

# Undated tree throws in a trench at Bell Lane, Barton Mills, Suffolk



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2013

**Client: Tony Carpenter**

OA East Report No: 1449

OASIS No: oxfordar3-145009

NGR: TL 719 736

**Undated tree throws in a trench at Bell Lane, Barton Mills**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Anthony Haskins MSc BSc PlfA*

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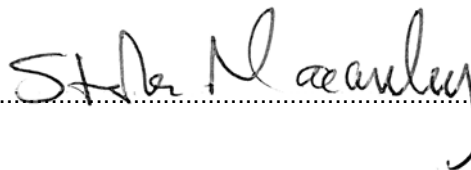
*Report Date: March 2013*

**Report Number:** 1449  
**Site Name:** Plots 4A and 4B, Bell lane, Barton Mills  
**HER Event No:** BTM 056  
**Date of Works:** March 2013  
**Client Name:** Tony Carpenter  
**Client Ref:** 15416  
**Planning Ref:** F/2011/0762/FUL  
**Grid Ref:** TL 719 736  
**Site Code:** BTM 056  
**Finance Code:** XSF BLB 13  
**Receiving Body:** Museum/stores to take archive e.g. CCC Stores, Landbeach

**Accession No:**

Prepared by: Anthony Haskins  
Position: Fieldwork Supervisor  
Date: 6/3/13

Checked by: Stephen Macaulay  
Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: 7/3/13  
Signed: .....



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### **Summary**

*A single trench was excavated on 4th March 2013 at land on Plots 4A and 4B, Bell Lane, Barton Mills, Suffolk (TL 719 736). The trench uncovered three undated tree throws and a small pocket of glacial sand filling an Ice crack. No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at plots 4A and 4B, Bell Lane, Barton Mills (TL 719 736).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by A. Antrobus of Suffolk County Council (Planning Application F/2011/0762/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2013).
- 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). 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 is located on the outskirts of Barton Mills at the southern end of Bell Lane. The site is surrounded by relatively flat farm land and lies at 11m O.D. on a bedrock geology of Holywell nodular chalk and New Pit Chalk formations (BGS 2013).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is largely taken from the records of a 1km HER search for the site. The area around the development area is rich in archaeological remains dating from early prehistory to post-medieval and modern features.

#### ***Prehistoric***

- 1.3.2 A series of prehistoric finds and sites have been identified within the area of the site. The earliest material comes from a flint scatter to the north of the site (MNL 127) which contained a mix of six Mesolithic blade cores, Neolithic material including a leaf shaped arrowhead and chisel, as well as Bronze Age flint work including barbed and tanged arrow heads, slug knives and scrapers.
- 1.3.3 A single Mesolithic blade based tool has also been identified to the north of the site (MNL Misc).
- 1.3.4 A Neolithic polished axe (BTM 002) and flint working and pottery (MNL 499) have been recovered in the region.
- 1.3.5 Towards the south of the site along the line of the Barton Mills A11 bypass is a group of three circular crop marks ranging from c. 26m in diameter to c. 32m in diameter (BTM 005, 006 and 007). Of these BTM 006 was excavated during the construction of the A11 by-pass of Barton Mills, the uncovered ditch was 4m wide and 1.1m deep. Unfortunately no datable artefacts were recovered during the excavation and it is assumed that the crop marks represent Bronze Age features.
- 1.3.6 Bronze Age deposits have also been identified at Grange farm to the west of the site including a bronze blade thought to be a chisel (BTM 029) as well as material and find scatters nearer to Mildenhall, such as a barbed and tanged arrowhead (MNL 314)



### ***Romano-British***

- 1.3.7 A number of Romano-British sites have been found around the proposed development. These are primarily from metal detected finds and artefact scatters identified by fieldwalking (BTM 014, 029, 039, MNL 127, MNL 166, MNL 499 and MNL Misc).
- 1.3.8 Sandford's nursery site uncovered nine pits assumed to be chalk extraction pits and tentatively dated as Roman-British (BTM 033).
- 1.3.9 A Roman cremation cemetery was also located during the construction of a pond towards the north of the site, although the location of the pond is unclear (BTM 001).
- 1.3.10 To the west of the site ground works along Grange lane uncovered undated features as well as Romano-British pottery (BTM 015).

### ***Anglo-Saxon***

- 1.3.11 Evidence for Saxon occupation within the area of the site has been identified at the Grange Lane site (BTM 015) and to the north along the edge of Mildenhall (MNL 127). A Saxon buckle has also been found in the area by metal detectorists (BTM 031).

### ***Medieval***

- 1.3.12 The village of Barton Mills has a number of medieval buildings a number of listed buildings. The settlement core (BTM 050) is located to the north and north-east of the site.
- 1.3.13 The earliest standing remains are located at grange farm with 12th to 14th century buildings (BTM 025) associated with the Grange of Bury Abbey at Little Barton. Further 12th to 14th century material was recovered from groundworks at Grange Lane directly east of Grange farm (BTM 015).
- 1.3.14 Early remains are also present in the church of St. Mary (LBUID 275746 and BTM003) which has a 13th century core and later 14th and 15th century alterations. The church was restored in 1866 and 1901. A 15th century dagger was recovered from the grounds in 1920.
- 1.3.15 A moated manor site is located to the north-east of the church and may be associated with it directly (BTM 008).
- 1.3.16 Paradise Farmhouse is also located within 1km of the site. The building was constructed during the 1500's (LBUID 275748).
- 1.3.17 Also present at Grange farm is the farm house which is dated to the 16th century with later alterations carried out in the 1700's and 19th century (LBUID 275742). A watermill (BTM 024) is thought to be associated with the Grange Farmhouse.
- 1.3.18 Metal detecting has also been used to uncover Medieval material (BTM 031)
- 1.3.19 Finally a group of Rabbit warrens and associated earthworks, dated to 1323 and known as Mildenhall Warrens, have been identified near the development area (MNL 485 and 553).
- 1.3.20 It has been suggested that the post-medieval watermills are pre-dated by an earlier building (BTM Misc) and this was associated with two lines of wooden posts located towards the North-east of the site near 'fiveways' roundabout and uncovered during wildlife conservation works in August 2000 (BTM 030)

### ***Post-medieval and Modern Material***

- 1.3.21 Evidence for post-medieval water wheels are located to the north-east of the development area (BTM 019 and 020). One was identified on the 1880 OS map and the other is attributed to the 18th to early 19th century and both are located on a leat to the south of the river lark. A bridge crossing the river lark and the mill leat has not been dated but is shown on Bowens 1755 map (BTM 035).
- 1.3.22 The area has a number of later listed buildings such as a pair of cottages at pedlars patch dated to the late 16th century, which underwent 17th and 19th century alterations.
- 1.3.23 17th century buildings are also represented with the Bull Inn dated to the late 17th with 18th through to 20th century alterations (LBUSID 275743). Archaeological monitoring of works around the Bull Inn identified a modern ditch shown on the 1880 OS map a small undated pit (BTM 032). Further 17th century buildings include the mill house, which has a date of 1668 on the rear chimney (LBUID 275744), and The Lord Mayors Hall (275749) which is believed to be the house of Sir Henry Barton, who was the lord mayor of London. Earlier 15th century fabric may survive in the building but it was extensively altered and rebuilt in the 17th and 19th century.
- 1.3.24 A number of 18th century buildings are located within 1km of the development such as BTM 049. Along with Barton Hall (LBUID 275747) which has later 19th and 20th century alterations.
- 1.3.25 The area has a strong military connections with practice trenches from the First World War located towards the north-east (MNL 519) and later type 22 and 24 Pillboxes located in and around the area of Barton Mills and Mildenhall (BTM 052, 054, MNL 687 and 692).
- 1.3.26 An early 20th century railway carriage converted to a dwelling in 1921 has been identified to the North on the outskirts of Mildenhall (MNL 621).

#### ***Undated***

- 1.3.27 Multiple undated inhumation burials have been identified in the area (BTM 009, BTM 037 and MNL 244). BTM 037 was possibly a crouched burial that may have been associated with stone tools, whilst BTM 009 may be of Saxon date. MNL 244 is also believed to be of Prehistoric date but was covered up after Police deemed the remains to be old.
- 1.3.28 Earthworks have been located in the woods to the north of the site but these remain undated (MNL 633).

#### ***Multi-period sites***

- 1.3.29 One multi-period sites have been investigated although both are to the north-east of the development area. MNL 622 was a large open area excavation which uncovered material ranging from the early Bronze Age to Post-Medieval periods. Romano-British inhumations were recovered from this site.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank the hard work of Mike Green on site and the assistance of Tony Carpenter during the works. The author would also like to thank Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council who monitored the project and Stephen Macaulay who managed the project. Finally the author would like to thank Séverine Bézie for the illustrations.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation trench 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 a single 15m trench was excavated within the area of the proposed footings.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 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 The excavation was carried out in good bright sunny conditions.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A single 15m trench was excavated across the site.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the area of the proposed footings for the houses to be built at plots 4A and 4B, Bell lane, Barton Mills. It was excavated through a disturbed dark blackish-brown sandy silt topsoil layer (7) 0.3m deep containing remains of the nursery previously located on the site and a subsoil layer (8) of mid orange-brown sandy silt 0.1m deep. Three tree boles (**1**, **3**, **5**) and a single glacial feature were identified during excavation cutting the chalk natural (9) (Plate 1).

3.2.2 Tree throw **1** was located at the eastern end of the trench and was 1m long, 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, with a single fill (2) of soft light reddish-brown sandy silt with occasional chalk inclusions (Plate 2).

3.2.3 The second tree throw (**3**) was located at the eastern end of the trench to the west of **1** and was 0.68m long, 0.7m wide and 0.28m deep again containing a single fill (4) of soft light reddish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk inclusions. A single undiagnostic struck flake was recovered from this deposit (Plate 3).

3.2.4 Finally, tree throw (**5**) was located towards the centre of the trench with a maximum depth of 0.37m, 1.2m wide and 1.1m long. It also had a single fill of similar soft light reddish-brown silt with occasional chalk fragments. Three fragments of burnt flint were recovered during excavation (Plate 4).

3.2.5 A single deposit of natural glacial sand potentially filling an ice crack was partially excavated between tree boles **3** and **5**, but was not recorded.

#### 3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 Three fragments of burnt flint c. 0.1m in length were seen within the fill 6 of tree throw (**5**), they were not retained.

3.3.2 A single undiagnostic flake of heavily patinated light blue-grey to white-grey flint, with a fine orange-brown cortex was recovered from tree throw (**3**).

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Three natural tree throws were uncovered during works within Trench 1. Although Tree throw (3) contained a single flake it is still likely to be a natural feature. The burnt flint in tree throw (5) could represent burning out of the tree but could equally be intrusive material as it was located at the top of the feature.

### 4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The trenching has revealed several natural features which contain a small amount of burnt and struck flint.

### 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						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	E-W	
Trench contained three Tree Boles and a small deposit of glacial sand.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	15m	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Cut	1	0.3	Tree Bole	-	-
2	Fill	1	0.3	Fill of Tree Bole (1)	-	-
3	Cut	0.68	0.28	Tree Bole	-	-
4	Fill	0.68	0.28	Fill of Tree Bole (3)	Flint	-
5	Cut	1.1	0.37	Tree Bole	-	-
6	Fill	1.1	0.37	Fill of Tree Bole (5)	Burnt Flint	-
7	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
8	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
9	Layer	-	-	Chalk Natural	-	-

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Flint

*By Anthony Haskins*

B.1.1 A single struck flint (0.002kg) was recovered from tree bole (3). The flake was heavily patinated and a light blue-grey to whitish-grey colour with a small area of a fine mid reddish-brown cortex surviving on the dorsal surface, unfortunately the flint was undiagnostic and had no datable characteristics.

## APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Macaulay, S. (2013) Specification for Archaeological Evaluation, Plots 4A and 4B, Bell Lane, Barton Mills. Unpublished

BGS (2013) Geology of Britain Viewer; Web resource <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed on 5/3/2013

## APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-145009		
Project Name	Undated tree throws in a trench at Bell Lane, Barton Mills; Archaeological evaluation		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	04-03-2013	Finish	04-03-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	BTM 056	Planning App. No.	F/2011/0762/FUL
HER No.	BTM 056	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Small Scale (e.g. single house)

### 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
Tree throw	Uncertain	flint implement	Uncertain
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Forest Heath	Bell Lane, Barton Mills Suffolk IP28 6AJ
Parish	Barton Mills	
HER	Suffolk	
Study Area	0.09 ha	National Grid Reference TL 719 736

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	A. Antrobus - Suffolk County Council
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
BTM 056	BTM 056	BTM 056

### 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"/>
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"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Map
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:





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Figure 1: Site location

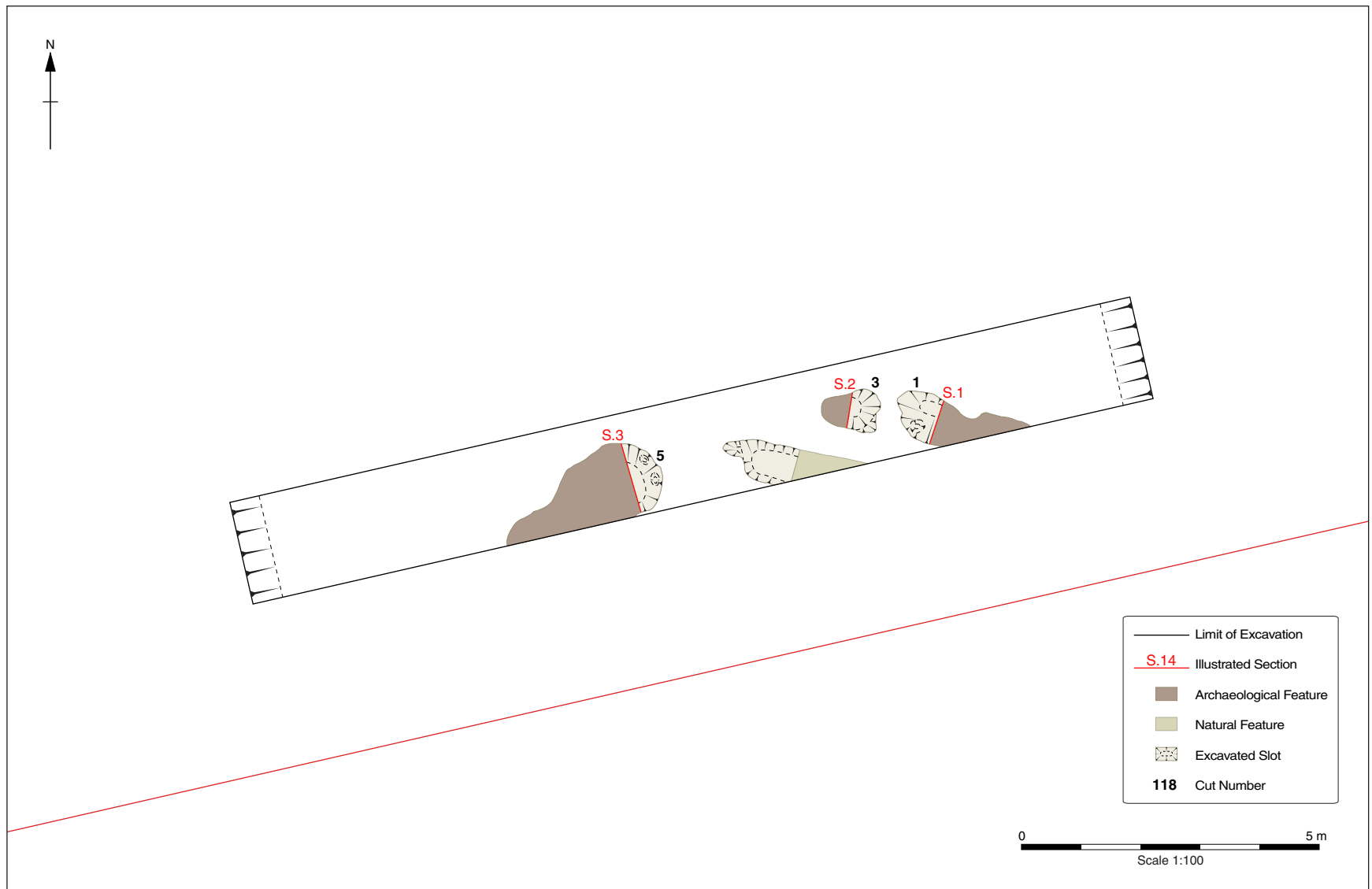


Figure 2: Trench plan



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking west



Plate 2: Section of Tree bole (1) looking south-east



Plate 3: Section of Tree Bole (3) Looking west



Plate 4: Section of Tree Bole (5) looking west



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