

The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

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## Suffolk Section, Phase 3

**Archaeological Evaluation Interim Report:**

**Fields 25.3 and 25.2 (CDM S) and  
Field 41 (CDM T)**



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## Sea Link: Suffolk Section, Phase 3

*Archaeological Evaluation Interim Report:  
Fields 25.3 and 25.2 (CDM S) and  
Field 41 (CDM T)*

*Written by* 

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This document outlines the preliminary results of the archaeological evaluation of 25.3 and 25.2 (CDM S) and Field 41 (CDM T), located in the Suffolk Section of the Sea Link Scheme. In common with previous reporting phases, fields are discussed in geographic order from north-west to south-east.

1.1.2 Fields 25.3, 25.2 and 41 were located to the east of the village of Friston, to the north-west of the B1069 Snape Road. All three fields discussed within this report were assigned Suffolk parish code FRS 118 by SCCAS.

## 2 PARISH CODE FRS118 - FIELDS 25.3, 25.2 AND 41

### 2.1 Location/topography

2.1.1 All three fields were relatively flat and situated at between c.21-23m aOD. The three fields had also been used for arable farming and contained the stubble of a harvested maize crop. In total, 55 trenches were excavated which each measured 30m x 1.8m and all were excavated within their original planned locations with no further constraints being identified on site. Several ecological constraints and an exclusion zone around an overhead power line had previously been identified and factored into the trench plan.

2.1.2 Most of the trenches exposed sand geology which had an increased clay component in the north-eastern trenches of Field 25.2 and northern trenches of Field 41. This is consistent with British Geological Survey (BGS) Data that recorded a bedrock geology of Crag Group – Sand overlain by a superficial deposit of Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton ([BGS Geology Viewer \(BETA\)](#) – accessed 23/01/26). The topsoil was between 0.24-0.46m, with a subsoil 0.06-0.29m thick overlying the natural geology. Plough scars were occasionally visible in the geology in some of the trenches.

### 2.2 Geophysical survey

2.2.1 A ditched rectilinear enclosure c.14m x c.16m wide was identified in the east of Field 25.3 along with further stretch of rectilinear ditch to the south-west in the field. Numerous probable quarry pits were revealed in the northern half of field 25.2, with further comparable geophysical anomalies thought to be quarry pits also dotted in the south-eastern corner of Field 25.2 and around the north-eastern trenches in Field 41. Several ditches corresponding to the current field alignment which also correlate with field boundaries shown on historic mapping were also identified running through Trench 929 in Field 25.2 and several trenches in the southern half of Field 41.

### 2.3 Archaeological results

#### *Field 25.3*

2.3.1 Field 25.3 contained a series of small undated linear ditches on south-east to north-west and perpendicular alignments. Similar ditches were also identified in the southern portion of the field during Phase 2B of the

evaluation (FRS115 / CDM P). Occasional discrete features were also identified in the western trenches although it was sometimes unclear based on their sterile nature if they were cut features or infilled natural hollows and tree throws.

2.3.2 One pit in Trench 905 contained a large contemporary assemblage of burnt flint. The rectilinear enclosure identified from the geophysical survey was revealed in Trench 913 and contained one internal feature: a small diffuse charcoally pit. Medieval pottery was recovered from both the enclosure ditch and pit in this trench. Finds in Field 25.3 were however predominantly struck flint and iron objects recovered from the topsoil and considered to be residual finds; disturbed from their original location often through ploughing and later disturbance and which do not provide secure dating.

#### **Field 25.2**

2.3.3 The predominant feature within this field was the series of quarry pits most likely to have post-medieval origins, corresponding to anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. These quarry pits were encountered within seven trenches in the northern half of the field and one further trench towards the south-eastern field corner. Auger depths from the pits measured between 0.1-1.9m, although the measurements were not directly comparable as some trenches only targeted the edges of the quarry pits. The quarry pits tended to have a fairly uniform fill of mid brown clayey and sandy silts with occasional charcoal flecks. Despite slots being hand or machine excavated for finds retrieval and detecting of the resultant spoil heaps, the fills were found to be sterile except for two residual struck flints in Trench 922.

| <b>Trench</b> | <b>Auger depth</b> | <b>Notes</b>   |
|---------------|--------------------|--|
| 914           | 1.95               | Edges seen in machine sondage but base not reached due to depth limit  |
| 919           | 0.95               | Irregular base seen in machine sondage                                 |
| 920           | 1.65               | Base not reached with machine sondage due to depth limit               |
| 922           | 0.55               | Hand excavated   |
| 925           | Not measured       | Edge of pit also in Trench 926 (see below)                             |
| 926           | 0.7                | Same pit extends into Trench 925 (see above)                           |
| 927           | 1.7                | Base not reached with machine sondage due to depth limit               |
| 936           | 1.2                | Edge and base seen with machine sondage                                |
| 949           | 0.1                | Thin spread at edge of pit only. Almost indistinguishable from subsoil |

Table 1: Summary of quarry pit sondages in Fields 25.2 and 41

2.3.4 Further small discrete features were also identified in several trenches and were predominantly sterile and undated and as in Field 25.3 (see 2.3.1) may occasionally have been natural hollows. Several postholes were however identified in Trenches 916, 921 and 928 often with charcoally fills. Five sherds of Late Iron Age pottery were retrieved from one of the postholes in Trench 921.

2.3.5 Several generally small and sporadic ditches on a north-west to south-east and perpendicular alignment were identified in Field 25.2. Their alignment corresponds with ditches revealed in Phase 2B and 3 trenches within Field

25.3 (see 2.3.1) and also Phase 2B trenches previously identified in the south-western half of this field. These ditches, despite an absence of dating, have been interpreted in previous phases as possibly belonging to a potential Middle Bronze Age system as they are comparable in scale and morphology to other rectilinear/coaxial field systems of this date previously identified in eastern Suffolk.

2.3.6 A modern field boundary ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment known from historic OS mapping from 1888-1913 was revealed in Trench 929 and continued in Trenches 940 and 942 in Field 41. This ditch has previously been investigated in Trench 835 during Phase 2B of the evaluation (FRS116 / CDM P) so was not further excavated.

***Field 41***

2.3.7 Alongside the ditch mentioned above, two further historic field boundaries known from OS mapping were also identified in Trenches 941 and 945-7 respectively, although where excavated their fills were found to be sterile.

2.3.8 Several further ditches were also revealed in Trenches 953-955, predominantly on a north-east to south-west alignment with some further perpendicular examples. The ditches were cut into natural geology with noticeably higher clay content so perhaps were dug to aid drainage in this area of the field. Of these ditches, the two located in Trench 955 contained substantial assemblages of medieval pottery (201 sherds, 2.12kg).

2.3.9 Trenches 943, 948 and 950 also each partially revealed a single sterile discrete feature, interpreted as pits although their slightly irregular shapes in plan are also suggestive they could be natural hollows or tree throws.

2.3.10 Quarry pits identified by the geophysical survey should have been encountered in Trenches 949 and 955 but in Trench 949 only a shallow spread was identified at the location of the pit edge (see Table 1), almost indistinguishable from the subsoil whilst in Trench 955 no quarry pit was identified as present.

**2.4 Feature summary**

2.4.1 Of the 55 trenches opened, 36 trenches contained archaeological features.

| Parish Code | Field number | Trench | Cut | Fill | Unexcavated |
|-------------|--------------|--------|-----|------|-------------|
| FRS118      | 25.3         | 901    | 2   | 2    |             |
|             |              | 902    | 2   | 2    |             |
|             |              | 904    | 4   | 4    |             |
|             |              | 905    | 4   | 4    |             |
|             |              | 906    | 3   | 4    |             |
|             |              | 910    | 1   | 1    |             |
|             |              | 913    | 3   | 3    |             |
|             | 25.2         | 914    | 1   | 1    |             |
|             |              | 915    | 4   | 4    |             |
|             |              | 916    | 5   | 5    |             |
|             |              | 918    | 1   | 1    |             |
|             |              | 919    | 1   | 1    |             |
|             |              | 920    | 1   | 1    |             |

| Parish Code | Field number | Trench    | Cut       | Fill     | Unexcavated |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
|             | 921          | 3         | 4         |          |             |
|             | 922          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 923          | 2         | 2         |          |             |
|             | 925          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 926          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 927          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 928          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 929          | 0         | 0         | 1        |             |
|             | 933          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 936          | 2         | 2         |          |             |
| 41          | 940          | 0         | 0         | 1        |             |
|             | 941          | 2         | 2         |          |             |
|             | 942          | 0         | 0         | 1        |             |
|             | 943          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 945          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 946          | 0         | 0         | 1        |             |
|             | 947          | 0         | 0         | 1        |             |
|             | 948          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 949          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 950          | 1         | 1         |          |             |
|             | 953          | 2         | 2         |          |             |
|             | 954          | 4         | 4         |          |             |
|             | 955          | 3         | 4         |          |             |
|             | <b>Total</b> | <b>61</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>5</b> |             |

Table 2: Feature summary for Fields 25.3, 25.2 and 41

## 2.5 Preliminary finds quantification

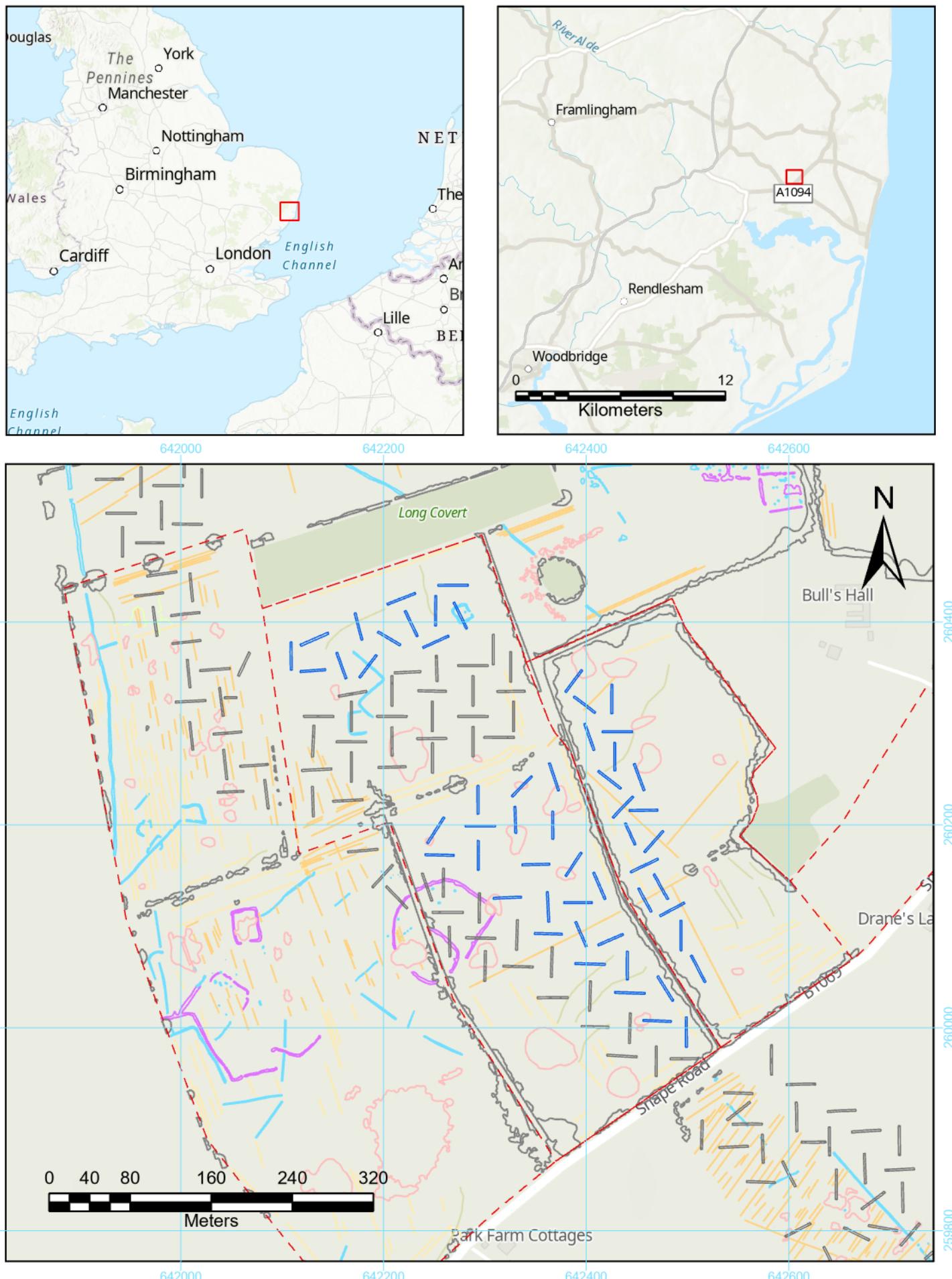
2.5.1 The bulk of the pottery was an assemblage of medieval sherds retrieved from an enclosure ditch and pit in Trench 913 and two ditches in Trench 955. The only non-medieval pottery was five Late Iron Age pot sherds retrieved from a posthole in Trench 921. The majority of the flint (95 pieces) was burnt and retrieved from a single pit in Trench 905. The struck flints were sporadically retrieved from a variety of features and topsoil deposits but considered to be residual material that cannot be used as reliable dating evidence. The metal finds listed in Table 5 were primarily modern material detected from topsoil.

| Row Labels  | Weight in kg | Count |
|-------------|--------------|-------|
| Fe Artefact |              | 7     |
| Pottery     | 2.21         | 221   |
| Fired clay  | 0.01         | 1     |
| Flint       | 0.47         | 107   |
| Bone        | 0.01         | 1     |

Table 3: Preliminary finds quantification for Fields 25.3, 25.2 and 41

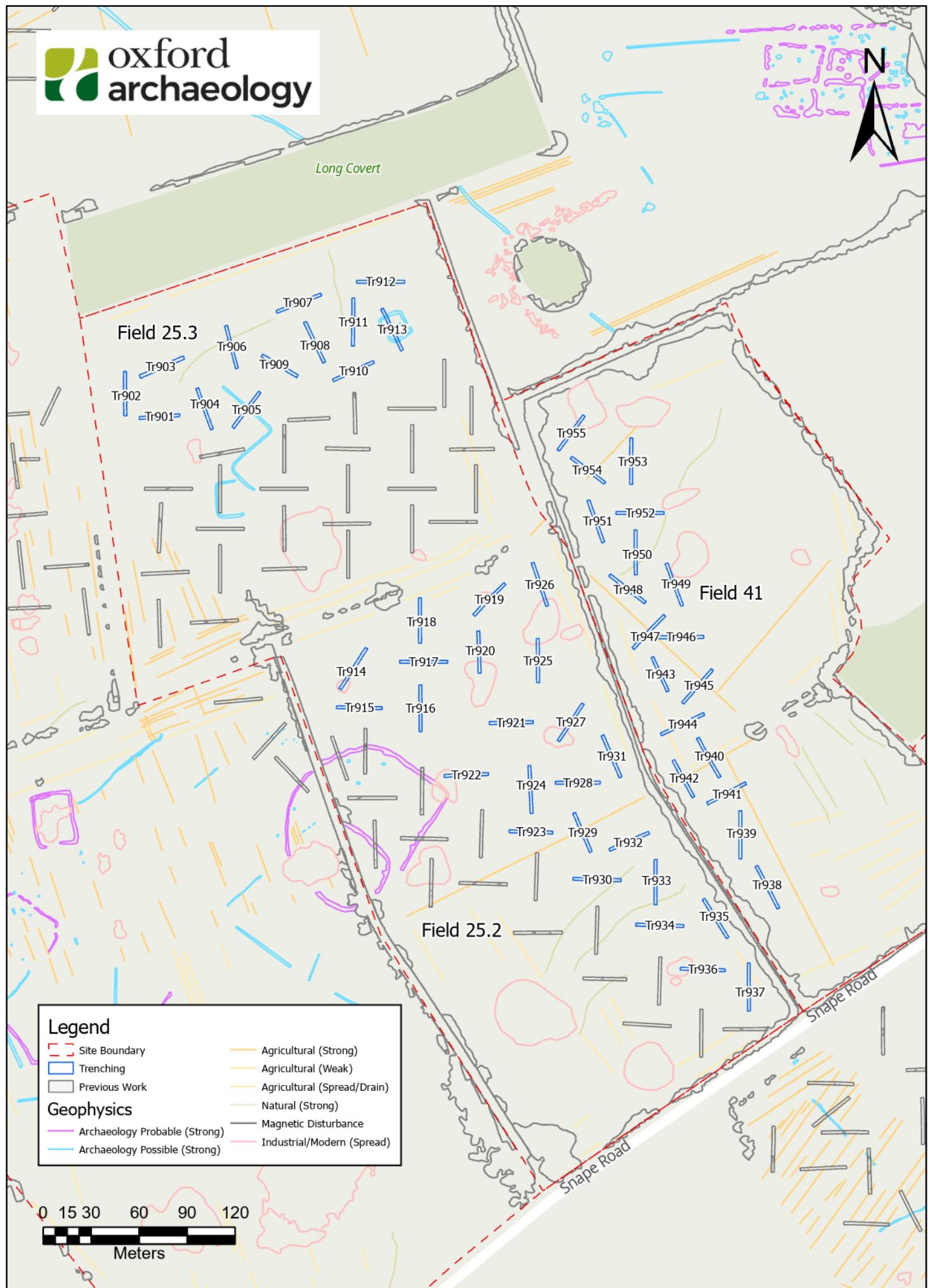
## 2.6 Environmental summary

2.6.1 Seven bulk environmental soil samples (totalling 140L) were taken.



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS, Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2025

Figure 1: Site location showing proposed archaeological trenches (blue) in development area (dashed red), and previous work (grey) 1:5000@ A3



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