

The Wyches,  
Little Thetford,  
Cambridgeshire



Archaeological  
Evaluation Report



Client:

Little Thetford Sports  
and Social Club

OA East Report No:

1044

OASIS No:

oxfordar3-48 266

NGR:

TL 5300 7659

**The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Report Date: September 2008*

**Report Number:** 1044  
**Site Name:** The Wyches, little Thetford  
**HER Event No:** ECB 2990  
**Date of Works:** July 2008  
**Client Name:** Little Thetford Sports and Social Club  
**Client Ref:** none  
**Planning Ref:** 07/01454/FUL  
**Grid Ref:** TL 5300 7659  
**Site Code:** THE WYS 08  
**Finance Code:** THE WYS 08

**Receiving Body:**

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Prepared by: Chris Thatcher  
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Date: 12-09-2008

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Date: 12-09-2008  
Signed: .....



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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the Land adjacent to The Sports and Social Club, 31 The Wyches, Little Thetford (TL 5300 7659) by OA East on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008, prior to the construction of two Multi-Use Games Areas (total area 37 x 37m). The work was commissioned by the Little Thetford Sports and Social Club Committee.*

*OA East were commissioned to mechanically excavate a 25m x 2m trench within the footprint of the proposed new changing rooms. The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or remains.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the Sports and Social Club, 31 The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Gore of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application 07/01454/FUL, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 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 and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CAPCA, 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 development area overlies Kimmerridge Clay with overlying Glacial Tills and is located on the northern edge of the current village in the playing fields to the north of the Wyches.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The background is drawn from the specification for the works (Drummond Murray 2008).
- 1.3.2 Some previous work has been done in Little Thetford. An evaluation, followed by an excavation at Watsons Lane (CB 15675 – Lucas and Hinman 1996) revealed an iron Age Settlement site overlain by Romano- British occupation. This lay in the western part of the village.
- 1.3.3 However an evaluation at Holt Fen (ECB 288 - Hatton and Kemp 2001) revealed no archaeological features. This site lay to the south-east of the village and was marginal to the settlement.
- 1.3.4 Prehistoric evidence is mainly limited to stray finds for instance a Neolithic Arrowhead (HER 02081), Neolithic flint axe (HER 02103) and Bronze Age pottery (HER 06400). A watching brief on the Anglian Water pipeline between Little Thetford and Cawdle Fen did however reveal a dense concentration of Neolithic lithics (CB14676 – Edwards 1996).
- 1.3.5 A possible Roman Villa Site lies to the north of the village (MCB 16084). Another Roman pottery scatter lay to the north of the village (MCB 16254).
- 1.3.6 Two possible deserted medieval settlements are recorded in the SMR close to the village. One lies to the south of the village (HER 09226), according to cropmark evidence, the second to the north (HER 06143).

- 1.3.7 The site was deemed to have potential for uncovering archaeological remains from all periods, with a higher potential for uncovering Iron Age into Romano-British remains.

#### **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Robert Bullen and the Little Thetford Sports and Social Club Committee who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray. Chris Thatcher carried out the evaluation with with the assistance of Rochelle Wood. The illustrations were produced by Caoimhín Ó Coileáin. James Drummond Murray edited the report.
- 1.4.2 The brief for the archaeological works was written by Eliza Gore, who monitored the evaluation.



## 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 a single, 25m x 2m trial trench, located within the bounds of the new Multi-Use Games Areas, be excavated.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° 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 Conditions on site were overcast and raining, ground conditions were dry down to the base of the trenches.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Trench Summary

- 3.1.1 The development area was sealed by a layer of dark grey brown, silty clay topsoil with frequent small gravel inclusions, that was 0.08m thick (100). This overlay a subsoil composed of dark brown silty clay with very infrequent gravel inclusions (101) that was upto 0.27m thick.
- 3.1.2 The underlying natural geological deposit comprised an homogeneous mid orange silty clay (102).

#### 3.2 Discussion and Conclusions

- 3.2.1 The evaluation revealed no archaeological remains despite its close proximity to known Iron Age and Romano-British remains.

#### 3.3 Recommendations

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

## APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

## APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.35	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.80	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	25.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.08	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

## APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Drummond Murray, J 2008 Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation, The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire
- Gore, E 2008 Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation, The Wyches, Little Thetford, Cambridgeshire

## APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-48 266		
Project Name	e.g. Evaluation at The Wyches, Little Thetford		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	09-07-2008	Finish
			09-07-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	THEWYS08	Planning App. No.	07/01454/FUL
HER No.	ECB 2990	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Amenity Area (e.g. public open space)

### 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
none	Select period...	none	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	East Cambridgeshire	Little Thetford Sports and Social Club The Wyches Little Thetford CB6 3HC
Parish	Little Thetford	
HER	Cambridgeshire HER	
Study Area	0.1ha	National Grid Reference TL 5300 7659

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	CAPCA
Project Design Originator	OA EAST
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA EAST	OA EAST	OA EAST
Accession ID ...	THEWYS08	THEWYS08

### 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey


**Notes:**

## Drawing Conventions

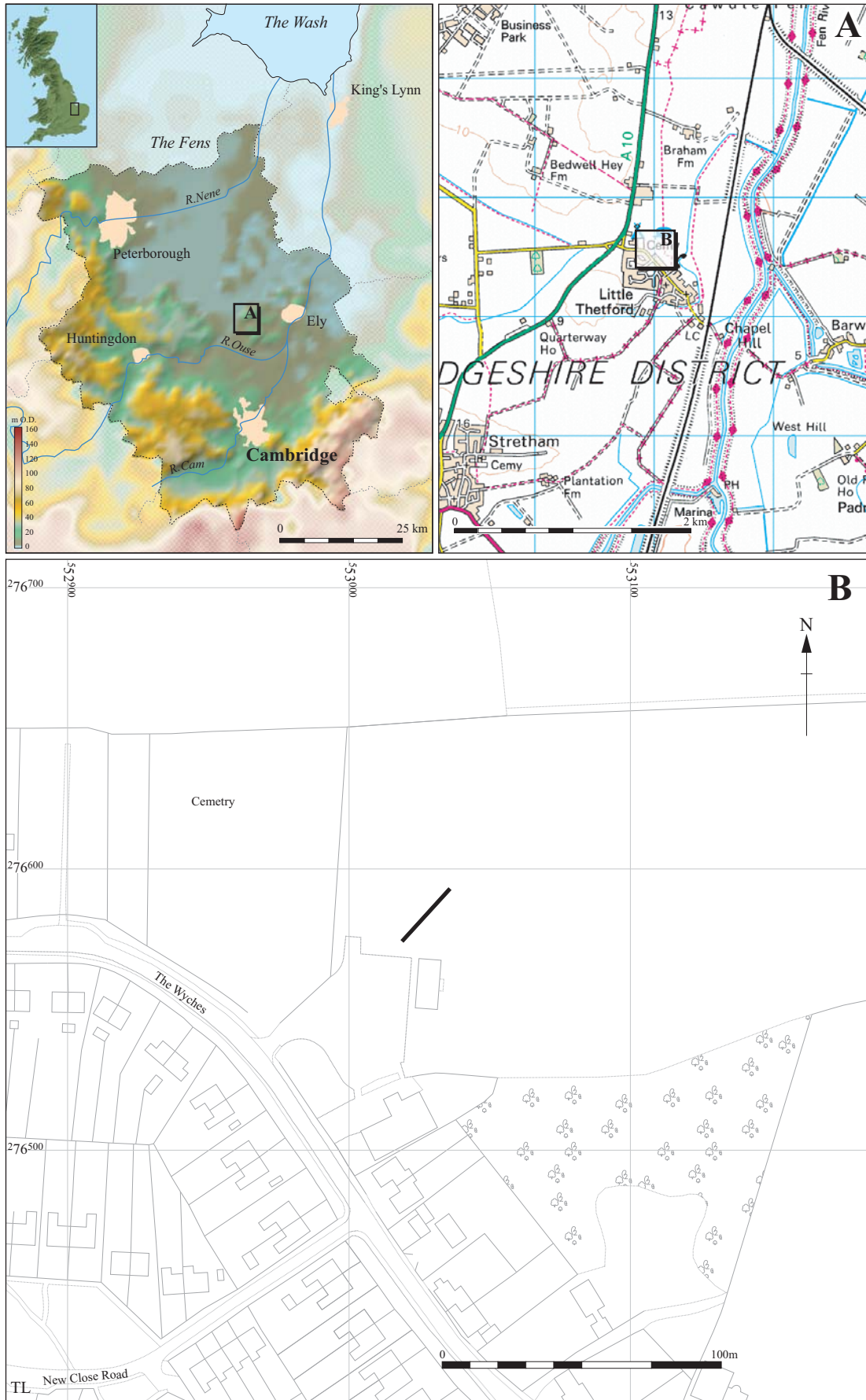
### Plans

Limit of Excavation	
Deposit - Conjectured	
Natural Features	
Sondages/Machine Strip	
Intrusion/Truncation	
Illustrated Section	S.14
Archaeological Deposit	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
Excavated Slot	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #d3d3d3; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
Modern Deposit	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
Cut Number	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">118</div>

### 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	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">118</div>
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X
Inclusions	





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Figure 1: Location of trench in black

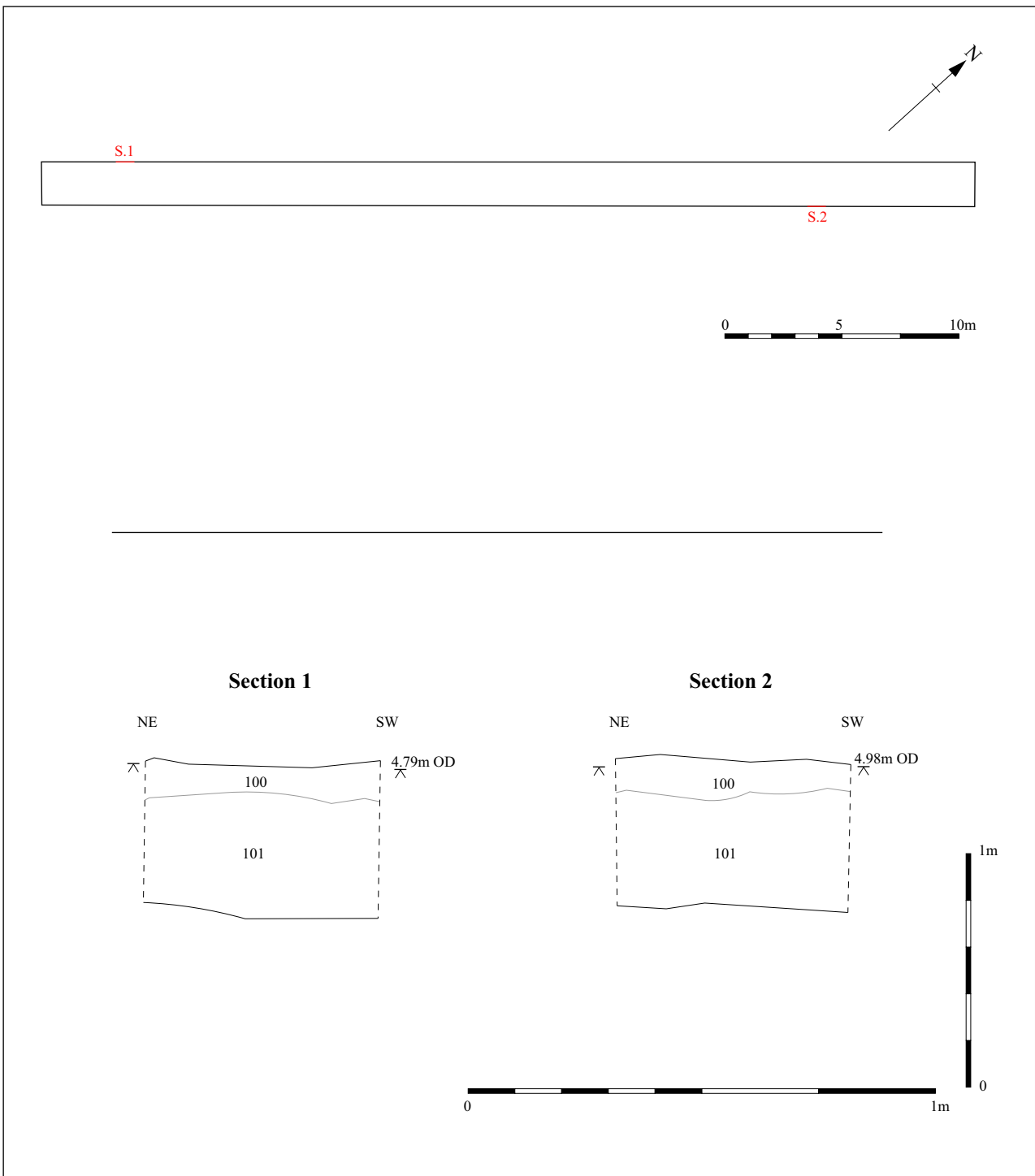


Figure 2: Trench plan and sections



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