Archaeological Evaluation at St. Ivo Outdoor Centre St. Ives, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



April 2011

Client: Huntingdonshire District Council

OA East Report No: 1251 OASIS No: Oxfordar3: 97485

NGR: TL 29889 272621



Archaeological Evaluation at the St Ivo Outdoor Centre, St Ives

Archaeological Evaluation of land at the St Ivo Outdoor Complex

By James Fairbairn

Editor: Aileen Connor BA AIFA

Illustrator: Severine Bezie

Report Date: March 2011

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Report Number:

1251

Site Name:

St Ivo Outdoor Complex, California Road, St Ives

HER Event No:

ECB3548

Date of Works:

March 2011

Client Name:

Huntingdonshire District Council

Client Ref:

13026

Planning Ref:

0900964FUL

Grid Ref:

TL 29889 272621

Site Code:

STIOLC11

Finance Code:

STIOLC11

Receiving Body:

Cambridgeshire County Council

Accession No:

STIOLC11

Prepared by:

James Fairbairn

Position:

Supervisor

Date:

March 2011

Checked by:

Aileen Connor

Position:

Project Manager

Date:

Signed:

March 2011

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Summary

Between the 15th and 16th of March 2011 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at the St Ivo Outdoor Centre, California Road, St Ives TL 29889 272621. The work was commissioned by Huntingdonshire District Council to fulfil a planning condition in advance of the construction of a synthetic football pitch and associated car park. Six 25m x 1.8m and three 20m x 1.8m trenches were excavated. The archaeological evaluation revealed evidence for ploughing in the form of ridge and furrow and a system of modern field drains, no significant archaeological features were present.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) at the St Ivo Outdoor Centre, California Road, St Ives, Huntingdonshire.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Daniel McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 0900964FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OAE.
- 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 OAE and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies approximately 1.8km to the northwest of St Ives town centre with an area of parkland to the north, arable fields to west and a large housing estate to the east and south. The site slopes gently from 32.50m above Ordnance Datum at its west to 30.50m above Ordnance Datum at the east end. The Geological maps of the area (British Geological Survey Series, sheet 187) show the site is situated on West Walton formation/Ampthill clay beds capped by boulder clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 There are few known archaeological sites of interest within the immediate vicinity although surface scatters of Romano British pottery were found slightly to the south west of the development site (CHER01941e; NMR366618) and a possible Romano British cremation cemetery was discovered at Houghton Hill in 1843 approximately 200m to the south (CHER00712; NMR366621). The wider area is rich in sites of archaeological interest. Flint tools of Mesolithic through to Bronze Age date have been found in much of the area either side of Houghton road. Ridge and furrow ploughing of medieval and post medieval date has also been recorded in much of the area associated with the settlement at Houghton.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Huntingdonshire District Council who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Carter Builders Ltd who were the main contractors on site. Daniel McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council who wrote the archaeological brief. The project was managed by Aileen Connor. James Fairbairn supervised the fieldwork with the assistance of Pete Boardman and Nicholas Cox. Rachel Clarke surveyed the site and Severine Bezie produced the illustrations. Machine hire was provided by Lattenbury Services.

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2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological 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 a sufficient sample of the development area should be subject to trial trenching, to this end six 25m x 1.8m and three 20m x 1.8m evaluation trenches were machine excavated on land earmarked for the construction of an all weather playing surface and associated car parking.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation by a wheeled JCB-type excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 2.2.3 The trenches were located to Ordnance Survey and a Temporary Bench Mark was set up using a Leica GPS 1200. The value of the TBM was 31.90m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Conditions on site were cold and dry. Excavation of the trenches was hampered by the presence of numerous land drains.

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3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Trenches 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9 contained archaeological features. These will be discussed in numerical order below and full descriptions can be found in Appendix A. Trenches 3, 4, 7 and 8 were devoid of features other than modern land drains and are described in Appendix A only.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned east to west, it was slightly less than 25m long due to the discovery of a land drain just below the surface at the western end. In addition to five land drains there was a shallow linear feature (5) with a maximum depth of 0.10m and a maximum width of 1.2m running east-west along part of the trench, its single fill (4) consisted of a mid brownish yellow clay which contained occasional chalk flecks and small sub angular stones and pebbles. This feature is almost certainly the remains of ridge and furrow agriculture.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was aligned north to south. The only archaeological feature found was a furrow on an east-west orientation approximately 3.5m from the southern end of the trench. The furrow (7) was filled by a mid brown grey yellow clay. This feature had a maximum depth of 0.08m and a maximum width of 1.2m. Five modern land drains were also present.

3.4 Trench 5

3.4.1 Trench 5 was aligned east-west and situated at the north of the development area. A shallow post medieval furrow was found at the western most end of this evaluation trench. This feature 8 was again filled with a mid brown grey yellow clay (9). and ran in an easterly direction. Faint traces of the furrow could be seen at two further points within trench 5. Four modern land drains were also present.

3.5 Trench 6

3.5.1 Trench 6 was aligned north to south This evaluation trench also contained traces of ploughing in the form of two furrows (13 & 15) which were located 4m and 13m respectively from the northern end of the trench. Both features were filled with a mid brownish yellow clay, were 0.8m wide and 0.08m deep. One (15) contained a single sherd of post medieval pottery which was identified as metropolitan slip ware dating to the 18th century (Carole Fletcher pers comm). Three land drains were present.

3.6 Trench 9

3.6.1 This trench was aligned north to south. A single furrow (**11**) was the only feature present. It was filled with a brownish yellow clay (10), was shallow (0.06m) and had a maximum width of 1.0m. Four land drains were present.

3.7 Finds Summary

3.7.1 Finds were limited to a small single abraded piece of a metropolitan slip ware dish dating to the 18th century and occasional pieces of broken ceramic field drain.

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4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The only archaeological evidence found was a series of furrows which would have formed during ploughing in either the medieval or early post medieval period. Their date is unclear, although a single sherd of 18th century pottery may indicate they belong to the post medieval period rather than earlier. The lack of any earlier features suggests that this area was not settled or otherwise heavily utilised in the past, possibly due to the wet and heavy soils.
- 4.1.2 The numerous modern land drains show that this area is prone to flooding and would therefore have been considered of little value for settlement in the past. At least three separate phases of drainage work has been undertaken to try and alleviate flooding on the site. Two types of agricultural drain were encountered at various depths and a modern plastic corrugated drain has been installed just below the surface of the playing field.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 No significant archaeological features have been found by this evaluation.

4.3 Recommendations

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

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APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1								
General d	escription	ı			Orientation	l	E-W	
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.5	
Trench 1 c series of m	ontained e	vidence o	of ridge an	d furrow ploughing and a	Width (m)		2.2	
Series of II	lodeiii laik	dianis.			Length (m)		23.6	
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate	
1	Topsoil	-	0.3	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-	
2	Subsoil	-	0.22	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-		-	
4	Layer	1.2	0.1	Mid brownish grey-yellow clay with small occasional chalk fragments	-	-		
5	cut	1.2	0.1	Shallow surviving base of a furrow			-	
3	Natural	-		Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and frequent flint nodules	-	-		
Trench 2					I		T	
General d	escription				Orientation		N-S	
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.6	
Trench 2 c	ontained m	nodern lar	nd drains	and a furrow.	Width (m)		2.2	
					Length (m)		25	
Contexts		T			T			
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	d	ate	
1	Topsoil		0.3	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-	
2	Subsoil		0.2	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-		-	
6	Layer	1.2	0.08	Mid brownish grey-yellow clay with small occasional chalk fragments	-		-	

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7	Cut	1.2	0.08	Shallow surviving base of a post medieval furrow	-	Post m	iedieval	
3	natural			Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and frequent flint nodules	-	-		
Trench 3								
General de	escription	ı			Orientation	l	E-W	
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.6	
Trench 3 w drains	as devoid	of archae	did contain modern land	Width (m)		2.2		
didiiio		Length (m)		0.25				
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	date	
1	Topsoil	-	0.26	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-	
2	Subsoil	-	0.22	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-		-	
3	Natural	-		Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and frequent flint nodules	-	-		
Trench 4								
	o orinties				Orientation		N-S	
General de	scription							
Trench 4 w	as devoid	of archae	ology but	contained modern land	0 1 ()		0.55	
draine	as ac void	or archae	Width (m) 2.2		2.2			

Trench 4										
General d	escription				Orientation		N-S			
					Avg. depth	0.55				
Trench 4 v	vas devoid	of archae	Width (m)		2.2					
diams.			Length (m)		25					
Contexts										
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date				
1	Topsoil	-	0.22	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-			
2	Subsoil	-	0.2	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-		-			
3	Natural	-		Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles	-		-			

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		and frequent flint nodules	

Trench 5							
General de	escription				Orientation	1	E-W
					Avg. depth (m) 0.4		0.4
Trench 5 co			of ridge an	d furrow ploughing along	Width (m)	2.2	
With Though	mana ara				Length (m)		23.5
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Topsoil	-	0.26	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-
2	Subsoil		0.18	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-	-	
9	Layer		0.08	Mid brownish grey-yellow clay with small occasional chalk fragments	-	Post m	nedieval
8	cut	1.2	0.08	Shallow surviving base of a post medieval furrow	-	Post m	nedieval
3	natural			Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and frequent flint nodules	-		-

Trench 6											
General d	lescription				Orientation	N-S					
					Avg. depth (m) 0.5						
Trench 6 c modern la	contained e	vidence o	Width (m)	2.2							
modomia	na aramo		Length (m)	25							
Contexts											
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date					
1	Topsoil	-	0.32	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-	-					
2	Subsoil	-	0.18	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-	-					
14	Layer		0.08	Mid brownish grey-yellow clay with small occasional chalk fragments	Pottery	18th century					

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15	cut	0.8	0.15	Shallow surviving base of a furrow		
12	Layer		0.15	Mid brownish grey-yellow clay with small occasional chalk fragments		
13	cut	0.8	0.15	Shallow surviving base of a furrow		
3	Natural	-		Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and frequent flint nodules	-	-

Trench 7	Trench 7										
General o	description				Orientation N		NNW-SSE				
					Avg. depth	0.58					
Trench 7 v	was devoid	of archae	ology but	did contain modern land	Width (m)		2.2				
draine.					Length (m)		19				
Contexts											
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate				
1	Topsoil	-	0.32	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-				
2	Subsoil	-	0.2	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-		-				
3	Natural	-	0.6	Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and frequent flint nodules	-		-				

Trench 8							
General c	description				Orientation	WSW-ENE	
					Avg. depth	0.55	
Trench 8 v	was devoid	of archae	Width (m) 2		2.2		
dianis.					Length (m)		20
Contexts							,
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Topsoil	-	0.3	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-
2	Subsoil	-	0.25	Light grey-brown clay	-		-

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	containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles		
		-	-

					1		
Trench 9							
General d	lescription				Orientation		NNW-SSE
					Avg. depth (m) 0.58		0.58
Trench 9 o		vidence d	of ridge an	d furrow ploughing and	Width (m)	2.2	
Inodemia	na aranis.			Length (m)		19.8	
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Topsoil	-	0.3	A mid grey-brown silty clay with rare sub angular pebbles	-		-
2	Subsoil	-	0.22	Light grey-brown clay containing rare chalk flecks and rare sub angular pebbles	-		-
10	Layer		0.15	Mid brownish grey-yellow clay with small occasional chalk fragments	-		
11	cut	1	0.06	Shallow surviving base of a furrow	-		
3	Natural	-		Light grey-brown clay containing chalk flecks,occasional rounded and sub angular pebbles and frequent flint nodules	-		-

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APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project De	etails										
OASIS Number oxfordar3: 9		dar3: 97485									
Project Name Archaeological evaluation at St Ivos Outdoor Centre St Ives.											
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start		15-03-2011			Finish	30-12	2-1899)			
Previous W	ork (by OA	East)	No			Future	Work	U nk	nown		
Project Refe	erence Cod	les									
Site Code	STIOLC11	Planr		Plannin	ng App. No.		090096	64FUL			
HER No.	ECB3548	ECB3548		Related HER/OASIS No.							
Type of Pro	ject/Techni	ques Use	ed								
Prompt	Direction	n from Loca	l Planning Author	ority - PPS :	5						
Developmen	t Typemenity	Area (e.g. p	ublic open spac	e)							
Please sel	ect all tec	hniques	used:								1
Aerial Photo	ography - inter	oretation	☐ Grab-Sa	mpling				Remo	te Operated Ve	hicle Surv	ey ey
Aerial Photo	ography - new		Gravity-0	☐ Gravity-Core				Sample Trenches			
Annotated S	Sketch		Laser Sc	Laser Scanning				Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure			
Augering			X Measure								
☐ Dendrochro	nological Surv	еу	X Metal De	✓ Metal Detectors		Test P	t Pits				
☐ Documenta	ry Search		Phospha	☐ Phosphate Survey ☐ Topographic Survey							
Environmer	ntal Sampling		Photogra	Photogrammetric Survey							
☐ Fieldwalking	9		Photogra	☐ Photographic Survey ☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)			sit)				
☐ Geophysica	l Survey		Rectified	l Photograpl	hy						
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											
Furrows		Uncertai	certain		Pottery			Post Medieval 1540 to 1901			
Select peri		eriod		Land drains			Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		901		
Select peri		iod						Select period			
Project Lo	ocation										
County	Huntingdonshire				Site Address (including postcode if possible)						
District	St Ives			St Ivos Outdoor Centre. California Road, St Ives, PE27 6SJ			6SJ				
Parish	St Ives										
HER	Cambridges	nire									
Study Area	National Grid Reference TL 29889 272621										



Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Daniel McConnell Cambs County Council
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Ailleen Connor
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores Landbeach	OA East	OA East
STILOC11	STILOC11	STILOC11

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones		
Ceramics	\times	
Environmental		
Glass		
Human Bones		
Industrial		
Leather		
Metal		
Stratigraphic		
Survey		
Textiles		
Wood		
Worked Bone		
Worked Stone/Lithic		
None		
Other		

Digital Media	Paper Media
□ Database	Aerial Photos
GIS	
Geophysics	
	☐ Diary
Illustrations Illustrations	□ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	Manuscript
Spreadsheets	Map
Survey	Matrices
▼ Text	Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	Research/Notes
	⊠ Photos
	⊠ Plans
	Sections

Notes:



F	Plans
Limit of Excavation	
Deposit - Conjectured	
Sondages/Machine Strip	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Illustrated Section	S.14
Archaeological Feature	
Field Drain	
Excavated Slot	
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	118
\$	Sections
Limit of Excavation	
Cut	
Cut Conjectured	
Deposit Horizon	
Deposit Horizon Conjectured	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Top Surface/Top of Natural	
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	
Cut Number	117
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD ⊼
Stone	

Convention Key

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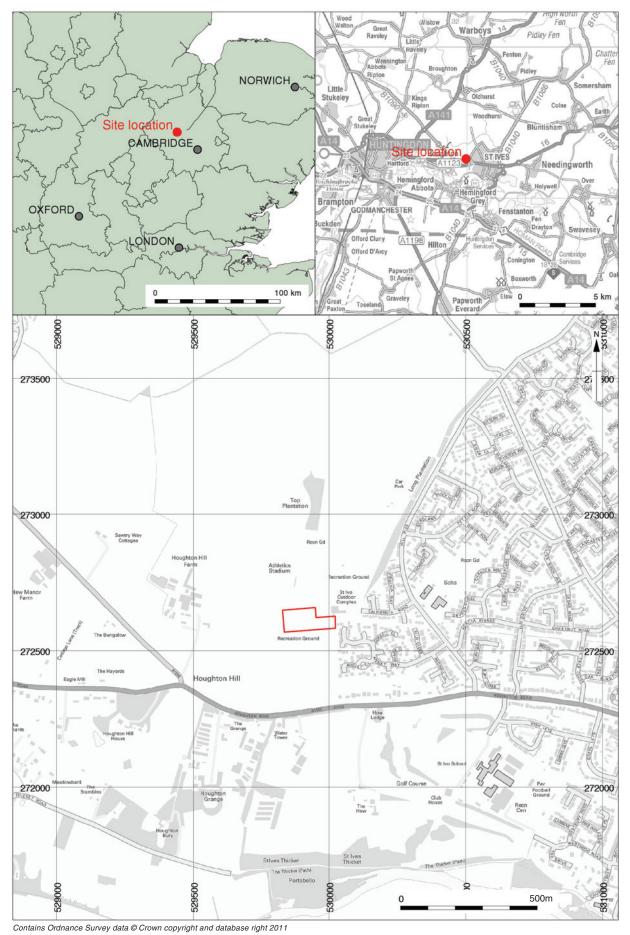


Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined (red)





Figure 2: Trench plans

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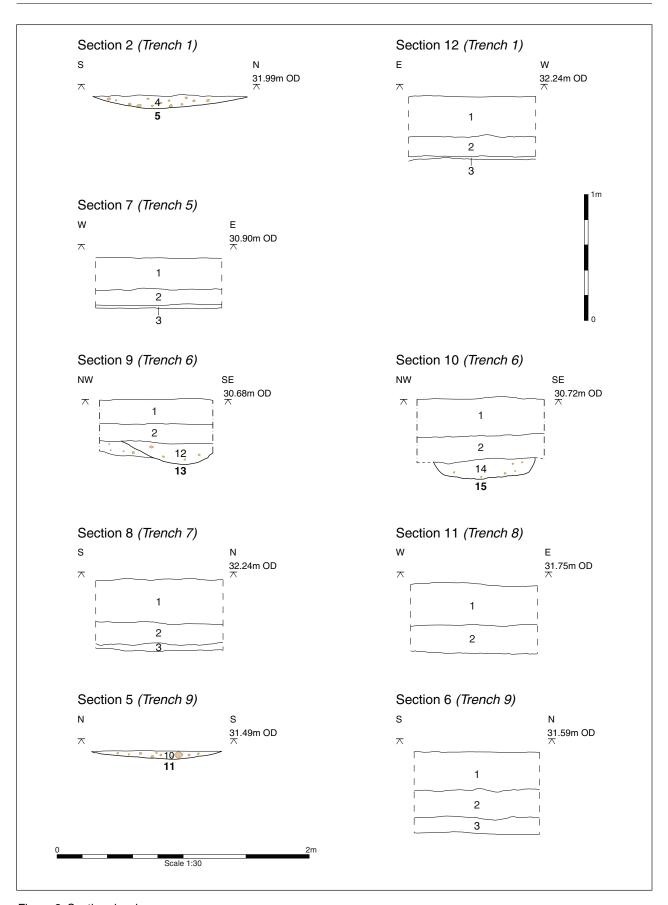


Figure 3: Section drawings





Plate 1: Furrow in trench 1



Plate 2: trench 3 showing truncation





Plate 3: Example of agricultural land drain

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