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Land at North Uttlesford, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 11th and 22nd October 2021, Oxford Archaeology undertook targeted trial trenching at land north of Great Chesterford, within the North Uttlesford District of Essex. A total of 22 trial trenches were excavated across three areas, targeting geophysical anomalies and areas close to the former location of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery found during adjacent mitigation works.

The Area 1 trenches targeted a large double-ditched enclosure and ring ditch identified on the geophysical survey. Excavation of the double-ditched enclosure recovered prehistoric pottery and animal bone. The outer ditch was substantial in size, measuring up to 1.8m deep and 3m wide. The two ditches contained pottery dated to the Middle Bronze Age.

Trenches in Area 2 targeted a trackway and other field boundary ditches. No datable finds were recovered from these features. Trench 6 targeted a ring ditch, the excavation of which produced no datable artefacts. A trench was excavated at the southern limit of Area 2, across an extant field boundary ditch, which is thought to have been part of a medieval deer park pale, although no dateable deposits from this period were identified.

The Area 3 trenching assessed geophysical survey results and areas located close to the former location of Anglo-Saxon burials, which were excavated prior to construction of the Cam Valley Crematorium, directly west of the area. No burials were revealed in the trenches. A small number of field system ditches, pits and postholes were recorded. Some ditches were dated to the Roman period, whilst one pit was dated to the Anglo-Saxon period through a small assemblage of pottery. This pit has a form typical of an Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building, although this is a tentative interpretation at this time. Some postholes found nearby could be of the same date but could just as likely be the result of later activity. A pit thought to be associated with the Early Bronze Age ring ditch in Area 1 contained disarticulated human skeletal remains. A radiocarbon date from the remains returned an Anglo-Saxon date of 587-653.

The layer of modern material recovered from Trench 12 suggest that the area located to the immediate north of the present crematorium has been infilled across the whole of the field which correlated with anomalies picked up by the geophysics and probably been used as a compound during the construction of the adjacent A11 carriageway.

Overall, the archaeological works have confirmed the presence of preserved archaeological remains within the areas targeted, although only to a low density on Areas 2 and 3, and the results corresponded with the geophysical survey undertaken by Headland Archaeology in 2021. Overall, the results can be considered typical for the region, having revealed evidence for land use from the prehistoric through to modern periods.



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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Patrick Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Anne-Laure Bollen, who was supported by Steve Arrow, Ollie Bircham and Will Lewis. Survey and digitising were carried out by Valerio Pinna and Steve Arrow. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton. Thanks are also extended to the various specialists for their contributions.

1.1



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP) Ltd on behalf of Grosvenor Britain & Ireland to undertake a trial trench evaluation at land north of Great Chesterford, within North Uttlesford District (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work focused on a small part of a much wider site, which is currently being promoted through the Local Plan. The investigations were undertaken to provide additional information on the archaeological potential of areas that had been specifically identified and agreed between EDP, the Planning Authority's archaeological advisor (Essex Places Services; EPS) and Historic England (HE) as being most likely to contain significant remains within the wider site. The results are intended to aid discussions between the Planning Authority and Developer. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (Moan 2021) detailing the requirements for work, which was approved by the aforementioned parties prior to the start of fieldwork.
- 1.1.3 A total of three "areas" were identified for targeted trial trenching following geophysical survey: Area 1 targeted a large double-ditched enclosure and ring ditch; Area 2 targeted a trackway, ring ditch and other field boundary ditches; and Area 3 targeted linear anomalies, areas of high magnetic disturbance and areas nearby to the former location of an off-site Anglo-Saxon cemetery. A fieldwalking survey has also previously been undertaken within the areas but did not return any evidence worth targeting (Webb 2021).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The bedrock geology is recorded as New Pit Chalk Formation for the majority of the three areas. Area 2 is described as Chalk Rock Member and Lewes Nodular Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Oadby Member Diamicton (British Geological Survey 2014, (British Geological Survey online map viewer: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html, accessed 28th September 2021).
- 1.2.2 The three areas are currently arable farmland. Topographically, the site is situated within the rolling hills overlooking Great Chesterford to the south and Hinxton to the west. The site lies approximately 1km from the River Cam, which passes through the Chesterfords and Hinxton.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 This section draws on previous works undertaken on the project and nearby sites such as the excavation works carried out by Network Archaeology (Hutton 2018). Environmental Dimension Partnership (EDP 2019) undertook an Archaeology and Historic Landscape Character Appraisal, which provides location data and mapping of Essex Historic Environment Records (EHERs). Therefore, the EHERs are not illustrated in this report.



Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 A few record entries have been broadly defined as dating to the prehistoric period. During the excavation of Great Chesterford Roman Temple, about 1km south of the proposed area, a number of flints, were found and dated in the period from the Paleolithic to the Late Bronze Age (EHER 4979).
- 1.3.3 A late Mesolithic to early Neolithic pit was identified at the sewage works, 730m of the evaluation area (EHER 46340). In 1993, an evaluation near Hinxton Hall recovered a number of truncated features containing worked flint, which suggested the presence of settlement activity.
- 1.3.4 Two ring ditches, visible as cropmarks and possibly indicative of Bronze Age roundbarrows (burial mounds) are known to exist to the west of the area (HER 4791). The location of these ring ditches was confirmed by a geophysical survey (Bartlett 2016).
- 1.3.5 Approximately 100m of the site, Bronze Age metalwork, in the form of socketed and looped axe heads, have been found by metal detectorists (HER 4791).
- 1.3.6 Bronze Age activity is known from cropmarks (MEX16910) possible relating to enclosures and burials mounds (e.g. a round barrow). These cropmarks are the focus of Area 1 of this phase of trenching. Ring ditches and a possible henge were identified during the Cam Valley Crematorium works (MEX16706) outside of the site.

Iron Age

- 1.3.7 Approximately 600m to the south of the proposed area (Area 3), an evaluation relating to the Genome Campus Science Park recorded late Iron Age features, including ditches, postholes, a midden and enclosures, with a background scatter of Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork (CHER CB15358).
- 1.3.8 A small Iron Age cemetery (MEX16922) was identified and "removed" during the mid-19th century from a location broadly centre of the site.

Roman

- 1.3.9 The A11, immediately to the west of the site, is thought to follow the line of a Roman road (1st century AD) whilst the Roman Small Town of Great Chesterford is located 1km to the south, a regionally important town during the period. Numerous other Roman roads or tracks are identified in the surrounding area, through cropmark analysis and archaeological fieldwork. This included a minor Roman road recovered during trench excavation to the west of the proposed area (EHER 4744).
- 1.3.10 The most exceptional Roman archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site were recovered at the Great Chesterford Roman Temple, located approximately 1km south of the site (EHER 4978). This temple was in use throughout the majority of the Roman occupation from the 1st to the 4th century AD and excavations revealed the remains of temple buildings, and numerous finds including Samian ware, a massive bronze toga pin, coins and many votive offerings.
- 1.3.11 Evidence of Roman agricultural activity, including ditches, enclosures and field boundaries dating from the 1st to 4th centuries AD, has been found at Hinxton Hall



(CHER 11687 and 11687C) whilst further Roman ditches have been recorded at the Genome Campus 600m south of the site (CHER CB15358).

1.3.12 The remaining identified Roman EHER assets comprise find spots, including a large piece of carved stone (EHER 4988) and Roman coins (EHER 14812) south of site.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 1.3.13 A high concentration of Saxon remains, which tend to be uncommon, in and around the village of Hinxton has been found. These consist of early medieval settlement remains with a Saxon female burial (CHER 11313); a series of early to mid-Saxon timber buildings, near to the Hinxton Hall new lake (CHER 11687C); some Saxon pitting near the river within a small Iron Age enclosure with a Saxon trackway (CHER CB 15805); and an assemblage of broken and incomplete Saxon wooden artefacts found at the bottom of a natural stream channel (CHER CB15359).
- 1.3.14 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery of seven inhumations was excavated during the preconstruction archaeological works at the Cam Valley Crematorium (Network Archaeology 2018). This cemetery site is directly west of, and encompassed by, Area 3 of this fieldwork. No evidence for the cemetery to extend into the site was identified from the geophysical or fieldwalking surveys (Webb 2021).
- 1.3.15 A single find spot is recorded for the presence of a coin of Henry VIII, which was discovered by metal detecting following trial trenching immediately to the south of the area (EHER 14810).

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 1.3.16 Analysis of historic mapping shows that during the post-medieval and early modern period the areas targeted for trenching were open arable fields.
- 1.3.17 Hinxton Hall, a mid-18th century house with 19th and 20th century alterations, is located to the west of the site (CHER 04272). The 18th century house is believed to have replaced an earlier structure. In the 19th century an informal park was established around the hall, which led to the demolition of some pre-existing buildings, walls and enclosures (CHER 11901, 11313B, 11697).
- 1.3.18 The only recorded heritage assets attributed to the early modern period within the vicinity of the site are two World War II gun emplacements or pillboxes located to the southwest (CHER CB15055 and 15057).

Previous work

- 1.3.19 In September 2021, a previous stage of fieldwalking and geophysical survey was undertaken by Headland Archaeology across three targeted areas within the site (Webb 2021), which also formed the focus for the trenching. Other than a flake of prehistoric flint and single fragment of Iron Age pottery, the fieldwalking finds dated to the post-medieval and later periods and included pottery and part of a folding knife.
- 1.3.20 The geophysical surveys were undertaken in three locations covering *c*.23ha, targeting areas of high archaeological potential highlighted through consultation with EPS and HE. The survey has confirmed the previous cropmark evidence of a large 5-sided



1.1

enclosure with two adjoining ring ditch-type features in Area 1, as well as a third ring ditch and trackway in Area 2. Former field boundaries were also identified in these areas. Area 3 was located in the field adjacent to the new Uttlesford Crematorium, where pre-construction archaeological works revealed and exhumed an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The geophysical survey results did not identify any anomalies that could be interpreted as potential graves.



2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives defined in the WSI (Moan 2021) were as follows:
 - i. to ground truth geophysical results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered;
 - ii. to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains;
 - iii. to provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
 - iv. to provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits; and
 - v. to provide in the event that archaeological remains are found sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The archaeological evaluation and analysis were conducted in accordance with the approved WSI (Moan 2021) and in line with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines. All work was conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*. All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the OA Field Manual (ed. D Wilkinson 1992), and the revised OA fieldwork manual (publication forthcoming). Further guidance was provided to all excavators in the form of the OA Fieldwork Crib Sheets a companion guide to the Fieldwork Manual. These have been issued ahead of formal publication of the revised Fieldwork Manual.
- 2.2.2 A total of 15 trenches measuring 50m long and 1.8m wide (Trenches 1-13, 18 and 19) and seven trenches measuring 50m long and 3.6m wide (Trenches 14-17 and 20-22) were excavated across the development area within three separate areas (Areas 1, 2 and 3). Seven trenches were required to be double width in Area 3 (i.e. 3.6m rather than 1.8m wide) where they targeted areas nearby to the former location of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. This approach enabled a greater potential for identifying burials within the area. All areas were carefully selected through consultation between EDP, the Planning Authority's archaeological advisor and HE to investigate those locations within the broader site that appeared to have the greatest potential for significant archaeological remains, based on desk-based information.
- 2.2.3 The trenches were set out by a Leica survey-grade GPS fitted with "smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical. The footprint of each trench was metal detected prior to machining and also scanned using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate.



- 2.2.4 All trenches were excavated by a 20 tonne, 360 tracked mechanical excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- 2.2.5 Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations. The trenches were not backfilled until approved by Richard Havis of EPS who monitored the work on behalf of Essex County Council.
- 2.2.6 All machine excavation took place under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. The top of the first archaeological deposit was exposed by machine and then investigated by hand. Any archaeological deposits present were excavated stratigraphically to the level of the geological horizon, where safe to do so. All trench and feature spoil were scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts.
- 2.2.7 A total of 18 bulk samples were taken from a range of features across the evaluation trenches and processed at OA's processing facility at Bourn.
- 2.2.8 Although a total of seven additional trenches were available for use as a contingency, in the event none were required to be implemented as none were requested by EPS.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A, supplemented by artefact and environmental reports included as Appendices B and C. Spot dates for pottery are abbreviated in the trench descriptions as N for Neolithic, MBA for Middle Bronze Age, C1 for 1st century AD, etc. Figures 2 and 3 provide an overall plan of the trenches overlain on the geophysics results. Trench plans by area overlain on the geophysical survey results are given as Figures 4-7. Figure 8 provides selected sections of the features encountered.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of silty chalk and chalky clays was overlain by light whitish grey/brown or light grey/orange brown clayey silt subsoil (0.03m to 0.16m thick), which in turn was overlain by ploughsoil (0.24m to 0.32m thick) consisting of a dark brownish grey clayey silt.
- 3.2.2 Only Trench 13, located at the base of a dry valley, was found to contain colluvium (hillwash, 1.12m thick).
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all trenches apart from Trenches 13, 14 and 20 (all in Area 3). The features encountered during the evaluation correspond broadly with the features previously identified through the geophysical survey. Two trenches in Area 3 were found to contain modern backfills, probably related to the A11 construction and the subsoil was absent or not very thick. These were Trenches 12 and 21, located along the western edge of the proposed area, parallel to the A11.

3.4 Area 1 (Fig. 4a-b)

3.4.1 Area 1 was the northernmost trench group and contained Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4. Archaeology was present in all four trenches. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 contained ditches which formed the large double-ditched enclosure detected by geophysical survey (Figs 2-4). The enclosure was sub-rectangular in plan and measured *c*.70m by *c*.62m across, comprising a continuous outer ditch and the parallel course of an intermittent inner ditch, *c*.5m within outer circuit. The fill formation observed in the outer ditch suggested the presence of an internal bank between the inner and outer ditches. The geophysical survey revealed a *c*.5m wide entrance at its southwest corner and several possible internal discrete features. The trenches confirmed the presence of the enclosure ditches and provided evidence of internal discrete features in Trench 1 (posthole **103**) and in Trench 3 (pit **310**). Trench 4 confirmed the presence of at least one ring ditch immediately east of the enclosure.



Trench 1 (Fig. 4c)

- 3.4.2 Trench 1 was located in the western part of the area and was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast (Plate 1). It contained two ditches and one posthole.
- 3.4.3 At the eastern end of the trench, posthole **103** measured 0.3m wide and 0.15m deep with gentle sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 100; Plate 2). Its single fill (104) was a mid brown silty clay.
- 3.4.4 Four metres west of this posthole, ditch **105** was probably a continuation of ditch **209** (Trench 2) and was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. It measured 1m wide and 0.7m deep with steep sides and a flat base. This ditch contained two fills. The lower fill (106) was 0.14m thick and consisted of a dark greyish brown clayey silt, which produced one Middle Bronze Age sherd of pottery (Appendix B.1), one unworked broken piece of sandstone cobble with evidence of heating (Appendix B.7) and one worked flint (Middle Bronze Age (MBA)/Late Bronze Age (LBA); Appendix B.6). An environmental sample taken from this fill contained a small volume of charcoal, few cereals grains and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3). This was overlain by a mid brown silty clay (107), which measured 0.56m thick.
- 3.4.5 Parallel and 5m to the west of ditch **105**, ditch **108** was probably a continuation of ditch **203** (Trench 2) and ditch **303** (Trench 3). It measured 3.7m wide and up to 1.53m deep but the base was not excavated due to the excessive depth of the feature and the lack of space to allow safe hand excavation. This ditch contained five fills. The lowest investigated fill of the ditch (109) measured over 0.15m thick and consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay, which contained one fragment of animal bone (Appendix C.2). An environmental sample of this fill yielded a small volume of charcoal, few cereal grains and weed seeds and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3). This was overlain by a light whitish brown silty loam (110), which measured 0.21m thick. This was in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown silty clay (111), which measured 0.34m thick. The uppermost fill (113) was 0.7m thick and consisted of a mid brown clayey silt, which produced one MBA/LBA worked flint (Appendix B.6) and one fragment of animal bone (Appendix C.2).

Trench 2 (Fig. 4c)

- 3.4.6 Trench 2 was located in the northern part of the area and was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. It contained two ditches.
- 3.4.7 Close to the center of the trench, ditch **203** was probably a continuation of ditch **108** (Trench 1) and ditch **303** (Trench 3) and was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast. It measured 3.58m wide and up to 1.74m deep but the base was not excavated due to the excessive depth of the feature and the lack of space to allow safe hand excavation (Fig. 8, Section 200; Plate 3; this approach was agreed on site with EPS). It contained five fills. The lowest investigated fill of the ditch (204) measured over 0.6m thick. It consisted of a light brownish grey silt with frequent chalk that contained one sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery (Appendix B.1) and one fragment of animal bone (Appendix C.2). This was overlain by a mid grey/yellowish white silty chalk (205), which measured 0.3m thick. This was in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown clayey silt



(206), which measured 0.24m thick. This was in turn overlain by a light greyish brown clayey silt (207), which measured 0.50m thick. The uppermost fill (208) was 0.64m thick and consisted of a mid brown clayey silt, which produced one sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery (Appendix B.1), one fragment of possible Bronze Age/Iron Age fired clay loomweight(Appendix B.5), eleven worked flints (Appendix B.6) including a Neolithic (N)/Early Bronze Age (EBA) blade-like flake and a large edge trimmed flake (MBA) and six fragments of animal bone (Appendix C.2).

3.4.8 Parallel and roughly 6m to the south of ditch **203**, ditch **209** was probably a continuation of ditch **105** (Trench 1). It measured 0.95m wide and 0.62m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 8, Section 201; Plate 4). This ditch contained two fills. The lower fill (210) was 0.24m thick and consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey silt. This was overlain by a mid brown clayey silt (211), which measured 0.48m thick and produced one fragment of animal bone (Appendix C.2). An environmental sample taken from this fill contained a small volume of charcoal, few cereals grains and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).

Trench 3 (Fig. 4d)

- 3.4.9 Trench 3 was located in the southern part of the area and was aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. It contained two ditches, a possible pit and a natural feature.
- 3.4.10 Centrally within the trench, ditch **303** was a continuation of ditch **108** (Trench 1) and ditch **203** (Trench 2) and was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast. It measured 3.68m wide and 1.34m deep and contained four fills. The primary fill (304) measured 0.26m thick and consisted of a light greyish white chalk silt that produced thirteen worked flints (Appendix B.6) including a crudely retouched end scraper (MBA) and seven fragments of animal bone (Appendix C.2). This was overlain by a dark greyish brown clayey silt (305), which measured 0.18m thick. An environmental sample of this fill yielded frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3). This was in turn overlain by a light greyish brown clayey silt (306), which measured 0.42m thick. The uppermost fill (307) was 0.52m thick and consisted of a mid brown clayey silt.
- 3.4.11 Parallel and roughly 6m to the north of ditch **303**, ditch **308** measured 0.65m wide and 0.46m deep with steep sides and a flat base. This ditch contained two fills. The lower fill (309) was 0.15m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt, which produced three worked flints (MBA; Appendix B.6). This was overlain by a light greyish brown clayey silt (314), which measured 0.34m thick.
- 3.4.12 Pit **310** was located towards the northern end of the trench and was sub-circular in plan. It measured 1.81m wide and 0.21m deep with gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill (311) was light brownish grey clayey silt.
- 3.4.13 Between ditch **308** and pit **310** was natural feature **312**, which was sub-circular in plan. It measured 2.04m long, 0.98m wide and 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base including rooting. Its single fill (313) was a light grey chalky silt. An environmental sample taken from this fill contained a small volume of charcoal, few untransformed weed seeds and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).



Trench 4 (Fig. 4d)

- 3.4.14 Trench 4 was located in the eastern part of the area and was aligned west to east (Plate 5). It contained three ditches, all correlating with curvilinear features identified in the geophysical survey, one pit and one posthole.
- 3.4.15 In the western part of the trench, posthole 413 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.36m wide and 0.10m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (414) was a dark brown clayey silt.
- 3.4.16 Eight metres east of posthole 413, ditch 403 was curvilinear in plan and measured 2.5m wide and 0.68m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 400). Its single fill (404) was a mid greyish brown clayey silt that contained four fragments of animal bone (Appendix C.2). An environmental sample of this fill yielded frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.4.17 Two metres to the east of ditch **403** and centrally within the trench, ditch **405** was curvilinear in plan and was probably a continuation of ditch **407**. It measured 0.93m wide and 0.16m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (406) was a mid greyish brown clayey silt.
- 3.4.18 Ditch **407** was located 11.5m further to the east and was probably a continuation of ditch **405**. It was curvilinear in plan, measured 1.58m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a concave base and contained three fills (Fig. 8, Section 402; Plate 6). The lowest fill (412) was 0.08m thick and consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey silt. This was overlain by a light grey clayey silt (411), which measured 0.1m thick. The upper fill (408) was 0.3m thick and consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey silt that produced one fragment of possible Bronze Age fired clay/daub and one intrusive fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) (Appendix B.5). An environmental sample taken from this fill contained frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.4.19 At the eastern part of the trench, pit **409** was sub-rectangular in plan and measured 1.78m long, 1.28m wide and 0.28m deep with vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 8, Section 403; Plate 7). Its single fill (410) was a light yellowish brown clayey silt that contained three human bones including a single tibia, fibula and talus (Appendix C.1) and one fragment of animal bone (Appendix C.2). A fragment of bone was sent off for radiocarbon dating, which returned a date of AD587-653 (Appendix E). An environmental sample of this fill yielded a small volume of charcoal and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).

3.5 Area 2 (Fig. 5a-b)

3.5.1 Area 2 was the easternmost area of trenching, east of Park Road and contained Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Trench 5 contained ditches which formed a possible trackway identified on the geophysical survey and Trench 6 confirmed the presence of a ring ditch. Trench 11 was excavated south of Area 2, across an extant field boundary ditch, which is thought to have been part of a medieval deer park pale.



Trench 5 (Fig. 5c)

- 3.5.2 Trench 5 was located in the western corner of the area and was aligned northwest to southeast. It contained four ditches, all with the same northeast to southwest alignment.
- 3.5.3 Ditch **503** was located close to the centre of the trench and corresponded to a linear feature shown on the geophysical survey. It measured 2.14m wide and 0.68m deep with gently sloping sides which became steep in the lower part of the excavated profile and a concave base. It contained two fills. The lower fill (505) was 0.23m thick and consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. The upper fill (504) was 0.48m thick and consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay a mid greyish brown silty clay. An environmental sample taken from this fill contained frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.5.4 Approximately 3.5m to the southeast, ditch **508** correlated with a linear feature identified by the geophysics and measured 2m wide and 1.36m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 502; Plate 8). Its single fill (509) was a mid greyish brown silty clay.
- 3.5.5 Ditch **508** was possibly re-cut by ditch **511** which measured 2.14m wide by 0.74 deep with gently sloping sides and became steep in the lower part of the excavated profile towards its concave base (Fig. 8, Section 502; Plate 8). Its single fill (510) was a mid greyish brown silty clay.
- 3.5.6 Approximately 9m to the southeast, ditch **506** measured 0.49m wide and 0.13m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (507) was a mid yellow brown silty clay.

Trench 6 (Fig. 5c)

- 3.5.7 Trench 6 was located in the western corner of the area and was aligned southwest to northeast (Plate 9). It contained two ditches, both corresponding closely to the ring ditch feature picked up by the geophysical survey, and one posthole.
- 3.5.8 In the north-eastern part of the trench, posthole **605** was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.22m wide by 0.48m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 600). Its fill (606) was a light brown sandy silt. Truncating posthole **605**, ditch **603** was probably a continuation of ditch **607** and was curvilinear in plan. It measured 2.12m wide and 0.82m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 600). Its single fill (604) was a mid brown silty clay.
- 3.5.9 Approximately 18m to the southwest, ditch **607** was probably a continuation of ditch **603** and was curvilinear in plan. It measured 2.38m wide and 0.69 deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill (608) was a mid brown silty clay. An environmental sample of this fill yielded frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).



Trench 7 (Fig. 5d)

- 3.5.10 Trench 7 was located in the northern part of the area and was aligned southwest to northeast. It contained one ditch correlating with a linear feature identified in the geophysical survey.
- 3.5.11 At the south-western part of the trench, ditch **703** was probably a continuation of ditch **1005** (Trench 10) and was aligned northwest to southeast. It measured 1.52m wide and 0.52m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill (704) was a mid brown silty clay.

Trench 8 (Fig. 5e)

- 3.5.12 Trench 8 was located in the south-eastern part of the area and was aligned southsouthwest to north-northeast. It contained one ditch corresponding to a linear feature detected by the geophysical survey.
- 3.5.13 Ditch **803** was located close to the centre of the trench and was aligned northwest to southeast. It measured 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (804) was a mid brown silty clay.

Trench 9 (Fig. 5e)

- 3.5.14 Trench 9 was located in the eastern part of the area and was aligned northwest to southeast. It contained one ditch correlating with a linear feature identified by the geophysics.
- 3.5.15 In the north-western part of the trench, ditch **903** was aligned northeast to southwest and measured 2m wide by 0.7m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 900; Plate 10). Its single fill (904) was a mid brown silty clay that produced four sherds of Roman pottery (C1-C4; Appendix B.2).

Trench 10 (Fig. 5e)

- 3.5.16 Trench 10 was located in the eastern corner of the area and was aligned northnortheast to south-southwest. It contained one ditch corresponding to a linear feature picked up by the geophysical survey and one pit.
- 3.5.17 Ditch **1005** was located close to the centre of the trench and was probably a continuation of ditch **703** (Trench 7). It was aligned northwest to southeast and measured 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill (1006) was a mid brown silty clay. An environmental sample taken from this fill contained frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.5.18 Approximately 1.5m to the southwest, pit **1003** was sub-circular in plan and measured 4.8m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (1004) was a mid brown silty clay that produced eight sherds of Roman pottery (C1-C3; Appendix B.2).



Trench 11 (Fig. 5f)

- 3.5.19 Trench 11 was located to the south of the main area and was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It contained two intercutting ditches on the same alignment.
- 3.5.20 Close to the centre of the trench, ditch **1103** was aligned west-northwest to eastsoutheast and measured 1.94m wide and 0.68m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 1100; Plate 11). It contained two fills. The lower fill (1104) was 0.24m thick and consisted of a light greyish brown silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. The upper fill (1105) was 0.5m thick and consisted of a mid brown silty clay, which produced one very abraded sherd of residual Middle Bronze Age pottery (Appendix B.1) and two fragments of post-medieval CBM including a flat tile-roof fragment (Appendix B.5). An environmental sample taken from this fill contained occasional untransformed weed seeds and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.5.21 Truncating ditch **1103**, ditch **1106** (possible re-cut) measured 1.76m wide and 0.48m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 1100; Plate 11). Its single fill (1107) was a dark brown clayey silt.

3.1 Area 3 (Figs 6a-b and 7a-b)

3.1.1 Area 3 was located south of Area 1, adjacent to the recently constructed Cam Valley Crematorium and contained Trenches 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. A small number of field boundary ditches, pits and postholes were uncovered.

Trench 12 (Fig. 6c)

- 3.1.2 Trench 12 was located in the northern part of the area and was aligned west to east. It contained a deposit of modern material throughout the majority of the trench.
- 3.1.3 Feature **1203** extended throughout the trench but was not dug by hand as modern material was identified. Following the monitoring meeting it was agreed with EPS to machine excavate (not illustrated) the deposit in the eastern part of the trench to check the depth of it and for any underlying archaeological features. The natural geology of chalk was reached to a depth of 1m, but no evidence of features was encountered. The single fill (1204) of this feature contained bricks, plastic, concrete and steel pins, left on site as it was possibly contaminated (asbestos). This modern material is assumed to be associated with a compound constructed during the A11 construction works.

Trench 14 (Fig. 6d)

3.1.4 Trench 14 was located in the northern part of the area and was aligned west to east. It did not contain archaeological features, but one natural (periglacial) feature was recorded.



3.1.5 In the western part of the trench, natural feature **1403** was broadly aligned northnorthwest to south-southeast and measured 2.6m wide and 0.36m deep with steep sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (1404) was a mid orange brown clayey silt.

Trench 15 (Fig. 6d)

- 3.1.6 Trench 15 was located in the centre of the area and was aligned north to south (Plate 12). It contained two ditches and two natural features.
- 3.1.7 Ditches **1503** and **1507** were aligned west to east. Ditch **1503** was located in the southern part of the trench and measured 0.81m wide by 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 1500; Plate 13). Its single fill (1504) was a light brown clayey silt. An environmental sample taken from this fill contained frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.1.8 In the northern part of the trench, ditch **1507** correlated with a linear feature identified by the geophysics and measured 1.08m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill (1508) was a light brown clayey silt. An environmental sample of this fill yielded a small volume of charcoal and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.1.9 South of ditch **1507**, natural feature **1505** was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.78m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (1506) was a light brown clayey silt.
- 3.1.10 A natural, 5m wide hollow was excavated north of ditch **1503**.

Trench 16 (Fig. 6d)

- 3.1.11 Trench 16 was located in the centre of the area and was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It contained one ditch, one pit and a natural feature.
- 3.1.12 The north-eastern terminus of ditch **1605** was located in the centre of the trench and aligned northeast to southwest, measuring 1.6m wide and 0.32m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Its single fill (1606) was a light brown clayey silt. The ditch was truncated by pit **1603**.
- 3.1.13 Pit **1603** was sub-circular in plan, although the pit extended outside of the trench. It measured 3m wide and between 0.16 to 0.28m deep with gently sloping sides and a slight concave base (Fig. 6e and 8, Section 1600; Plate 14). Its single fill (1604) was a light brown clayey silt that produced five sherds of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery (*c*.AD 450-600; Appendix B.3) and five fragments of animal bone (Appendix C.2). An environmental sample taken from this fill contained a small volume of charcoal and frequent well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.1.14 Approximately 1m to the north of ditch **1605**, natural feature **1607** was sub-circular in plan and measured 1m long, 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (1608) was a mid brown clayey silt.

Trench 17 (Fig. 7c)



- 3.1.15 Trench 17 was located in the centre of the area and was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast. It contained three postholes.
- 3.1.16 Postholes **1703**, **1705** and **1707** were all located towards the western end of the trench on a west-southwest to east-northeast alignment (Plate 15). Posthole **1703** was circular in plan and measured 0.25m wide by 0.25m deep with steep sides and a fairly V-shaped profile. Its single fill (1704) was a dark brownish grey silty clay. An environmental sample taken from this fill contained a moderate volume of charcoal and moderate well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.1.17 Roughly 3m to the east, posthole **1705** was circular in plan and measured 0.25m wide and 0.16m deep with steep sides and a V-shaped profile. Its single fill (1706) was a mid brown silty clay. An environmental sample of this fill yielded a small volume of charcoal and moderate well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).
- 3.1.18 Further to the east, posthole **1707** was circular in plan and measured 0.25m wide and 0.26m deep with steep sides and a V-shaped profile (Fig. 8, Section 1702). Its single fill (1708) was a dark brown grey silty clay. An environmental sample taken from this fill contained a moderate volume of charcoal and moderate well-preserved molluscs (Appendix C.3).

Trench 18 (Fig. 7c)

- 3.1.19 Trench 18 was located in the south-east of the area and was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast. It contained two ditches corresponding to linear features detected by the geophysical survey.
- 3.1.20 Ditches **1803** and **1805** were aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. Ditch **1803** was located in the western part of the trench and measured 1m wide and 0.24m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (1804) was a mid brown silty clay.
- 3.1.21 Towards the eastern end of the trench, ditch 1805 measured 1m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 8, Section 1801). Its single fill (1806) was a mid brown silty clay that produced five sherds of Early Roman pottery (C1; Appendix B.2) and two residual/abraded N/EBA worked flints (Appendix B.6) consisting of a single large flake and a minimally worked flake core.

Trench 19 (Fig. 7d)

- 3.1.22 Trench 19 was located in the southern part of the area and was aligned northeast to southwest. It contained two pits.
- 3.1.23 Pit **1903** was located close to the centre of the trench and was sub-circular in plan. It measured 0.9m long, 0.6m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (1904) was a mid brown silty clay.
- 3.1.24 A possible pit (**1905=1907**) extended across the southwestern part of the trench. A 2.8m x 1m test pit was hand excavated at the edge of this feature to a depth of 0.16m, where the underlying geology of chalk was encountered. Its single fill (1906) was a mid greyish brown silty clay. Further to the southwest, a second 1m x 1m test pit was hand excavated into the middle of this feature to a depth of 0.18m, where the underlying



geology of chalk was encountered. Its single fill (1908) was a mid greyish brown silty clay that produced one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (*c*.AD 1550-1800; Appendix B.4) and three fragments post-medieval CBM, including flat tile-roof and floor tile (Appendix B.5).

Trench 21 (Fig. 7e)

- 3.1.25 Trench 21 was located in the southern part of the area and was aligned northnortheast to south-southwest. It contained one ditch and a layer of modern material which extended across the central and southern parts of the trench.
- 3.1.26 Ditch **2102** was located at the northern end of the trench and was aligned westsouthwest to east-northeast. It measured 0.86m wide and 0.14m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (2103) was a mid brown silty clay that contained modern steel pins, concrete, plastic and other material including fragments of asbestos.
- 3.1.27 Layer (2104) extended throughout the trench and contained modern material such as plastic and concrete. Following the site monitoring meeting it was agreed with EPS to machine excavate this modern deposit in the central part of the trench to test its depth and search for any underlying archaeological features. Not all of the material was excavated out of the length of the trench by the machine due to the concern of disturbing possible contaminated ground (asbestos was observed during machining). The natural geology of chalk was reached at a depth of 0.16m, however, no features were encountered at this level. Nevertheless, the recorded depth of natural chalk suggests modern activity in this locality may not have completely truncated the archaeological level.

Trench 22 (Fig. 7e)

- 3.1.28 Trench 22 was located in the south-western part of the area and was aligned westsouthwest to east-northeast. It contained one ditch and two natural (periglacial) features.
- 3.1.29 Ditch 2203 was located in the central part of the trench on a north to south alignment. It measured 0.38m wide and 0.11m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (2204) was a mid brown silty clay with pieces of concrete observed at the base.
- 3.1.30 Natural features **2205** and **2207** were aligned northeast to southwest. At the eastern end of the trench, natural feature **2205** measured 1.46m wide and 0.52m deep with steep sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (2206) was a dark brown clayey silt.
- 3.1.31 At the western part of the trench, natural feature 2207 measured 0.78m wide and 0.24m deep with gently sloping and undercut sides and an irregular base. Its single fill (2208) was a dark brown clayey silt.

3.2 Finds summary

Prehistoric pottery

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3.2.1 The evaluation yielded a small assemblage of four sherds (123g) of prehistoric pottery, with a high mean sherd weight (MSW) of 30.7g. The pottery was recovered from four different contexts; all the fills of ditches. The pottery dates to the Middle Bronze Age. There is an absence of diagnostic sherds but it represents fabrics typically associated with pottery of this date. The pottery is in moderate to poor condition, most sherds are small and abraded. The mean sherd weight is high due to a single sherd weighing 70g, which raised the average. It is not uncommon to find similar small assemblages from the evaluation of sites where remains of Middle and/or Late Bronze Age enclosures, field systems and settlement were present.

Roman pottery

3.2.2 An assemblage of Roman pottery totalling 17 sherds, weighing 141g, was recovered from features across three trenches, representing a minimum of seven individual vessels. The sherds were moderately to heavily abraded with an average sherd weight of 8.3g. The assemblage recovered from this evaluation is small in size and largely locally produced sandy grey ware products alongside a single sherd of Samian ware. The pottery recovered from a ditch in Trench 9 and a pit in Trench 10 (Area 2) may suggest some Roman activity in this area whereas the ditch in Trench 18 (Area 3) appears to be dated to the 1st century AD.

Anglo-Saxon pottery

3.2.3 A total of five sherds of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from Trench 16. The assemblage consists of the standard range of fabrics from the region and is composed of two rims and three fragments of a wall (Hamerow 1993). The condition of the overall assemblage is good with sherds moderately abraded and with an average sherd weight of 18.4g. For rural settlements such a sherd weight can be considered comparatively high.

Post-Medieval pottery

3.2.4 A single fragment of post-medieval red earthenware (*c*.1550-1800) was recovered from pit **1907** (Area 3). The sherd is abraded and the form uncertain, with patches of clear glaze remaining on the more unabraded external surfaces and traces of glaze on the internal surface. The single sherd has undergone reworking and the small size of the assemblage makes conclusions difficult to draw, other than to say that the vessel present is probably domestic in nature and that the pottery may relate to rubbish deposition or manuring.

Ceramic building material and fired clay

3.2.5 A small assemblage of CBM, comprising six fragments weighing 0.191kg, was recovered from the trial trenching. The assemblage is composed of post-medieval flat tile and brick fragments, and no complete examples were recovered. The fired clay assemblage consists of two fragments (0.027kg), both recovered from Bronze Age features (Ditches **203** and **407**) located in Area 1.



3.2.6 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of 31 worked flints, the vast majority of which derived from trenches in Area 1 (29 pieces), with two further flints from Area 3. The flint assemblage is small but includes two small coherent assemblages of flintwork for the enclosure ditches investigated in Area 1. This material is typical of Middle and Late Bronze Age flint assemblages from the region (e.g. McLaren 2010, 2011) and provides evidence for activities including the manufacture and use of flint tools, probably in the context of domestic activity taking place within the enclosure investigated by Trenches 1-3. Elsewhere across the evaluated area, flintwork was scarce and the dearth of demonstrably early, Mesolithic-Earlier Neolithic material is notable, suggesting fairly low intensity activity in this part of the landscape.

Non-building stone

3.2.7 A moderately-sized piece of fine-grained rounded sandstone cobble, weighing 0.276kg, was recovered from ditch **105** in Area 1. The stone is somewhat weathered, with surfaces that are dark grey in places, whilst the broken exposed areas of unweathered surface appear to have been heat-altered and are somewhat reddened. Various scratches represent post-depositional damage. There are small patches of an off-white deposit on the broken and unbroken faces that could be mortar. The stone was recovered from what was identified as a prehistoric ditch, yet the possible mortar traces adhering to the stone would suggest it is a later, intrusive item.

Human remains

3.2.8 A single tibia, fibula and talus were recovered from fill 410 of pit **409**, Trench 4. The surface of the bone has been entirely eroded or altered by root activity. The shape of the bone itself has been somewhat affected by erosion. Evidence of any pathological conditions which may have been present on the bone has been masked by the level of surface erosion. This bone represents a single adult or older sub-adult individual.

Animal bone

3.2.9 A total of 27 recordable fragments are present including 17 fragments identifiable to taxon. The bone was collected from seven features, all ditches apart from pit **409**, which also contained human bone and may represent a disturbed burial. Three taxa are identifiable: cattle, sheep/goat and pig. The assemblage is very small and poorly preserved. All bone represents domestic mammals.

Environmental remains

3.2.10 A total of 18 samples were taken from features that are dated from the prehistoric to the medieval period. The presence of cereal grains, charcoal and weed seeds in undated postholes in Trench 17 (Area 3) may indicate that they are part of a habitable structure. The relatively small concentration of plant material in Trenches 1 and 2 (Area 1) could similarly suggest that low-level domestic activity was taking place. The plant remains from Trenches 1 and 2 are typical of the Bronze Age with barley and wheat being the primary crops cultivated.



4 **DISCUSSION**

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are considered reliable; the archaeological features were clearly visible where present within the trench, and the geology of chalk and clays meant that the geological horizon was clear when encountered.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 All the objectives laid out in Section 2.1 of this report were achieved by this evaluation.
- 4.2.2 The presence of archaeological remains across the site has been clearly established, with archaeological remains encountered in 19 of the excavated trenches. This is to be expected, considering the highly targeted nature of the investigation.
- 4.2.3 Ground truthing of the geophysical survey was successful with nearly all features identified by the survey corresponding with the features within the trenches. This is not surprising, considering the usually very good results of magnetometry when undertaken on chalk geology.

4.3 Interpretation

Background prehistoric activity

4.3.1 Low level activity from the Neolithic period onwards is attested to from the small assemblage of flintwork recovered from Areas 1 and 3. Much of the recovered assemblage is not particularly diagnostic but several pieces are diagnostically Neolithic to Early Bronze Age technologies including a single blade-like flake from ditch **203** in Trench 2 (Area 1) and two flakes found in ditch **1805** in Trench 18 (Area 3) which are regular, well-struck pieces. This flintwork was residual within the features it was recovered from and is indicative of only background activity within the site.

Early Bronze Age remains

Area 1: barrows

- 4.3.2 The excavation of the curvilinear ditches in Trench 4 confirmed the presence of at least one ring ditch characterised by ditches **405** and **407** and the possibility of a second one characterised by ditch **403**. They are currently interpreted as round barrows. Though these ring ditches are undated, their form is comparable to Early Bronze Age round barrows excavated in the region, such as the barrow excavated directly south-west at the Cam Valley Crematorium (Hutton 2018).
- 4.3.3 Having two possible barrows close to each other is a common phenomenon throughout the Early Bronze Age within the eastern region. Indeed, barrows are often found in clusters or groups. Many examples have been recorded locally such as *c*.1km to the west, south of Hinxton Grange, where three ring ditches representing former round barrows were excavated on the summit of a chalk ridge (Jones 2017). Their location suggested that such funerary monuments were ideally situated on higher ground to provide them with widespread visibility throughout the landscape; the same interpretation may be postulated for the current site at North Uttlesford.



4.3.4

Land at North Uttlesford, Essex

- Approximately 4.5km to the northeast of the site, at Rickett Field, Granta Park, Great Abington, a ditched enclosure was identified as a possible ring ditch or barrow as this site lacked any notable occupation debris such as pottery, bone or burnt stones
- 4.3.5 Adjacent to the current site, two ring ditches or barrows were excavated during archaeological work at the Cam Valley Crematorium by Network Archaeology in 2018 (Hutton 2018). These monuments were constructed on the north and the west facing slope of the hill immediately west of Area 3 (nearest Trenches 15 and 16). The additional barrows revealed on the current site therefore contribute to understanding the Bronze Age landscape in the Cam Valley.

Middle Bronze Age remains

Area 1: double-ditched enclosure

(Brudenell and Dickens 2004).

- 4.3.6 Middle Bronze Age activity was recorded only within Area 1. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 targeted ditches which formed a large double-ditched enclosure identified on the geophysics. This enclosure was sub-rectangular in plan (*c*.70 x *c*.62m across) and comprised an inner and outer ditch (spaced *c*.5m apart). The inner ditch measured between 0.65-1m wide and between 0.46-0.7m deep with near vertical sides, suggestive of a palisade. The outer ditch measured between 3.58-3.7m wide and between 1.34m to over 1.74m deep. The fill formation suggested the presence of an internal bank, between the inner ditch and outer ditch of the enclosure.
- 4.3.7 The identification of this enclosure adds to the understanding of the local Bronze Age landscape and is atypical in land use for the Cam Valley during the period. Its function is unclear, due to the paucity of internal structures or features and finds relating to the enclosure's use. Only one posthole (103) in Trench 1 and a probable pit (310) in Trench 3 were revealed within the enclosure. Their function remains unknown and contained no finds. However, the dating of the enclosure ditches is relatively secure with the recovery of a small assemblage of Middle Bronze Age pottery and a larger assemblage of Middle and Late Bronze Age of flintwork from interventions 105, 108 (Trench 1), 203 (Trench 2), 303 and 308 (Trench 3).
- 4.3.8 Similar enclosures have been revealed during archaeological work at local sites such as AstraZeneca's New Cambridge Site (NCS) at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, located about 11km to the northwest of the site where a 'triple-ditch' enclosure was identified which was sub-rectangular in plan and measuring 41m by 62m across (CAU 2015). This example was similar to the enclosure recorded at the current site, except that it was defined by three external ditches. The function of the NCS enclosure remains unclear despite the recovery of large finds assemblages, largely comprising Middle Bronze Age pottery and animal bone. As these enclosures would have been impressive features, one of the interpretations was it could have been a possible mortuary monument although no evidence of ceremonial or ritual use was noted.
- 4.3.9 In Norfolk, another similar example was found on the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) scheme, in Area 5 at Drayton Lane in 2016 (Phillips and Moan forthcoming). A sub-rectangular enclosure formed by two L-shaped ditches measuring 55m by 45m across was recorded which produced a moderate assemblage of Middle



Bronze Age pottery. Although this feature was securely dated, the lack of evidence for internal structures and features did not allow the attribution of a definitive function. However, its use as a possible mortuary enclosure was considered.

Conclusion

4.3.10 Considering its location adjacent to the probable Bronze Age barrows, it is possible the double-ditched enclosure may have been associated with mortuary activity. However, the term mortuary enclosure is often used with limited supporting evidence, as is the case here. Whilst its exposed situation upon the hillside overlooking the Cam Valley makes it difficult to suggest a settlement focus either, the recovered artefacts (three sherds of pottery (123g), 29 worked flints and 17 fragments of domestic animal bone) and environmental assemblage recovered from the ditch fills does indicate domestic activity.

Romano-British remains

4.3.11 The majority of the archaeological features revealed by Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in Area 2, and by Trench 18 in Area 3, were undated. Based on the two ditches and one pit where Romano-British pottery was recovered (**903**, **1003** and **1805**), the similarity in alignment and general spatial distribution suggests the remaining features may be dated to between the 1st and 4th centuries AD. However, this is only a tentative interpretation, based on the lack of any later ceramics recovered from ditches excavated in Areas 2 and 3.

Area 2: field boundaries

- 4.3.12 In Area 2, this activity was characterised in Trenches 7, 9 and 10 by ditches laid out on northwest to southeast or northeast to southwest orientations which probably represent field boundary ditches and correspond to linear features identified on the geophysics (Figs 2, 3 and 5a-b). Boundary ditch **903** produced four sherds of Roman pottery broadly dated to the 1st to 4th century AD. These fields may have been sub-divided on shared alignments by smaller ditches such as ditch **506** (Trench 5) and ditch **803** (Trench 8). However, no finds were recovered from either of these features.
- 4.3.13 In Trench 10, pit **1003** yielded eight sherds of Roman pottery dated to the 1st to the 3rd century AD. The irregular shape and profile of this pit located close to field boundary ditch **1005** suggests its possible use as a waterhole for animals kept within the field.

Area 2: a possible trackway

- 4.3.14 One of the aims of the evaluation was to investigate geophysical anomalies of probable archaeological origin in the western part of Area 2 where two ditches were interpreted as a probable trackway.
- 4.3.15 The trackway ditches (**503** and **511**) identified in Trench 5 (Area 2) delineating the track measured up to 2.14m wide and between 0.68-0.74m deep. However, no surviving *in situ* road surface was identified, although many trackways previously excavated in the area did not have, or appeared to have required, metalling (e.g. Moan 2014). No finds were recovered from the trackway ditches, but the nearby boundary ditches excavated in Trenches 7, 9 and 10 respected the alignment of the track and may suggest a Roman



date by association as part of the wider network of routeways from this time. However, due to the lack of dating evidence from the ditch fills, the possibility remains they may have been related to a medieval or post-medieval trackway between farms, or perhaps associated with the possible Deer Park.

Area 3: enclosures or plots

- 4.3.16 In Area 3, evidence for Roman activity was characterised in Trench 18 by ditches laid out on north-northwest to south-southeast alignments which possibly represent stock-keeping enclosures or agricultural plots. These enclosures/plots are clearly visible in the geophysical survey extending on the southwest of the area (Figs 2, 3 and 7a-b). For example, ditches **1803** and **1805** which contained Roman pottery dating to the 1st century AD formed part of a sub-square enclosure shown to extend to the south.
- 4.3.17 Ditch terminus **1605** (Trench 16) may have been a part of this Roman field system as it shared the same alignment of the enclosures/plots in Trench 18. No finds were recovered but it was truncated by pit **1603**, which represents a possible Early Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured building (SFB).
- 4.3.18 Pit **1903** (Trench 19) was attributed to the Roman period due to its close proximity to the Roman enclosures/plots, but its use or purpose remains unknown, and it may be of earlier or later date.

Anglo-Saxon remains

Area 1: a possible grave

4.3.19 In Trench 4, the discovery of a possible grave or pit with disarticulated human bone (pit **409**), 5.5m east of the feature interpreted as a barrow. The shape and the depth of the pit is suggestive of a grave and it is possible this feature may represent the remains of a truncated grave. No dating evidence was found associated with the pit but a radiocarbon date was undertaken on the human remains which returned a radiocarbon age of 1440 ± 24 before present (i.e. AD587-653). This result indicates that there is the potential for further Anglo-Saxon burials to be within the area of the feature interpreted as an Early Bronze Age round barrow, similar to the known Saxon cemetery focussed on the barrow to the south-west, excavated prior to construction of the crematorium (Bartlett 2016).

Area 3: a possible SFB

- 4.3.20 A single Anglo-Saxon feature was located by the evaluation, comprising a pit (**1603**). Whilst it may be simply a pit, its form and dimensions suggest that it could be an SFB, albeit no corroborating evidence, such as postholes within the pit, were identified.
- 4.3.21 SFBs, or *Grubenhäuser* are synonymous with Early and Middle Anglo-Saxon occupation. Whilst they are the most commonly encountered form of structure, they are still poorly understood. Tipper (2004, 1) defines an SFB as a sub-rectangular building where a flat based pit forms the main component of the sub-surface structure. He also states that they typically measure 3m by 4m across and are up to 0.5m deep. This type of structure is also typified by containing up to six postholes around their edges, which held posts to support the superstructure. The pit uncovered



at North Uttlesford could conform to this description, although only part of the feature was visible within the trench as the feature extended beyond its western edge (measuring over 1.5m by 3m across). However, no postholes were revealed within the trench. These structures are thought to be subsidiary buildings with a range of domestic and craft production uses (e.g. textile manufacture and metal working), whilst the other main type of building from this period are rectangular post-built structures often interpreted as halls.

- 4.3.22 Finds assemblages from SFBs are often quite rich, with pottery, animal bone, metalwork, baked clay objects and worked bone regularly being recovered from such features. These assemblages are indicative of the disposal of domestic waste once the structure have been abandoned. However, pit **1603** produced a small finds assemblage of 92g of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery, including a decorated bowl fragment, and five fragments of animal bone. On balance, whilst pit **1603** may be a SFB, the evidence is not definitive and the interpretation is tentative based on the current information.
- 4.3.23 A nearby find provides context to pit **1603**. In 2018, an Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery (6th or 7th century AD) comprising seven burials was excavated during archaeological work at the Cam Valley Crematorium, located on the summit of the hill immediately west of site. The burials contained grave goods in the form of personal adornments, one of which was probably of high status based on her grave goods (Hutton 2018).
- 4.3.24 Excavated Early Anglo-Saxon settlement sites in the wider area include those of Linton (Haskins and Phillips 2021) and Hinxton where the pottery assemblages appear to have a certain affinity with the vessels recovered at North Uttlesford, revealing potential connection in terms of political and economic influence (Appendix B.3).

Medieval and post-medieval remains

Trench 11: deer park pale

- 4.3.25 Trench 11 targeted an extant field boundary ditch. This ditch forms part of a boundary which turns north-west to form part of an extensive 'oval' enclosure. Currently, the ditch is thought to have formed part of the limits of a medieval deer park pale. Upon excavation, ditch **1103** was the primary ditch with recut **1106** also recorded This ditch survives as an earthwork (ditch and bank). The 1888 to 1913 OS maps clearly show this enclosure but do not provide information about its origin. The original function of this enclosure is probably best indicated by the name of the farm north of Area 2 'Park Farm' and the road leading to it 'Park Road Farm'.
- 4.3.26 One sherd of possible Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from ditch **1103**. This dating of the pottery is slightly unclear, as it was an extremely abraded piece and clearly residual. Two fragments of post-medieval CBM, including a flat roof-tile fragment, were also found in its upper fill.

Modern activity

4.3.27 Trenches 12, 19 and 21 contained modern material throughout which corresponded with positive magnetic anomalies on the geophysical survey (Figs 2, 3, 6a and 7a). Following the monitoring meeting it was agreed with EPS to machine excavate a part of this pit deposit in Trenches 12 and 19 and a part of this layer in Trench 21 to check

the depths of these modern deposits and confirm the absence of any underlying archaeological features. The natural geology of chalk was reached between depths of 0.16m (Trenches 19 and 21) and 1m (Trench 12) with no evidence of any underlying features. The modern deposits in all three trenches contained bricks, plastic, concrete and steel pins.

- 4.3.28 These trenches lay within an area thought to have been used as a compound during the construction of the adjacent A11 carriageway. Several local farmers in conversations with the author confirmed that these modern deposits were indeed related to compounds and access roads for heavy vehicles and that the area located to the immediate north of the crematorium has been infilled across the whole of the field by this layer of modern material.
- 4.3.29 Ditches **2102** (Trench 21) and **2203** (Trench 22) were attributed to the modern period as both ditches contained concrete and plastic at their base.

Undated features

4.3.30 Two ditches within Area 3 were undated due to a lack of artefacts or clear spatial relationship to dated features. Ditches **1503** and **1507** in Trench 15 were aligned west to east. This alignment does not match any Roman ditches encountered on site. Similarly, the east-west alignment of three postholes (**1703**, **1705** and **1707**) in this area is undated.

Area 2 ring ditch

- 4.3.31 Trench 6 contained a ring ditch (**603** and **607**) which correlated with an anomaly interpreted on the geophysical survey. No finds were recovered from ditch but situated close to the possible Roman or later trackway.
- 4.3.32 Without further investigation of the ring ditch, it is difficult to ascertain its use or purpose as no features were encountered within it. It may be a round barrow, windmill or an isolated stock enclosure although the location at the base of a valley would suggest the two former possibilities are unlikely.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The identification of probable Bronze Age barrows and the Middle Bronze Age enclosure represent a development in the interpretation of the prehistoric landscape of North Uttlesford. The remains of field boundaries and trackway (although possibly of later origins) delineated in Areas 2 and 3, adds to our understanding of the local agricultural landscape during the Romano-British period and the tentative identification of a SFB in Area 3 is of interest for a better understanding of Early Anglo-Saxon settlement in this locality, although this may simply be a pit.
- 4.4.2 Any further development-led investigations within the proposed development area (evaluation or mitigation) is expected to contribute to our regional understanding of rural landscapes and land use from the prehistoric to medieval periods.



APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General de	escription		Orientation	W-E			
	ealed two d		Length (m)	50			
subsoil ove	erlying natur	al geology	Width (m)	2			
			Avg. depth (m)	0.32			
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.27	Ploughsoil		
101	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
102	Layer				Natural		
103	Cut		0.3	0.15	Posthole		
104	Fill	103		0.15	Secondary Fill		
105	Cut		1	0.7	Ditch		
106	Fill	105		0.14	Primary Fill	Pottery, flint	MBA
107	Fill	105		0.56	Secondary Fill		
108	Cut		3.7	1.53	Ditch		
109	Fill	108		0.15	Primary Fill	Bone	MBA?
110	Fill	108		0.21	Secondary Fill		
111	Fill	108		0.13	Other Fill		
112	Fill	108		0.34	Secondary Fill		
113	Fill	108		0.7	Tertiary Fill	Flint	MBA

Trench 2							
General de	escription		Orientation	N-S			
	ealed two d		Length (m)	50			
natural geo	ology of silty	/ chalk.	Width (m)	2			
			Avg. depth (m)	0.32			
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.27	Ploughsoil		
201	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
202	Layer				Natural		
203	Cut		3.58	1.74	Ditch		
204	Fill	203		0.6	Primary Fill	Pottery, bone	MBA
205	Fill	203		0.3	Secondary Fill		
206	Fill	203		0.24	Secondary Fill		
207	Fill	203		0.5	Secondary Fill		
208	Fill	203		0.64	Secondary Fill	Pottery, fired clay, flint, bone	N/EBA/MBA
209	Cut		0.95	0.62	Ditch		
210	Fill	209		0.24	Primary Fill		
211	Fill	209		0.48	Secondary Fill	Bone	MBA?



Trench 3							
General de	escription			Orientation	NNW-SSE		
	ealed two d		Length (m)	50			
subsoil ove	erlying natu	ral geology	Width (m)	2			
			Avg. depth (m)	0.44			
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer			0.28	Ploughsoil		
301	Layer			0.16	Subsoil		
302	Layer				Natural		
303	Cut		3.68	1.34	Ditch		
304	Fill	303		0.26	Secondary Fill	Flint, bone	MBA
305	Fill	303		0.18	Tertiary Fill		
306	Fill	303		0.42	Other Fill		
307	Fill	303		0.52	Other Fill		
308	Cut		0.65	0.46	Ditch		
309	Fill	308		0.15	Secondary Fill	Flint	MBA
310	Cut		1.81	0.21	Pit		
311	Fill	310		0.21	Other Fill		
312	Cut		0.98	0.15	Natural Feature		
313	Fill			0.15	Other Fill		
314	Fill	308		0.34	Tertiary Fill		

Trench 4							
General de	escription		Orientation				
	ealed three		Length (m)	50			
subsoil ove	erlying natu	ral geology	Width (m)	2			
			Avg. depth (m)	0.32			
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer			0.27	Ploughsoil		
401	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
402	Layer				Natural		
403	Cut		2.5	0.68	Ditch		
404	Fill	403		0.68	Secondary Fill	Bone	MBA?
405	Cut		0.93	0.16	Ditch		
406	Fill	405		0.16	Secondary Fill		
407	Cut		1.58	0.4	Ditch		
408	Fill	407		0.3	Secondary Fill	Fired clay/daub, CBM	MBA, Post- medieval
409	Cut		1.28	0.28	Pit		
410	Fill	409		0.28	Other Fill	HSR, bone	MBA?
411	Fill	407		0.1	Secondary Fill		
412	Fill	407		0.08	Primary Fill		
413	Cut		0.36	0.1	Posthole		
414	Fill	413		0.1	Other Fill		

1.1



Trench 5							
General de	escription					Orientation	NW-SE
			onsists of p	loughsoil ar	nd subsoil overlying	Length (m)	50
natural geo	ology of silt	y chalk.				Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer			0.26	Ploughsoil		
501	Layer			0.04	Subsoil		
502	Layer				Natural		
503	Cut		2.14	0.68	Ditch		
504	Fill	503		0.48	Secondary Fill		
505	Fill	503		0.23	Primary Fill		
506	Cut		0.49	0.13	Ditch		
507	Fill	506		0.13	Primary Fill		
508	Cut		2	1.36	Ditch		
509	Fill	508		0.96	Secondary Fill		
510	Fill	511		0.74	Secondary Fill		
511	Cut		2.14	0.74	Ditch		

Trench 6							
General de	escription		Orientation	NE-SW			
			sists of plo	ughsoil and	d subsoil overlying	Length (m)	50
natural geo	ology of silty	r chalk.	Width (m)	2			
			Avg. depth (m)	0.3			
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer			0.26	Ploughsoil		
601	Layer			0.04	Subsoil		
602	Layer				Natural		
603	Cut		2.12	0.82	Ditch		
604	Fill	603		0.82	Secondary Fill		
605	Cut		0.22	0.48	Posthole		
606	Fill	605		0.48	Other Fill		
607	Cut		Ditch				
608	Fill	607		0.69	Secondary Fill		

Trench 7							
General de	scription		Orientation	NE-SW			
			sts of plou	ghsoil and s	ubsoil overlying	Length (m)	50
natural geo	ology of silty	chalk.				Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date
No.			(m)	(m)			
700	Layer			0.27	Ploughsoil		
701	Layer						
702	Layer						



Trench 7	Trench 7											
General de	scription				Orientation NE-SW							
			sts of plou	ghsoil and su	bsoil overlying	Length (m) 50						
natural geo	logy of silty	chalk.				Width (m)	2					
						Avg. depth (m)	0.37					
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date					
No.			(m)	(m)								
703	Cut		1.52	Ditch								
704	Fill	703										

Trench 8							
General de	scription				Orientation	NE-SW	
			sts of plough	nsoil and sub	osoil overlying	Length (m)	50
natural geo	logy of silty	chalk.				Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31	
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer			0.27	Ploughsoil		
801	Layer			0.04	Subsoil		
802	Layer				Natural		
803	Cut		0.4	Ditch			
804	Fill	803		Secondary Fill			

Trench 9							
General de	scription				Orientation	NW-SE	
			sts of ploug	nsoil and su	bsoil overlying	Length (m)	50
natural geo	logy of silty	chalk.				Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28	
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer			0.24	Ploughsoil		
901	Layer			0.04	Subsoil		
902	Layer			Natural			
903	Cut		2	Ditch			
904	Fill	903		0.7	Secondary Fill	Pottery	Roman (C1-C4)

Trench 10							
General de	scription		Orientation	NE-SW			
			•	sts of ploug	hsoil and subsoil	Length (m)	50
overlying n	atural geolo	ogy of silty	chalk.			Width (m)	2
			Avg. depth (m)	0.36			
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date
No.			(m)	(m)			
1000	Layer			0.29	Ploughsoil		
1001	Layer			0.09	Subsoil		
1002	Layer				Natural		
1003	Cut						
1004	Fill	1003		Other Fill	Pottery	Roman (C1-C3)	



Trench 10	Trench 10											
General de	scription				Orientation	NE-SW						
				ists of ploug	shsoil and subsoil	Length (m) 50						
overlying n	atural geol	ogy of silty	chalk.			Width (m)	2					
						Avg. depth (m)	0.36					
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date					
1005	Cut		1.3									
1006	Fill	1005										

Trench 11							
General de	escription		Orientation	NNE-SSW			
			nsists of plo	oughsoil and	subsoil overlying	Length (m)	50
natural geo	ology of silt [,]	y chalk.				Width (m)	2
			Avg. depth (m)	0.34			
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer			0.28	Ploughsoil		
1101	Layer			0.06	Subsoil		
1102	Layer				Natural		
1103	Cut		1.94	0.68	Ditch		
1104	Fill	1103		0.24	Primary Fill		
1105	Fill			0.5	Secondary Fill	Pottery, CBM	MBA? Post- medieval
1106	Cut		1.76	0.48	Ditch		
1107	Fill	1106		0.48	Secondary Fill		

Trench 12							
General de	escription				Orientation	E-W	
	^f ploughsoil a	nd subsoil	overlying r	ogy of gravely	Length (m)	50	
chalk.						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
1200	Layer			0.32	Ploughsoil		
1201	Layer			0.04	Subsoil		
1202	Layer				Natural		
1203	Cut			1	Pit		
1204	Fill	1203		1	Deliberate Backfill		

Trench 13								
General description Orientation N-S								
			nsists of p	loughsoil an	d subsoil overlying	Length (m)	50	
natural ge	ology of silty	y chalk.				Width (m)	1.8	
						Avg. depth (m)	1	
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Finds	Date				
1300	Layer							



Trench 13								
General de	escription			Orientation	N-S			
		0,	nsists of p	loughsoil an	d subsoil overlying	Length (m) 50		
natural geo	ology of silty	r chalk.				Width (m)	1.8	
						Avg. depth (m)	1	
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	
1301	Layer			0.11	Subsoil			
1302	Layer							
1303	Layer			1.12	Colluvial Layer			

Trench 14	Trench 14											
General de	escription					Orientation E-W						
		0,	onsists of p	d subsoil overlying	Length (m)	50						
natural geo	ology of silty	/ chalk.				Width (m)	3.6					
						Avg. depth (m)						
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date					
1400	Layer			0.29	Ploughsoil							
1401	Layer			0.06	Subsoil							
1402	Layer				Natural							
1403	Cut		2.6	0.36	Natural Feature. Periglacial channel?							
1404	Fill	1403		0.36	Other Fill							

Trench 15							
General de	escription					Orientation	N-S
Consists of	ploughsoil	and subso	Length (m)	50			
						Width (m)	3.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer			0.29	Ploughsoil		
1501	Layer			0.06	Subsoil		
1502	Layer				Natural		
1503	Cut		0.81	0.15	Ditch		
1504	Fill	1503		0.15	Secondary Fill		
1505	Cut		1.78	0.18	Natural Feature		
1506	Fill	1505		0.18	Secondary Fill		
1507	Cut		1.08	0.18	Ditch		
1508	Fill	1507		0.18	Secondary Fill		



Trench 16							
General de	escription				Orientation	N-S	
Consists of	f ploughsoil	and subsoi	overlying	natural geo	logy of silty chalk.	Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	3.6
						Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer			0.28	Ploughsoil		
1601	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
1602	Layer				Natural		
1603	Cut		3	0.28	Pit		
1604	Fill	1603		0.28	Deliberate Backfill	Pottery, bone	Early Anglo-Saxon
1605	Cut		1.6	0.32	Ditch		
1606	Fill	1605		0.32	Secondary Fill		
1607	Cut		0.7	0.2	Natural Feature		
1608	Fill	1607		0.2	Secondary Fill		

Trench 17							
General de	escription					Orientation	E-W
		•		and subsoil	Length (m)	50	
overlying r	natural geolo	ogy of chall	Width (m)	3.6			
			Avg. depth (m)	0.32			
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer			0.27	Ploughsoil		
1701	Layer			0.05	Subsoil		
1702	Layer				Natural		
1703	Cut		0.25	0.25	Posthole		
1704	Fill	1703		0.25	Secondary Fill		
1705	Cut		0.25	0.16	Posthole		
1706	Fill	1705		0.16	Secondary Fill		
1707	Cut		Posthole				
1708	Fill	1707		0.26	Secondary Fill		

Trench 18							
General de	scription					Orientation	E-W
			subsoil overlying	Length (m)	50		
natural geo	logy of chall	ky silt.				Width (m)	2
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer			0.29	Ploughsoil		
1801	Layer			0.16	Subsoil		
1802	Layer				Natural		
1803	Cut		1	0.24	Ditch		
1804	Fill	1803					
1805	Cut		1	0.4	Ditch		

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Trench 18												
General de	General description Orientation E-W											
			sists of plo	ughsoil and	subsoil overlying	Length (m) 50						
natural geo	ology of chal	lky silt.				Width (m)	2					
						Avg. depth (m)	0.34					
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Finds	Date								
1806	Fill	1805	Pottery, flint	N/EBA, Roman (C1)								

Trench 19							
General de	escription					Orientation	NE-SW
Consists of	f ploughsoil	and subsoi	l overlying	natural geo	logy of silty chalk.	Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	2
				Avg. depth (m)	0.33		
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer			0.3	Ploughsoil		
1901	Layer			0.03	Subsoil		
1902	Layer				Natural		
1903	Cut		0.6	0.18	Pit		
1904	Fill	1903		0.18	Secondary Fill		
1905	Cut			0.16	Pit		
1906	Fill	1905		0.16	Deliberate Backfill		
1907	Cut			0.18	Pit		
1908	Fill	1907		0.18	Deliberate Backfill	Pottery, CBM	Post-medieval

Trench 20	Trench 20												
General de	escription				Orientation	E-W							
		0,	onsists of p	loughsoil an	nd subsoil overlying	Length (m)	50						
natural geo	ology of silty	y chalk.				Width (m)	3.6						
						Avg. depth (m)	0.29						
Context	Туре	Fill Of	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date						
No.			(m)	(m)									
2000	Layer			0.25	Ploughsoil								
2001	Layer												
2002	Layer												

Trench 21	Trench 21											
General description Orientation N-S												
				sh. Consists	of ploughsoil	Length (m)	50					
overlying na	atural geolog	gy of silty of	chalk.			Width (m)	3.6					
						Avg. depth (m)	0.33					
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date					
2100	Layer			0.28	Ploughsoil							
2101	Layer			Subsoil								
2102	2102 Cut 0.86 0.14 Ditch											

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Trench 21	Trench 21											
General de	General description Orientation N-S											
				ish. Consist	s of ploughsoil	Length (m)	50					
overlying r	natural geolo	ogy of silty	chalk.			Width (m)	3.6					
						Avg. depth (m)	0.33					
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date					
2103	Fill	2102		Deliberate Backfill								
2104	Layer			0.16								

Trench 22											
General de	escription					Orientation	E-W				
				nsists of ploughsoil	Length (m)	50					
and subsoi	il overlying n	atural geo	Width (m)	3.6							
			Avg. depth (m)	0.38							
Context No.	Туре	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date				
2200	Layer			0.28	Ploughsoil						
2201	Layer			0.1	Subsoil						
2202	Layer				Natural						
2203	Cut		0.38	0.11	Ditch						
2204	Fill	2203		0.11	Secondary Fill						
2205	Cut		1.46	0.52	Natural Feature						
2206	Fill	2205		0.52	Other Fill						
2207	Cut		Natural Feature								
2208	Fill	2207		0.24	Other Fill						



APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Prehistoric Pottery

By Nick Gilmour

Introduction

- B.1.1 The evaluation yielded four sherds (123g) of prehistoric pottery, with a high mean sherd weight (MSW) of 30.7g. The pottery was recovered from four different contexts, all the fills of ditches (Table 1).
- B.1.2 The pottery dates to the Bronze Age and is in fabrics typically associated with this pottery of this date. There is an absence of features sherds and so some of the dating is uncertain.
- B.1.3 The pottery is in moderate to poor condition, most sherds are small and abraded. The mean sherd weight is high largely due to a single sherd weighing 70g, which raised the average.

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature Type	Spot Date	No of sherds	Weight (g)
106	105	1	Ditch	MBA	1	20
204	203	2	Ditch	MBA	1	70
208	203	2	Ditch	MBA	1	20
1105	1103	11	Ditch	MBA	1	13
Total					4	123

Table 1: quantification of prehistoric pottery (N.B. ncd = not closely dateable)

Methodology

- B.1.4 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2011). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim, shoulder and/or other diagnostic features, the vessel was categorised by ceramic tradition (Collared Urn, Deverel-Rimbury etc).
- B.1.5 All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (3 sherds); sherds measuring 4-8cm would have been classified as 'medium' (no sherds), and sherds over 8cm in diameter were classified as 'large' (one sherd). The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held with the site archive.



Prehistoric pottery fabrics

B.1.6 Two different fabrics were identified. These are listed below. Table 2 shows the quantity of prehistoric pottery by fabric and date.

F1: Occasional fine flint in a sandy clay matrix.

C1: Moderate micaceous sand.

Fabric type	Spot Date	No of sherds	Weight (g)	% fabric (by wt.)
F1	MBA	3	53	43.1
C1	MBA	1	70	56.9
Grand Total		4	123	

Table 2: Quantification of prehistoric pottery by fabric

Middle Bronze Age pottery

B.1.7 All four sherds (123g) of pottery, from three different features, are likely to be of Middle Bronze Age date. Three of these were in the same fabric (F1) and one is fabric C1, which are typical of the Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition in this region. However, none of the sherds preserves any diagnostic feature (eg rim form, decoration) and so the attribution of these sherds to the Middle Bronze Age cannot be without doubt.

Discussion

- B.1.8 The small assemblage of prehistoric pottery from this site is in fabrics typical of pottery assemblages from this region. While there are few diagnostic sherds, the fabrics and limited decoration present demonstrate that there is material of a variety of dates. It is not uncommon to find similar small assemblages from the evaluation of sites where remains of Middle and/or Late Bronze Age enclosures, field systems and settlement were present.
- B.1.9 Generally, the pottery sherds are small and abraded, suggesting some may be residual. However, the pottery is soft and would easily break down, so it is unlikely that this material has moved a long distance.

B.2 Roman Pottery

By Kathryn Blackbourn

Introduction

B.2.1 An assemblage of Roman pottery totalling 17 sherds, weighing 141g was recovered from features across three trenches, representing a minimum of seven individual vessels. The sherds were moderately and heavily abraded and they range in date from the 1st to 4th century AD and have an average sherd weight of 8.3g.

Methodology

B.2.2 The pottery was analysed following the national guidelines (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and with reference to the national fabric series (Tomber and Dore 1998) and also Tyers (1996). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The

sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Vessel forms were recorded and vessel types cross-referenced and compared to other examples. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and recorded by context. Decoration, residues and abrasion were also noted. OA curates the pottery and archive.

The pottery

B.2.3 Five pottery fabric types were identified (Table 3) and the assemblage comprises a mix of locally produced sandy grey and sandy oxidised ware variants alongside a single sherd of imported Samian ware. All sherds are wheel made.

Fabric Type	Forms	No of Sherds	Weight (g)	Weight %
SAM (SG) Terra Sigilata South Gaulish Tyers 1996, p 112	Bowl	1	6	4.26
SGW Sandy grey ware	Jar	4	31	21.99
SGW (GROG) Sandy grey ware with grog temper	Jar	3	24	17.02
SGW (OX) Sandy grey ware with oxidised surface	Jar	8	64	45.39
SOW Sandy oxidised ware	?	1	16	11.35
Grand Total		17	141	100

Table 3: Roman pottery by fabric family

Results

B.2.4 Three features across three trenches yielded Roman pottery dating to the 1st to 4th century AD.

Trench 9

B.2.5 Ditch **903** contained four sherds (weighing 31g) of a sandy grey ware jar broadly dated to the 1st to 4th century AD.

Trench 10

B.2.6 Fill 1004 of pit **1003** yielded eight sherds (weighing 64g) of a jar in a sandy grey ware fabric with oxidised surfaces. One of the sherds contained scored decoration and they are dated to the 1st to 3rd century AD.

Trench 18

B.2.7 Within Trench 18 was a ditch (**1805**) which contained five sherds (weighing 46g) of pottery. The sherds comprised samian ware, sandy grey ware with grog temper and a sherd of sandy oxidised ware, all dating to the 1st century AD.

Conclusion

B.2.8 The assemblage recovered from this evaluation is small in size and has largely identified locally produced sandy grey ware products alongside a single sherd of Samian ware. The pottery recovered from Trenches 9 and 10 may suggest some Roman



activity in this area whereas the ditch in Trench 18 appears to be dated to the 1st century AD.

Catalogue

Trench	Fill	Cut	Feature Type	Fabric Family	Dsc	Form	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Spot date	Context date
9	904	903	Ditch	SGW	U	Jar	3	12	C1-C4	C1-C4
9	904	903	Ditch	SGW	В	Jar	1	19	C1-C4	C1-C4
10	1004	1003	Pit	SGW (OX)	U	Jar	7	54	C1-C3	C1-C3
10	1004	1003	Pit	SGW (OX)	R	Jar	1	10	C1-C3	C1-C3
18	1806	1805	Ditch	SGW (GROG)	U	Jar	3	24	C1-EC2	C1
18	1806	1805	Ditch	SOW	U	?	1	16	C1-C4	C1
18	1806	1805	Ditch	SAM (SG)	R	bowl	1	6	AD 40- 100	C1

Table 4: Roman pottery by Trench, context and cut

B.3 Anglo-Saxon Pottery

By Denis Sami

Introduction

B.3.1 A total of five sherds of early Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from Trench 16. The assemblage consists of the standard range of fabrics from the region and is composed of two rims and three vessel body fragments (Table 5;Hamerow 1993). The condition of the overall assemblage is good with the sherds moderately abraded. The assemblage has an average sherd weight of 18.4g, which comparatively high is for rural settlements.

Row Labels	Quantity	Weight (g)
E/MAS(G)	2	30
E/MAS(Q)	3	62
Total	5	92

Table 5: quantification of pottery by fabric type (E/MAS(G) Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon (Granitic); Early/Middle Anglo-Saxon (Quartz))

Methodology

- B.3.2 Finds were assessed according to the OA finds standard, following the 2016 document *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (SPSA) and the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) document *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998).
- B.3.3 Hand-made fabrics of the Early Anglo-Saxon period are not directly described in Paul Spoerry's (2016) volume *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire*. However, a scheme for defining and describing such material is presented for Middle Anglo-Saxon hand-made pottery. The fabric descriptions applied here conforms to previously published schemes. Previous work on hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery in the Eastern region includes Alan Vince's petrological analysis of Anglo-



Saxon ceramics from Kilverstone (Vince 2003a) and Bloodmoor Hill, Carlton Colville (Vince 2003b).

B.3.4 Sherds have been counted, weighed and classified on a context-by-context basis. The catalogue is organized by context number. Fabrics, feature descriptions and weights are reported in the catalogue together with an in-house dating system based on Spoerry's 2016 scheme.

Character, Chronology and Distribution

- B.3.5 Sherds were recovered from a single pit (**1603**). Given the chronology, quantity and character of the ceramic assemblage, pit **1603** could be interpreted as an Early Anglo-Saxon SFB, although this is tentative.
- B.3.6 The assemblage is composed of globular domestic vessels a jar and a bowl used for storage/cooking activity.
- B.3.7 Fragments were produced in quartz (E/MAS(Q)), granite (E/MAS(G)), fabrics.
- B.3.8 A bowl fragment is decorated with two lines of impressed segmented sub-triangular motives. These two lines of decorations are divided by a single incised line.
- B.3.9 The presence of a decorated vessel suggests a chronology spanning *c*.AD450-500.
- B.3.10 According to the ceramic assemblage, Trench 16 is the only focus of Early Anglo-Saxon activity.
- B.3.11 An assemblage of this size provides only basic information about the chronology of excavated deposits and the potential use of the area in the Early Anglo-Saxon period. Pit 1603 is possibly a SFB. The two Early Anglo-Saxon settlements of Linton and Hinxton lie within a *c*.5km radius of the site. The chronology and the pottery assemblages from these two centres appear to have a certain affinity with the vessels brought to light on this site, revealing a potential connection in terms of political and economic influence.

Catalogue

Context	Cut	Fabric Dsc	Dsc	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Pot Date (min)	Pot Date (max)
1604	1603	E/MAS(Q)	Rim	Bowl	1	50	Moderate	450	525
1604	1603	E/MAS(G)	Rim	Jar Globular	1	23	Sharp	450	600
1604	1603	E/MAS(Q)	Wall	ND	2	12	Moderate	450	600
1604	1603	E/MAS(G)	Wall	ND	1	7	Moderate	450	600

Table 6: catalogue of Early Anglo-Saxon pottery

B.4 Post-Medieval Pottery

By Carole Fletcher



Introduction and Methodology

- B.4.1 Archaeological works produced a single abraded sherd of post-medieval pottery from Area 3. The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology and the MPRG A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Rapid recording was carried out using OA's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London.
- B.4.2 Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types using Essex fabric types (Cotter 2000), based on those of Cunningham (1985). All sherds have been counted, classified, minimum number of vessels (MNV) established, and weighed on a context-by-context basis and recorded in the text of this report. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

- B.4.3 A single fragment of post-medieval pottery, a Post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40, *c*.1550-1800) was recovered from pit **1907** in Area 3. The sherd is abraded and the form uncertain, with patches of clear glaze remaining on the more unabraded external surfaces and traces of glaze on the internal surface.
- B.4.4 The single sherd has undergone reworking and the small size of the assemblage makes conclusions difficult to draw, other than to say that the vessel present is probably domestic in nature and that the pottery may relate to rubbish deposition from nearby occupation or manuring.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.4.5 Should further work be undertaken, this report should be incorporated into any later catalogue. If no further work on the site is undertaken, the following summary catalogue and access database in the archive act as a full record. The post-medieval pottery may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

B.5 Ceramic building material and Fired clay

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

- B.5.1 A small assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), six fragments weighing 0.191kg, was recovered from Areas 1, 2 and 3. The assemblage is composed of postmedieval flat tile and brick fragments, and no complete examples were recovered. The fired clay assemblage consists of two fragments (0.027kg), both recovered from Bronze Age features located in Area 1.
- B.5.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded, where this was identifiable. Rapid recording of a basic fabric was undertaken, and dated where possible, only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. The material is recorded in Table 7. The Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group *Minimum Standards* (ACBMG 2002) forms the basis for

1.1



recording, and Woodforde (1976) Ryan (1996) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. The assemblage is recorded in the table at the end of this report. The CBM archive is curated by OA until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

- B.5.3 The CBM assemblage is post-medieval, abraded, and that recovered from pit **1907** is very probably of a similar date to the abraded sherd of Fabric 40 Post-medieval red earthenware recovered from the same feature. The CBM forms a low-level background noise of post-medieval material in several features and is intrusive in ring ditch **407**.
- B.5.4 All of the fired clay was recovered from Area 1 and the fragment found in ring ditch 407 has a small linear indentation that suggests it is a fragment of daub. The fragment recovered from enclosure ditch 203 is of different consistency, with a dull, dark red exterior and dark interior, and somewhat flattish surviving surfaces that all suggest it may be from a fired clay object, possibly a loomweight.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.5.5 The assemblage is fragmentary, however, should further work be undertaken, additional CBM and fired clay is likely to be recovered. The evaluation report should be incorporated into any future catalogue. If no further work on the site is undertaken, the following catalogue acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected and dispersed prior to archival deposition, however, the fired clay should be retained.

Area	Context	Cut	Form	CBM or Fired Clay Description	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
1	208	203	Fired clay	Irregular fragment with some surface survival. May be a fragment from a loomweight. 2.5YR 4/8 red external surfaces, 5YR 2.5/1 black core, hard fired, fine quartz-tempered, some voids, indicating burnt out organic material	1	0.015	Prehistoric: Bronze Age or Iron Age
1	408	407	Fired clay/daub	Irregular fragment with uneven surfaces, having various indentations. On what appears to be an internal surface, there is an impression that may be from a thin withy. Fine quartz temper, with occasional larger quartz inclusions and voids that indicate burnt out organic material. 7.5YR 6/6 reddish yellow surfaces with a mid grey core where the clay is thickest	1	0.012	Prehistoric: ?Bronze Age
			?Brick	Irregular fragment with hackly fracture, no obvious surfaces, quartz-tempered and very probably part of a brick. 10R 5/8 red with some paler yellowish patches	1	0.069	Post- medieval
2	1105	1103	Flat tile-roof	Hard fired, sub-rectangular fragment of tile with few inclusions,	1	0.053	Post- medieval

Catalogue



Area	Context	Cut	Form	CBM or Fired Clay Description	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
				except for some obvious fine quartz on the base, which suggests the mould was sanded. 2.5YR 6/8 light red, fully oxidised, 14mm thick			
			Undiagnostic CBM	Irregular fragment, quartz- tempered, with moderately common grog or clay pellets and some voids. Colour varies, with patches of 5YR 6/6 reddish yellow and 2.5YR 6/8 light red	1	0.009	Not closely datable
3	1908	1907	Flat tile-roof	Sub-rectangular fragment of thin (12mm thick) tile. Hard fired, quartz-tempered, with obvious drag marks and some indentations on the upper surface. Traces of off- white ?lime mortar on the upper surface and slightly angled surviving edge. 10R 5/8 red	1	0.026	Post- medieval
			Flat tile-roof	Small sub-rectangular fragment of sandy tile a similar fabric to that of the ?brick fragment from 407 . 5YR 5/8 yellowish red, quartz- tempered, 14mm thick	1	0.008	Post- medieval
			?Floor tile	Irregular fragment of tile, part of the lower surface and a fragment of chamfered edge survive. The lower surface retains a smear of clear glaze overlain by off-white ?lime mortar. Hard fired, quartz- tempered, 2.5YR 5/8 red with a mid grey core	1	0.026	Late medieval to post- medieval
Total					8	0.218	

Table 7: CBM and Fired Clay Catalogue.

B.6 Flints

By Lawrence Billington

Introduction

- B.6.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of 31 worked flints, the vast majority of which derived from trenches in Area 1 (29 pieces), with two further flints from Area 3. The assemblage is quantified by context in Table 8.
- B.6.2 The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Excel spreadsheet and the artefacts were classified according to a system of broad artefact/debitage types based on standard definitions for post-glacial lithic assemblages from southern Britain (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Butler 2005; Ballin 2021).

Trench	Context	Cut	Context type	Flake	Blade- like flake	End scraper	Edge trimmed flake	Minimally worked core	Totals
1	106	105	Ditch	1					1
1	113	108	Ditch	1					1
2	208	203	Ditch	9	1		1		11



3	304	303	Ditch	12		1			13
3	309	308	Ditch	3					3
18	1806	1805	Ditch	1				1	2
Totals				27	1	1	1	1	31

Table 8: The flint assemblage

Raw materials and condition

- B.6.3 The assemblage is distinctive in terms of the overwhelming dominance of very high quality dark grey/back flint retaining fresh, chalky cortical surfaces typical of nodules procured from sources closely associated with the parent chalk, with little evidence for any use of flint from secondary sources such as river gravels or glacial tills. High quality chalk nodules of this kind would have been available locally from across the chalk hills flanking this stretch of the Cam Valley.
- B.6.4 The assemblage is generally in good condition and, as set out below, much of the material from the ditches in Area 1 was notable for being in extremely fresh condition. Cortication (patination), varying form a light blue sheen to a heavier white/cream colour, occurred on around a quarter of pieces.

Assemblage characterisation

- The bulk of the assemblage came from two interventions excavated though the ditch B.6.5 of the sub-rectangular enclosure investigated in Area 1, with 11 struck flints from 203 (Trench 2) and 13 worked flits from 303 (Trench 3). In terms of their condition, composition and technological character these two assemblages are very closely comparable. Both are dominated by unretouched flakes, generally partly cortical and in very fresh condition suggesting they were deposited in the ditch very soon after their manufacture/use. Both assemblages do, however, include a small number of slightly worn pieces which are likely to be residual. Technologically this material from these contexts is made up of simple, hard hammer struck removals, often relatively broad and with a high proportion of hinged terminations. Two retouched tools were recovered alongside these flakes - a large edge trimmed flake from ditch 203 and a crudely retouched end scraper from ditch **303**. Both the technological traits of the flintwork and the character of the retouched forms are entirely consistent with a later prehistoric date (i.e. post-dating the Early Bronze Age), with the possibility that some of the very few less fresh pieces – which include a single blade-like flake from ditch **203** - may reflect earlier, Neolithic or Early Bronze Age activity. Aside from these two assemblages, further excavation of the enclosure ditches in Trench 1 (105 and 108) and Trench 3 (308) produced a small number of unretouched flakes of similar character.
- B.6.6 The only worked flints recovered away from the enclosure in Area 1 were two flints from ditch **1805**, Trench 18, Area 3. These consisted of a single large flake and a minimally worked flake core. Both were in worn condition, suggesting they represent residual finds inadvertently incorporated into this feature. Neither piece is strongly diagnostic, but the flake is a regular, well-struck piece and is likely to be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.



Discussion and significance

- B.6.7 The flint assemblage is small but includes two small coherent assemblages of flintwork for the enclosure ditches investigated in Area 1. This material is typical of Middle and Late Bronze Age flint assemblages form the region (e.g. McLaren 2010, 2011) and provides evidence for activities including the manufacture and use of flint tools, probably in the context of domestic-type activity taking place within the enclosure. Further excavation of the enclosure could anticipate the recovery of a comparatively large assemblage of contemporary worked flint.
- B.6.8 Elsewhere across the evaluated area, flintwork was scarce and the dearth of demonstrably early, Mesolithic-Earlier Neolithic material is notable, suggesting fairly low intensity activity in this part of the landscape, certainly when seen in the context of the widespread evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity recorded on the gravel terraces of the Cam to the north-west at the Hinxton Genome Campus and, further north, at Hinxton Quarry (see e.g. Haskins and Clarke 2014; Mortimer and Evans 1996).

B.7 Non-Building Stone

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.7.1 An unworked broken piece of sandstone cobble with evidence of heating was recovered during the evaluation. The stone was identified visually using a x10 magnifying lens. The stone and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

B.7.2 A moderately-sized piece of fine-grained rounded sandstone cobble, weighing 0.276kg, was recovered from ditch **105** in Area 1. The stone is somewhat weathered, with surfaces that are dark grey in places, while the broken exposed areas of unweathered surface appear to have been heat-altered and are somewhat reddened. Various scratches represent post-depositional damage. There are small patches of an off-white deposit on the broken and unbroken faces that could be mortar.

Discussion

B.7.3 Dating of unworked lithics is problematic, however, the stone was recovered from what was identified as a prehistoric ditch, yet the possible mortar traces adhering to the stone would suggest it is an intrusive later element.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.7.4 Should further work be undertaken, further fragments of stone may be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record. The stone may be deselected prior to archive deposition.



APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Human Remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction

C.1.1 A Single tibia, fibula and talus were recovered from context 410 at the evaluations at North Uttlesford. Context (410) is the fill of pit **409** in trench 4. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan and measured 1.78m long, 1.28m wide and 0.28m deep.

Methodology

- C.1.2 Excavation, processing and analysis of the skeletal material was carried out in accordance with published guidelines (McKinley 2004; Mays *et al.* 2004).
- C.1.3 Condition of the cortical bone was graded using the scale developed by McKinley (2004).

Preservation of the Material

C.1.4 The preservation of the skeletal bone best resembles a 4 on the grading system developed by McKinley (2004). This means that the surface of the bone has been entirely eroded or altered by, in this case, soil acidity and root activity. The shape of the bone itself has been somewhat affected by erosion. Evidence of any pathological conditions which may have been present on the bone has been masked by the level of surface erosion.

Results and Discussion

- C.1.5 This bone represents a single adult or older sub-adult individual. The shape and depth of the pit is suggestive of a grave and it is possible this may be the remains of a truncated grave.
- C.1.6 The pit is 8m from a possible Early Bronze Age ring ditch. All other features in area one date to the Bronze Age which originally resulted in the remains being considered associated with the Early Bronze Age ring ditch. A radiocarbon date was undertaken on the human remains which returned a radiocarbon age of 1440 ± 24 before present (i.e. AD587-653). This result indicates that there is the potential for further Anglo-Saxon burials to be within the area.

C.2 Faunal Remains

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction and Methodology

C.2.1 A small collection of animal bone was collected from features excavated during trial trenching at North Uttlesford. A total of 27 recordable fragments are present including 17 fragments identifiable to taxon. The bone was collected from seven features, all



ditches and pit **409**, which also contained human bone and may represent a burial. Three taxa are identifiable; cattle, sheep/goat and pig.

C.2.2 All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Surface preservation was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004, 14-15).

Results of Analysis

- C.2.3 The preservation of bone is very poor best representing a 3-4 on the McKinley scale. This means that the surface is entirely masked by erosion, primarily soil acidity and root activity.
- C.2.4 Number of specimens identifiable to taxon are recorded below:

Taxon	NISP
cattle	11
sheep/goat	5
pig	1
Totals	17

Table 9: Number of specimens identifiable to taxon (NISP)

- C.2.5 The MNI or minimum number of individuals present for all three species is one.
- C.2.6 The sheep/goat bone present is immature with all recordable epiphyses being unfused. All cattle bone present is fused i.e. adult. The single pig tooth present in ditch **209** is a fully erupted permanent molar but is almost completely unworn indicating a younger animal.

Trench	Cut	Context	Feature	Taxon	Element	Count	Erosion
				Large			
1	108	109	Ditch	mammal	Long bone	1	4
1	108	113	Ditch	Cattle	Humerus	1	4
2	203	208	Ditch	Sheep/Goat	Scapula	1	4
				Medium			
2	203	208	Ditch	mammal	Tibia	1	4
2	203	208	Ditch	Cattle	Femur	1	4
				Large			
2	203	208	Ditch	mammal	Mandible	1	4
					Loose mand		
2	203	208	Ditch	Cattle	cheek tooth	1	3
				Medium			
2	203	208	Ditch	mammal	Humerus	1	4
2	203	204	Ditch	Cattle	Tibia	1	3
2	209	211	Ditch	Pig	Mandible	1	4
					Loose mand		
3	303	304	Ditch	Sheep/Goat	cheek tooth	3	3
					Loose mand		
3	303	304	Ditch	Cattle	cheek tooth	2	3
3	303	304	Ditch	Cattle	Astragalus	1	4
				Large			
3	303	304	Ditch	mammal	Mandible	1	4
				Large			
4	403	404	Ditch	mammal	Long bone	4	4
				Medium			
4	409	410	Pit	mammal	Femur	1	4

A full catalogue of recordable bone is displayed in Table 10:

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Trench	Cut	Context	Feature	Taxon	Element	Count	Erosion
16	1603	1604	Ditch	Cattle	Radius	1	3
16	1603	1604	Ditch	Sheep/Goat	Metapodial	1	4
					Loose mand		
16	1603	1604	Ditch	Cattle	cheek tooth	3	3
Total						27	

Table 10: A catalogue of recordable bone by feature

Statement of Potential

C.2.7 The assemblage is very small and poorly preserved. All bone represents domestic mammals. There is little further information to be gleaned from this assemblage.

Recommendations for Further Work

C.2.8 No further work is required unless further excavations take place on the site.

Retention, Dispersal and Display

C.2.9 As several of the features date to the Bronze Age, all bone should be retained for the archaeological record.

C.3 Environmental Remains

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.3.1 Eighteen samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at North Uttlesford, Essex. These samples were taken in order to assess the preservation of any plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from a series of features across the site that are thought to range in date from the prehistoric to the medieval period.

Methodology

- C.3.2 The total volume (up to 18L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.
- C.3.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 11. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers *et al.* 2006) and OAE's reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).



Quantification

C.3.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

C.3.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs have been scored for abundance:

```
+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant
```

Key to table:

f=fragment u= untransformed

Results

- C.3.6 Preservation of plant remains from this site is through carbonisation (charring) and the material is in a relatively poor state of preservation.
- C.3.7 Cereal grains are present in four of the eighteen samples from this evaluation. These cereals consist of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), wheat (*Triticum sp.*), a possible oat (*cf. Avena sp.*) and grains that were too poorly preserved to identify. There appears to be a concentration of cereal grains in Trenches 1 and 2 where several samples from a double-ditched enclosure produced small to moderate quantities of cereal grains. A moderate quantity of cereal grains was also recovered from posthole **1707** in Trench 4. Arable weed seeds, including grasses (Poaceae) and black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), are present in very small quantities in posthole **1707** and ditch **108**. The samples from this site contain small to moderate quantities of charcoal.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processe d (L)	Flot Volume	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Molluscs	Charcoal Volume	Pottery	Animal Bones	Flint debitage
1	12	106	105	Ditch	14	100	#	0	+++	3	0	0	##
1	13	109	108	Ditch	18	30	##	#	+++	5	0	0	0
2	11	211	209	Ditch	16	20	#	0	+++	1	0	0	#
3	10	305	303	Ditch	18	15	0	0	++	0	0	0	0
3	14	313	312	Natur al	18	10	0	#U	+++	2	0	0	0
4	7	404	403	Ditch	16	30	0	0	+++	<1	0	0	#
4	8	408	407	Ditch	14	40	0	0	+++	<1	0	0	#
4	9	410	409	Pit	16	50	0	0	+++	5	0	0	0
5	18	504	503	Ditch	14	50	0	0	+++	0	0	0	0

C.3.8 Most of the samples contain frequent, relatively well-preserved molluscs.



Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processe d (L)	Flot Volume	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Molluscs	Charcoal Volume	Pottery	Animal Bones	Flint debitage
6	17	608	607	Ditch	13	40	0	0	+++	0	0	0	0
10	16	1006	1005	Ditch	16	40	0	0	+++	<1	#	0	0
11	15	1105	1103	Ditch	17	10	0	##U	+++	<1	0	0	0
15	5	1504	1503	Ditch	16	40	0	0	+++	<1	0	0	#
15	6	1508	1507	Ditch	16	50	0	0	+++	1	#	0	0
16	1	1604	1603	Pit	16	45	0	0	+++	1	0	0	0
17	2	1704	1703	Posth ole	8	5	0	0	++	5	0	0	#
17	3	1706	1705	Posth ole	7	5	0	0	++	<1	0	0	0
17	4	1708	1707	Posth ole	8	20	##	#f	++	11	0	#	0

Table 11: Environmental samples from North Uttlesford.

Discussion

- C.3.9 This evaluation has demonstrated that there is potential for the preservation and recovery of plant remains at this site; particularly in the northernmost area.
- C.3.10 The presence of cereal grains, charcoal and weed seeds in undated posthole **1707** may indicate that this posthole, alongside postholes **1703** and **1705**, are part of a habitable structure. The relatively small concentration of plant material in Trenches 1 and 2 could similarly suggest that low-level domestic activity was taking place. These plant remains are typical of the Bronze Age with barley and wheat being the primary crops cultivated.
- C.3.11 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

1.1



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APPENDIX E RADIOCARBON DATE CERTIFICATE





RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE 20 April 2022

Laboratory Code	SUERC-103755 (GU60159)
Submitter	Rachel Fosberry
	Oxford Archaeology East
	15 Trafalgar Way
	Bar Hill
	Cambridgeshire
	CB23 8SQ
Site Reference	GCNU21/XEXNUV21
Context Reference	410
Material	HSR (Tibia frag) : Human
δ ¹³ C relative to VPDB	-20.7 ‰
δ ¹⁵ N relative to air	10.4 ‰
C/N ratio (Molar)	3.3
Radiocarbon Age BP	1440 ± 24

N.B. The above ¹⁴C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23*.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-cl4lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

E Dunbar

Checked and signed off by :



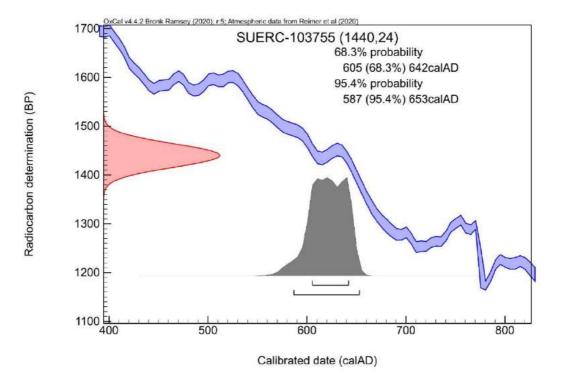


The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401



The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336





The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal20 atmospheric calibration curve?

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60 † Reimer et al. (2020) Radiocarbon 62(4) pp.725-57



APPENDIX F

Project Details

OASIS REPORT FORM

Fillett Details							
OASIS Number	Oxforda	r3-502	943				
Project Name	Land at	North I	Jttlesford, Ess	ex			
Start of Fieldwork	11/10/21			End of Fieldwork		22/10/21	
Previous Work	no			Future Work		Not known	
Project Reference	Codes						
Site Code	GCNU21	L		Planning App. No.		Pre-application	
HER Number				Related Numbers			
Prompt		NPPF					
Development Type		Residential development					
Place in Planning Pr	rocess	Pre-applicationPre-applicationPre-application					
Techniques used (tick all that apply)							
Aerial Photograph interpretation	т у —		Grab-sampling			Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	
Aerial Photograph			Gravity-core		\boxtimes	Sample Trenches	
Annotated Sketch	า		Laser Scanning			Survey/Recording of	

Augering

- Dendrochonological Survey
- Documentary Search
- \boxtimes Environmental Sampling
- Fieldwalking
- Geophysical Survey
- Measured Survey \boxtimes Metal Detectors Phosphate Survey Photogrammetric Survey
- Photographic Survey
- **Rectified Photography**
- Fabric/Structure \boxtimes Targeted Trenches Test Pits
- - Topographic Survey
- Vibro-core
 - Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

Monument	Period	Obje
Ditch	Middle Bronze Age	Potter
	(- 1600 to - 1000)	
Pit	Middle Bronze Age	Flint
	(- 1600 to - 1000)	
Posthole	Middle Bronze Age	Potter
	(- 1600 to - 1000)	
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)	Potter
Pit	Roman (43 to 410)	Potter
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)	Huma
Pit/possible SFB	Early Medieval (410	Anima
	to 1066)	
Ditch	Post Medieval	CBM
	(1540 to 1901)	
Pit	Modern (1901 to	
	present)	

Object	Period
Pottery	Middle Bronze Age (-
	1600 to - 1000)
Flint	Middle Bronze Age (-
	1600 to - 1000)
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Pottery	Early Medieval (410 to
	1066)
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to
	1901)
Human bone	Bronze Age (- 2500 to -
	700)
Animal bone	Middle Bronze Age (-
	1600 to - 1000)
CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to
	1901)



Project Location

County	Essex
District	Uttlesford
Parish	Great Chesterford
HER office	Essex
Size of Study Area	23ha
National Grid Ref	TL 50953 44656

Address (including Postcode)

2, Park Farm, Park Road, Saffron Walden CB10 1RN

Project Originators

, 0	
Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Richard Harris
Project Design Originator	Patrick Moan
Project Manager	Patrick Moan
Project Supervisor	Anne-Laure Bollen

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Saffron Walden Museum	SAFWM: 2021.55
Digital Archive	OA East	XEXNUV21
Paper Archive	Saffron Walden Museum	SAFWM: 2021.55

Physical Contents	Present?		Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated v Finds	with
Animal Bones	\boxtimes		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
Ceramics	\boxtimes		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
Environmental	\boxtimes		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
Glass					
Human Remains	\boxtimes		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
Industrial					
Leather					
Metal					
Stratigraphic			\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
Survey			\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
Textiles					
Wood					
Worked Bone					
Worked Stone/Lithic	\boxtimes		\boxtimes	\boxtimes	
None					
Other					
Digital Media			Paper Media		
Database		\boxtimes	Aerial Photos		
GIS		\boxtimes	Context Sheets		\boxtimes
Geophysics			Correspondence		
Images (Digital photos)		\square	Diary		
Illustrations (Figures/Pla	ates)	\boxtimes	Drawing		\boxtimes

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Further Comments

Moving Image		Manuscript	
Spreadsheets		Мар	
Survey	\boxtimes	Matrices	
Text	\boxtimes	Microfiche	
Virtual Reality		Miscellaneous	
		Research/Notes	
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	
		Plans	\boxtimes
		Report	\boxtimes

Sections Survey \boxtimes



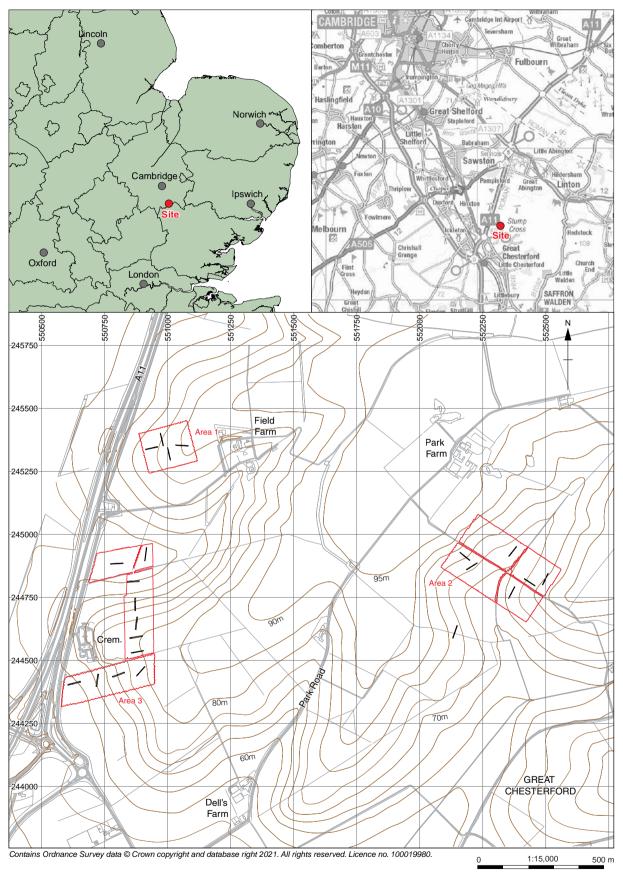
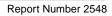


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)





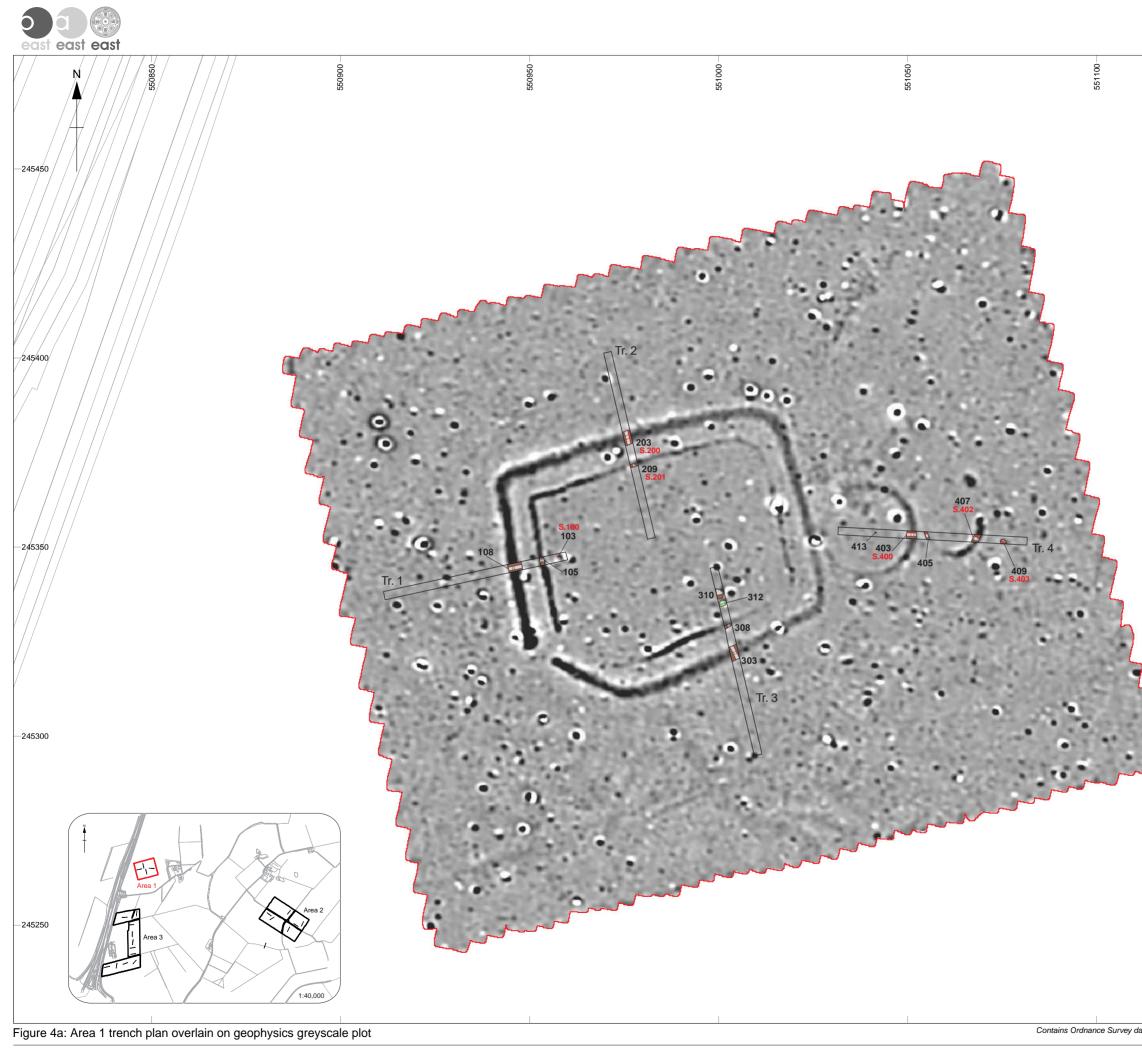
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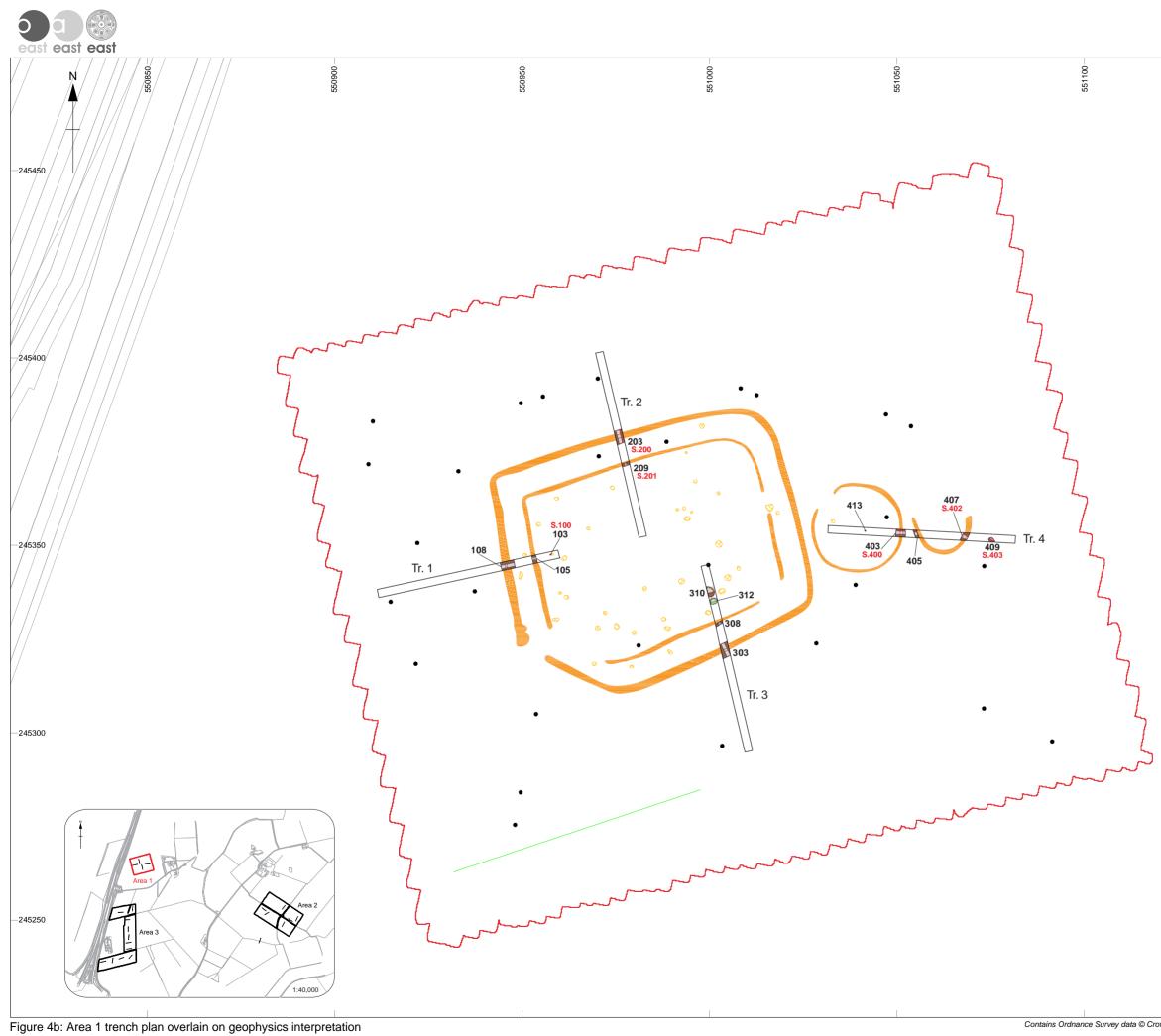
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551150		
591999 Key Tr.1 5.1 100 -2.0	Development area	2.0
0	1:1000	50 m

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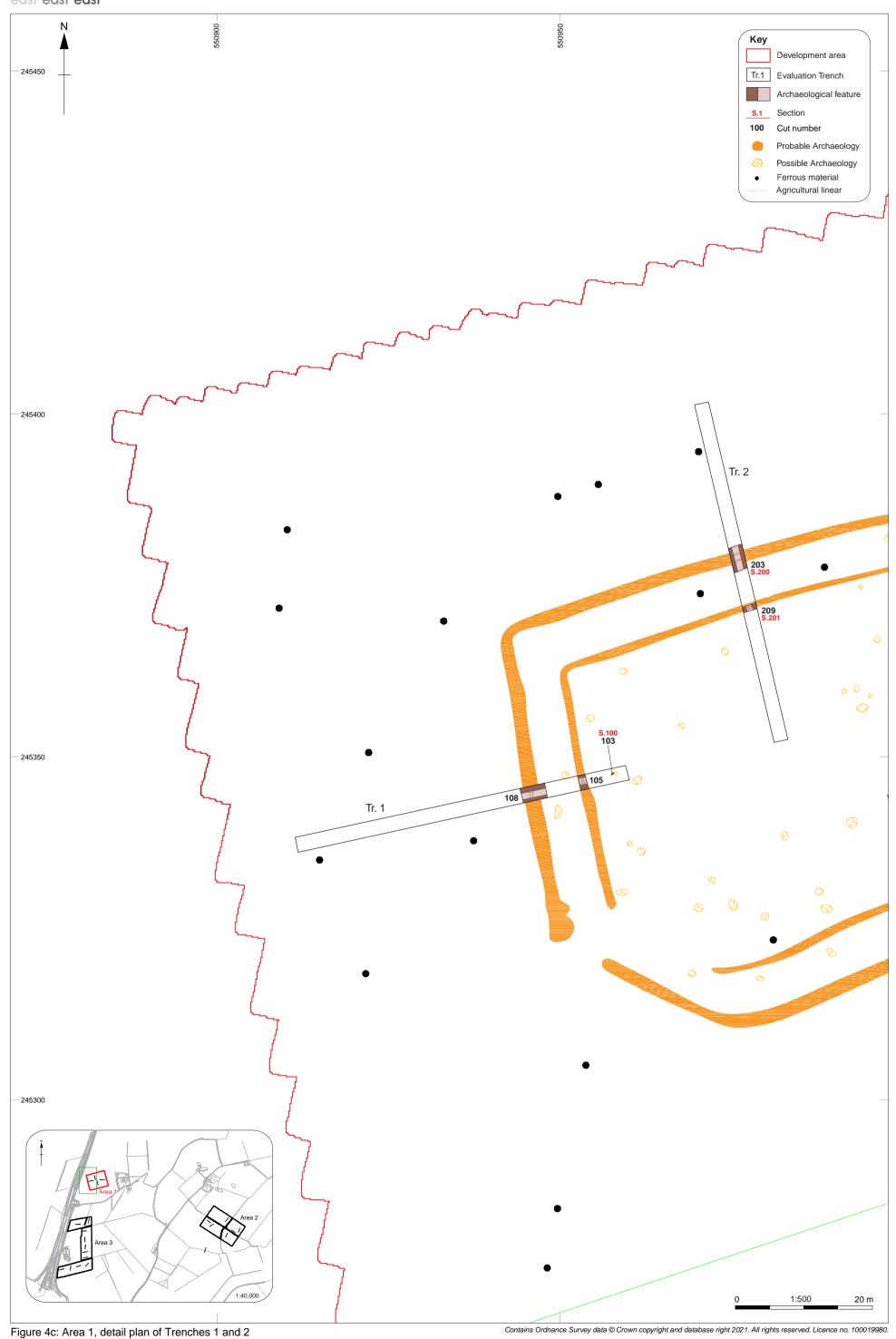


Development area	
Evaluation Trench	
Archaeological feature	-
Natural	
Section	
Cut number	
Probable Archaeology	
Possible Archaeology	\land
Ferrous material	
Agricultural linear	
	Evaluation Trench Archaeological feature Natural Section Cut number Probable Archaeology Possible Archaeology Ferrous material

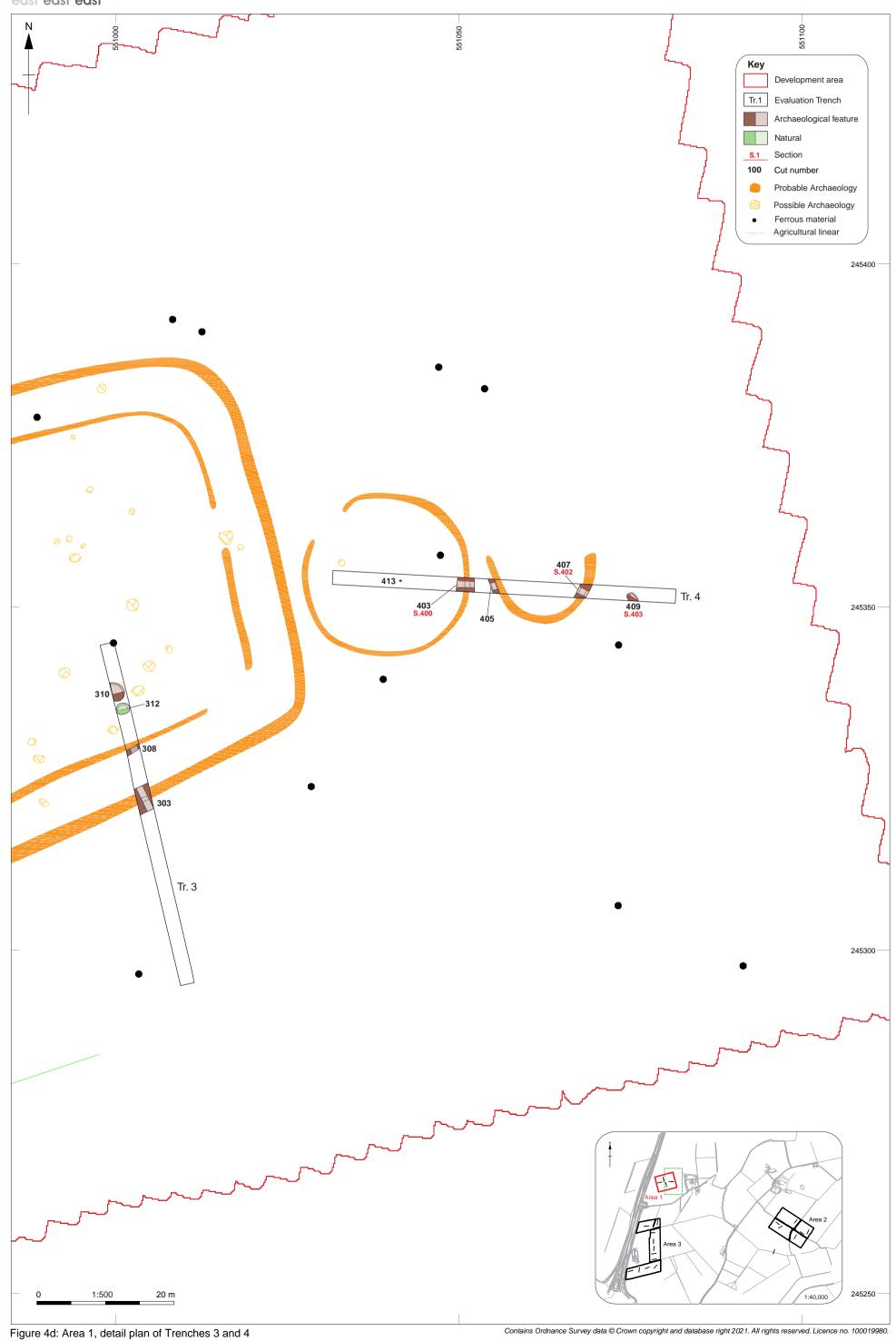
0	1:1000	50 m

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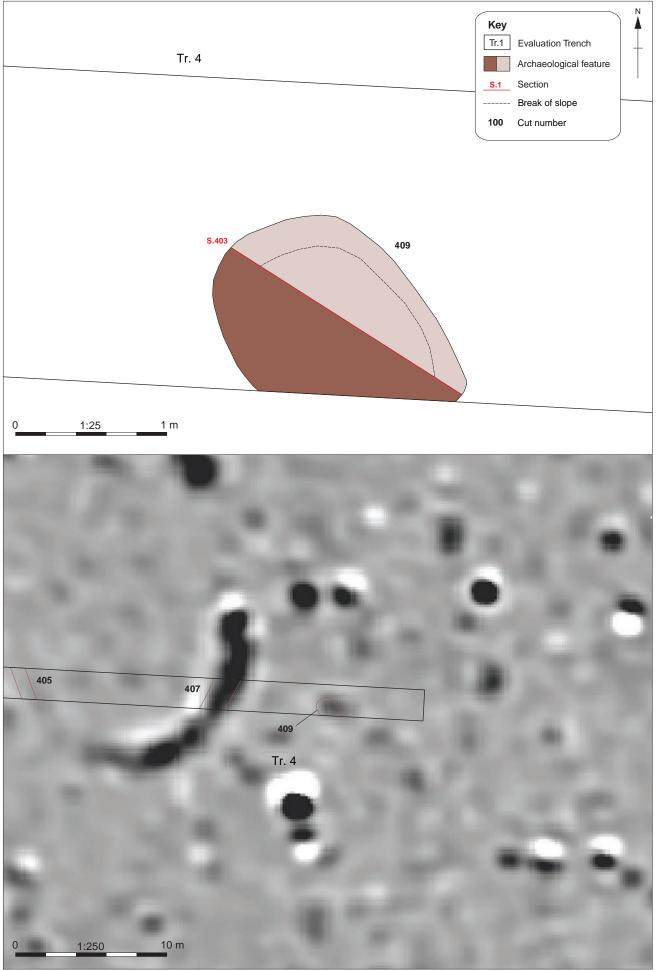
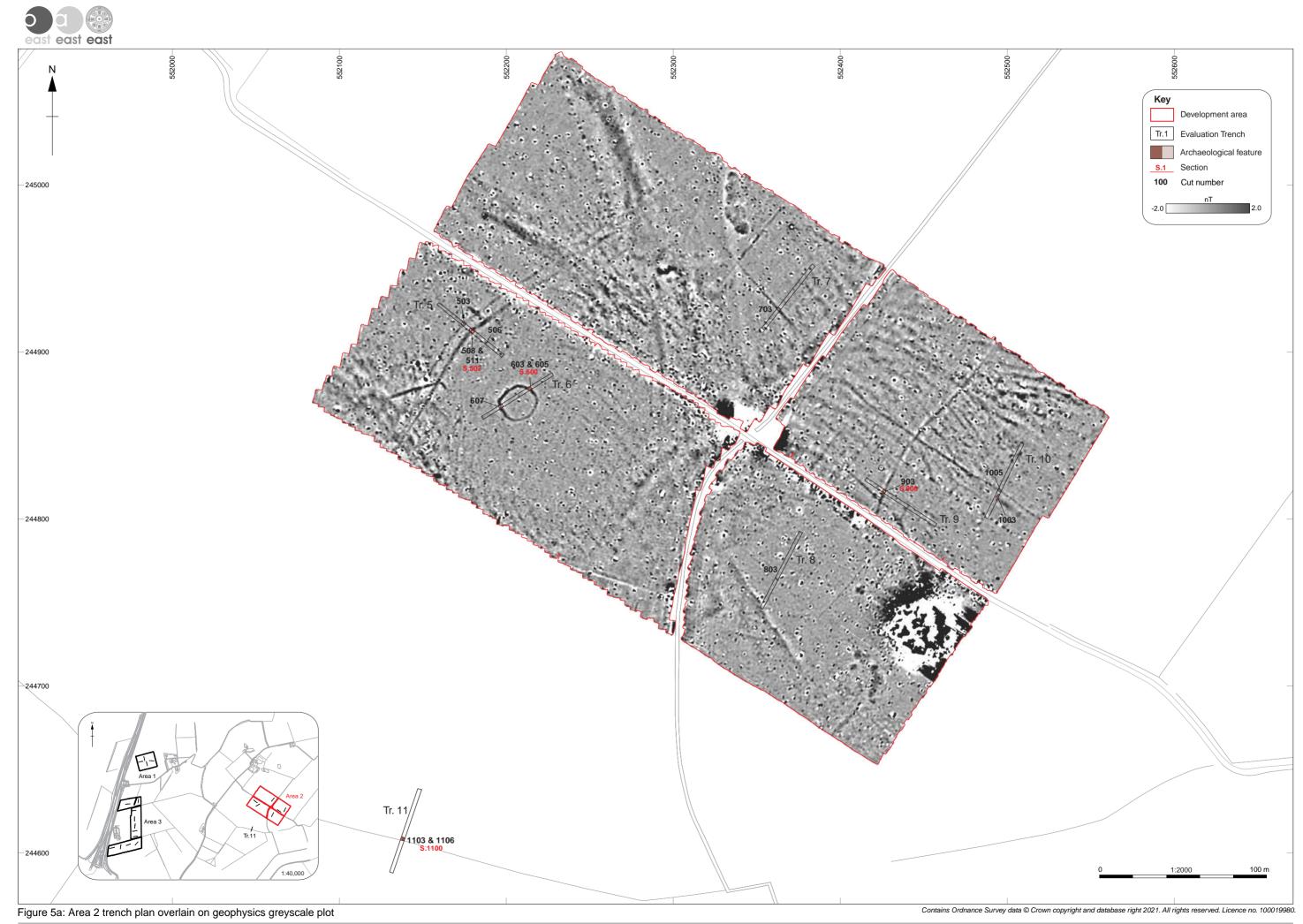
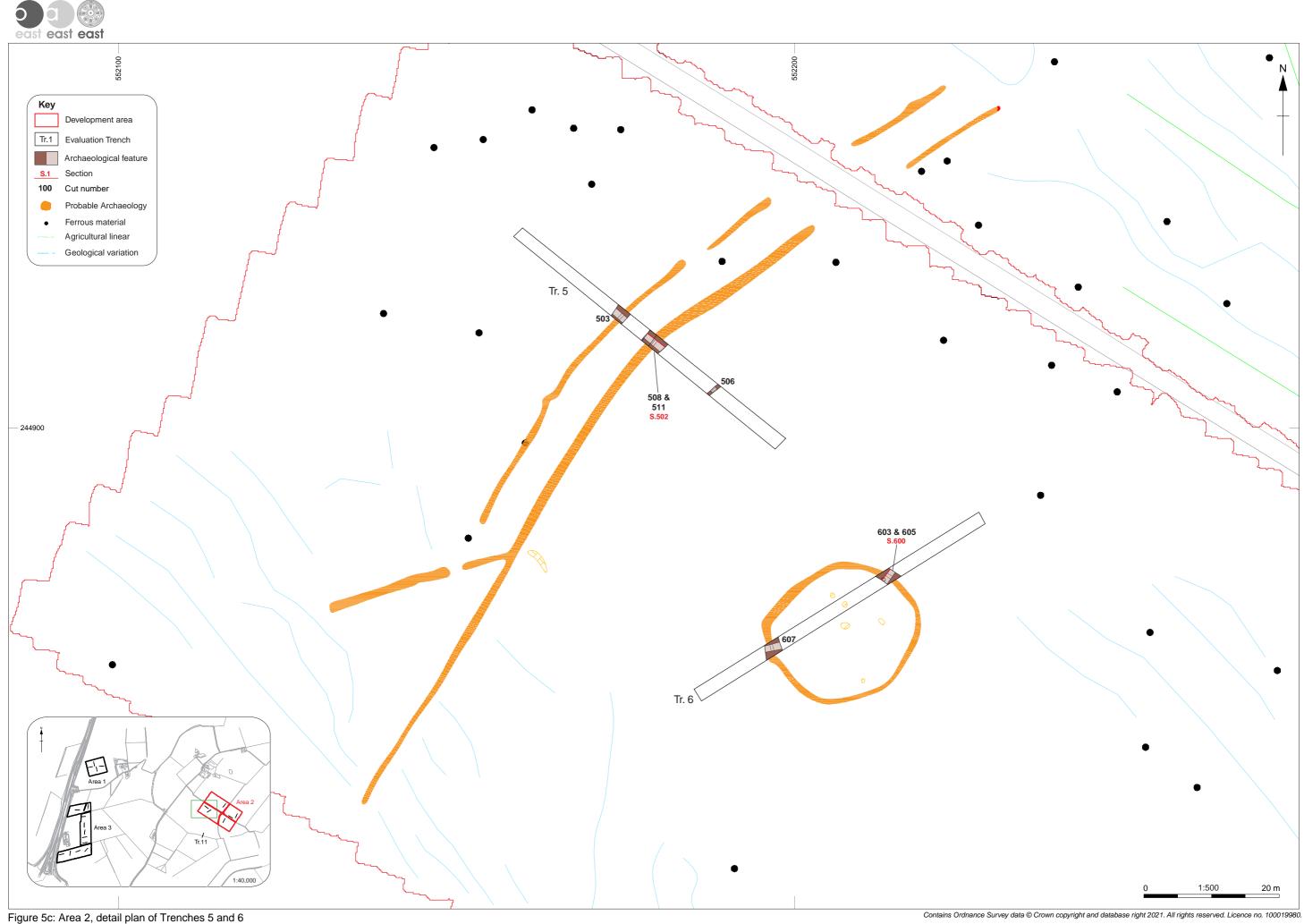
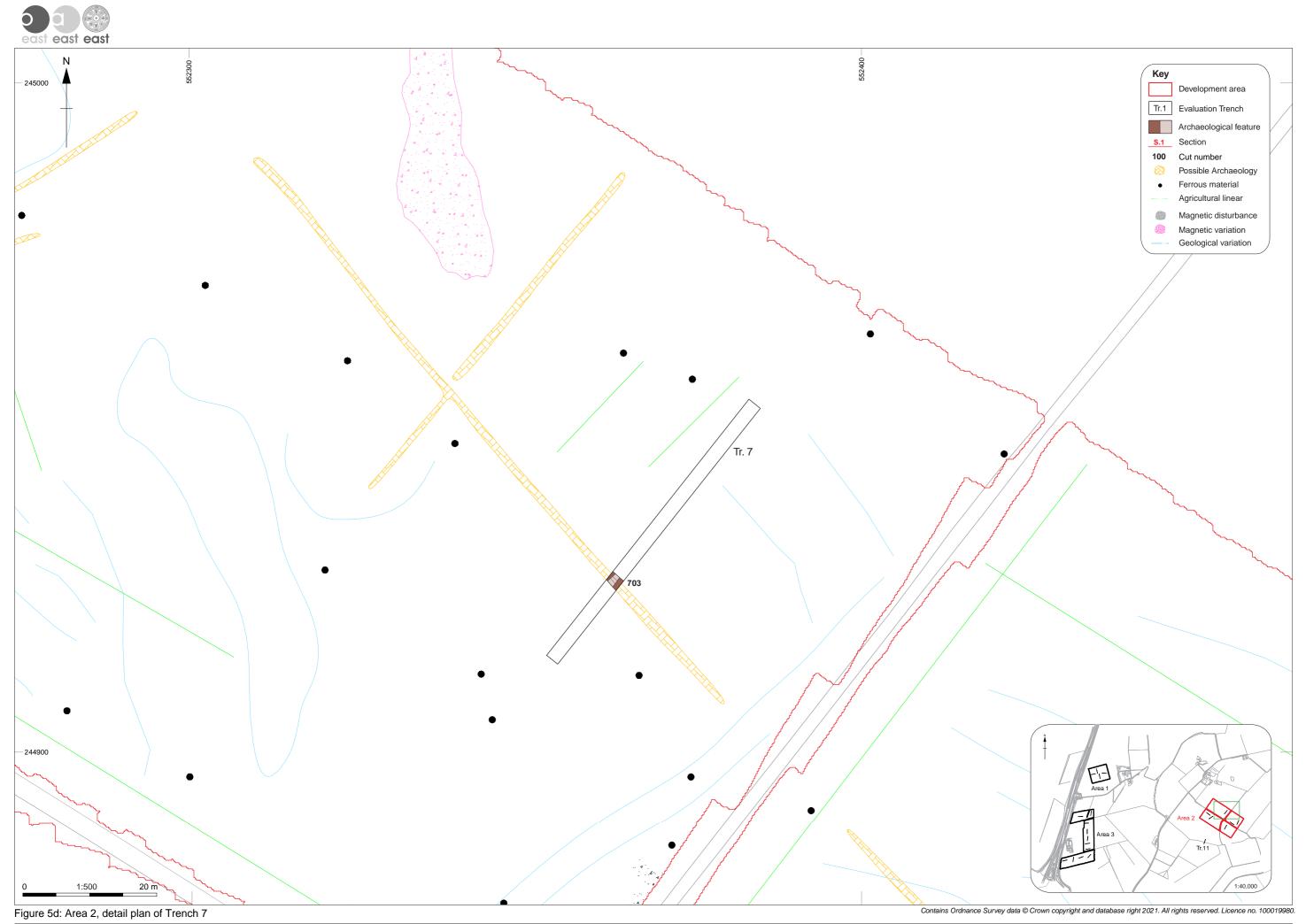


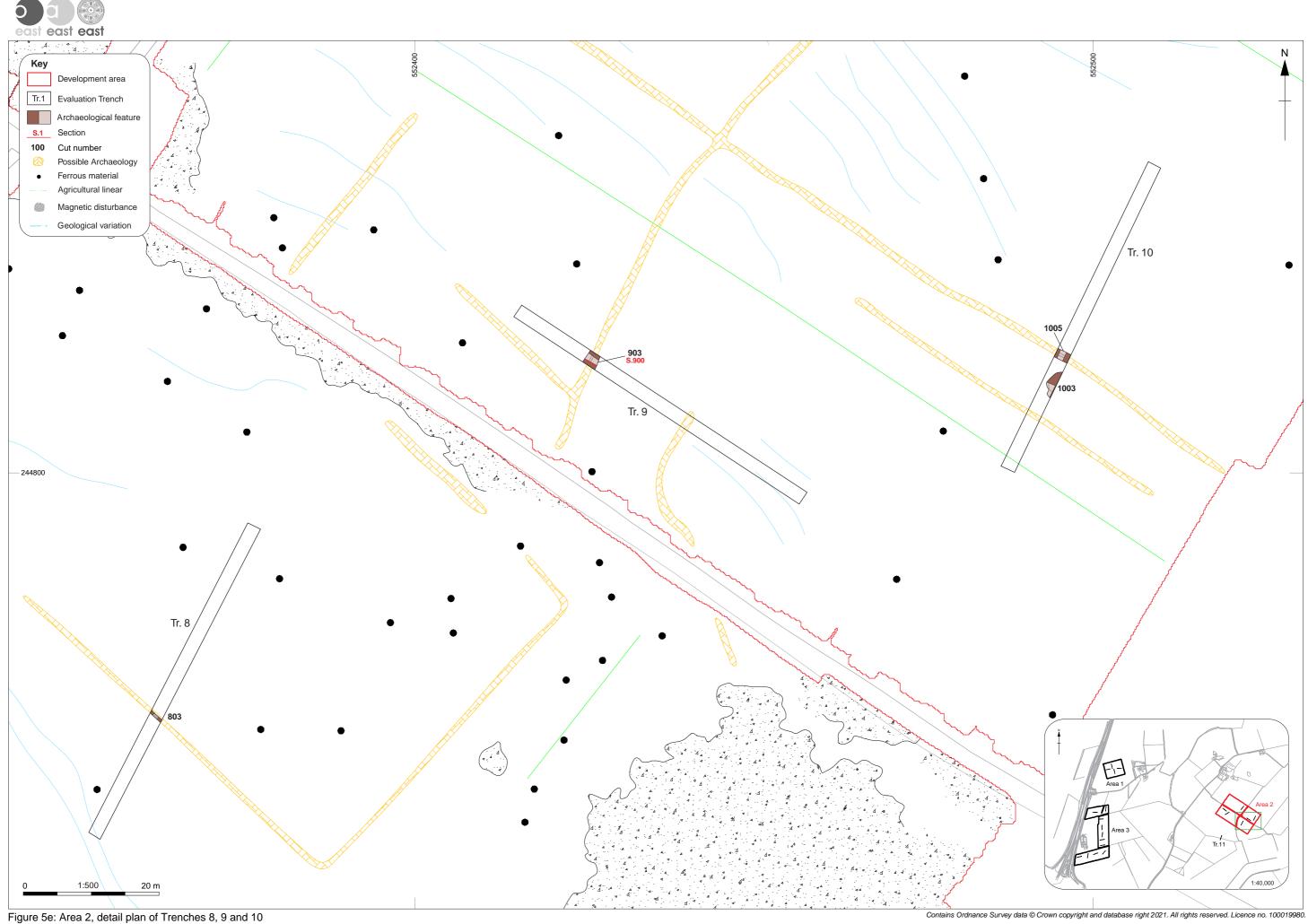
Figure 4e: Area 1, detail plan of pit/grave 409 in Trench 4



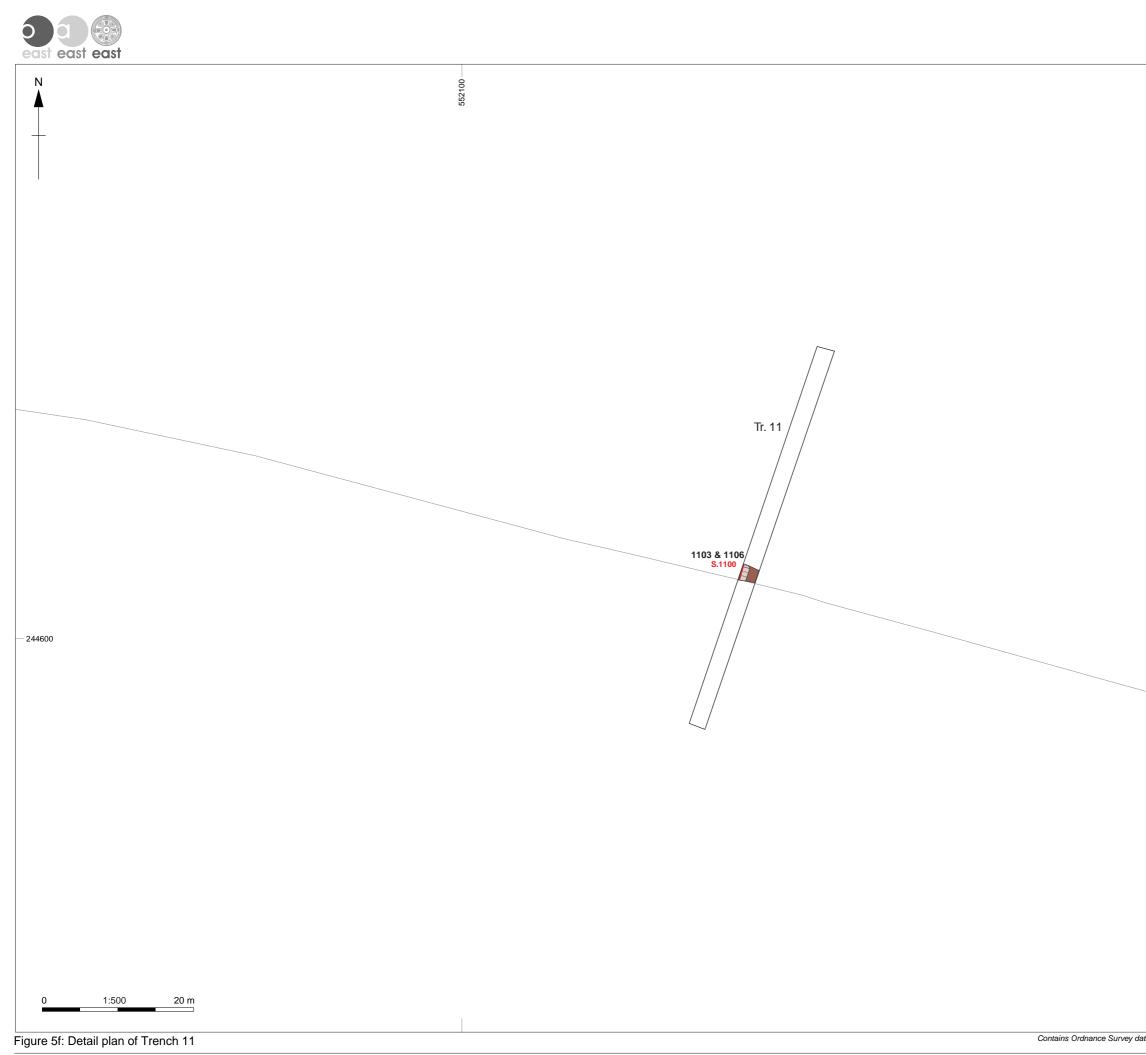




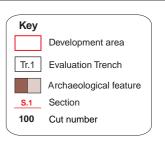


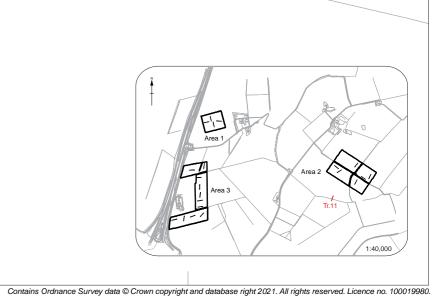


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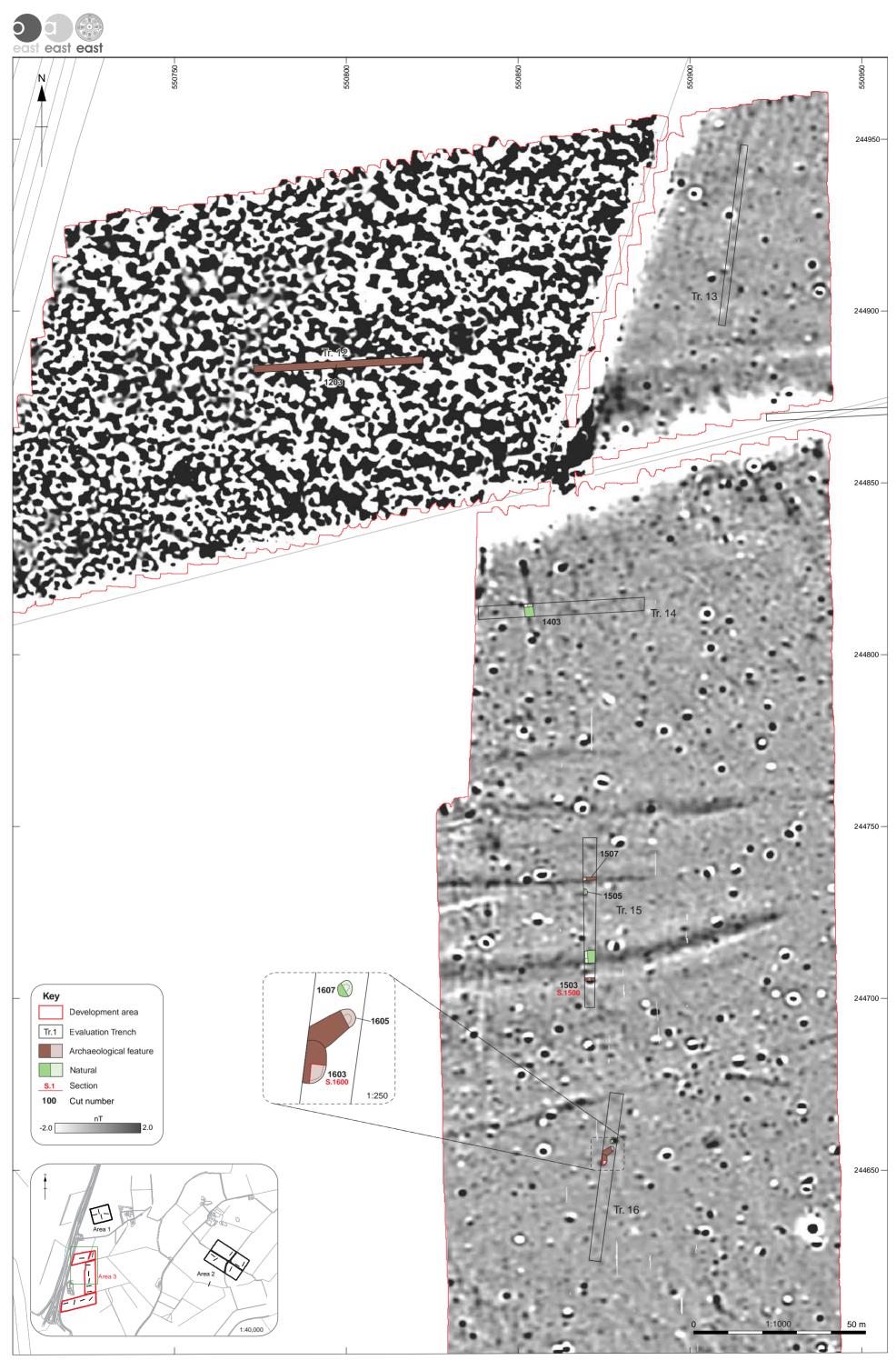


Figure 6a: Northern half of Area 3 trench plan overlain on geophysics greyscale plot

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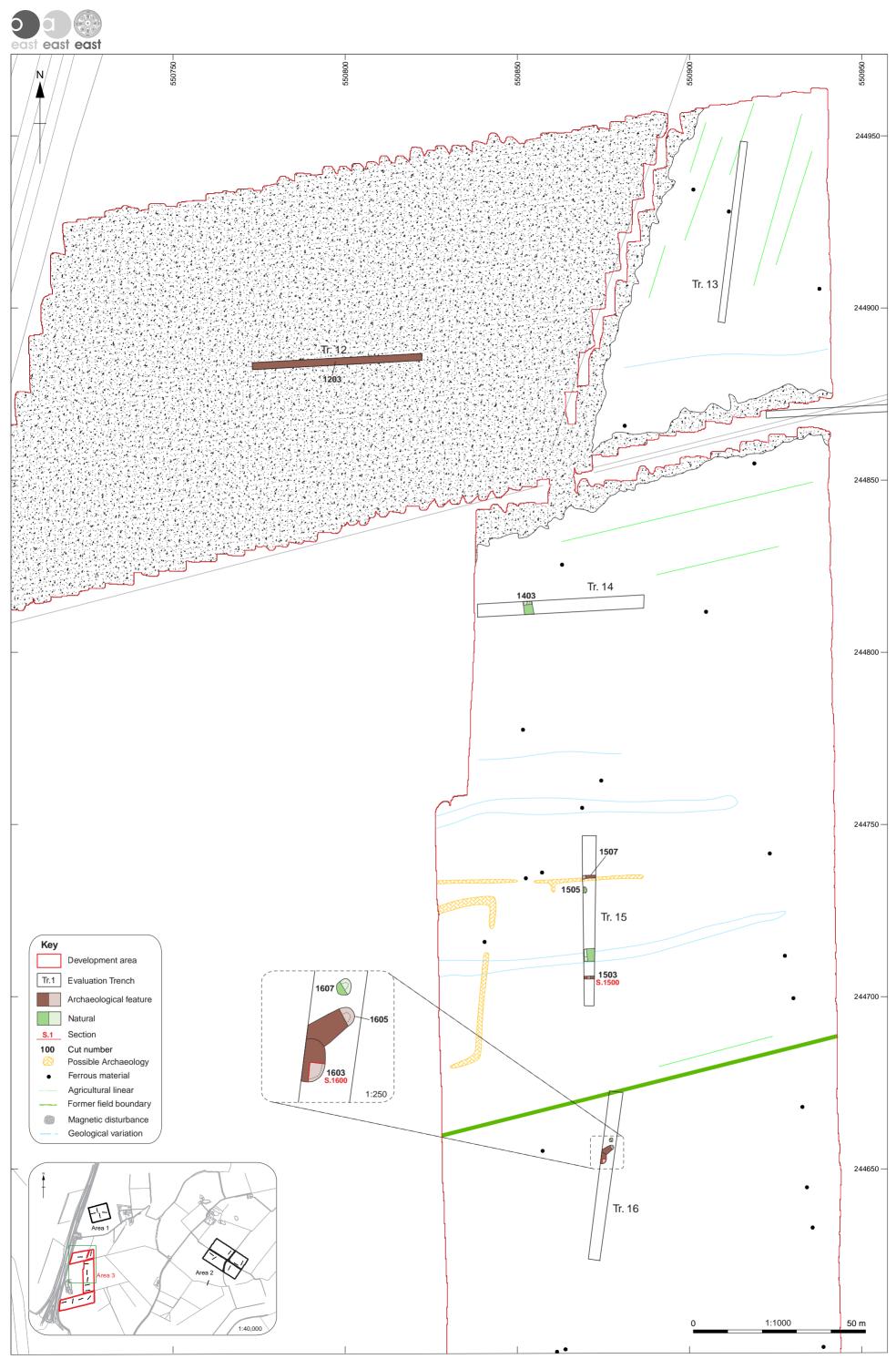
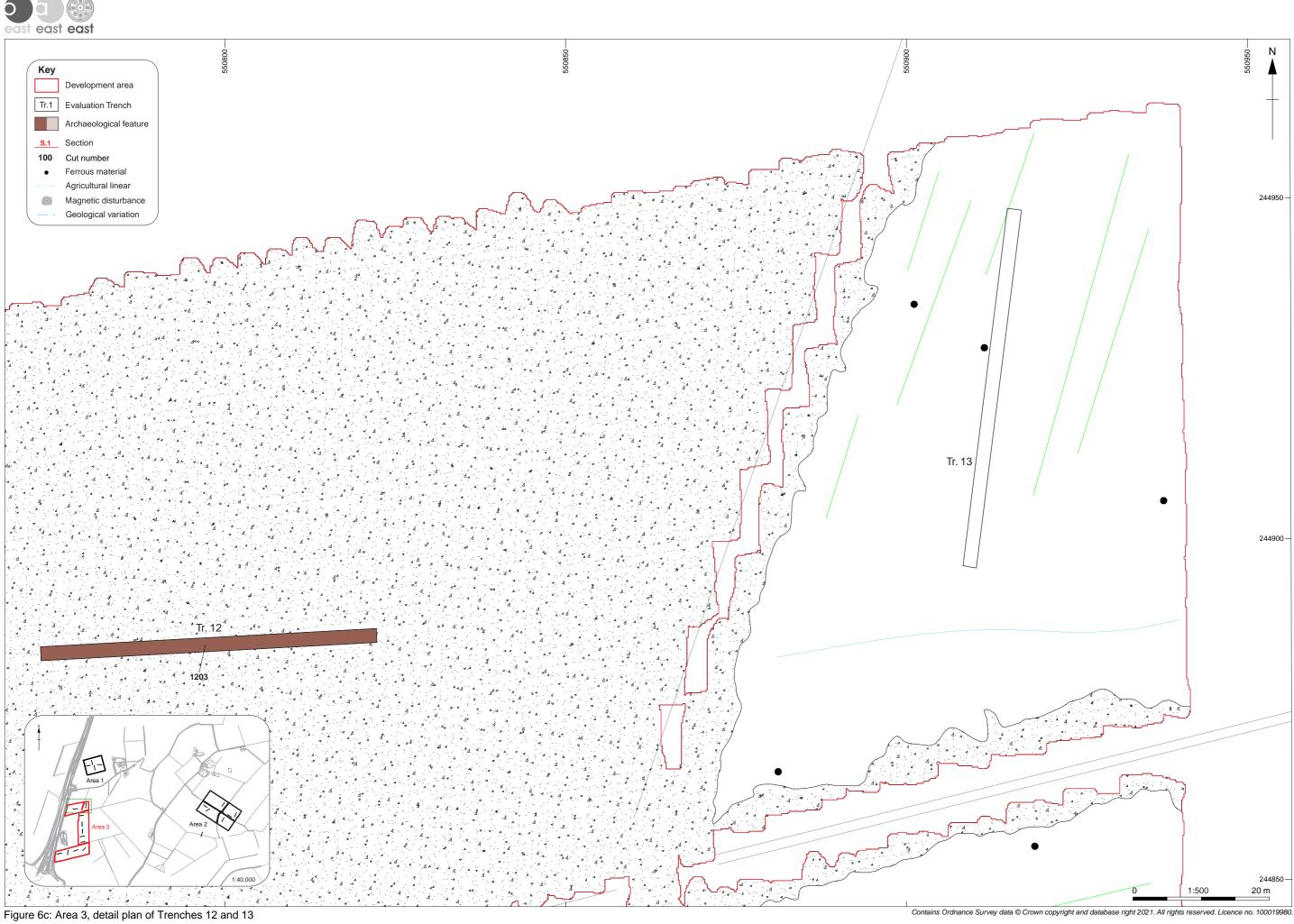


Figure 6b: Northern half of Area 3 trench plan overlain on geophysics interpretation

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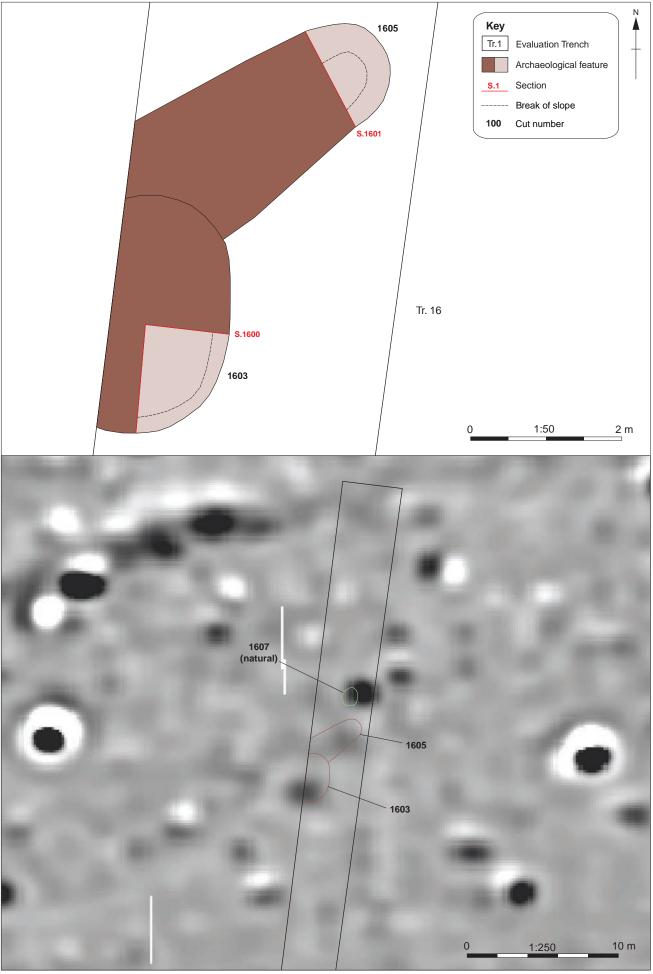
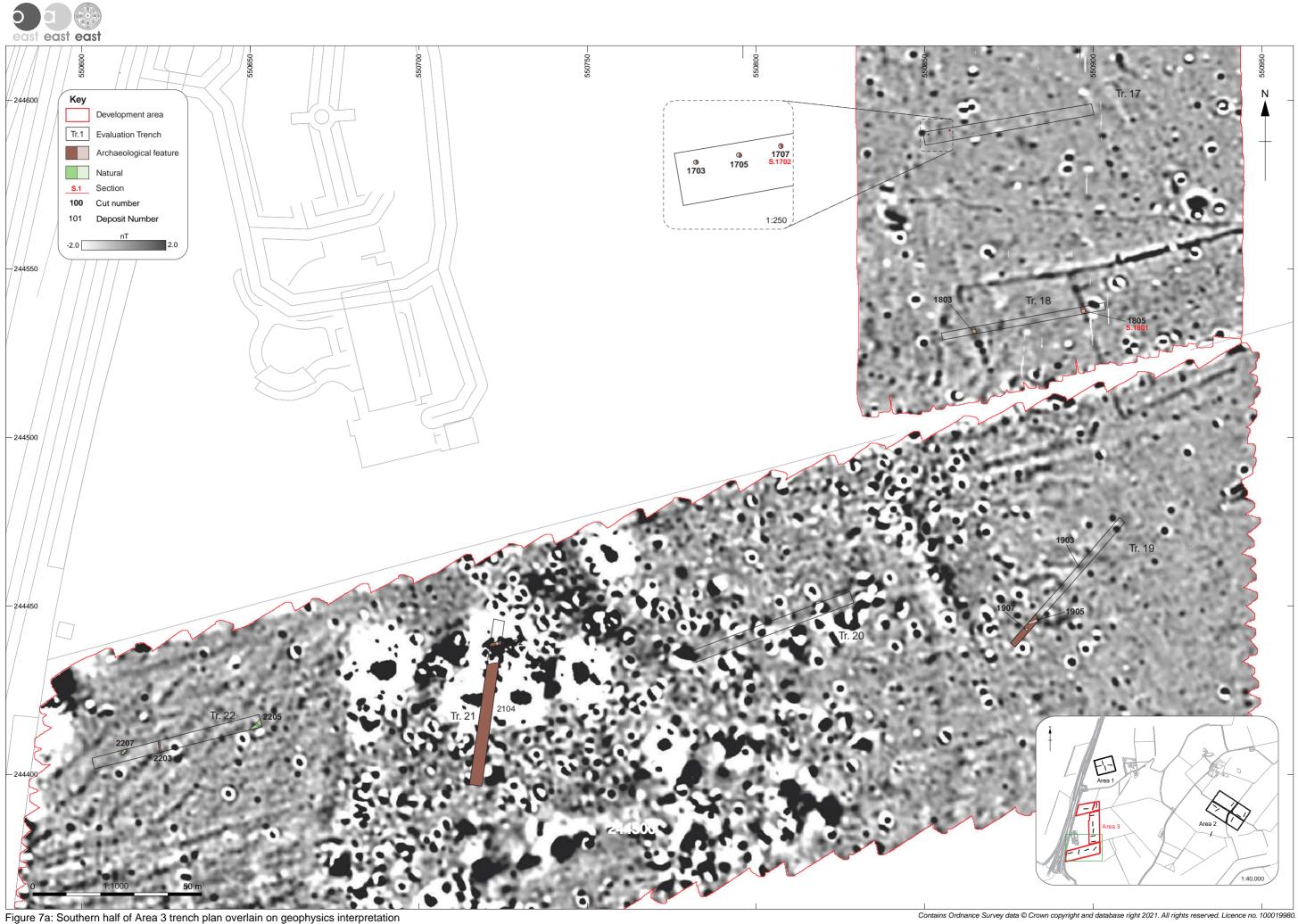
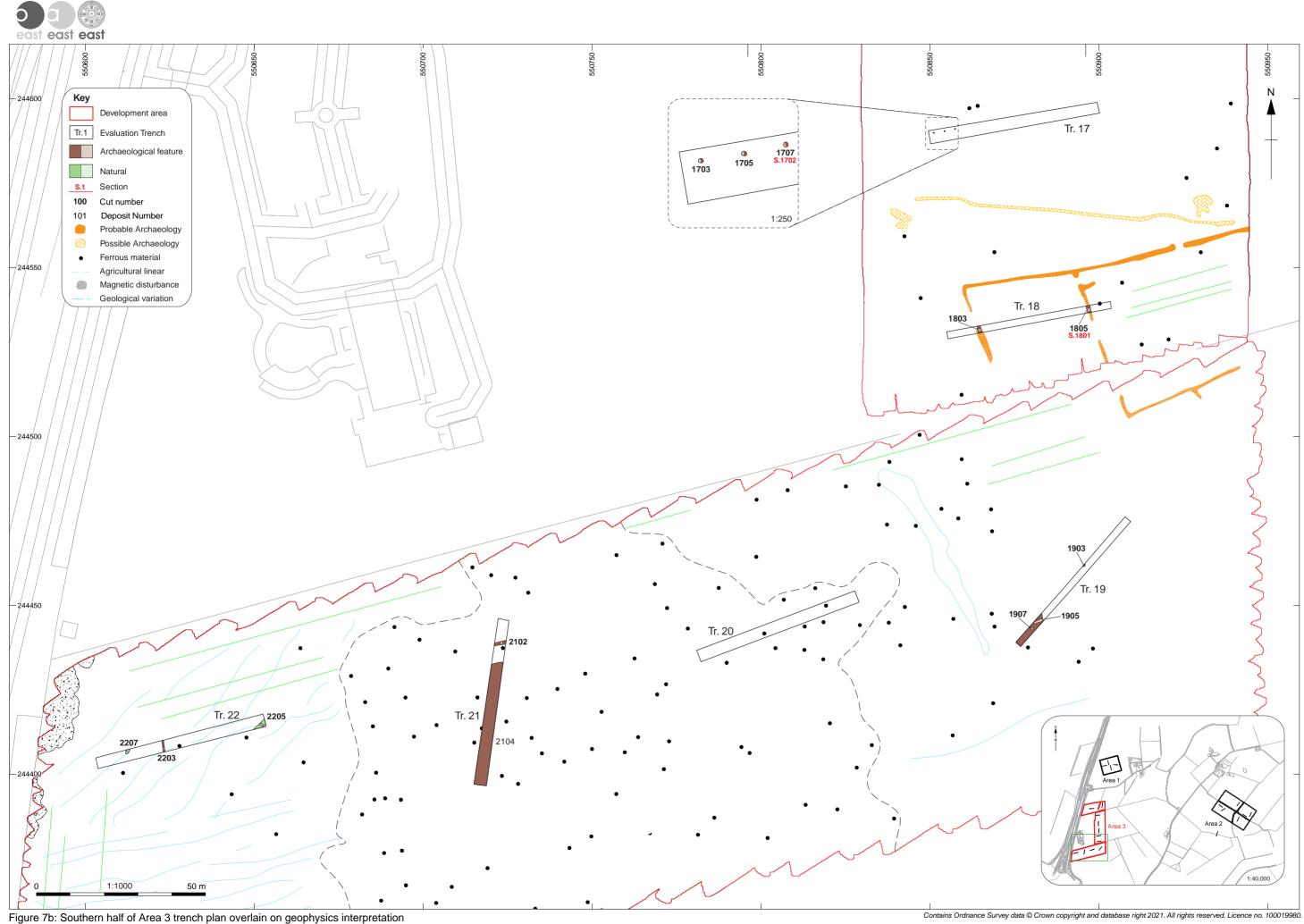
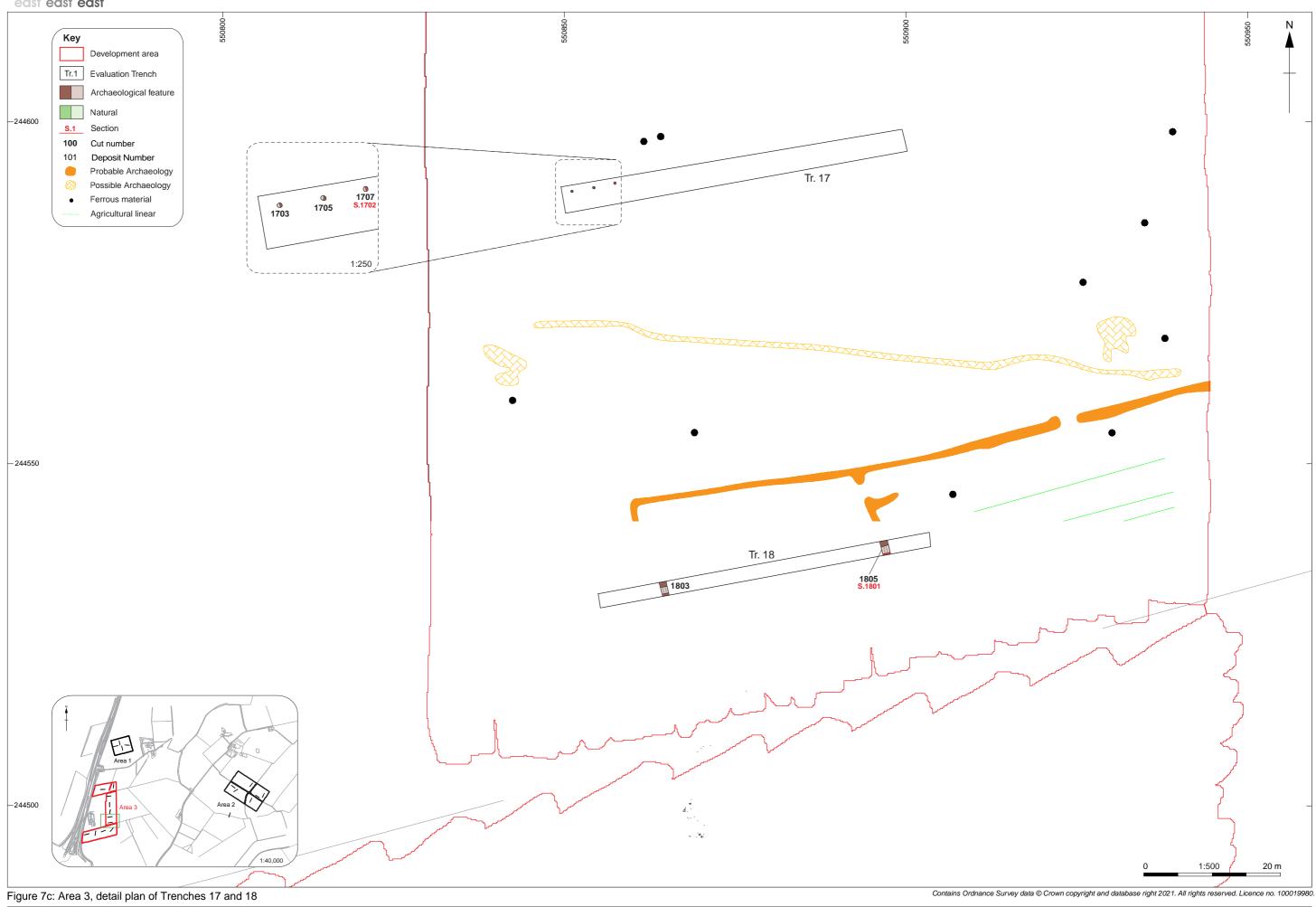


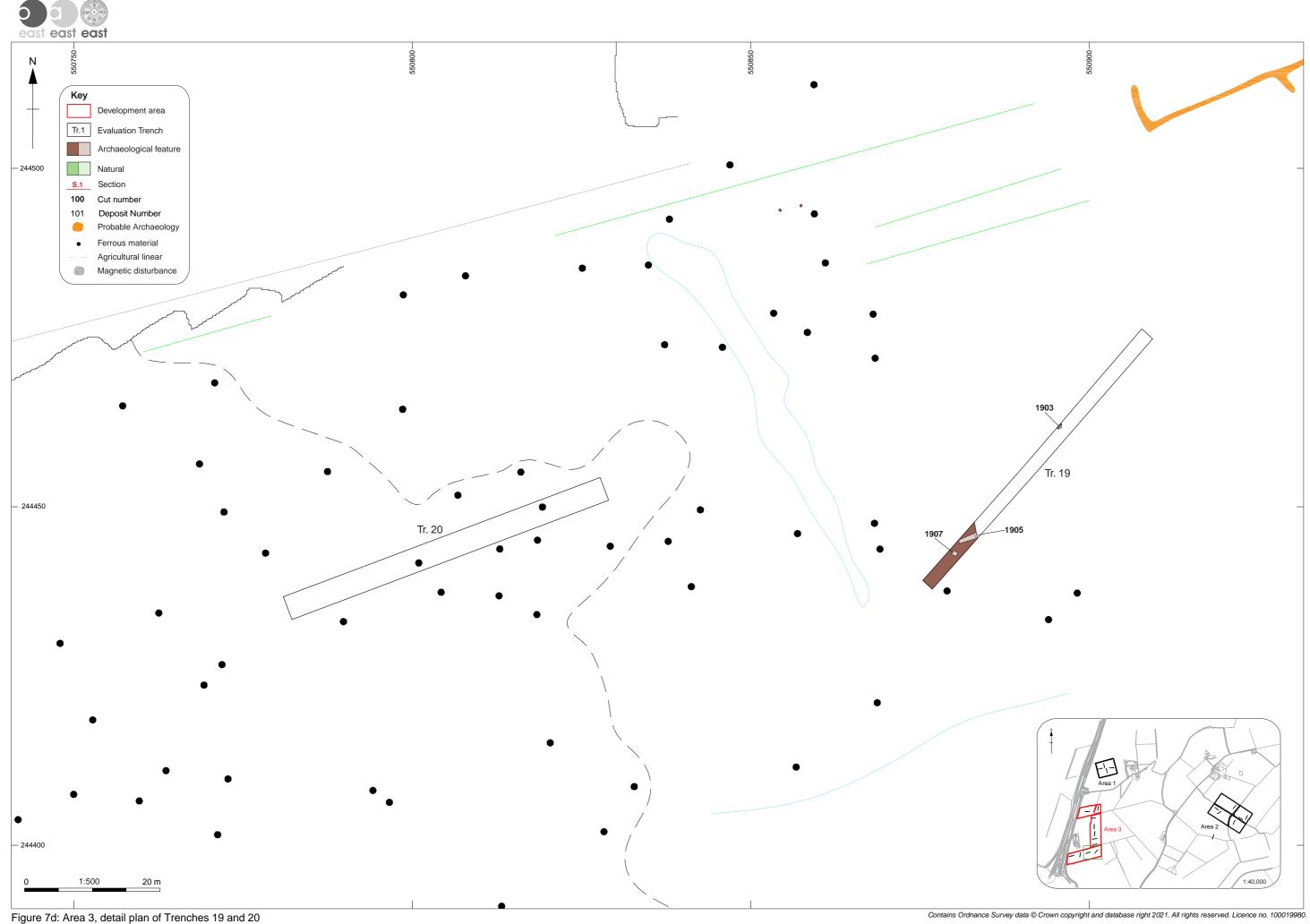
Figure 6e: Area 3, detail plan of pit/SFB? 1603 in Trench 16



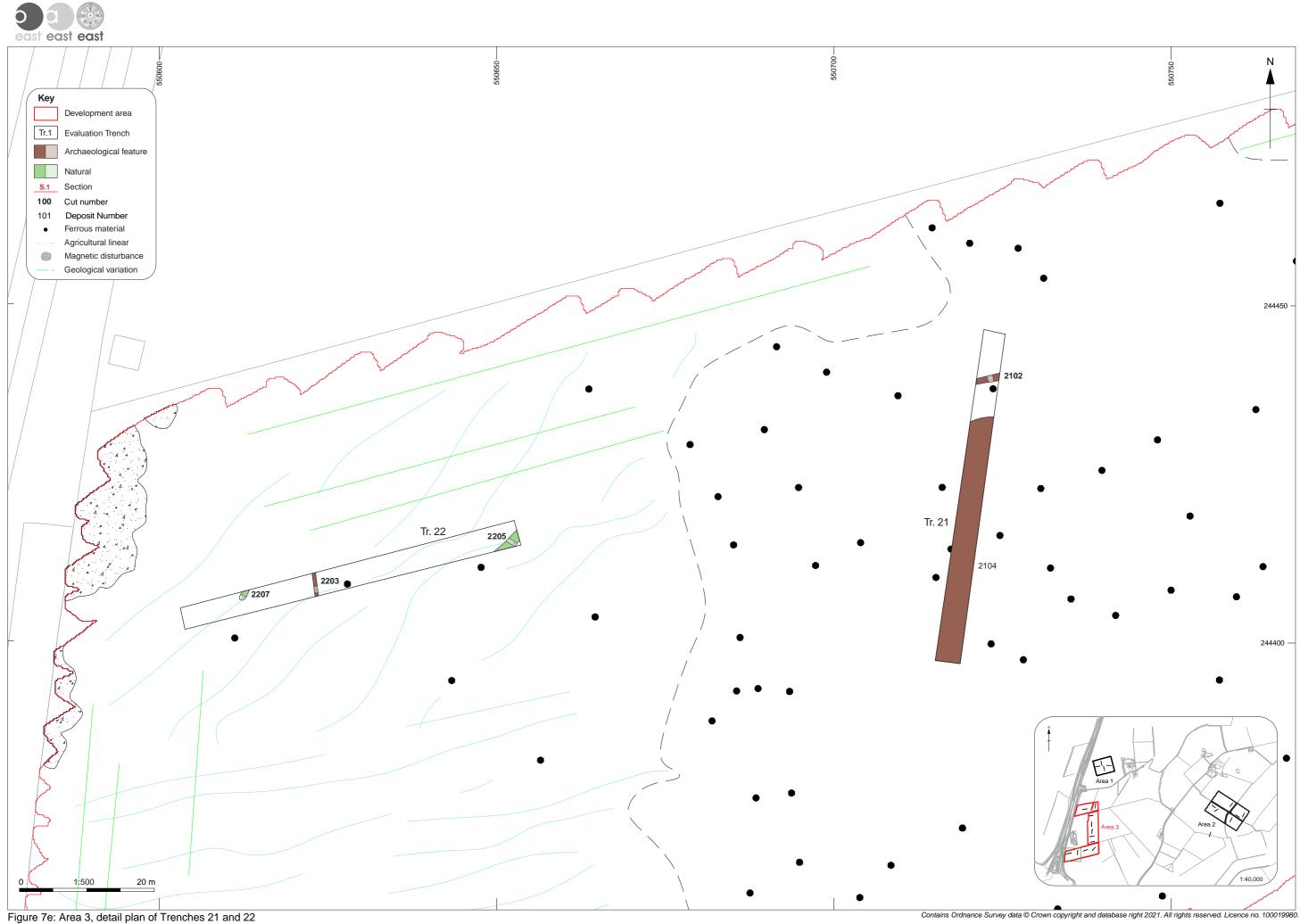






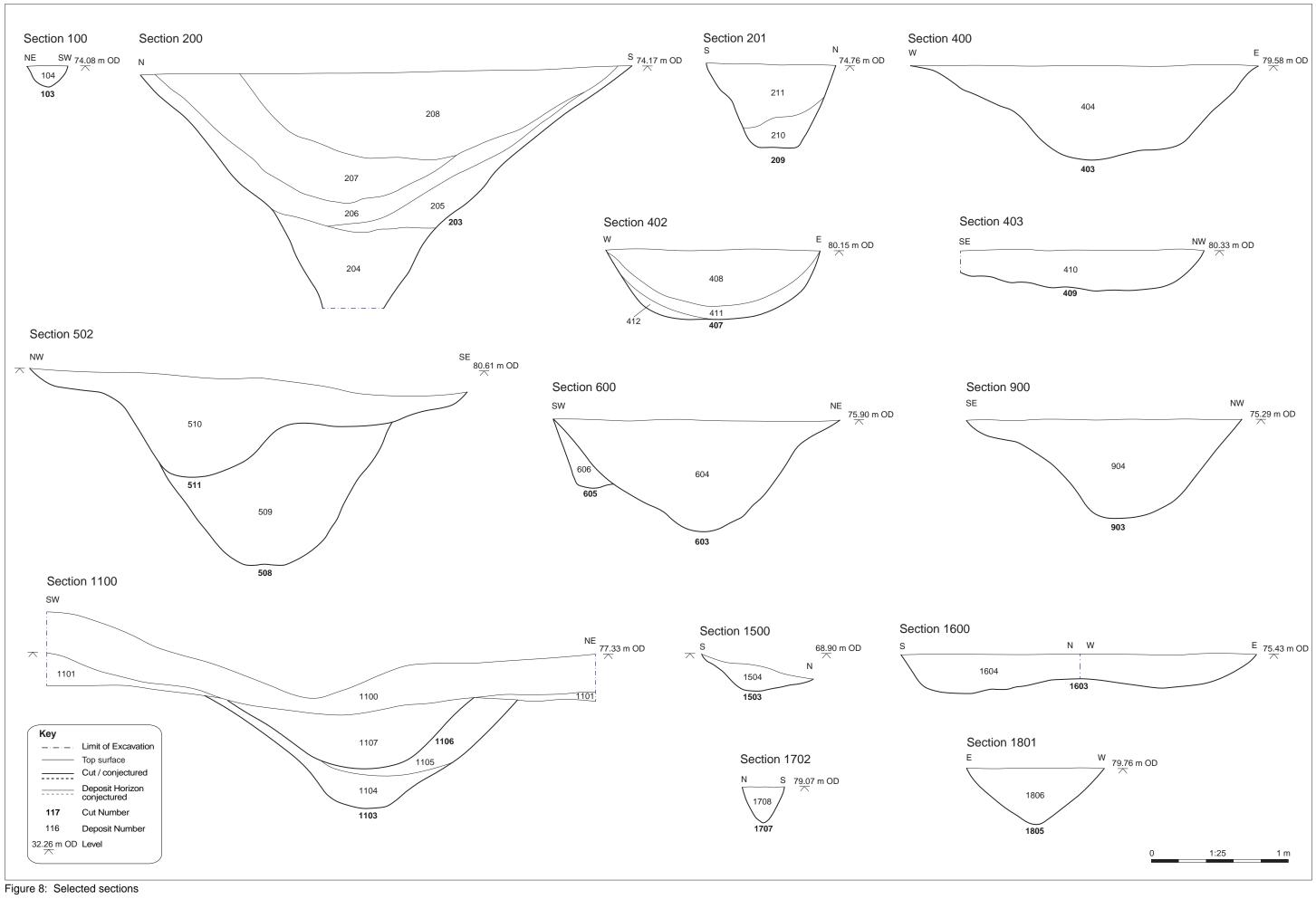


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Plate 1: Area 1, Trench 1, from the east-northeast



Plate 2: Area 1, Trench 1, Posthole 103, from the southeast





Plate 3: Area 1, Trench 2, Ditch 203, from the west-southwest



Plate 4: Area 1, Trench 2, Ditch 209, from the east-northeast





Plate 5: Area 1, Trench 4, from the east



Plate 6: Area 1, Trench 4, Ditch 407, from the southwest





Plate 7: Area 1, Trench 4, Pit 409, from the north



Plate 8: Area 2, Trench 5, Ditches **508** and **511**, from the southwest





Plate 9: Area 2, Trench 6, from the northeast



Plate 10: Area 2, Trench 9, Ditch 903, from the northeast





Plate 11: Area 2, Trench 11, Ditches 1103 and 1106, from the east-southeast



Plate 12: Area 3, Trench 15, from the north





Plate 13: Area 3, Trench 15, Ditch 1503, from the east



Plate 14: Area 3, Trench 16, Pit 1603 (possible SFB), from the southeast





Plate 15: Area 3, Trench 17 showing line of postholes 1703, 1705 and 1707, from the west





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