

Roman and medieval  
remains to the south of  
The Butcher's Arms  
Main Road Parson  
Drove near Wisbech  
Cambridgeshire



**Archaeological  
Evaluation Report**



March 2010

**Client: GB Construction Partnership**

OA East Report No: 1168

OASIS No: Oxfordar3-73147

NGR: TF 3742 0853

**Roman and medieval remains to the south of The Butcher's Arms, Main Road,  
Parson Drove, near Wisbech, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Rob Atkins BSocSc DipArch*

*With contributions by Chris Faine MA MSC AlfA; Steve Critchley BSc MSc; Rachel  
Fosberry AlfA AEA and Alice Lyons BA MA MfA*

*Editor: Richard Mortimer MfA*

*Illustrator: Louise Bush BA MA PlfA*

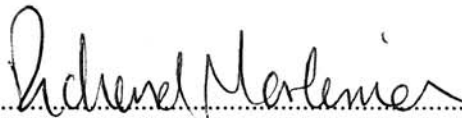
*Report Date: March 2010*

**Report Number:** 1168  
**Site Name:** The Butcher's Arms, Parson Drove  
**HER Event No:** ECB3339  
**Date of Works:** February 2010  
**Client Name:** GB Construction Partnership  
**Client Ref:** 11565  
**Planning Ref:** FYR05/0935/F  
**Grid Ref:** TF 3742 0853  
**Site Code:** PDRBUT10  
**Finance Code:** PDRBUT10  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach

**Accession No:**

Prepared by: Rob Atkins  
Position: Project Officer  
Date: March 2010

Checked by: Richard Mortimer  
Position: Project Manager  
Date: March 2010  
Signed: .....



**Disclaimer**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology East,**  
15 Trafalgar Way,  
Bar Hill,  
Cambridge,  
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500  
f: 01223 850599  
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2010  
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

**Table of Contents**

**Table of Contents**

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography (by Steve Critchley).....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	7
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	8
<b>2 Aims and Methodology.....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Aims.....	9
2.2 Methodology.....	9
<b>3 Results.....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	10
3.2 Trench 1.....	10
3.3 Trench 2.....	10
3.4 Finds Summary.....	11
3.5 Environmental Summary.....	11
<b>4 Discussion and Conclusions.....</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1 Roman.....	12
4.2 Medieval.....	12
4.3 Significance.....	12
4.4 Recommendations.....	12
<b>Appendix A. Health and Safety Statement .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix B. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Appendix C. Finds Reports.....</b>	<b>15</b>
C.1 Metal Work.....	15
C.2 Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery.....	15
C.3 Medieval Pottery.....	15
C.4 Briquetage.....	16

---

<b>Appendix D. Environmental Reports.....</b>	<b>17</b>
D.1 Faunal Remains .....	17
D.2 Environmental samples.....	17
Cereals.....	18
Ecofacts and Artefacts.....	18
D.3 Shells.....	19
<b>Appendix E. Bibliography .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Appendix F. OASIS Report Form .....</b>	<b>21</b>

### List of Figures

- Fig. 1            Location of trenches (black) with development area outlined (red)
- Fig. 2            Trench location in relation to previous archaeological work (© Wessex Archaeology, published with permission)
- Fig. 3            Trench 1 (plan and section)
- Fig. 4            Trench 2 (plan and sections)

### List of Tables

- Table 1          Environmental sample results

### List of Plates

- Plate 1          Horse (12) within ditch **15** looking south

## Summary

*In February 2010, Oxford Archaeology East undertook a small evaluation on land to the south of The Butchers Arms, Parson Drove, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was adjacent to the west and north of a previous large excavation which found a Roman rural settlement including salt making alongside medieval salt making and farming activities.*

*The present evaluation found only a single shallow Roman ditch. The medieval activity consisted of up to six ditches, most fairly shallow and these were the continuation of agricultural (and potentially salt making) features found to the east the south of the site. One large 14th century ditch, with a horse burial in it's upper fill, was also seen in the previous excavation. Very few artefacts were recovered from the evaluation perhaps suggesting that the medieval activity lay away from domestic occupation.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land to the south of The Butcher's Arms, Main Road, Parson Drove (TF 3742 0843). The proposed development comprises the construction of three houses with associated services and access roads.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell (McConnell 2010) of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application F/YR05/0935/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by Richard Mortimer (Mortimer 2010) of Oxford Archaeology East.
- 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 CCC, 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 store at Landbeach, Cambridgeshire in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography (by Steve Critchley)

- 1.2.1 This site, along with most of Parson Drove, lies on the slightly higher elevation of a major tributary roddon of a mid Holocene river Nene, the former course of which lies close by at Guyhirn. Roddons are the mineral (clay and silt) fills of former creeks and channels within the saltmarsh environment dominant during the deposition of the Barroway Drove Beds. The latter consist of soft silty slightly humic clays and silts deposited during a period of marine transgression and constitute the superficial geology of this area of Fen.
- 1.2.2 The Parson Drove area is dominated by the dendritic pattern of Flandrian river and stream channels (roddons) and surrounded by the cropmarks of Romano-British and Medieval archaeology (Hall 1996). The development site itself lies on or adjacent to a small north to south roddon channel, 200m to the west and measured at c.1.80mOD (Andrews 2006, fig. 7; Hall 1996, fig. 95).
- 1.2.3 The British Geological Survey records the Drift geology of the site within silt-filled creeks in Marine Alluvium, undifferentiated whose formation took place in the Flandrian period (BGS Sheet 158). Immediately to the east of the site the geology changes to Older Marine Alluvium (Barroway Drove Beds).
- 1.2.4 The ground was nearly flat with the height at 2.42mOD at the south-western corner of Trench 1 and 2.35mOD at the western side of Trench 2.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The linear village plan of Parson Drove demonstrates its connection with the post-reclamation planned landscape (Hall 1996). However, the cropmark evidence which surrounds the site indicates that the earlier (Roman) settlement orientation better reflected the alignments of the main roddons – the present village alignment is almost



perpendicular to the former layout. The other medieval villages/settlements in this area (Morrow, Tholomas Drove, Wisbech St Mary, Tydd St Giles, Newton, Fitton End and Levington) run along the same east to west alignment (Andrews fig.8; Hall 1996, fig. 98).

- 1.3.2 A recent excavation (CHER ECB 2131; Andrews 2006), conducted immediately east and south of the current development plot, revealed evidence for three phases of Roman rural settlement (potentially spanning the entire Romano-British period) associated with salt production and livestock farming (Andrews 2006, fig. 2). The redevelopment of the settlement (since flooded) in the 12-14th centuries indicated an east to west alignment with field enclosures and other features. By the end of this period, a series of four large north to south ditches were dug over the next few hundred years. Firstly, the most westerly one in the 15th/16th centuries and the remaining three in the post-medieval period (Andrews 2006, fig. 3).

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank GB Construction Partnership who commissioned and funded the work. Neil Ogden carefully planned and helped organise the work on site. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer who also edited the report. The brief for the work was written by Dan McConnell who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.
- 1.4.2 I am grateful for specialist analysis from Carole Fletcher who identified the medieval pottery, Alice Lyons, the Roman pottery and Steve Critchley the metal object. Chris Faine analysed the animal bone and Rachel Fosberry the environmental samples. Taleyna Fletcher surveyed in the evaluation trenches and Steve Critchley metal detected the site. Louise Bush produced the illustrations.

## 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 In the two weeks before the evaluation, the site was made accessible by the felling of young trees on the site. Leylandii had been planted c. 20 years ago, mostly around the perimeter of the site, by the landowners of the Butcher's Arms. The branches and leaves of these former trees were composted before the start of archaeological work.
- 2.2.2 The Brief required that at least 5% of the development area should be subjected to trial trenching. The proposed trench layout, totalling 24m in length, was agreed with CAPCA before start of work (Fig. 1). The trenches were located on either side of the proposed development plot to gauge the state of archaeological preservation across the site. During the evaluation a possible service trench was found within the eastern end of Trench 2 and as a consequence this part of the trench was not machined to the natural subsoil (Fig. 2). The trench was extended c.3m to the west to maintain the 5% sample requirement (Fig. 2).
- 2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by Taleyna Fletcher using a Leica G.P.S. 1200.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Three ditches within the evaluation were environmentally sampled with between 10L and 20L taken.
- 2.2.7 The evaluation found a late medieval horse burial partly within Trench 2 but this burial was within the proposed gardens of the development. After consultation with CAPCA, it was decided to leave the burial *in situ*. The horse was photographed, planned and then covered with plastic bags with soil partly backfilled by hand.
- 2.2.8 The evaluation was undertaken in mostly dry, overcast and cold conditions.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Between the 22nd and 25th February 2010, Oxford Archaeology East excavated two trenches on land to the south of The Butcher's Arms (Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation results are described below and summarised in Appendix B. All features within the two trenches were sealed by a subsoil and topsoil collectively between 0.54m and 0.73m deep.

### 3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was 12.4m long and ran north to south adjacent to the western site boundary (Fig. 3). There were three medieval east to west ditches within the northern half of the trench. All three ditches dated to between the late 11th and 14th centuries with two likely phases of activity.

3.2.2 The first phase of activity was represented by two similar shallow east to west ditches (**4** and **9**), c.2m apart with the former on the southern side. Ditches **4** and **9** were at least 1.2m wide and 0.28 and 0.26m deep respectively with gentle sides and flat bases (Fig. 3, S.1). Both ditches had a single backfill deposit, with the former comprising a mid to dark grey brown sandy silt with slight burning and the latter a mid grey brown sandy silt with small patches of light yellow brown redeposited natural. The excavated sections through these deposits each contained a single pottery sherd - respectively Early Medieval Ware and Ely ware - and small fragments of briquetage. Soil sample 2 from ditch **4** contained saw sedge and occasional grain.

3.2.3 The second medieval phase consisted of ditch **7** cutting ditch **9** on its southern side. This ditch was 1.8m wide and 0.46m deep, with moderate to steep sides and a flat base. The lower backfill deposit (6) was slightly organic, and consisted of a dark brown sandy silt with burnt clay flecks and rare charcoal. Soil sample 1 was a rich sample with lots of cereal grains (wheat, barley, oat and rye), plus beans, peas and grass seed. The upper fill (5) was a light to mid grey sandy silt with patches of yellow sandy silt. One sherd of Early Medieval ware was recovered.

### 3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was 17.15m long and ran east to west adjacent to the northern boundary on the development area. There were three or four phases of activity within the trench. These features consisted of a single small Roman ditch (**17**) and three ditches of medieval and late medieval date (**11**, **15** and **19**) (Fig. 4).

3.3.2 A very shallow north to south Roman ditch (**17**) was found in the middle of the trench, although no definite relationship could be seen with the medieval ditch (**15**) to the west. This ditch was at least 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with a mid grey brown sandy silt. A single Roman grey ware sherd was recovered from the deposit.

3.3.3 The earliest medieval activity was likely to be ditch **19**. This ditch ran east to west partly within the eastern half of the trench (Fig. 4). The ditch was at least 6.5m long, more than 0.83m wide and 0.35m deep (Fig. 4, S.2). There was a single fairly sterile fill (**18**) which contained a single sherd of Early Medieval ware.

3.3.4 A substantial north-south ditch (**15**) was found in the western part of the trench (Fig. 4, S.3). This ditch was uncovered in the Wessex excavation to the south and was at least 100m in length (Fig. 2). It was more than 2.54m wide, 0.82m deep with moderate to

steep sides and a very slightly rounded base. The lower deposit (14) was dark brown sandy silt which was slightly organic. Soil sample 3 found fish bones as well as rye grain, saw sedge, nutlet and cleaver seeds. The main fill (13) was a mid to dark brown sandy silt with few artefacts including residual Iron Age and Roman pottery (1 and 2 sherds respectively), medieval pottery (5 sherds of 12th-14th C material), briquetage, bone and shell. After the ditch had silted up a horse burial was placed within the upper fill with the head to the north (Fig. 4; Plate 1).

- 3.3.5 Ditch **15** was cut by ditch **11** on its western side. It was more than 0.94m wide and 0.43m deep and filled with a sterile deposit (10).

### **3.4 Finds Summary**

- 3.4.1 There were very few artefacts recovered comprising a single residual Late Iron Age pottery sherd, three probable Roman sherds and nine medieval sherds. A single unstratified medieval object and nine small briquetage fragments were also recovered.

### **3.5 Environmental Summary**

- 3.5.1 The faunal assemblage consisted of just 3 animal bone fragments and a complete c. 14th century horse burial alongside a small quantity of shell. The horse burial was only partially exposed and was left *in situ* - it has not been seen by the faunal specialist. Three environmental samples were taken to investigate the possible survival of micro- and macro- botanical remains and two of the samples produced moderate remains (Appendix D).

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Roman

- 4.1.1 The evaluation did not find any definite Roman features with only one very shallow ditch tentatively dated to this period (by a single sherd of pottery). A single Late Iron Age and two Roman pottery sherds were found residually in later contexts.

### 4.2 Medieval

- 4.2.1 Medieval activity was better represented in the evaluation with up to six, mostly shallow, ditches, dating from the 12th to 14th centuries. These features were the continuation of agricultural and salt making activity found to the east and south of the site. One large 14th century boundary ditch had a horse burial within its upper fill. This ditch was a continuation of one found in the Wessex excavation to the south. Remarkably few artefacts were recovered, suggesting that the medieval activity was related to agriculture and salt making and that this took place at some distance from domestic occupation. However, two of the soil samples produced moderate quantities of cereal grains, pulses and occasional weed seeds. These remains were similar to samples found in the adjacent excavation (Stevens 2006, 40-1).

### 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The site is within a known Roman and medieval settlement which has been well characterised by a large excavation to the east and south. It is uncertain how significant the lack of any definite Roman features in the evaluation may be. The medieval features were all ditches and only one could be traced from the previous excavation.

### 4.4 Recommendations

- 4.4.1 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. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		
Trench had a single definite ditch (7) and two shallow probable ditches (4 and 9). All three features were sealed by subsoil and topsoil.					N-S		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.70
					Width (m)		1.6m
					Length (m)		
12.40							
context	type	width(m)	depth(m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.20-0.38	Subsoil	-	-	
3	Fill of 4	1.42	0.28	Ditch	1 med pot; briquetage x 3. Saw Sedge and occasional grain	Med	
4	Cut	1.42	0.28	Ditch	-	Med	
5	Fill of 7	1.6	0.34	Ditch	1 med pot	Med 12/13th	
6	Fill of 7	1.75	0.10-0.16	Ditch	Cereal grains, saw Sedge leaf, beans, peas and grass seeds	Med 12/13th	
7	Cut	1.8	0.46	Ditch	-	Med 12/13th	
8	Fill of 9	1.2+	0.26	?Ditch	1 med pot; briquetage x 4	Med	
9	Cut	1.2+	0.26	?Ditch	-	Med	
Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		
Trench had three/4 ditches (11, 15, 17, and 19). All the ditches were sealed by topsoil and subsoil. Topsoil 1 and 2 were a continuation from Trench 1.					E-W		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.55
					Width (m)		1.6m
					Length (m)		
17.15							
context	type	width(m)	depth(m)	comment	finds	date	
10	Fill of 11	0.94+	0.43	Ditch	-	Late medieval +	
11	Cut	0.94+	0.43	Ditch	-	Late medieval +	
12	Fill of 15			Ditch	Horse burial	14th/15th	
13	Fill of 15		0.64	Ditch	1LIA, 2 Rom and 5 med pot; 3 animal bone; 3 cockles and 6/7 mussels; Briquetage X 2	14th/15th	
14	Fill of 15		0.18	Ditch	Fish bones. Rye grains, saw sedge leaf	14th/15th	
15	Cut	2.54+	0.82	Ditch	-	14th/15th	
16	Fill of 17	0.45+	0.15	?Ditch	1?Roman pot sherd	?Roman	
17	Cut	0.45+	0.15	?Ditch	-	?Roman	
18	Fill of 19	0.83+	0.35	Ditch	1 med	Medieval	
19	Cut	0.83+	0.35	Ditch	-	Medieval	
20	Layer		0.27m	Hardcore	-	Modern	

## APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

### C.1 Metal Work

*By Steve Critchley*

#### **Medieval**

- C.1.1 A small copper-alloy medieval object was found unstratified (99999) by metal detector next to Trench 2, opposite late medieval ditch **15**. This was probably part of a decorative mount.

### C.2 Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery

*By Alice Lyons*

#### **Iron Age**

- C.2.1 There was a single rim from a hand made Late Iron Age jar in a shell tempered fabric (Context 13; 61g).

#### **Roman**

- C.2.2 There were two Roman sherds (3g) from context 13. A Nene Valley colour coated beaker with rouletted decoration (2g). Late 2nd/3rd century. One sherd of Oxford red ware (1g). 4th century.
- C.2.3 A probable Roman grey ware sherd was recovered from context 16; (6g). 1st-4th century.

### C.3 Medieval Pottery

*By Carole Fletcher*

- C.3.1 A very small collection of nine medieval sherds was recovered from five features (76g). The assemblage consisted of probable Ely Ware sherds and EMW (Early Medieval Ware).
- C.3.2 Context 3, 1 sherd (3g) ?EMW (1050-1200);  
Context 5, 1 sherd (6g) ?EMW (1050-1200);  
Context 8 ,1 sherd (26g) Ely Ware (1150-1350);  
Context 13, 5 sherds (33g). 1 green glaze Ely ware sherd (1200-1350), 1? Ely Ware, 2? EMW and 1 unknown.  
Context 18, 1 sherd (8g) ?EMW (1050-1200).



## C.4 Briquetage

*By Rob Atkins*

C.4.1 Nine small undiagnostic fragments of briquetage weighing a total of 97g were recovered from three medieval features:

Context 3, three fragments (52g)

Context 8, four fragments (41g)

Context 13, two fragments (4g).

## APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### D.1 Faunal Remains

*By Chris Faine*

- D.1.1 Three animal bone fragments (238g) were recovered from medieval ditch **15**. The three fragments comprised two cattle bones and part of a young sheep. The horse burial was only partially exposed and was left *in situ* - it has not been seen by the faunal specialist.

### D.2 Environmental samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction and methods**

- D.2.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- D.2.2 Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 1.

#### **Results**

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
1	6	7	cereal grains - wheat, barley, oats and rye, saw sedge leaf, beans ( <i>Vicia faba</i> ), peas ( <i>Pisum/lathyrus</i> ), grass seeds ( <i>Poaceae</i> )	Small mammal bones, pottery, charcoal
2	3	4	charcoal <2mm, saw sedge, occ grain (abraded), small bones, duckweed	Animal bone, fish bones, charcoal
3	14	15	rye grains, saw sedge leaf and nutlet loads of duckweed, cleaver ( <i>Gallium</i> sp) seeds	Animal bone

*Table 1 Environmental sample results*

### **Preservation**

D.2.3 The samples all contain plant remains preserved by carbonisation.

### **Plant Remains**

#### **Cereals**

D.2.4 Charred cereal grains are present in all of the samples; Sample 1, context 6 contains a wheat (*Triticum* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and oat (*Avena* sp.) grains. The occasional cereals in Sample 2, context 3 are very abraded. Sample 3, context 14 contains rye grains only. No chaff elements occur.

#### **Weed seeds**

D.2.5 Samples contain occasional charred weed seeds including cleavers (*Gallium aparine*) and grass seeds (*Poaceae*).

#### **Legumes**

D.2.6 Beans (*Vicia faba*), and peas (*Pisum/lathyrus* sp.) occur in Sample 1.

D.2.7 Charred stems of saw-sedge (*Cladium mariscus*) occur in all of the samples.

D.2.8 Duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) nutlets occur in Samples 2 and 3.

#### **Ecofacts and Artefacts**

D.2.9 A pot sherd was recovered from the residue of Sample 1, context 6. Elements of animal bone occur in all three samples and a fish bone was recovered from Sample 2, context 3.

#### **Contamination**

D.2.10 Modern roots were present in large quantities in all of the samples.

### **Discussion**

D.2.11 The plant remains in this assemblage consist of cereal grains occasional weed seeds and saw-sedge. The grains may have been accidentally burnt during cooking over open fires. Barley was often used for animal fodder but may have been used for human consumption in the form of bread, soup and was also used for the brewing of beer. No germinated grains were recovered to suggest brewing activities. Rye did not become an important crop until the Saxon and medieval period (Van der Veen, 1992).

D.2.12 Saw sedge was one of the major vegetation types of the Fen and was commonly used as fuel.

D.2.13 Duckweed seeds indicate standing or slow-flowing water suggesting that the ditch may have been seasonally wet.

#### **Further Work and Methods Statement**

D.2.14 In summary, the plant remains recovered from this site are dominated by crop plants, both cereals and legumes, along with other dietary refuse in the form of animal bones. No further work is required on this assemblage.

D.2.15 If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and possible weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

### **D.3 Shells**

*By Rob Atkins*

D.3.1 There were nine or ten shells recovered from context 13. These comprised 3 cockles and 6/7 mussels.

## APPENDIX E. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Andrews, P., 2006 'Romano-British and medieval saltmaking and settlement at Main Road, Parson Drove, Cambridgeshire', *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.* 95, 25-48

British Geological Survey (BGS) 1984 Peterborough Sheet 158 Solid and Drift Edition 1:50, 000 series

Hall, D., 1996 The Fenland Project Number 10: Cambridgeshire Survey, Isle of Ely and Wisbech E. *Anglian Archaeol.* 79

McConnell, D., 2010 Design Brief for archaeological evaluation, land east and south of the Butchers Arms, Main Road, Parson Drove Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) dated January 22nd 2010 (unpublished)

Mortimer, R., 2010 Specification for archaeological evaluation, the Butcher's Arms, Parson Drove Oxford Archaeology East (unpublished)

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Stevens, C., 2006 'Charred plants and other remains', in Andrews, P., 'Romano-British and medieval saltmaking and settlement at Main Road, Parson Drove, Cambridgeshire', *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.* 95, 40-41

Van der Veen M. 1992. *Crop Husbandry Regimes. An Archaeobotanical Study of Farming in Northern England: 1000 BC - AD 500*. Sheffield, JR Collis Publications.

## APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-73147			
Project Name	Roman and medieval remains to the south of the Butcher's Arms, Main Road, Parson Drove, Nr. Wisbech, Cambridgeshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	22-02-2010	Finish	25-02-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PDRBUT10	Planning App. No.	F/YR05/0935/F
HER No.	CHER ECB 3339	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Housing Estate

### 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input 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
Roman ditches	Roman 43 to 410	Briquetage, Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
Medieval ditches	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
	Select period...	Horse burial	Medieval 1066 to 1540

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Fenland	Behind the Butchers Arms Main Street Parson Drove Nr. Wisbech, Cambs PE13 4JA	
Parish	Parson Drove		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.1ha	National Grid Reference	TF 3742 0853

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell, CAPCA
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer OA East
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Rob Atkins

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Landbeach	OA East	CCC Landbeach
PDRBUT10	PDRBUT10	PDRBUT10

## Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<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 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	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid black;"></div>	
Excavated Slot	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"></div>	
Modern Deposit	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #a4c6e0; border: 1px solid black;"></div>	
Cut Number		<b>118</b>

### 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		<b>118</b>
Deposit Number		117
Ordnance Datum		18.45m OD 
Inclusions		

Convention Key





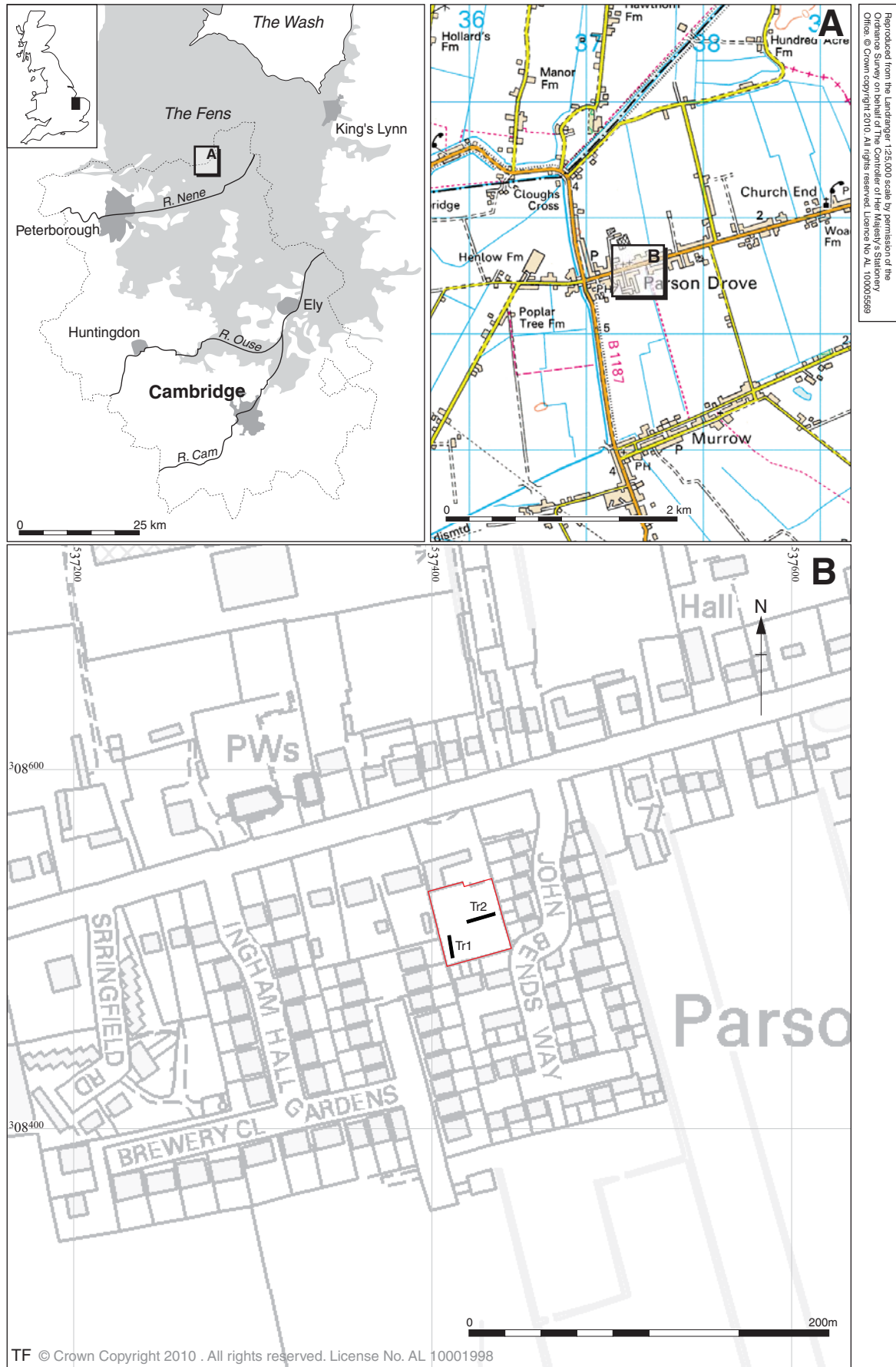


Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)



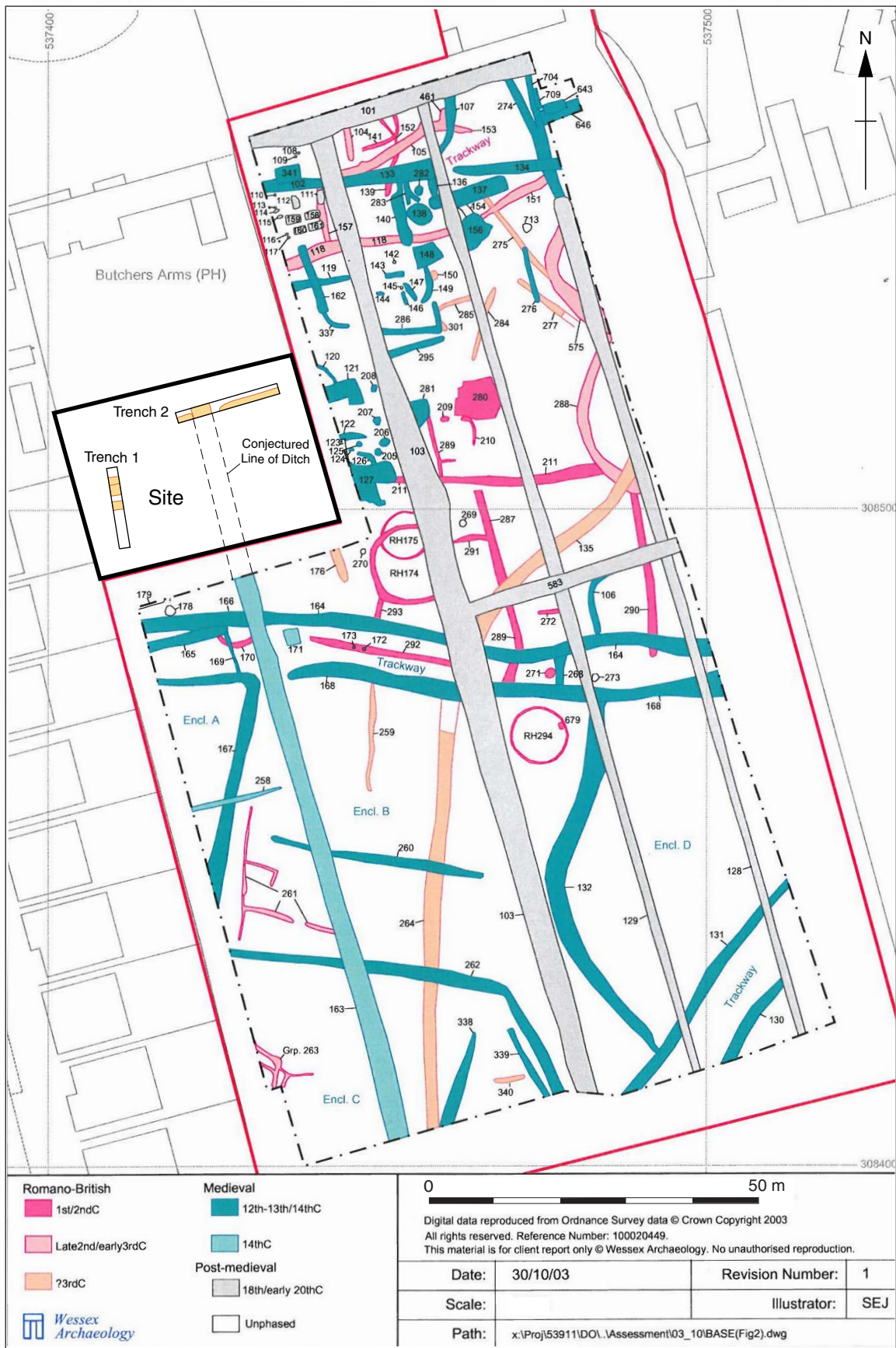


Figure 2: Trench location in relation to previous archaeological work (© Wessex Archaeology, published with kind permission)



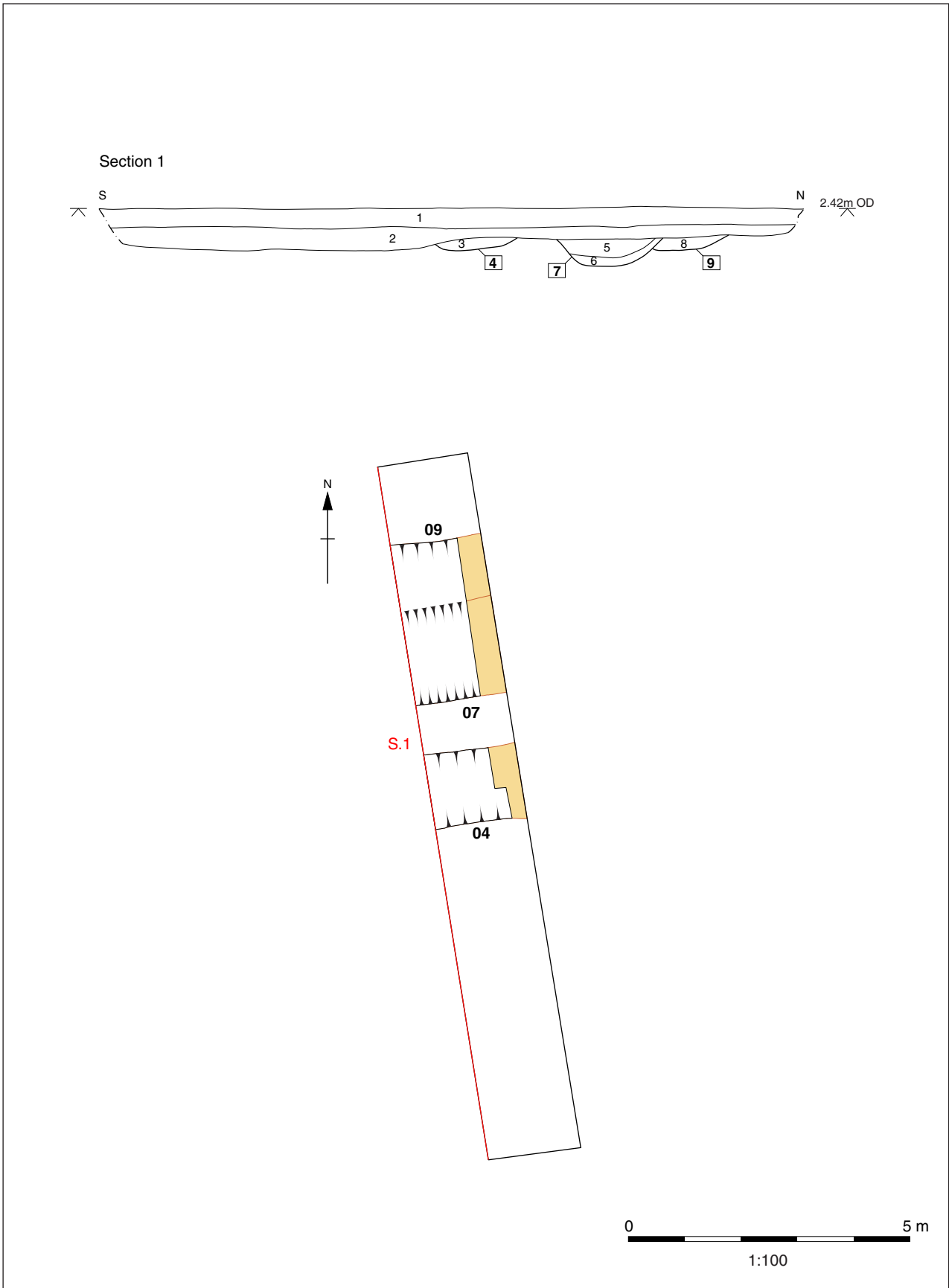


Figure 3: Trench 1 (plan and section)



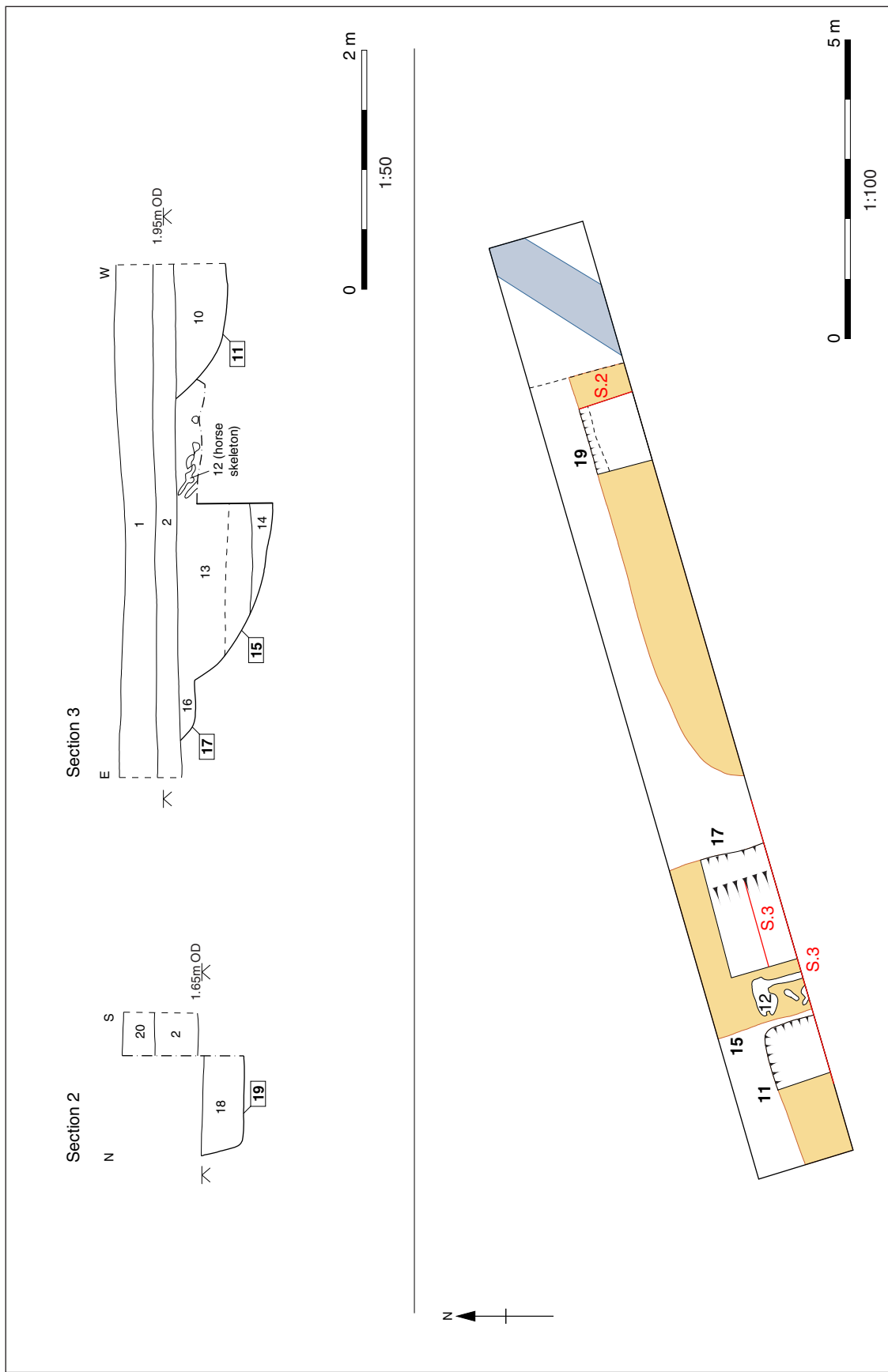


Figure 4: Trench 2 (plan and section)







Plate 1: Horse (12) within ditch **15** looking south





#### **Head Office/Registered Office**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:info@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: [oeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:oeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oeast>

#### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Maugeio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto:oamed@oamed.fr)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*