Land West of Longlands Close and North of The Paddock Caravan Park, Ramsey Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire

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Land West of Longlands Close and North of The Paddock Caravan Park, Ramsey Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 28th April and 2nd May 2025, Oxford Archaeology undertook a trial trench evaluation on a parcel of land to the west of Longlands Close and north of The Paddock Caravan Park, Ramsey Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire.

A total of nine trenches were excavated, seven of which contained archaeological remains. The earliest features consisted of a series of small, regular ditches revealed in trenches in the north-western part of the site. These ditches produced a small quantity of Romano-British pottery (seven sherds, 64g) and probably relate to an agricultural field system dating to this period.

A series of later, medieval to post-medieval, agricultural furrows aligned south-east to north-west were also recorded across the site. These features were still visible as extant earthworks, especially in the south-western part of the development area.

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Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Burmor Construction for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Simon Wood who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Andrew Greef. The fieldwork was directed by Paddy Lambert, who was supported by Sam Corke. Survey, UAV and digitising was carried out by Nikki Crawford. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell. Martha Craven processed the environmental remains. Lexi Dawson prepared the archive under the supervision of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Burmor Construction to undertake a trial trench evaluation on a 1ha plot of land to the west of Longlands Close and north of The Paddock Caravan Park, Ramsey Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 30158 80120)

1.1.2 Ten 1.8m wide trenches measuring between 35m and 15m long were planned to be excavated at pre-determined locations in order to assess the archaeological remains present on site. Several of these trenches were aligned perpendicular to the known earthworks of ridge and furrow present on site.

1.1.3 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (Planning Ref. 20/00308/OUT). A brief/specification was set by Simon Wood for the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (Greef 2025) detailing the Local Planning Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements and details the results of the investigation.

1.1.4 All work was carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*, *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (2023) and *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2023).

1.1.5 The finds and documentary archive will be deposited with CCC Stores under the accession code ECB7587; the digital archive will be deposited with ADS. The landowner's permission to donate the finds to this repository will be sought.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the west of Ramsey Road, on the west side of Warboys. The site is bounded by fields to the north and west and a caravan park (The Paddock) to the south.

1.2.2 At the time of the fieldwork the area of proposed development lay under grassland, with localised areas of woodland. Standing buildings stood within the eastern part of the development area, fronting Ramsey Road. The site lies at around 29m OD.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as clay of the West Walton and Ampthill Clay formations, overlain by superficial deposits of glacial till belonging to the Oadby Member (BGS 2025)

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The historical and archaeological background of the site has been detailed within a Heritage Statement produced by Orion Heritage (2020) and is not repeated in full here. The following abridged summary draws upon this Heritage Statement, the WSI (Greef 2025) and information from a search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER; licence number

24-5744) as well as the results of previous work undertaken by OA in the area (Fig. 2)

Prehistoric and Roman

1.3.2 Evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity is well attested in the wider environs of Warboys. Located 900m to the east on Farriers Way, excavations by Oxford Archaeology revealed a complex sequence of settlement remains dating to the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods (ECB 5481; Graham 2018). Evidence within the immediate vicinity of the site is, however, more limited, limited to the findspot of a bronze chape from an Iron Age scabbard found to the west of the site (CHER 03657).

Anglo-Saxon to post-medieval

1.3.3 The parish of Warboys was first recorded as the gift of Archbishop Dunstan to the Abbey of St. Benedict of Ramsey and was confirmed by King Edgar in AD 974 (Simkins 1932).

1.3.4 Warboys is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as being among the lands of Ramsey and it was stated that the abbot had 10 hides in the manor which paid geld. There was a priest and a church and three acres of meadow, along with a wood (*ibid*.). By 1279 the Abbot of Ramsey held the manor of Warboys cum Caldecote from the king, including a windmill, and a messuage with a garden of 2½ acres, gallows and tumbrel (*ibid*).

1.3.5 Few Anglo-Saxon finds have been recovered in Warboys. An Anglo-Saxon burial was found during an evaluation at Station Road, Warboys (MCB23599). The burial contained grave goods consisting of a copper alloy buckle and an iron knife.

1.3.6 The site lies 300m north of the 12th century Church of St Mary Magdelene, and medieval remains have been found on Pope's Lane (CHER 10488 and 11709) and at 94 Ramsey Road (MCB23453). The remains of well-preserved medieval ridge and furrow are present on the site itself as upstanding earthworks (MCB13682) with further evidence for ridge and furrow present locally (MCB13682, MCB20005).

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives set out in the WSI (Greef 2025) were as follows:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present

ii. preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development

iii. characterise the ridge and furrow shown on lidar.

iv. Establish the presence or absence of any other 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

v. Provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits

vi. Provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits

vii. 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 original scope of works (Section 1.1 of this report) stated that a total of ten 1.8m wide trenches measuring 35m (one trench), 30m (six trenches), 25m (one trench) and 15m (two trenches) be excavated. However, several constraints necessitated changes to the original scope of the trenching. These constraints included inaccessible ground, impenetrable overgrowth and modern contamination (see Fig. 3). In total, nine trenches were excavated, the changes to the dimensions/extent of which are detailed in Table 1.

2.2.2 Only one of the stipulated trenches was not excavated. It was agreed with CHET that Trench 10 was not required due to the high probability of contamination, as observed in nearby Trenches 8 and 9.

Trench No.	Original, planned, length (m)	Updated, excavated, length (m)
1	35	36
2	30	15
3	30	30
4	30	30
5	30	30
6	30	30
7	30	30
8	25	8.5
9	15	4.5
10	15	Unexcavated

Table 1: Excavated trenches and dimensions

2.2.3 Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 were excavated in accordance with the original scope of works (Table 1; Figs 3 and 4).

2.2.4 Trench 2 (Plate 1) was moved approximately 20m to the east due to the original location being inaccessible.

2.2.5 Trench 8 (Plate 2) was excavated to a length of 8m before excavation was ceased due to contaminated materials being encountered.

2.2.6 Trench 9 (Plate 3) was moved approximately 4m to the north due to the presence of an upstanding wall. It was excavated to a length of c.4.5m long and depth of 1.2m. It was not fully excavated due to contaminated material being encountered, in line with Oxford Archaeology's Health and Safety Policy.

2.2.7 The locations of all the excavated trenches are shown on Figs 3 and 4 and the full details of all trench dimensions can be found in Appendix A.

2.2.8 Machine excavation was undertaken by a 9-tonne mechanical rubber tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. All machining was undertaken by Lattenbury PLC.

2.2.9 All machine excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.10 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA's pro-forma sheets. Plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of all features and deposits and of all trenches. Photographs were also taken of the general topography and areas which prohibited the safe excavation of trenches.

2.2.11 A UAV photographic survey was conducted which targeted the remains of the ridge and furrow. Photogrammetry was not feasible due to the height of the surrounding vegetation.

2.2.12 Surveying was undertaken using a survey-grade differential GPS connected to Leica Smartnet.

2.2.13 Metal detecting of trench locations occurred throughout the course of mechanical stripping. All spoil heaps and identified archaeological horizons, as well as identified features, trench sides and trench bases were subjected to systematic metal detector surveying, undertaken by a proficient member of the site team. All signals were investigated but only material which was clearly modern was observed.

2.2.14 A single environmental sample was taken to assess the archaeobotanical potential of the excavated deposits.

2.3 Archiving

2.3.1 Upon approval of this report by CHET, the paper and physical components of the archive will be deposited with and curated by Cambridgeshire County Council Stores under the accession code ECB7587, following the completion of a Transfer of Title form signed by the landowner. The digital component of the archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

2.3.2 The archive will be prepared in accordance with current Cambridgeshire County Council and Oxford Archaeology guidelines, which are based on current national guidelines.

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. An overall trench plan is provided in Fig. 3 with a more detailed plan of trenches with associated archaeological remains in Fig. 4. Selected section drawings are provided in Fig. 5. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Reports on associated finds and environmental remains are presented in Appendices B and C respectively.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Generally, the soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform but displayed some variability in the eastern part of the site, towards the upstanding buildings. The natural geology of brownish grey clay was overlain by a dark greyish brown subsoil (2), which displayed variable thickness between 0.35 and 0.45m. This was overlain by topsoil topped with turf (1) which was a dark brown silty clay and measured between 0.20 and 0.25m thick. Rooting was noted across all trenches, but particularly in areas close to the northern and southern boundaries of the site.

3.2.2 In the easternmost part of the site (Trenches 8 and 9), the soil sequence comprised a thick dark grey silty clay topsoil, which contained abundant fragments of brick, glass, and other modern waste material which was strongly suggestive of made ground deposits. This measured between 0.40 – 1.2m thick. This overlaid a mid-orangey brown natural clay, where encountered.

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Despite a period of hot and dry weather, 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 Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. These features were all linear ditches. The general distribution of these features suggests that there was a focus of archaeological activity in the northern part of the site. A system of agricultural furrows was revealed in Trenches 1, 4 and 5. The furrows were subject to selective excavation in Trenches 1, 5 and 6, with five furrows revealed in plan in Trench 4 being left unexcavated (see Figs 3 and 4).

3.3.2 Trenches 2, 8 and 9 (Plates 1, 2 and 3) were devoid of archaeological remains and will not be discussed further.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Plates 5 and 6) was 30m long and located at the western end of the site. It was aligned north-west to south-east and was targeted on the upstanding remains of ridge and furrow. The remains of five linear furrows were revealed in the trench, all aligned east to west and evenly spaced approximately 4m apart.

3.4.2 Three of the furrows were excavated (furrows **34**, **3** and **37**; Fig. 5, section 13, Plate 6). These features measured between 2.5 and 3m wide and were 0.20m to 0.32m deep. Each had a wide flat based U-shaped profile (Fig. 5, and they were filled with dark brown clayey silts.

3.4.3 Fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and undiagnostic iron objects were recovered from the upper horizons of most of the furrows. These were noted but not retained.

3.5 Trench 3

3.5.1 Trench 3 was located 7m to the north-east of Trench 1 and aligned north-east to south-west. It was 30m long and revealed five linear ditches, most of which were aligned of north-west to south-east.

3.5.2 Ditch **23** (Fig. 5, section 10) was located at the western end of the trench and measured 0.9m wide and 0.30m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled (24) by a single mid-greyish brown silty clay which yielded two sherds (24g) of Romano-British pottery.

3.5.3 Located just under 7m to the east was ditch **21**, which was 1.1m wide and 0.36m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled by a mid-greyish brown silty clay (22) which yielded a single sherd (13g) of Romano-British pottery.

3.5.4 Immediately to the east was ditch **19**, which was on a slightly different – north-northwest to south-southeast - alignment than the other features in this trench. It was 0.62m wide and 0.24m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled (20) by a single mid-greyish brown silty clay which yielded no finds.

3.5.5 Located 4m to the east was ditch **17**, which was similar in morphology to ditch **21**. It measured 1.2m wide and 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a flattish base. Its single fill (18) was a mid-brownish grey silty clay.

3.5.6 Located at the north-eastern end of the trench was ditch **15** (Plate 7) which was 0.96m wide and 0.33m deep. It had steep sides and a flattish, somewhat irregular base. Its single fill (16) was a mid-brownish grey silty clay.

3.6 Trench 5

3.6.1 Trench 5 was 30m long and was located to the north-east of the field, approximately 5m west of Trenches 6 and 7. It contained two linear ditches aligned north-west to south-east and four agricultural furrows, one of which was excavated. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

3.6.2 Ditch **25** was located at the north-western end of the trench. It measured 0.74m wide and 0.22m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (26).

3.6.3 Located towards the middle of the trench was ditch **5** (Fig. 5, section 1) which measured 0.84m wide and 0.36m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (6).

3.6.4 The four furrows present in the trench were evenly spaced between 4 – 5m apart. Furrow **7** was located at the north-western end of the trench and was 1.4m wide and 0.20m deep, with wide gentle sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a light greyish brown silty clay (8).

3.7 Trench 6

3.7.1 Trench 6 (Plate 8) was located 5m east of Trench 5 and was aligned north-east to south-west. It contained a furrow which was cut by a later (?linear) feature.

3.7.2 Located in the centre of the trench, furrow **29** (Fig. 5, section 12) was part of the network of such features identified in Trenches 1, 4 and 5. It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured just under 3m wide and was up to 0.25m deep. It was filled by a mottled dark brown silty clay (30)

3.7.3 The furrow was cut by feature **31** (Fig. 5, section 12) which may have been a ditch, but it was difficult to establish its extent in plan. It was up to 1.2m wide and 0.78m deep, with a slightly stepped south-western edge and a concave base. It was filled by a friable dark greyish brown silty clay (32) which yielded a large amorphous fragment of an iron object, likely to be post-medieval or early modern in date and which was not retained.

3.8 Trench 7

3.8.1 Trench 7 (Plate 9) was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest and located to the north-east of the field. It was located just under 5m north-east of Trench 5 and 4m north of Trench 6. It contained three linear ditches.

3.8.2 Ditch **9** (Plate 10) was located towards the south-west end of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (10) which yielded one sherd (5g) of Romano-British pottery. An environmental sample taken of this fill contained negligible charcoal and a single charred wheat grain (App.C.1).

3.8.3 Located 3.5m to the north-east, and aligned north-west to south-east, was ditch **11**, which was 0.84m wide and 0.26m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, section 4). It was filled by a single dark greyish brown silty clay (12) which contained no finds.

3.8.4 At the north-eastern end of the trench, aligned north-west to south-east, was ditch **13**. It measured 0.90m wide and 0.26m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flattish base. It was filled (14) by a single dark greyish brown silty clay which yielded two sherds (11g) of Romano-British pottery.

3.9 Finds and environmental summary

3.9.1 Retained finds were limited to seven sherds (64g) of Romano-British pottery, recovered from ditches in Trenches 3 and 7. The assemblage dates to the mid- to late Romano-British period. A single bulk sample taken from a ditch fill in Trench 7 yielded only sparse charcoal and a single charred wheat grain.

4 Discussion

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation are deemed to be reliable. Ground conditions were good, with hot and dry weather throughout the period of fieldwork. Features were easily identifiable against the natural geology.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation identified the presence of archaeological features, all linear ditches, within the north-western part of the development area. Furrows corresponding with the extant remains of ridge and furrow across the development area were also recorded in the western part of the site. No archaeological remains were present in Trenches 2, 8 and 9.

4.3 Interpretation

Romano-British Field System

4.3.1 The shared north-west to south-east alignment of most of the ditches revealed in Trenches 3, 5 and 7 suggests they relate to a system of field/plot boundaries, and this is supported by similarities in their morphology and fills.

4.3.2 The small quantity of Romano-British pottery recovered from these features (seven sherds, 65g) is likely to derive from a settlement area somewhere in the environs of the site but the size of the assemblage and its condition (see App. B.1) suggests it is likely to have been incorporated into the ditch fills as a result of manuring of arable plots or through 'off-site' rubbish disposal. No faunal remains were recovered the single environmental sample taken from a ditch fill in Trench 7 produced very sparse charred remains, strongly suggesting these features were not directly associated with settlement-type activity (App. C.1).

4.3.3 The location of these features suggests that the field system to which belong probably extended beyond the northern limits of the site, but did not continue across the southern part of the development area.

4.3.4 Any settlement remains associated with these boundaries may lie on the slightly higher ground to the north of the site, which may have been a more suitable location of domestic settlement, with lower lying areas more prone to flooding/poor drainage. This appears to have been the case the case at the extensive Romano-British settlement site at Farriers Way, located approximately 900m to the south-east, which lay at around 31m OD, with outlying field systems lying on slightly lower ground adjacent to the settlement area (Graham 2020).

4.3.5 Although not spatially connected in any meaningful sense, the ditches revealed by the trenching are broadly contemporary with some of the phases of settlement at Farriers Way. The predominantly 4th century AD pottery recovered from the trenching (App. B.1) belongs to a period during which the settlement at Farriers Way saw the recutting of existing boundaries and the establishment of new enclosures (Graham 2020, Fig. 7) In this context, the field system identified at site may relate to a wider intensification of agricultural land use in the local landscape during the Late Roman period.

Ridge and furrow

4.3.6 The site is likely to have been brought under widespread schemes of agricultural cultivation after the Roman period. Agricultural furrows extended across the entire site on a south-west to north-east alignment, and a total of five were identified across Trenches 1, 4 5 and 6 (**3**, **34**, **37**, **7** and **31**;

Fig. 5, Sec. 13; Plates 1 and 2). To the south-west, particularly around Trench 1, these were visible as slight earthworks (MCB13682), and the furrows revealed by the trenches corresponded well with the surface remains of these features (Fig. 4).

4.3.7 The fills of the furrows yielded several fragments of ceramic building material, glass and ferrous objects which indicated a post-medieval date for their infill. They are, however, likely to have been first established at a considerably earlier date and belong to the open field system of medieval Warboys. Widespread medieval activity, which includes other areas of preserved ridge and furrow have been identified close to the site and more widely across Warboys (see Section 1.3, above; Fig. 2, MCB13682, MCB20005, CHER 10488 and 11709; Hatton and Wall 1999) and in 2009, Oxford Archaeology revealed a series of medieval features, including a pond, in an area located approximately 170m to the north-east on Ramsey Road (Gilmour 2009).

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation has revealed evidence for a field system dated to the middle to late Romano-British period. With no evidence for associated settlement activity or other more intensive activities, it is of limited archaeological significance but does provide useful evidence for Romano-British landuse in this area which complements the much fuller record of settlement and land sue recorded to the south of the modern village at Farriers Way.

4.4.2 The remains of ridge and furrow revealed by the trenching represent part of a much wider network of medieval to post-medieval agricultural features which have been widely recorded in the local area and as such are little archaeological significance.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench descriptions

Trench 1		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a total of five agricultural furrows.	**Length (m)**	36
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 2		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 3		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained five linear ditches. Topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	15
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 5		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 6		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 7		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	30
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 8		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	8.5
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 9		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.	**Length (m)**	4.5
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Context inventory

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Filled By	Profile	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)
1		layer	Topsoil				0.35 –0.45
2		layer	Subsoil				0.20 –0.25
3	3	cut	Furrow	4	Wide U		
4	3	Fill	Furrow				
5	5	cut	Ditch	6	deep u	0.84	0.36
6	5	fill	ditch				
7	5	cut	ditch	8	wide flat u	1.4	0.2
8	5	fill	ditch				
9	7	cut	ditch	10	steep u	0.6	0.3
10	7	fill	ditch				
11	7	cut	ditch	12	wide flat u	0.84	0.26
12	7	fill	ditch				
13	7	cut	ditch	14	u shaped	0.9	0.26
14	7	fill	ditch				
15	3	cut	ditch	16	u shaped	0.96	0.33
16	3	fill	ditch				
17	3	cut	ditch	18	u shaped	1.2	0.28
18	3	fill	ditch				
19	3	cut	ditch	20	u-shaped	0.62	0.24

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Filled By	Profile	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)
20	3	fill	ditch				
21	3	cut	ditch	22	irregular u	1.1	0.36
22	3	fill	ditch				
23	.	cut	ditch	24	u shaped	0.9	0.3
24	.	fill	ditch				
25	5	cut	ditch	26	wide u	0.74	0.22
26	5	fill	ditch				0.22
29	6	cut	ditch	30	u shaped		
30	6	fill	ditch				
31	6	cut	ditch	32; 33	u shaped		
32	6	fill	ditch				
33	6	fill	ditch				
34	1	cut	ditch	35; 36	concave		0.55
35	1	fill	ditch				
36	1	fill	ditch				
37	1	cut	ditch	38	concave		0.32
38	1	fill	ditch				

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Romano-British Pottery

By Séverine Bézie

Introduction

B.1.1 A total of seven sherds, weighing 64g, was recovered during the trenching (Table 2).

B.1.2 The pottery was generally in a moderately abraded to good condition, with an average sherd weight (ASW) of 9.14g. The general quality and average size of the pottery suggests that the pottery has been disturbed, and is residual, coming from secondary depositions.

Trench	Cxt.	Cut	Feature	Sherd Count	Wt (g)	Wt (%)	Pottery date
3	22	**21**	Ditch	1	13	57.81	AD M/LC1-M/LC4
	24	**23**	Ditch	2	24		AD C4
7	10	**9**	Ditch	1	5	42.19	AD MC1-M/LC2
	14	**13**	Ditch	2	11		AD C4
Total				**7**	**64**	**100**	

Table 2: Summary catalogue of Roman pottery by context with date

Methodology

B.1.3 The pottery was examined in accordance with the CIfA 'Toolkit for finds: Pottery', which presents updated guidelines set down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA website 2024), based on the Study Group for Roman Pottery manual (Barclay *et al* 2016). The total assemblage was studied, and a catalogue prepared. The data was entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, which is retained in the project archive.

B.1.4 All the sherds have been counted and weighed to the nearest whole gramme. The pottery was divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of the inclusion types present and a sample was examined using a x10 magnifying lens. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (e.g. La Graufesenque samian = LGF SA). Vessel form was also noted, also any decoration, residue, and levels of abrasion.

B.1.5 National publications (Evans et al. 2017; Going 1987; Lyons and Tester 2014; Tomber and Dore 1998) were used for identifying the fabrics (NB: no typological forms were identified in this assemblage).

Chronology

B.1.6 The pottery assemblage extends from the mid to late Romano-British period, from the 2nd century AD to the late 4th century AD. However, the bulk of the assemblage is late Roman, focusing on the 4th century AD (Tables 2 and 3).

Trench 3

B.1.7 The Trench 3 assemblage is very small (three sherds only), with an average sherd weight (ASW) of 12.33g. The pottery was recovered from two contexts (22 and 24), related to two features: ditch **21**, and ditch **23**.

Trench 7

B.1.8 The Trench 7 assemblage is also very small (three sherds only), with an average sherd weight (ASW) of 5.33g. The pottery was recovered from two contexts (10 and 14), related to two features: ditch **9** and ditch **13**.

Assemblage Character

Fabric Groups

B.1.9 Four broad fabric groups were identified during analysis (Table 3; NB: the production period for each fabric is noted in the table in italic).

Unsourced Wares

B.1.10 Unsourced wares represent 62.50% (by weight) of the assemblage. They were probably locally produced.

B.1.11 The earlier element of the assemblage consists of grey wares (GW), limited here to a single jar body sherd (und. types), black-slipped externally and black-surfaced internally and tempered with grog, mica, and quartz.

B.1.12 The assemblage also includes locally produced 'Romanising' coarse Sandy grey ware (SGW), with two jar body sherds (und. types). The production of Sandy grey ware is post-Conquest, starting in mid-1st century AD.

B.1.13 One category of shell-tempered wares is represented in the assemblage: the group of (Late) Romano-British Shelly ware (ROB SH). ROB SH is a later development of the group of shelly fabrics, eventually brown-slipped, or with oxidised, black surface(s). Only two body sherds of a jar and a jar/bowl form were observed. Their production was local (Marney 1989, 174).

Sourced Wares

B.1.14 One fabric group is attributed to the Cambridgeshire area - Horningsea Reduced ware (HOR RE), represented in this assemblage by two jar body sherds. HOR RE was produced in the Horningsea kilns, located c. 8 km to the north-east of Cambridge. Two fabric subgroups (R02, a wheel-made grey ware, and R021, a hand-made grey ware) described by J. Evans (Evans *et al* 2017, 51-2), and encompassed in the generic HOR RE family group, have been observed in the assemblage.

B.1.15 Thus, a jar body sherd (und. type) in R02 fabric, oxidised, orange-slipped externally, is decorated with a grooved cordon at the base of the neck. Another jar body sherd (und. type) in RO21 fabric, is visibly handmade.

Fabric	Fabric Code	Vessel	Sherd Count	Wt (g)	Wt (%)
Horningsea Reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116; Evans *et al.* 2017, 51-2) *AD M/LC1- M/LC4*	HOR RE	Jar	2	24	37.50
(Late) Romano-British Shelly ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212) *AD C4+*	ROB SH	Jar; Jar/bowl	2	20	31.25

Fabric	Fabric Code	Vessel	Sherd Count	Wt (g)	Wt (%)
Sandy Grey ware (Going 1987, 9-10) *AD MC1-C4*	SGW	Jar	2	15	23.44
Grey ware (Lyons and Tester 2014, 256-61) *AD EC1-M/LC2*	GW	Jar	1	5	7.81
Total			**7**	**64**	**100**

Table 3: Roman pottery fabrics broad category by weight (Wt %)

Discussion

B.1.16 The assemblage attests to activity during the mid- to late Roman period, with a possible focus on the 4th century AD. It includes locally produced pottery origin as well as the pottery coming from the Horningsea industry.

Recommendations for retention and dispersal

B.1.17 The assemblage should be retained in the project archive.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from context 10, the fill of ditch **9** in Trench 7. The purpose of the sampling was to assess the preservation quality of plant remains and evaluate their potential to contribute valuable information to future archaeological investigations.

Methodology

C.1.2 The bulk sample (20L) 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. Due to the heavy clay nature of the sample, a solution of sodium carbonate was utilised to break down the heavy clay matrix prior to processing. The floating component (flot) of the sample was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a sequence of 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieves.

C.1.3 The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. 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 (2010) 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.1.4 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

C.1.5 # = 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

Results

C.1.6 Plant remains from this site are preserved through carbonisation (charring), a process that occurs when material is burnt in a low-oxygen (reducing) environment. This mode of preservation tends to favour certain plant elements, particularly cereal grains, leading to a preservation bias (Boardman and Jones 1990, 10). Overall, the archaeobotanical assemblage appears to be in a moderate state of preservation.

Trench 7

C.1.7 Sample 1, taken from deposit 10 of ditch **9**, contains negligible volume charcoal and a single wheat (Triticum sp.) grain.

Trench	Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal Volume(ml)
7	1	10	9	Ditch	20	20	#	<1

Table 4: Environmental Bulk Samples

Discussion

C.1.8 The bulk sample recovered during this evaluation yielded an extremely sparse assemblage of archaeobotanical material, significantly limiting its interpretive potential. The presence of a single cereal grain, along with only trace amounts of charcoal, provides a tentative indication of agricultural or domestic activity in the vicinity, however, the limited nature of the assemblage suggests that the feature may lie on the periphery of any core activity area.

C.1.9 This evaluation indicates that while the potential for recovering archaeobotanical remains exists, it may be limited. Should further investigation be undertaken, it is recommended that environmental sampling follows the guidelines set out by Historic England (2011).

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-534263
Project Name	Land West of Longlands Close and North of The Paddock Caravan Park, Ramsey Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire

Start of Fieldwork	28/04/2025	End of Fieldwork	02/05/2025
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB7587	Planning App. No.	20/00308/OUT
HER Number	ECB7587	Related Numbers	WARRAM25EV

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority
Development Type	Rural Residential
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐	Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐	Grab-sampling	☐	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☒	Aerial Photography - new	☐	Gravity-core	☐	Sample Trenches
☐	Annotated Sketch	☐	Laser Scanning	☐	Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐	Augering	☒	Measured Survey	☒	Targeted Trenches
☐	Dendrochronological Survey	☒	Metal Detectors	☒	Test Pits
☒	Documentary Search	☐	Phosphate Survey	☒	Topographic Survey
☒	Environmental Sampling	☐	Photogrammetric Survey	☐	Vibro-core
☐	Fieldwalking	☒	Photographic Survey	☐	Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐	Geophysical Survey	☒	Rectified Photography		

Monument	Period
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Agricultural Furrow	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pit	Modern (1901 to present)

Object	Period
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	Huntingdonshire
Parish	Warboys
HER office	Cambridgeshire

Address (including Postcode)

Ramsey Road, Warboys, PE28 2RW

Size of Study Area	1.01ha
National Grid Ref	TL 30158 80120

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology
Project Brief Originator	Simon Wood
Project Design Originator	Andrew Greef
Project Manager	Andrew Greef
Project Supervisor	Paddy Lambert

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB7587
Digital Archive	ADS	ECB7587
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB7587

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☒	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☒	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☐	Drawing	☐
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☒	Map	☐
Survey	☐	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☒
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Plans	☐
Report	☒
Sections	☒
Survey	☐

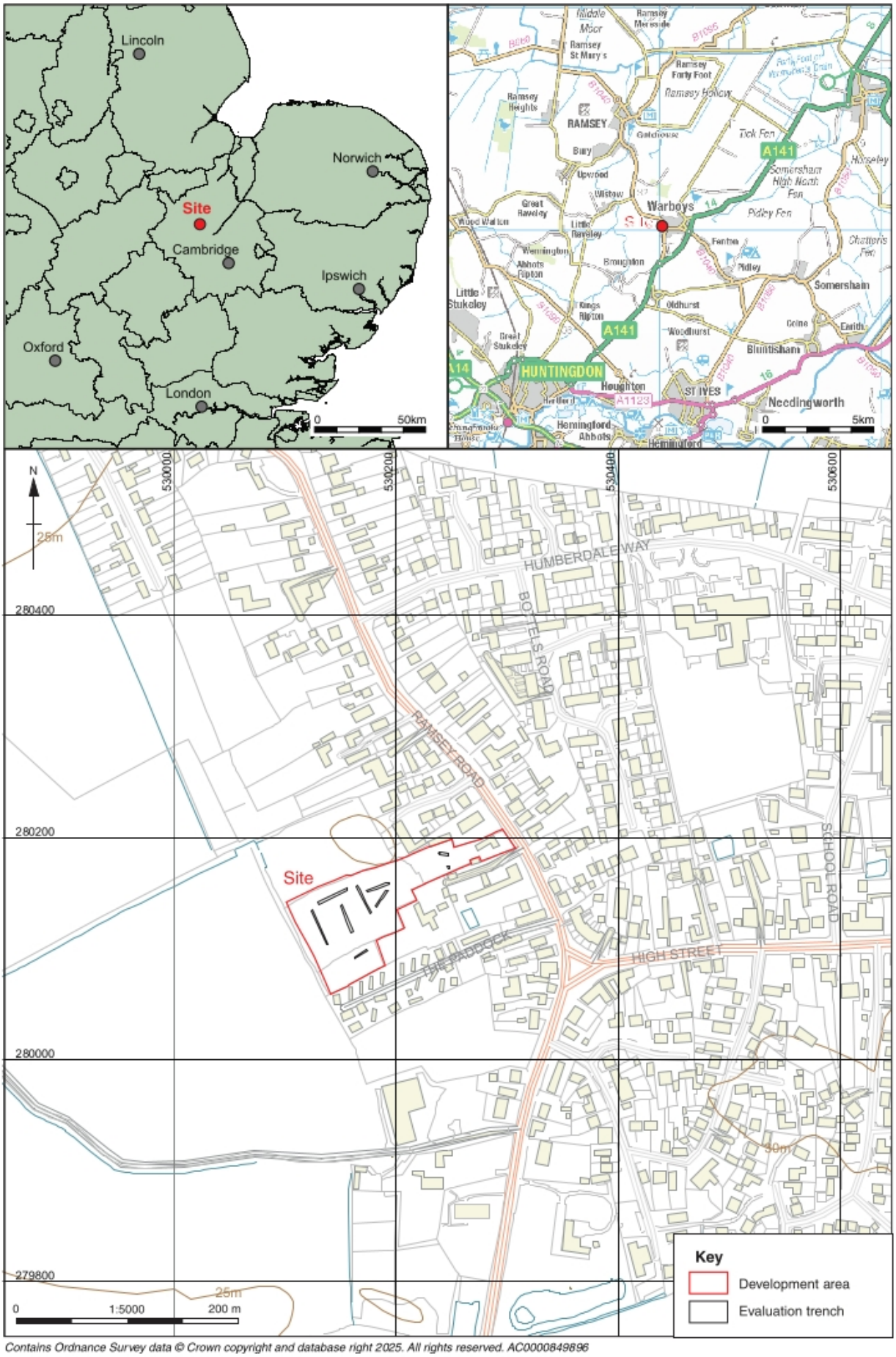

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Figure 1: Site location map with trenches (black) and development area (red)

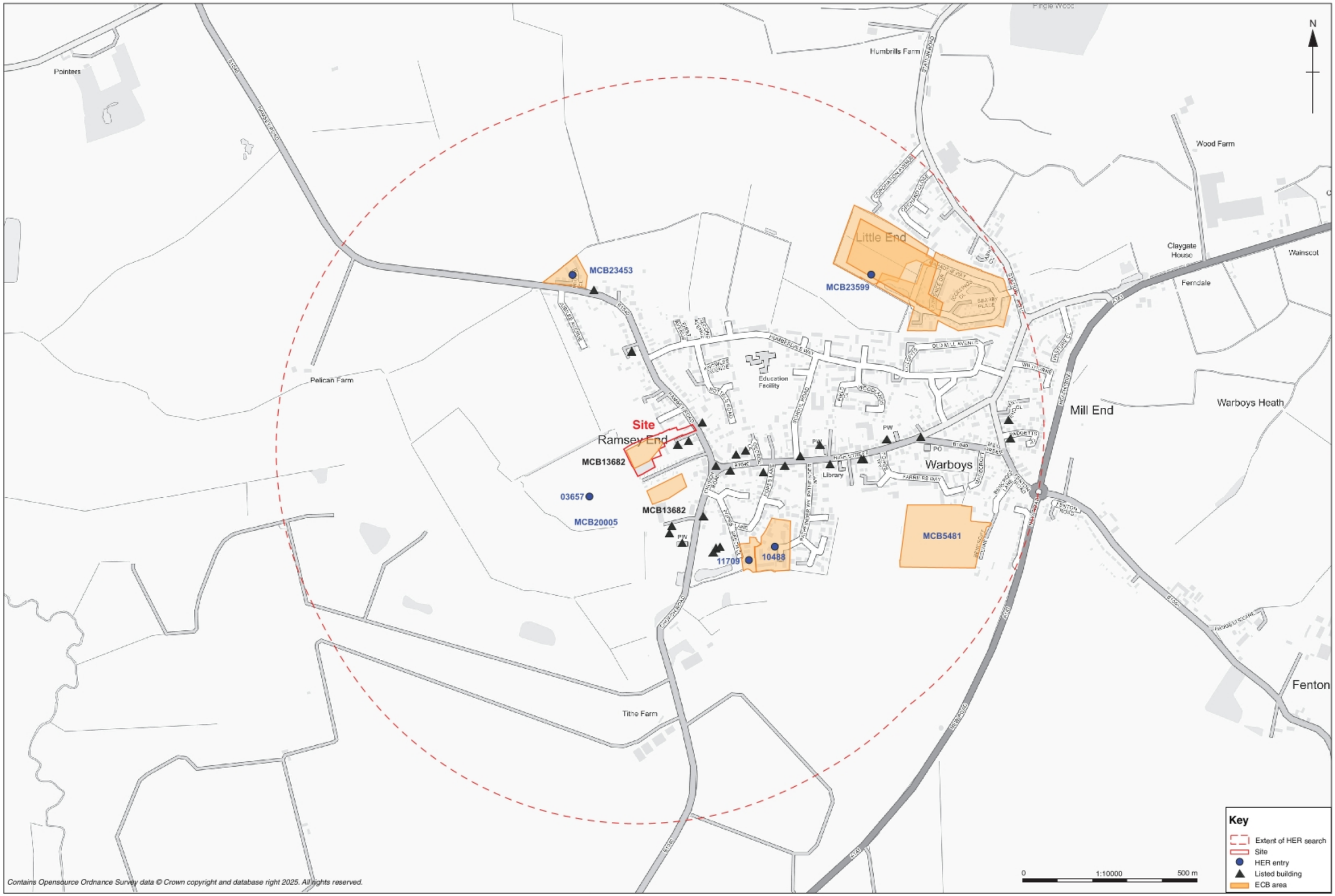

Figure 2: Selected CHER data

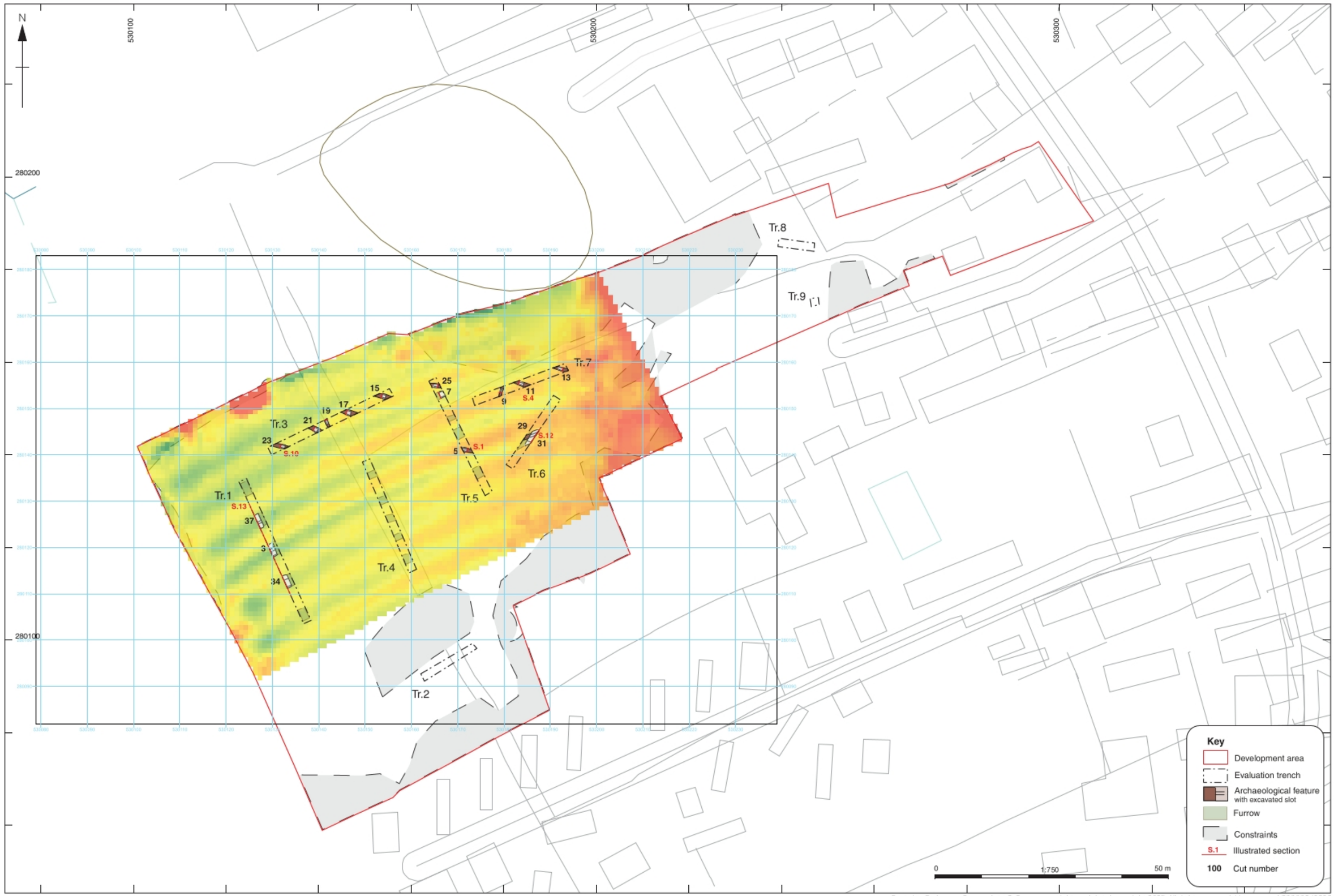

Figure 3: Overall trench plan

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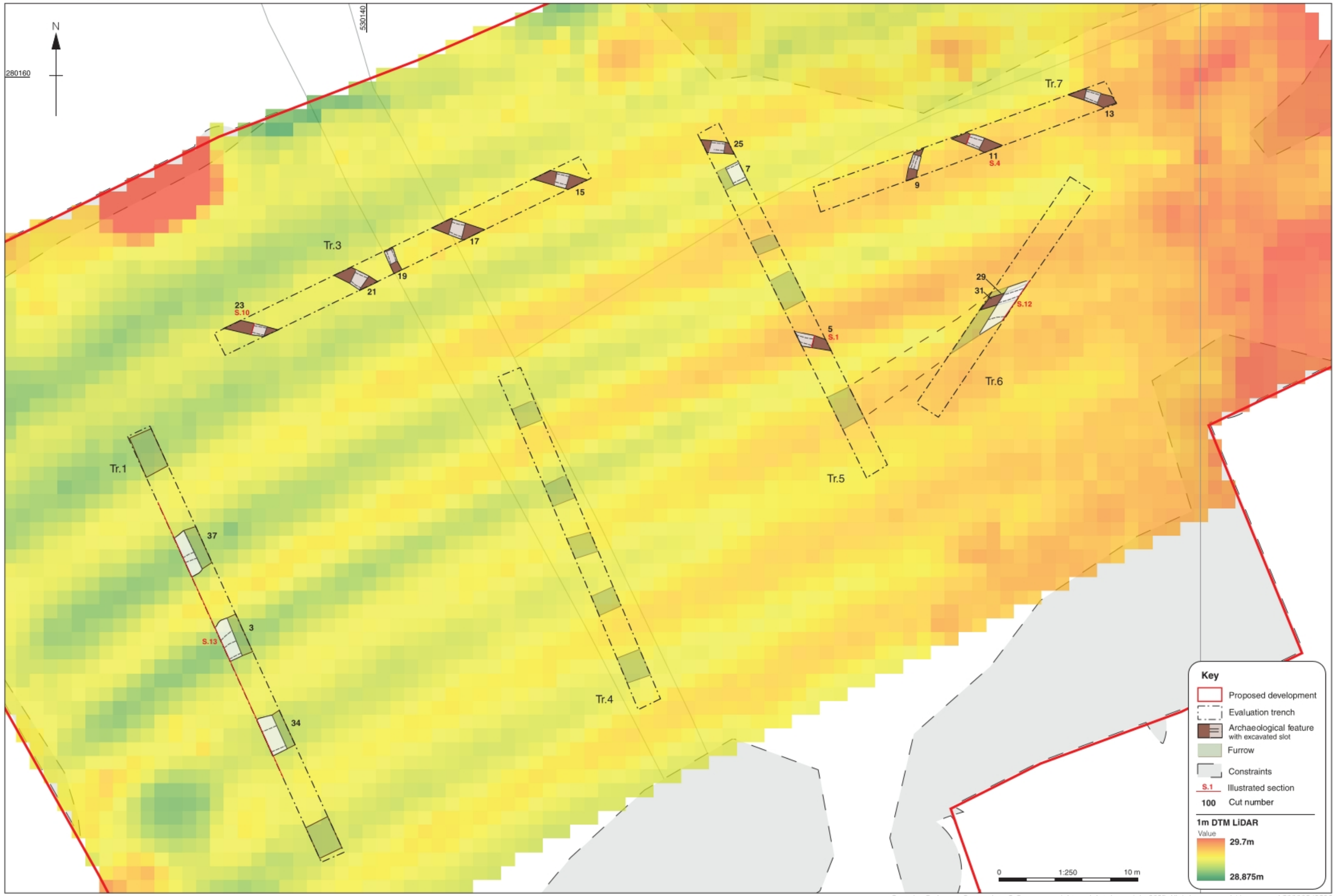

Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 overlain on Lidar derived digital elevation model

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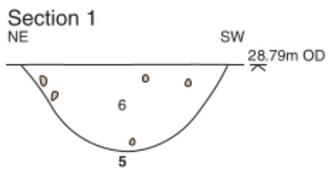

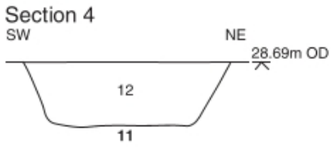

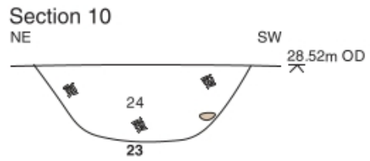

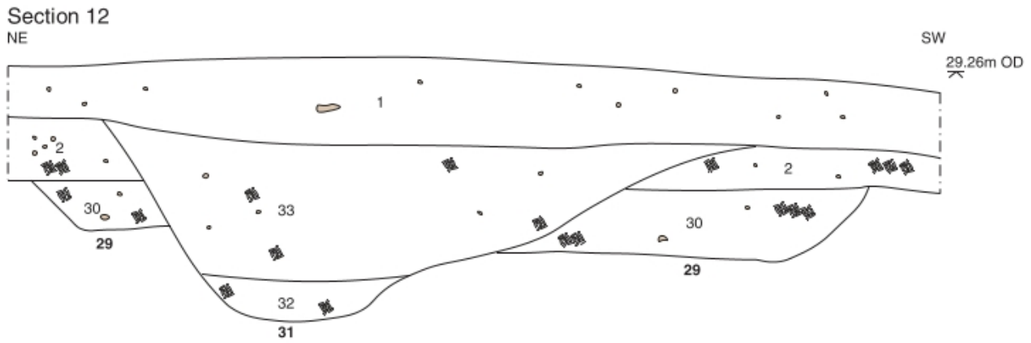



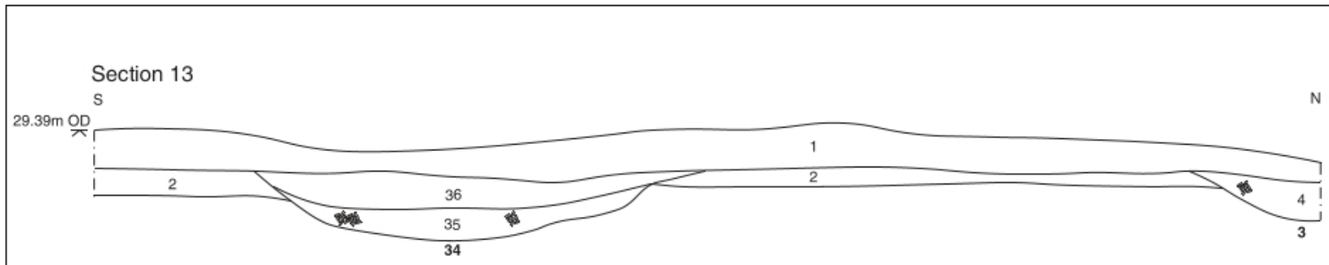

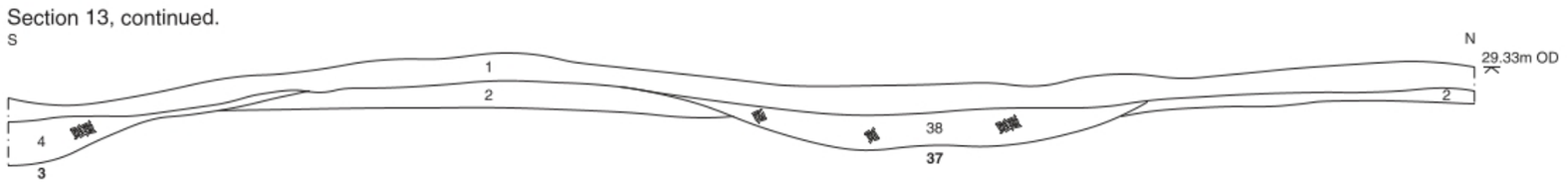

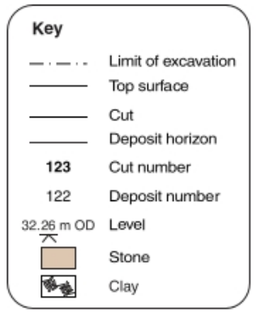

Figure 5: Selected sections

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Plate 1: Trench 2, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 8, looking north-west



Plate 3: Trench 9, looking south-east



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking south



Plate 5: UAV shot of ridge and furrow across Trenches 1 and 4, looking west



Plate 6: Working shot in Trench 1 looking north-west



Plate 7: Ditch **15** in Trench 3, looking south-east



Plate 8: Trench 6, looking north-east



Plate 9: Trench 7, looking east



Plate 10: Ditch **9** in Trench 7, looking north

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