

Archaeological Evaluation
at 4 St Audrey Lane,
St. Ives,
Cambridgeshire



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



May 2013

Client: Orchid Properties

OA East Report No: 1460

OASIS No: oxfordar3-147716

NGR: TL 3137 7216

**Archaeological Evaluation at 4 St. Audrey Lane,
St. Ives, Cambridgeshire**

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Report Date: May 2013

Report Number: 1460
Site Name: 4 St. Audrey Lane, St Ives, Cambridgeshire
HER Event No: ECB3935
Date of Works: 8th April 2013
Client Name: Orchid Properties
Client Ref: n/a
Planning Ref: 1201770FUL
Grid Ref: TL 3137 7216
Site Code: STISAL13
Finance Code: STISAL13
Receiving Body: Cambridgeshire Stores
Accession No: STISAL13
Prepared by: Taleyna Fletcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: May 2013
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Summary

On the 8th April 2013, Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at 4 St. Audrey Lane, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire.

St. Audrey Lane lies to the north of the historic core of St Ives which developed along the river, with a dispersed rural hinterland beyond characterised by isolated farms.

The evaluation consisted of three machine excavated trenches, two 7.5m long trenches at the front of the existing bungalow and one 15m long trench in the back garden. All trenches contained topsoil and subsoil over a natural Oxford clay.

Services were encountered in the trenches at the front of the house, however no archaeology was found in any of the trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at 4 St. Audrey Lane , St Ives (TL 3137 7216 (Figure 1). The development area, referred to from here on as “the site” lies approximately 0.8km to the north of the historic core of St. Ives (Figure 1). The site comprised a single storey bungalow and garage which are both scheduled for demolition. There was unrestricted access to all parts of the site which was accessed directly from St. Audrey Lane.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in response to a Brief from Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (Gdaniec 2013), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Connor 2013). The Specification included a proposed trench design which was approved prior to the start of the works.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development by Orchid Properties (Planning Application ref 1201770FUL) is for the demolition of an existing house, and the erection of 4 bungalows with services and access on the same plot. Due to the high archaeological potential of the site a condition was placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 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 development area lies on Oxford Clay Formation to the north of the First-Second River Terrace deposits and the alluviated floodplain of the River Great Ouse, at an approximate elevation of 8mOD.

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 The site is located on St. Audrey Lane which is shown as Tawdrey Lane on the 1768 Jeffrys map but had taken on its modern name of St. Audrey by the time of the Enclosure map (1808), an earlier map by Edward Pettiss (1728) shows the road but it is unmarked, although a field to the north of the lane is named as St. Audrey.
- 1.3.2 St Audrey Lane lies to the north of the historic core of St Ives which developed along the river, with a dispersed rural hinterland beyond characterised by isolated farms. St. Audrey Lane extends eastwards from Green End towards Needingworth.
- 1.3.3 St Ives was known as Slepe in the Anglo Saxon period, the settlement was probably originally close to the Parish Church of All Saints approximately 500m to the south-west of the site. It is thought that the Anglo-Saxon settlement originally extended northwards along modern Ramsey Road in the district known as “The Green”, it later (early medieval) shifted focus to the area known as “The Street” which is on an east-west alignment parallel with the river.
- 1.3.4 Green End was a historic settlement at the north end of “The Green” at its junction with St. Audrey lane and Houghton Road. The site of a 16th century red brick barn once

stood here, it was known as 'Oliver Cromwell's Barn' and was demolished in the 1960s (MCB4361, SAM51).

- 1.3.5 Excavation at Green End house in 2001 (J. Abrams, CCC AFU report 194, unpublished) revealed evidence for late Saxon/Saxo-Norman and 12th to 14th century domestic activity. Green End house was in a large area of "common" land in the medieval period. The green is recorded in court rolls from 1281 AD. Pettis survey of 1728 records the existence of meadows known as the Hows to the west of the Green and shows how the green had been reduced by settlements, which had encroached on to it.
- 1.3.6 Other than this small excavation the St. Audrey Lane area has not previously been subject to archaeological investigations and few records exist that indicate the character and type of archaeological remains. These mainly relate to prehistoric finds including an awl made from deer horn Iron Age pottery, and Neolithic flints (eg MCB4360, 4417, 4365).
- 1.3.7 Finds dating to the Romano-British period have also been found in the general area, although all are at least 500m or more away.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Orchid Properties who commissioned and funded the work. The site was excavated and surveyed by the author. Thanks are also expressed to Lucy Offord (illustrations), the project was managed by Aileen Connor.

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 Three trenches were excavated, two 7.5m trenches at the front of the existing bungalow and one 15m trench in the back garden, all orientated approximately east-west (Figures 1 and 2).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB digger with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately and re-instated during back-filling at the end of the evaluation.
- 2.2.3 A Leica GPS 1200 system was used by the author to located the trenches on the ordnance survey grid. The trenches were positioned according to a pre-agreed trench plan.
- 2.2.4 Trench sections were recorded at appropriate scales and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits supplemented by digital photographs using an Olympus M760 7.1mega pixel camera.

2.3 Site Conditions

- 2.3.1 Weather conditions were good with occasional sunshine. Due to a high water-table following a very wet summer and autumn, rising water started to appear in the trenches. This did not prevent identification of any archaeological features which may have been present.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Results are presented in the following sections, numerically by trench. Basic trench information is also summarised in Appendix B.
- 3.1.2 Figures 1 and 2 show the location of all trenches and Figure 3 provides trench section drawings.

3.2 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

- 3.2.1 This trench was located at the front of the existing bungalow, orientated approximately east – west, running parallel with St. Audrey Lane. It measured 7.5m in length and 1.6m wide with a maximum depth of 0.85m (0.35m of topsoil and 0.50m of subsoil) (Figure 3, Section 1).
- 3.2.2 Several service pipes, cables and a drain were encountered during machining, these were left *in-situ* and machining continued around them (Plate 1). Despite these modern intrusions, the level of the natural clay was reached in most of the trench and no archaeological features were present.

Trench 2

- 3.2.3 This trench was located at the front of the existing bungalow, orientated approximately east – west, running parallel with St. Audrey Lane. It measured 7.5m in length and 1.6m wide with a maximum depth of 0.95m (0.40m of topsoil and 0.55m of subsoil) (Figure 3, Section 2).
- 3.2.4 Two service pipes were encountered during machining, these were left *in-situ* and machining continued around them (plate 2). Despite these modern intrusions, the level of the natural clay was reached in most of the trench and no archaeological features were present.

Trench 3

- 3.2.5 This trench was located at the rear of the existing bungalow, orientated approximately west-northwest to east-southeast. It measured 15m in length and 1.6m wide with a maximum depth of 0.70m (0.30m of topsoil and 0.40m of subsoil) (Figure 3, Section 3).
- 3.2.6 There were no services or modern intrusions within this trench (Plate 3) and no archaeological features were present.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 No archaeological finds or ecofacts were recovered.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 No archaeology was found to be surviving within the proposed development area. This would suggest that it is located beyond the area of known settlement of Green End and the historic core of St Ives. It may well have been positioned with the known area of a dispersed rural hinterland beyond the settlement areas, characterised by isolated farms.
- 4.1.2 Despite the presence of a number of modern intrusions from service cables and drains, these were all relatively high in the sequence and an average coverage of 0.80m of topsoil and subsoil protected any potential features within the site.

4.2 Conclusions

- 4.2.1 The evaluation has been successful in achieving the project aims: 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. It has recorded an absence of any surviving archaeological features within this part of the town which has been subject to very little previous investigation.

APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-------------|------|--|
| Connor, A. | 2013 | Specification for Archaeological Evaluation : 4
St. Audrey Lane, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire |
| Gdaniec, K. | 2013 | Brief for Archaeological Evaluation : Land at 4
St. Audrey Lane, St. Ives |

APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Modern services. No archaeological features present.				Avg. depth (m)		0.85
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		7.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
01	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
02	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Modern services. No archaeological features present.				Avg. depth (m)		0.95
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		7.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
01	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
02	Layer	-	0.55	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		WNW-ESE
Modern services. No archaeological features present.				Avg. depth (m)		0.70
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		15
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
01	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
02	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-147716		
Project Name	4 St. Audrey's Lane, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	08-04-2013	Finish	08-04-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STISAL13	Planning App. No.	1201770FUL
HER No.	ECB 3935	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Urban Residential

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 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
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Huntingdonshire	4 St. Audrey's Lane St. Ives Cambridgeshire, PE27 3NH	
Parish	Saint Ives		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	0.12ha	National Grid Reference	TL 3137 7216

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Cambridgeshire HET
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher

Project Archives

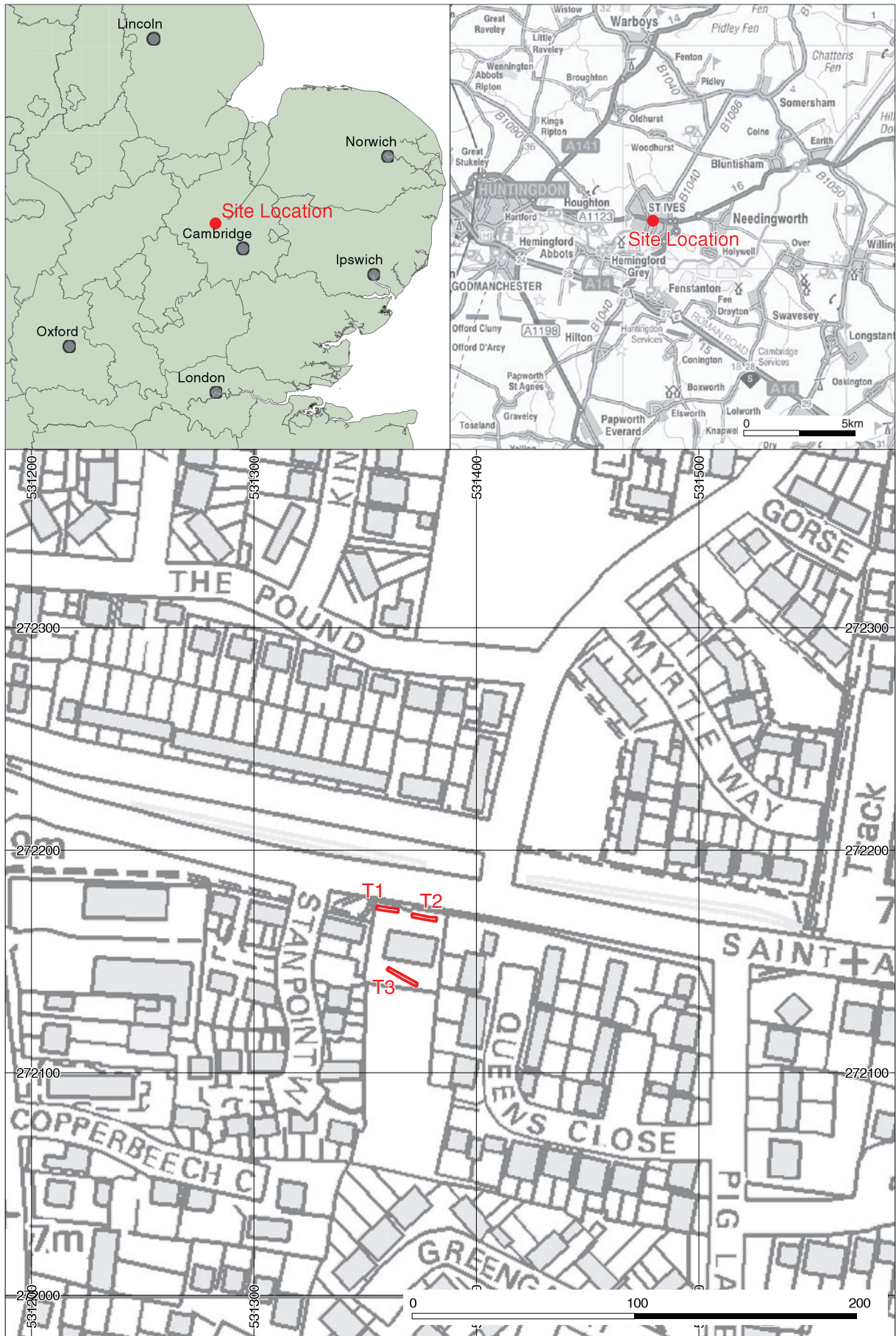
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambridgeshire Stores	OA East Offices, Bar Hill	Cambridgeshire Stores
STISAL13	STISAL13	STISAL13

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"/>
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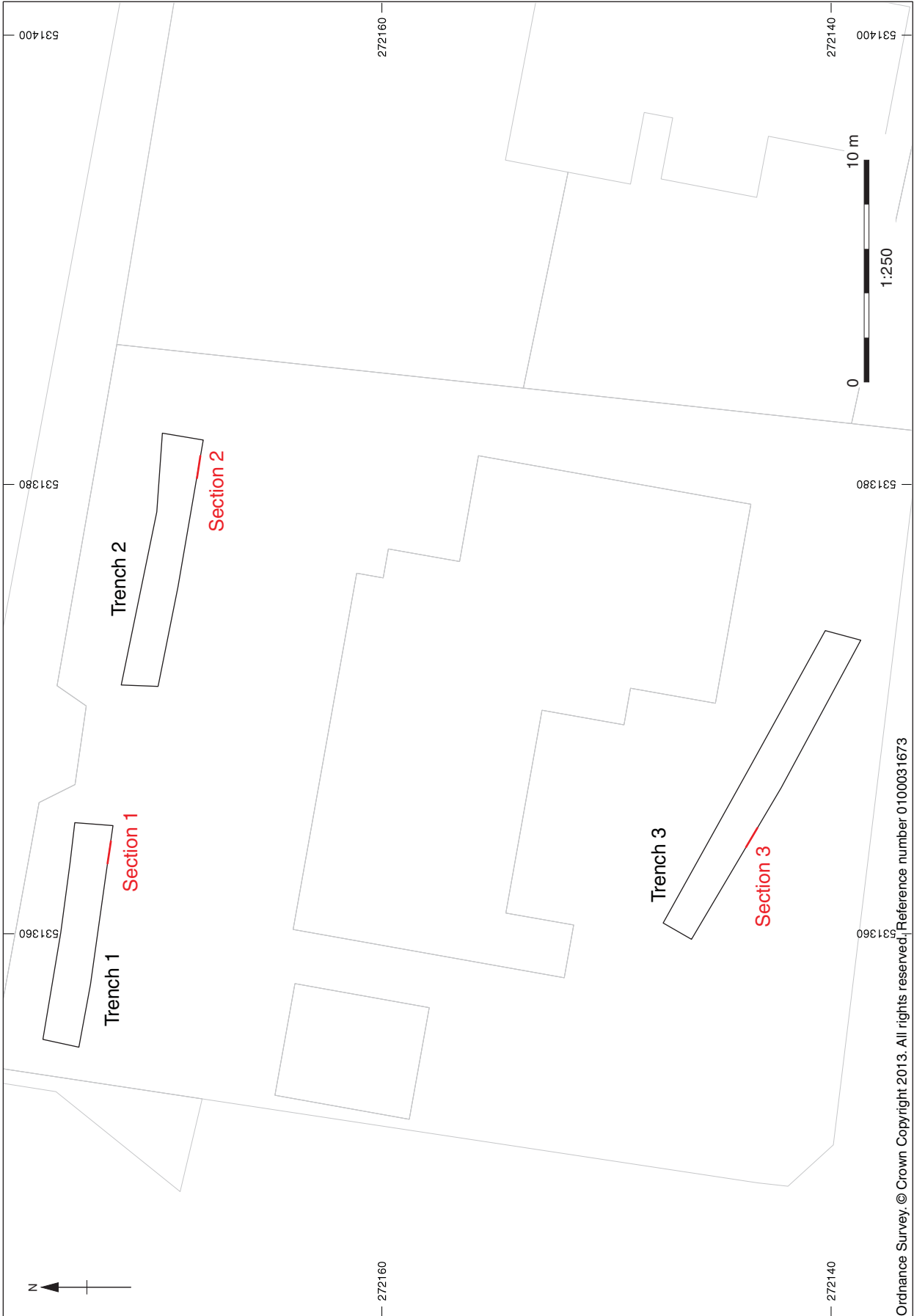
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



Ordnance Survey. © Crown Copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Reference number 10001998.

Figure 1: Site location with trenches (black) and development area (red)



Ordnance Survey. © Crown Copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Reference number 0100031673

Figure 2: Plan showing trench locations

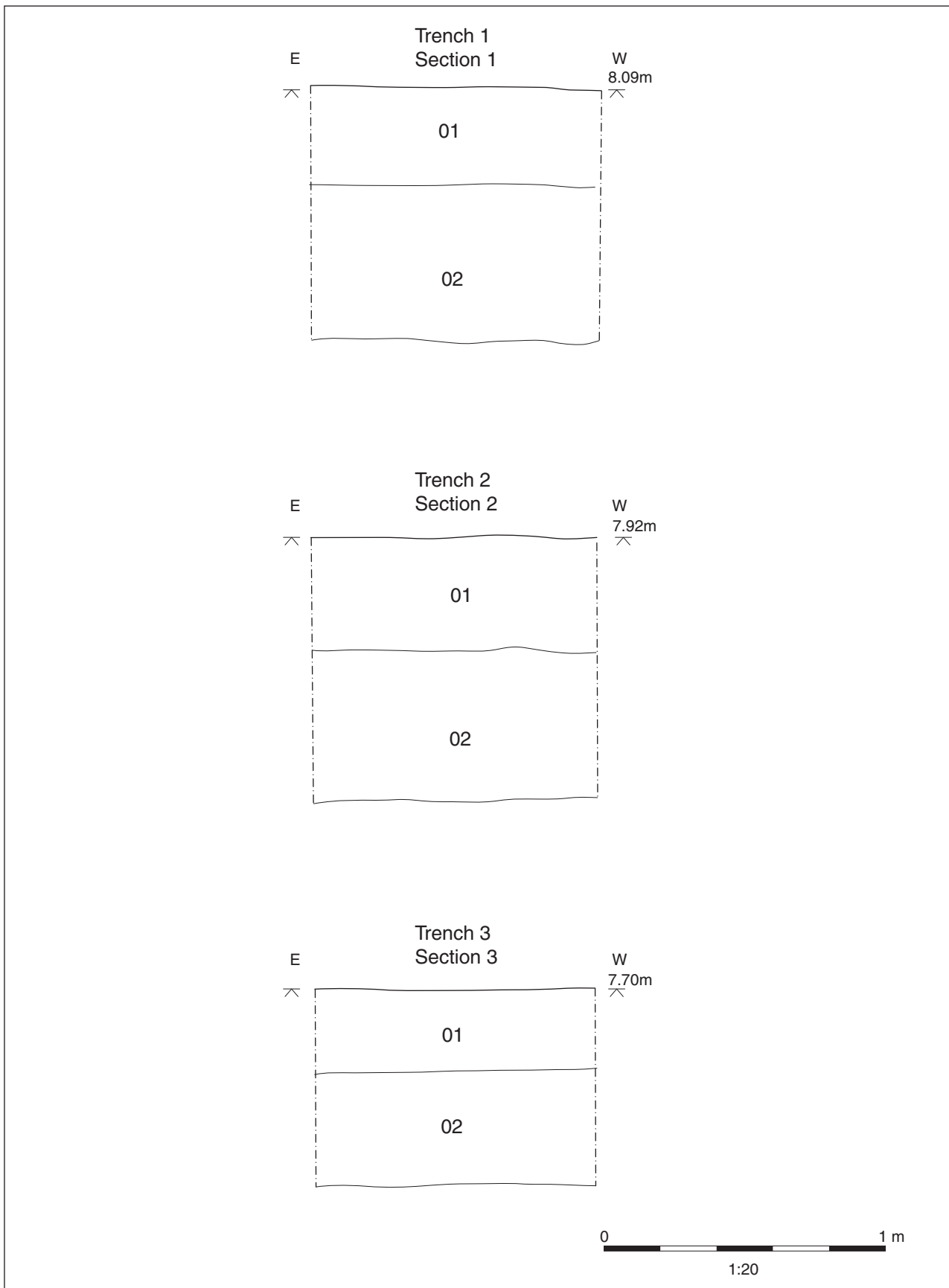


Figure 3: Trench Sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, taken from the east



Plate 2: Trench 2, taken from the east



Plate 3: Trench 3, taken from south-east



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