The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Sea Link

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Suffolk Section Phase 3

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Sea Link Scheme Suffolk Section, Phase 3

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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SUMMARY

Between 24th November and 11th December 2025, Stantec and Oxford Archaeology (Cambridge) undertook Phase 3 of trial trenching on the Sea Link Scheme Suffolk Section. This entailed the excavation of 55 trial trenches, each measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide, across three fields (Fields 25.3, 25.2 and 41) in the parish of Friston (FRS118).

Field 25.3

The southern portion of this field had also previously been evaluated during Phase 2B of the project. The Phase 3 trenching revealed a small rectilinear enclosure of medieval date in the north-eastern part of the field. To the west, trenching revealed less securely dated remains, consisting of several small discrete features and ditches on various north-east to south-west to east to west alignments. These ditches cannot be confidently dated as they often align with both a nearby proposed Middle Bronze Age field system and later medieval and post-medieval boundaries in the vicinity. One pit in Trench 905 contained a sizeable assemblage of burnt flint (95 fragments, 403g) which although undatable is often associated with prehistoric activity. Several undated pits in the surrounding trenches may also have prehistoric origins.

Field 25.2

Phase 2B trial trenching in the south-western half of the field had previously revealed Early Neolithic pits and a large prehistoric 'D-shaped' enclosure. The predominant features recorded by the Phase 3 trenching were a series of substantial quarry pits. Although undated these are presumed to have post-medieval origins. Prehistoric pottery was recovered from one posthole in Trench 921 whilst other smaller undated pits and postholes, primarily in the north of the field, are also possibly linked with nearby prehistoric activity.

Field 41

One ditch containing Roman pottery alongside several medieval ditches were revealed, situated on a slightly elevated plateau in the northern part of the field. One ditch in the northernmost trench (Trench 955) contained the vast majority of the medieval pottery assemblage (125 sherds, 1624g). The southern half of the trenches revealed several post-medieval field boundaries known from mapping to have been remodelled and backfilled after the mid-20th century.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Stantec and Oxford Archaeology (S&OA) were commissioned by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Sea Link Suffolk Section, Phase 3. A brief/specification was set by Hannah Cutler of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), and a written scheme of investigation detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work was produced by S&OA (Greef 2025). This document outlines how S&OA implemented the specified requirements for the trial trench evaluation detailed in the WSI and sets out the results of the evaluation.

1.1.2 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).

1.1.3 This report covers Phase 3 of the works, carried out from November to December 2025, with the results of Phase 1, Phase 2A and 2B of the evaluation having been previously reported (see Figs 1-2; Firth 2025, Ladd 2025a and Ladd 2025b). The Phase 3 works were carried out in response to the results of the Phase 2B trenching in Friston, where the ditch of a large enclosure, interpreted as potentially representing a nationally significant Neolithic henge monument, was recorded. The Phase 3 trial trenching was programmed to assess the viability of an alternative route avoiding disturbance of this feature and took place across three fields in one contiguous area, all under the Suffolk HER code FR118. These are summarised in Table 1 listed from the north-west to the south-east of the scheme.

Parish code	Field	Trench count	First trench	Last trench	Fieldwork start	Fieldwork end	NGR	Project Area (ha)
FRS118	25.3	13	901	913	24/11/2025	11/12/2025	TM 42207 60420	1.34
FRS118	25.2	24	914	937	24/11/2025	11/12/2025	TM 42397 60119	3.35
FRS118	41	17	938	955	24/11/2025	11/12/2025	TM 42446 60180	1.53
Total		**55**						**6.32**

Table 1: Phase 3 Field/trench summary

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Suffolk section of the Sea Link Scheme extends inland from a point north of Aldeburgh and follows a low ridge that runs between the Hundred River and River Alde to Saxmundham where it branches to the north and south of the town. It lies within the parishes of Aldeburgh with Hazelwood, Sternfield, Friston, Knodishall with Buxlow and Saxmundham in the county of Suffolk.

1.2.2 The proposed route covers a distance of approximately 10km that passes through coastal marsh, recreational land and agricultural land. The proposed route rises steeply from approximately 2m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on the coast north of Aldeburgh to approximately 19m aOD at its eastern extent

next to the B1122. To the west of this, the topography of the majority of land along the route is relatively flat at around 20m aOD, except for a low point of 12m aOD adjacent to Friston Reservoir. The land subsequently gradually rises again to the east of Saxmundham to a high point of 31m aOD adjacent to the B1119, before falling again to approximately 12m aOD at the western terminus of the route, at the B1121 south of Saxmundham.

1.2.3 Phase 3 of the trial trenching was targeted on fields located to the east of Friston, to the northwest of Snape Road. At the time of the works these fields were in use as arable fields. All three fields evaluated were relatively flat and lay between 21 and 23m aOD.

1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as a bedrock of sedimentary sand of the Crag Group, that is overlain by superficial deposits comprising Lowestoft Formation Diamicton (British Geological Survey 2026; https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/, accessed 9 Jan 2026).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site provided here has been taken from the WSI (Greef 2025) and is adapted from the EIA Scoping Report (National Grid 2022), which summarised the historical and archaeological background of the area surrounding the route (within the 'Suffolk Scoping Boundary', which took in a corridor up to 2.5km wide along the proposed route of the scheme; ibid., fig. 1.1.2). Where relevant, references to monuments and findspots recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) are included in the text.

Prehistoric and Romano-British

1.3.2 Although early prehistoric settlement evidence is limited within the search area, some of the earliest material identified includes microliths dating to the Mesolithic period recorded near the former Post Office in Aldringham (ARG061), with lithic scatters also recorded in a number of other areas of the Suffolk Scoping Boundary.

1.3.3 Neolithic pits containing substantial assemblages have been recorded to the south of Friston.

1.3.4 Bronze Age activity in this area includes bowl barrows recorded to the north of the proposed route, at Aldringham (ARG001, ARG002, ARG012, ARG013 and ARG014) and Leiston Abbey (LCS001). It is also possible that some undated cropmarks in the region have earlier origins and date to the Bronze Age.

1.3.5 Evidence of the Iron Age includes multiple cropmarks recorded through aerial photography that suggest extensive field systems and settlement activity dating from this period. Recent excavations undertaken as part of other infrastructure projects also demonstrate extensive human activity throughout the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. An extended area of settlement activity, consisting of a series of enclosures, discrete pit-like anomalies and a trackway was also identified to the east of Saxmundham, between Saxmundham Road and Redbarn Lane, with features subsequently

dated to the Neolithic, prehistoric and medieval periods (Scottish Power Renewables 2023).

1.3.6 As set out below (Section 1.4, *Previous archaeological work*), the Phase 2B trenching in Field 25.2 revealed five Neolithic pits and the ditch of a large D-shaped enclosure of probable prehistoric date.

Medieval and post-medieval

1.3.7 Although the majority of the evidence for the medieval period relates to find spots or scatters of pottery representative of waste material being spread across agricultural fields surrounding settlements, some of the more focused scatters may represent settlement activity associated with abandoned or shrunken settlements. Recent East Anglian infrastructure projects (Scottish Power Renewables 2022 and 2023) have also begun to identify sites potentially dating to the early medieval period. In addition, it is possible that many of the settlements that survive in the wider area have their origins in this period, with remains dating to this period lying buried beneath the more developed areas.

1.3.8 Most activity dating to the post-medieval period identified outside the current settlements is associated with the agricultural land through which the study area is focused, although other non-designated assets include banks/flood defences, rabbit warrens, and features linked to industries including brick making.

Modern

1.3.9 The modern period is very well represented in the area with a large number of remains dating to the Second World War recorded near the coast as well as inland. These remains include pill boxes, anti-glider trenches, and other structures and features on the coast to repel enemy attack and invasion.

1.4 Previous archaeological work

Geophysical survey

1.4.1 A geophysical survey of the originally proposed route was undertaken by Headland Archaeology between September and November 2023 (Berry 2024), with parts of the route previously surveyed in 2020 (Webb 2020). These recorded a wide range of previously unidentified anomalies interpreted as archaeology, or possible archaeological features. Concentrations of these included ditches, enclosures, localised quarrying, pits, and possible sites of burning at the very eastern extent of the scheme, east of Leiston Road and within the large parcel of land at the western end to the south-east of Saxmundham. The eastern concentration was in an area of numerous heritage assets ranging from pottery scatters to cropmarks of ditches and enclosures dating from the Roman, medieval and modern periods. Those to the west were previously unknown.

1.4.2 During Phase 2b of the trial trenching evaluation however a potential Neolithic henge feature was identified was identified within the Draft Order Limits in Field 25.2 which was thought to potentially be of national significance and of schedulable quality (Ladd 2025b). During the geophysical survey in 2023, this area was not assessed due to the presence of agricultural

crops within the field (Berry 2024). Additional trial trenching was then programmed to assess the viability of an alternative route avoiding disturbance of this feature and a subsequent round of geophysical survey was then carried out in September and October 2025, prior to the Phase 3 trial trenching, which revealed the feature not to have the circular morphology of a henge, instead having a D-shaped plan-form (see Fig. 3).

Aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment

1.4.3 An aerial photograph and LiDAR assessment of the development area was undertaken during 2023 (Deegan 2023). This added to the mapping and interpretation of archaeological features identified by previous Historic England National Mapping Programme surveys for the Suffolk Coast and Inter-tidal Zone and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, which covered parts of the eastern development area. Within the fields subject to trial trenching, this assessment only covered Fields 25.2 and 25.3 and the only features identified were a single shallow hollow in each field, interpreted as post-medieval extractive pits. Field 41 was added to the scope of the scheme after the production of this assessment and was not included.

Sea Link Suffolk Phase 1, 2A and 2B Trenching

1.4.4 In total, 569 trenches across thirteen fields were excavated during Phase 1 of the evaluation (Firth 2025), 187 trenches in ten fields during Phase 2A (Ladd 2025a) and 107 trenches in six fields during Phase 2B (Ladd 2025b) (Figs 1 and 2). Whilst the majority of trenches were devoid of archaeological remains the trenching identified several discrete areas of intense archaeological activity (see Fig. 2).

1.4.5 Field 41 was in an area not previously evaluated, but in Fields 25.3 and 25.2 trial trenching had previously occurred during Phase 2B. Previous work in Field 25.3 (FRS115) had uncovered poorly dated ditches forming a rectilinear field system, several dispersed small sterile pits and a large probable post-medieval quarry pit. In Field 25.2 (FRS116) five Early Neolithic pits were revealed – one of which contained a substantial assemblage (284 sherds, 3.1kg) of pottery. A substantial ditch forming a D-shaped enclosure of probable prehistoric date (but not securely dated) was also revealed along with a continuation of the poorly dated rectilinear field system and quarrying activity identified in Field 25.3.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

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

ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

iii. To establish the extent to which previous development and/or processes have affected any archaeological deposits.

iv. To ground truth the results of the geophysical survey and aerial photograph assessment.

v. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.

vi. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

vii. To establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 55 trenches, measuring 30m x 1.8m (Plate 1), were excavated across the development area. The trench layout was designed to test both features identified by the geophysical survey and to sample areas where no remains were recorded by previous non-intrusive investigations.

2.2.2 All trenches were excavated by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket 1.8m wide. All mechanical excavation was carried out under direct archaeological supervision.

2.2.3 Overburden deposits of topsoil and subsoil were stripped in spits approximately 100mm thick and excavated soils were stored alongside the trench edges.

2.2.4 Spoil heaps were monitored, and metal detected to assist in the recovery of artefacts and assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.

2.2.5 Trenches were excavated to the level of the archaeological horizon or to the natural geology (whichever was encountered first) to a maximum safe working depth of 0.9m.

2.2.6 Where substantial features (quarry pits) were encountered that could not be fully characterised due to the 0.9m depth limit, a total of seven no-entry machine excavated test pits were excavated to a depth of 2m in accordance with agreed methodologies set out in a separate Risk Assessment and Method Statement addendum. Once the feature was photographed and recorded from a safe distance and the resultant spoil heaps metal detected and assessed for finds, the test pit was immediately backfilled.

2.2.7 With the exception of these machine excavate test pits, features were excavated by hand and no trenches were backfilled without prior approval of SCCAS.

2.2.8 In agreement with SCCAS, a small number of features revealed in individual trenches were not excavated and were recorded in plan only. This applied only to post-medieval/modern features which had been excavated in adjacent trenches, consisting of a quarry pit in Trench 925 (Field 2.2), and field boundary ditches in Trenches 929 (Field 25.2) and Trenches 940, 942 and 947 (Field 41).

2.2.9 Archaeological features were recorded in line with requirements set out by SCCAS and detailed in the WSI (Greef 2025).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and are organised by field, (see above, Table 1 and Fig. 3).

3.1.2 All trenches with associated archaeological remans are described in this section, whilst full details of all excavated trenches with summaries of associated features as well as a full context inventory are provided in Appendix A. Reports on the finds and environmental remains are provided in Appendices B and C respectively.

3.2 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.2.1 An outline of the geology and archaeological results in each field is provided in Table 2 below.

Parish code	Field	Geology	Summary of results
FRS118	25.3	Sand	Undated field system ditches and undated pits (one with frequent burnt flints). Medieval rectilinear enclosure with associated pit.
FRS118	25.2	Predominantly sand, clay and chalky clay to north	Undated pits and postholes, undated ?enclosure ditches. One prehistoric posthole, post-medieval field boundary ditch, several post-medieval/modern quarry pits.
FRS118	41	Predominantly sand, clay to north	Undated pits/tree throws, Roman ditch, medieval enclosure ditches/field sub-divisions, post-medieval field boundary ditches and one post-medieval/modern quarry pit.

Table 2: General distribution of archaeological results by parish code/ field

3.3 Field 25.3 (Figs 4-5)

Trench 901

3.3.1 A single north-north-east to south-south-west aligned ditch (**3002**) ran through the central portion of the trench. This cut directly over the top of a partially revealed pit or potential ditch terminus (**3000**) (Plate 2; Fig. 13, Section 3000). Feature **3000** measured 1.86m wide and 0.34m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single sterile fill (3001) of dark greyish brown silty sand. Ditch **3002** was 0.92m wide and 0.14m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single sterile mid brownish grey silty sand fill (3003). No continuation of this ditch was found to the north in Trench 903.

Trench 902

3.3.2 The westernmost trench in this field revealed a single pit (**3004**) and the eastern terminus of an east-south-east to west-south-west aligned ditch (**3017**). Pit **3004** was 0.58m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides, a flat base and a single sterile fill of mid brownish grey silty sand (3005). Ditch terminus **3017** lay 1m to the north-west and measured 0.62m wide and 0.12m deep. It had gradually sloping sides, an uneven base (Fig. 13, Section 3002) and contained one sterile fill (3018) of dark greyish brown silty sand. An unidentified iron object and a horseshoe were recovered from the topsoil of this trench.

Trench 904

3.3.3 Trench 904 contained two ditches (**3006** and **3012**) and two small discrete features (**3008** and **3010**). Ditch **3006** was aligned east-south-east to west-north-west and measured 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep (Fig. 13, Section 3009). To the north, ditch **3012** was on a north-east to south-west aligned and was 0.94m wide and 0.07m deep. Both ditches had gently sloping sides and flat bases.

3.3.4 Around 5m to the south-east of ditch **3012**, pit/posthole **3008** was 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. Pit **3010**, just to the north-east, was partially obscured by the north-eastern trench baulk but measured 0.62m wide and 0.17 deep with steep sides and an uneven base. All the features in this trench contained single sterile fills of mid greyish brown clayey sand. No finds were recovered from cut features, but one worked flint and an iron object were recovered from the topsoil of this trench.

Trenches 905 (Plate 3) and 910

3.3.5 Ditch **3006** in Trench 904 continued east into Trench 905. Here the ditch (**3041**) was of similar dimensions. 0.6m wide and 0.12m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The same ditch was again revealed further east running through Trench 910, where it was again investigated. Here the ditch (**3037**) had a similar profile but was again sterile and measured 0.7m wide by 0.2m deep.

3.3.6 To the south-west of the ditch **3006** in Trench 905 were three varied discrete features. Partially revealed close to the centre of the trench was a tree throw (**3039**) with steep to near vertical sides and a concave base (Fig. 13, Section 3016). It contained a single fill of mid greyish brown silty sand with rare charcoal flecks (3040) which yielded two worked flints (1g).

3.3.7 At the south-western end of the trench, pit **3033** was 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep with gradually sloping sides, a concave base and one sterile fill (3034) of mid greyish brown silty sand. Pit **3035** was located 2m to the south-east and was 0.66m wide and 0.28m deep with near vertical sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill of mottled mid greyish brown and yellow silty sand (3036) contained 95 fragments of burnt flint (403g) with environmental sampling also yielding a small amount of charcoal and a single seed of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*).

Trench 906

3.3.8 Three features were revealed in this trench. At the southern trench end, a pit (**3020**) was partially revealed. Measuring 1.25m wide and 0.36m deep with a near vertical side and flat base, it contained a single sterile fill (3021) of mid orangey brown silty sand. To the north, pit **3024** was 0.82m wide and 0.21m deep with gentle sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a basal fill (3025) 0.15m thick of mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent stone inclusions and an upper fill (3026) 0.14m thick of light greyish brown silty sand (Fig. 13, Section 3008). Immediately to the east of pit **3024** was the possible western terminus of a ditch (**3022**). This feature did not, however, continue east into Trench 908 and it may have been an elongated pit. This

feature was 0.4m wide by 0.08m deep with a single fill (3023) of mid orangey brown silty sand.

Trench 913

3.3.9 This trench was targeted on a rectilinear geophysical anomaly which corresponded with the north-east to south-west aligned sides of an enclosure ditch. This ditch was investigated with two interventions. Intervention **3027** measured 1.3m wide and 0.26m deep (Plate 4) and contained two medieval pottery sherds (24g), whilst in intervention **3031** to the south-west it was 1.2m wide by 0.32m deep and yielded one cattle tooth. In both locations the ditch had gradually sloping sides, a flat base and a fill of mid greyish brown silty sand.

3.3.10 Close to the centre of the enclosure, a single pit (**3029**) was revealed. It was 0.58m wide by 0.14m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 13, Section 3004). It contained a diffuse fill (3030) of mid greyish brown and dark blueish grey silty sand that yielded occasional charcoal flecks and eight sherds of medieval pottery (33g).

3.3.11 Environmental sampling of both ditch **3027** and pit **3029** yielded grains of both free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum*) and rye (*Secale cereale*) with pit **3029** also containing a number of large legumes thought to be peas (*Pisum sativum*).

3.4 Field 25.2 (Figs 6-9)

Trench 914 (Fig. 7)

3.4.1 This trench was targeted on a smaller quarry pit visible on the geophysical survey, which was partially exposed at the south-west end of the trench. This quarry pit was augered to a depth of 1.95m which meant that a subsequent machine sondage did not excavate the base due to the 2m depth limit of excavation (inclusive of topsoil and subsoil) although a gradually sloping edge was visible. Its fill was a consistent sterile mid greyish brown sandy silt.

Trenches 915-916 and 918 (Fig. 7)

3.4.2 Trench 915 revealed four pits spread across the length of the trench. The easternmost pit (**3052**) was only partially revealed and was at least 1.52m wide and 0.44m deep and a single fill of light brownish grey silty sand. Around the trench centre, pit **3054** was 0.66m wide and 0.18m deep with a single sterile fill of light greyish brown silty sand (3055). Around 6.5m to the east, pit **3056** was 0.8m wide by 0.16m deep (Fig. 13, Section 3023) and just to the north-west, pit **3058** was 0.56m wide by 0.18m deep. These three pits all had sterile fills of light greyish brown silty sand, and they all had consistent profiles with gradually sloping sides and concave bases. A fragment of an iron nail (SF255) was recovered from the topsoil.

3.4.3 To the east of Trench 915, Trench 916 (Plate 5) revealed four ditches/gullies and one posthole. Three of the linear features were on a north-west to south-east alignment in the southern part of the trench (**3064**, **3066** and **3068**), whilst ditch **3070** ran on a perpendicular north-east to south-west alignment close to the centre of the trench.

3.4.4 Ditch **3064** was 0.51m wide and 0.24m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Ditch **3066** was a southern terminus measuring 0.49m wide and 0.05m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. Ditch **3068** measured 0.34m wide and 0.14m deep with a V-shaped profile (Fig. 13, Section 3029) whilst ditch **3070** also had a similar profile and was 0.46m wide by 0.15m deep. Posthole **3072** was situated between ditches **3066** and **3068**, measuring 0.18m wide by 0.18m deep with vertical sides and a concave base (Fig. 13, Section 3031). All features within this trench contained a single fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt and no finds were recovered.

3.4.5 Further to the north, Trench 918 revealed one pit (**3050**) towards the southern end of the trench. Pit **3050** was 1m wide and 0.22m deep. It had gently sloping sides, a concave base and contained a single sterile fill of mid greyish brown silty sand (3051).

Trenches 919-920 (Fig. 8)

3.4.6 Both these trenches were targeted on quarry pits identified by the geophysical survey. In Trench 919 the quarry pit measured 9m wide at the centre of the trench. It was augered and then subsequently machine excavated to a depth of 0.95m, which revealed an irregular profile. The quarry pit in Trench 920 was more substantial, with around half the pit being exposed across 12m in the southern half of the trench. Here it was augered to a depth of 1.65m and its depth meant that a full profile was not fully machine excavated, although a gently sloping edge on one side was recorded. Both quarry pits contained a single sterile mid greyish brown clayey silt fill.

Trenches 921-3 (Figs. 8-9)

3.4.7 Trench 921 contained three postholes towards the western end of the trench. Posthole **3043** was 0.44m in diameter and 0.33m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills, a basal fill (3044) of mid greyish brown silty clay and an upper fill (3045) of light yellowish grey silty clay. It was recut by posthole **3046**, which was 0.23m in diameter and 0.15m deep (Fig. 13, Section 3018; Plate 6). The recut had vertical sides, a flat base and a single fill (3047) of dark blueish grey clayey silt with moderate charcoal inclusions. This deposit yielded five sherds of prehistoric pottery (21g), probably dating to the Early Neolithic or the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. Environmental sampling of recut **3046** also yield occasional grains, some identifiable as wheat.

3.4.8 Posthole **3048** lay 2.5m to the east-south-east and measured 0.3m in diameter and 0.16m deep. It had near vertical sides, a flat base and contained a sterile fill (3049) of mid brownish grey sandy silt.

3.4.9 To the south-west, Trench 922 was targeted on the edge of a further quarry pit identified by the geophysical survey and was partially exposed across the western 6m of the trench. This feature was hand augered to a depth of 0.55m and a 1m by 1m test pit (**3084**) was hand excavated reaching a similar maximum depth of 0.62m and revealing a gently undulating base (Fig. 13, Section 3035). It contained a single fill of mid greyish brown silty sand that yielded two worked flints (10g).

3.4.10 Trench 923 (Fig. 9) lay to the south-east of Trench 922 and revealed a ditch terminus (**3060**) and a pit (**3062**) towards the eastern trench end. Ditch **3060** was the southern terminus of a north-east to south-west aligned ditch that measured 0.76m wide and 0.26m deep. It had steep sides, a concave base and contained two worked flints (4g). Just to the west, pit **3062** was 1.1m wide and 0.14m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Both features contained a single sterile fill of mid greyish brown silty sand.

Trenches 925-7 (Fig. 8)

3.4.11 Trenches 925 and 926 were targeted on the southern and northern edges respectively of a substantial quarry pit identified by the geophysical survey. In Trench 925, the pit was only visible for 3m at the northern end of the trench, whilst in Trench 926 the pit was exposed for 4.7m at the south-eastern end of the trench. This quarry pit was only further investigated in Trench 926 where it was augered to a depth of 0.7m, with subsequent mechanical excavation revealing a gently sloping side and a single fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt.

3.4.12 A further quarry pit was revealed in the south-western half of Trench 927 and visible for around 9m. Here the auger depth measured 1.7m. Aside from a gradually sloping edge (Plate 7), the profile could not be ascertained with the machine sondage due to the 2m total trench depth limit. It contained a single fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt.

Trenches 928-9 (Figs. 8-9)

3.4.13 Trench 928 revealed a single posthole (**3074**) in the eastern part of the trench. Posthole **3074** was 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (3075) of dark greyish brown clayey sand containing a small amount of charcoal.

3.4.14 To the south, Trench 929 revealed a ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment. This ditch was not further investigated as it correlated with a mapped field boundary that had previously been excavated in Trench 835 during Phase 2B of the evaluation (Ladd 2025b; see Fig. 9).

Trench 933 (Fig. 9)

3.4.15 This trench revealed a single ditch (**3078**) on an east to west alignment. Ditch **3078** measured 1.22m wide and 0.72m deep with steep sides and a V-shaped base. It contained a single sterile fill (3079) of mid orangey brown silty sand (Fig. 13, Section 3034).

Trench 936 (Fig. 9)

3.4.16 Towards the south-eastern corner of this field, Trench 936 was targeted on the eastern edge of a further quarry pit, visible for *c.*4.8m in the western trench end. Its depth was unclear from augering, but a machine sondage demonstrated it to be 1.2m deep with a gently sloping side and a single mid greyish brown clayey silt fill.

3.4.17 A small pit (**3076**) was also revealed in the eastern half of the trench. Pit **3076** was 0.44m wide and 0.21m deep with steep sides, a flat base and a single sterile fill (3077) of mid greyish brown sandy silt (Plate 8).

3.5 Field 41 (Fig. 10)

Trenches 940-2 (Fig. 11)

3.5.1 Trenches 940 and 942 revealed the eastern continuation of a field boundary previously encountered in Trench 835 during Phase 2B of the evaluation (Ladd 2025b) and also revealed in Trench 929 in Field 25.2 (see above). This feature was and was not investigated any further in this trench.

3.5.2 Trench 941 (Plate 9) contained a further (recut) field boundary on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, perpendicular to the ditch revealed in Trenches 940 and 942. The earliest iteration of this ditch (**3101**) was at least 0.32m deep but had been mostly cut away by recut **3103** (Fig. 13, Section 3043). This later cut was 2.32m wide and whilst it was not fully excavated due to depth restrictions, augering indicated that it was 0.8m deep. Both ditches had steeply sloping sides and contained single mid greyish brown silty sand fill. The ditch is shown on the first edition OS mapping but was depicted as backfilled by the time of mid-20th century mapping, before being reinstated in the form of the current similarly aligned hedge line around 30m to the east of this ditch.

Trench 943 (Fig. 11)

3.5.3 This trench partially revealed a single discrete feature (either a pit or a natural hollow) at the north-western trench end. Feature **3109** was 1.78m wide by 0.23m deep with a steep side and slightly uneven base. It contained a single sterile fill of mid greyish brown silty sand.

Trenches 945-7 (Fig. 11)

3.5.4 These three trenches revealed a further field boundary on a north-east to south-west alignment shown on first edition OS mapping. It remains shown on historic maps until at least the mid-20th century, before being replaced by the current nearby north-south aligned hedgeline. This ditch (**3093**) was investigated in Trench 945 where it measured 2.1m wide (Plate 10) and whilst not fully excavated, was augered to a depth of 0.84m. It had gradually sloping sides and was seen to contained one fill (3094) of sterile mid brownish grey clayey sand. One Early Neolithic flint blade (24g) was also recovered from the topsoil in this trench.

Trenches 948-950 (Fig. 11)

3.5.5 The south-eastern end of Trench 948 partially revealed a possible pit or infilled natural hollow (**3097**). It was at least 1.76m wide with steeply sloping sides and uneven base (Fig. 13, Section 3042). A similar feature (**3099**) was also partially visible to the north in the southern end of Trench 950. It was at least 1.22m wide by 0.4m deep with gently sloping sides. Both features contained single sterile fills of mid greyish brown silty sand.

3.5.6 The north-western end of Trench 949 revealed the edge of a large quarry pit visible on the geophysical survey. Whilst an initial auger depth was taken suggesting a substantial depth to this pit, the machine sondage revealed that only a thin spread of mid brown sandy silt fill 0.1m thick was present marking the very edge of this feature.

Trench 953 (Fig. 12)

3.5.7 Two ditches were revealed in this trench. Ditch **3080** ran on a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep. It had gently sloping sides, a concave base and a single fill (3081) that yielded four sherds (2g) of medieval pottery. Around 4m to the north was a perpendicular ditch (**3082**) on a north-west to south-east alignment. It measured 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep (Fig. 13, Section 3038). Both ditches had gently sloping sides, concave bases and a single fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt.

Trench 954 (Fig. 12)

3.5.8 Ditch **3080** in Trench 953 continued to the south-west into the south-eastern end of Trench 954. Here the ditch (**3095**) was 0.86m wide and 0.16m deep with a similar profile and one sterile fill (3096) of mid brownish grey silty sand.

3.5.9 Three further ditches were found further to the north-west in this trench. (Plate 11; Fig. 13, Section 3036). Ditch **3086** was the southern terminus of a north-east to south-west aligned ditch. It had steeply sloping sides, a flat base and contained a single fill (3087) of dark brownish grey sandy silt which yielded one sherd of medieval pottery (6g). This feature was cut by ditch **3088**. This ditch was 1.67m wide and 0.3m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single mid brownish grey sandy silt fill (3089). Ditch **3090**, immediately to the south-east, was 0.95m wide and 0.22m deep and on a north to south alignment. It also had gradually sloping sides and a flat base and was filled by a mid greyish brown silty sand.

Trench 955 (Fig. 12)

3.5.10 The south-western end of this trench revealed a ditch terminus (**3105**) and a posthole (**3107**) (Plate 12). The terminus (**3105**) was the eastern end of an east to west aligned ditch and measured 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (3106) of mid greyish brown clayey silt containing 76 sherds (475g) of Roman pottery and two residual sherds (2g) of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery. Posthole **3107** lay just to the north-east of the terminus and measured 0.2m wide and 0.24m deep. It had near vertical sides and a V-shaped base (Fig. 13, Section 3045) with one fill (3108) of dark blueish grey silty clay.

3.5.11 One further ditch (**3111**) was exposed on a north-west to south-east alignment in the north-eastern end of the trench. It was 0.9m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides, a concave base. It contained two fills (Fig. 13, Section 3047). The basal fill (3112) was a mid brownish grey sandy silt 0.18m thick containing 71 sherds of medieval pottery (948g), one piece of fired clay (9g) and two residual struck flints (2g). The upper fill (3113) was a mid yellowish brown silty sand 0.12m thick that yielded 61 sherds (693g) of medieval pottery. Environmental samples from this ditch produced frequent cereal grains including rye, barley and free-threshing wheat along grass and stinking chamomile seeds. The possible quarry pit identified by the geophysical survey at the north-eastern trench end was not visible.

3.6 Finds summary

Metalwork

3.6.1 Metal-detecting survey yielded a total of seven iron artefacts, recovered from the topsoil in five trenches. The items were incomplete and poorly preserved, consisting of nails, a horseshoe fragment and further unidentified iron fragments. The objects are likely to be post-medieval to modern in date and relate to agricultural activity in the area.

Prehistoric pottery

3.6.2 Seven sherds of undiagnostic pottery (23g) dated as broadly prehistoric were recovered from two features in Trench 921, Field 25.2 and Trench 955, Field 41. The two sherds (2g) in ditch terminus **3105** in Trench 955 were residual having been recovered alongside a sizeable Roman pottery assemblage whilst the other five sherds (21g) were recovered from a posthole in Trench 921. The flint-tempered fabric of the pottery means it could correlate with both Early Neolithic or Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pottery regionally.

Roman pottery

3.6.3 A total 76 sherds (475g) of Roman pottery were recovered from a single ditch terminus (**3105**) in Trench 955, Field 41. These came from a single globular jar in a grey ware fabric broadly dating to the 1st to 2nd century AD.

Medieval pottery

3.6.4 In total, 138 sherds, weighing 1690g were recovered from archaeological features excavated in four trenches. Three trenches were in the north of Field 41 and one trench was in the north-eastern corner of Field 25.3. Trench 955 yielded the majority of the assemblage (125 sherds, 1624g) suggesting a concentration of medieval activity in this location. This small assemblage has a limited range of fabric types but is chronologically consistent with activity spanning the 12th-14th centuries, with a probably 13th-14th century focus. The assemblage is primarily domestic with jars forming the largest vessel group.

Fired clay

3.6.5 One undiagnostic fragment of fired clay (9g) was recovered from ditch **3111** in Trench 955, Field 41. It was found alongside a substantial medieval pottery assemblage (see above) but the propensity for clay use in the prehistoric period means it could be a residual prehistoric fragment. It is therefore of limited archaeological insight due to its lack of clear dating or diagnostic features.

Flint

3.6.6 A small assemblage of eight worked flints and 95 fragments (403g) of unworked burnt flint was recovered during the trenching. The worked flint was dominated by simple hard hammer struck flakes which are not strongly diagnostic but likely to be Neolithic or Early Bronze Age in date. The only distinctive struck flint was a large Early Neolithic blade recovered from the topsoil in Trench 945, Field 41. The burnt flint was all recovered from pit **3035**

in Trench 905, Field 25.3 and is inherently undatable but likely to relate to prehistoric activity.

3.7 Environmental summary

Environmental samples

3.7.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from a variety of features across the three fields evaluated during this phase of works. Preservation of archaeobotanical material varied across the trenches but was generally poor with preservation only occurring through carbonisation (charring). The assemblage was dominated by culinary waste, including cereals and pulses with no evidence for the exploitation of wild plant resources. Several plant assemblages recovered from features associated with medieval pottery were consistent with regional agricultural practices during this period, represented by an arable economy focus on free-threshing wheat, hulled barley and peas/beans.

Animal bone

3.7.2 Ditch **3031** in Trench 913, Field 25.3 contained a single cattle molar. The tooth was almost completely unworn and belongs to a younger animal, but no further information can be gained from this single fragment.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

Visibility of features

4.1.1 Most features were clearly visible at the level of initial machine stripping, despite occasional low light levels as the evaluation occurred in late November to early December. The only exception would be the features (primarily ditches) on the clay plateau in the northern trenches (Trenches 953-955) of Field 41 where several features only became apparent from subsequent weathering coupled with extrapolation from neighbouring trenches.

Ground truthing the geophysical survey

4.1.2 In general, where anomalies had been identified by the geophysical survey, they corresponded well with the location of the archaeological remains. With only one exception (see below), the larger discrete anomalies corresponding with quarry pits were confirmed by the trenching. The rectilinear enclosure targeted by Trench 913 in Field 25.3 and several more substantial field boundary ditches in Field 25.2 and 41 all clearly corresponded with geophysical anomalies.

4.1.3 Some possible features identified by the geophysical survey were, however, not evident in the excavated trenches across the three fields investigated during this phase. In Trench 955, Field 41 no feature corresponding with a large discrete anomaly was found, and instead a ditch containing a substantial medieval pottery assemblage was revealed in this location. A north-west to south-east aligned linear archaeological anomaly could also not be identified in Trench 905, Field 25.3, although an east-west aligned

ditch was clearly visible in its expected location. Similar linear archaeological anomalies in this area were also not identified in Field 25.3 during Phase 2B of the evaluation (Ladd 2025b).

4.1.4 As is also typical, smaller discrete features were not detected by the geophysical survey. Several smaller more insubstantial ditches within the three fields evaluated were also not identified by the geophysical survey although often these were dug into sandier geology.

4.1.5 Overall, the accuracy of the geophysical survey during this phase of trenching appears to correspond with the results recorded in several previous phases of the evaluation where fields had similar geology and geophysical coverage (Firth 2025 and Ladd 2025a).

4.2 Friston (FRS118) – Fields 25.3, 25.2 and 41

Prehistoric activity

4.2.1 During previous trial trenching in Fields 25.2 during Phase 2B of the evaluation, several significant areas of prehistoric activity were recorded. These prehistoric remains recorded during Phase 2B consisted of five Early Neolithic pits, including one with a substantial assemblage (284 sherds, 3.1kg) of pottery and 355 struck flints. A large D-shaped enclosure (initially interpreted as a potential henge monument prior to the recent geophysical survey) was also revealed in the north-eastern trenches in Field 25.2. Although not securely dated, it is thought to be of prehistoric date.

4.2.2 Given the presence of these features, it is therefore unsurprising that further traces of prehistoric activity were identified in the Phase 3 trenches. Pit **3035** in Trench 905, Field 25.3 contained a relatively substantial assemblage of heavily burnt flint (95 fragments, 403g) which while not directly dateable, is likely a byproduct of prehistoric activity (see App. B.6). Tree throw **3039** nearby in the trench also contained two flint flakes of a broadly Neolithic to Bronze Age date. It is possible that other undated discrete features uncovered in the north-western trenches of Field 25.3 are of prehistoric date. With some of these discrete features it should be noted it was sometimes unclear in the sand geology if they were cut features or infilled natural hollows and tree throw features.

4.2.3 Additional small undated pits and postholes were also uncovered occasionally throughout the northern trenches in Field 25.2, becoming significantly sparser in their distribution towards the south of the field. Only posthole recut posthole **3046** in Trench 921 contained dating evidence, consisting of five tiny sherds (2g) of undiagnostic (flint-tempered) prehistoric pottery. The proximity and concentration of many of these pits in the vicinity the prehistoric D-shaped enclosure and the Early Neolithic pits uncovered during Phase 2B is therefore generally suggestive that many of these smaller discrete features were of prehistoric date.

4.2.4 The prehistoric activity identified during Phase 2B (see 4.2.1) also provides a context for the presence of residual flint flakes, probably of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, recovered from topsoil throughout the three fields evaluated. This includes the most distinctive worked flint; a large Early Neolithic blade recovered from topsoil within Trench 945, Field 41 that is

potentially broadly contemporary with Early Neolithic pits previously uncovered in Fields 25.1/25.2. Residual worked flint flakes were also recovered from the quarry pit **3084** in Trench 922, Field 25.2, which presumably truncates and has disturbed the prehistoric D-shaped enclosure immediately to the west (see Fig. 7).

Roman activity

4.2.5 Evidence for Roman activity was identified only in Trench 955 in Field 41, where an east to west aligned ditch terminus (**3105**) contained 76 sherds (475g) from a single locally produced 1st to 2nd century grey ware jar. Ditch **3105** appeared to be a relatively short stretch of ditch that did not continue 40m to the west into Trench 821, excavated during Phase 2B. Nor were further Roman features identified in any surrounding trenches during this or the previous phase of trial trenching. Whilst the presence of this pottery therefore suggests Roman activity in the local vicinity, it seems likely that any further significant remains lie beyond the extent of the evaluated area.

Medieval activity

4.2.6 The Phase 3 trenching revealed a concentration of medieval features in the north-eastern corner of the evaluated fields. This consisted of a rectilinear enclosure containing medieval pottery in Trench 913, Field 25.3, with an associated pit containing contemporary pottery and a series of ditches, some perhaps forming a further rectilinear enclosure, within Trenches 953-5 in the northernmost part of Field 41. These ditches do not appear to continue any further south within the field or west/north-west into Field 25.3 suggesting activity in a relatively limited area, noticeably situated on a sight plateau with clayier geology overlooking the rest of the site. The slightly differing geology may suggest the ditches relate to small-scale drainage of this location.

4.2.7 Medieval pottery (138 sherds, 1690g) was recovered from several of these features (predominantly ditches) in Trench 913, Field 25.3 and Trench 953-5, Field 41. Ditch **3111** in Trench 955 produced the vast majority of this assemblage – 132 sherds (1641g). Although a relatively small assemblage, the medieval pottery is chronologically consistent in that it spans the 12th-14th centuries. There appears to be a cessation in activity in these fields from the 14th century, potentially correlating with the well-documented regional decline and contraction of rural settlements in the 14th century, often attributed to the effects of Black Death (Bailey 2007). The medieval pottery assemblage wholly consists of domestic wares locally sourced from within Suffolk (see B.4). This seems likely to represent waste from nearby areas of settlement, although the features recorded by the trenching may be more likely to represent agricultural paddocks/enclosures.

4.2.8 Environmental sampling of medieval features (ditch **3027** and pit **3029** in Trench 913, Field 25.3 and ditch **3111** in Trench 955, Field 41) recovered archaeobotanical assemblages typical of the medieval arable economy with its focus on free-threshing wheat, hulled barley and peas/beans (see App. C.1) and are consistent with medieval deposits recorded elsewhere in the scheme (e.g. Field 91 in Phase 1; Firth 2025). The presence of stinking chamomile in samples, often associated with winter wheat typically grown in

clay-rich soils also correlates with the subtle change in geology and might be indicative of the more favourable agricultural conditions that resulted in the specific utilisation of the clay plateau in the north-west of Field 41.

Quarry pits

4.2.9 As in previous phases of the scheme, large quarry/marling pits were identified by the trenching, predominantly in Field 25.2 but with one further example in Trench 949, Field 41. The main concentration of quarry pits seems to be contained within the northern half of Field 25.2 and respects the current field boundaries as well as the former field boundary ditch running through Trenches 929, 940 and 942. Although dateable finds were not retrieved from these features (despite machine excavation and metal detecting survey of the resultant spoil) they are likely to be of post-medieval origin based on the manner in which they seem to respect the post-medieval field system.

4.2.10 The quarry pits often appear to target areas within the fields where superficial clay deposits are present. Numerous old clay quarrying/extraction pits, sometimes subsequently utilized as ponds are frequently recorded on the first edition OS map of the area, and these features probably correspond with similar activity.

Post-medieval to modern field boundaries

4.2.11 Now defunct field boundaries on north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east alignments were revealed running through Trench 929 in Field 25.2 and several trenches within the southern portion of Field 41 (Trenches 940-2 and 945-7). These ditches are recorded on early editions of the OS map (Fig. 10), with most boundaries (except one recorded in Trench 941) still shown on mid-20th century mapping. This shows these ditches were subject to fairly recent backfilling, even though no post-medieval or modern material was recovered from interventions excavated in Trench 941 and 945, nor where a boundary had been previously excavated in Trench 835, Field 25.2 during Phase 2B of the trial trenching (Ladd 2025b).

Undated and natural features

4.2.12 The north-western corner of Field 25.3 and Trenches 916, 923 and 933 in Field 25.2 revealed several, often small/shallow, undated ditches. These were on variety of alignments ranging from north-east to south-east to east to west in Field 25.3 and predominantly north-west to south-west in Field 25.2. Several of these ditches appear to have been relatively short, not continuing into neighbouring trenches. Despite a lack of direct dating evidence, similar ditches in Phase 2B trenching of Field 25.3 (Ladd 2025b) had been tentatively suggested to represent the remains of a Middle Bronze Age field system based on similarity of alignment and morphology with other fields systems of this date identified in eastern Suffolk (Woolhouse 2024). With these ditches having similar alignments to both this possible Bronze Age field system, medieval ditches to the east and the current field boundaries, the absence of dateable finds means these features cannot be confidently dated.

4.2.13 Trenches 943, 948 and 950 in Field 41 each partially revealed a single sterile discrete feature. These were potentially undated pits although their slightly

irregular shapes in plan suggest they could be natural hollows or tree throws.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

A.1 Trench Descriptions

Field	Trench	Orientation	Length	Av topsoil depth (m)	Av subsoil depth (m)	Geology	Trench summary	Finds summary
25.3	901	E-W	30	0.32	0.14	Sand	**3000** Pit **3002** Ditch	
25.3	902	N-S	30	0.3	0.2	Sand	**3004** Pit **3017** Ditch/gully terminus	(3015) topsoil 1x Fe horseshoe, 2x Fe fragments MED/PMED
25.3	903	ENE-WSW	30	0.35	0.16	Sandy gravels		(3014) topsoil 1x flint
25.3	904	NNW-SSE	30	0.32	0.12	Clay & sand	**3006** Ditch **3008** Pit **3010** Pit **3012** Ditch	(3016) topsoil 1x flint
25.3	905	NE-SW	30	0.35	0.18	Sand	**3033** Pit **3035** Pit **3039** Tree throw **3041** Ditch	**3035** (3036) 95x burnt flint (403g) **3039** (3040) 2x flint
25.3	906	NNW-SSE	30	0.46	0.17	Sand	**3020** Pit **3022** Ditch terminus **3024** Pit	
25.3	907	ENE-WSW	30	0.4	-	Sand		
25.3	908	NNW-SSE	30	0.31	0.13	Sand		
25.3	909	NW-SE	30	0.36	0.08	Sand		
25.3	910	ENE-WSW	30	0.3	0.2	Sand	**3037** Ditch	
25.3	911	NNE-SSW	30	0.35	0.14	Sand		
25.3	912	E-W	30	0.34	0.11	Sand		(3019) topsoil 1x Fe nail MED/PMED, 1x flint
25.3	913	NNW-SSE	30	0.28	0.18	Sand & flinty sand	**3027** Ditch **3029** Pit **3031** Ditch	**3027** (3028) 2x (24g) MED **3029** (3030) 8x (33g) MED **3031** (3032) 1x cattle tooth
25.2	914	NE-SW	30	0.28	0.26	Sand	Quarry pit	
25.2	915	E-W	30	0.35	0.11	Sand	**3052** Pit **3054** Pit **3056** Pit **3058** Pit	(3114) topsoil 1x Fe nail MED/PMED

Field	Trench	Orientation	Length	Av topsoil depth (m)	Av subsoil depth (m)	Geology	Trench summary	Finds summary
25.2	916	N-S	30	0.36	0.16	Sand & Clay	**3064** Ditch **3066** Ditch terminus **3068** Ditch **3070** Ditch **3072** Posthole	
25.2	917	E-W	30	0.3	0.1	Sand		
25.2	918	N-S	30	0.32	0.21	Sand	**3050** Pit	
25.2	919	NE-SW	30	0.37	0.1	Clay & Chalky clay	Quarry pit	
25.2	920	N-S	30	0.26	0.07	Chalky clay & sand	Quarry pit	
25.2	921	E-W	30	0.32	0.12	Sand & chalky clay	**3043** Posthole **3046** Posthole recut **3048** Posthole	**3046** (3047) 5x (21g) Prehis
25.2	922	E-W	30	0.35	0.13	Sand	**3084** Quarry pit	**3084** (3085) 2x flint
25.2	923	E-W	30	0.46	0.12	Sand	**3060** Ditch terminus **3062** Pit	**3060** (3061) 2x flint
25.2	924	N-S	30	0.35	0.25	Sand		
25.2	925	N-S	30	0.26	0.18	Sand & chalky clay	Quarry pit	
25.2	926	NNW-SSE	30	0.33	0.14	Sand & chalky clay	Quarry pit	
25.2	927	NE-SW	30	0.4	0.11	Sand	Quarry pit	
25.2	928	E-W	30	0.34	0.19	Sand	**3074** Posthole	
25.2	929	NW-SW	30	0.3	0.1	Sand	Unexcavated ditch	
25.2	930	E-W	30	0.31	0.23	Sand		
25.2	931	NW-SE	30	0.32	0.2	Sand		
25.2	932	ENE-WSW	30	0.3	0.07	Sand	Natural hollow	
25.2	933	N-S	30	0.36	0.09	Sand	**3078** Ditch	
25.2	934	E-W	30	0.38	0.15	Sand		
25.2	935	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.1	Clayey sand		
25.2	936	E-W	30	0.35	0.15	Sand	**3076** Pit Quarry pit	
25.2	937	N-S	30	0.35	0.13	Sand		(3115) topsoil 1x Fe nail MED/PMED
41	938	NW-SE	30	0.32	0.16	Sand		(3116) topsoil 1x Fe fragment MED/PMED
41	939	N-S	30	0.3	0.15	Sand		
41	940	NW-SE	30	0.3	0.22	Sand	Unexcavated ditch	
41	941	ENE-WSW	30	0.38	0.09	Sand	**3101** Ditch **3103** Ditch recut	
41	942	NW-SE	30	0.27	0.23	Sand	Unexcavated ditch	
41	943	NW-SE	30	0.33	0.19	Sand	**3109** Pit / natural feature	
41	944	ENE-WSW	30	0.3	0.15	Sand		

Field	Trench	Orientation	Length	Av topsoil depth (m)	Av subsoil depth (m)	Geology	Trench summary	Finds summary
41	945	NW-SE	30	0.29	0.16	Sand	**3093** Ditch	(3092) topsoil 1x flint
41	946	E-W	30	0.3	0.21	Sand	Unexcavated ditch	
41	947	NE-SW	30	0.28	0.28	Sand	Unexcavated ditch	
41	948	NW-SE	30	0.33	0.27	Sand	**3097** Pit / natural feature	
41	949	NNW-SSE	30	0.35	0.15	Sand	Quarry pit	
41	950	N-S	30	0.33	0.16	Sand	**3099** Pit / natural feature	
41	951	NNW-SSE	30	0.3	0.1	Clay & sand		
41	952	E-W	30	0.3	0.1	Clay & sand		
41	953	N-S	30	0.3	0.08	Clay	**3080** Ditch **3082** Ditch	**3080** (3081) 4x (2g) MED
41	954	NW-SE	30	0.36	0.18	Clay & sand	**3086** Ditch terminus **3088** Ditch **3090** Ditch **3095** Ditch	**3086** (3087) 1x (6g) MED
41	955	NE-SW	30	0.37	0.08	Clay & sand	**3105** Ditch terminus **3107** Posthole **3111** Ditch	**3105** (3106) 76x (475g) C1-2 Rom, 2x (2g) Prehis **3111** (3112) 71x (948g) MED, 1x fired clay (9g), 2x flint (3113) 61x (69g) MED

A.2 Context Descriptions

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3000	901	cut	pit	**3000**	1.86	0.34	sub-circular	gradual	gradual	concave					
3001	901	fill	pit	**3000**		0.34						dark greyish brown	silty sand	occ. small to medium assorted gravels and flints	soft
3002	901	cut	ditch	**3002**	0.92	0.14	linear	gentle	gradual	flat	NE-SW				
3003	901	fill	ditch	**3002**		0.14						mid brownish grey	silty sand		soft
3004	902	cut	pit	**3004**	0.58	0.1	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	flat					
3005	902	fill	pit	**3004**		0.1						mid brownish grey	silty sand		firm
3006	904	cut	ditch	**3006**	0.6	0.1	linear	gentle	gradual	flat	ENE-WSW				
3007	904	fill	ditch	**3006**		0.1						mid greyish brown	silty sand		soft
3008	904	cut	pit / posthole	**3008**	0.5	0.15	circular	steep	gradual	concave					
3009	904	fill	pit / posthole	**3008**		0.15						mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ. small natural rounded stones	soft
3010	904	cut	pit	**3010**	0.62	0.17	sub-circular	steep	gradual	w-shape					

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3011	904	fill	pit	**3010**		0.17						mid greyish brown	clayey sand	rare rounded stones	soft
3012	904	cut	ditch	**3012**	0.94	0.07	linear	gentle	gentle	flat	NE-SW				
3013	904	fill	ditch	**3012**		0.07						mid greyish brown	silty sand		soft
3014	903	layer	topsoil									dark brownish grey	sandy silt	occ. small assorted natural stones	
3015	902	layer	topsoil									dark brownish grey	sandy silt	occ. small assorted natural stones	plastic
3016	904	layer	topsoil									dark brownish grey	sandy silt	occ. small assorted natural stones	plastic
3017	902	cut	ditch terminus	**3017**	0.62	0.12	linear	gradual	gradual	irregular	NE-SW				
3018	902	fill	ditch terminus	**3017**		0.12						dark greyish brown	silty sand		soft
3019	912	layer	topsoil									dark brownish grey	silty sand	occ. small assorted natural stones	plastic
3020	906	cut	pit	**3020**	0.52	0.36	sub-circular	steep	sharp	flat					

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3021	906	fill	pit	**3020**		0.36						mid orangey brown	silty sand	rare natural stones	soft
3022	906	cut	ditch terminus	**3022**	0.4	0.08	linear	steep	moderate	flat	E-W				
3023	906	fill	ditch terminus	**3022**		0.08						mid orangey brown	silty sand	rare small assorted natural stones	soft
3024	906	cut	pit	**3024**	0.55	0.21	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	concave					
3025	906	fill	pit	**3024**		0.15						mid greyish brown	silty sand	frequent natural stones	soft
3026	906	fill	pit	**3024**		0.14						light greyish brown	silty sand	frequent natural stones	soft
3027	913	cut	ditch	**3027**	1.3	0.26	linear	gradual	gradual	flat	E-W				
3028	913	fill	ditch	**3027**		0.26						mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ. small assorted gravels	firm
3029	913	cut	pit	**3029**	0.58	0.14	sub-circular	gradual	gradual	concave					

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3030	913	fill	pit	**3029**		0.14						mottled mid greyish brown and dark blueish grey	silty sand	occ. charcoal specks	soft
3031	913	cut	ditch	**3031**	1.2	0.32	linear	steep	gradual	flat	E-W				
3032	913	fill	ditch	**3031**		0.32						mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ. small assorted gravels	firm
3033	905	cut	pit / tree throw	**3033**	1.8	0.3	sub-circular	SW - steep, NE - gradual	gradual	concave					
3034	905	fill	pit / tree throw	**3033**		0.3						mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ. small natural stones	soft
3035	905	cut	pit	**3035**	0.66	0.28	sub-circular	steep	moderate	flat					
3036	905	fill	pit	**3035**		0.28						mid greyish brown	silty sand	rare charcoal	soft
3037	910	cut	ditch	**3037**	0.72	0.2	linear	gentle	gradual	concave	ENE-WSW				

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3038	910	fill	ditch	**3037**		0.2						mid greyish brown	silty sand	rare natural stones	soft
3039	905	cut	natural	**3039**	0.7	0.55	irregular	NE - vertical, SE - steep	gradual	concave					
3040	905	fill	natural	**3039**		0.12						mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ. small stones and rare charcoal	soft
3041	905	cut	ditch	**3041**	0.6	0.12	linear	gentle	imperceptible	concave	E-W				
3042	905	fill	ditch	**3041**		0.12						mid greyish brown	clayey sand	occ. small natural stones	soft
3043	921	cut	post hole	**3043**	0.44	0.33	circular	steep	gradual	concave					
3044	921	fill	post hole	**3043**		0.19						mid greyish brown	silty clay	rare small gravels	firm
3045	921	fill	post hole	**3043**		0.14						light yellowush grey	silty clay	occ. charcoal specks	firm
3046	921	cut	post hole	**3046**	0.23	0.15	sub-circular	vertical	sharp	flat					
3047	921	fill	post hole	**3046**		0.15						dark blueish grey	clayey silt	moderate charcoal	firm

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3048	921	cut	post hole	**3048**	0.3	0.16	circular	near vertical	moderate	flat					
3049	921	fill	post hole	**3048**		0.16						mid brownish grey	sandy silt	rare small gravels	firm
3050	918	cut	pit	**3050**	1	0.22	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	concave					
3051	918	fill	pit	**3050**		0.22						mid greyish brown	silty sand	occ. small to medium assorted natural stones	firm
3052	915	cut	pit	**3052**	1.52	0.44	sub-circular	gradual	gradual	concave					
3053	915	fill	pit	**3052**		0.44						light brownish grey	silty sand	occ. stones	friable
3054	915	cut	pit	**3054**	0.66	0.18	sub-circular	gradual	gentle	concave					
3055	915	fill	pit	**3054**		0.18						light greyish brown	silty sand	rare stones	soft
3056	915	cut	pit	**3056**	0.8	0.16	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	concave					
3057	915	fill	pit	**3056**		0.16						light greyish brown	silty sand	occ. large natural stones	loose

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3058	915	cut	pit	**3058**	0.56	0.18	sub-circular	E - steep, W - gradual	gradual	concave					
3059	915	fill	pit	**3058**		0.18						light greyish brown	silty sand	rare stones and angular flint	friable
3060	923	cut	ditch terminus	**3060**	0.76	0.26	linear	steep	gradual	concave	NE-SW				
3061	923	fill	ditch terminus	**3060**		0.26						mid brown	silty sand	occ. sub-rounded natural stones	soft
3062	923	cut	pit	**3062**	1.1	0.14	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	flat	N-S				
3063	923	fill	pit	**3062**		0.14						mid brown	silty sand	frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	soft
3064	916	cut	ditch	**3064**	0.51	0.24	linear	gentle to steep	moderate	concave	NW-SE				
3065	916	fill	ditch	**3064**		0.24						mid greyish brown	clayey silt	occ. small assorted natural stones	soft
3066	916	cut	ditch terminus	**3066**	0.49	0.05	linear	gentle	imperceptible	flat	NW-SE				
3067	916	fill	ditch terminus	**3066**		0.05						mid greyish brown	sandy silt	rare small stones	friable
3068	916	cut	ditch	**3068**	0.34	0.14	linear	steep	gradual	concave	NW-SE				

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3069	916	fill	ditch	**3068**		0.14						mid greyish brown	clayey silt	occ. small assorted natural stones	soft
3070	916	cut	ditch	**3070**	0.46	0.15	linear	steep	sharp	v-shape	NE-SW				
3071	916	fill	ditch	**3070**		0.15						mid greyish brown	clayey silt	occ. small assorted natural stones	soft
3072	916	cut	post hole	**3072**	0.12	0.18	sub-circular	vertical	gradual	concave					
3073	916	fill	post hole	**3072**		0.18						mid bronwish grey	clayey silt		soft
3074	928	cut	post hole	**3074**	0.4	0.15	sub-circular	steep	gradual	concave					
3075	928	fill	post hole	**3074**		0.15						dark greyish brown	clayey sand	occ. small to medium assorted natural stones	soft
3076	936	cut	pit	**3076**	0.44	0.21	sub-circular	steep	moderate	flat					
3077	936	fill	pit	**3076**		0.21						mid greyish brown	sandy silt	moderate assorted natural stones	friable
3078	933	cut	ditch	**3078**	1.22	0.72	linear	steep	gradual	concave	E-W				
3079	933	fill	ditch	**3078**		0.72						mid orangey brown	silty sand	occ. small assorted natural stones	soft

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3080	953	cut	ditch	**3080**	0.7	0.1	linear	gentle	gradual	concave	NE-SW				
3081	953	fill	ditch	**3080**		0.1						mid brown	clayey silt	occ. small natural stones	soft
3082	953	cut	ditch	**3083**	0.65	0.15	linear	gentle	gradual	concave	NW-SE				
3083	953	fill	ditch	**3082**		0.15						mid brown	silty sand		soft
3084	922	cut	pit	**3084**		0.62	sub-circular	-	-	Flat/ undulating					
3085	922	fill	pit	**3084**		0.62						dark brown	silty sand	rare natural flints and stones	plastic
3086	954	cut	ditch terminus	**3086**	0.68	0.3	linear	steep	moderate	flat	NE-SW				
3087	954	fill	ditch terminus	**3086**		0.3						dark brownish grey	sandy silt	occ. small assorted natural stones	firm
3088	954	cut	ditch	**3088**	1.67	0.3	linear	gradual	gradual	flat	NE-SW				
3089	954	fill	ditch	**3088**		0.3						mid brownish grey	sandy silt	rare small assorted natural stones	firm
3090	954	cut	ditch	**3090**	0.95	0.22	linear	gradual	gentle	flat	NE-SW				
3091	954	fill	ditch	**3090**		0.22						mid greyish brown	silty sand	rare small assorted natural stones	firm

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3092	945	layer	topsoil			0.29						mid greyish brown	silty clay	occ. small assorted nat stones	
3093	945	cut	ditch	**3093**	2.1	0.84	linear	gradual to steep	not excavated	not excavated	NW-SE				
3094	945	fill	ditch	**3093**		0.84						mid brownish grey	clayey sand	occ. small assorted natural stones	soft
3095	954	cut	ditch	**3095**	0.86	0.16	linear	gentle	gradual	concave	NE-SW				
3096	954	fill	ditch	**3095**		0.16						mid brownish grey	silty sand	rare small assorted natural stones	firm
3097	948	cut	pit / tree throw	**3097**	1.76	0.85	irregular	steep	gradual	concave					
3098	948	fill	pit / tree throw	**3097**		0.85						mid greyish brown	silty sand		loose
3099	950	cut	pit / tree throw	**3099**	1.22	0.46	sub-circular	gentle	gradual	concave					
3100	950	fill	pit / tree throw	**3099**		0.46						mid orangey brown	silty sand	rare stones	soft
3101	941	cut	ditch	**3101**	0.58	0.32	linear	gentle	gradual	concave	NW-SE				
3102	941	fill	ditch	**3101**		0.32						mid greyish brown	silty sand	rare small stones	friable

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3103	941	cut	ditch	**3103**	2.32	0.8	linear	steep	not fully excavated	not fully excavated	NW-SE				
3104	941	fill	ditch	**3103**		0.8						dark brownish grey	silty sand	occ. medium assorted natural stones	soft
3105	955	cut	ditch	**3105**	0.7	0.16	linear	gentle	gradual	flat	E-W				
3106	955	fill	ditch terminus	**3105**		0.16						mid greyish brown	clayey silt	rare small assorted natural stones	firm
3107	955	cut	post hole	**3107**	0.18	0.24	sub-circular	near vertical	gradual	concave					
3108	955	fill	post hole	**3107**		0.24						dark blueish grey	silty clay		plastic
3109	943	cut	pit / tree throw	**3109**	0.97	0.23	irregular	steep	gradual	flat					
3110	943	fill	pit / tree throw	**3109**		0.23						mid greyish brown	silty sand	rare medium assorted natural stones	loose
3111	955	cut	ditch	**3111**	0.9	0.3	linear	steep	gradual	concave	NW-SE				
3112	955	fill	ditch	**3111**		0.18						mid brownish grey	sandy silt		friable

Context	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Cut	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Break of Slope	Base	Orientation	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
3113	955	fill	ditch	**3111**		0.12						mid yellowish brown	silty sand		soft
3114	915	layer	topsoil									mid greyish brown	silty clay	occ. small to medium assorted natural stones	plastic
3115	937	layer	topsoil									mid greyish brown	silty clay	occ. small to medium assorted natural stones	plastic
3116	938	layer	topsoil									mid greyish brown	silty clay	occ. small to medium assorted natural stones	plastic

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

[redacted]

B.1.1 A total of seven iron artefacts were recovered from the topsoil from five trenches (Trenches 902, 912, 915, 937 and 938).

B.1.2 All items are incomplete and poorly preserved. The adverse soil conditions have resulted in heavy encrustation, making the artefacts difficult to identify.

B.1.3 The metalwork was analysed in accordance with the Oxford Archaeology finds standard, following guidance from the Historical Metallurgy Society and Historic England (Bayley *et al* 2015).

B.1.4 Despite their poor preservation precluding identification in some cases, the entire assemblage is likely to be post-medieval to modern in date. The material is likely to relate to agricultural activity in the area and includes two probable fragments of modern agricultural machinery as well as a horseshoe and hand forged nails (Table 3).

B.1.5 If further excavation is undertaken in this area, it is possible that additional metalwork will be recovered.

Context	Trench	Feature	SF	Object	Category	Description
3015	902	Topsoil	251	Unidentified	Miscellaneous	A possible fragment from modern agricultural machinery
3015	902	Topsoil	253	Unidentified	Miscellaneous	A very encrusted lump of iron
3015	902	Topsoil	252	Horseshoe	Transport	A fragment of a postmedieval horseshoe
3019	912	Topsoil	254	Nail	Fittings	A fragment from a hand-forged nail
3114	915	Topsoil	255	Nail	Fittings	A possible fragment from a tapering stem from a nail
3115	937	Topsoil	256	Nail	Fittings	An incomplete hand-forged nail
3116	938	Topsoil	257	Unidentified	Miscellaneous	A slightly curved fragment of iron with sub-rectangular cross-section

Table 3: Catalogue of metalwork

B.2 Prehistoric Pottery

[redacted]

B.2.1 The trial trenching produced a total of seven prehistoric pottery sherds (23g). The assemblage was recovered from Trenches 921 and 955.

B.2.2 In Trench 921, Field 25.2, posthole **3046** produced five sherds (21g) of flint-tempered, abraded and undiagnostic body sherds. Trench 955 in Field 41 produced two sherds (2g), recovered from a ditch terminus (**3105**); the

sherds are also flint-tempered, abraded and undiagnostic. The two sherds recovered from ditch terminus **3105** were found alongside 67 sherds (481g) of Roman pottery and are considered residual and offer no significant interpretative value for the feature.

B.2.3 All sherds are abraded and undiagnostic and have therefore been broadly spot-dated on the basis of fabric. Flint-tempered fabrics are predominantly associated with the Early Neolithic (c.4000-3500 BC) and the Late Bronze Age (c.1150-800 BC) to Early Iron Age (c. 800–350 BC). These fabrics also correlate with the Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pottery recovered from Sealink Phases 1 and 2.

B.3 Roman Pottery

[redacted]

Introduction

B.3.1 A total of 76 sherds (weighing 475g) of Roman pottery was recovered from a single feature in Trench 955, Field 41. The pottery had an average sherd weight (ASW) of 6.25g and represented a minimum number of vessels (MNV) of 1. The pottery broadly dates to the 1st to 2nd century AD.

Methodology

B.3.2 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 Tyers (1996). Forms were identified using the Roman Pottery Vessel Type Series Constructed for the A14 MoLA Headland Project (Lyons 2020). 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 present. 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 (Cambridge) curates the pottery and archive.

Results

B.3.3 Within Trench 955, fill 3106 of ditch terminus **3105** contained 76 sherds (weighing 475g) deriving from a single globular jar with a rolled rim in a coarse micaceous grey ware fabric. The vessel is wheel made, moderately abraded and locally produced.

Conclusion

B.3.4 The single vessel recovered from ditch **3105** provides evidence for Roman activity/land use probably lies within this part of the site. It is uncertain whether the feature itself can be dated to the Roman period due to the presence of medieval pottery in associated/nearby features.

B.3.5 If additional work is carried out it may produce further Roman pottery that would aid in refining the dates of features present.

B.4 Medieval Pottery

[redacted]

Introduction

B.4.1 A total of 138 fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from archaeological features excavated in four trenches.

B.4.2 The assemblage represents an estimated 10 vessels (based on rim counts,) with an EVE of 1. The sherds are moderately to heavily abraded, and the mean sherd weight is 12.2 g (Table 4).

Fabric	No.	Wt./g.	Chronology
MESCW (Medieval East Suffolk Coarseware)	105	1215	12th–14th c.
WVSW (Waveney Valley Sandy Ware)	1	9	12th–14th c.
WVGW (Waveney Valley Glazed Ware)	9	235	13th–14th c.?
HOLL (Hollesley Coarseware)	4	17	L.13th–14th c.
MESCWC (Medieval east Suffolk coarseware chalky)	6	135	13th–14th c.?
MSSBW (Medieval South Suffolk blackware)	13	79	11th–14th c.
Total	138	1690	

Table 4: Quantification of pottery by fabric

Methodology

B.4.3 The finds were analysed following Oxford Archaeology (Cambridge Office) standards. The Medieval Pottery Research Group's Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms (MPRG 1998) was used for vessel descriptions, and the assemblage was aligned with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Toolkit for Finds – Pottery* (v1.0).

B.4.4 Fabric identification followed Sue Anderson's (2020) Suffolk fabric series. Sherds were counted and weighed using a Microsoft Excel database, and a summary catalogue organised by context number is presented at the end of this report.

The Assemblage

B.4.5 Most of the assemblage was recovered from ditches (**3027**, **3080**, **3086** and **3111**), with a smaller group retrieved from pit **3029** (Table 5).

B.4.6 The sherds from pit **3029** are very small, abraded and largely undiagnostic. Although included here as possible MESCW, a Romano-British origin cannot be excluded.

B.4.7 Jars form the largest vessel group. At least three jugs in WVSW were identified, and a bowl with an everted square beaded rim and fingertip impressions on the shoulder was recorded in ditch **3111**.

B.4.8 Ditch **3111** also produced 13 body sherds (79 g) from a possible single jar in MSSBW. These thin, very abraded sherds have oxidised, slightly laminated surfaces and a grey core, and are made in a soft sandy fabric containing sparse to moderate small organic inclusions.

B.4.9 Most sherds in the assemblage are in MESCW, but a small number of WVGW fragments with thin patches of pale green glaze are also present (Table 4).

Feature	No.	Wt./g.
Ditch	131	1657
Pit	7	33
Total	138	1690

Table 5: Quantification of medieval pottery by archaeological feature

Distribution and Chronology

B.4.10 Trench 955 yielded the majority of the assemblage, with 125 sherds (1,624 g), suggesting a concentration of medieval activity in this part of the evaluated area. The presence of WVGW (13th–14th century) alongside MESCW (12th–14th century) indicates a 13th to 14th-century date for the assemblage.

Trench	No.	Wt./g.
913	9	57
953	3	3
954	1	6
955	125	1624
Total	138	1690

Table 6: Quantification of medieval pottery by excavated trench

Discussion

B.4.11 This is a small assemblage with a limited range of fabric types. However, all of the pottery is chronologically consistent, suggesting activity spanning the 12th–14th centuries, with a strong likelihood that it all belongs to the 13th–14th-century.

B.4.12 The evidence of sooting on many jar fragments suggests their use in food processing, while the jugs indicate serving or tableware functions.

B.4.13 The area between Trenches 953 and 955 appears to have been the focus of medieval activity.

Catalogue

Context	Cut	Feature	Trench	Fabric	No.	Wt./g.	Date
3028	3027	Ditch	913	MESCW	1	10	12th–14th c.
				HOLL	1	14	L.13th–14th c.
3030	3029	Pit	913	MESCW	7	33	12th–14th c.
3081	3080	Ditch	953	HOLL	3	3	L.13th–14th c.
3087	3086	Ditch	954	MESCW	1	6	12th–14th c.
3112	3111	Ditch	955	MESCW	47	662	12th–14th c.
				WVGW	4	64	12th–14th c.
				MESCWC	6	135	12th–14th c.
				MSSBW	13	79	11th–14th c.
3113	3111	Ditch	955	MESCW	49	504	12th–14th c.
				WVSW	1	9	12th–14th c.

Context	Cut	Feature	Trench	Fabric	No.	Wt./g.	Date
				WVGW	5	171	13th–14th c.?

Table 7: Catalogue of medieval pottery

B.5 Fired Clay

[redacted]

B.5.1 A single fragment of fired clay (9g) was recovered from context 3112, ditch **3111**, Trench 955. It retains a remnant worked flattened/slightly curved face but is otherwise undiagnostic. It is made in a silty clay with sparse quartz and other medium sized sandy grains as inclusions and fired to a mid-orange. It is undiagnostic but is probably a prehistoric object given the propensity for clay use in this period. If so, it provides evidence for local domestic activity from the era, either deriving from an oven structure or a blocky object. Without clear dating or diagnostic features, it offers limited archaeological insight beyond that.

B.6 Flint

[redacted]

Introduction

B.6.1 A small assemblage of eight worked flints and 403g (95 fragments) of unworked burnt flint was recovered from the trenching. The assemblage has been catalogued following standard classifications (e.g. Ballin 2021) and is quantified in Table 8, below, with brief description of the material by field.

Field	Trench	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Flake	Blade	**Total worked**	Burnt unworked count	Burnt unworked weight (g)
25.2	923	3061	3060	ditch terminus	1		**1**		
25.2	922	3085	3084	pit	2		**2**		
25.3	903	3014	0	topsoil	1		**1**		
25.3	904	3016	0	topsoil	1		**1**		
25.3	905	3036	3035	pit				95	403
25.3	905	3040	3039	natural	2		**2**		
41	945	3092	0	topsoil		1	**1**		
					4	1	**5**		

Table 8: Summary catalogue of flint

Field 25.2

B.6.2 Three worked flints were recovered from Trenches in Field 25.2. In Trench 923, ditch **3060** produced a single hard hammer struck secondary flake. Pit

3084 in Trench 922 produced another simple secondary flake and a narrow flake with a cortical striking platform.

Field 25.3

B.6.3 Two flint flakes were collected form the topsoil of Trenches 903 and 904.

B.6.4 In Trench 905, a natural feature (**3039**) produced a small non-cortical flake and a flake fragment. A second feature in this trench – pit **3035** – produced a relatively substantial assemblage of heavily burnt flint (95 fragments, 403g), discoloured light grey and with heavily fractured and crazed surfaces.

Field 41

B.6.5 A single struck flint was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 945. This is a large robust hard hammer struck blade.

Discussion

B.6.6 The small assemblage of worked flint is overwhelmingly dominated by simple hard hammer struck flakes. These are not strongly diagnostic but are likely to be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. The only distinctive piece is the large blade recovered from Trench 945, Field 41. This is probably of Early Neolithic date and may be broadly contemporary with the Early Neolithic features uncovered in Fields 25.1/25.2 during the Phase 2 investigations.

B.6.7 The assemblage of burnt flint from pit **3035** in Trench 905, Field 25.3 reflects the deliberate use of heated flint. This material is inherently undatable but is likely to relate to prehistoric activity.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

[redacted]

Introduction

C.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features during the trenching. Phasing was not available at the time of writing; however, the majority of the pottery recovered appears to be medieval in date, with some prehistoric and Roman material identified in Trenches 921 and 955 respectively.

Methodology

C.1.2 Samples were processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual material that might be present. Those samples with a heavy clay content were pre-treated using a solution of sodium carbonate, prior to processing. The floating component (flot) of the samples were collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residues collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh. The residues were then washed through a 10mm, 4mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. The flot and residues were subsequently dried prior to examination.

C.1.3 A magnet was dragged through each dried residue fraction for the recovery of magnetic material prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds.

C.1.4 The flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1.

C.1.5 Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers *et al*. 2006) and OA'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 any cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.6 For the purpose of this assessment, items such as grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

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

C.1.7 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as snail shells have been scored for abundance:

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Key to table:

f=fragment

Results

C.1.8 Preservation of plant remains within the bulk samples is through carbonisation (charring) which only occurs under certain conditions when plant material is incompletely burnt and reduced to pure carbon. It is important to note that any surviving charred remains will only represent a small proportion of the original material being burnt (Boardman and Jones 1990, 10).

C.1.9 The preservation of the archaeobotanical material varied across the sampled contexts but was generally poor. Many of the plant remains were puffed and distorted, with abraded surfaces that limited their potential for identification.

C.1.10 Snail shells, where present, were noted in small quantities and appear to be in good condition.

Field 25.3

Trench 905

C.1.11 A small amount of charcoal and a single seed of stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) was noted within pit **3035.**

Trench 913

C.1.12 A small quantity of cereal grains were recorded in both sampled features (ditch **3027** and pit **3029**) in Trench 913 with grains of both free-threshing wheat and rye observed. A number of large legumes with a rounded morphology were recovered from pit **3029,** which are thought to be peas (*Pisum sativum*).

Field 25.2

Trench 921

C.1.13 Sample 374, taken from fill 3047 of charcoal-rich posthole **3046**, contains sparse archaeobotanical material in the form of sparse charcoal and occasional grains some of which could be identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.).

Trench 928

C.1.14 Sample 377 taken from pit **3074** was similarly unproductive, containing a small amount of charcoal only.

Field 41

Trench 955

C.1.15 Samples from ditch **3111** (deposits 3112 and 3113) produced frequent cereal grains. The majority were too poorly preserved to confidently identify however occasional instances of rye, barley and free-threshing wheat were noted. Other possible cultivars were present in the form of a possible pea/bean (*Pisum sativum/Vicia faba*). Seeds of stinking chamomile were

common alongside a few seeds of large and medium-sized grasses. Charcoal was minimal.

Field	Trench	Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Snail Shell	Charcoal Volume(ml)
25.2	905	373	3036	3035	Pit	27	<5	0	0	#	0	6
25.2	921	374	3047	3046	Posthole	7	<5	#	0	0	0	6
25.3	913	375	3028	3027	Ditch	14	5	##	#	0	0	4
25.3	913	376	3030	3029	Pit	7	5	##	##	#	0	8
25.3	928	377	3075	3074	Pit	12	<5	0	0	0	+	4
41	955	378	3112	3111	Ditch	14	10	###	#	##	+	4
41	955	379	3113	3111	Ditch	14	15	##	#	#	0	8

Table 9: Environmental bulk samples

Discussion

C.1.16 Samples taken from features across the evaluation area produced a modest assemblage of archaeobotanical material preserved in carbonised form. The assemblage is dominated by culinary waste, including cereals and pulses. There is no evidence for the exploitation of wild plant resources, nor for the presence of exotic or traded goods.

C.1.17 The plant assemblages from ditch **3111**, **3027** and pit **3029** are consistent with their assumed medieval date and with regional agricultural practices of this period. Comparable assemblages have also been recovered from medieval deposits at Cedars Park, Stowmarket, where free-threshing wheat, hulled barley and peas/beans formed the mainstay of the arable economy, with smaller quantities of rye and oat also present (Fryer and Summers 2016). Similarly, possible medieval deposits from Field 91 forming part of Phase 1 of the Sea Link Scheme, Suffolk Section) yielded free-threshing wheat, barley and possible oats alongside peas/beans (Firth 2025).

C.1.18 From the early medieval period onwards, a significant transition occurred in cereal selection, with hulled wheat largely replaced by free-threshing wheat varieties. The precise causes of this shift remain unclear. Although free-threshing wheat generally requires higher soil fertility, its adoption has been linked to social and cultural factors, including the production of white leavened bread and its association with the Eucharist (Van der Veen 2022). Hulled barley and rye are more resilient crops and could have been cultivated under less favourable conditions. In particular, rye may have been especially advantageous locally due to its tolerance of the acidic sandy soils that characterise much of the area.

C.1.19 The weedy taxa identified within the samples are largely associated with cereals and species typical of arable or ruderal environments. These plants were likely harvested inadvertently alongside crops and subsequently discarded as part of crop-processing waste. The presence of stinking chamomile suggests the cultivation of heavier clay soils and is also commonly associated with the growing of winter wheat (Pelling 2012). This species may therefore indicate local cultivation, consistent with geological

evidence for a transition from sandy soils to increasingly clay-rich deposits towards the north-eastern trenches of Field 25.2.

C.1.20 The density and diversity of archaeobotanical material within the samples taken during this evaluation has demonstrated that there is potential for the for the recovery of carbonised archaeobotanical material at this site if further work is to be undertaken, particularly in Trenches 913 and 955. Any additional sampling that is to be carried out should be done so in accordance with the Historic England guidelines (2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

[redacted]

C.2.1 Context 3032, the ill of ditch **3031** in Trench 913, Field 25.3 contained a single cattle maxillary 1st or 2nd molar. The condition of the tooth is fair measuring a Grade 2 on the 0-5 scale devised by McKinley (2004). This means that some, but not all of the surface is masked by erosion. The tooth is almost completely unworn and belongs to a younger animal (Higham 1967).

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID (UID)	oxfordar3-538031
Project Name	Evaluation at SeaLink Phase 3, Suffolk
Sitename	SeaLink Phase 3
Sitecode	FRS118
Project Identifier(s)	XSFSLK25EV, FRS118
Activity type	Evaluation, Trial Trench
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Oxford Archaeology (Cambridge)
Project Dates	24-Nov-2025 - 11-Dec-2025
Location	**SeaLink Phase 3** NGR: TM 42395 60190 LL: 52.18664370119669, 1.544656256118957 12 Fig: 642395,260190
Administrative Areas	Country: England County/Local Authority: Suffolk Local Authority District: East Suffolk Parish: Friston
Project Methodology	Between 24th November and 11th December 2025, Stantec and Oxford Archaeology (Cambridge) undertook Phase 3 of trial trenching on the Sea Link Scheme Suffolk Section. This entailed the excavation of 55 trial trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m, across three fields (Fields 25.3, 25.2 and 41) in the parish of Friston (FRS118).
Project Results	Field 25.3 The southern portion of this field had also previously been evaluated during Phase 2B of the project. The Phase 3 trenching revealed a small rectilinear enclosure of medieval date in the north-eastern part of the field. To the west, trenching revealed less securely dated remains, consisting of several small discrete features and ditches on various north-east to south-west to east to west alignments. These ditches cannot be confidently dated as they often align with both a

	nearby proposed Middle Bronze Age field system and later medieval and post-medieval boundaries in the vicinity. One pit in Trench 905 contained a sizeable assemblage of burnt flint (95 fragments, 403g) which although undatable is often associated with prehistoric activity. Several undated pits in the surrounding trenches may also have prehistoric origins. Field 25.2 Phase 2B trial trenching in the south-western half of the field had previously revealed Early Neolithic pits and a large prehistoric 'D-shaped' enclosure. The predominant features recorded the Phase 3 trenching were a series of substantial quarry pits. Although undated these are presumed to have post-medieval origins. Prehistoric pottery was recovered from one posthole in Trench 921 whilst other smaller undated pits and postholes, primarily in the north of the field, are also possibly linked with nearby prehistoric activity. Field 41 One ditch containing Roman pottery alongside several medieval ditches were revealed, situated on a slightly elevated plateau in the northern part of the field. One ditch in the northernmost trench (Trench 955) contained the vast majority of the medieval pottery assemblage (138 sherds, 1690g). The southern half of the trenches revealed several post-medieval field boundaries known from mapping to have been remodelled and backfilled after the mid-20th century.
Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Extractive Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Animal Remains - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Nail - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Horseshoe - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Fired Clay - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Lithic Implement - EARLY NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Lithic Implement - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological

	Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Electricity company National Grid
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	[redacted]
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

oxford archaeology

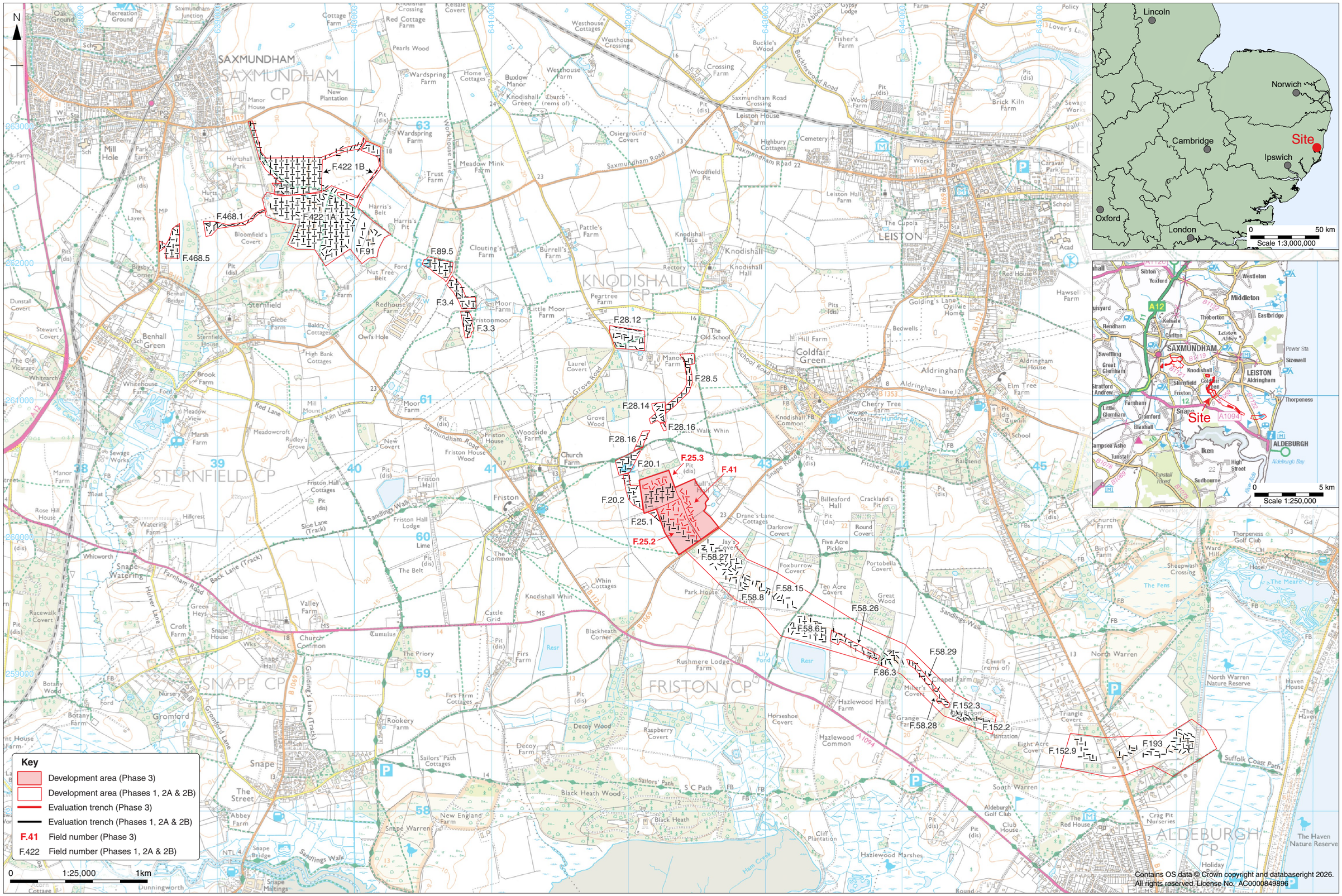


Figure 1: Site location map

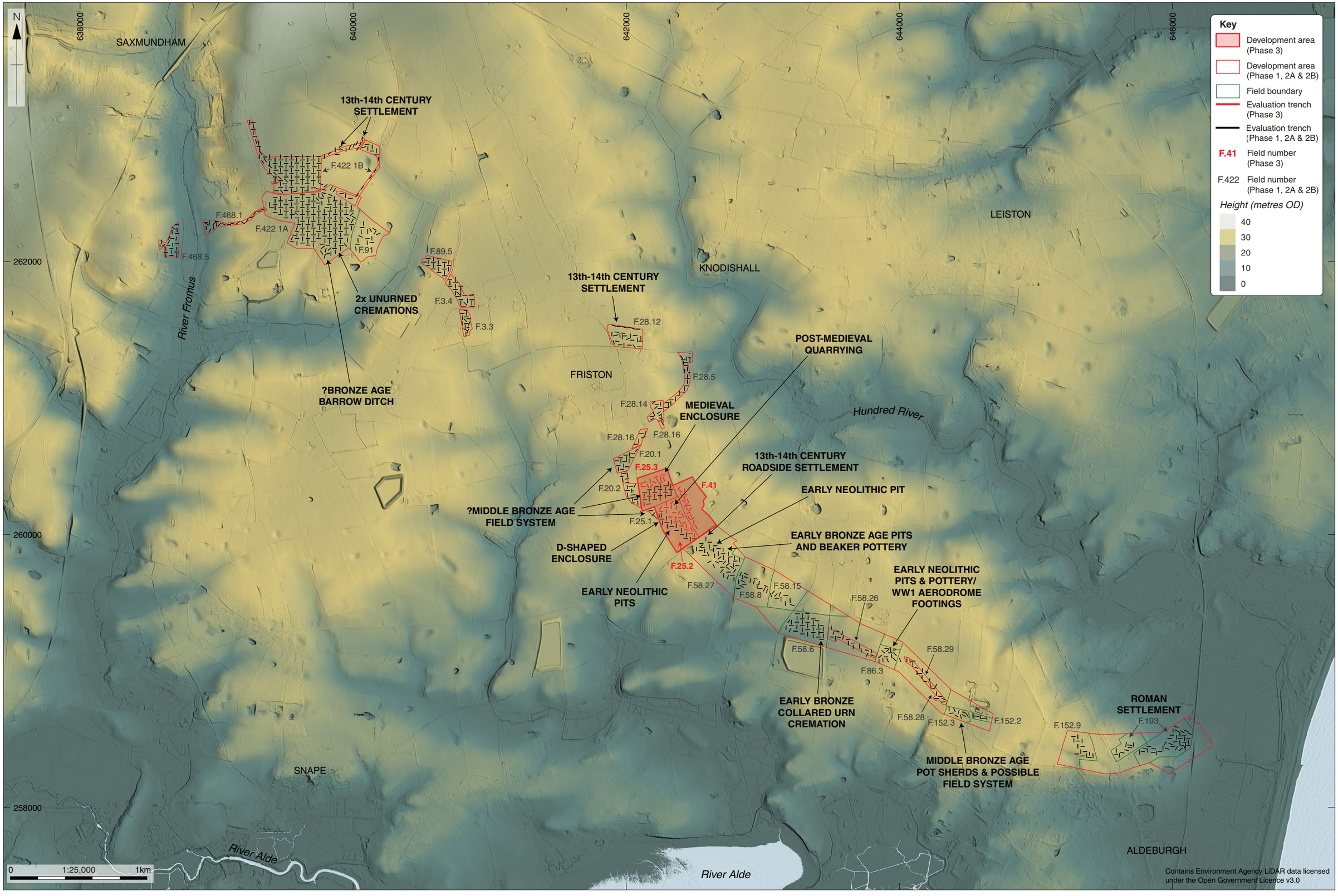


Figure 2: Site overlain on digital terrain model with hillshade, with principal remains indicated

Figure 3: Fields 25.3, 25.2 and 41 overlain on selected geophysical survey interpretation

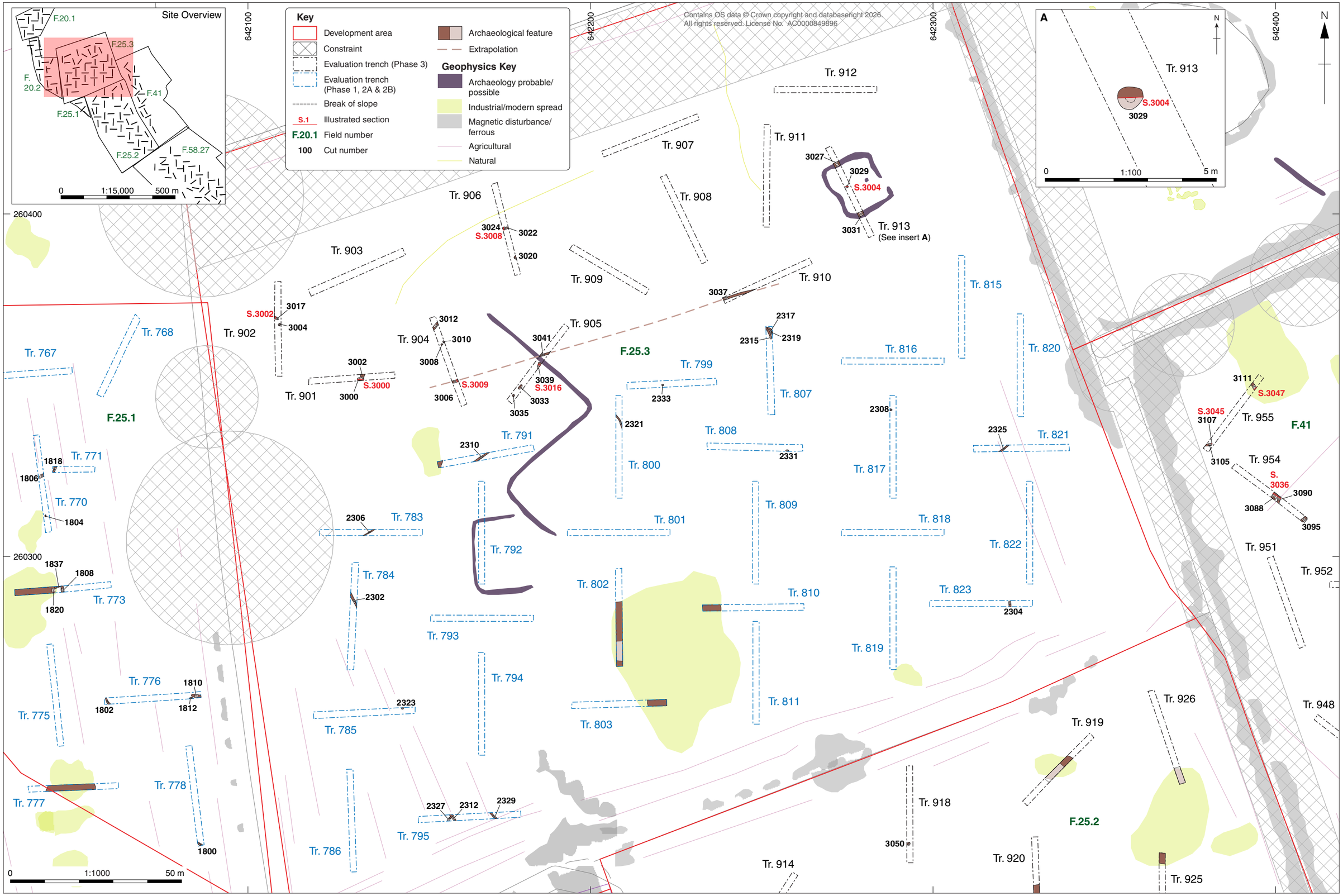


Figure 4: Field 25.3

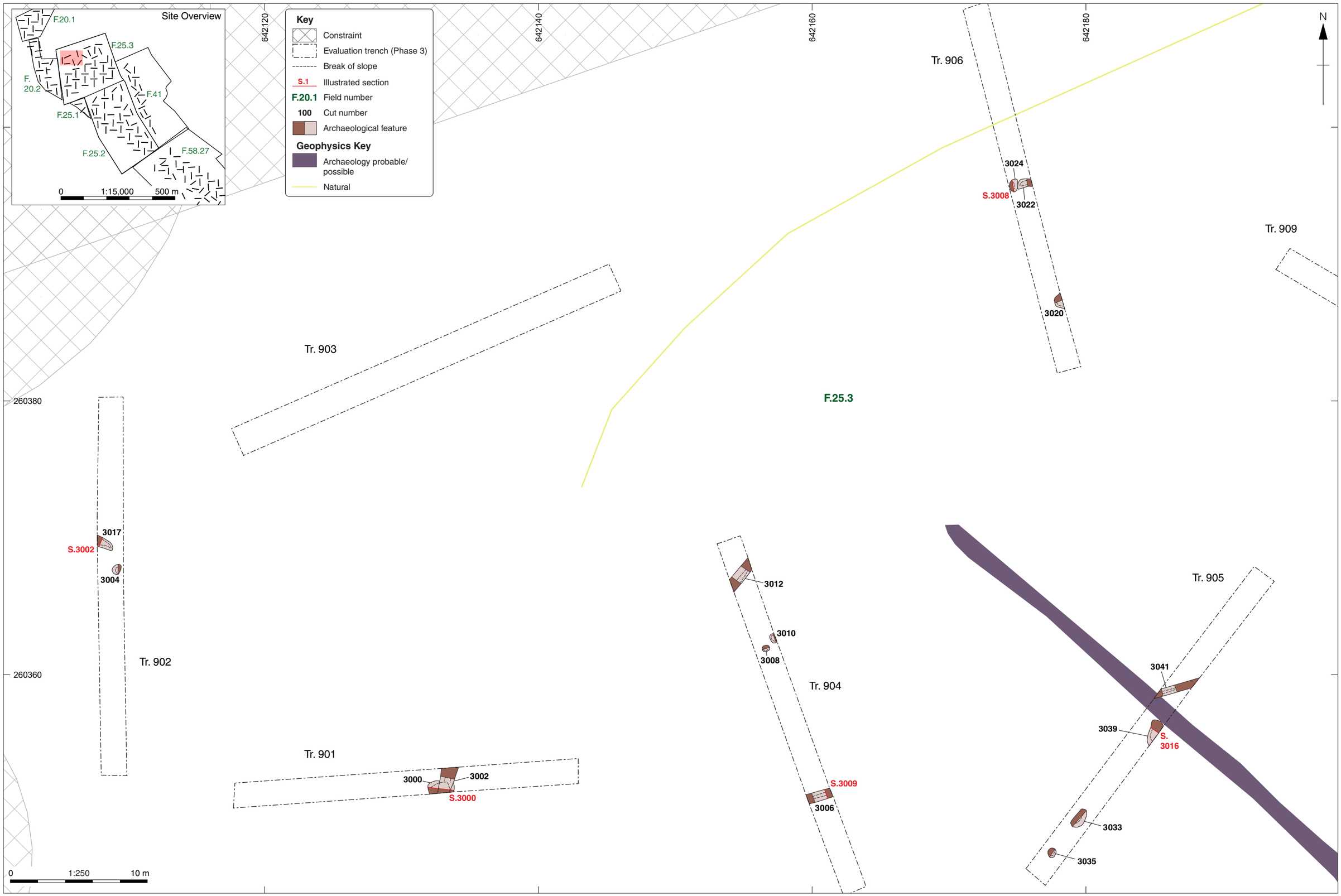


Figure 5: Field 25.3, detailed plan of Trenches 901-6

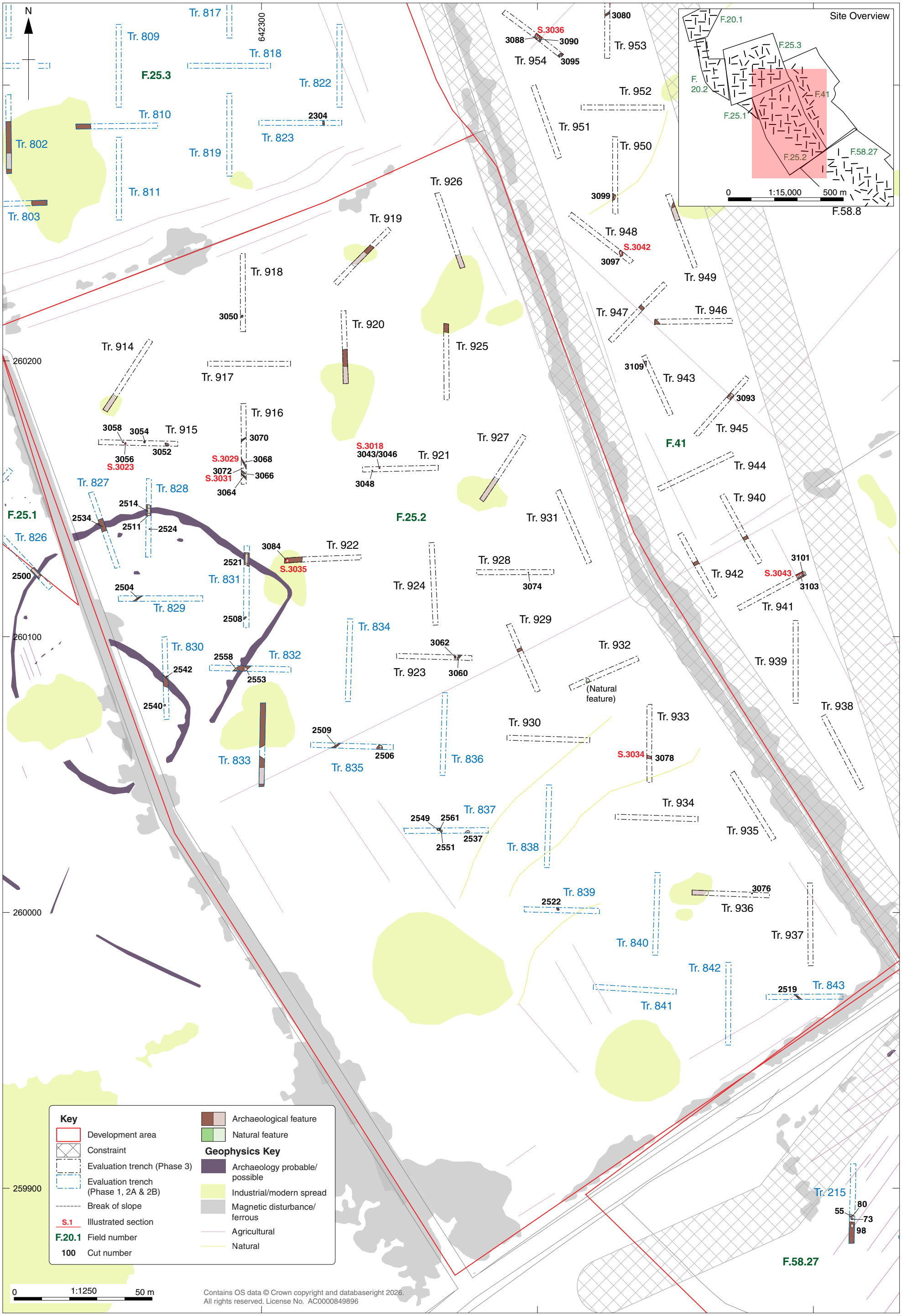


Figure 6: Field 25.2

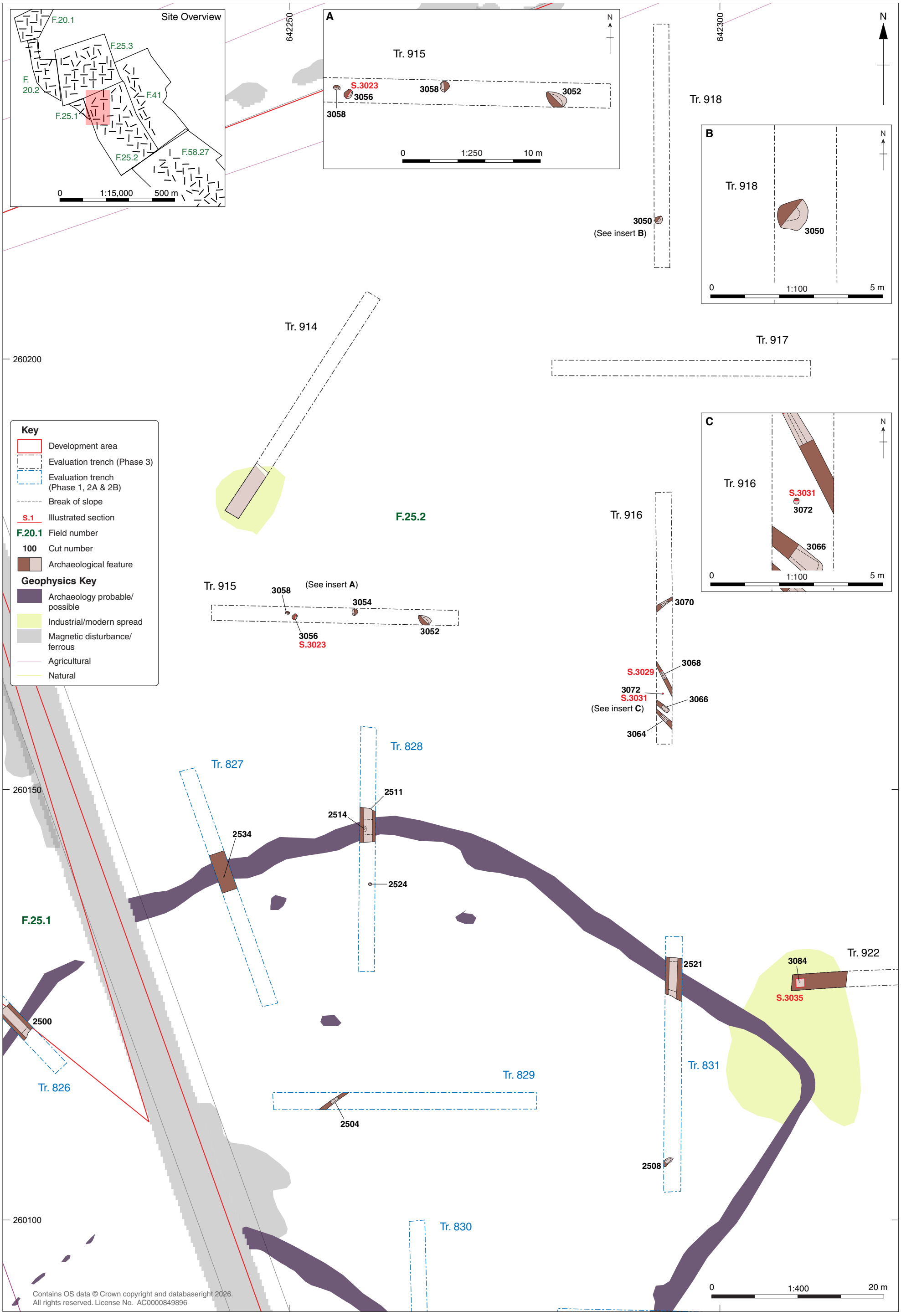


Figure 7: Field 25.2, detailed plan of Trenches 914-918 and 922

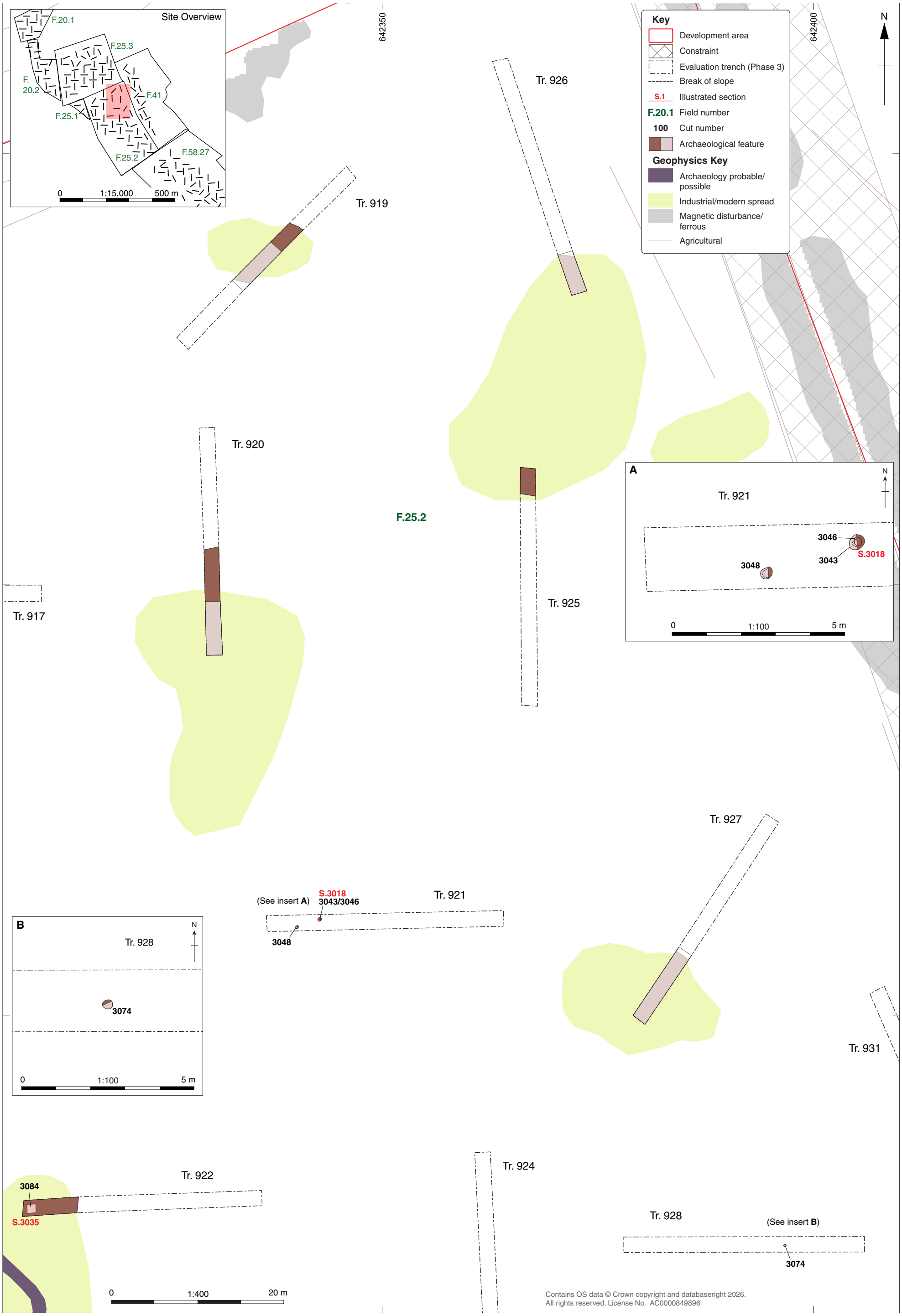


Figure 8: Field 25.2, detailed plan of Trenches 919-922 and 925-8

642350
642400
642450
260100
260050
Tr. 924
Tr. 834
Tr. 929
Tr. 923
(See insert **A**)
3062
3060
Tr. 832
Tr. 932
Tr. 836
Tr. 835
2509
2506
Tr. 930
Tr. 933
S.3034
3078
F.25.2
Tr. 939
Tr. 935
Tr. 838
Tr. 934
Tr. 837
2561
2549
2551
2537
Tr. 840
Tr. 936
Tr. 839
2522
3076
(See insert **B**)

Site Overview
F.20.1
F.25.3
F. 20.2
F.41
F.25.1
F.25.2
F.58.27
0 1:15,000 500 m

N

A
Tr. 923
Tr. 63
3062
3060
0 1:100 5 m

B
Tr. 936
3076
0 1:100 5 m

0 1:500 20 m

Key
- Development area
- Constraint
- Evaluation trench (Phase 3)
- Evaluation trench (Phase 1, 2A & 2B)
- Break of slope
- S.1 Illustrated section
- F.20.1 Field number
- 100 Cut number
- Archaeological feature
- Natural feature
- Extrapolation

Geophysics Key
- Archaeology probable/ possible
- Industrial/modern spread
- Magnetic disturbance/ ferrous
- Agricultural
- Natural

Figure 9: Field 25.2, detailed plan of Trenches 923, 929, 930 and 932-6

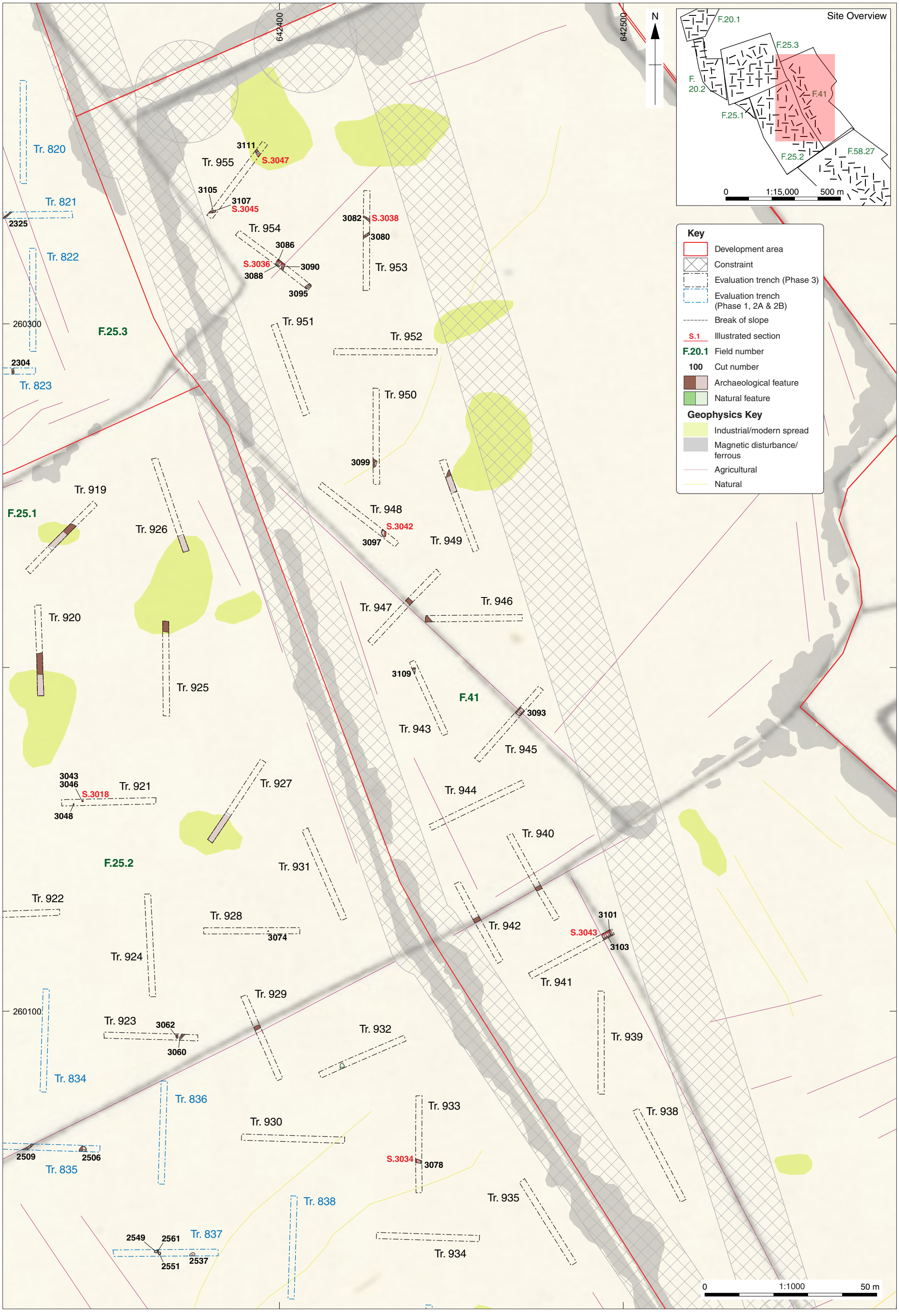


Figure 10: Field 41, overlain on Ordnance Survey Second Edition map, 1905 (reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

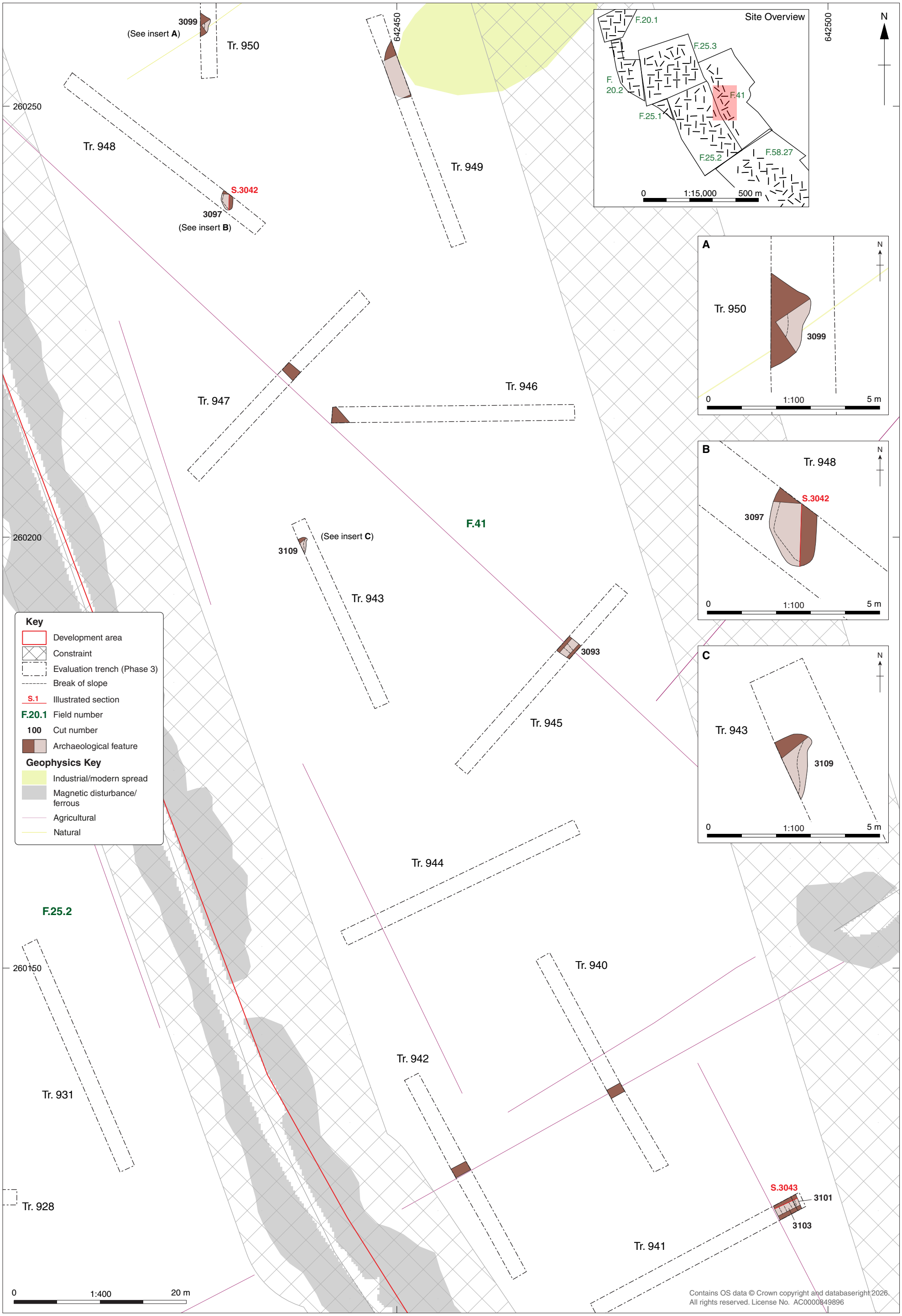


Figure 11: Field 41, Trenches 940-950

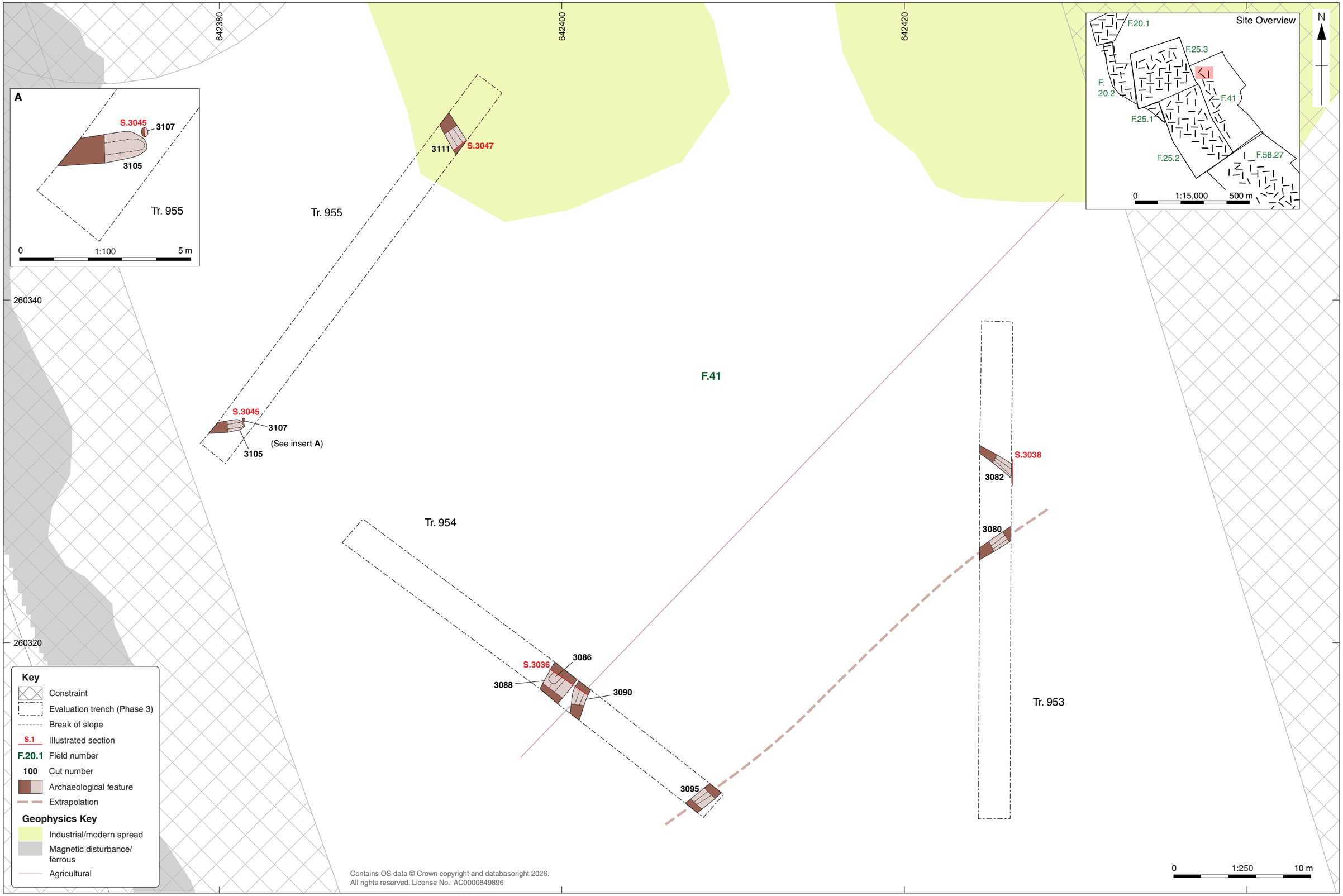
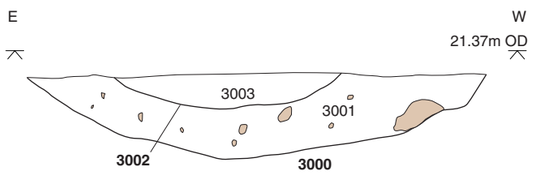


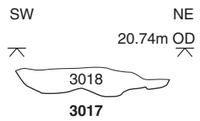
Figure 12: Field 41, Trenches 953-5 detailed plan

FRS118: Field 25.3

Section 3000



Section 3002



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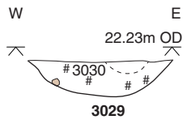
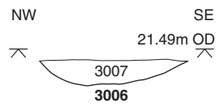


Section 3009



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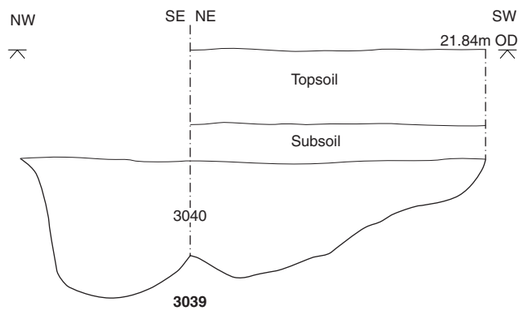
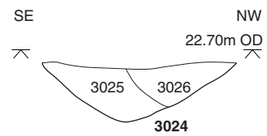
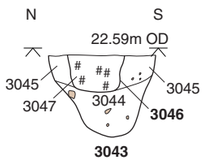


Section 3008

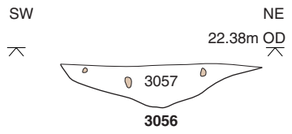


FRS118: Field 25.2

Section 3018



Section 3023



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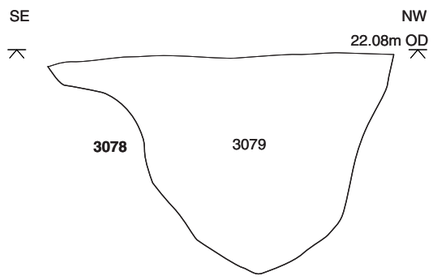

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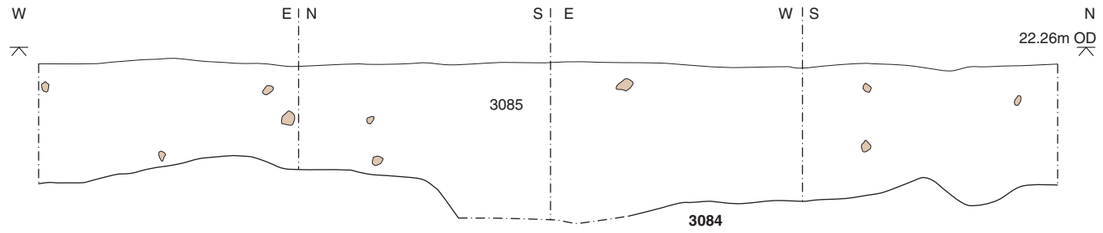

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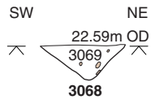

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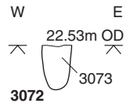
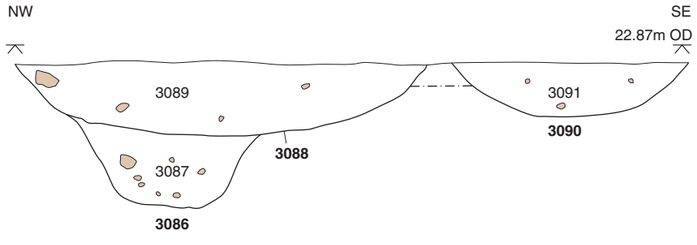


FRS118: Field 41

Section 3036



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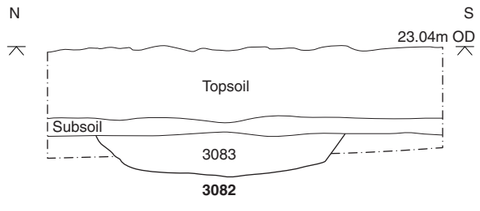

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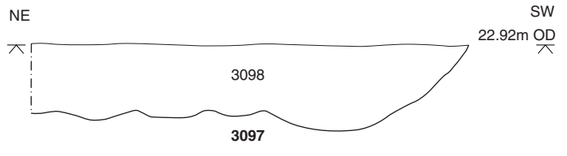

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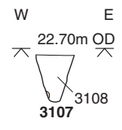

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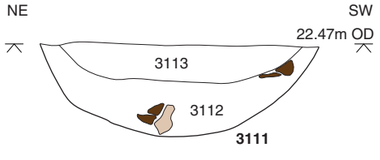

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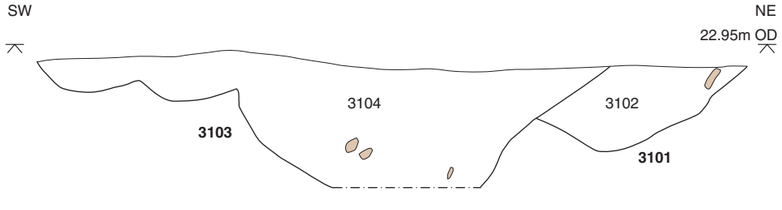

0 1:25 1 m

Key

- Limit of excavation
- Top surface
- Cut
- Deposit
- 117 Cut number
- 116 Deposit number
- Stone
- Pottery
- # # # Charcoal
- 32.26m OD Level

Figure 13: Selected sections

Plate 1: Field 25.2, Trench 917. Looking west

Plate 2: Field 25.3, Trench 901: pit **3000** and ditch **3002**. Looking south

Plate 3: Field 25.3, Trench 905. Looking north-east

Plate 4: Field 25.3, Trench 913: enclosure ditch **3027**. Looking north-east

Plate 5: Field 25.2, Trench 916. Looking north

Plate 6: Field 25.2, Trench 921: posthole 3**043** with recut **3046**. Looking east

Plate 7: Field 25.2, Trench 927: machine sondage in quarry pit. Looking south-east

Plate 8: Field 25.2, Trench 936: pit **3076**. Looking north

Plate 9: Field 41, Trench 941. Looking south-west

Plate 10: Field 41, Trench 945: field boundary ditch **3093.** Looking south-east

Plate 11: Field 41, Trench 954: ditch terminus **3086**, ditches **3088** and **3090**. Looking north

Plate 12: Field 41, Tr 955: ditch terminus **3105** and posthole **3107**. Looking west

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