 0.4m of topsoil overlying subsoil (002) that was generally 0.6m deep. The trench contained four features. Two linear features (112, 113) (Fig. 4, Plate 2) that were of similar size and profile were probably ditches. Ditch 112 continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north and south, whereas Ditch 113, had a visible terminus to the east, but continued beyond the limit of excavation to the west. The fills of both features were similar. Pottery spot dated to the 13th/14th century was recovered from the fill (126) as was a copper alloy crotal bell of probable 18th century date. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the fill (114) of ditch (112). A possible pit (124), which had a similar fill to ditches 112 and 113, was also recorded. The pit continued beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east.

A large linear feature (111) was orientated roughly north-south within Trench 1. The feature remained unexcavated within this trench, though it was recorded within trenches 2 (108) and 4 (118) on the same orientation.

Trench 2

The depth of the trench was generally 1m, with a maximum topsoil depth of 0.35 with the subsoil (002) 0.65m thick. In the south-west of the trench, a shallow linear feature (110) was recorded though no finds or dating evidence was recovered.

A large ditch (108), also recorded in trenches 1 (111) and 4 (118), was partially excavated. The width of the feature was recorded as 3.04m and it was excavated to a depth of 0.84m before excavation was no longer possible due to the increasing level of the water table. The ditch was filled by three deposits (127, 128, and 129), though no finds were recovered. A ceramic field drain was cut into the upper deposit (129).

Trench 3 (Figure 3)

The depth of the trench was 0.8-0.9m, with topsoil (001) 0.25-0.3m overlying 0.5-0.6m of subsoil (002). Within the trench were six pits (102-107) (Fig. 5, Plate 3) and a single 'V' shaped gully (100). A further four features possibly also pits (1-4) were unexcavated due to conditions on site. The gully (100) which was orientated east-west continued beyond the limit of excavation in both directions. The largest of the excavated pits (106) (Fig. 6, Plate 1) was 0.27m deep. This feature also continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north-east and north-west. Pits 102/103 and 104/105 appeared to be intercutting though the relationship was uncertain. Possible pits 1, 2, and 4 all continued beyond the limit of excavation. Pottery datable between the 11th and 13th centuries was recovered from some of these features.

Trench 4

The depth of the trench was 0.8-0.9m, with 0.25-0.3m of topsoil (001) over 0.7m of subsoil (002). The eastern edge of Ditch 118 was a continuation of Ditch 109/111 was recorded in the western end of the trench. A second linear ditch (120/122) (Fig. 7) orientated north-east to south-west was also present. In plan, it appeared that Ditch 120/122 was truncated by the eastern edge of Ditch 118 and a sondage was excavated to test this though no relationship was identified. The sondage also suggested that the presumed truncated part of Ditch 120/122 was probably the remains of a terminus. There was a high degree of difference between the infilling deposits of both ditches (119, 121, 123) with Deposit 119 being very homogenous and sterile and deposits 121 and 123 with similar properties to the surrounding subsoil (002). A sherd of probable 13th or 14th century pottery was recovered from the excavated deposit (123) of ditch 122.

A linear feature approximately 3m wide orientated roughly north-west to north-east was recorded in the centre of the trench. The feature continued in both directions beyond the limit of excavation was not excavated due to the flooding of the trench. It was tentatively interpreted as a possible palaeochannel.

Trench 5

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.85m with the evaluation recording a sequence of made ground that consisted of 0.15m turf/topsoil which covered 0.3m of 'subsoil' (003). The made ground overlay the former topsoil which

was generally 0.25m deep. No archaeological features were exposed in this trench during the evaluation. The natural substrate was quickly obscured due to rising ground water.

Trench 6

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m, with deposits 0.8m thick of made ground including re-deposited turf/topsoil (005) that was generally 0.1m thick and a mixed deposit (003) with brick, and other modern inclusions up to 0.7m thick. The made ground had been deposited over the former topsoil (004). At least three features were identified in the trench. Two parallel linear features (130, 132) were recorded in plan before flooding obscured the entire trench base. It was attempted to bund the water in the south-west and then dig a sump to drain the water to the north-east which allowed the two features (130 and 132) to be exposed in section before being rapidly recording at 1.4m below existing ground level. The section showed that the features were may have been intercutting, though their date and function of the features is unknown. The position of a third, probably linear feature, was planned but not excavated due to site conditions.

Trench 7

The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m, with 0.35m of turf/topsoil (005) over 0.2m of subsoil/made ground (003) which included brick (Plate 4). There was a merging horizon between these layers 0.05m thick before the natural substrate was reached. The trench contained a single feature, which continued beyond the limit of excavation to the north was interpreted a possible pit. An animal tooth was recovered at the interface.

4. SPECIALIST REPORTS

4.1 Pottery and Fired Clay

by Sue Anderson

Introduction

Twenty-one sherds of pottery weighing 173g were collected from nine contexts. Table 4.1.1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included below.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	Wt(g)	Eve	MNV
Early medieval ware	EMW	3.10	27	211	0.09	13
Medieval coarseware 1	MCW1	3.201	4	99	0.18	4
Medieval coarseware 2	MCW2	3.202	5	19		3
Medieval coarseware 3	MCW3	3.203	6	287	0.26	4
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	4	56	0.16	1
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	2	10		1
Totals			48	682	0.69	26

Table 4.1: Pottery quantification by fabric

Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Local wares were identified following Jennings (1981). Form terminology for medieval pottery is based on MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an MS Access database.

Early medieval

Handmade wares of early medieval date (11th–12th/13th centuries) were the most frequent in this group. They were typically in a fine to medium sandy fabric with sparse ferrous and flint inclusions, oxidised on one or both surfaces. Twenty-seven sherds represented thirteen vessels. Apart from one simple everted jar rim (137), all fragments were undecorated body sherds. Twelve sherds from a single vessel from the fill of one pit (108) may be from the same vessel as two sherds recovered from another (136), both in Trench 3.

Medieval

Nineteen sherds of medieval coarsewares in four fabrics were present. The fabrics were as follows:

MCW1: Fine to medium sandy, slightly micaceous, hard dark brownish greyware with black surfaces, containing occasional ferrous and flint inclusions. Wheel made but similar to the EMW from this site.

MCW2: Abundant very fine to fine sand and few other inclusions, soft, grey externally with an internal surface ranging from yellowish buff to white. Similar to Norwich LMU but softer.

MCW3: Abundant fine to medium sand clearly visible on the surface where worn, pale grey to grey, Hollesley-type or Waveney Valley fabric(?).

LMU: Fine greyware typical of Norwich, as described by Jennings (1981).

Twelve vessels were represented by the sherds. Identifiable forms comprised a developed 13th/14th-century jar rim in LMU (cf Jennings 1981, no. 305), two everted beaded jar rims in MCW1 and MCW3, an upright flat-topped bowl rim in MCW1 (all 12th/13th-century forms), and a square-beaded jar rim and thickened everted bowl rim in MCW3 (13th/14th-century types). Another body sherd in MCW3 may also have been part of a bowl. Both the latter and the bowl rim sherds had fingertip impressions at the shoulder, decoration which is typical of Suffolk production sites.

Two body sherds in a fabric similar to MCW1 were probably from a glazed vessel. Both were oxidised to an orange colour externally and were grey internally. There were no traces of glaze but the surfaces were worn. One sherd was from close to the base and had a thumb impression; the other appeared to have an applied thumbed strip in the same colour as the body.

Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by feature is provided in Table 4.1.2 a full catalogue in Table 4.1.3.

Trench	Feature	Context	Identifier	Fabrics	Spotdate
1	113	126	Linear	EMW, LMU, MCW1, MCW3	C13th/14th
3	102	-	Pit	MCW2	C11th-13th
	102	134	Pit	EMW	C11th-12th
	103	135	Pit	MCW2	C11th-13th
	105	137	Pit	EMW	C11th-12th
	106	138	Pit	EMW, MCW3	C13th
	107	108	Pit	EMW, MCW1	C12th-13th
4	122	123	Ditch	UPG	C13th-14th (?)
-	-	U/S	Unstrat finds	MCW1	C13th

Table 4.1.2: Pottery types present by context.

Earlier medieval pottery was largely recovered from apparently related features within Trench 3, which may suggest occupation in this period. The 13th/14th-century pottery was recovered from Trenches 1 and 4.

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Spotdate
U/S	MCW1	jar	everted beaded	1	26	13th c.
U/S	MCW1			1	2	12th-14th c.
102	MCW2			3	13	12th-14th c.
108	EMW			1	29	11th-12th c.
108	EMW			12	100	11th-12th c.
108	EMW			1	3	11th-12th c.
108	MCW2			1	4	12th-14th c.
108	MCW1	bowl	upright flat-topped	1	68	12th-13th c.
123	UPG			2	10	L. 12th-14th c.
126	EMW			2	10	11th-12th c.
126	MCW1			1	3	12th-14th c.
126	LMU	jar	thickened everted	4	56	13th-14th c.
126	MCW3	jar	square beaded	1	19	13th-14th c.
126	MCW3	Bowl(?)		1	16	12th-14th c.
126	MCW3	bowl	thickened everted	3	220	13th-14th c.
134	EMW			1	4	11th-12th c.
135	MCW2			1	2	12th-14th c.
136	EMW			2	29	11th-12th c.
136	EMW			1	4	11th-12th c.
137	EMW			3	7	11th-12th c.
137	EMW	jar	simple everted	1	13	11th-12th c.
138	EMW			2	4	11th-12th c.
138	EMW			1	8	11th-12th c.
138	MCW3	jar	everted beaded	1	32	13th c.

Table 4.1.3: Pottery catalogue

Fired clay

Two fragments of fired clay were recovered (Table 4.1.4). An unstratified fragment from the topsoil of Trench 3 was in a fine sandy orange fabric with large voids, possibly from leached chalk or organic inclusions. A very small fragment in fine sandy poorly mixed orange and cream fabric with chalk inclusions came from pit fill 108. Neither is diagnostic, but chalk-tempered clays were commonly used to form oven domes in the medieval period.

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	Colour	Surface	Impressions	Abrasion	Notes
108	fsxc		1	1	orange-cream			+	
T3 topsoil	fsv		1	5	orange			+	amorphous lump, possibly brick

Table 4.1.4: Fired clay

Discussion

The assemblage provides evidence for possible continuity of use of the site between the early medieval and medieval periods, although there appears to have been a decline from the 13th century. The early medieval pottery and one of the wheelmade coarsewares (MCW1) were in a similar fabric and may be evidence of a local production site which continued into the 13th century. The presence of Suffolk fabric and forms in the later part of the medieval period may indicate that the local pottery

was no longer in production, or perhaps that a Suffolk family had moved to the area. The assemblage is too small for further interpretation but it is a useful addition to the current corpus of material from the south of Norfolk, as this area has produced very little medieval pottery from rural sites in recent years.

4.2 Worked Flint

By Martin Lightfoot

The flint recovered was inspected and notes were made as to use and manufacture according to Andrefsky (1998) and examined under a 60x microscope for evidence of usewear. Of the 8 flints submitted for assessment, 7 were unworked, though one primary flake, showed evidence of usewear. The remaining flints were all unmodified flakes, chunks, or shattered pebbles. The flint was from poor quality brown and grey-brown material probably derived from riverine sources. The utilised flint showed some signs of weathering, indicating that they may have travelled some distance from use to deposition or been exposed to the elements for a protracted period.

Context	Shape/ Dimensions	Weight	Description
U/S	Irregular, curved, rounded point 75x39x15mm	39g	Grey-brown knife, retouched on long edge, Late Bronze Age(?)
U/S (Trench 3)	Irregular-triangular 30x16x5mm	<1g	Light to dark grey, unworked tertiary flake
108	Irregular-rectangular 23x20x8mm	4g	Dark grey, unworked chunk, some thick (4mm) cortication
126	Irregular-rectangular 36x25x5mm	12g	Brown, unworked secondary de-cortication flake, 30% buff to brown cortex on dorsal surface
126	Irregular 50x42x23mm	104g	Dark to light grey shattered flint pebble, some evidence of burning, unworked
126	Irregular 37x35x17mm	23g	Dark grey with 10% cortex, shattered flint pebble, unworked
126	Triangular with rounded points 27x24x5mm	3g	Grey utilised primary flake, unworked
U/S	Triangular 36x19x5mm	4g	Brown core preparation flake, unworked

Table 4.2.1 - Flint Catalogue

Discussion

Only one utilised flake was from a stratified context; the fill (126) of a ditch (113) in Trench 1. This feature also yielded medieval pottery and it is likely that this and the unstratified flint found on the site are residual. The flint knife (U/S) is made of poor quality material despite good quality nodular flint being available in the wider area; this and the poor quality of manufacture suggests a probable late Bronze Age or later date for manufacture.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The worked flint should be retained with the site archive. The unworked flint may be discarded.

4.3 Copper Alloy

by Martin Lightfoot

A copper alloy crotal bell was recovered from the fill (126) of ditch 113. A crotal bell is actually a form of rattle and had varied uses as sleigh, horse or hawks bells. The spherical bell had an integral rectangular suspension loop, with a hole incorporated during the casting process, as opposed to earlier drilled examples. The example was cast in one piece and has two sound holes in the top of the bell. It has a uniform horizontal girth rib which was where the two moulds would have joined prior to casting. There is 'sunburst' or sunflower decoration on the lower hemisphere, with the upper hemisphere undecorated. This variety of decoration is very common.

One piece moulded bells are 16th century, although of the casting process, the most diagnostic feature on this example is the angular moulded suspension loop which in origin is usually a 17th century technique at the earliest. This and the sunflower pattern confirm a post-medieval date possibly as late as the 18th century. It has a stamp, possibly a maker's mark either on the base, although this is worn and cannot be identified (UKDFD 2014).

4.4 Palaeoenvironmental Assessment

by M. Hastie

Methodology

Thirteen bulk soil samples, ranging in volume from 10-40 litres, were retained during archaeological investigations carried out in an area of land adjacent to Oak Tree Park, Attleborough, Norfolk. The samples were taken from a series of features of probable medieval date.

Each bulk soil sample was processed through a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250um sieve and the material remaining in the tank (retent) washed through a 1mm mesh. Both the flots and retents were air-dried; the retents were then sorted by eye and any archaeological significant remains removed.

Results

A mixture of domestic material, including pottery, animal bone, cereal grain and wood charcoal were recovered from the samples, along with potential industrial debris in the form of metal slag and some possible worked flint. The abraded and fragmentary nature of much of the material suggests that it had undergone some movement prior to becoming incorporated into the many different features across the site and may be the remnants of re-deposited midden material. The bulk of the material was recovered from trenches 1, 3 and 4. The results are summarised in table form as Appendix 5a and 5b.

Small finds and other domestic/industrial material

Pottery and Fired clay:

A small number of pottery sherds and some small pottery fragments were recovered from eleven samples: particularly samples concentrated in Trenches 1 and 3; fill of a linear feature 112, Ditch 113 and the fills of two pits (102-107).

Occasional fragments of fired clay were recovered from four samples, all from features in Trench 3; (pits 103-104 and 106-107).

Flint:

Small amounts of flint (principally small flakes or chipped pebbles) were recovered from the samples. No distinct spatial patterns were noted, with flint being recovered from all of the samples.

Large amounts of fire-cracked flint were also recovered from eleven samples, with the highest concentrations being present in samples from Trench 3; particularly large amounts were recorded from pits 106 and 107.

Bone:

Small fragments of large mammal bone were recovered from four samples; the fill of ditches 113 and 122 and two pits (106 and 107). The animal bones were generally abraded and no larger than 3cm in diameter. In most cases the bone was unburnt, although a concentration of burnt and charred bone was recovered particularly from one sample, the fill of Pit 116 in Trench 7.

Occasional small fragments of what are probably fish bones were found in two of the samples, pits (105 and 106).

Metal Slag:

Large amounts of what appears to be metal slag, with embedded fragments of flint, were recovered from eleven samples; as with the fire-cracked flint this was concentrated within samples particularly taken from features within trenches 1 and 3.

Snail shell:

One sample taken from the fill of a linear feature (132) in Trench 6 stands out due to the high concentration of well-preserved snail shell present..

Carbonised Plant Remains

Cereal Grains and weed seeds:

Carbonised cereal grains were recovered from ten of the samples, particularly those taken from features uncovered in Trenches 1, 3 and 4. In general the grains were much abraded and only preserved in small amounts, with no greater than 10 grains

being recovered from each sample. Where preservation allowed grains of barley (*Hordeum* sp.), oat (*Avena* sp.) and bread/club wheat (*Triticum aestivo/compactum*) were identified. The limited amount of cereal grains recovered from the site does not allow for detailed discussion, although the presence of charred cereal grains does suggest that some crop processing (such as corn-drying) or food preparation was being carried out on or near to the site. The composition of the plant remains, including a mixture of barley, oat, and bread/club wheat would be consistent with the medieval date indicated for the site from the pottery assemblage.

Carbonised weed seeds, albeit in very small numbers, were recovered from three of the samples; two ditches (113 and 122) and a pit (107). These were generally from wild taxa that are associated with arable fields or grassland areas, including persicaria/pale persicaria, grasses and a seed capsule (silique) of wild radish/charlock; this species was a particularly troublesome weed of corn crops in the past.

Legumes:

The remains of three possible legume seeds (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp.) were identified from Pit 106 in Trench 3; the seeds were much abraded and could not be identified to species level. Garden (or field) peas (*Pisum sativa*) were commonly cultivated during the medieval period throughout Britain and their presence would not be out of place for this period.

Nutshell and other plant remains:

Small, much abraded, fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) were recovered from the fill of a linear feature (112) in Trench 3, and three pits (105, 107 and 139) (trenches 1 and 3). The amount of nutshell recovered does not allow for detailed discussion.

Charcoal and other remains:

Small amounts of wood charcoal were recovered from all but one of the samples. In most cases the charcoal was much abraded and fragmentary, although large concentrations of charcoal were noted in one sample from Pit 116. Initial examination indicates that it comprises oak charcoal with the occasional fragment of more scrubby material, such as birch/hazel.

Low concentrations of heather charcoal were recovered from four samples the fills of two ditches (112 and 122) and two pits (103 and 107). Occasional fragments of underground monocotyledon stem/root fragments (rhizomes) were also noted in two samples from the fills of Ditch 122 and Pit 139. The presence of this material, albeit in small amounts, does provide some evidence for the presence of heathy turfs.

Recommendations

- The small finds (pottery sherds, fired clay, flint, animal bone and slag) should be added to the archive and re-examined by an appropriate specialist should further excavation take place on the site.

- No further detailed analysis is recommended for the cereal grain, weed seeds, nutshell or charcoal.

AMS Dating: Only two samples (12 and 13, from the fills of pits 107 and 117 respectively) contained sufficiently large enough and well-preserved fragments of charcoal for dating purposes. The cereal grains and other plant remains recovered were much abraded and would not be suitable for dating.

5. DISCUSSION

The evaluation has shown that archaeological features exist within the proposed development area. The area can be broadly divided into two; the first area in the south-west (trenches 1-4) recorded archaeological features preserved under deep deposits of subsoil, the second area; located to the north-west of the site, (trenches 5-7) recorded features in two of the trenches (6 and 7).

The archaeological features in the first area can possibly be divided further into two phases of activity. The pits in Trench 3 contained local pottery from the early medieval period into the 13th century. The homogenous nature of the pit fills, and the inability, due to the poor clarity of horizons, to determine a physical and chronological relationship coupled with the pottery analysis means the likelihood of these pits being broadly contemporaneous is quite high. The excavated ditches in trenches 1 and 4 contained pottery from the 13-14th century with evidence of Suffolk fabric. This could be interpreted as the result of trade or migration. Given the quantity of datable materials from this later period, there is a suggestion that activity in the area declined from the 13th century, otherwise a change in land use resulting in less intensive human activity on the site from that point.

It is likely that ditches 109 and 118 are in fact a single ditch, and it is possible that Ditch 111 is as well. However, no finds were recovered from the ditch, and an earlier date may be possible.

An 18th-century crotal bell recovered by the evaluation in an area which was formerly known to have been close to a turnpike road of similar date is perhaps not that unusual. The flint artefacts are probably residual as the evidence from the site is predominantly indicative of medieval activity.

6. CONCLUSION

CFA Archaeology successfully conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Oak Tree Park, Norfolk. The work effectively recorded archaeological remains within parts of the proposed development, most notably trenches 1-4. Rising groundwater affected recording particularly in Trench 6 and the north-east end of Trench 4. The evaluation recorded a number of pits associated with early medieval activity that continued into the 13th century, and later medieval ditches dated to the 13th and 14th centuries. A number of features remained unexcavated including probable pits in Trench 3, at least one possible linear in Trench 6 and a possible palaeochannel in Trench 4.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
000	Site	-	Deposit	The natural substrate. Mixed deposit. The matrix was varied but typically described as sandy-clay with flint gravels and cobbles. An Iron pan and fewer flint cobbles were recorded in Trench 1. Trenches 5 to 7 were very gravelly with the horizon quickly obscured by rising ground water.
001	Site	-	Deposit	Soft, mid to dark greyish topsoil. Grass covered with further evidence of recent bioturbation. The topsoil to the north-east of the site, recorded in trenches 5-7 was rudimentary and was the uppermost deposit in a sequence of made ground. This area had been raised in the later part of the 20th Century.
002	Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4	-	Deposit	Subsoil deposit. Friable, medium grey silty sand. Bioturbated with some roots present. Merging horizon with topsoil (001) and with natural (000). Varied from 0.6 to 0.45m deep.
003	Trenches 5, 6 & 7	-	Deposit	Made ground, in trenches as a hard matrix of re-deposited clays. Colour varied from greys to light and mid brown. Inclusions of brick (LBC), slate and plastic. The deposit was imported in the later part of the 20th Century to raise the NE part of the site above the level of the surrounding flood plain. Deposit was 0.3 in Trench 5 to a maximum depth of 0.7m in Trench 6.
004	Trenches 5 & 6	-	Deposit	Buried topsoil. Slightly humic, very dark greyish clayey silt. The deposit represented the former ground surface before this part of the site was raised to the current datum. Prior to the area was floodplain.
005	Trenches 5, 6 & 7	-	Deposit	Topsoil/made ground. Depth varied from 0.1m in Trench 5 to 0.15 in Trench 6. Stratigraphically this covered 003, which was deposited in the mid to late 20th century and is therefore part of a sequence of made ground in this part of the site. The deposit comprised mid-dark grey silty-clay.
100	3	-	Cut	Cut of steep sided gully with 'V' shaped profile. Orientated NW-SE, continuing in both directions beyond the limit of excavation. >1.5m L x 0.5m W x 0.34m D.
101	3	100	Deposit	Fill of Gully 100. Friable, mid-orangey-brown sandy-silt with occasional small stone fragments and flint nodules. No Finds.
102	3	-	Cut	One of two pits (see also 103) that were recorded as intercutting. The precise phasing was not known due to the homogeneity of the fills. Interpreted as sub-circular in plan, the feature measured 0.47m N-S x c. 0.37m E-W, with steep sides and a concave profile. The depth was 0.3m.
103	3	-	Cut	One of two pits (see also 104) that were recorded as intercutting. The feature was sub-oval in plan and had very steep to near vertical sides tapering to a slightly concave base. Measured 0.63m N-S x 0.4m E-W x 0.36m D.

Context	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
104	3	-	Cut	One of two intercutting pits. Sub-oval in plan, with moderately steep sides. A possible shallow pit (105) was located to the south-east and although a continuous section was drawn suggesting they intercut, the precise physical relationship could not be ascertained in section. 0.76m NW-SE x 0.36m W x 0.22m D.
105	3	-	Cut	Cut of possible pit (see 104 for expanded interpretation). The feature was sub oval with shallow sides suggesting it was heavily truncated. It survived to a depth of 0.06m and measured 0.56m NW-SE x 0.21m W
106	3	-	Cut	Large pit, sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides tapering to a slight concave base. Measured 1.22m NW-SE x 0.27m D. Continued beyond the limit of excavation to the NE and SW, although the extrapolation of the curvature suggested this was probably only for a small distance.
107	3	-	Cut	Cut of irregular shaped pit. Moderately sloping sides tapering to a concave base. 1.1m N-S X 1.05m W x 0.31m D.
108	3	107	Deposit	Fill of pit 107. Friable, dark brownish-grey sand-silt with occasional small to medium flint nodules and gravels and very occasional charcoal flecks. Pottery recovered.
109	2	-	Cut	Ditch. Feature excavated in Trench 2, but was present also in trenches 1 and 4 as (111) and (118) respectively. The west side gradually sloped before a moderately steep break of slope to the base. The east side was moderately sloping. The excavation was terminated before the base could be reached due to rising groundwater. The excavated depth was 0.84m. The width was 3.04m. The feature continued beyond the L.O.E. to the north.
110	2	-	Cut	Cut of truncated linear feature. Gradually sloping sides tapering to a slightly concave base. Continuing beyond the L.O.E. It was >1.5m N-S x 0.9m W x 0.15m D.
111	1	-	Cut	Large ditch feature recorded in Trench 1 c. 3m wide. Also visible in trenches 2 and 4, the feature was partially excavated in Trench 2 (see 109)
112	1	-	Cut	Cut of probable ditch. Moderately sloping sides tapering to a slightly concave base. Orientated N-S and continuing beyond the L.O.E in both directions the feature was >1.5m L x 1.4m W x 0.35m D.
113	1	-	Cut	Cut of probable ditch. Cleaning revealed the features had a terminus to the east. It measured 0.96W x 0.4m D and continued beyond the L.O.E. to the west.
114	1	112	Deposit	Single fill of ditch 112. Friable mid-grey silty sand with occasional small sub angular pebbles, flint gravels and nodules. 0.35m D. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered.
115	2	110	Deposit	Single fill of gully 110. Friable mid orangey-brown sandy-silt. Inclusions of flint pebbles and small gravels. Root action noted. No finds recovered.

Context	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
116	7	-	Cut	Cut of truncated pit. Feature had shallow sides and an undulating base. It was 0.2m D and had a NE-SW long axis.
117	7	116	Deposit	Single fill of truncated pit 116. Softish, dark brown clayey-silt with blackish brown mottling. The excavation recovered an animal tooth.
118	4		Cut	Cut of ditch. See 109 for expanded interpretation. Slot excavated in Trench 4 to test for possible relationship with linear feature 120. No relationship was proven. Continued from Trench 2 into Trench 4 and beyond the L.O.E. to the north. Visible in Trench 4 for only 0.3m E-W. Excavated to a depth of 0.3m. No finds recovered.
119	4	118	Deposit	Fill of part excavated linear feature 118. Soft, mid grey-silty sand. No finds recovered.
120	4	-	Cut	Cut of linear feature (see also 122). This excavated slot was dug to test a possible relationship with ditch 118, although no physical relationship could be proven. Feature adjudged to be truncated, although the section evidence suggested a moderately steep terminus with a slightly concave base, orientated NE-SW, 0.52m W x 0.28m D.
121	4	120	Deposit	Single fill of shallow ditch terminus. Soft dark grey silty-sand with occasional flint nodule inclusions. No finds recovered.
122	4	-	Cut	Cut of linear ditch (see also 120). Orientated NE-SW, it measured 0.98m W x 0.38m D. Where excavated, the feature was relatively steep sided with a concave base.
123	4	122	Deposit	Fill of linear ditch 121 (see also 121). Soft dark grey silty-sand with some occasional small flint nodule inclusions. A small amount of pottery was recovered.
124	1	-	Cut	Cut of possible pit with steep sides tapering to a concave base. The feature continued beyond the L.O.E to the south-east. It was 0.48m W x 0.22m D
125	1	124	Deposit	Single fill of possible pit 124. Friable dark grey silty-sand with occasional flinty gravel inclusions. No finds recovered.
126	1	113	Deposit	Single fill of ditch 113. Pottery was retrieved from the deposit, as was a copper alloy crotal bell. The fill had probably been bioturbated as root action was seen within the surrounding substrate.
127	2	109	Deposit	Stratigraphically the lowest recorded deposit within ditch 109; although, the excavation was terminated due to persistent rising groundwater and the threat of collapsing sections. Soft, dark greyish-black silty-clay, 1.42m W x 0.14m D and continuing below water line. No finds recovered.
128	2	109	Deposit	One of three fills recorded in ditch 109. Covered by deposit 129 and covering deposit 127. Mid-greyish with orange mottles and manganese/iron pan flecking. Comprising soft, silty-sand with occasional small cobble inclusions. No finds recovered.

Context	Trench/Area	Fill of	Type	Description
129	2	109	Deposit	Upper fill of large ditch 109. Comprised soft grey silty-sand, with occasional small stone and pebble inclusions. Measured c. 3.04m W x 0.3m D. No finds recovered.
130	6	-	Cut	Cut of linear, one of two (see also 132) seen in the north-east end of Trench 6. Feature was initially uncovered during machining. However, rising groundwater up to 0.3m deep meant that hand digging was not possible. Feature was machined and recorded in section as 1.7m W x 0.58D and >1.5m L NE-SW. The relationship with cut 132 could not be determined in section. Excavated and recorded rapidly due to water ingress.
131	6	103	Deposit	Single fill of linear 130. Recorded in section as soft silty, medium to coarse grained sands. Mid grey with occasional mottles of orangey iron pan. No finds recovered.
132	6	-	Cut	Cut of linear, one of two (see also 130) seen in the north-east end of Trench 6. 1.6m W x 0.3m D x > 1.5m L NE-SW. Relationship with cut 130 could not be determined in section due to the homogeneity of the fills (131, 133). Excavated and recorded rapidly due to water ingress.
133	6	132	Deposit	Single fill of linear 132. Recorded in section. See context 131 for characteristics. No finds recovered.
134	3	102	Deposit	Single fill of pit 102. Friable, mid brownish-grey sandy-clay with small to medium small flint nodules and gravels and very rare charcoal flecks. A small sherd of pottery was recovered.
135	3	103	Deposit	Single fill of pit 103. Friable mid greyish-brown sandy-clay with occasional small to medium flint nodules and gravels and very rare flecks of charcoal. A single sherd of pottery was recovered.
136	3	104	Deposit	Single fill of pit 104. Friable mid greyish-brown sandy-clay with occasional small to medium flinty nodules and very rare charcoal fleck inclusions. A poor clarity of horizon with deposit 137 which was the fill of an adjacent and possibly intercutting shallow pit. Pottery was recovered during excavation.
137	3	105	Deposit	As above. The excavator noted the deposit was slightly darker. However the clarity of horizon was poor. Pottery was recovered during excavation.
138	3	106	Deposit	Single fill of pit 106. Friable dark brownish-grey sandy-silt with frequent flint nodules and rare flecks of charcoal. Pottery was recovered during excavation.

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digi No	Contexts/description	Facing	Conditions
1	Shot of entrance to site	North	Overcast
2	Shot of entrance to site	South-east	Overcast
3	Post excavation shot of Trench 3	North-west	Overcast
4	Pre-excavation shot of gully (100) in Trench 3	West	Overcast
5	Pre-excavation shot of pit (106) in Trench 3	West	Overcast
6	Pre-excavation shot of pit (107) in Trench 3	West	Overcast
7	East-facing section of gully 100 in Trench 3	West	Overcast
8	Post-excavation shot of gully 100 and east-facing section	West	Overcast
9	Detailed view of east-facing section of gully (100) in Trench 3	West	Overcast
10-12	South-east facing section of pit 107 in Trench 3	North-west	Overcast
13-14	View of pit 107 in plan: Trench 3	From above	Overcast
15	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2	North-east	Overcast
16	Shot of feature 109 after machining	North-east	Overcast
17	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	North-east	Bright
18	Post-machining shot of feature 113 in Trench 1	North	Bright
19	Post-machining shot of feature 112 in Trench 1	North-east	Bright
20	Post-machining shot of feature 112 in Trench 1	West	Bright
21	Post-machining shot of feature 110 in Trench 2	South	Overcast
22	Post-machining shot of feature 110 in Trench 2	East	Overcast
23	Shot of buried topsoil under made ground in Trench 5	West	Overcast
24	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5	North	Overcast
25	Shot of possible linear features (130 and 132) in Trench 6 (immediately after machining)	South-east	Overcast
26	Oblique working shot of Trench 6	West	Clear
27	Shot of dsc01790		
28	Shot of dsc01790		
29	Post-excavation shot of shallow linear feature 110 in Trench 2	North-east	Clear
30	Oblique shot of South-facing section of ditch 112 in Trench 1	North-east	Clear
31	Shot of South-facing section of ditch 112 in Trench 1	North	Overcast
32	Shot of ditch 112 in plan: Trench 1	East	Overcast
33	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	South-west	Clear
34	Shot of stratigraphy of Trench 6 (made ground and buried soil)	South-east	Clear
35	Shot of stratigraphy of Trench 6 (made ground and buried soil)	South-east	Clear
36	Shot of stratigraphy of Trench 6 (made ground and buried soil)	South-east	Bright
37	Post-excavation shot of Trench 6	North-east	Bright
38	Shot of possible feature/ palaeochannel in Trench 4	North	Bright
39	Oblique shot of possible feature/ palaeochannel in Trench 4	North-east	Bright
40	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4	North-east	Bright
41	Post-machining shot of feature 118 in Trench 4	East	Bright
42	Post-excavation shot of Trench 7	South-east	Bright
43	Post-excavation shot of Trench 7	North-west	Bright
44	Shot of west-facing section of feature 117: Trench 7	South-east	Overcast
45	Shot of south-facing section of feature 117: Trench 7	North	Overcast
46	Part-excavation shot of feature 117 in Trench 7	North	Overcast
47	Part-excavation oblique view from above of feature 117: Trench 7	North	Overcast
48	pre-excavation shot of intercutting pits (102, 103): Trench 3	West	Overcast
49	Shot of possible feature (unexcavated), possible pit 3 in Trench 3	West	Overcast
50	View from above of pit 104 in Trench 3	From above	Overcast

Digi No	Contexts/description	Facing	Conditions
51	Oblique view from above of sondage to test possible intersection between ditch 120/122 and ditch 118 in Trench 4	North	Overcast
52	Detail of sondage to test possible intersection between ditch 120/122 and ditch 118 in Trench 4	North	Overcast
53-54	Shot of east-facing section of possible pit 104 in Trench 3	West	Overcast
55	Shot from above of possible pit 104 in plan: Trench 3	From above	Overcast
56	Shot of possible feature (unexcavated), possible pit 1 in Trench 3	West	Overcast
57-58	Possible pit part-excavated. East-facing section: Trench 3	West	Overcast
58	Shot of features 104 and 105 in plan: Trench 3	From above	Rain
59	General shot of ditch 122 in Trench 4	West	Rain
60-61	East-facing section of ditch 122 in Trench 4	West	Rain
62	East-facing sections of features 105 and 105: Trench 3	West	Overcast
63	North-facing section of intercutting pits 102 and 103: Trench 3	South	Overcast
64	Part-excavation shot of intercutting pits 102 and 103 in plan: Trench 3	From above	Overcast
65	North-facing section of intercutting pits 102 and 103: Trench 3	South	Overcast
66	West-facing section of ditch 113 in Trench 1	East	Overcast
67	Part-excavation shot of ditch 113 in Trench 1	East	Overcast
68	West-facing section of ditch 113 in Trench 1	East	Overcast
68	Shot of ditch (113) terminus in plan Trench 1	From above	Overcast
69	Oblique shot of ditch 113 and terminus in plan: Trench 1	West	Overcast
70	Working shot of excavation of ditch 109: Trench 2	South-west	Overcast
71	Working shot of excavation of ditch 109: Trench 2	South	Overcast
72	Part-excavation shot of north-west facing section of feature 124: In Trench 1	South-east	Overcast
73-74	Working shot of excavation of ditch 109: Trench 2	South	Overcast
75-76	Shot of north-east facing section of pit 106: Trench 3	South-west	Overcast
77	Part-excavated, oblique shot of north-facing section of ditch 109 in Trench 2	South-west	Overcast
78	Part-excavated shot of north-facing section of ditch 109 in Trench 2	South	Overcast
79	Working shot of bund to hold, water prior to attempted excavation of features in Trench 6	South	Clear
80	Working shot of bund to hold, water prior to attempted excavation of features in Trench 6	North-east	Clear
81-82	Working shot of attempted excavation of features 130 and 132 in Trench 6	North-east	Clear
83	Shots machining over possible features 130 and 132 in Trench 6	North-east	Clear
84-92	Run of shots exposing possible features 130 and 132 in Trench 6	Various	Clear
93	Cleaning of south-east facing section of Trench 6 and features 130 and 132	North	Clear
94-95	Working shot of south-east facing section of Trench 6 (features 130 and 132) after removal by machine	North-west	Clear
96-97	Shot of south-east facing section of features 130 and 132: Trench 6	North-west	Clear
98	Shot of area of Trench 7 after backfilling	East	Bright
99	Shot of area of Trench 6 after backfilling	East	Bright
100	Shot of area of Trench 6 after backfilling	North-east	Bright
101	Shot of area of Trench 6 after backfilling	South-west	Bright
102	Shot of area after backfilling looking south-west	South-west	Bright

Digi No	Contexts/description	Facing	Conditions
103	Shot of area of Trench 6 after backfilling	south-west	Bright
104	Disturbance of ground surface as a result of ground conditions in Trench 6	North	Bright
105	Disturbance of ground surface as a result of ground conditions in Trench 5	West	Clear
106	View of backfilled Trench 4	South-west	Clear
107	View of backfilled Trench 4	North-east	Clear

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:10	Section	West-facing section of gully (100)
2	1	1:10	Section	North-facing section of pit (107)
3	1	1:10	Section	South-facing section of pit (112)
4	1	1:10	Section	North-facing section of shallow linear (110)
5	1	1:10	Section	East-facing section of pit (116)
6	1	1:10	Section	North-facing section of pit (116)
7	2	1:10	Section	South-facing section of linear 118 and terminus 120 in Trench 5
8	2	1:20	Section	North-east facing section of linear (122)
9	3	1:10	Section	North-facing section of ditch (109)
10	3	1:20	Section	North-east facing section of possible pit (139)
11	4	1:10	Section	South-east facing section of linears 130 & 132
12	3	1:10	Section	South-facing section of probable intercutting pits 102 & 103
13	3	1:10	Section	South-west facing section of pits 104 & 105
14	2	1:10	Section	south-west facing section of pit (106)
15	2	1:10	Section	West-facing section of linear (113)

APPENDIX 4: Samples Register

Sample No.	Context	Fill of	Sample type	Volume/Litres
1	123	122	Bulk/Routine	20
2	126	113	Bulk/Routine	30
3	114	112	Bulk/Routine	30
4	131	130	Bulk/Routine	10
5	133	132	Bulk/Routine	10
6	134	102	Bulk/Routine	10
7	135	103	Bulk/Routine	10
8	136	104	Bulk/Routine	10
9	137	105	Bulk/Routine	5
10	138	106	Bulk/Routine	10
11	140	139	Bulk/Routine	10
12	117	116	Bulk/Routine	10
13	108	107	Bulk/Routine	30

APPENDIX 5a Composition of flots

Sample number	Context number	Context description	Pottery	Fired Clay	Flint	Fire-cracked flint	Metal slag	Large mammal bone		Fish bone	Nutshell	Charcoal	Snail shell
								Unburnt bone and teeth frags	Burnt bone				
Trench 1													
2	126	Fill of ditch [113]	+		++	+	+	++				++ (SF)	
3	114	Fill of linear [112]	+		++	+	+					++	
11	140	Fill of pit [139]	+		+	++	++++				+ (x2 - VSF)	++ (VSF)	
Trench 3													
6	134	Fill of pit [102]	+		++	+	++					++	
7	135	Fill of pit [103]	+	+	+	++	+					+ (SF)	
8	136	Fill of pit [104]	+	+	+	++	++					+ (VSF)	
9	137	Fill of pit [105]	+		+	++	+			+ (poss)	+ (x1-SF)	+ (SF)	
10	138	Fill of pit [106]	+	+	+	++++	+	+		+		++ (SF)	
13	108	Fill of pit [107]	++	++	++	++++	++	+			+ (x4-VSF)	++ (SF)	
Trench 4													
1	123	Fill of ditch [122]	+		++	++	++	+				+++ (SF)	
Trench 6													
4	131	Fill of linear [130]			+							+ (VSF)	
5	133	Fill of linear [132]	+		++							+ (SF)	+++
Trench 7													
12	117	Fill of pit [116]			++	+	++	++	++			++++	

Key: + = rare (1-10 items), ++ = occasional (11-50 items), +++ = common (51-100 items) and ++++ = abundant (101+ items) SF = small fragments <2-5mm dia., VSF = very small fragments <2mm dia

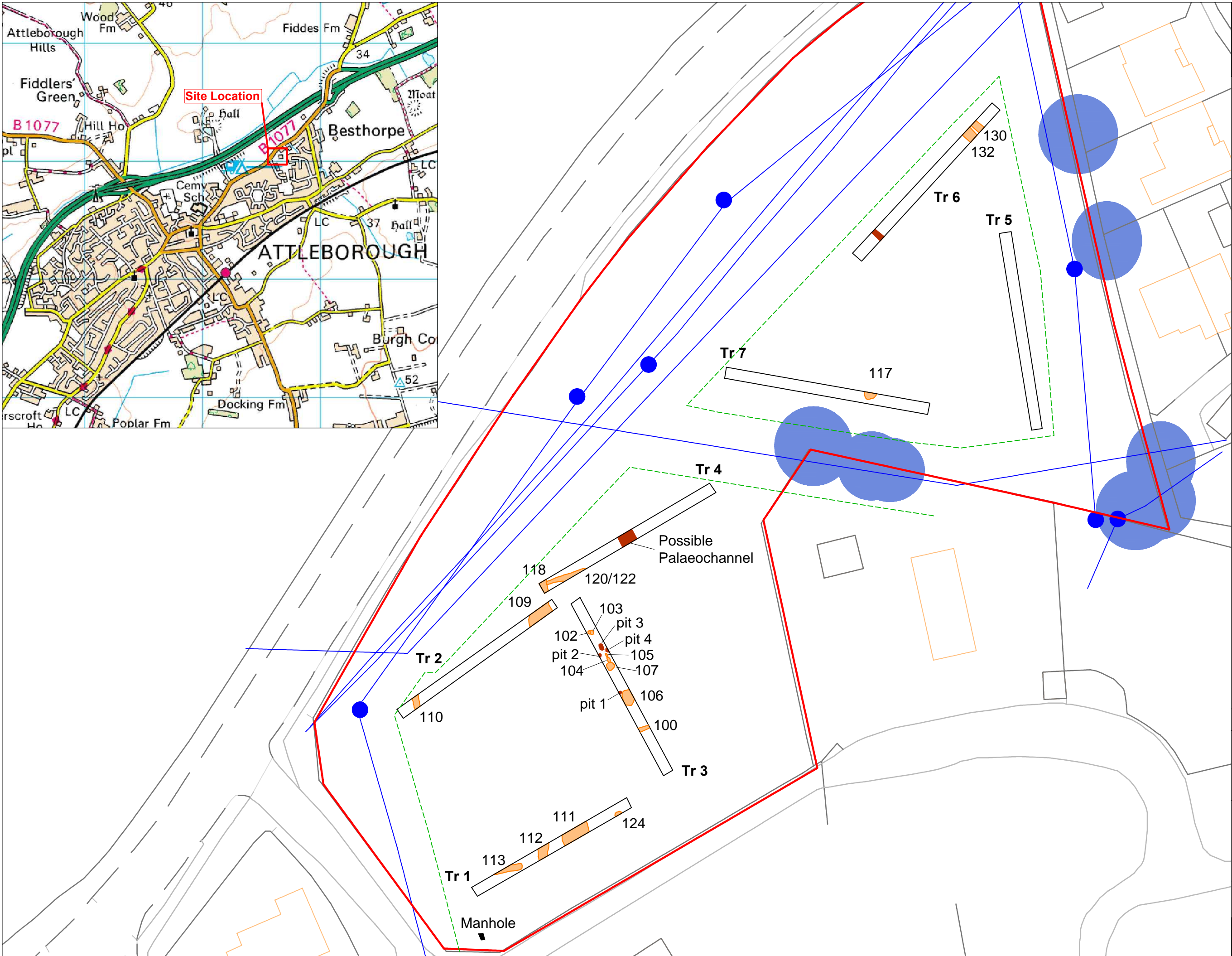
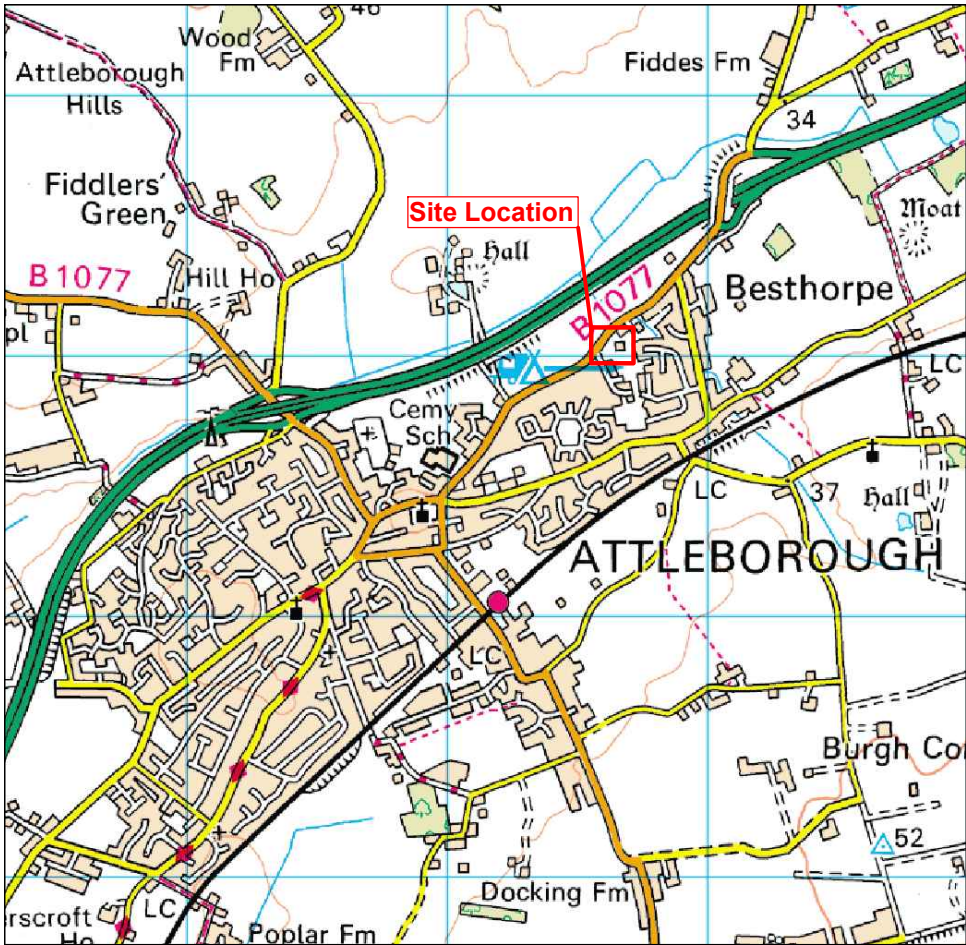
APPENDIX 5b Composition of retents


Sample number	Context number	Context description	Pottery	Fired Clay	Flint	Fire-cracked flint	Metal slag	Large mammal bone		Fish bone	Nutshell	Charcoal	Snail shell
								Unburnt bone and teeth frags	Burnt bone				
Trench 1													
2	126	Fill of ditch [113]	+		++	+	+	++				++ (SF)	
3	114	Fill of linear [112]	+		++	+	+					++	
11	140	Fill of pit [139]	+		+	++	++++				+ (x2 - VSF)	++ (VSF)	
Trench 3													
6	134	Fill of pit [102]	+		++	+	++					++	
7	135	Fill of pit [103]	+	+	+	++	+					+ (SF)	
8	136	Fill of pit [104]	+	+	+	++	++					+ (VSF)	
9	137	Fill of pit [105]	+		+	++	+			+ (poss)	+ (x1-SF)	+ (SF)	
10	138	Fill of pit [106]	+	+	+	++++	+	+		+		++ (SF)	
13	108	Fill of pit [107]	++	++	++	++++	++	+			+ (x4-VSF)	++ (SF)	
Trench 4													
1	123	Fill of ditch [122]	+		++	++	++	+				+++ (SF)	
Trench 6													
4	131	Fill of linear [130]			+							+ (VSF)	
5	133	Fill of linear [132]	+		++							+ (SF)	+++
Trench 7													
12	117	Fill of pit [116]			++	+	++	++	++			++++	

Key: + = rare (1-10 items), ++ = occasional (11-50 items), +++ = common (51-100 items) and ++++ = abundant (101+ items)

SF = small fragments <2-5mm dia., VSF = very small fragments <2mm dia.


Figures 1-7






Key:

- Redline Boundary
- Archaeological Feature
- Possible/Unexcavated Feature
- Services
- Root Protection Areas
- Buffer Zone




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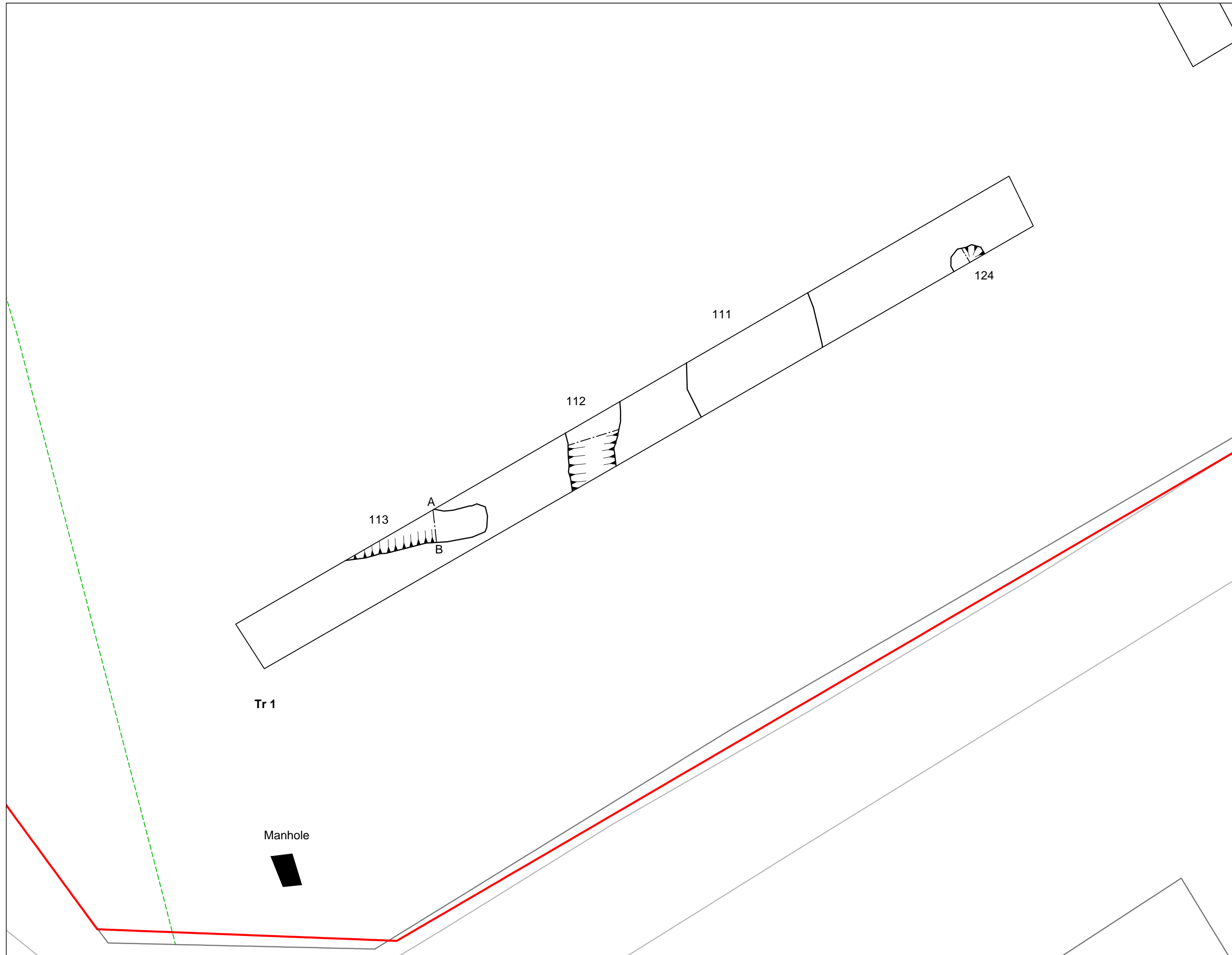
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Title: Site location and trench plan			
Project: Oak Tree Park: Archaeological Evaluation			
Client: Tingdene Homes			
Scale at A3: 1:500			



Drawn by: SW
Checked: LW
Report No: Y135/14



Key:
 Redline Boundary





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Fig. No:	2	Revision:	A
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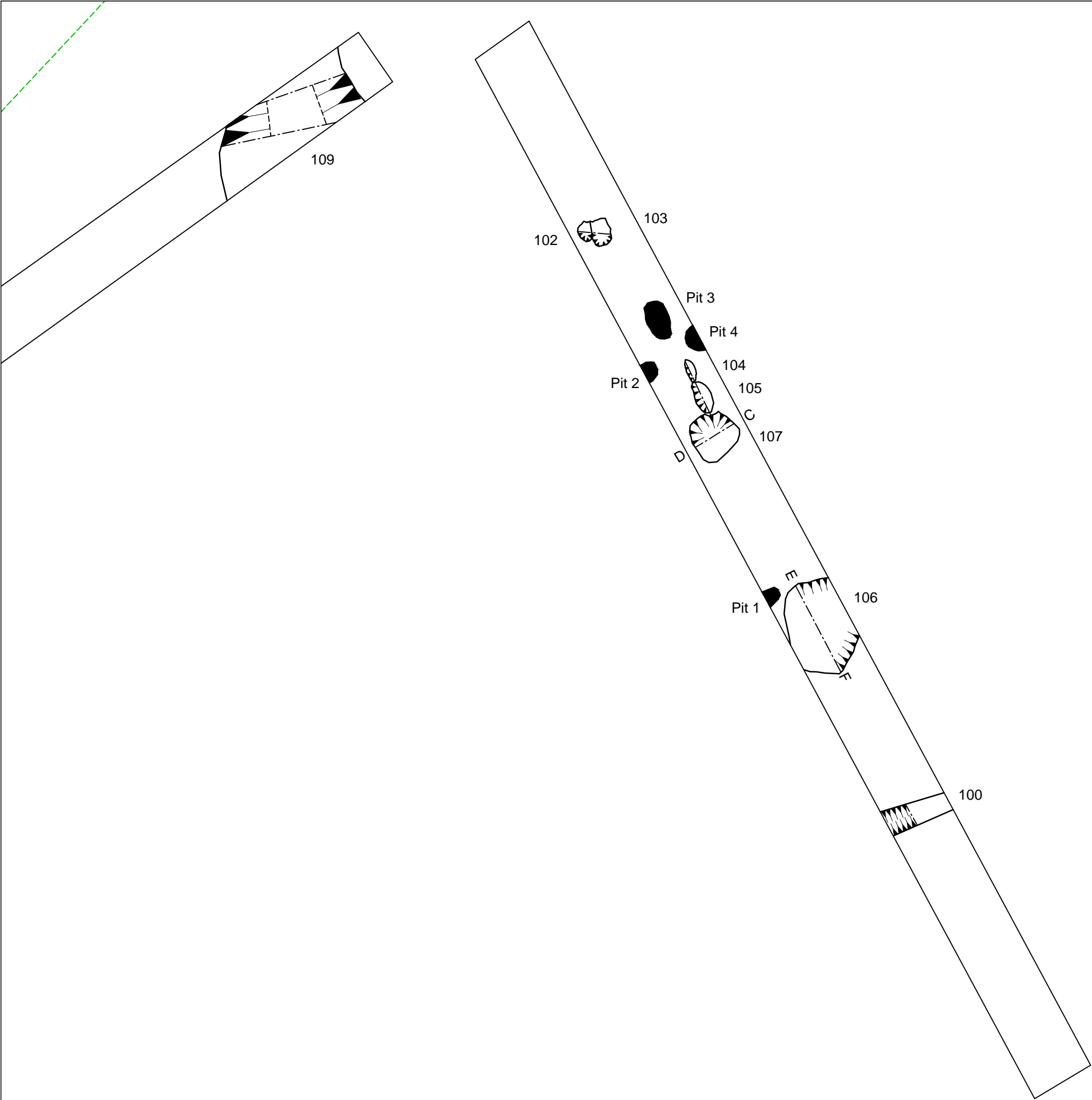
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Plan of Trench 1

Project:
**Oak Tree Park:
Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:
Tingdene Homes

Scale at A3:
1:100





Key:

■ Unexcavated Features



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Fig. No:	3	Revision:	A
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Title:

Plan of Trench 3

Project:

Oak Tree Park:
Archaeological Evaluation

Client:

Tingdene Homes

Scale at A3:

1:100





Key:
 Pottery

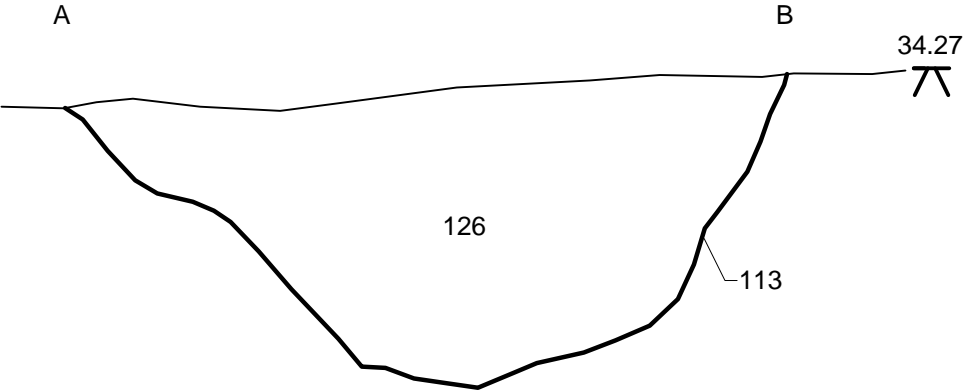


Fig. 4 - West-facing section of ditch 113

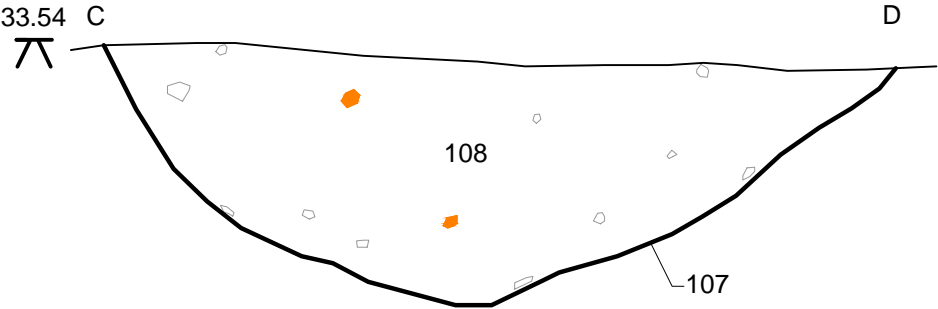


Fig. 5 - North-facing section of pit 107

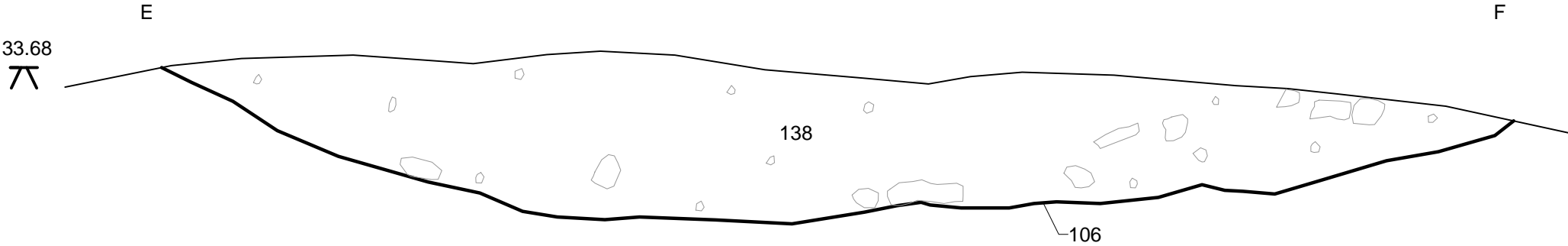


Fig. 6 - North-east-facing section of pit 106

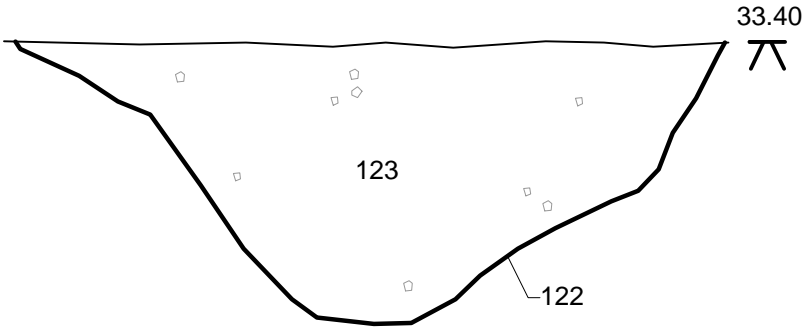


Fig. 7 - North-east-facing section of ditch 122



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Fig. No:	4-7	Revision:	A
Title:	Sections		
Project:	Oak Tree Park: Archaeological Evaluation		
Client:	Tingdene Homes		
Scale at A3:	1:10		
Drawn by:	SW	Checked:	LW
Report No:	Y135/14		

Plates 1-4



Plate 1: Pit 106, north-east-facing section



Plate 2: Ditch 113, west-facing section



Plate 3: Pit 107, south-east-facing section



Plate 4: Trench 7, looking east