

Report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: proposed reservoir site, land north of Redgate House, Wherstead, Suffolk.

August-September 2010



report prepared by
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commissioned by **Prime Irrigation Ltd**

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NGR: TM 162 401

Planning ref: B/10/00651.



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CAT Report 562
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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	2
4	Aim	2
5	Results	3
6	Finds, <i>by Stephen Benfield</i>	
6.1	Introduction	8
6.2	Pottery (<i>with HB</i>)	8
6.3	CBM	9
6.4	Flints (<i>with Adam Wightman</i>)	10
6.5	Miscellaneous finds	11
6.6	Finds discussion	12
7	Site discussion	13
8	Archive deposition	13
9	Acknowledgements	13
10	References	14
11	Glossary	14
12	Appendix: SCCSAS Brief	15

Figures (end of report)

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location.
- Fig 2 Trench locations in relation to the proposed reservoir.
- Fig 3 Results (T1, T4, T8-10, T17-18).
- Fig 4 Sections.

List of plates

- Cover Trench 16, view N (working shot)
- Plate 1 T1. Post-medieval quarry pit F13 (foreground): ditch F13 (behind).
view W.
- Plate 2: T17. Medieval ditch F7 View NW.
- Plate 3: T18. Roman pit F6 View N.

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in September in advance of the construction of an agricultural reservoir on a 2.2ha site on land north of Redgate House, Wherstead, Suffolk.

The evaluation followed a brief from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SSSCAS) which required a 5% evaluation. This was achieved by cutting 21 trial trenches (combined length 611m).

Thirteen features were revealed, of which only three were dated (generally by very small quantities of finds): one Romano-British pit, one medieval field ditch, and one post-medieval field ditch. Shared alignment may indicate than another ditch was post-medieval. Six other features were undated (some may be post-medieval), and the remaining two were 'natural' pits.

A small amount of Roman and medieval material was recovered from the subsoil, and a small assemblage of flints was collected from the surface ploughsoil.

Depths of topsoil and subsoil were fairly consistent across the site, and there was no evidence of presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits. No soil samples were taken because of the lack of contexts with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between the 31st August and 3rd September 2010 on the 2.2ha site of a proposed agricultural reservoir on the north side of Vicarage Lane, Wherstead, Suffolk (site centre is NGR TM 162 401). The archaeological work was commissioned and funded by Prime Irrigation Ltd.
- 2.2 The proposed development area lies at c. 35.00m AOD (see Fig 1), and is currently under arable cultivation. Natural geology is deep loam derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift.
- 2.3 An application has been made to Babergh District Council (B/10/00651) for the construction of a reservoir on land N of Redgate House, Wherstead, Suffolk
- 2.4 The Planning Authority has been advised that the location of the proposed reservoir could affect important heritage assets with archaeological interest. The applicant was therefore be required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE6).
- 2.5 The required archaeological work (a linear trenched evaluation) was set out in a document titled *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Proposed reservoir, land N of Redgate House, Wherstead, Suffolk*, written by Sarah Poppy (SCCAS 2010). In response to the SCCAS Brief, CAT prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which was agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2010).
- 2.6 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). Other sources used are

English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background

This section is based on records held by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Historic Environment Record (SHER). The site of the proposed reservoir lies in an area of high archaeological importance, immediately to the NE of a Roman occupation site, recorded in the grounds of Wherstead Vicarage (SHER WHR 009). A second Roman settlement site is recorded 300m to the east (WHR 030) and at least three Roman coin hoards have been recovered from the vicinity. There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be located within the proposed development site, which would be totally destroyed by the proposed reservoir. However, the site has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation.

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to :

- Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposits within the application area, together with their probably extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

The results of this evaluation would enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the suitability of the site for the construction of the reservoir, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, would be informed by the results of the evaluation.

5 Results (Figs 3-4)

Summary of archaeological fieldwork

The specified 5% evaluation required trenches with a combined length of 611 m. Using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision, the following horizons were removed: a thick humic topsoil (L1); a silty clay accumulation deposit (L2). This revealed natural, a fine manganese-rich colluvial silt (L3) on the eastern side of the site (in T5, T6, T18), and a coarse gravel/sand (L4) sealed by (L3) elsewhere. Depths of topsoil and subsoil are given in Table 1 below (Fig 4 gives sections of Trenches 1, 14 and 17).

	T1	T3	T6	T7	T15	T16	T19	T20
L1 ploughsoil thickness	20cm	19cm	21cm	22cm	22cm	19cm	18cm	16cm
L1 top (AOD)	34.38	35.37	31.47	35.40	36.66	36.33	35.19	35.96
L1 base	34.18	35.18	31.26	35.18	36.44	36.14	35.01	35.80
L2 subsoil thickness	19cm	16cm	24cm	11cm	17cm	18cm	16cm	29cm
L2 top	34.18	35.18	31.26	35.18	36.44	36.14	35.01	35.80
L2 base	33.99	35.02	31.02	35.07	36.27	35.96	34.67	35.51
sealed by L2	L4	L4	L3	L4	L3	L3	L4	L4

Table 1: depths of ploughsoil and subsoil across site.

No **soil samples** were taken, due to the lack of suitable contexts with the potential for the preservation of environmental evidence.

An **archaeological summary** of each evaluation trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information follows below. In the identification of archaeological contexts, the context number is prefixed by either 'F' indicating a feature, or 'L' indicating a layer.

Trench 1: summary (plate 1)

Located in the NW corner of the evaluation site, T1 contained two archaeological features, ditch F12 and quarry pit F13.

F12 was aligned NE-SW and, although undated, appears to match post-medieval ditch F10 in T8 (below). It is likely to have been a post-medieval field ditch.

Pit F13 occupied most of eastern half of T1. It contained peg-tile fragments and clay pipe, indicating an 18th century origin at the earliest. Its fill consisted of interleaved deposits of sandy silt and re-deposited geological sands and gravel.



Plate 1: T1 view W. Post-medieval quarry pit F13 foreground: ditch F13 behind.

Trench 1: context description and dates

Context	Description	Finds nos and dates	Date
F12	ditch	-	undated – post-medieval?
F13	quarry pit	8: <i>medieval pottery</i> , medieval or post-medieval brick, clay pipe, <i>Roman brick/tile</i>	post-medieval

(italicised finds are residual)

Trenches 2-3: summary

Located on the western edge of the site, T2-3 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 4: summary

Located on the northern edge of the site, T4 contained a pit (F4). F4 cut natural L4, and was sealed by L2. It contained no datable material, and its profile indicates a natural origin (tree-throw pit?).

Trench 4: context description and date

Context	Description	Finds nos and dates	Date
F11	natural pit	-	undated

Trenches 5-7: summary

Located on the northern and western sides of the evaluation site, T5-T7 contained no archaeological features,

Trench 8: summary

Located in the central area of the evaluation T8 contained a ditch (F10). F10 was aligned NE/SW, in common with the undated (but presumably post-medieval) F12 in T1).

Trench 8: context description and date

Context	Description	Finds nos and dates	Date
F10	ditch	7: peg-tile and pantile fragments	post-medieval

Trench 9: summary

Located in the centre of the evaluation site, T9 contained two pits (F3 and F4). Neither contained any datable material, although they may be associated with post-medieval agricultural activity.

Trench 9: context description and dates

Context	Description	Finds nos and dates	Date
F3	pit	-	undated
F4	pit	-	undated

Trench 10: summary

Located on the east edge of the evaluation site, T10 contained a pit (F1) and a post-hole (F2). Neither contained any datable material, although F1 contained a slight concentration of charcoal on its northern edge. Both features are likely to be associated with post-medieval agricultural activity. Roman and medieval finds came from the top of the natural (L2/L3).

Trench 10: context description and dates

Context	Description	Finds nos and dates	Date
F1	pit	-	undated (post-medieval?)
F2	post-hole	-	undated (post-medieval?)
L2	subsoil	2: Roman tile	
L3	subsoil	1: medieval pottery, residual Roman tile	

Trenches 11, 12: summary

Located on the western side of the evaluation site, T11 and T12 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 13: summary

Located in the centre of the evaluation site, T13 contained two pits, F8 and F9. Again, neither feature contained datable material, but charcoal flecking in F8 may indicate an association with agricultural activity. F9 was shallow and irregular in profile, indicative of a tree-throw pit.

Trench 13: context description and dates

Context	Description	Date
F8	pit	undated (post-medieval?)
F9	natural pit	undated

Trenches 14-16: summary

Located in the centre and SW corner of the evaluation site respectively, T14-T16 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 17: summary (plate 2)

Located on the southern edge of the evaluation site, T17 contained a ditch F7. Very small sherds of medieval and prehistoric pottery were recovered from the upper fill, indicating a medieval date for F7.

F7 did not share the SW/NE alignment of post-medieval ditch F10. Instead, it was aligned broadly E/W. It was probably an agricultural field ditch (truncated, because the excavated section appeared to be the very bottom of the cut). Its E end was indistinct and uncertain.

Trench 17: context description and dates

Context	Description	finds nos and dates	Date
F7	ditch	6: <i>prehistoric</i> and medieval sherds	medieval

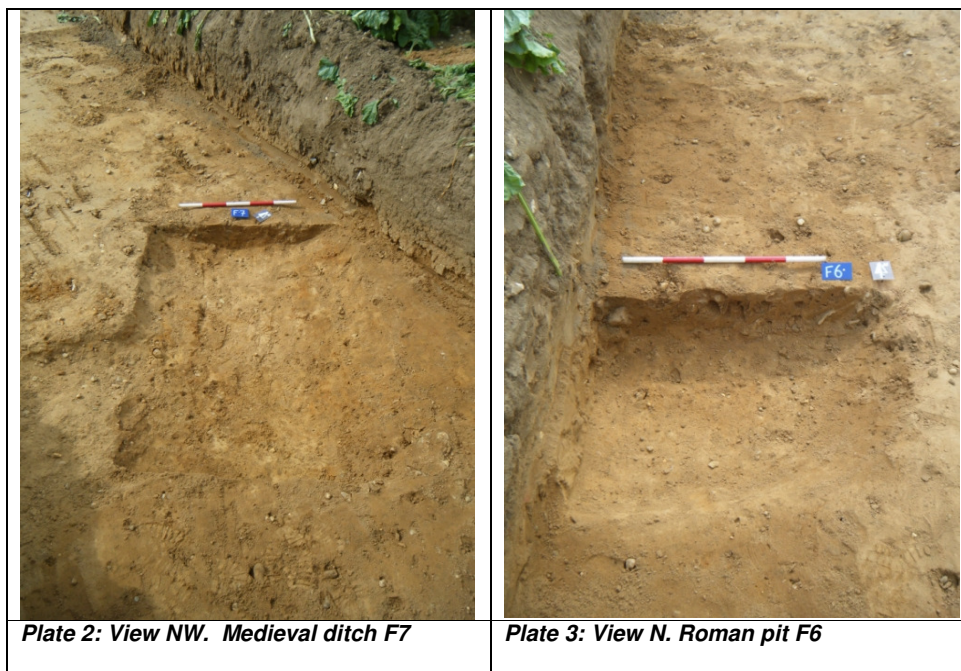


Plate 2: View NW. Medieval ditch F7

Plate 3: View N. Roman pit F6

Trench 18: summary (plate 3)

Located in the south half of the evaluation site, T18 contained two pits (F1 and F2). Small amounts of LIA/Roman pottery were recovered from F6. Both were shallow, and contained minor charcoal flecking.

Trench18: context description and dates

Context	Description	Finds nos and dates	Date
F5	pit		undated – Roman?
F6	pit	5: Roman sherd	Roman
L2/3	subsoil	4: Roman sherd	

Trenches 19-21: summary

Located in the SE corner of the evaluation site, T19-T21 contained no archaeological features.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield (SCCAS/CAT)

6.1 Introduction

The types of finds material and the total quantities recovered are set out in Table 2. These are listed by context in Table 7.

Finds type	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	8	36
Ceramic building material (CBM)	21	566
Worked flint	10	59
Burnt flint	1	1
Clay pipe	1	5
Nails (Fe)	1	4

Table 2. Type and quantities of finds

6.2 Pottery

Incorporating comments by Howard Brooks (CAT: post-Roman pottery)

Introduction

The pottery sherd count and weight was recorded for each finds number by context (Table 4). The prehistoric and Roman pottery fabrics used follow the Suffolk Roman pottery fabric type series, while those used for the post-Roman pottery follow the Colchester fabric series (CAR 7, 12-13). The pottery fabrics are listed in Table 3.

Fabric code	Fabric name	period
HMF	Hand-made, flint-tempered	prehistoric
GX	Roman sandy grey wares	Roman
20	Medieval sandy greywares	Medieval
21	Medieval sandy orange wares	Medieval
35	Mill Green ware	Medieval

Table 3. Pottery fabrics used in this report

Tr	ctxt	finds no.	Fabric code	no.	wt (g)	abr	description	spot date
T1	F13	8	20	2	8	*		L12-L14C
T1			21	1	3	*	sandy oxidised sherd	13-16C
T10	L3	1	35	1	11	*		M/L13-L14C
T17	F7	6	HMF	1	1		small frag., burnt flint with black burnt organic-temper	prehist
T17	F7	6	21	1	1		small frag, sandy oxidised sherd	13-16C
T18	F6	5	GX	1	10		slightly abraded	Rom
	L2/L3	4	GX	1	2	*	small abraded sherd	Rom

Table 4. Pottery by context

Pottery discussion

Only a very small quantity of pottery was recovered. This consists of a total of eight sherds (weighing 36g) from five contexts located in four of the trenches. All are body sherds.

One small fragment of prehistoric, flint-tempered pottery was recovered from F7 (T18). The sherd cannot be closely dated, but is likely to date to the earlier prehistoric period (Neolithic-Bronze/Early Iron Age) rather than later. A very small fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from the same context.

Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. One is from F6 (T10) and the other, which is a small abraded fragment is from L2/L3 (T18). from F6 (T10). Both sherds are in a sandy grey ware fabric and cannot be closely dated within the Roman period.

Abraded sherds of medieval sandy grey ware (Fabric 20) were recovered from F13 (T1) These can be broadly dated the period of the later 12th-14th century. A sherd of medieval sandy orange ware (Fabric 21) from the same context (F13) can be dated broadly as 13th-16th century. A small fragment of Fabric 21 pottery was also recovered from F7 (T18) (above). There is also a single sherd of Mill Green ware (Fabric 35), dated to the later 13th-14th century, which came from L3 in Trench 10.

6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)

Introduction

The ceramic building material (CBM) recovered consisted of a total of 21 pieces and fragments, weighing 566g. These came from four contexts located in three of the trenches (Table 5)

Tr. no.	cctx	finds no.	type	description	no.	wt (g)	spot date
T1	F13	8	peg-tile	frags, 9-10 mm thick, mostly red fairly fine sand fabrics, occasional coarser sanded frag.	13	262	med/post-med
			brick	frag, red moderately coarse sandy fabric with dark red sandy ferrous (ironstone) inclusions	1	48	prob. post-med
			brick	broken corner of thin brick or square cut brick/tile piece, abraded about 30 mm thick, longer side broken, survives to 40 mm long, red fine-moderate sand fabric, few other inclusions	1	54	prob. Rom
T8	F10	7	peg-tile	frags., 10 mm thick, red fine sand and red coarse sand fabrics	3	97	med/post-med
			pan-tile?,	tile edge frag., rounded slightly lipped edge, 10-12 mm thick body, orange sandy fabric, very similar to compared sample pan-tile piece	1	8	?late 17C+
T10	L3	1	tile	splintered frag. from a tile with sanded base, red fine sand fabric	1	9	?Rom
	L2	2	Rom tile	Tegula, edge of tile, flange broken away, pale red fine sandy fabric with sandy ferrous (ironstone) inclusions and mottled with pale clay streaks, base 24 mm thick.	1	88	Rom

Table 5. Ceramic building material (CBM) by context

CBM discussion

Most of the CBM recovered is red in colour with relatively fine or medium sanded fabrics which have few other visible inclusions. Where significant other inclusions do occur these consist of pale firing clay and also sandy, dark red (ferrous) inclusions. The fabrics are broadly described, both for groups of CBM sharing a similar fabric and for individual pieces, in Table 4.

The earliest dated of the CBM is a piece of Roman (*tegula*) roof tile. This came from L2 (T10). the fabric of this tile was noticeably different from the other CBM recovered in that it was streaked with pale firing clay. Another piece of CBM recovered from L3 in the same trench (T10) may likewise be of Roman date. Also, a small pieces of flat brick, recovered from F13 (T1) is most likely to be of Roman date rather than later.

The majority of the CBM consists of pieces from peg-tiles. Most of these were recovered from one context, F13 (T1), with a small number of pieces coming from F10 (T8). Based on the archaeological sequence at Harwich (Essex), peg-tiles appear from the 13th century, but probably only become relatively common from the 14th century onward (Ryan 1993, 97). The standard late medieval peg-tile remains basically unchanged into modern times and the tiles here cannot be closely dated. The context F13 included some finds of post-medieval and probable post-medieval date, while F10 included a fragment from a tile which is also probably of post-medieval or modern date (below).

One small CBM piece, from F13 (T1), is from the curving edge of a tile. This piece is probably part of the edge of a pantile; a more complete example of which it matches very closely. Pantiles can be dated in England to the late 17th century or after and are most commonly used on the roofs of attached secondary buildings, such as lean-tos, or outbuildings (East Herts District Council, <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/Index.jsp?articleid=11618>).

A piece of CBM which is probably from a brick of post-medieval date was also recovered from F13 (T1).

6.4 Flint

Incorporating comments by Adam Wightman (CAT)

Introduction

Two piece of worked flint were recovered from the context F13 (T1). A further eight worked flints were collected from the surface of the field as unstratified (U/S) pieces. The worked flints are listed in Table 6.

Trench/ Context/ Finds no.	type	no.	description	spot date
T1/F13/8	flake	1	flake with hinge fracture, flake removal scars on dorsal face, patinated, heavily so on ventral face	?Palaeolithic
	core? frag	1	irregular broken fragment, one squat flake removed, poss. after breakage, poss. second flake scar, poss. a broken core frag.	?later prehist. (BA-IA)
US/3	blade	1	thick triangular section blade, poss. snapped piece from longer blade, poss. retouch	earlier Neolithic

Trench/ Context/ Finds no.	type	no.	description	spot date
			or edge damage at distal end,	
	blade	1	small blade, flake scars on dorsal face,	earlier Neolithic
	blade	1	small blade, flake scars on dorsal face,	earlier Neolithic
	flake	1	squat thin flake piece, poss. snapped from larger flake	prehist (Neo-BA)
	flake	4	squat thin flakes, two with cortex remaining on one edge, all with other flake removal on dorsal surface	prehist (Neo-BA)

Table 6. Worked flint by context

Flint discussion

One flint, from F13 (T1), is a moderately large flake which, in contrast to all the other worked flint recovered, is heavily patinated. This suggests it is of greater antiquity than the rest of the small assemblage and is possibly of Palaeolithic date. None of the remainder of the flint is patinated.

Three unstratified flints, all blades, can be dated typologically as earlier Neolithic. One, a blade with a triangular section appears possibly to have the distal end broken (or snapped away) and there is possibly some retouch or edge damage along the snapped, chisel-like edge. The few remaining unstratified flints are all flakes and cannot be closely dated; although it can be noted that all are relatively fine, thin flakes, suggesting relatively good control of flint working in their production. The remaining piece is from F13 (T1). This is a small broken lump of flint, with one squat flake removed rather crudely from one edge and a possible flake scar on another surface. This piece might be part of a core, but also might simply represent a piece of a broken flint nodule.

6.5 Miscellaneous finds

A small number of other finds were recovered as single examples of a particular finds type (Table 7) and are reported here together.

Trench/ Context/ finds no.	pot no.	pot wt (g)	CBM no.	CBM wt (g)	W. flt. no.	W. flt. Wt (g)	other finds/notes	finds spot date
1/F13/8	3	11	15	364	2	27	clay pipe 1, 5g; fe nail 1, 4 g	post- med/modern
8/F10/7			4	105				post- med/modern
10/L2/2			1	88				Rom
10/L3/1	1	11	1	9			burnt flint frag. 1, 1 g	medieval
17/F7/6	2	2						?medieval (prehist. pot)
T18/F5/4	1	2						Roman
T18/F6/5	1	10						Roman
U/S					8	32	surface collection	(earlier Neo. & ?later prehist.)

Table 7: bulk finds

A piece of clay pipe and an iron nail were recovered from F13 (T1) finds number 8. The clay pipe is a stem piece (5g) and can be dated as post-medieval/modern. The iron nail (4g), which is moderately corroded, has a square shaft with small rectangular head. The moderate level of corrosion on the nail suggests that it is of no great antiquity.

A small fragment of burnt flint (1g) came from, L3 (T10) finds number 1. Burnt flint is commonly associated with a prehistoric date and other finds which can be dated to the prehistoric period (worked flint and a small fragment of prehistoric pottery) were recovered from the site. However as a single small fragment it cannot be closely dated.

6.6 Finds discussion

The evaluation produced only a small quantity of finds, mostly of medieval and post-medieval date, with some of prehistoric and Roman date.

The earliest of the finds recovered consists of worked flints. One heavily patinated flake might date to the Palaeolithic period. Three blades, all unstratified, can typologically be dated to the earlier Neolithic. One very small piece of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery was recovered from F7(T18) but cannot be closely dated other than as earlier prehistoric (Neolithic-Bronze/Early Iron Age). It should be noted that a small fragment of late medieval pottery came from the same context, although both sherds are so small that they could be intrusive in the context. The small quantity of prehistoric finds suggests only sporadic or occasional visits to the area.

There is a very small quantity of Roman finds consisting of two pieces of pottery and a few pieces of tile and brick. None can be more closely dated other than as Roman. The small quantity suggests that this represents agricultural activity relating to a Roman settlement located away from the area of the evaluation.

There is a small quantity of medieval pottery dating to the period of the late 12th-14th century and 13th-16th century. All of these sherds are abraded and all are probably residual in the contexts from which they were recovered. The three medieval sherds from F13 (T1) were associated with a stem from a clay pipe of post-medieval or modern date, and a piece from a brick which is also probably of post-medieval or modern date. The other medieval sherd, from F10 (T8), was recovered along with a small piece of probable pantile which can be dated to the late 17th century or later. This suggests that, like the Roman finds, the medieval pottery also represents agricultural activity relating to a settlement located away from the area of the evaluation.

7 Site discussion

The evaluation has shown that this site has not been the focus of any significant activity in the past, and most of the features were probably connected with agriculture.

One ditch is dated to the post-medieval period, and a second one can probably be assigned to the same period on the basis of a shared SW/NE alignment. A second ditch alignment (E/W) is evident in another ditch which is probably of medieval date.

Evidence of gravel quarrying was identified in the north-western corner of the site, where a large (presumed) extraction pit filled the eastern half of a trench. Finds indicate that the pit was infilled probably in the 18th century at the earliest.

Pre-medieval activity is confined to a pit dated by a single sherd of Roman pottery, and a residual prehistoric sherd. There are a few small fragments of Roman tile from the subsoil. Surface finds of Palaeolithic and Neolithic flints may indicate some passing activity in those periods, but there are no associated subsoil features.

A number of undated features contain charcoal flecking, which may indicate an association with agriculture. In the absence of any other evidence, it is reasonable to speculate that they may all be of post-medieval date.

8 Archive deposition

The paper archive and find are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (reference WHR 074).

9 Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by Prime Irrigation Ltd, to whom we are grateful. Site work directed by B Holloway, assisted by C Lister, and A Wightman. EDM plots by A Wightman and C Lister. Illustrations by CL and Emma Spurgeon.

The project was monitored by Jess Tipper and Keith Wade for Suffolk County Council.

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<http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/Index.jsp?articleid=11618>

11 Glossary

AOD	above ordnance datum
CBM	ceramic building materials
context	on an excavation site, a specific location (especially of finds)
feature	something excavated, ie a wall, a floor, a pit, a ditch, etc
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National grid reference
post-medieval	after c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
prehistoric	the years BC
Roman	AD 43 to approx 410
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

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Appendix: SCCAS Brief

(following pages)

Environment and Transport Service Delivery
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
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IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

PROPOSED RESERVOIR, LAND N OF REDGATE HOUSE, WHERSTEAD (B/10/00651)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 An application has been made to Babergh District Council (B/10/00651) for the construction of a reservoir on land N of Redgate House, Wherstead, Suffolk (TM 162 401). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that the location of the proposed reservoir could affect important heritage assets with archaeological interest. The applicant should be required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE6).
- 1.3 The site, which measures approx 2.2ha, is located on the north side of Vicarage Lane, at c. 35.00m AOD. The soils are deep loam derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift.
- 1.4 The site of the proposed reservoir is located immediately to the NE of a Roman occupation site, which has been recorded in the grounds of Wherstead Vicarage (HER WHR 009). A second Roman settlement site is recorded 300m to the east (WHR 030) and at least three Roman coin hoards have been recovered from the vicinity. There is high potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be located within the proposed development site, which would be totally destroyed by the proposed reservoir. However, the site has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation.
- 1.5 In order to inform the proposal, the following archaeological evaluation will be required:
 - Non-intrusive field-walking and metal-detecting survey.
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the suitability of the site for the construction of the reservoir, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation.**
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the

accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory.

- 1.10 The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of this specification. However, only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise Babergh District Council that the investigation has been adequately completed.
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Non-Intrusive Field Survey

- 3.1 A systematic field-walking and non-ferrous metal-detecting survey is to be undertaken across the entire area (c. 2.20 ha. in extent).

4. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area which is c. 1100.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 611.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 4.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 4.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 4.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 4.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 4.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has

been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 4.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 4.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 4.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

5. General Management

- 5.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 5.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 5.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

- 5.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.6 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 6.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 6.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 6.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 6.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 6.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 6.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 6.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 6.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 6.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering,

organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

- 6.14 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 6.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 6.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

- 6.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 6.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Sarah Poppy

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery
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Date: 02 August 2010

Reference: / RedgateHallWherstead2010

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

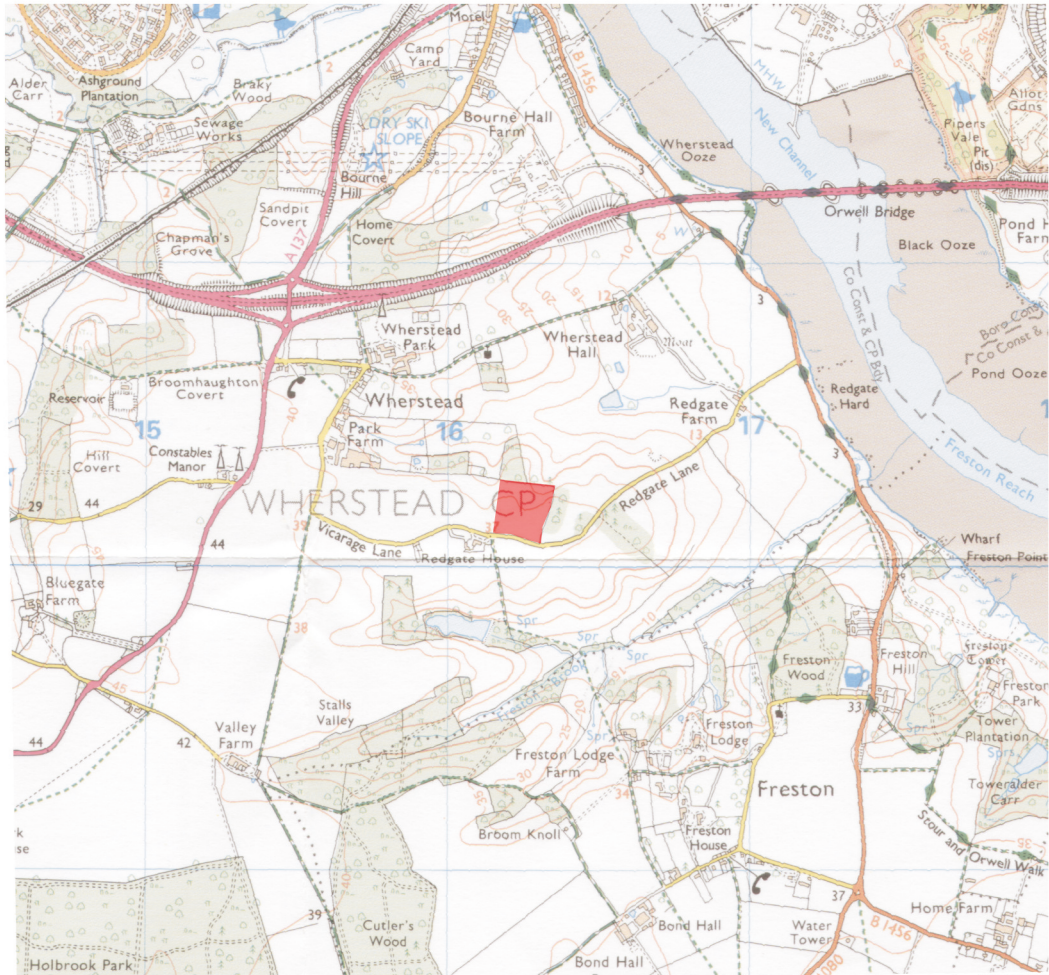


Fig 1 Site location, shown red.

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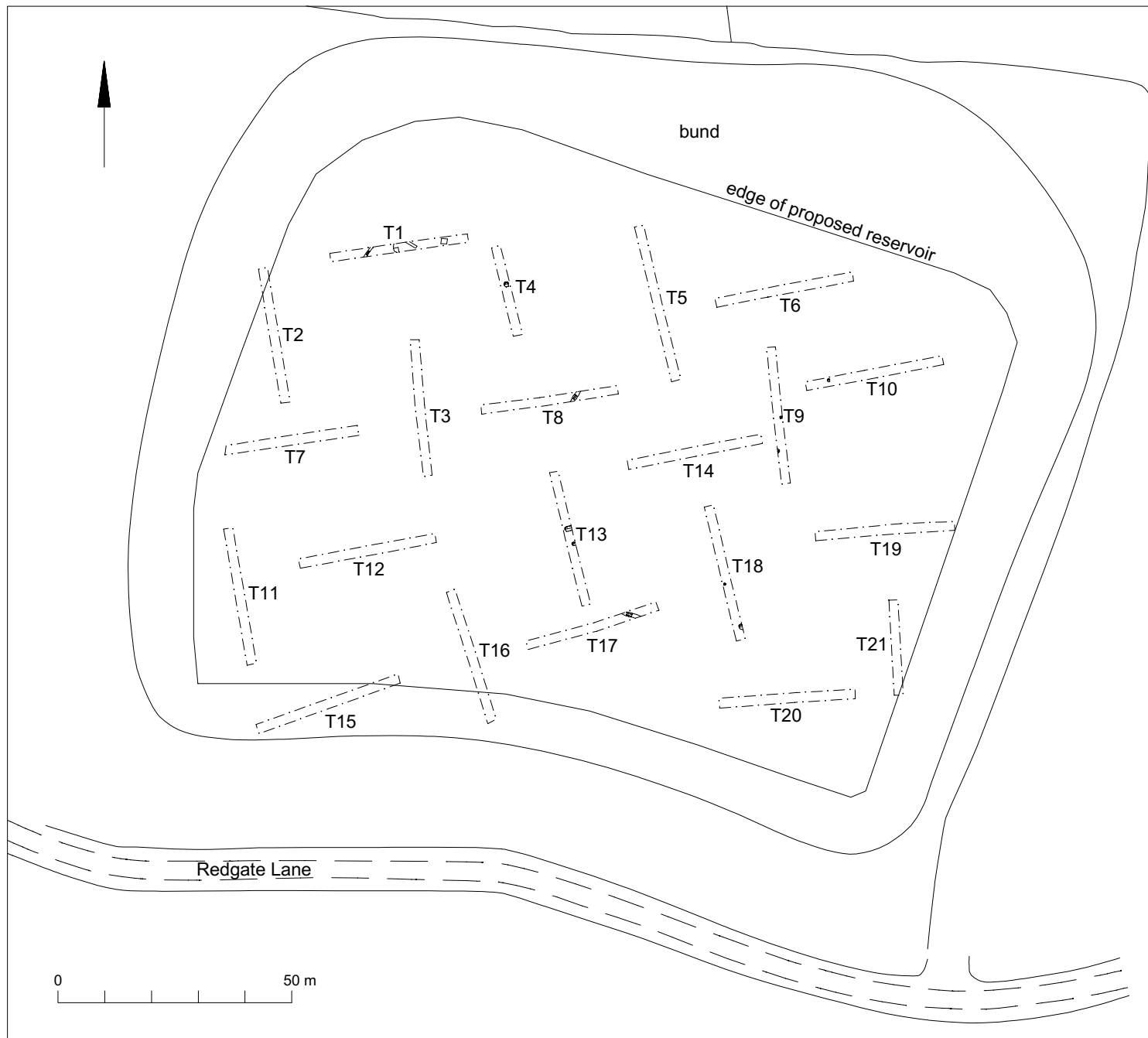


Fig 2 Trench locations in relation to the proposed reservoir.

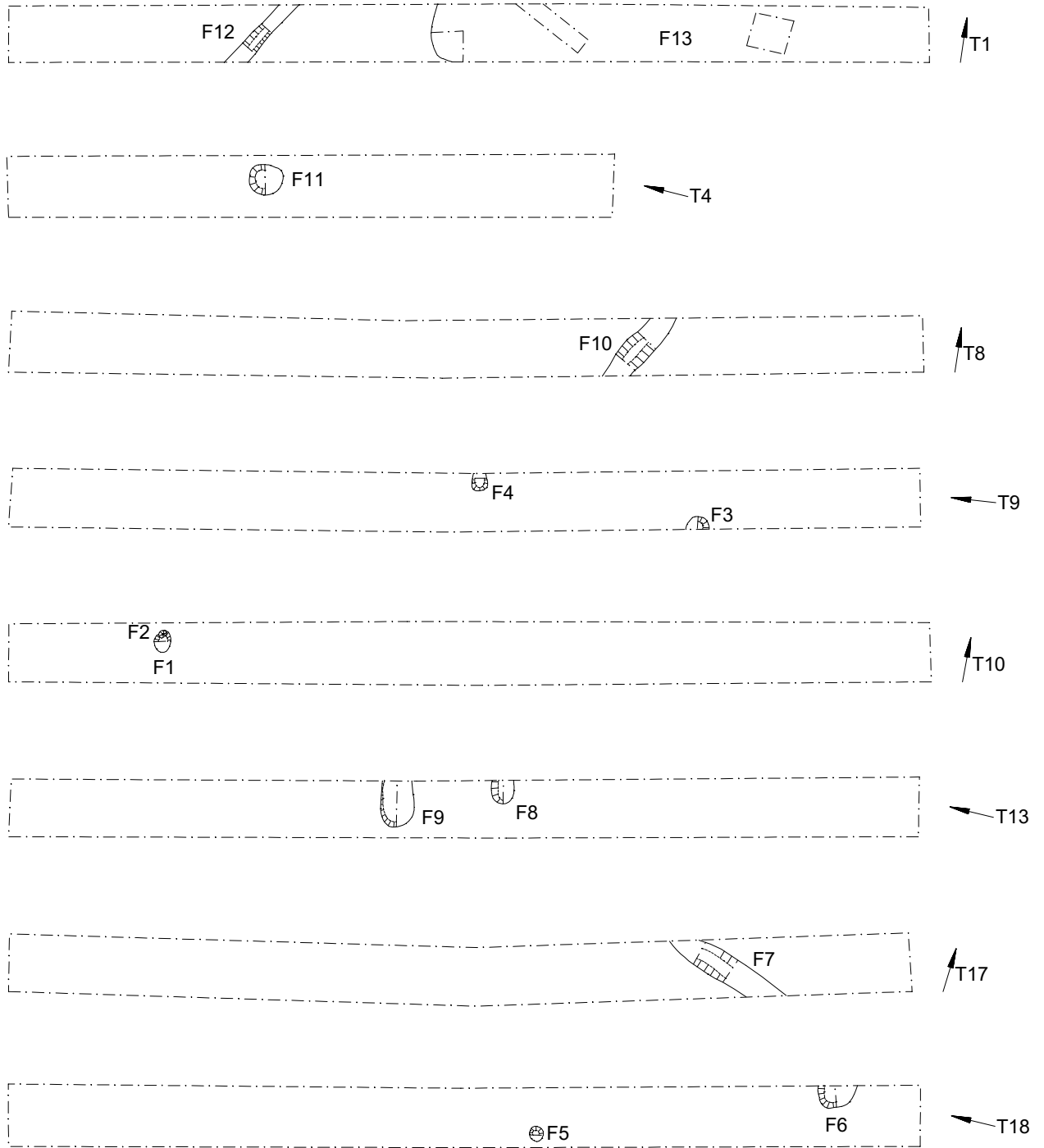


Fig 3 Results (T1, T4, T8-10, T13, T17, T18).

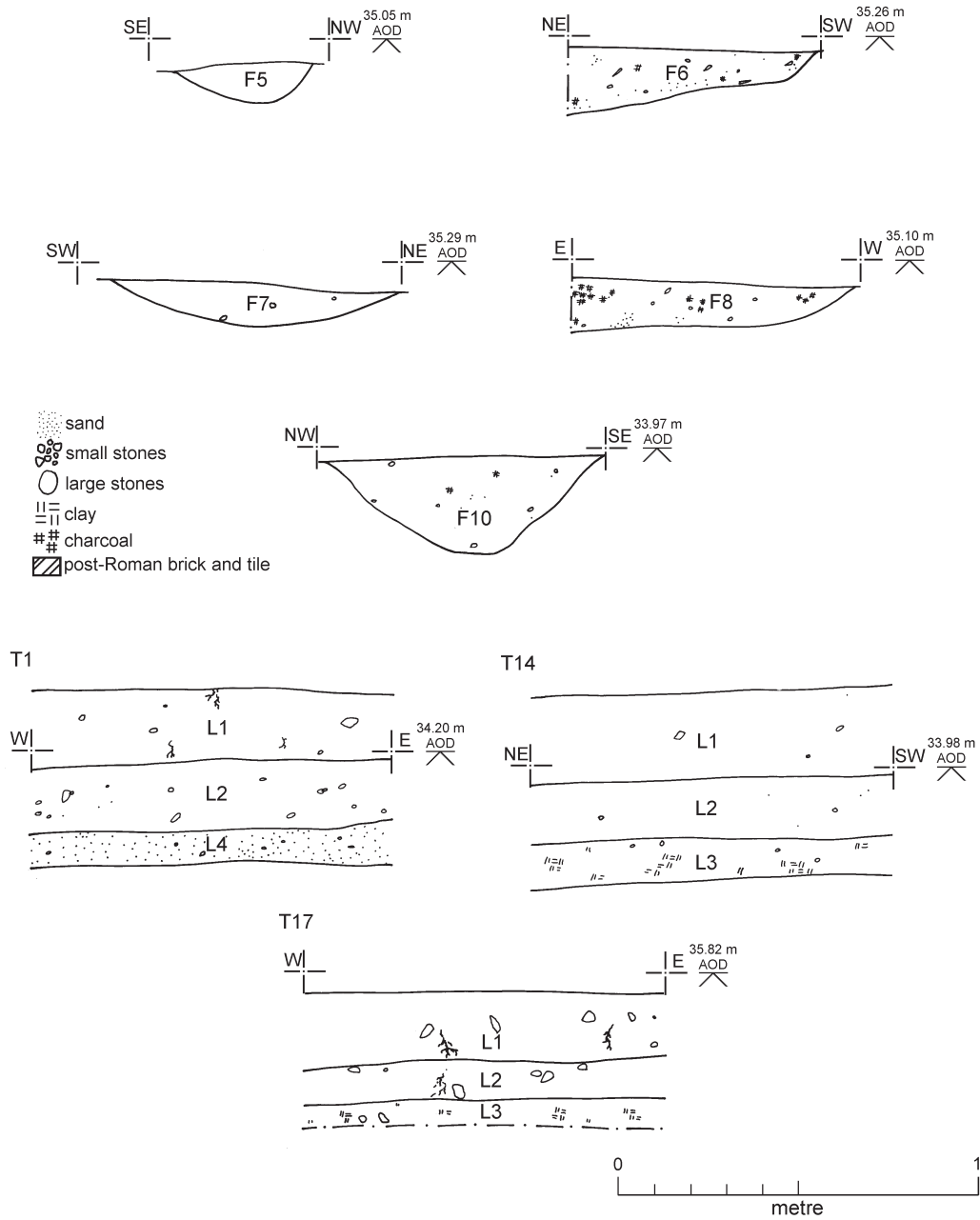


Fig 4 F5, F7, F8: sections. T1, T14 and T17: representative sections.