

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:  
TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND OFF LEYS LANE, YAXLEY, SUFFOLK**

Planning Reference: DC/22/04021  
NGR: TM 11875 74792  
AAL Site Code: YELL22  
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Report prepared for Conrad Energy

By  
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## Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Conrad Energy to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, as a condition of planning consent for Synchronous Condensers and associated infrastructure on land off Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk (Planning Reference: DC/22/04021).
- Previous work undertaken on the site includes an archaeological desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey. The desk-based assessment identified low potential for prehistoric activity, moderate potential for Roman activity, and high potential for post-medieval activity. The geophysical survey revealed little of archaeological interest, showing former field boundaries as seen on historic mapping, modern land drains, a buried modern service, and magnetic noise associated with a modern compound located towards the southwest.
- The evaluation trenching comprised twenty-five 30m x 1.8m trenches. The trenching exposed few features of interest. An east–west aligned boundary ditch was recorded in Trenches 11, 15, 18, and 29, corresponding to a prominent geophysical anomaly and a field boundary shown on historic mapping. An undated northeast to southwest aligned gully was recorded in Trenches 21 and 25.
- A small assemblage of finds was recovered through metal detecting. This mostly comprised of isolated finds, likely to represent casual loss, dating from the post-medieval era (e.g., buttons, pistol shot, buckle fragments, coins). Notably, five Roman coins and two medieval coins were also recovered, although there was no clearly discernible spatial distribution and again these likely reflect no more than casual loss.
- The evidence suggests a negligible archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by Conrad Energy to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land off Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk; with the aim of providing information on the archaeological potential and impact of development on the site as a condition of planning consent for Synchronous Condensers and associated infrastructure (Planning Reference: DC/22/04021). These works are intended to complement an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) (AAL 2022) and subsequent geophysical survey (AAL 2023).
- 1.2 All fieldwork, recording, and reporting has been carried out in line with the recommendations of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (CIfA 2020a), the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), local guidelines outlined in the '*Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the east of England*' (Medlycott 2011) and '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the east of England*' (Gurney 2003), a brief provided by Suffolk Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS 2023a) and '*Requirements for a trenched Archaeological Evaluation*' (SCCAS 2023b), as well as a specification for works prepared by this company (AAL 2023).
- 1.3 The documentary and physical archive generated by the evaluation was assembled in accordance with national guidelines in '*Archaeological Archives, A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*' (AAF 2011) and '*Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*' (CIfA 2020b), and local guidelines set in '*Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Archives Guidelines for Archive Preparation and Deposition*' (SCCAS 2022). The physical archive will be deposited with Suffolk County Council. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located c.600m north of the centre of the village of Yaxley, in the administrative district of Mid Suffolk. The site is approximately 4.0 hectares in area and is presently farmland. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 11875 74792 and is c. 45m above Ordnance Datum (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises sedimentary sands belonging to the Crag Group, with superficial deposits of glacial till belonging to the Lowestoft Formation (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/>).

## 3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 An application for planning permission (DC/22/04021) for Synchronous Condensers and associated infrastructure was approved by the Mid-Suffolk District Council with conditions, including conditions 4 and 5:
  4. *No development shall take place until a scheme of archaeological evaluation of the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (including any demolition needing to be carried out as necessary in order to carry out the evaluation).*

*The evaluation shall be carried out in its entirety as may be agreed to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.*

*5. No development shall take place until a written report on the results of the archaeology evaluation of the site has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority and that confirmation by the Local Planning Authority has been provided that no further investigation work is required in writing. Should the Local Planning Authority require further investigation and works, no development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment.*
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*
- g. Timetable for the site investigation to be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

- 3.2 The evaluation follows on from a geophysical survey and heritage impact assessment of the site. This is the third stage of archaeological investigation, intended to inform the decision on the need, design and extent of any subsequent archaeological mitigation works that may be required in advance of development. Any further mitigation work will need to be subject to a separate WSI.
- 3.3 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 4.1 The archaeological and historical background has been largely taken from the heritage impact assessment for the site (AAL 2022) (Figure 2), with addition of the results of the geophysical survey.
- 4.2 The proposed development site is situated within a rural location on the outskirts of the village of Eye. Extensive archaeological works have taken place in the vicinity of the site as part of the Progress Power Project. The majority of the archaeology found as part of these works is situated outside of the study area to the east, including a Bronze Age burnt mound. A few scatters of prehistoric finds have been found nearer to the site and one worked flint was uncovered within a trench excavated along the access track, suggesting a low archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

- 4.3 Roman activity is well represented in the area, with a Roman road (now the A140) in the east part of the study area forming a focus for activity. Pottery scatters have been found near to the site and a significant quantity of PAS finds are recorded in the study area, including on the site itself. Archaeological work in the southwest corner of the site exposed a ditch containing a single fragment of possible Roman tile, and a pit was excavated within the access track that contained a single fragment of Roman pottery, suggesting a moderate potential for Roman activity.
- 4.4 The site lies on the periphery of the early medieval to medieval settlement of Eye, but there has been a large number of PAS finds in the study area, suggestive of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries to the north and south of the site and indicating a moderate potential for early medieval activity.
- 4.5 Archaeological works in the southwest corner and southern extent of the site as well as to the immediate west have revealed ditches of a probable late medieval to post-Medieval date, suggesting a high potential for further similar features to be present within the proposed development area.
- 4.6 The geophysical survey of the site (AAL 2023) however identified very little of archaeological interest, with former field boundaries seen on historic mapping revealed along with modern land drainage, a buried modern service and magnetic noise associated with the modern compound within the southwest part of the site and a track running through the site.

## **5.0 Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 The general purpose of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information for the SCCAS to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource, specifically with the aim of determining the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, localized depth, approximate form, purpose, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- 5.2 The evaluation also aimed to provide an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened, to ground truth the geophysical survey results, and establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 5.3 The results were used to determine the character, date, condition, and significance of the archaeological resource, and define the nature and extent of any additional mitigation works that may be required. The evaluation put the results within a local, regional, and national context, as appropriate, with reference to the East Anglian regional research agendas:
  - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997)
  - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
  - Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008)
  - Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011)
  - East of England Regional Research Framework reviewed 2018-20 [online]. Available at: East of England Research Framework ([researchframeworks.org](http://researchframeworks.org))

- 5.4 The evaluation includes the characterisation and dating of artefacts and economic evidence to characterise the nature of the site and help in developing future mitigation strategies. As part of this, artefact and/or economic evidence was retrieved from the site, no burials were noted.

## 6.0 Methodology

- 6.1 The trial trenching strategy specified in the WSI comprised thirty 30m x 1.8m trenches. Due to changes in the scope of the development between the production of the WSI and site works, trial trenching was reduced to twenty-five 30 x 1.8m trenches in agreement with SCCAS (Figure 3). Due to this amendment trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6, within the northern part of site, were not excavated. Trench 2, also within the northern part of site, was excavated in lieu of a planned cable route running through the course of the trench.
- 6.2 The fieldwork was conducted by a team of four experienced field archaeologists supervised by the author over seven working days between 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- 6.3 The trenches were located on site using a Leica Zeno 20 NetRover GPS receiving RTK corrections. In each trench, topsoil, subsoil, and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed, in spits no greater than 0.1m in thickness by a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The process was repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon was exposed. All further excavation was carried out by hand.
- 6.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL trench recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn in section (at scale 1:20) with Ordnance Heights displayed on each drawing. Digital photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, with all photographs incorporating scales, an identification board, and directional arrow.
- 6.5 Archaeological finds were bagged with site code, context number and material written on the finds bags and were returned to the office of AAL for processing before being sent to appropriate specialists. Environmental samples were taken of relevant fills and were also processed at the offices of AAL.
- 6.6 Metal detector searches were carried by experienced technician Graham Brandeys, with the detector set not to discriminate against iron. The trench locations were scanned before excavation, once opened, the trench bases and resulting spoil were also scanned. Small finds acquired through detecting were bagged, labelled, and located using the Leica Zeno 20.

## 7.0 Results

- 7.1 The general stratigraphic sequence was consistent across all excavated trenches. The earliest deposit recorded was a natural Lowestoft glacial till, as recorded on the British Geological Survey (BGS 2023). The natural geology was overlain by topsoil, comprising soft dark brown clayey silt, measuring between 0.22m–0.36m thick.
- 7.2 Modern ground levels ranged from 44.9m OD in the west to 47.7m OD in the east of site. The natural geology was recorded at a maximum level of 44.49m OD in the west and 46.70m OD in the east of site.



- 7.3 An east–west aligned ditch was identified within Trenches 11, 15, 18, and 29. A second feature, a north–south aligned gully was identified in Trenches 21 and 25. The remaining trenches were devoid of archaeological features or deposits.
- 7.4 A total of 42 registered small finds were recovered, mostly through metal detecting, with only three recovered in situ (see Appendix 2). The metal detecting finds principally included isolated findspots dating to the post-medieval and modern eras (e.g., buttons, coins, stud caps, scrap metal, nails, pistol shot), but also included five Roman coins and two medieval coins. There was no clearly discernible spatial distribution, although the five Roman coins were all recovered from topsoil deposits of trenches either intersecting east–west aligned ditch or were found to the south of the ditch.

***East–west ditch and re-cut (Figure 3)***

- 7.5 Trenches 11, 15, 18 and 29 were excavated to investigate a positive linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey at the north of the site; the anomaly was confirmed through excavation. The ditch was investigated in all four trenches and measured up to 2.3m wide and between 1.17m and 1.3m+ deep.
- 7.6 The ditch contained up to five fills, mostly comprising naturally accumulated silting and slumping deposits, but evidence of backfilling was recorded in Trenches 18 and 29.
- 7.7 Environmental samples were taken from the basal fills of the ditch and produced high levels of terrestrial shell, uncharred seeds and charcoal.
- 7.8 The only finds recovered from the ditch were a nail, iron hook, and lead scrap, all from upper fill 2904 and most likely post-medieval or modern in age, and three abraded undiagnostic CBM fragments, all from lower fill 1505.
- 7.9 Within Trenches 11 and 15, a possible re-cut was recorded, representing a period of ditch cleaning and re-profiling. The re-cut measured between 1.1–2.4m wide and 0.3–1.25m+ deep. Both re-cuts had single silting fills from which no dating evidence was recovered.



*Plate 1: East-facing section of ditches [1102] and [1104], scales 2 x 1m*



*Plate 2: Northwest-facing section of ditches [1502] and [1503], scales 2 x 1m*



*Plate 3: West-facing section of ditch [1802], scales 0.5m and 0.4m*



*Plate 4: East-facing section of ditch [2902], scale 0.5m*

### **Gully (Figure 3)**

- 7.10 A north-northwest to south-southeast orientated gully was identified within Trenches 21 and 25, which was not identified within the geophysical survey. Gully [2102]/2503 measured in excess of 15.1m long, averaged 0.59–0.8m wide and 0.23–0.08m deep. It terminated in a sub-rounded northeast terminus within Trench 21 and continued southwest beyond the limit of excavation in Trench 25.
- 7.11 It contained a single undated natural silting deposit, 2103. An environmental sample was taken from deposit 2103 that contained terrestrial shell, likely to be modern and intrusive.



*Plate 5: Southwest-facing section of gully [2102], scale 0.5m*



*Plate 6: Northeast-facing section of gully [2503], scales 2 x 1m and 0.5m*

## **8.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

- 8.1 The trial trenching identified little of interest, other than an east–west aligned boundary ditch and a small north–south aligned gully.
- 8.2 The boundary ditch was recorded in Trenches 11, 15, 18, and 29, was a substantial linear boundary feature. The ditch was tentatively dated due to the recovery of a post-medieval finds from the upper fill, and three undiagnostic fragments of ceramic building material. It corresponds to a prominent geophysical anomaly and is shown on historic mapping, being present from at least the time of the 1839 Tithe Map, and into the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- 8.3 A shallow, undated drainage gully was also recorded within Trenches 21 and 25. The lack of finds from the feature limit any interpretation.
- 8.4 An assemblage of small finds was recovered from unstratified topsoil deposits through metal detecting. The assemblage was predominantly post-medieval, with buttons, pistol shot, buckle fragments and coins being recovered, and likely to represent casual loss. Notably, five Roman coins and two medieval coins were also recovered. There was no clearly discernible spatial distribution, although the Roman coins were all recovered from topsoil deposits of trenches either intersecting east–west aligned ditch or were found to the south of the ditch. This is unsurprising given the discovery of activity of this date in the surrounding area, but again the few finds represented here likely indicate no more than casual loss.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The trial trenching methodology employed was suited to the scale and nature of the project in determining the nature of the archaeology present, its correlation with the preceding desk-based assessment and geophysical survey and the potential impacts of the proposed development.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Conrad Energy for this commission and metal detectorist Graham Brandeys for his assistance with the project.

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## Appendix 1: The Finds

### *Ceramic Building Material*

*By Alice Beasley*

Three small, abraded fragments of CBM weighing 12g were recovered from a probable post medieval ditch fill 1505. The fragments are not diagnostic and have no form or identifying features. No further work is necessary, the fragments can be discarded.

Context	Fragment count	Weight (g)	Notes
1505	3	12	Recommended for discard

*Table 1: Catalogue of ceramic building material*

## **Small Finds**

*By Cova Escandon and Adam Daubney*

In total, 42 registered small finds were recovered during evaluation trial trenching at Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk. All finds were entered onto an excel database including information on context, object type, basic description, broad period, date, and dimensions. All finds were examined visually and using x20 magnification where necessary. A summary of the finds by period and by context material is given in Tables 2 and 3. A catalogue of the material including descriptive detail is given in Table 4 and Table 5.

Of the 42 registered small finds, 15 were unstratified artefacts, 25 were from topsoil layers, with only three recovered in situ; all from fill 2904 of ditch [2904]. There was no discernible spatial distribution of the finds. The artefacts span from the Roman to post-medieval periods, though the majority are overwhelming from the post-medieval period, including all three found in situ.

<b>Number</b>	<b>Copper alloy</b>	<b>Iron</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Total</b>
Roman	4	0	0	1	5
Medieval	0	0	0	2	2
Post-Medieval	21	0	3	0	24
Modern	0	0	0	0	0
Uncertain	1	4	2	0	8
Total	26	4	5	3	39

*Table 2: Overview of small finds by period*

<b>Context</b>	<b>Copper alloy</b>	<b>Iron</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Silver</b>	<b>Total</b>
200	0	0	1	0	1
700	1	0	0	0	1
900	1	0	1	0	2
1000	2	0	0	0	2
1400	1	0	0	0	1
1500	1	0	0	0	1
1700	1	0	0	0	1
1800	1	0	0	2	3
1900	1	0	0	0	1
2000	2	0	0	0	2
2200	1	0	0	0	1
2500	0	1	0	0	1
2600	2	0	0	0	2
2700	2	0	0	0	2
2900	1	0	0	0	1
2904	0	2	1	0	3
u/s	12	1	2	1	16
Total					42

*Table 3: Small finds by context and material*

### **Lead**

Three pistol shots were recovered (SF9, SF26, SF28), one unstratified and two from topsoil deposits. The calibre of the guns is not determinable, but a post-medieval is likely.

A fragment of scraper lead, roughly longitudinal and flat, was recorded as unstratified. An irregular flat sheet of lead, now folded over, was recovered from upper fill 2904 of ditch [2902]. It measures 30mm long, 18 mm wide and 4mm thick. The lead sheet weighs 11.9g. The age of these finds cannot be clearly ascertained.



## ***Iron***

Two corroded iron nail shanks fragments were recovered, one recovered from topsoil (SF34) and the other from upper fill 2904 of ditch [2902]. An iron hook, comprising a U-shaped shank, was also recovered from upper fill 2904 of ditch [2902]. The hook has a length of 95 mm with U-shaped section measuring 47mm wide and 6mm thick. The hook weights 63.2g. An iron bar was also found unstratified. None of the above finds could be confidently dated.

## ***Copper alloy***

Eleven buttons were recorded as unstratified or from topsoil deposits, all likely of post-medieval date. Six are white metal Dandy/Tombac buttons (SF2, SF5, SF6, SF19, SF23, SF25), composed of a circular flat disk with soldered loop reverse, of which one had lost its loop. Three have biconical heads and integrally moulded attachment loops (SF3, SF10, SF37), of which one has the loop missing. SF12 is a convex button with a domed front and a small central bent pellet. SF14 is a button composed of a circular flat disk with a soldered loop reverse, now missing.

Three buckle fragments were recovered as unstratified finds or from topsoil deposits: an annular buckle fragment (SF4), square framed buckle fragment (SF21) and a spectacle buckle fragment (SF23), retaining only part of one of the two oval loops and decorated with a moulded fleur de Lis. The annular buckle fragment is of uncertain age, whilst the other two buckle fragments are post-medieval.

An incomplete cast copper alloy furniture fitting (SF13), probably a drop handle for a furniture drawer or cabinet, and four furniture stud caps with circular domed heads each missing their shanks (SF11, SF24, SF27, SF33), were recovered as unstratified finds or from topsoil deposits. All date to the post-medieval period.

A fragment of scrap bronze was found unstratified (SF22) and a straight-sided band of copper alloy sheet, bent and twisted in places, was recovered from topsoil (SF1); both of which were of uncertain age.

Most notable was a copper alloy finger ring recovered as an unstratified find. The ring has an external diameter of 19.9mm and has a hoop of D-shaped section measuring 2.6mm wide by 0.8mm thick. The ring weighs 0.97g. The exterior has a dull yellow-brown surface while the interior has a black patina. The surface and patina indicate brass, as does the lack of hallmarks. An 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date is likely.

## ***Coins***

Ten coins were recovered, all recorded as unstratified or from topsoil. There was no clearly discernible spatial distribution, although Roman coins were all recovered from trenches either intersecting east-west aligned ditch or were found to the south of the ditch.

Five coins are of a Roman date, including four nummi (SF15, SF16, SF30, SF31) and one denarius (SF18).

A copper-alloy Roman nummus of the House of Constantine, issued to commemorate the death of Constantine I (DIVO CONSTANTINO issue), was recovered from topsoil 1700. The obverse shows the emperor veiled facing right; the reverse depicts a quadriga being ridden right. The coin dates from the period 337-341 AD, Reece period 17. The mint is uncertain.

A copper alloy nummus of Constans, dating to AD 347-348, was recovered from topsoil 2900. The obverse depicts the emperor's diademed bust draped right, and the reverse shows two victories holding up two wreaths.

The two remaining nummi and the denarius are too worn to be identified.

Two medieval silver coins were also recovered (SF17 and SF29).

A silver halfpenny of Edward I was recovered from topsoil 1800 (SF17). The obverse presents the crowned bust facing, and the reverse shows the long cross with three pellets in angles.

A silver medieval penny was also found unstratified (SF29). The penny is of Henry VI, dating to the first reign, AD 1422-1461. It is an Annulet issue, mint of Calais. The obverse shows the crowned bust facing with annulets by neck, and the reverse depicts the long cross with three pellets in each quarter.

Three post medieval copper alloy coins were retrieved either unstratified or from topsoil (SF8, SF20 and SF38), and only two of them could be identified due to their condition. A penny of George III (1760-1820) was retrieved from topsoil 2000 (SF29). The obverse shows the laureate and draped bust right, while the reverse depicts Britannia seated facing left, with the legend BRITANNIA. An unstratified half penny of George V was also recovered (SF38). The obverse shows the monarch's bare head bust left. The reverse depicts Britannia seated right with shield.

### **Discussion and recommendations**

Most of the assemblage was recorded as unstratified topsoil deposits, principally isolated finds dating from the post-medieval era, but notably including five Roman coins and two medieval coins. The only in situ finds came from fill 2904 of ditch [2902], all identified as post-medieval in age.

There is limited further research value for the post-medieval finds, consequently these can be selected for discard. The Roman and medieval coins should be retained, with x-ray of unidentifiable coins possibly aiding identification. These should be archived with a museum in accordance with the local guidelines for the deposition of archaeological materials.

Site code	Context	SF no.	Object	Material	Description	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Diameter (mm)	No.	Weight (g)	Period
YELL22	200	28	Pistol shot	Lead					15	1	13.2	Post-Medieval
YELL22	700	6	Button	Copper alloy	Dandy/Tombac button			1	14	1	2.6	Post-Medieval
YELL22	900	4	Buckle	Copper alloy	Annular buckle fragment	28	7	1		1	2.5	Uncertain
YELL22	900	9	Pistol shot	Lead					11	1	6.7	Post-Medieval
YELL22	1000	11	Stud cap	Copper alloy	Furniture stud cap			1	22	1	3.8	Post-Medieval
YELL22	1000	21	Buckle	Copper alloy	Fragment of square buckle	29	22	3		1	8.2	Post-Medieval
YELL22	1400	33	Stud cap	Copper alloy	Furniture stud cap			1	19	1	3	Post-Medieval
YELL22	1800	1	Band	Copper alloy	Twisted copper alloy band	27	15	1		1	21.8	Uncertain
YELL22	2000	19	Button	Copper alloy	Dandy/Tombac button			1	12	1	1.3	Post-Medieval
YELL22	2200	23	Button	Copper alloy	Dandy/Tombac button			6	15	1	4.9	Post-Medieval
YELL22	2500	34	Nail	Iron	Shank	65	9	3		1	8.3	Uncertain
YELL22	2600	27	Stud cap	Copper alloy	Furniture stud cap			1	20	1	4.1	Post-Medieval
YELL22	2700	24	Stud cap	Copper alloy	Furniture stud cap			1	16	1	1.7	Post-Medieval
YELL22	2700	37	Button	Copper alloy				9	13	1	5.2	Post-Medieval
YELL22	2904		Nail	Iron	Shank	93	4	2		1	6.4	Uncertain
YELL22	2904		Hook	Iron	U-shaped hook	95	47	6		1	63.2	Post-Medieval/Modern
YELL22	2904		Sheet	Lead	Folded lead sheet	30	18	4		1	11.9	Post-Medieval/Modern
YELL22	u/s	2	Button	Copper alloy	Dandy/Tombac button			1	19	1	3.9	Post-Medieval

Site code	Context	SF no.	Object	Material	Description	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Diameter (mm)	No.	Weight (g)	Period
YELL22	u/s	3	Button	Copper alloy				7	12	1	2	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	5	Button	Copper alloy	Dandy/Tombac button			1	32	1	8	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	10	Button	Copper alloy				1	16	1	2.1	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	12	Button	Copper alloy				10	11	1	1.7	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	13	Furniture fitting	Copper alloy	Cabinet drop handle	25	27	7		1	5	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	14	Button	Copper alloy				1	20	1	5.4	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	22	Scrap	Copper alloy	Scrap metal	50	32	4		1	40	Uncertain
YELL22	u/s	25	Button	Copper alloy	Dandy/Tombac button			9	21	1	4	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	26	Pistol shot	Lead					13	1	10.9	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	32	Buckle	Copper alloy	Fragment of spectacle buckle	25	25	2		1	3.1	Post-Medieval
YELL22	u/s	35	Bar	Iron		8	14	7		1	51.1	Uncertain
YELL22	u/s		Scrap	Lead		42	15	5		1	79.5	Uncertain

Table 4: Catalogue of metal finds

Context	SF no.	Denomination	Ruler	Obverse description	Obverse inscription	Reverse description	Reverse inscription	Mint mark	Mint	Die axis	Date	Reece Period	Diam (mm)	Wt (g)
1500	16	Nummus	Unknown	Unknown	Illegible	Unknown	Illegible	Illegible	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	14	1.64
1700	31	Nummus	House of Constantine	Emperor veiled facing right	DIVO CONSTANTINO	Quadriga ridden right	Illegible	Illegible	Unknown	Unknown	337-341	17	15	1.62
1800	17	Halfpenny	Edward I	Crowned bust facing	Illegible	Long cross with pellets in angles	Illegible	Illegible	Unknown	8	1272-1307		15	0.55
1800	18	Denarius	Unknown	Unknown	Illegible	Unknown	Illegible	Illegible	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	18	1.74
2000	20	Penny	George III	Shorter haired, laureate and draped bust right	Illegible	Britannia left	BRITANNIA	Illegible	Unknown	6	Fourth Issue		34	17.1
2600	15	Nummus	Unknown	Unknown	Illegible	Unknown	Illegible	Illegible	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	15	1.47
2900	30	Nummus	Constans	Diademed bust draped right	Illegible	Two victories facing and holding wreaths	Illegible	Illegible	Unknown	12	347-348	17	14	1.59
u/s	8	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Illegible	Unknown	Illegible	Illegible	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	26	4.52
u/s	29	Penny	Henry VI	Crowned bust facing with annulets at neck	Illegible	Long cross with pellets in angles	Illegible	Illegible	Calais	8	1422-61		16	0.72
u/s	38	Half Penny	George V	Bare head bust left	GEORGIVS DEI GRA BRITANNIAE REX FIDELI DEFENSOR IMPERATOR	Britannia with shield right	Half Penny	Illegible	Unknown	12	Illegible		25	4.95

Table 5: Catalogue of coins

## Appendix 2: Environmental Sample Assessment

By Bryn Leadbetter

### Introduction

Three whole-earth environmental samples were collected from boundary ditches of probable post-Medieval date during archaeological works undertaken by Allen Archaeology Limited on land at Leys Lane, Yaxley, Suffolk (site code: YELL22). The samples were taken for the recovery of charred plant remains and wood charcoal, and any further environmental evidence in order to aid an interpretation of the feature from which the samples derive and to help provide an understanding of the arable economy and local environmental conditions at the time the site was active. Any artefacts found in the samples were also collected. Following is an assessment of the samples along with proposals for any further analysis required.

### Methodology

The samples were processed by flotation with the lighter, floating, material (flot) retained in a 300-micron mesh and the heavier fraction (residue) captured in a 1000-micron mesh. The flots were then air dried before being scanned under a microscope. The residues were air dried, sieved at 5mm and 2mm, and sorted by eye. Any artefacts in the residues were recorded as part of the sample before being removed and united by context with those hand-collected during excavation, whilst any additional vegetation and other environmental material was added to the corresponding flot. The remaining geology was recorded and then discarded.

### Results

Table 7 quantifies the flots resulting from the floatation of all samples. The flot from sample 2 was 10ml in volume and made up entirely of modern, intrusive rootlets and the occasional terrestrial mollusc shell. Sample-flots 1 and 3 were similar in character, standing apart from sample 2 in both being high in volume (290ml and 220ml respectively) and containing a more woody-like vegetation and higher shell count. Sample 1 was particularly notable, however, for its high amount of charcoal fragments of 5-10mm, small number of charred wood fragments of <30mm in size and its particularly large number of shells.

The discarded geology comprised a mid-brownish silty-clay (although darker brown in the case of sample 1) with common angular stones of <50mm. None of the samples contained any finds.

Sample no.	Context no.	Sample volume (ltrs)	Flot volume (ml)	Environmental evidence								Finds from Residue
				Charred grain	Charred seed	Chaff	Uncharred seed	charcoal	shell	vegetation	insect	
1	1103	34	290	-	-	-	XXXX	XXXXX	XXXXX	low	-	-
2	2103	33	10	-	-	-	-	-	XX	high	-	-
3	2907	34	220	-	-	-	XXXXX	-	XXXXX	high	-	-
Total	-	101	520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6: Summary of sample flots from YELL22 (specimens: x<10, xx 10-20, xxx 50-100, xxxx >100)

### Discussion

The environmental material recovered from the samples was variable. That from sample 2, context 2103, is of no archaeological interest, appearing to be of probable modern origin and intrusive. The evidence from samples 1, context 1103, and 3, context 2907, however, do have material of interest, with both having large quantities of terrestrial shells and sample 1 also being fairly rich in charcoal and fragments of charred wood. These have the potential to inform on, for example, local environmental

conditions and the choice and availability of wood species for fuel. That said, each sample was collected from a different feature (samples 1 and 3 from ditches, and sample 2 from a gully), with all deposits being interpreted as natural silting-up material of their respective feature. As such, the presence of the deposits and their contents would not seemingly represent purposeful, in-situ human actions or necessarily imply the use of the features as dumping locations - thus having no interpretive value for the feature. Nevertheless, the contents of samples 1 and 3 are of interest from the wider site perspective, but given the post-medieval date assigned, and consequently the possibility of a more recent date applicable, it may be prudent to archive the flots at this evaluative stage in lieu of further archaeological work taking place at the site, at which time it may be reconsidered along with any new discoveries. At this stage, then, no further analysis of the flots is suggested necessary.

### Appendix 3: Context Summary List

#### Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
200	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.25	Topsoil
201	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.27	Natural geology

#### Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
700	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.24	Topsoil
701	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Natural geology

#### Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
800	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Topsoil
801	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.24	Natural geology

#### Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
900	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Topsoil
901	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.24	Natural geology



### Trench 10

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1000	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Topsoil
1001	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.24	Natural geology

### Trench 11

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1100	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.36	Topsoil
1101	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.20	Natural geology
1102	Cut	East to west oriented linear ditch with steep concave sides with a sharp break of slope to a concave base	1.8	1.57	0.64	Cut of boundary ditch
1103	Fill	Compact, mid bluish grey clayey sand with occasional small to medium angular stone inclusions			0.64	Natural silting within ditch [1102]
1104	Cut	East to west oriented linear ditch re-cut with gradual concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base	1.8	1.1	0.28	Re-cut of boundary ditch
1105	Fill	Compact, light greyish yellow sandy clay with very occasional small to medium angular stone inclusions			0.28	Natural silting within ditch re-cut [1104]

### Trench 12

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1200	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.36	Topsoil
1201	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.26	Natural geology

### Trench 13

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1300	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.25	Topsoil
1201	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.27	Natural geology

### Trench 14

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1400	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
1401	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.22	Natural geology

### Trench 15

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1500	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
1501	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.44	Natural geology
1502	Cut	East-west oriented linear ditch with steep concave sides with a gradual break of slope to an unexcavated base	1.8	2.32	0.92	Re-cut of boundary ditch
1503	Cut	East to west oriented linear ditch with steep concave sides with a gradual break of slope to an unexcavated base	1.8	0.6	0.64	Cut of boundary ditch
1504	Fill	Soft, dark greyish brown sandy clay with very occasional small to medium angular stone inclusions			0.92	Natural silting within ditch re-cut [1502]
1505	Fill	Soft, light greyish brown clayey sand with occasional small to medium angular stone inclusions			0.64	Natural silting within ditch [1503]

### Trench 16

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1600	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.36	Topsoil
1600	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.18	Natural geology

### Trench 17

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1700	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
1701	Layer	Soft, mid orange, brown silty sand with no inclusions			0.33	Subsoil
1702	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.22	Natural geology

### Trench 18

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1800	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Topsoil
1801	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.40	Natural geology
1802	Cut	East to west oriented linear ditch with moderately steep concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base	1.8	2.1	1.17	Cut of boundary ditch
1803	Fill	Friable, light brownish grey clayey silt with no inclusions			0.10	Natural silting within ditch [1802]
1804	Fill	Friable, light greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions			0.35	Natural silting within ditch [1802]
1805	Fill	Friable, mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions			0.32	Natural silting within ditch [1802]
1806	Fill	Friable, light greyish yellow silty sand with moderate small sub-round gravel and stone inclusions			0.31	Deliberate backfill within ditch [1802]

### Trench 19

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
1900	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
1901	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.34	Natural geology

### Trench 20

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2000	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.34	Topsoil
2001	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Natural geology

### Trench 21

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2100	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Topsoil
2101	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.22	Natural geology
2102	Cut	Northeast to southwest oriented linear gully with gradual concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base	1.8	0.50	0.08	Cut of gully
2103	Fill	Friable, very light greyish yellow silty sand with no inclusions			0.08	Natural silting within gully [2102]

### Trench 22

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2200	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
2201	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.14	Natural geology

### Trench 23

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2300	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.34	Topsoil
2301	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Natural geology

### Trench 24

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2400	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.22	Topsoil
2401	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.35	Natural geology

### Trench 25

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2500	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.26	Topsoil
2501	Layer	Soft, mid orange, brown silty sand with no inclusions			0.16	Subsoil
2502	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Natural geology
2503	Cut	North to south oriented linear ditch with moderately steep concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base	1.8	0.8	0.23	Cut of gully
2504	Fill	Firm, mid greyish brown silty sand with very occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions			0.23	Natural silting within gully [2503]

### Trench 26

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2600	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Topsoil

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2601	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.24	Natural geology
2602	Cut	Sub-circular shaped natural solution hole	0.05	0.05	0.1	Cut of solution hole
2603	Fill	Loose, very light brownish grey silty sand with no inclusions			0.1	Natural silting within solution hole [2602]
2604	Cut	Sub-circular shaped natural solution hole	0.05	0.05	0.1	Cut of solution hole
2605	Fill	Loose, very light brownish grey silty sand with no inclusions			0.1	Natural silting within solution hole [2604]

#### Trench 27

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2700	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Topsoil
2701	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.20	Natural geology

#### Trench 28

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2800	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Topsoil
2801	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Natural geology

#### Trench 29

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2900	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.36	Topsoil
2901	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.20	Natural geology

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
2902	Cut	East to west oriented linear ditch with very steep concave sides with a sharp break of slope to a concave base	1.8	2.3	1.2	Cut of boundary ditch
2903	Fill	Compact, dark bluish grey sandy clay with very occasional small sub-angular stone inclusions			0.08	Deliberate backfill within ditch [2902]
2904	Fill	Compact, light brownish grey clayey silt with very occasional angular stone inclusions			0.34	Natural silting within ditch [2902]
2905	Fill	Compact, mid yellowish brown clayey sand with very occasional small angular stone inclusions			0.47	Natural silting within ditch [2902]
2906	Fill	Firm, very light-yellow clay with no inclusions			0.25	Natural slumping within ditch [2902]
2907	Fill	Compact, dark greyish blue silty sand with no inclusions			0.31	Natural silting within ditch [2902]

### Trench 30

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
3000	Layer	Soft, dark brown clayey silt with very occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.30	Topsoil
3001	Layer	Friable, light orange yellow clayey sand with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions			0.32	Natural geology

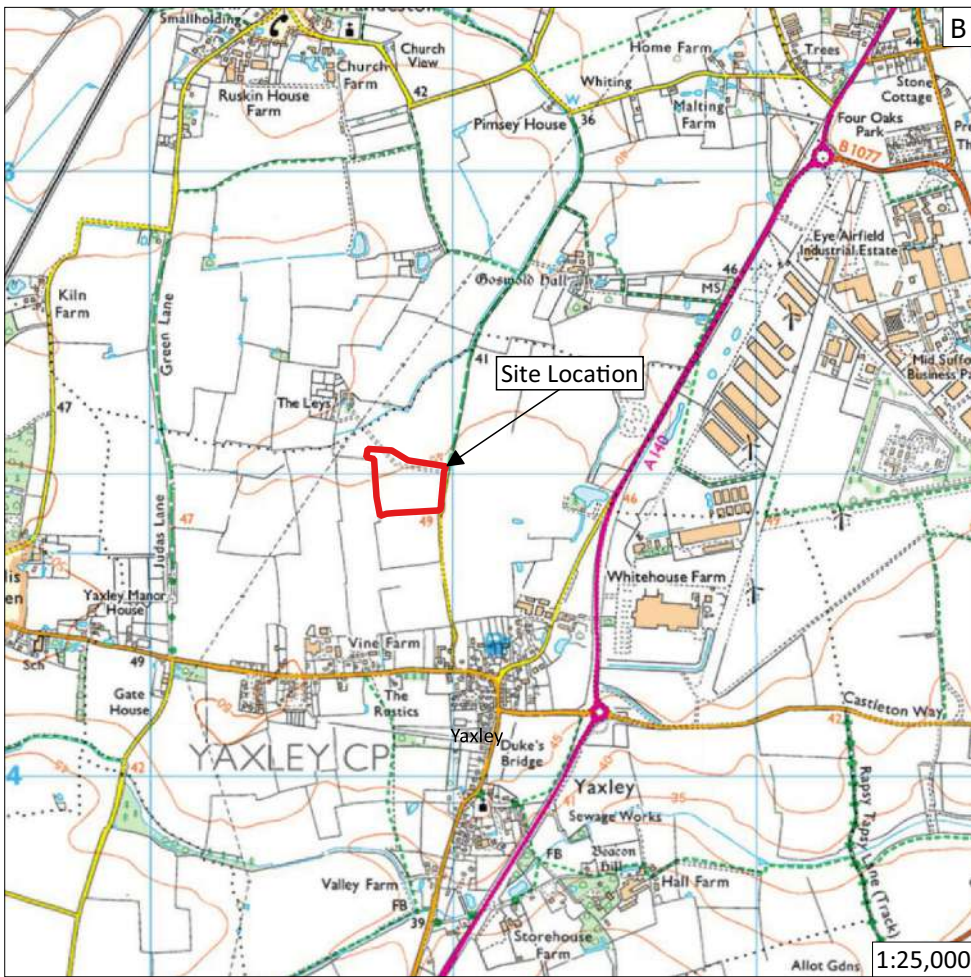
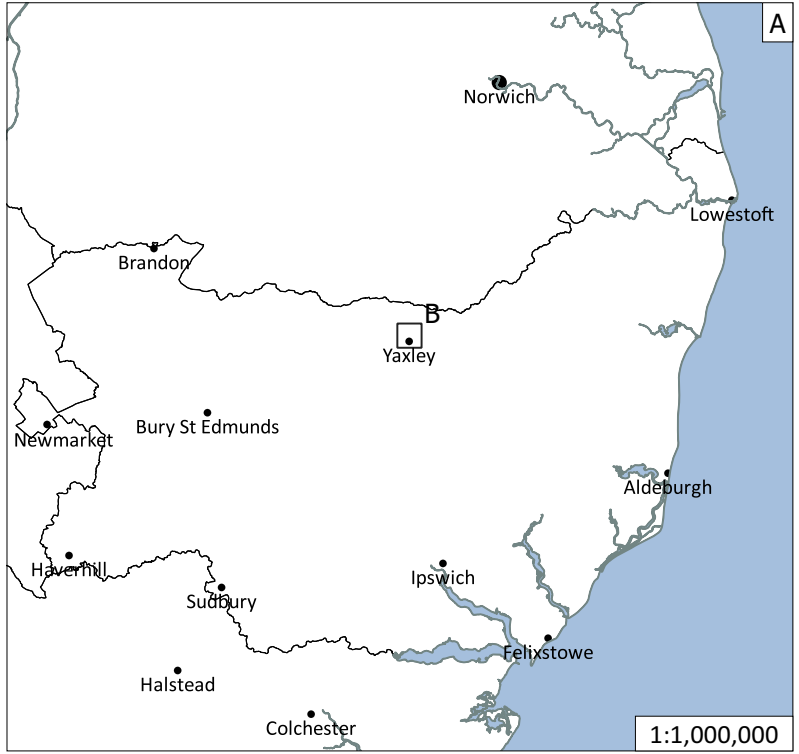
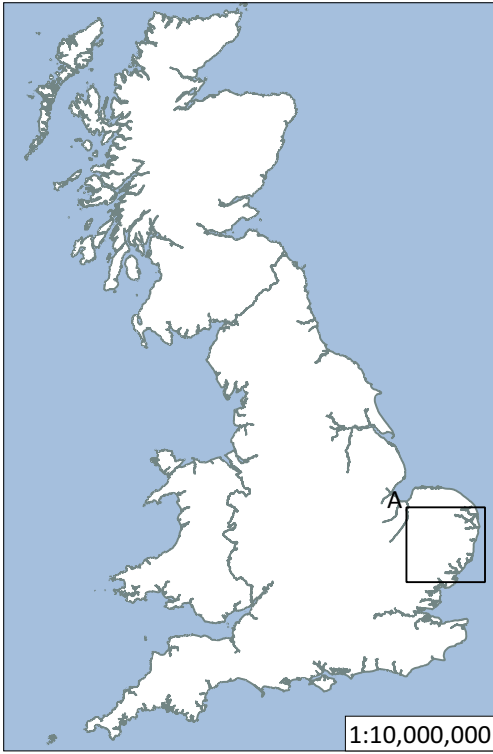


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	R Evershed
Date	15/05/2023

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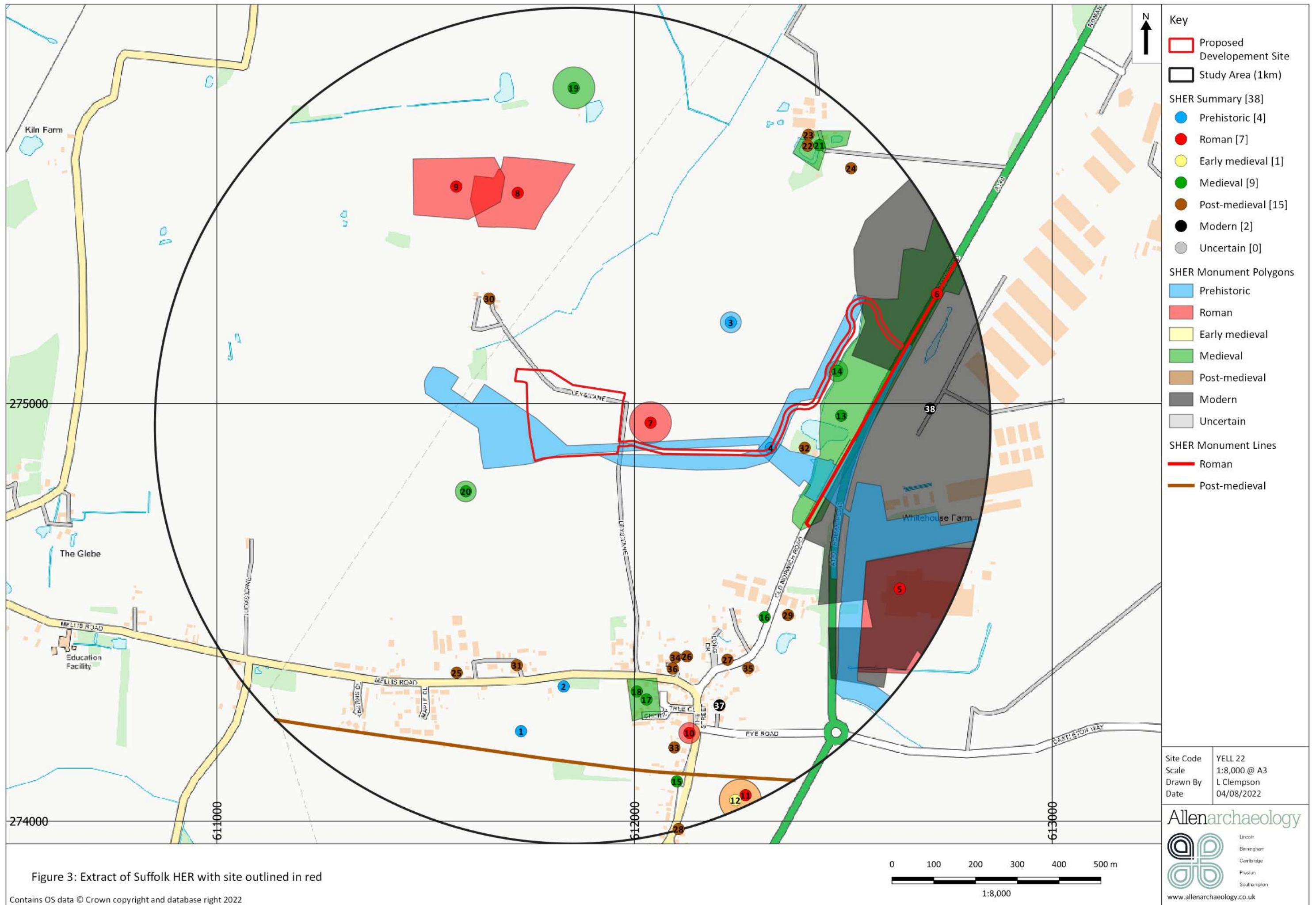


Figure 3: Extract of Suffolk HER with site outlined in red

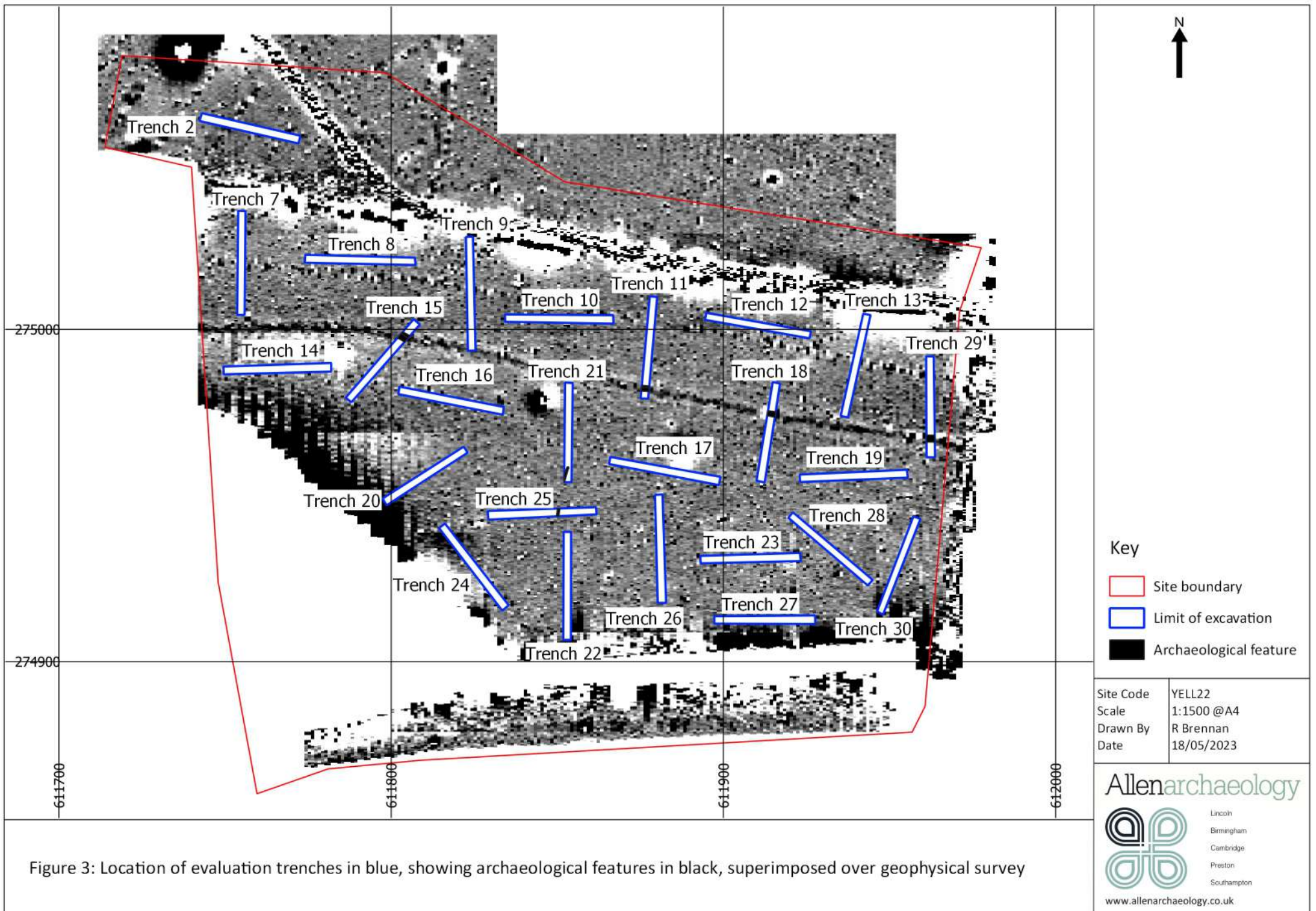
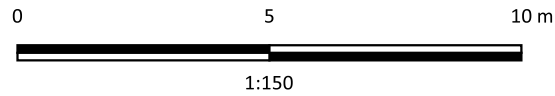
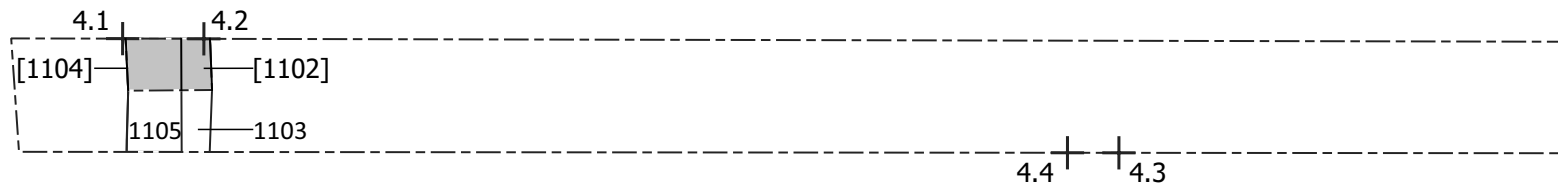
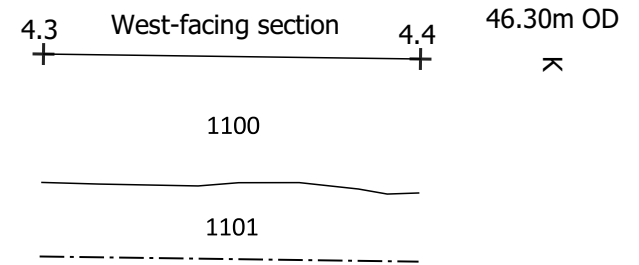
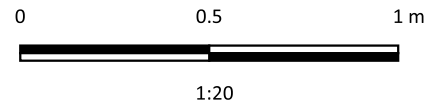
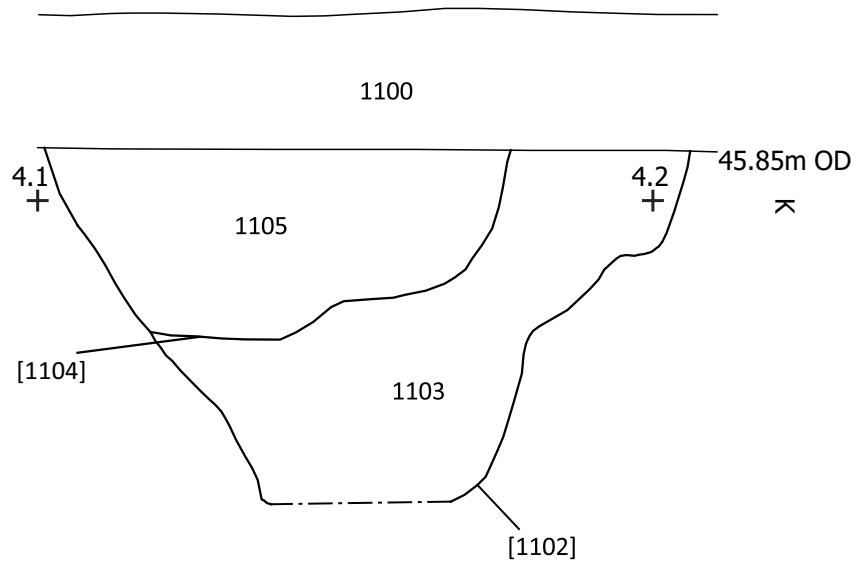


Figure 3: Location of evaluation trenches in blue, showing archaeological features in black, superimposed over geophysical survey



East-facing section



Site Code	YELL22
Scale	1:150, 1:20 @A4
Drawn By	R Brennan
Date	16/05/2023

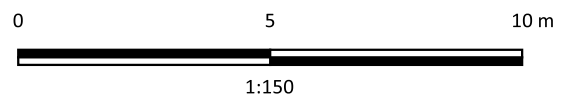
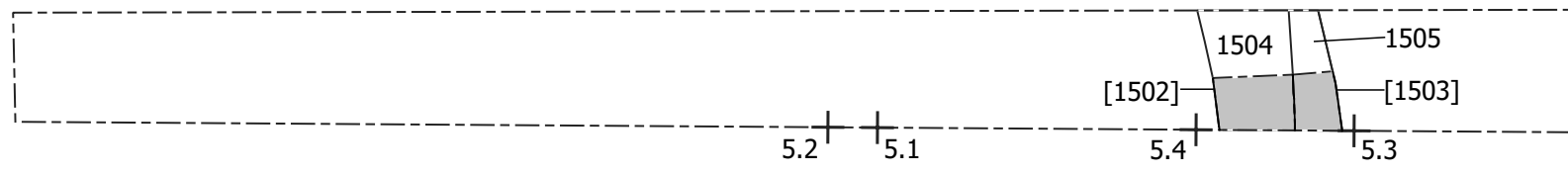
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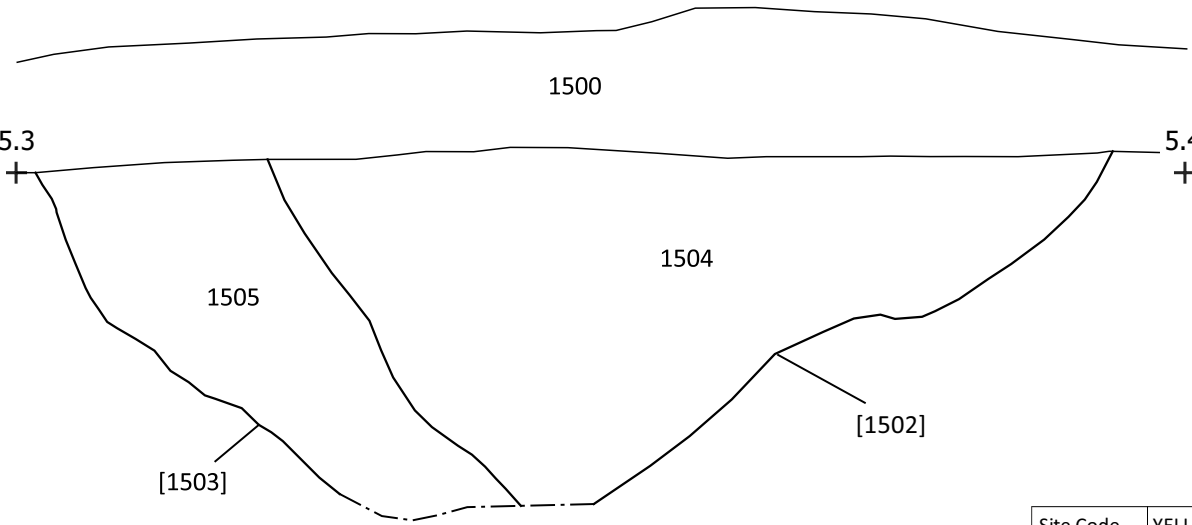
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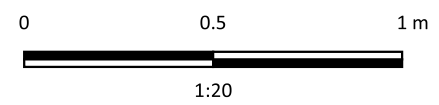
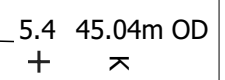
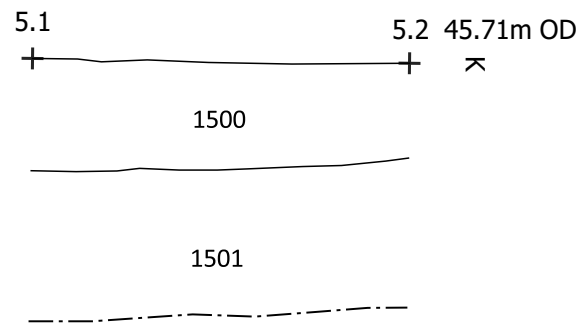
Figure 4: Trench 11 plan and sections



Northwest-facing section



Northwest-facing section



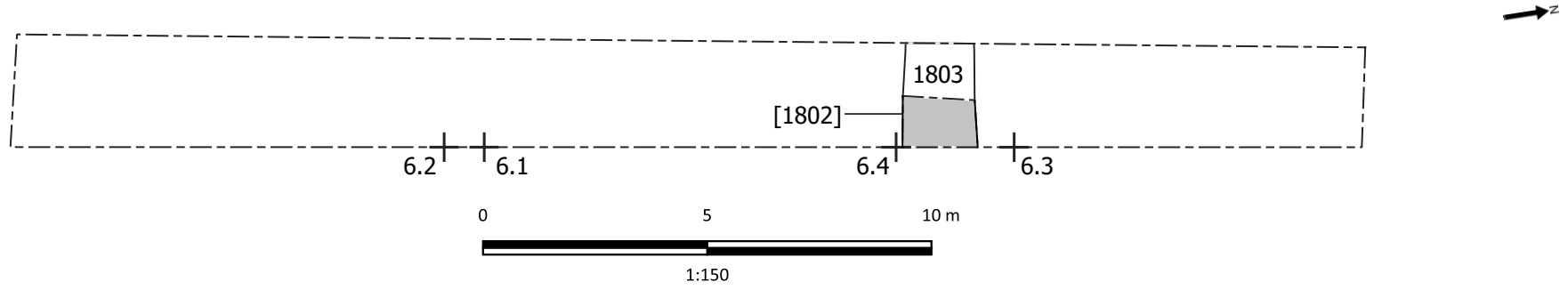
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Scale	1:150, 1:20 @A4
Drawn By	R Brennan
Date	18/05/2023

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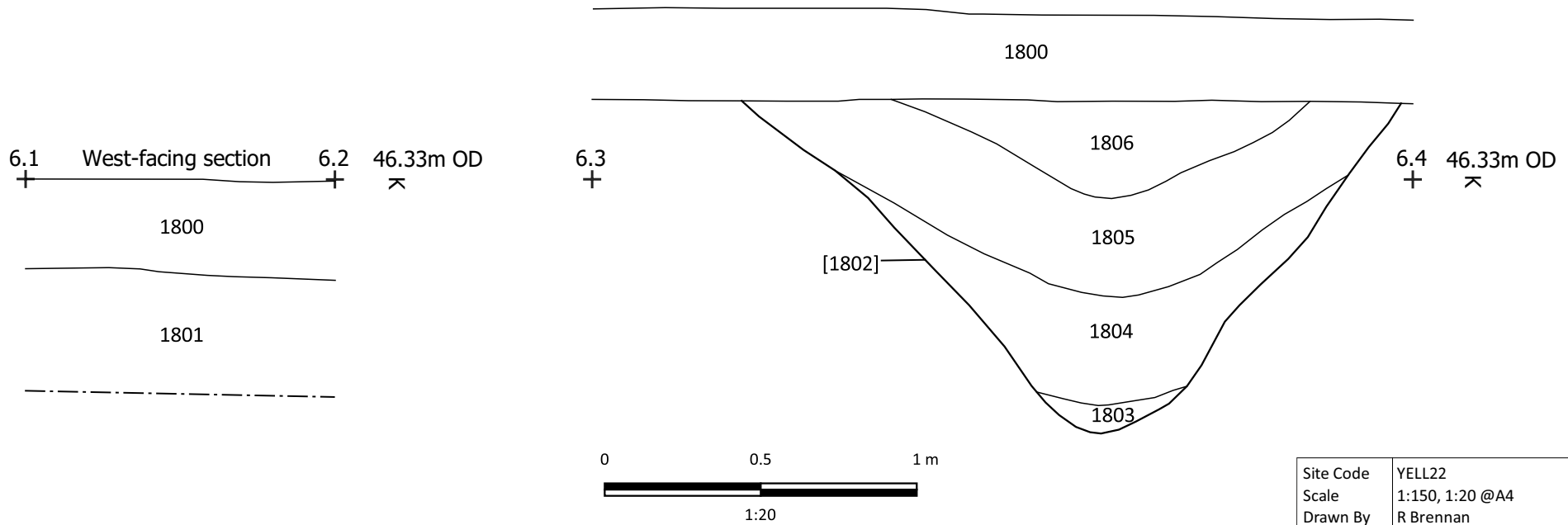
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Figure 5: Trench 15 plan and sections



West-facing section



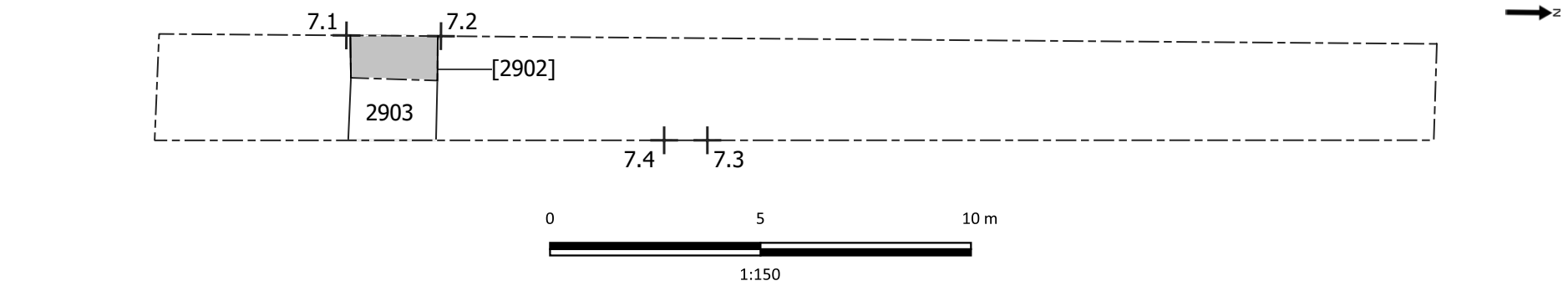
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Drawn By	R Brennan
Date	16/05/2023

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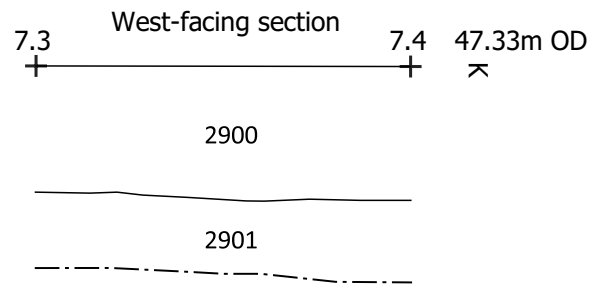
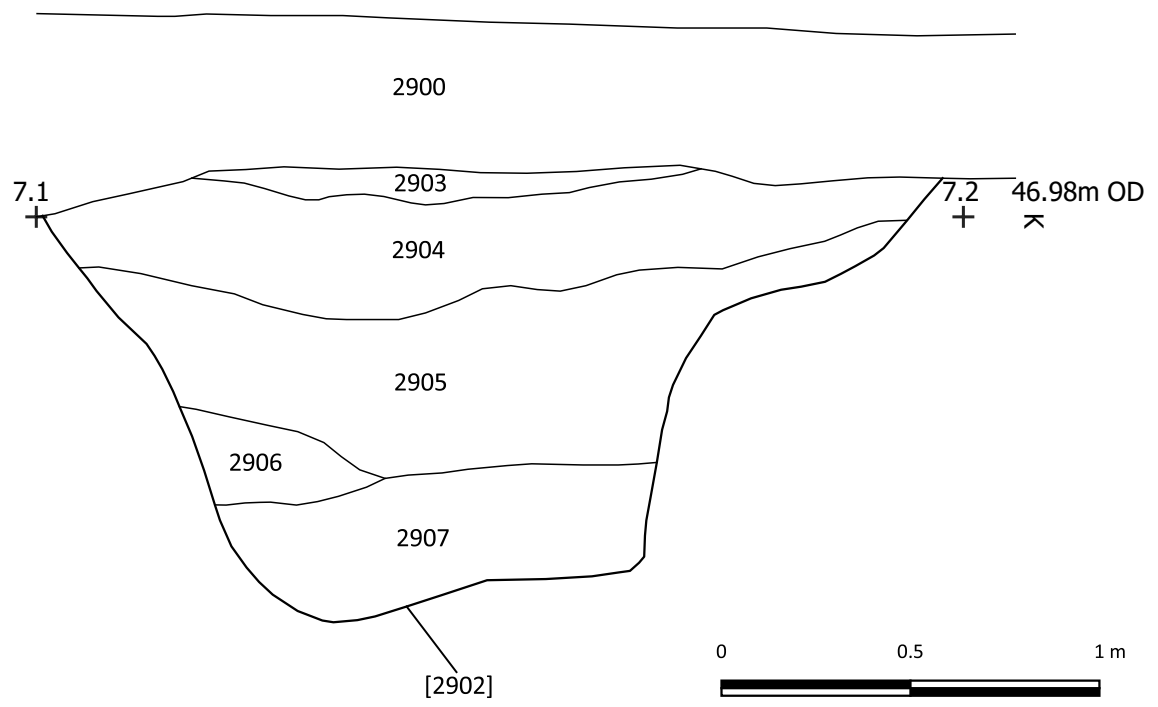
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Figure 6: Trench 18 plan and sections



East-facing section



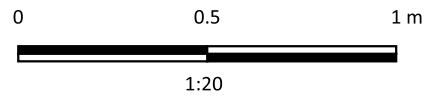
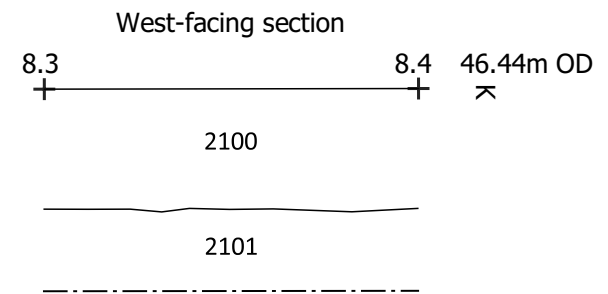
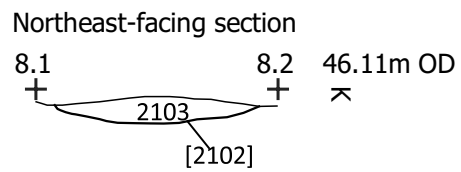
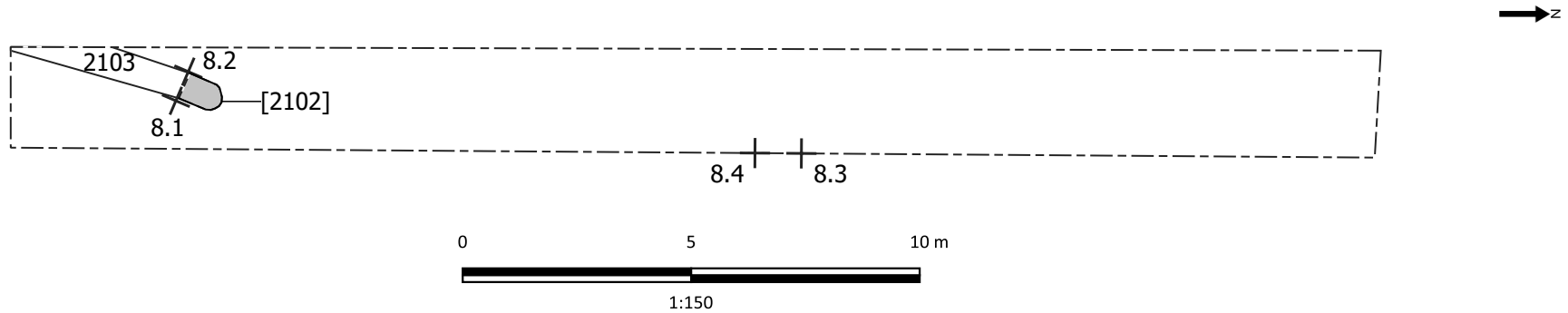
Site Code	YELL22
Scale	1:150, 1:20 @A4
Drawn By	R Brennan
Date	16/05/2023

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Figure 7: Trench 29 plan and sections



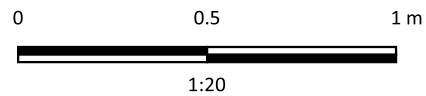
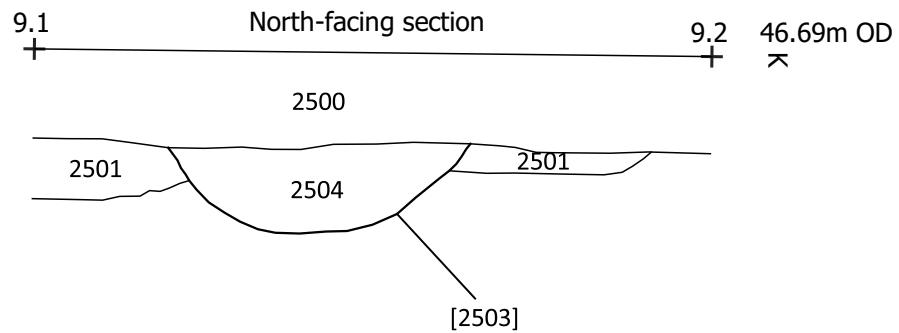
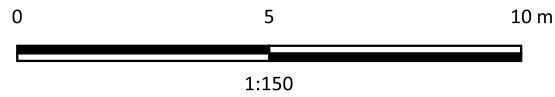
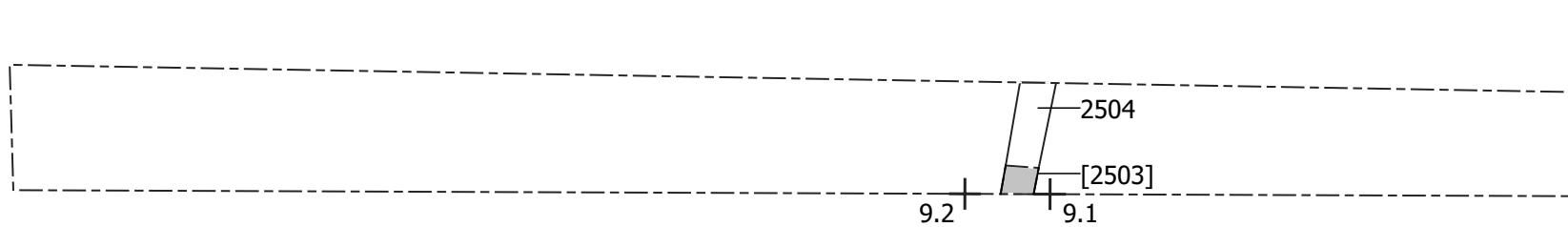
Site Code	YELL22
Scale	1:150, 1:20 @A4
Drawn By	R Brennan
Date	16/05/2023

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Figure 8: Trench 21 plan and sections



Site Code	YELL22
Scale	1:150, 1:20 @A4
Drawn By	R Brennan
Date	16/05/2023

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Figure 9: Trench 25 plan and section



# Summary for allenarc1-514169

OASIS ID (UID)	allenarc1-514169
Project Name	Evaluation at LAND OFF LEYS LANE, YAXLEY, SUFFOLK
Sitename	LAND OFF LEYS LANE, YAXLEY, SUFFOLK
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	YELL22
Planning Id	DC/22/04021
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Allen Archaeology Limited
Project Dates	03-Apr-2023 - 13-Apr-2023
Location	LAND OFF LEYS LANE, YAXLEY, SUFFOLK NGR : TM 11860 74940 LL : 52.3316220529219, 1.10796108573314 12 Fig : 611860,274940
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Mid Suffolk Parish : Yaxley
Project Methodology	Archaeological Evaluation by trial trenching, comprising 30 no. 30m x 1.8m trenches.
Project Results	The evaluation identified a single east-west aligned post-Medieval boundary ditch and northeast to southwest aligned undated drainage gully
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Richard, Brennan
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

## ***Allen Archaeology Limited***

### **SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING: LEYS LANE, YAXLEY, SUFFOLK**

<b>Client:</b>	<b>Conrad Energy</b>
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	<b>TM 11875 74792</b>
<b>AAL Site Code:</b>	<b>YELL 22</b>
<b>Planning Application:</b>	<b>DC/22/04021</b>
<b>SHER Parish Code:</b>	<b>YAX 069</b>
<b>Oasis number:</b>	<b>allenarc1-514169</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>

#### **1.0 Summary**

This document is the specification for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Leys Lane, Yaxley, which has been prepared for Conrad Energy, as part of planning consent for Synchronous Condensers and associated infrastructure.

The excavation, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the '*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (CIfA 2020a), the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), local guidelines outlined in the '*Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*' (Medlycott 2011) and '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*' (Gurney 2003), a brief provided by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) (SCCAS 2023a), and *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2023b).

#### **2.0 Site Location and Description**

The proposed development site is located c.600m north of the centre of the village of Yaxley, in the administrative district of Mid Suffolk. The site is approximately 4.0 hectares in area and is presently farmland. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 1186 7494 and is c.45m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises Crag Group – Sand, with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/>).

#### **3.0 Planning Background**

An application for planning permission (DC/22/04021) for Synchronous Condensers and associated infrastructure was approved by the Mid-Suffolk District Council with conditions, including conditions 4 and 5:

*4. No development shall take place until a scheme of archaeological evaluation of the site has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (including any demolition needing to be carried out as necessary in order to carry out the evaluation). The evaluation shall be carried out in its entirety as may be agreed to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.*

*5. No development shall take place until a written report on the results of the archaeology evaluation of the site has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority and that confirmation by the Local Planning Authority has been provided that no further investigation work is required in writing. Should the Local*

*Planning Authority require further investigation and works, no development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment.*
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*
- g. Timetable for the site investigation to be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

This written scheme of investigation outlines a programme of archaeological work; prepared in response to a design brief for archaeological evaluation from a brief provided by SCCAS (SCCAS 2023a).

The evaluation follows on from a geophysical survey and heritage impact assessment of the site. This is the third stage of archaeological investigation, intended to inform the decision on the need, design and extent of any subsequent archaeological mitigation works that may be required in advance of development. This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation only; this document alone will not result in the discharge of any archaeological conditions that may be part of any future planning permission for this site. Any further mitigation work will need to be subject to a separate WSI.

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2021).

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The Archaeological and Historical Background has been largely taken from the heritage impact assessment for the site (AAL 2022), with addition of the results of the geophysical survey.

The proposed development site is situated within a rural location on the outskirts of the village of Eye. Extensive archaeological works have taken place in the vicinity of the site as part of the Progress Power Project. The majority of the archaeology found as part of these works is situated outside of the study area to the east, including a Bronze Age burnt mound. A few scatters of prehistoric finds have been found nearer to the site and one worked flint was uncovered within a trench excavated along the access track, suggesting a low archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

Roman activity is well represented in the area, with a Roman road (now A140) in the east part of the study area forming a focus for activity. Pottery scatters have been found near to the site and a significant quantity of PAS finds are recorded in the study area, including on the site itself. Archaeological work in the southwest corner of the site exposed a ditch containing a single fragment of possible Roman tile, and a pit was excavated within the access track that contained a single fragment of Roman pottery, suggesting a moderate

potential for Roman activity.

The site lies on the periphery of the early medieval to medieval settlement of Eye, but there has been a large number of PAS finds in the study area, suggestive of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries to the north and south of the site, suggesting a moderate potential for early medieval activity.

Archaeological works in the southwest corner and southern extent of the site as well as to the immediate west have revealed ditches of a probable late medieval to post-medieval date, suggesting a high potential for further similar features to be present within the proposed development area.

The geophysical survey of the site (AAL 2023) however identified very little of archaeological interest, with former field boundaries seen on historic mapping revealed along with modern land drainage, a buried modern service and magnetic noise associated with the modern compound within the southwest part of the site and a track running through the site.

## **5.0 Aims and Objectives**

The general purpose of the evaluation will be to gather sufficient information for the SCCAS to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource, specifically with the aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, localized depth, approximate form, purpose and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aims to provide an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened, to ground truth the geophysical survey results, and establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

The results of the evaluation will be used to determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource, and define the nature and extent of any additional mitigation works that may be required. The evaluation will aim to put the results within a local, regional and national context, as appropriate, with reference to the East Anglian regional research agendas:

- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997)
- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
- Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008)
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011)
- East of England Regional Research Framework reviewed 2018-20 [online]. Available at: East of England Research Framework ([researchframeworks.org](http://researchframeworks.org))

The evaluation will also include the characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial and/or economic evidence in order to characterise the nature of the site and help in developing future mitigation strategies. As part of this, artefact and/or economic evidence will be retrieved from the site and the location of any burials will be noted.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will also be established across the site.

## **6.0 Methodology**

A trial trenching strategy is proposed for the site, comprising 30no trenches 30m long by 1.8m as set out on

the attached site plan, or as near as site conditions will allow. In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 100mm in thickness. Machining will be under constant archaeological supervision. The process will be repeated until the first archaeologically significant ornatural horizon is exposed. All further excavation will then be by hand. If deeper deposits are encountered provision will be made to step out the trench to allow full investigation of the feature.

Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS.

The use of metal detectors on site will be required to aid the recovery of artefacts. Metal detector searches will take place at all stages of the evaluation by an experienced metal detector user (Graham Brandeys), with the detector not set to discriminate against iron.

Metal detecting of trench locations will be carried out before trenches are cut, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches have been opened.

In the event of positive results, all features exposed will be investigated and recorded, unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS, in order to determine their date, extent, level of preservation, form and where possible, function. Discrete features will be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. Linear features will be investigated by hand excavated slots at least 1m wide. It is not anticipated that the complete excavation of features will be necessary at this stage, although, if archaeologically relevant, some individual features may be excavated in their entirety. If more complex/significant features are revealed then the approach to dealing with these features will be discussed and agreed with SCCAS.

Should human remains be encountered the SCCAS and the local coroner will be informed immediately. The human remains will be left *in situ*, unless their condition indicates that exhumation would be more appropriate. If uncovered, human remains left *in situ* will be carefully covered with geotextile (terram) and and then sterile materials. If removal is essential an exhumation licence will be requested from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). Redeposited, disarticulated human remains will be collected and reburied on site, or retained following the requirements of the MoJ. The decision to remove human remains rests with SCCAS only.

All fieldwork should be completed within two weeks and will be undertaken by a team of at least three staff, one of whom will be a Project Supervisor or Project Officer. Any delays in the event of bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances may affect this timetabling and a safety margin of a week will be timetabled for such instances. This will also include a provision for judgemental trenching (up to 60m) or deposit testing, should this prove necessary in the field. Any extra work of this nature will be decided in discussion with SCCAS.

### ***Environmental Sampling***

Samples will be taken from deposits that have the potential to provide information on the preservation conditions and potential of analysis of all biological remains. If appropriate during the investigation, specialist advice will be sought from the environmental archaeologist, including a site visit to develop the sampling strategy.

Bulk samples, of 40 litres minimum or full context if less, will be taken from a selection of stratified contexts that have produced good dating evidence, and sufficient in number to establish the range and quality of the environmental evidence. With undated features any contexts that appear to have good enviro potential will also be samples. Where feasible, bulk samples will be taken as scatter samples, whereby tubs will be filled from different locations within the designated fill to avoid spatial preservation bias or missing biological remains invisible to the naked eye which can form discrete 'clusters' within the fill (English Heritage, 2011, 10). Provision for other enviro sampling will be made if appropriate.

Animal bone will be hand collected from all excavated features. These will be identified and assessed by the named specialist, with any recommendations for future archaeological work on the site.

### **Recording**

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits will be drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Sections of discrete features will be drawn at a scale of 1:10. Colour photography will form an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs will incorporate scales (ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales), an identification board and directional arrow. A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of high resolution digital images. All photographs taken during the survey will be archived as uncompressed TIFF files.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be ‘treasure’ (as defined by the Treasure Act 1996) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported immediately to the Finds Liaison Officer, who will report it to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery. All finds work will conform to the guidelines as set out in the ‘*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*’ (CIfA 2020b).

All artefacts of all classes will be collected, other than obviously modern material from modern overburden contexts. Artefacts collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered artefacts will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small findnumber. If necessary, the relevant specialist will visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All artefacts will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) on site. These will then be submitted for specialist reporting to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Sarah Bates	Worked lithics
Sarah Percival	Prehistoric Pottery
Phil Mills	Later prehistoric and Roman ceramics
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman ceramics and Ceramic Building Material
Bryn Leadbetter	Animal bone
Sue Anderson	Human remains
Adam Daubney	Other finds
Val Fryer or Ellen Cooper	Environmental analysis
York Archaeological Trust	Conservation

Should they be unavailable, any changes to the above named specialists will only be made in agreement with SCCAS.

### **7.0 Site Team**

- Project Manager: Adam Loeden
- Supervisor: Jake Minton
- Project Archaeologists: Chris Brown, Mason Edwards, Francis Frassine

### **8.0 Post-Fieldwork Methodology**

On completion of site operations, the records produced will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic

matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared.

An evaluation report will be compiled, comprising a description of the results of the archaeological investigations. This will follow the Historic England guidance MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3 (Historic England 2008) and MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists document '*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (2020a).

The report will contain:

- A non-technical summary of the results
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the results of the investigation
- Overall plan of the site showing excavated areas, accurately located to the national grid;
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria
- An assessment of the development impact
- The archaeological advisory and planning role of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) will be acknowledged in the report.
- A downloaded version of the completed Oasis form

## **9.0 Curatorial Monitoring**

SCCAS officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Suffolk and will need to inspect site works at an appropriate time during the fieldwork and review the progress of reports and/or archive preparation.

The project manager will inform SCCAS at least ten working days in advance of ground works on the site. The project manager will update SCCAS on the nature of archaeological remains during the site works, particularly to arrange any visits by SCCAS that may be necessary. Trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS.

Any changes to the specification after approval will be communicated directly to SCCAS for approval.

SCCAS will be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

Internal monitoring will be undertaken by the AAL Project Management team.

## **10.0 Archive**

The documentation and records generated by the excavation will be assembled in accordance with the

national guidelines in *'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation'* (Brown 2011), and the local guidelines set out in *Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Archives Guidelines for Archive Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS 2022).

Arrangements for the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts will be agreed with the landowner and SCCAS before or during the reporting stage. Transfer of title and the transfer of the ownership of the archive to Suffolk County Council will be arranged at this time, and the proposed arrangements indicated in the evaluation report. The archive will be prepared according to guidelines issued by SCCAS (SCCAS 2022).

All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be completed and a copy will be included in the final report and also with the site archive.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

### **11.0 Report Dissemination**

Digital copies of the report will be sent to the client and the Local Planning Authority. An OASIS form detailing a summary account on the results of the project will be submitted to the ADS and the final report uploaded to OASIS and submitted to the SCCAS within two weeks of approval.

Following approval of the report by SCCAS, a digital copy of the approved final report will be submitted to the Suffolk HER. Provision should also be made for a hard copy report to be submitted, however, the need for this should be discussed and agreed with SCCAS who will advise on a case-by-case basis.

Digital vector plans of trench locations, recorded archaeological features and excavated sections, which must be compatible with QGIS software, should also be provided to the Suffolk HER following approval of the final report.

A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.

Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report will be prepared for the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

### **12.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme**

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written approval from the SCCAS.

Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

### **13.0 Health and Safety**

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation. A detailed site specific Risk Assessment will be carried out in advance of any archaeological fieldwork and a copy supplied to HET.

### **14.0 Insurances**



Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

### **15.0 Copyright**

Allen Archaeology Limited shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that an exclusive license is hereby provided to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project described in this document.

License is also given to the archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by Suffolk County Council or a third party.

The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

## 16.0 Bibliography

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Figure 1: Trench locations superimposed on the geophysical survey

Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:1500 @ A4
Drawn By	A Lodoen
Date	29/03/2023

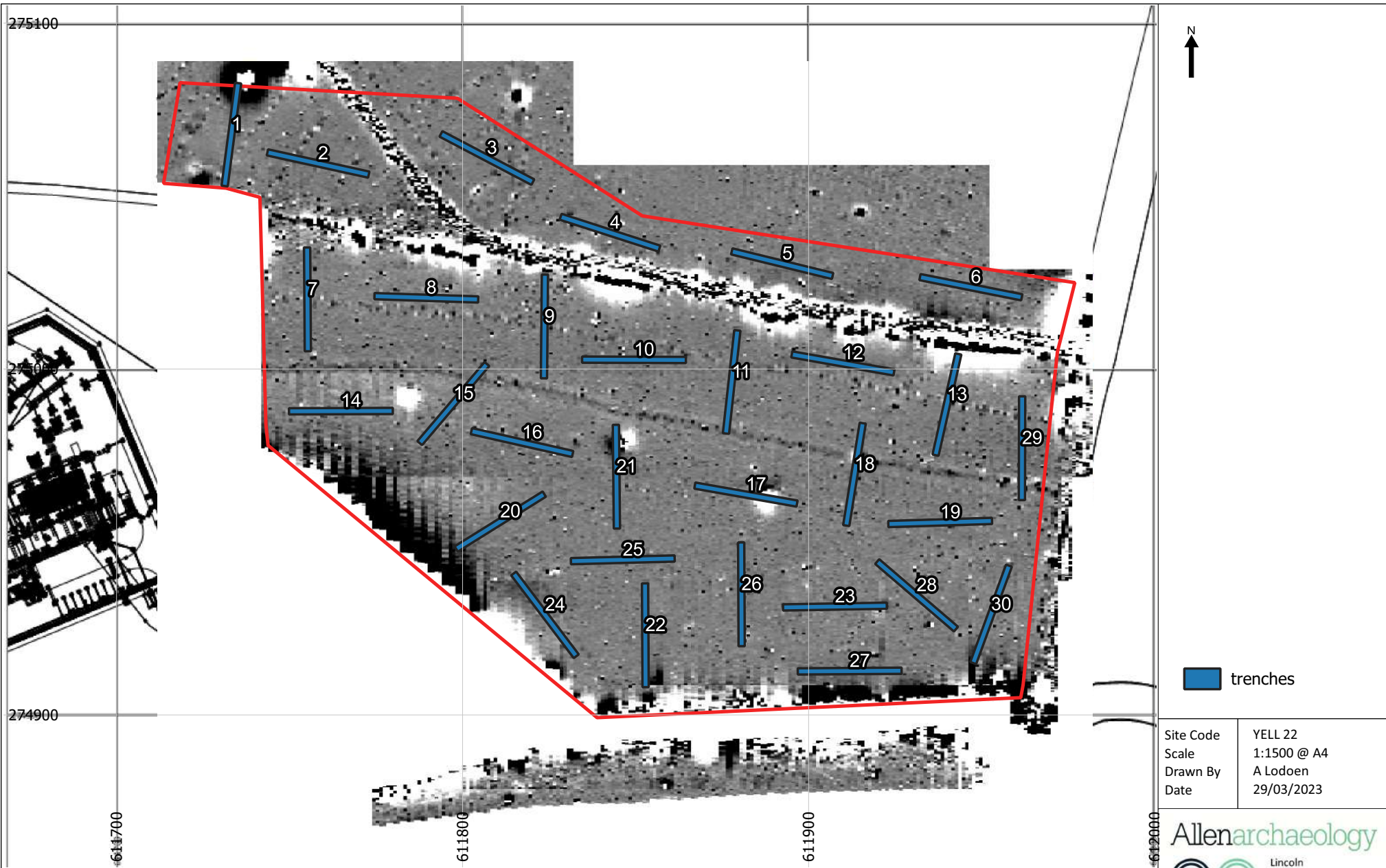


Figure 2: Trench locations superimposed on the geophysical survey

Site Code	YELL 22
Scale	1:1500 @ A4
Drawn By	A Lodoen
Date	29/03/2023

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## Data Management Plan, Yaxley, Leys Lane, Suffolk (YELL 22)

<b>Project Manager</b>	Adam Lodoen
<b>Site code</b>	YELL 22
<b>Project Name</b>	Yaxley, Leys Lane, Suffolk
<b>Author(s)</b>	Robert Evershed
<b>Origination Date:</b>	29/03/2023
<b>Reviser(s)</b>	
<b>Date of last revision</b>	
<b>Project stages covered</b>	Trench evaluation
<b>Version</b>	0.1
<b>Summary of Changes</b>	
<b>File Name/Location</b>	<a href="https://allenarchaeology.sharepoint.com/sites/Management/Shared Documents/Counties/Suffolk/Yaxley Leys Lane (YELL 22)/Evaluation/Documentation/ADAPt Data Management Plan YELL 22.docx">https://allenarchaeology.sharepoint.com/sites/Management/Shared Documents/Counties/Suffolk/Yaxley Leys Lane (YELL 22)/Evaluation/Documentation/ADAPt Data Management Plan YELL 22.docx</a>
<b>Related Policies</b>	N/A
<b>Data Collection/Creation</b>	
<b>Data to be Collected/Created</b>	<p>A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Images will be created according to standards set out in Historic England's Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol (ADAPT) (<a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/">https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/</a>) and the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual. All file formats created will meet the standards set out in ADAPT.</p> <p>The collected data will consist of digital photographs, GPS Survey data, Context sheets, Permatrace drawings, various Word documents and Excel sheets. The digital photographs and GPS Survey data will be collected or created by Allen Archaeology employees working on site with a digital camera or a GPS. All data collection will be in accordance with the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual and will meet the standards set out in ADAPT).</p> <p>The documentary archive will consist of:</p> <p>Text: Various Word Documents; including the Written Scheme of Investigation, and the Project Report.  Permatrace drawings: Plans and sections  Context sheets: Description of archaeological deposits  Excel sheets: Context List  Images: Digital images, including site photography</p> <p>A written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Images will be created according to standards set out in ADAPT and the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual. All file formats created will meet the standards set out in ADAPT.</p> <p>The collected data will consist of digital photographs, GPS Survey data, Context sheets, Permatrace drawings, various Word documents and Excel sheets. The digital photographs and GPS Survey data will be collected or created by Allen Archaeology employees working on site with a digital camera or a GPS. All data collection will be in accordance with the Allen Archaeology Site Recording Manual and will meet the standards set out in Historic England's Archaeological Digital Archiving Protocol (ADAPT) (<a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/">https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/research/adapt-project-procedures/</a>).</p> <p>The documentary archive will consist of:</p> <p>Text: Various Word Documents; including the Written Scheme of Investigation, and the Project Report.  Permatrace drawings: Plans and sections  Context sheets: Description of archaeological deposits  Excel sheets: Context List  Images: Digital images, including site photography</p>
<b>How Data will be Collected/Created</b>	The data will be created according to Allen Archaeology's Site Recording Manual and ADAPT.

<b>Relations</b>	N/A
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## Data Management Plan

<b>Documentation and Metadata</b>	
<b>Metadata</b>	Metadata will be created to the standard set out in ADAPT
<b>Documentation</b>	A digital photograph record sheet will be filled in by hand and kept as part of the primary archive.
<b>Ethical and Legal Compliance</b>	
<b>Data Security Issues</b>	The risks to data security are kept to a minimum and managed by Allen Archaeology employees .
<b>Intellectual Property Rights</b>	The data is owned by Allen Archaeology. Any shared data must be credited to Allen Archaeology when published.
<b>Data Storage</b>	
<b>Storage and Backup</b>	The data will be stored on Allen Archaeology servers during the research. The data can only be accessed by Allen Archaeology employees, unless shared.
<b>Access and Security</b>	Data created in the field is downloaded ASAP onto secure servers. Digital data can only be accessed by Allen Archaeology employees. There are no security issues.
<b>Selection and Preservation</b>	
<b>Preservation Plan</b>	The physical archive, documentary and material, will be submitted to Suffolk HER. Digital drawings and digital site records produced during the course of the fieldwork will be archived with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).
<b>Data Sharing</b>	
<b>Data Sharing Plan</b>	The results of the trial trench evaluation will be made available via a written report accessible through the Archaeological Data Service.
<b>Data Sharing Restrictions</b>	There are no restrictions on the use of this data after project completion.
<b>Responsibilities and Resources</b>	
<b>Responsibilities</b>	The Allen Archaeology Project Manager and Post-excavation Manager has overall responsibility for data capture, metadata production, data quality and correct storage and data sharing. The security and backup of data is the responsibility of the Archaeological Data Service.
<b>Resources</b>	Resources required to deliver this plan are covered by standard Allen Archaeology resources and the project design. The costs of deposition of the archive are covered by the client fees.