

Archaeological Evaluation at Cherry Hinton Junior School Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2011

Client: Cambridgeshire County Council

OA East Report No: 1248

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Archaeological Evaluation at Cherry Hinton Junior School, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: March 2011

Report Number: 1248
Site Name: Cherry Hinton Junior School
HER Event No: ECB 3425
Date of Works: February 2011
Client Name: Capita for Cambridgeshire County Council
Client Ref: n/a
Planning Ref: n/a
Grid Ref: TL 493 568
Site Code: CAM CHJ10
Finance Code: CAM CHJ10
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No: CAMCHJ 0
Prepared by: Nick Gilmour
Position: Supervisor
Date: March 2011
Checked by: Elizabeth Popescu
Position: Project Manager
Date: March 2011
Signed:

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Summary

Between 21st and 23rd February 2011, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation in the grounds of Cherry Hinton Junior School, Cambridgeshire. This was in advance of the construction of an extension to the school and a new all weather pitch. Three trenches were excavated, which revealed evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, aligned perpendicular to Fulbourn Old Drift, reinforcing the idea that this represents an old droving route.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Cherry Hinton Junior School, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA 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 Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). 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 stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site overlies the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation c. 700m to the north of the spring line of the Tottenhoe Stone (BGS sheet 205).
- 1.2.2 The site lies immediately to the side of the Fulbourn Old Drift, (Fig. 1) an old (droving) road from Fulbourn (to the east) to the Cam (to the west). The Old Drift runs directly past the church of St Andrews, the presumed core of the Anglo-Saxon village. At the southern end of the village lies the springhead, a water source exploited since at least the Bronze Age.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Archaeology to the South

- 1.3.1 An Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record: CHER 04827) was found on the Netherhall Lower School site during the digging of Allotment Gardens, prior to the construction of the Lower School. Two disc or bell barrows (CHER 04964, 04965) were recorded during quarrying 140/180m from the War Ditches monument (see below)(CHER 04963a). Grooved ware and Beaker pottery was also recovered.
- 1.3.2 The Early Iron Age ringwork of War Ditches monument is located just over 1km to the south-southwest of the proposed development site. Identified first during quarrying in 1893 it was excavated most recently by OA East in 2009 (Pickstone and Mortimer forthcoming).
- 1.3.3 A Roman settlement was also recorded on the War Ditches site (CHER 04963b) dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD. This included at least two buildings, a palisade and ditches, a well, pottery kiln, pits and burials. 'Celtic fields' are also recorded 460m to the south-east (CHER 04830). Roman pottery and a skeleton were also found to the west of War Ditches (CHER 05126, 05126a) during quarrying.
- 1.3.4 A small 6th/7th century Saxon cemetery (CHER 04965a) found at the War ditches site consisted of secondary inhumations within the Bronze Age barrows and contained a

range of grave goods including spears, knives, iron and copper alloy objects, bone combs, pottery and a crystal ball mounted on bronze.

Archaeology to the North

- 1.3.5 Recent years have seen several archaeological interventions in the vicinity of the Church of St Andrews (Church End), including both evaluation trenching and full excavation.
- 1.3.6 Towards the west of the area at Church End (ECB 149 & 1318), Romano-British and Middle Saxon occupation have been identified. In addition earlier findspots indicate the presence of Early Saxon furnished burials on the south side of Coldham's Lane (MCB 5583). Other Historical Environment Record (HER) entries within the immediate area include Roman pottery, ditches and wells (MCB 6282, MCB 5584, MCB 5868 and 5869).
- 1.3.7 Further to the east along the northern side of Church End, a range of remains include a Late Saxon and medieval settlement, perhaps originally based around a large enclosure containing a proto-manorial complex, and aligned with the ancient routeway from Church End/Hinton to Cambridge (known as The Old Drift). This central enclosure also included a Late Saxon church and graveyard, believed to have been abandoned by the 12th century (ECB 148). The later medieval occupation may have been centred on the existing parish church along with other elements of the known post-medieval village. In addition medieval wells containing several whole pots were recovered from the Coldham's Lane cement works in the 1950s, in a location without obvious properties of this date. The medieval occupation of Church End and Hinton is not completely understood and it is possible that the subject site includes other, yet to be identified, elements in the medieval settlement landscape of Cherry Hinton.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Capita who commissioned the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. Particular thanks go to the school caretaker, Paul, for his assistance and interest on site. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. Nick Gilmour carried out the fieldwork. The excavation was monitored for Cambridgeshire County Council by Andy Thomas. The mechanical excavator was provided by Lattenbury Services.

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 85 linear metres of trenching were excavated. Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 7.5 ton rubber tracked 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.2 The site survey was carried out by Rachel Clarke using a Leica 1200 GPS.
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 Site conditions were not good, with frequent rain showers hampering the work. In addition a complex network of drainage pipes was encountered. This prevented the trenches being excavated in the locations originally planned.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Details of each trench and context are given in Appendix A, while a summary is presented here. No finds were recovered from any of the features described below.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was located at the south-west of the area and ran on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig. 2 and Plate 1).

Furrows 6 and 12

3.2.2 Two furrows were recorded in trench 1, both ran on the same north-east to south-west alignment. Furrow **6** had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a maximum width of 1.02m and depth of 0.06m. It was filled by a mid greyish brown, silty clay (5).

3.2.3 Furrow **12** had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a maximum width of 0.80m and depth of 0.04m. It was filled by a mid greyish brown, silty clay (11), which contained no finds.

Natural features 4, 8 and 10

3.2.4 A series of natural features, most likely tree bowls, were identified in this trench. These were concentrated towards the north-western end of the trench. They were generally irregular in plan, with undulating bases and diffuse edges.

3.2.5 Feature **4** was located right at the north-west end of the trench and continued out of the excavated area to the south-west. It had a maximum length of 2.90m, width of 0.70m and depth of 0.16m visible in the trench. It was filled by a dark brownish grey, silty clay (3), which contained no finds. Feature **4** cut ditch **6**.

3.2.6 Feature **8** was located to the south-east of feature **4** and continued out of the excavated area. It had a maximum length of 0.75m, width of 0.48m and depth of 0.18m visible in the trench. It was filled by a mid brownish grey, silty clay (7).

3.2.7 Feature **10** was sub-rectangular in plan, with a length of 1.10m, a width of 0.56m and a depth of 0.06m. It was filled by a mid greyish brown, silty clay (9).

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 There were three furrows identified in this trench (Fig. 2 Plate 2). Two of these were excavated.

Furrows 14 and 16

3.3.2 Both of these furrows ran on the same north-east to south-west alignment as those identified in Trench 1 and are likely to be related to them. Furrow **14** had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.48m and a depth of 0.02m. It was filled by a mid greyish brown, silty clay (13).

3.3.3 Furrow **16** had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.56m and a depth of 0.08m. It was filled by 15, which had the same character as fill 13 described above.

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 There were two features recorded in Trench 3, a furrow and a possible ditch (Fig. 3).

Possible Ditch 18

- 3.4.2 Feature **18** ran on a north-north-east to south-south west alignment. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.82m and a depth of 0.08m. It was filled by a mid-pale greyish brown silty sand (17). It may represent a furrow, but appeared to be on a slightly different alignment than the others.

Furrow 20

- 3.4.3 Furrow **20** ran on the same north-east to south-west alignment as the furrows identified in Trenches 1 and 2. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.46m and a depth of 0.08m. It was filled by a mid greyish brown, silty sand (19).

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 Two sherds of 19th century transfer printed ware were recovered from the subsoil in Trench 1. These were not retained. There were no other finds from the site.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Ridge and Furrow Cultivation

4.1.1 Furrows were identified across the site, running on a north-east to south-west alignment, perpendicular to the current line on Fulbourn Old Drift; the road adjacent to the site. These furrows are the remains of a ridge and furrow cultivations system, a largely medieval and post-medieval practice. In part these furrows are produced by primitive ploughing, although sometimes they were deliberately created to improve drainage or for other agricultural benefit.

4.1.2 It is of note that the furrows are all perpendicular to Fulbourn Old Drift, suggesting that the line of this route was in existence during the medieval period. Fulbourn Old Drift sits on a marked rise above the site and there was no evidence of truncation of the topsoil or subsoil in Trench 1, parallel to the route. This rise could represent a headland, or even a causeway built up on this route prior to the road's construction.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 This evaluation has shown that this site was outside of any settlement area. However, the presence of ridge and furrow shows that this area was in use as agricultural land during the medieval or post-medieval period. The orientation of the furrows supports the notion that the line of Fulbourn Old Drift is at least medieval in origin.

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. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained two furrows and three tree bowls, no artefacts were recovered from these features.					Max. depth (m)	0.64	
					Width (m)	1.5	
					Length (m)	15.6	
Contexts							
context no	type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-
3	Fill	>2.90	>0.70	0.16	Fill of tree bowl 4	-	-
4	Cut	>2.90	>0.70	0.16	Tree bowl	-	-
5	Fill	>1.50	1.02	0.06	Fill of furrow 6	-	-
6	Cut	>1.50	1.02	0.06	Furrow	-	medieval/ post-medieval
7	Fill	>0.75	0.48	0.18	Fill of tree bowl 8	-	-
8	Cut	>0.75	0.48	0.18	Tree bowl	-	-
9	Fill	1.10	0.56	0.06	Fill of tree bowl 10	-	-
10	Cut	1.10	0.56	0.06	Tree bowl	-	-
11	Fill	>1.50	0.80	0.04	Fill of furrow 12	-	-
12	Cut	>1.50	0.80	0.04	Furrow	-	medieval/ post-medieval

Trench 2							
General description					Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained three furrows, two of which were excavated, no artefacts were recovered from these features.					Max. depth (m)	0.62	
					Width (m)	1.5	
					Length (m)	21.2	
Contexts							
context no	type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
13	Fill	>1.60	0.48	0.02	Fill of furrow 14	-	-
14	Cut	>1.60	0.48	0.02	Furrow	-	medieval/ post-medieval
15	Fill	>1.60	0.56	0.08	Fill of furrow 16	-	-
16	Cut	>1.60	0.56	0.08	Furrow	-	medieval/ post-medieval

Trench 3							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained a furrow and a possible ditch, no artefacts were recovered from these features.					Max. depth (m)	0.62	
					Width (m)	1.5	
					Length (m)	35.7	
Contexts							
context no	type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
17	Fill	>1.50	0.82	0.08	Fill of furrow 18	-	-
18	Cut	>1.50	0.82	0.08	Furrow	-	medieval/ post-medieval
19	Fill	>1.50	0.45	0.08	Fill of possible ditch 20	-	-
20	Cut	>1.50	0.45	0.08	Possible ditch	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Pickstone, A and Mortimer, R. forthcoming. War Ditches, Cherry Hinton: Revisiting an Iron Age Hillfort. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*.

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-94250			
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Cherry Hinton Junior school, Cambridgeshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	21-02-2011	Finish	23-02-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMCHJ10	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	ECB 3425	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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
ridge and furrow	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	cambridge city	Cherry hinton Junior School, Fulbourn Old drift, Cherry Hinton, CB1 9ND	
Parish	Cambridge		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.25ha	National Grid Reference	TL 493 568

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
N/A	OA East, Bar Hill	CCC stores
Accession ID ...	CAM CHJ10	CAM CHJ 10

Archive Contents/Media









	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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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"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media	Paper Media
<input 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
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<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey





Notes:

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Development Area	
Limit of Excavation	
Break of Slope	
Illustrated Section	
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Natural Feature	
Subsoil	
Cut Number	118

Sections

Cut	
Deposit Horizon	
Top Surface/Top of Natural	
Limit of Section Drawing	
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	$\overline{18.45\text{m OD}}$



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Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined red

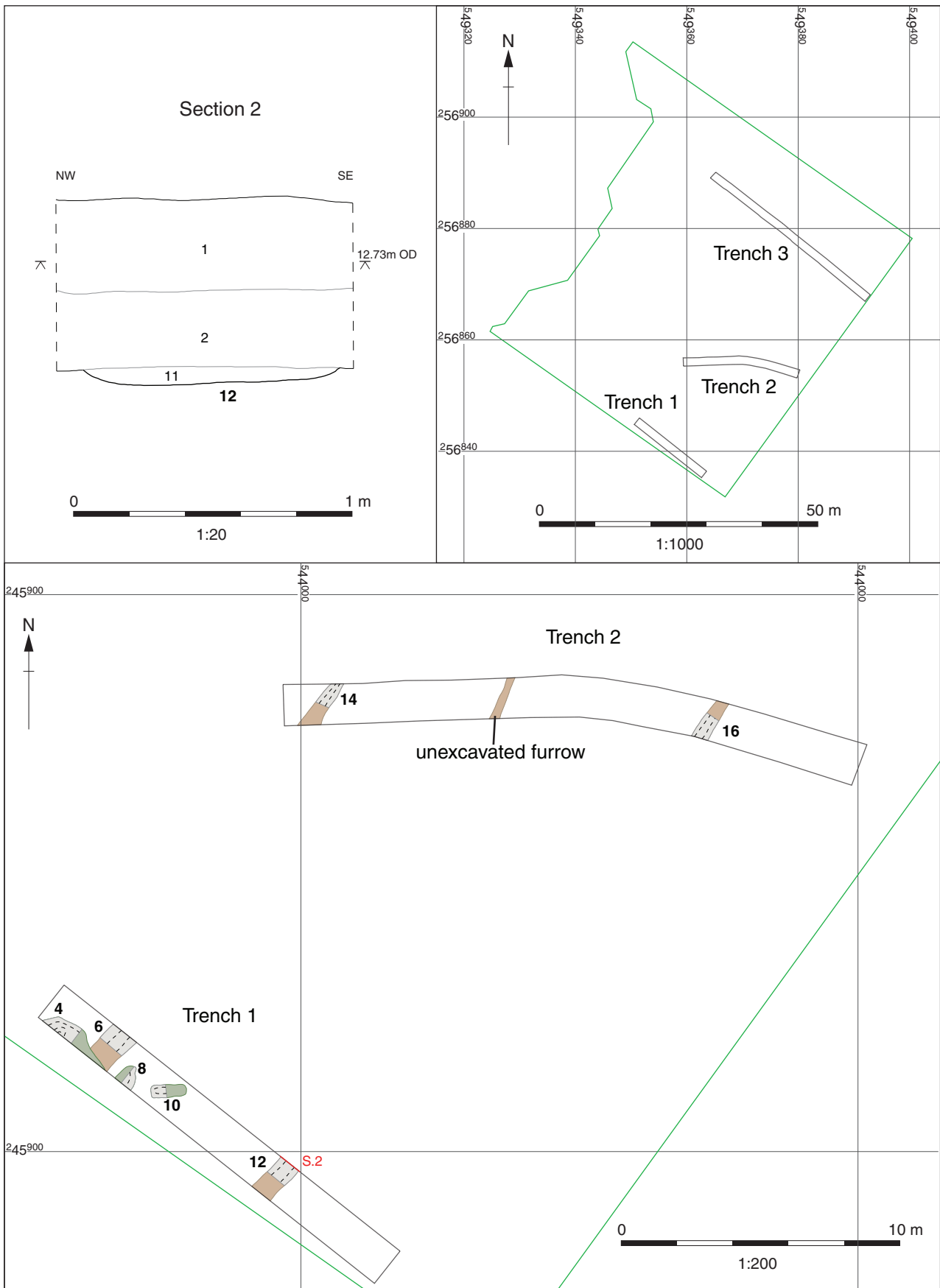


Figure 2: Plan of Trenches 1 & 2, and Section 2

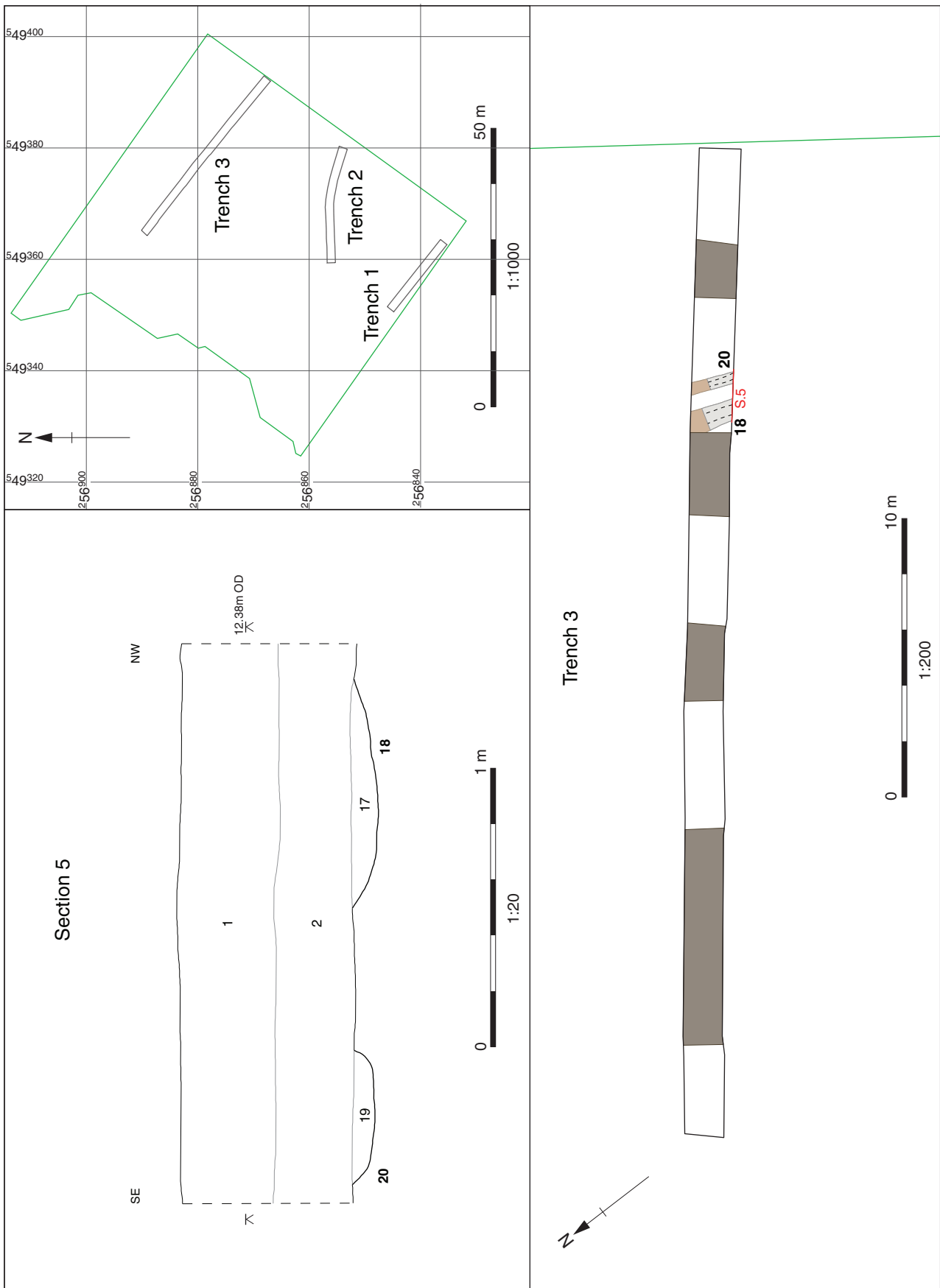


Figure 3: Trench 3 plan and Section 5



Plate 2: Trench 2 from the West



Plate 1: Trench 1 from the North-west



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