

An Archaeological  
Watching Brief at  
Great Cornard Water  
Mains replacement,  
Suffolk



**Archaeological  
Watching Brief Report**



April 2013

**Client: Anglia Water**

OA East Report No: 1452

OASIS No: oxfordar3-147523

NGR: TL 892 413

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Great Cornard Water Mains replacement,  
Suffolk**

*Watching Brief*

*Site Code: COG 038*

*CHER No. COG 038*

*Date of Works: March 2013*

*Report No: 1452*

*Excavator: Helen Stocks-Morgan*

*Client: Anglia Water*

*Report Date: 8/4/13*

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## **Summary**

*In March 2013, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Great Cornard Mains replacement (TL 892 413). The monitoring was carried out during the replacement of a mains water pipe. Archaeological features identified during excavation of the pipe trench included one undated burnt tree-throw to the north of the trench and one possible post-medieval feature to the south-eastern end of the trench.*



## 1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The pipeline begins at c. 50mOD on the A134 Newton Rd east of Sudbury, and rises steadily up to a plateau at c.70mOD at the reservoir. The land falls away sharply to the west into the Stour valley, with the plateau stretching eastwards to Newton.
- 1.1.2 The route traverses two fields, both currently arable. The underlying bedrock geology is of the Crag Group - Sand - overlain at the north by Sand And Gravel of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup and at the south by Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton (British Geological Survey).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The Stour Valley forms part of a Bronze Age landscape, which is characterised by the presence of Bronze Age and earlier monuments, in the form of cursus monuments and barrows. These are located on the edge of the valley where the ground rises and are mainly concentrated in two areas at Bures St Mary and Long Melford (Brown et al, 2002). The site itself lies in between these two areas, where little archaeological investigation has occurred. The pipeline works will traverse the topography and cross areas potentially likely to have been settled or otherwise used in the Bronze Age.
- 2.1.2 Evidence of this prehistoric landscape within the vicinity of Great Cornard consists of a single ring ditch c25m in radius to the north at Chilton (CHT003), which lies along the same topographical location as the current site. A prehistoric trackway to the north-east has been suggested by crop marks visible on aerial photographs (WFG029)
- 2.1.3 A Roman road (WFG015) running north-northwest to south-southeast is visible c0.5km to the east of the site. The road followed the high ground and its course is visible as the modern-day Valley Road. The road was identified by Margary and catalogued as Road 322.
- 2.1.4 Medieval artefacts were recovered to the south at New Farm (MSF5770), suggesting Medieval occupation and settlement would have been present nearby. Further settlement-related debris was recovered to the east at Newton golf course, during a fieldwalking investigation (MSF13379).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief 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.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that provision be made for monitoring the removal of topsoil along the length of the pipe replacement, measuring c 600m by 10m. Additional monitoring of the actual pipe trench, 0.6m wide by 0.9m deep, was undertaken in areas where potential archaeological features or deposits were masked by a thick colluvial subsoil.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.4 The general site conditions were good, with modern disturbance, limited to plough scarring



## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Topsoil Stripping

4.1.1 The topsoil (6) was a dark greyish brown silty clay. The depth varied along the route of the trench, being 0.6m at the bottom of the valley, thinning out to 0.3m at the brow of the hill. Monitoring was undertaken of removal of the topsoil, over a 10m width, until clear that colluvial subsoil was masking any potential archaeological features or deposits.

### 4.2 Pipe Trench

4.2.1 The pipe trench ran south-west to north-east along the edge of the modern road, then turned to the south-east to traverse the valley side up to the top to the hill. The pipe trench measured 0.6m wide and 0.9m deep.

4.2.2 At the lower, northern end of the trench a layer of mid reddish-brown silty clay colluvium (1) was encountered: a single struck flint and a small fragment of degraded lava quern were recovered from this material. The deposit was at least 0.9m in depth. Cutting through the colluvial layer a single burnt out tree-throw (3) was excavated. The tree-throw was 0.9m long with a visible width of 0.5m and 0.2m deep (see fig 3 for section). It contained a single fill (2) of mid greyish brown clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. No datable finds were recovered although fragments of burnt clay were present.

4.2.3 The colluvial layer thinned out as the pipe trench progressed up the slope to the water tower and was replaced by an 0.2m deep mid greyish brown sandy clay subsoil (7) c.20m from the bottom of the slope. The subsoil ran along the remaining length of the pipe trench.

4.2.4 To the south-eastern end of the pipeline a feature (5) was recorded within both sections (see fig 3): the feature was sealed by the subsoil. It measured 4.5m across and was seen to extend deeper than the 0.9m excavation limit of the pipe trench. The northern edge of the feature was steep and the southern edge was straight, but more gradual. It was filled by a mid reddish brown sandy clay (4) with occasional chalk flecks. A sherd of post-medieval ceramic-building material was recovered from within the fill.

## 5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 No evidence of prehistoric activity, with the exception of a single struck flint, was identified during the archaeological works, however the small scale nature of the intervention does not prove that no occupation of this area occurred during the prehistoric period. At the bottom of the valley an undated colluvial layer was identified, extending deeper than the level of disturbance and thus masking potential archaeological features or deposits.

5.1.2 The tree-throw (3) identified is undated, but given its proximity to the hedge line visible along the field boundary, and its position within the colluvial layer, it may be of modern date. To the southern end of the site a larger feature (5) was identified, this extended

beyond the limit of the works and its true extent and form is unknown. A single sherd of post-medieval tile was recovered from the upper fill, however this was a subsoil derived infilling which may have occurred considerably later in the life of the feature if deep.

## 6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Jo Everitt and Klaudyna Narozna of Anglia Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and completed by Helen Stocks-Morgan and Anthony Haskins.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Sarah Poppy.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, N, Knopp, D & Strachan, D 2002 'The archaeology of Constable country: the crop-marks of the Stour Valley' *Landscape History* 24, 5-28

### Maps Consulted

British Geological Survey, 1993      Sheet 206, England and Wales 1:50,000

## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Feature type	Width (m)	Depth (m)
1		Colluvium	-	0.9
2	3	tree-throw	0.5	0.2
3		tree-throw	0.5	0.2
4	5	Feature	4.5	0.9
5		Feature	4.5	0.9
6		Topsoil	-	0.6
7		Subsoil	-	0.2

## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfrodar3-147523		
Project Name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Great Cornard Water Mains replacement, Suffolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	05-03-2013	Finish	04-04-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XSFPCM13	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	COG 038	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
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### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

### 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
pit	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	lithic implement	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43
tree bole	Uncertain	quern	Uncertain
	Select period...	CBM	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

### Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District		
Parish	Great Cornard	
HER	Suffolk	
Study Area	0.5 km	National Grid Reference TL 892 413

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Sarah Poppy
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan, Anthony Haskins

### Project Archives

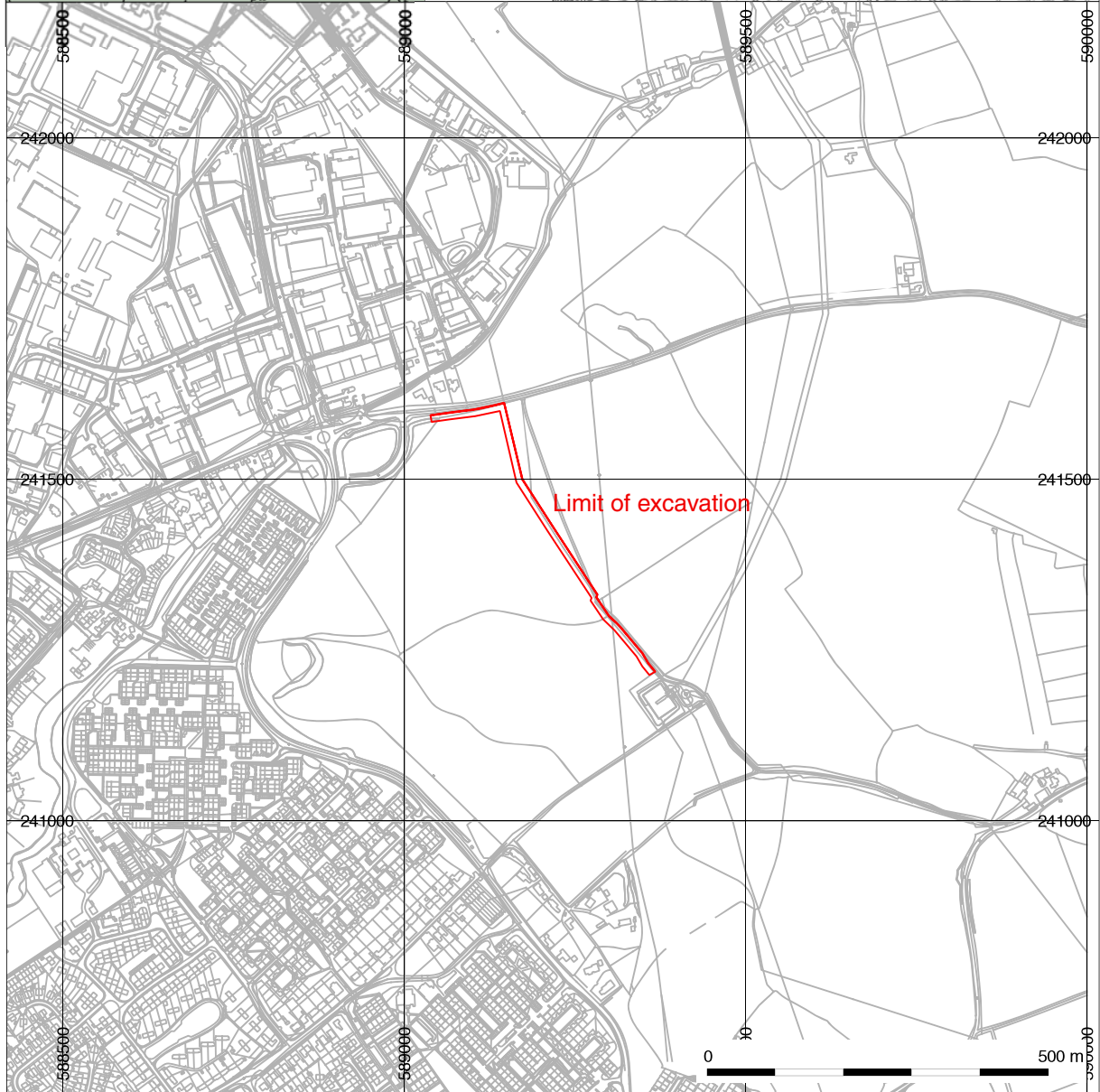
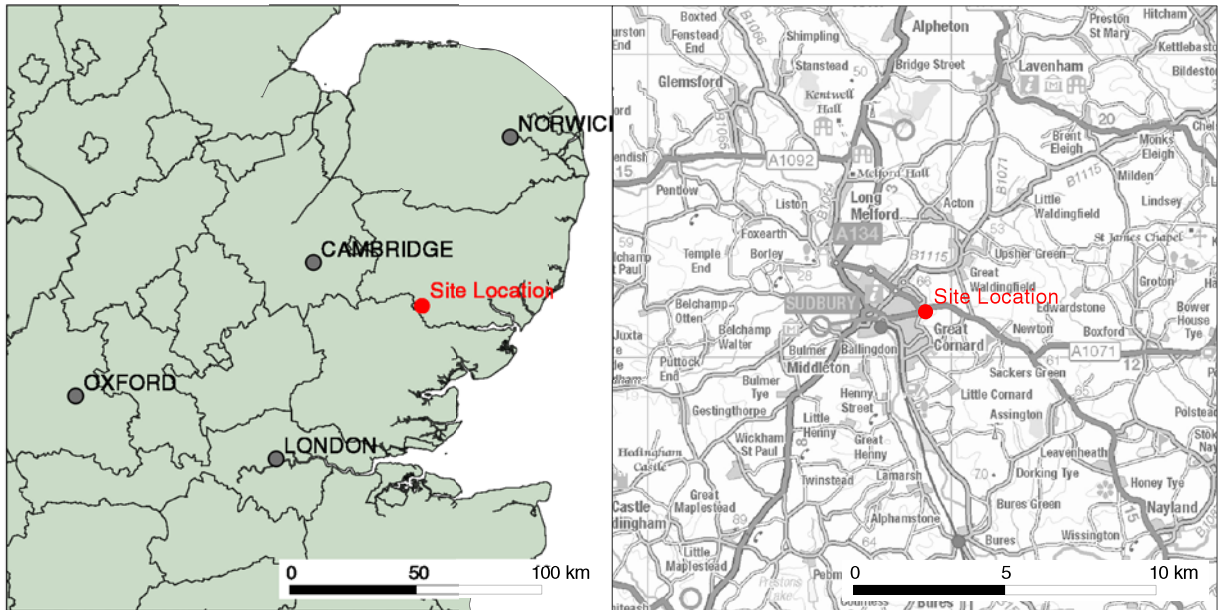
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location ...	Location ...	Location ...
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

### Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" 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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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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**



Ordnance Survey. © Crown Copyright [year]. All rights reserved. Reference number 100018507.

Figure 1: Site location

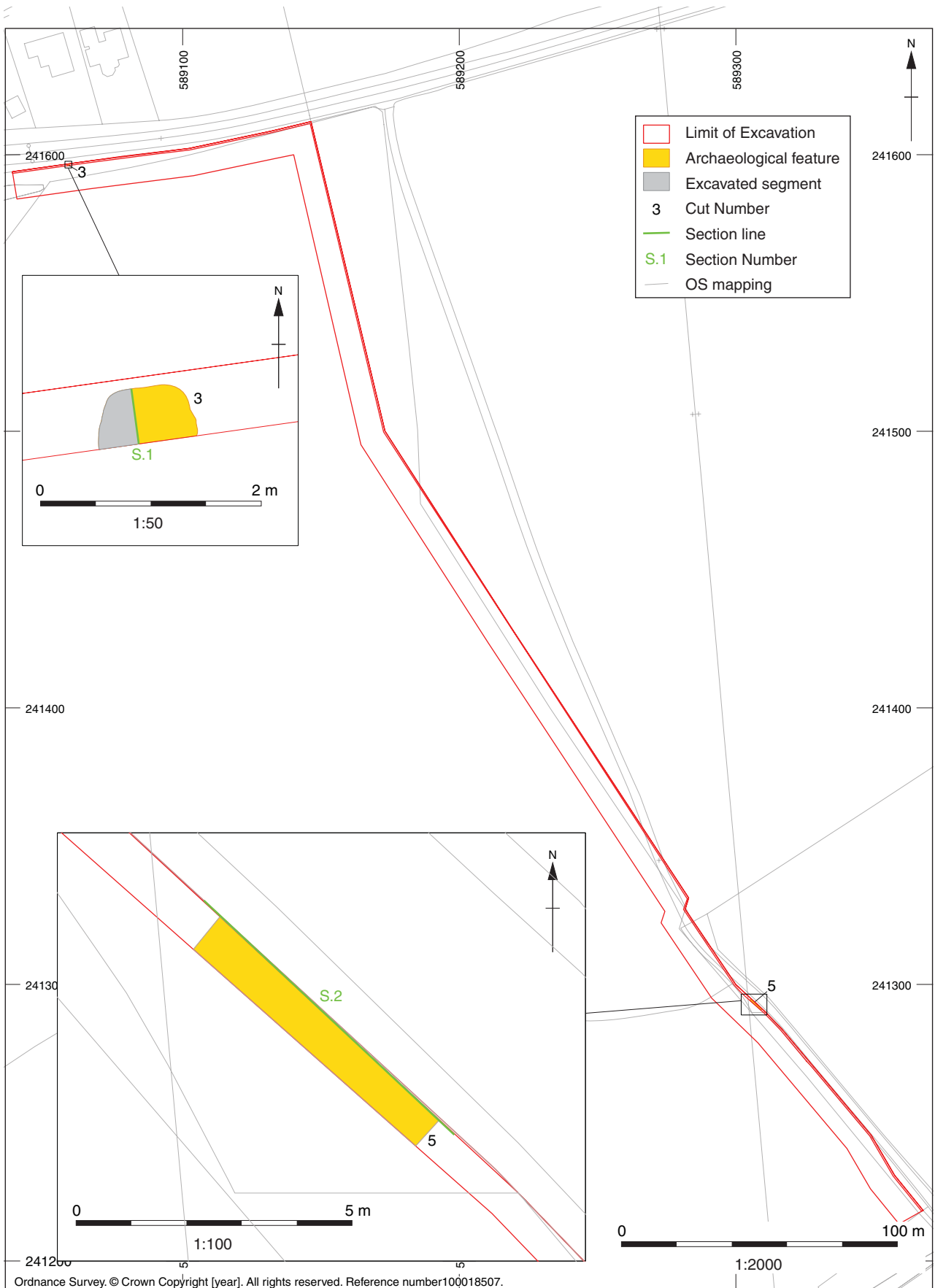


Figure 2: Trench Location, showing features



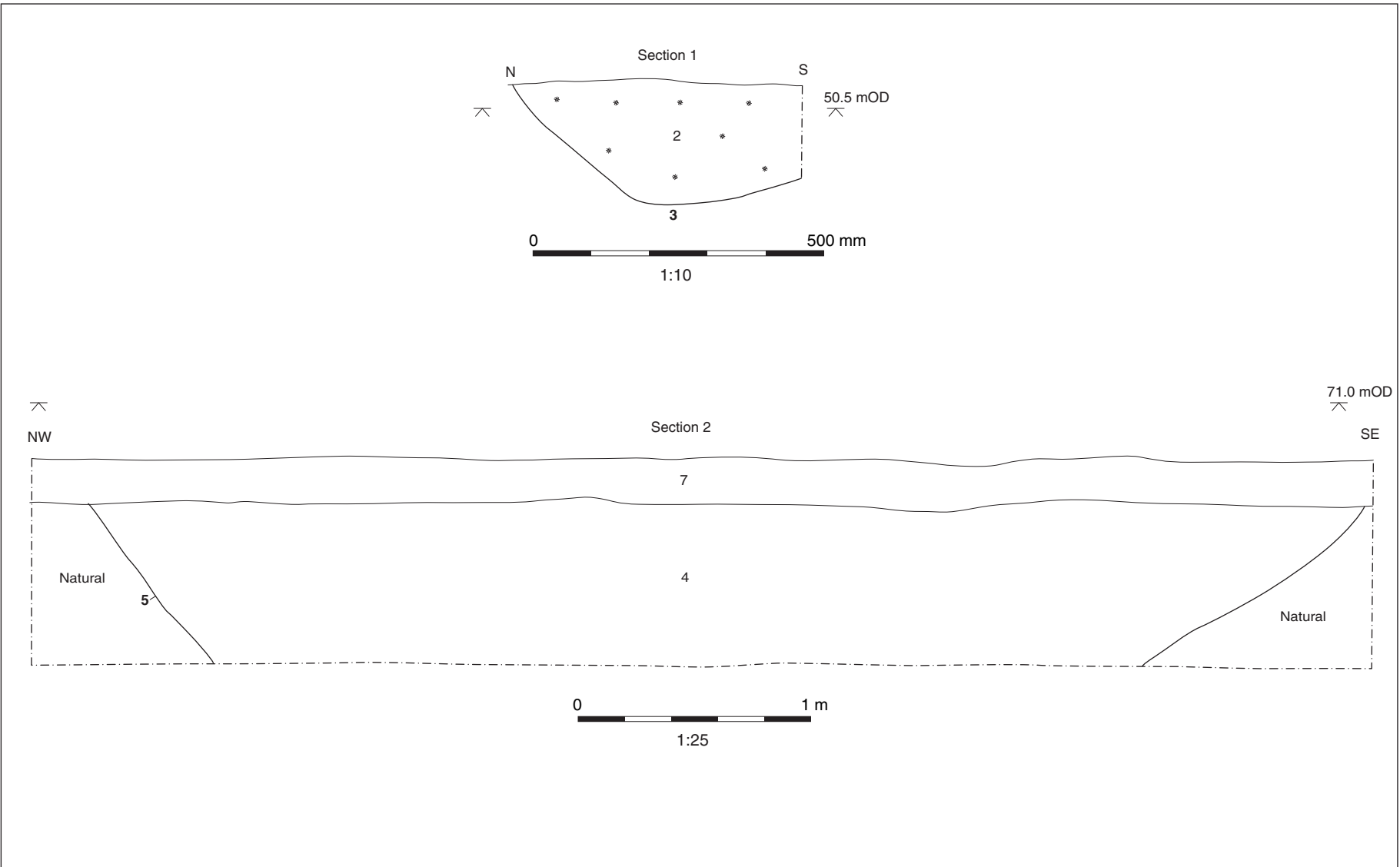


Figure 3: Sections of tree-throw 3 and feature 5



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