

Land at Bottisham Village College



Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Client: Capita

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Land At Bottisham Village College

An Archaeological Evaluation

By Dan Hounsell BA, PhD


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Report Date: December 2008

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HER Event No: ECB 3006
Date of Works: August 2008
Client Name: Capita
Client Ref: none
Planning Ref: -
Grid Ref: TL 5412 6087
Site Code: BOTVIC08
Finance Code: BOTVIC08
Receiving Body: -
Accession No:

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Summary

Between the 4th and the 5th of August 2008 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation at Bottisham village college, Cambridgeshire in advance of the construction of a new school building. This evaluation involved the excavation of a T shaped trial trench. The SW – NE aligned arm was 14m long, the NW – SE aligned arm was 18m long. Both were 1.8m wide.

The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological features, finds or deposits and appeared to indicate that the area had never been subject to any significant, surviving human archaeological activity.

The underlying solid geology was chalk. This was heavily scarred with palaeochannels, indicating an ancient periglacial location for the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Bottisham Village college.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas (2008) of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC, Drummond–Murray, 2008). The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a new school building.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on Lower chalk.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Palaeolithic axes have been made in the south-west of the parish and at another unspecified location (HER 07912). Two Mesolithic tranchet axes and a number of flint flakes were found just west of the church (HER 06595).
- 1.3.2 Numerous neolithic axes have been found: several were uncovered near Lode, in the north-west (HER 06520, 06573, 06575, 06610) the east (HER 06556) and the south (HER 06580). Flint flakes were found just to the east of the village (HER 06531). Neolithic ditches are noted to the north of the village (HER 06605).
- 1.3.3 In the parish there are numerous barrows and ring ditches, but these are almost all to the south-west. Three more barrows are closer to the village to the north-east (HER 06609), to the north-west (HER 06553) and to the south-east (HER 06626). Bronze Age flints were found at the same location as the neolithic ones mentioned above (HER 06531). A barbed and tanged arrowhead was found to the south-east of the development area (HER 06591). Further Bronze Age flints were found close to the church (HER 06598).
- 1.3.4 The site lies to the west of a Roman villa/high status farmstead revealed through various archaeological investigations (e.g. Macdonald, 2000 – ECB1234, Wills 2003 - ECB2560). Features included a number of structures and a metalled yard, dated between the second and fourth centuries. Roman coins and pottery have been found

to the north (HER nos. 04133 and 06586). Another excavation (Kenny, 2002 - ECB707) revealed remains that are peripheral to the villa estate, these include boundary ditches, demolition rubble and a corn-dryer. The main phase of activity on this site appears to date from the first and second centuries AD.

- 1.3.5 Several Anglo-Saxon artefacts have been found but none from within the village itself. There is also a single pagan Saxon barrow amongst the Bronze Age ones to the south-west (HER 06762a).
- 1.3.6 A number of medieval manor houses are recorded in the parish and two are marked by moats, including Tunbridge (HER 0112,a,b,c,d,e,f,g, - SAM 71). The medieval church, Holy Trinity, is built on the highest part of the chalk ridge (HER 06730). Nothing remains of the Norman church that preceded the present 13th / 14th century structure.
- 1.3.7 Numerous medieval coins have been found by metal detectorists (e.g. HER 06534-06548, 08131-08140) around the village.
- 1.3.8 The name Bottisham is first recorded in 1060 as Bodekesham and as Bodichessham in the Domesday Book of 1086. An interpretation of the name is 'Boduc's farm'. The village originated as at least three hamlets, and more may have sprung up before they all merged into its modern shape. Common fields were enclosed in 1808.
- 1.3.9 The population of the parish at Domesday was 49; it had risen to 701 by 1891 and to 1920 in 2000.
- 1.3.10 Apart from the work at Tunbridge Lane listed above, recent archaeological work has revealed undated linear features, found in an evaluation at Bell Road (Ashworth and Bray 2001 - ECB 372). A Saxo-Norman well and refuse pit were uncovered at Beechwood Avenue (Atkins 2003 - ECB1436) and monitoring at Queens Court, Downing Close revealed no archaeological features because of later disturbance (Kaye 2007 – ECB2134).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Thank are due to Capita for commissioning the work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and the field work was run by Dan Hounsell.

2. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that the work be carried out by a team of professional, competent archaeologists.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. A T shaped evaluation trench was excavated. The SW – NE arm of this trench was 14m long, while the SE – NW arm was 18m. The trench was 1.8m wide (bucket width).
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Garath Rees using a Leica GPS survey system.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 The evaluation was undertaken during a period of relatively clement weather. There were no conditions which may have hindered the recognition of archaeological artefacts or deposits.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This archaeological evaluation did not reveal any archaeological finds, features or deposits. The deposit model presented by the trial trench is presented below

3.2 Trench 1 (AOD 12.68m – 12.79m)

3.2.1 See figures 2 and 3 for illustrations of the location, alignment and section drawings referring to the trial trench.

3.2.2 Context **100**. Topsoil. This material was 0.26m – 0.40m thick. It was a dark grey brown, loose, silty material containing occasional small stone (primarily angular flint) and chalk inclusions. This directly overlay **101**.

3.2.3 Context **101**. Subsoil. This material was 0.28m – 0.46m thick. It was a light yellow orange, moderately compact silty sand. This contained frequent small stone (primarily angular flint) and chalk inclusions. This directly overlay contexts **102** and **103**.

3.2.4 Context **102**. Natural drift geology. This material was the solid geology underlying the area. It consisted of a mid creamy white, hard chalk with occasional flint stone inclusions. This material was regular scarred by context **103**.

3.2.5 Context **103**. Glacial deposition. This material was a mid-red orange, moderately compact, silty sand, containing frequent small to moderately sized angular flint nodules. This deposits would appear to represent material laid down through glacial activity across the region and the formation of palaeochannels – indicating an ancient periglacial location.

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Conclusions

4.1.1 The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological features, finds or deposits. Nor did the evaluation reveal any evidence of significant human activity in the area, modern or ancient.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The archaeological work is significant in that it revealed that the area under study appears never to have been subject to substantial, surviving, human occupation or significant land use. And so indicates that the area can be thought of as having a fairly low archaeological potential.

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atkins, R. 2003. Saxo-Norman Features at Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation. Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Report A229.

Ashworth, H. and Bray, S. 2001. Land at Bell Road, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire. (HN310) Archaeological Evaluation Report. Heritage Network Report 124.

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Kenney, S. 2002. Romano-British settlement evidence at 31 Tunbridge Lane, Bottisham: An archaeological evaluation. Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit Report A201.

McDonald, T. 2000. Tunbridge Lane, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire. An archaeological excavation. Interim report. Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Report 0801.

Thomas, A. 2008. Brief For An Archaeological Evaluation: Bottisham Village College.

Wills, J. 2003. Tunbridge Hall Farm, Bottisham: An Archaeological Evaluation. Cambridge Archaeological Unit Report 552 Location: HER A-Z.

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-48624"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Bottisham village college: An archaeological evaluation"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text" value="04-08-2008"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="05-08-2008"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="No"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="BOTVIC08"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="ECB3006"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text" value="Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16"/>
Development Type	<input type="text" value="Public Building"/>

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text" value="N/A"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Cambridgeshire"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="Central Cambs"/>	<input type="text" value="Bottisham Village college,
Lode Road,
Bottisham
CB25 9DJ"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Bottisham"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Cambs HER"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="900m2"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TL 5412 6087"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST		
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas		
Project Design Originator	James Drummond Murray		
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Content Sheet
Supervisor	Dan Hounsell		

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
None	OA East	Cambs County Store
Accession ID ...	BOTVIC08	BOTVIC08

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Deposit - Conjectured	-----
Natural Features	—————
Sondages/Machine Strip	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Illustrated Section	S.14 —————
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Rooting Deposit	
Cut Number	118
Structure Number	118

Sections

Limit of Excavation	-----
Cut	—————
Cut-Conjectured	-----
Deposit Horizon	—————
Deposit Horizon - Conjectured	-----
Intrusion/Truncation	-----
Top Surface/Top of Natural	—————
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	-----
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD ⌘
Inclusions	Ⓞ

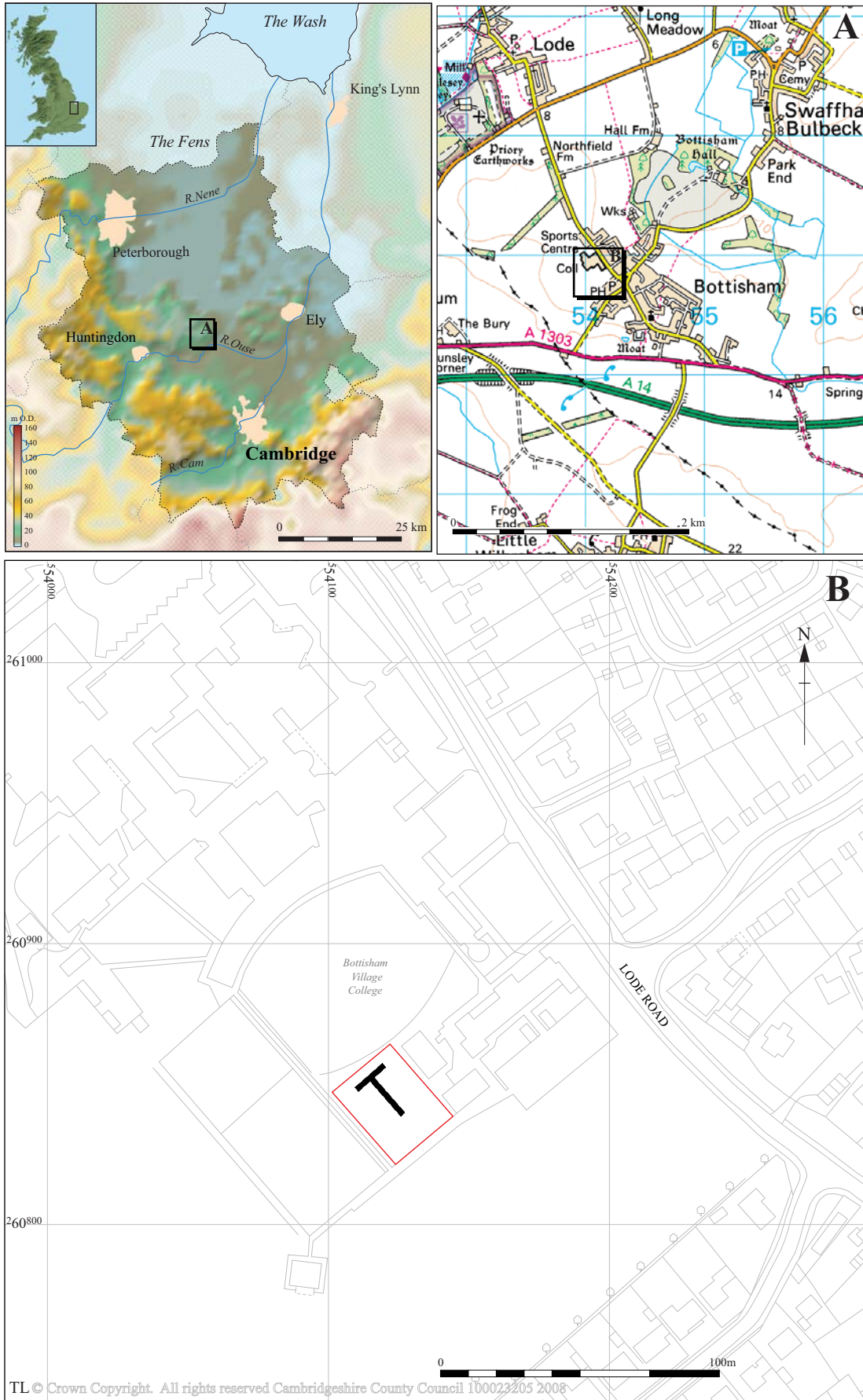


Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

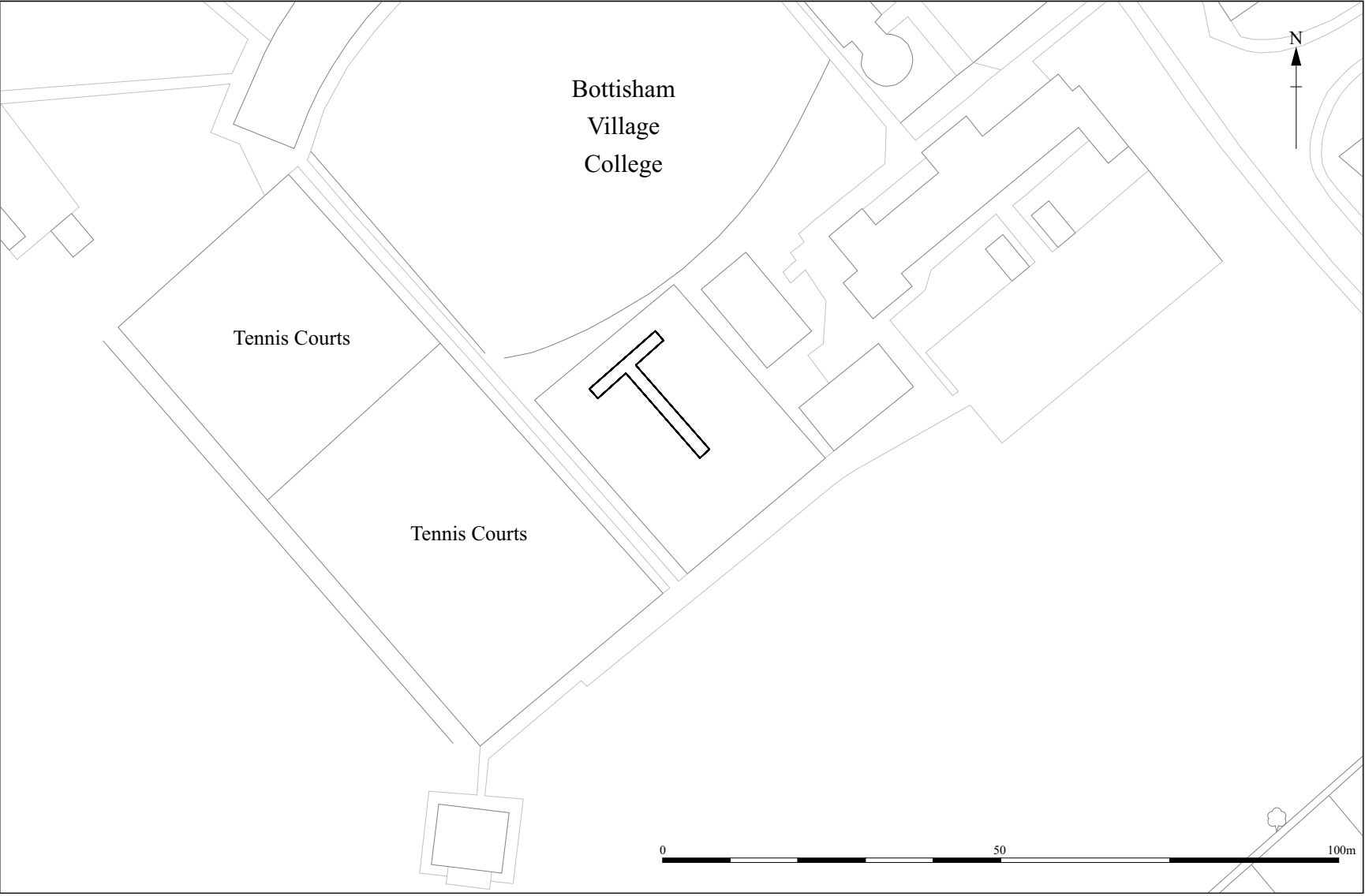


Figure 2: Trench location

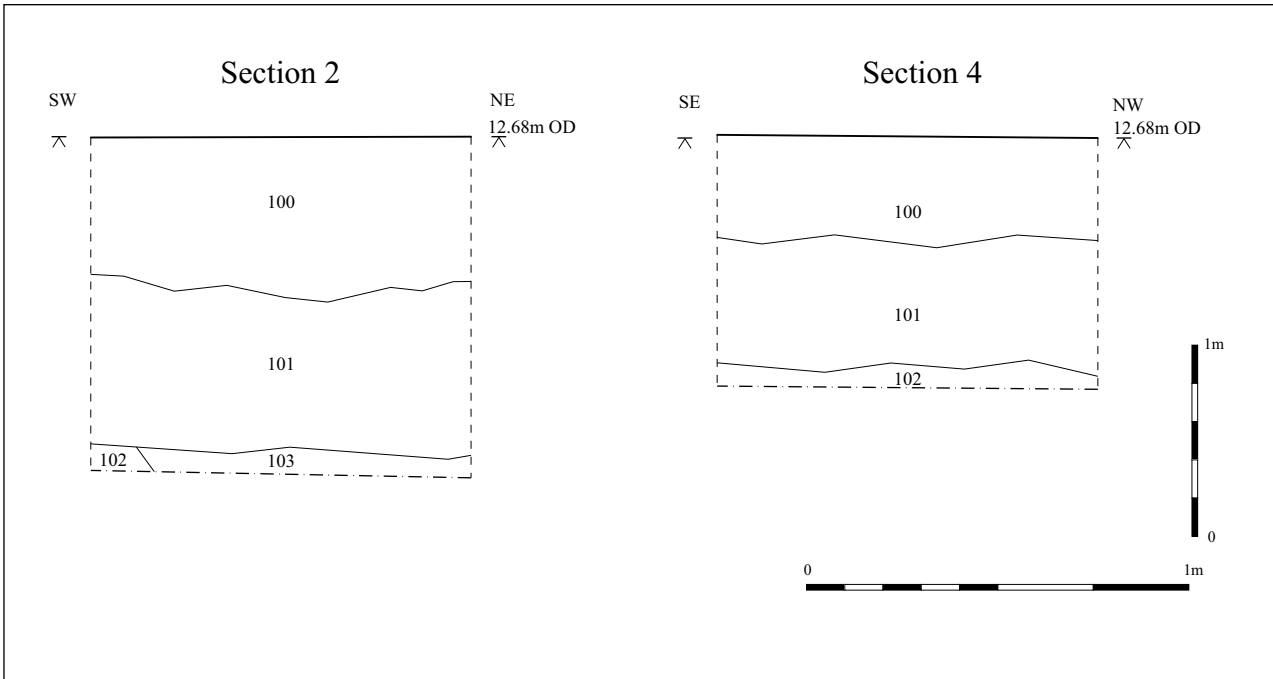


Figure 3: Section drawings



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