

Land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



November 2008

Client: Exchange Developments

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Land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 14th and the 17th of October 2008 OA East carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 67 Ermine St, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire. 103m of trial trenching was opened which revealed archaeological remains dating from the mid 11th Century AD, possibly immediately Post Conquest. The southernmost Trench (1) contained a substantial sequence of deposits that suggested a hollow way lying at right angles to the direction of Ermine Street. Cart tracks were recorded at the base of the hollow way. Seven other negative features were recorded in the southern half of the proposed development area (Trenches 2 & 3). These represent small scale settlement or occupation of the site, and include a linear beam slot. Almost all excavated features contained Late Saxon pottery which was either St. Neots ware or Stamford ware, both common types of pottery in the region.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire.

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application H/03/02068/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).

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 CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

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

Great Stukeley is located in Boulder Clay Till deposits which overlie the undulating low Oxford Clay hills and the development area lies on a south facing slope at a height of between 35m and 31m OD. Immediately to the south of the site is a watercourse, broadly orientated east to west, which is culverted beneath the present day Ermine Street (B1043).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

Little Prehistoric activity has thus far been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

Roman

The site lies alongside the Roman Ermine Street. The roadside ditch, but not the road itself, has been recorded on a site at Stanton Butts to the south, on the northern outskirts of Huntingdon (Spoerry & Cooper, 1999). There is, however, no evidence for settlement in the immediate proximity of the site. It is the two roadside Roman barrows, both scheduled monuments, that give the area its high level of importance: DCB299 lies on the same, eastern side of the road approximately 200m to the north west; DCB300, 60m to the north west on the opposite side of the road.

Saxon

A small number of Saxon/Saxo-Norman features have been recorded to the south at the site at Stanton Butts (Spoerry and Cooper 1999).

Medieval

The site appears to lie outside the medieval settlement of Great Stukeley but the excavation at Stanton Butts to the south revealed the development of roadside buildings and tenement features in the 12th and 13th Centuries. These short-lived extensions to the medieval settlement area, gone by the end of the 14th century, could lie anywhere along the roadside close to areas of earlier medieval settlement.

There are extensive earthworks, the remnants of ridge and furrow agriculture and trackways in the parkland immediately to the east of the site.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The work was funded by Exchange Developments. Fieldwork was carried out by Tom Lyons and Steve Graham. Neil Smith commented on the faunal remains. Surveying was conducted by Gareth Rees. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and Kasia Gdaniec from Cambridgeshire County Council monitored the evaluation.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

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

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using Leica GPS, located on the Ordnance Survey grid. Levels were also recorded using the same method. Drawn plans were incorporated within the survey data to accurately plot the positions of the trenches.

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.

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.

Environmental samples were taken where it was thought they would yield useful information.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

Results are presented by Trench initially. Artefactual and environmental evidence from all trenches are summarised together. Trench descriptions start with the earliest deposits at the base and end with the latest deposits at the top of the sequence. All trenches were excavated to the level of natural substrate. Five trenches were excavated (Fig ? - is there an overall trench location figure?) and are numbered from south to north.

3.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 2) was located at the southern end of the proposed development area. It was orientated southwest to northeast, was 15m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m.

Along the base of the north west facing section (Section 1) was a linear cut feature or series of features, **108**. The edges were relatively well defined and the fill (107) was very similar to the natural geology though darker. Feature **108** was no more than 0.2m deep and was present along the length of the trench. No artefacts were recovered.

Layer 111 was at the base of the north facing section of the trench (Section 1) and sealed 107. It was a greyish brown silty clay and contained moderately frequent flecks of charcoal and fired clay. It was up to 0.2m thick. Towards the eastern end of Section 1 was layer 112, within a slight hollow overlying layer 111. This mostly consisted of fired clay with possibly some crushed tile and was red and orange in colour. It was a maximum of 0.13m thick and appeared to have been truncated. Stratigraphically above 112 was layer 110. This was present in the westernmost 13m of the trench and may have lain within a cut feature which truncated layer 112, though this was not discernible in section. It was a very dark brown clay with abundant charcoal flecks. Above 110 was layer 109, a slightly less dark brown clay still with some charcoal inclusions. It occupied approximately the middle 8m of Section 1 and was a maximum of 0.4m thick. Layer 102 sealed 109 and was present along the whole of Section 1. It was a pale grey silty clay and fluctuated in thickness from 0.6m at the east end to 0.3m in the centre of the section. It contained almost no inclusions. Layer 101 was at the top of Section 1 and was a dark clay silt topsoil.

An extension was cut at the northeast of Trench 1 to ascertain the full extent of deposit 112. The extension was located 1.70m from the east end of the trench and was 3.6m long running to the southeast. Two features were recorded, cut through natural substrate. These were **118** and **120** which were both linear and on the same alignment as **108**. Feature **118** was 0.25m wide, 0.04m deep and filled by a pale greyish brown silty clay (117). Feature **120** was 0.3m wide, 0.06m deep. and filled by a pale greyish silty clay (119). No artefacts were recovered from either fill. The deposit of fired clay and crushed tile visible in Section 1 (112) was recorded in the northeast facing section of the Trench 1 extension. It was present for approximately 1m beyond the face of Section 1. Upon excavation it was revealed to be 0.03m deep and was highly truncated by a field drain. No artefacts were recovered. The remainder of the soil sequence was the same as Section 1.

One further feature was recorded in the trench. Post hole **104** was located 2.50m from the west end of the trench. It was sub circular in plan, had a U – shaped profile and

was approximately 0.5m in diameter. It was filled by 103, a pale brown clay silt which was 0.55m deep and contained a single small sherd of Hunts Fen Sandy ware.

3.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Fig. 3) was orientated north to south, was 25m long and excavated to maximum depth of 0.9m. Three archaeological features were encountered, all cut through natural substrate.

- 3.3.1 Feature **210** was located at the northern end of the trench. It was sub circular in plan and measured 0.7m x 0.5m. It was filled by a charcoal rich mid brown silty clay deposit (209) which also included frequent flecks of fired clay. The feature was 0.15m deep and contained a single rim sherd of St Neots ware pottery.
- 3.3.2 Feature **208** was located 11m from the south end of the trench and was 0.3m wide and 0.13m deep. It was linear and visible in plan for 0.8m, the remainder being beyond the west facing baulk. It was filled by deposit 207, a firm greyish brown silty clay which contained a single small sherd of St Neots ware pottery.
- 3.3.3 Feature **206** was sub circular in plan and located 3m to the south of 208. It was filled by a firm greyish brown silty clay (205), was 0.22m deep and contained a single sherd of sandy ware pottery. The south end of the west facing trench baulk contained a significant soil sequence (Section 2). Layer 204 was a dark brown silty clay which contained a small number of charcoal flecks. It was a maximum of 0.2m thick, located immediately above the natural geology and was present for 5.5m (only 3m on section – does it start again to the north or is the scale wrong?). Layer 203 was above 204. It was a pale greyish brown silty clay and fluctuated in thickness between 0.15m and 0.5m. Layer 203 is equivalent to layer 102 in Trench 1 and was present along the length of Trench 2. At the top of the sequence were layers 202 and 201, subsoil and topsoil respectively.

3.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 (Fig. 4) was located in the central part of the proposed development area, close to the present entrance. It was orientated southwest to northeast, was 18m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m. Trench 3 contained three features.

- 3.4.1 Feature **308** was located at the east end of the trench. It was presumed to be circular or sub circular in plan but the remaining half lay beneath the north facing baulk. Feature **308** measured 0.7m x 0.35m and was 0.28m deep. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay (307) which contained several sherds of pottery and some animal bone. Most of the pottery was St Neots ware but it also contained several large sherds of very freshly broken Stamford ware.
- 3.4.2 Feature **306** was located immediately adjacent to **308** and measured 1m x 1m. It was 0.25m deep and was filled by a mid brown silty clay (305) which contained several sherds of pottery: again, a combination of St Neots ware and freshly broken Stamford ware (probably from the same vessel as in 307).
- 3.4.3 Feature **304** was located five metres from the west end of the trench. It was unclear whether it was sub circular or linear in plan as it was only partially visible, the rest of the feature being beyond the north facing baulk. It measured 0.75m x 0.4m and was 0.2m deep. It was filled by a mid brown silty clay and contained a single small sherd of St Neots ware pottery.

All features in Trench 3 were sealed by subsoil layer 302. At certain points in the trench sections a slightly darker layer was visible beneath 302, no more than 0.1m thick. This material is thought to be the equivalent of 204 in Trench 2. Topsoil was a dark silty clay, 0.16m thick.

3.5 Trench 4

Trench 4 (Fig. 5) was located in the central part of the proposed development area. It was orientated north to south, was 25m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. Trench 4 contained no archaeological features other than furrow bases and modern intrusions. Subsoil and topsoil layers (401 and 400) were both approximately 0.2m thick. The cut for a modern water main was located and is shown on Plan 4.

3.6 Trench 5

Trench 5 (Fig. 6) was located in the northern part of the proposed development area. It was orientated southwest to northeast, was 20m long and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. Subsoil and topsoil (501 and 500) were both 0.2m thick.

- 3.6.1 Feature **504** was located 4m from the west end on the trench. It appeared sub circular in plan although the remainder of the feature was beyond the south facing baulk. Feature **504** was 0.5m deep and filled by a single fill (503). No artefacts were recovered.

3.7 Finds Summary

Though only two sherds of pottery were recovered from the layers and features in Trench 1 all archaeological Features in both Trenches 2 and 3 contained pottery. No pottery was recovered from either Trenches 4 or 5. The majority of the pottery sherds recovered suggests a mid 11th Century date, perhaps immediately Post Conquest. The size and freshness of the Stamford ware sherds, and the likelihood that sherds from separate features came from the same vessel, would indicate direct usage and deposition of pottery on the site.

Animal bone was recovered from several features (See Appendix B2). The most substantial assemblages were recovered from Layer 109 in Trench 1 and Features **306** and **308** in Trench 3. Layer 109 contained a range of horse and cattle butchery waste with many split bones indicative of marrow removal. Also recovered was a single piece of human skull. The features in Trench 3 produced a range of butchered cattle, pig and sheep remains.

3.8 Environmental Summary

See Appendix C1. Environmental sampling of negative features produced charred plant remains and charcoal (the latter being present in all of the samples). Sample no. 7 contained hammscale which suggests that there may have been small scale iron working (smithing) activity in the vicinity of the site.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development area contains well preserved remains of medieval ridge and furrow agriculture, on an approximate southeast to northwest alignment. This is presumed to date from the most extensive period of medieval agriculture, between the 12th and 14th Centuries. The archaeology present in the southern part of the site is sealed by this ridge and furrow.

It is possible that the deposits encountered in Trench 1 represent the gradual infilling of a trackway, or 'Hollow Way', which led down the small valley towards Ermine Street. It is also possible that this routeway was accentuated by water action. The south end of the proposed development area is the lowest part of the immediate topography with relatively steep rises to the south, east and north and it is here that a water course runs from higher ground to the north east beneath the modern Ermine St (B1043) through a culvert.

4.1 Possible hollow way

At the base of Trench 1 Features **108**, **118** and **120** were all shallow linear grooves on the direct orientation of this putative routeway. These are likely to represent cart tracks or ruts which have cut down in to the natural geology. After these were silted up it appears that there was infilling of the hollow from context 111 which might have resulted in part from water lain clay. A single sherd of St. Neots ware pottery was recovered from 111.

- 4.1.1 Context 112 appears to have been a dump of material, perhaps infilling or consolidating a route way still in use. Composed principally of fired clay, it could conceivably have come from either a burnt building or oven/hearth within the proposed development area. Section 1 suggests that 112 may have been truncated by one or more features. It is possible that these represent natural truncation levels, linked to flooding episodes from the stream to the south. Deposit 112 was overlain by Layer 110 which was very dark with frequent charcoal inclusions. These putative truncations could be contemporary with later stages of the occupation represented by the features in Trenches 2 and 3 (see below). The contents of Feature **210** in Trench 2 was also rich in charcoal, cereal grains and contained burnt bone.

Layer 109 is interpreted as a medieval buried surface and is almost certainly equivalent to Layer 204 in Trench 2 (Section 2). Its presence in the middle of the trench and absence at either end reflects its preservation and destruction, respectively, by medieval ridge and furrow agriculture. The subsoil (102) that overlies the medieval surface (109) complements this, being thicker at either end of the trench in the furrows and thinner in the middle part of the trench where the ridge would have been.

4.2 Possible settlement

Trench 2 contained possible structural evidence for Early Medieval settlement or occupation. Features **208** and **206** are interpreted as a beam slot and post hole. (Another beam associated with **208** might be expected to be located a few metres to the north east.) The southern half of the west facing section of Trench 2 (Section 2) contained a partially preserved medieval buried soil (204), where it had not been removed by ridge and furrow action. This is presumed to have sealed Features **206** & **208** and is likely to be present across the remainder of the proposed development area where it has not been truncated by subsequent medieval agriculture.

Pit **210** at the north end of Trench 2 contained an abundance of charcoal which may conceivably have been part of the same burning event or industrial activity represented by Layers 112 and 110 in Section 1. Further circumstantial evidence for industrial activity was found in a sample taken from the base of Feature **108** in Trench 1 which contained hammerscale. The presence of charred cereal remains is further suggestion of small scale settlement in the proposed development area.

4.3 Significance

These findings are significant as they reveal the likely presence of Early Medieval, Post Conquest settlement or occupation. This type of evidence is relatively rare for this period and location. The only known archaeology of a similar date in the area is on Stukeley road, Huntingdon to the south of the proposed development area. Here, evidence for several plots containing timber structures were revealed in the form of post holes and beam slots located perpendicular to Ermine St. (Spoerry & Cooper 1999). These features date from the peak of medieval occupation, between the 12th and 14th Centuries, whereas the archaeology from the proposed development area seems to be from the immediate post conquest phase only. All archaeological features in the lower half of the proposed development area are sealed beneath medieval ploughsoil linked to ridge and furrow agriculture, which is presumed to date from the 12th to 14th Centuries. The ridge and furrow process has sealed and preserved, rather than truncated, the earlier archaeology due to its location within the stream hollow. Layers 109 & 204 represent a buried land surface of the Late Saxon/Conquest period which has the potential to date both the commencement and abandonment of the occupation of the area.

The single piece of human skull that was found in Layer 109 could come from a disturbed or truncated Roman burial or cemetery in the vicinity. There are two known barrows to the north of the proposed development area (see Archaeological Background) which were probably part of a larger barrow cemetery. In this context, the discovery of redeposited disarticulated human remains is a significant but not surprising discovery.

4.4 Recommendations

- 4.4.1 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 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NE-SW |
| Trench at south end of site. Contained one discrete feature and several linear features along the length of the trench. Trench profile contained several medieval horizons. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 1.1 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 15 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 101 | Layer | - | 0.22 | Topsoil | - | Modern |
| 102 | Layer | | | Ridge / Furrow / Subsoil | | Medieval |
| 103 | Fill | | | Fill of [104] | 1 sherd & Animal tooth | Early Medieval |
| 104 | Cut | | | Cut of Post Hole | | Early Medieval |
| 105 | Fill | | | Fill of [106] | | Early Medieval |
| 106 | Cut | | | Cut of Linear Feature | | Early Medieval |
| 107 | Fill | | | Fill of [108] | | Early Medieval |
| 108 | Cut | | | Cut of Linear Feature | | Early Medieval |
| 109 | Layer | | | Dark brown central layer | Animal Bone | Early Medieval |
| 110 | Layer | | | Very dark with freq charc | | Early Medieval |
| 111 | Layer | | | Greyish brown clay | 1 sherd of St Neots ware & Animal Bone | Early Medieval |
| 112 | Layer | | | Fired Clay | | Early Medieval |
| 113 | | | | VOID | | |
| 114 | | | | VOID | | |
| 115 | | | | VOID | | |
| 116 | | | | VOID | | |
| 117 | Fill | | | Fill of [118] | | Early Medieval |
| 118 | Cut | | | Cut of Linear Feature | | Early Medieval |
| 119 | Fill | - | - | Fill of [120] | - | Early Medieval |
| 120 | Cut | | | Cut of Linear Feature | | Early Medieval |
| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
| General description | | | | | Orientation | N-S |
| Contained three discrete features. Trench profile contained buried medieval horizon at south end. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.6 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |

| | | | | | Length (m) | 24 |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 201 | Layer | | | Topsoil | | |
| 202 | Layer | | | Subsoil | | |
| 203 | Layer | | | Ridge / Furrow | | |
| 204 | Layer | | | Old land surface / buried soil | | |
| 205 | Fill | | | Fill of [206] | 1 sherd of Hunts Early Med ware | |
| 206 | Cut | | | Cut of Post Hole | | |
| 207 | Fill | | | Fill of [208] | 1 sherd of ST Neots ware | |
| 208 | Cut | | | Cut of Linear Feature | | |
| 209 | Fill | | | Fill of [210] | 1 sherd of St Neots ware | |
| 210 | Cut | | | Cut of Pit | | |
| Trench 3 | | | | | | |
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SW - NE |
| Contained three discrete features. Trench profile contained slight remains of medieval horizons. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.55 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 18 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 301 | Layer | | | Topsoil | | Modern |
| 302 | Layer | | | Subsoil | | Modern |
| 303 | Fill | | | Fill of [304] | 2 sherds of St Neots ware | Early Medieval |
| 304 | Cut | | | Cut of Linear Feature (?) | | Early Medieval |
| 305 | Fill | | | Fill of [306] | 14 Pottery sherds some Stamford ware & Animal Bone | Early Medieval |
| 306 | Cut | | | Cut of Pit | | Early Medieval |
| 307 | Fill | | | Fill of [308] | 9 Pottery sherds some Stamford ware & Animal Bone | Early Medieval |
| 308 | Cut | | | Cut of Pit | | |

| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|------------------|----------------|---------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | N-S |
| Trench contained no archaeology. Trench profile contained topsoil and subsoil. A water main ran across the trench. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.4 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 25 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 400 | Layer | | | Topsoil | | |
| 401 | Layer | | | Subsoil | | |
| 402 | Fill | | | Natural | | |
| Trench 5 | | | | | | |
| General description | | | | | Orientation | SW - NE |
| Trench contained one discreet feature, an undated Post Hole. Trench profile contained topsoil and subsoil. A water main ran across the trench. | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.5 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Length (m) | 20 |
| Contexts | | | | | | |
| context no | type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | comment | finds | date |
| 500 | Layer | | | Topsoil | | |
| 501 | Layer | | | Subsoil | | |
| 502 | Layer | | | Natural | | |
| 503 | Fill | | | Fill of [504] | | |
| 504 | Cut | | | Cut of Post Hole | | |

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

INTRODUCTION

The archaeological evaluation on land at 67 Ermine St, Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire produced a small pottery assemblage of 40 sherds, weighing 0.213kg, including unstratified material, from nine contexts. The material recovered is primarily a mixture of late Saxon and early medieval pottery dating from the mid 11th to mid 12th Centuries including NEOT and STAM sherds. No pottery dating to later than the 14th Century was recovered. In addition a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered. The condition of the overall assemblage was abraded and the average sherd weight was small at approximately 5g.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text are:

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| DNEOT | Developed St Neots |
| HUNEMW | Huntingdonshire Early Medieval ware |
| MSGW | Medieval Sandy Grey ware |
| NEOT/NEOTT | St Neots ware |
| STAM | Stamford ware |
| THET | Thetford ware |

METHODOLOGY

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations (Blake and Davey, 1983), A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG, 1998) and Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis.

The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

ASSEMBLAGE

The assemblage includes pottery types present in both the Late Saxon and early medieval periods, however the presence of HUNEMW, a locally produced early medieval coarse ware thought to be post conquest in date and unabraded rim sherds from a large straight sided STAM bowl, a form that was popular during the 11th century (Kilmurry 1980, p137) indicate that the assemblage is post conquest. The small abraded sherds of NEOT may be residual Late Saxon material, in addition the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries are also represented with the presence of DNEOT and MSGW.

This is a small domestic assemblage and almost all the material is abraded, suggesting reworking after initial deposition. There are no complete vessels, no sherds worthy of illustration and full statistical analysis is not viable. Despite this there is a strong indication of early medieval domestic activity although the assemblage is too small to be certain if this is a true reflection of pottery usage.

No preservation bias has been recognised and no long-term storage problems are likely. Further work will need to be undertaken if additional excavation is carried out.

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH POTENTIAL

An assemblage of this size can provide only basic dating information for a site, however the presence of unabraded post conquest STAM sherds suggests that area evaluated has potential to produce a significant assemblage that will offer insight into the early medieval occupation of Great Stukely.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Blake, H and Davey, P. 1983 Guidelines for the Processing and Publication of Medieval Pottery from Excavations. Directorate of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings_Occasional_Paper 5
- English Heritage 1991 Management of Archaeological Projects
- Kilmurry, K. 1980 The Pottery Industry of Stamford Lincolnshire c.A.D. 850-1250 BAR British Series 84
- Medieval Pottery Research Group 1998 A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I

DATING TABLE

| Context | Fabric | Basic Form | Sherd Count | Sherd Weight (Kg) | Spot dating Date Range |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 103 | MSGW | Jar | 1 | 0.002 | Late 12th- late 14th century |
| 111 | NEOT | Jar | 1 | 0.008 | 11th-mid 12th century |
| 205 | HUNEMW | | 1 | 0.006 | Mid 11th-end 12th century |
| 207 | NEOT | | 1 | 0.002 | Mid 9th-mid 12th century |
| 209 | NEOT | Jar | 1 | 0.015 | 11th-mid 12th century |
| 303 | NEOT | | 4 | 0.005 | Mid 9th-mid 12th century |
| 305 | NEOT | | 1 | 0.001 | 11th-mid 12th century |
| | NEOT | Jar | 8 | 0.037 | |
| | ROMAN | | 1 | 0.007 | |

| Context | Fabric | Basic Form | Sherd Count | Sherd Weight (Kg) | Spot dating Date Range |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | STAM | | 3 | 0.053 | |
| | STAM | Bowl | 1 | 0.025 | |
| | STAM | Jug | 1 | 0.002 | |
| | UNK | | 1 | 0.001 | |
| 307 | NEOT | | 6 | 0.011 | 11th-mid 12th century |
| | STAM | | 5 | 0.018 | |
| | STAM | Bowl | 1 | 0.016 | |
| | THET | | 1 | 0.001 | |
| 501 | DNEOT | | 1 | 0.002 | Mid 12th century |
| 501 | NEOT | | 1 | 0.001 | |

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 The assemblage was comprised of nearly all St Neots ware and Stamford Ware, aside from a single piece of residual Roman pottery. Most of the sherds were in a relatively poor condition with the exception of those of Form 1 Stamford Ware bowls (305), which had very fresh breaks. This particular vessel type was more common in the 11th Century. A single sherd of St Neots Ware was found from deposit 111, in the Trench 1 extension. This was part of a colander and is significant because it provides a mid 11th Century Terminus Post Quem date for the fired clay deposit 112.

B.1.2

Animal Bone

| Context | Feature | Material | Species | Weight in kg |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 107 | | Bone | | 0.05 |
| 209 | 210 | Bone | | 0.02 |
| 303 | 304 | Bone | | 0.01 |
| 305 | 306 | Bone | Horse, | 0.03 |
| 307 | 308 | Bone | Cattle | 0.04 |
| 307 | 308 | Bone | Horse | 0.09 |
| 305 | 306 | Bone | Sheep | 0.27 |
| 103 | 104 | Bone | | 0.01 |
| 111 | | Bone | Human? | 0.07 |
| 109 | | Bone | Horse & Cattle | 1.27 |

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples by Rachel Fosberry

Six samples were taken from a variety of features within the confines of the evaluated area. The results of the flotation of these samples reveal that charred plant remains including cereals and occasional weeds seeds have the potential to provide archaeobotanical information.

1 INTRODUCTION

Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Features sampled include secure archaeological contexts primarily dating from the late Saxon to early medieval period.

2 METHODOLOGY

The volume of bulk soil samples collected was between 10 – 20L

Ten litres of each sample were processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flots were collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residues were washed through a 1mm mesh. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residues were passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, fish bone, charcoal, shell, etc..) and artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Identifications were made by the author without comparison to the OA East reference collection and should be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant classification follows Stace (1997).

3 QUANTIFICATION

Table 1 summarises the results obtained

| Sample No. | Context No. | Flot contents | Residue contents |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 303 | Cereal grains, charcoal, fishscale, weed seeds | Animal bone, pottery |
| 2 | 305 | Charcoal only | Animal bone, small mammal bone, pottery, bronze pin |
| 4 | 209 | Cereal grains, charcoal | Animal bone, burnt bone |

| | | | |
|---|-----|--|---------------------------|
| 5 | 307 | Cereal grains, charcoal, weed seeds | Animal bone |
| 6 | 103 | Weed seeds, charcoal | No finds |
| 7 | 107 | Cereal grains, charcoal, weed seeds, hammerscale | Animal bone, worked flint |

4 RESULTS

Preservation

The plant remains were predominantly preserved by carbonisation. Occasional uncharred seeds of the tough-coated bramble (*Rubus* sp.) are present

Plant Remains

Cereals

Charred cereal occur in four of the samples. Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains predominate along with rye (*Secale cereale*) and occasional oat (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains.

Weed seeds

Charred seeds are rare and mainly occur as singles specimens including dock (*Rumex* sp), plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) Uncharred seeds of bramble (*Rubus* sp.) are also present.

Charcoal

Charcoal is present in all of the samples

Ecofacts and Artefacts

Pottery

Pottery sherds were recovered from the residues of Samples 1 and 2.

Contamination

Modern roots were present in all of the samples

5 DISCUSSION

The plant remains in this assemblage consist of cereal grains along with occasional weed seeds (possibly a crop contaminants). The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The preliminary appraisal of samples from this site have shown that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains. The negative evidence of crop-processing in this area suggests that this activity was restricted to a specific area of the settlement.

If further excavation is planned, targeted sampling of features such as primary fills, middens and any waterlogged features should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Spoerry, P & Cooper, S. 1999 Saxon and Medieval Occupation at Stukely Road, Huntingdon: Excavation report. Unpublished CAM ARC report 189.

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------|------------|
| OASIS Number | oxfordar3-51308 | | |
| Project Name | Land at 67 Ermine Street, Great Stukely, Cambridgeshire: An Arcaheological Evaluation | | |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) Start | 14-10-2008 | Finish | 17-10-2008 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | No | Future Work | Unknown |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Site Code | STU EST 08 | Planning App. No. | H/03/02068/FUL |
| HER No. | ECB 3055 | Related HER/OASIS No. | |

Type of Project/Techniques Used

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16 |
| Development Type | Housing Estate |

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 |
|------------|-----------------------|--------|------------------|
| Pits | Medieval 1066 to 1540 | | Select period... |
| Beam slot | Medieval 1066 to 1540 | | Select period... |
| Post Holes | Medieval 1066 to 1540 | | Select period... |

Project Location

| | | |
|------------|----------------|--|
| County | Cambridgeshire | Site Address (including postcode if possible) |
| District | | 67 Ermine St Gt Stukeley Huntingdon PE28 4AG |
| Parish | The Stukelys | |
| HER | Cambridgeshire | |
| Study Area | | National Grid Reference TL 2210 7450 |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Organisation | OA EAST |
| Project Brief Originator | Kasia Gdaniec |
| Project Design Originator | Richard Mortimer |
| Project Manager | Richard Mortimer |
| Supervisor | Thomas Lyons |

Project Archives

| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Cambs County Store | OA EAST | Cambs County Store |
| Accession ID ... | Accession ID ... | Accession ID ... |

Archive Contents/Media

| | Physical Contents | Digital Contents | Paper Contents |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Animal Bones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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"/> |
| 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 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 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 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 checked="" 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 | |
| Excavated Slot | |
| Modern Deposit | |
| Cut 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 | 118 |
| Deposit Number | 117 |
| Ordnance Datum | 18.45m OD |
| Inclusions | |
| Field Drain | |

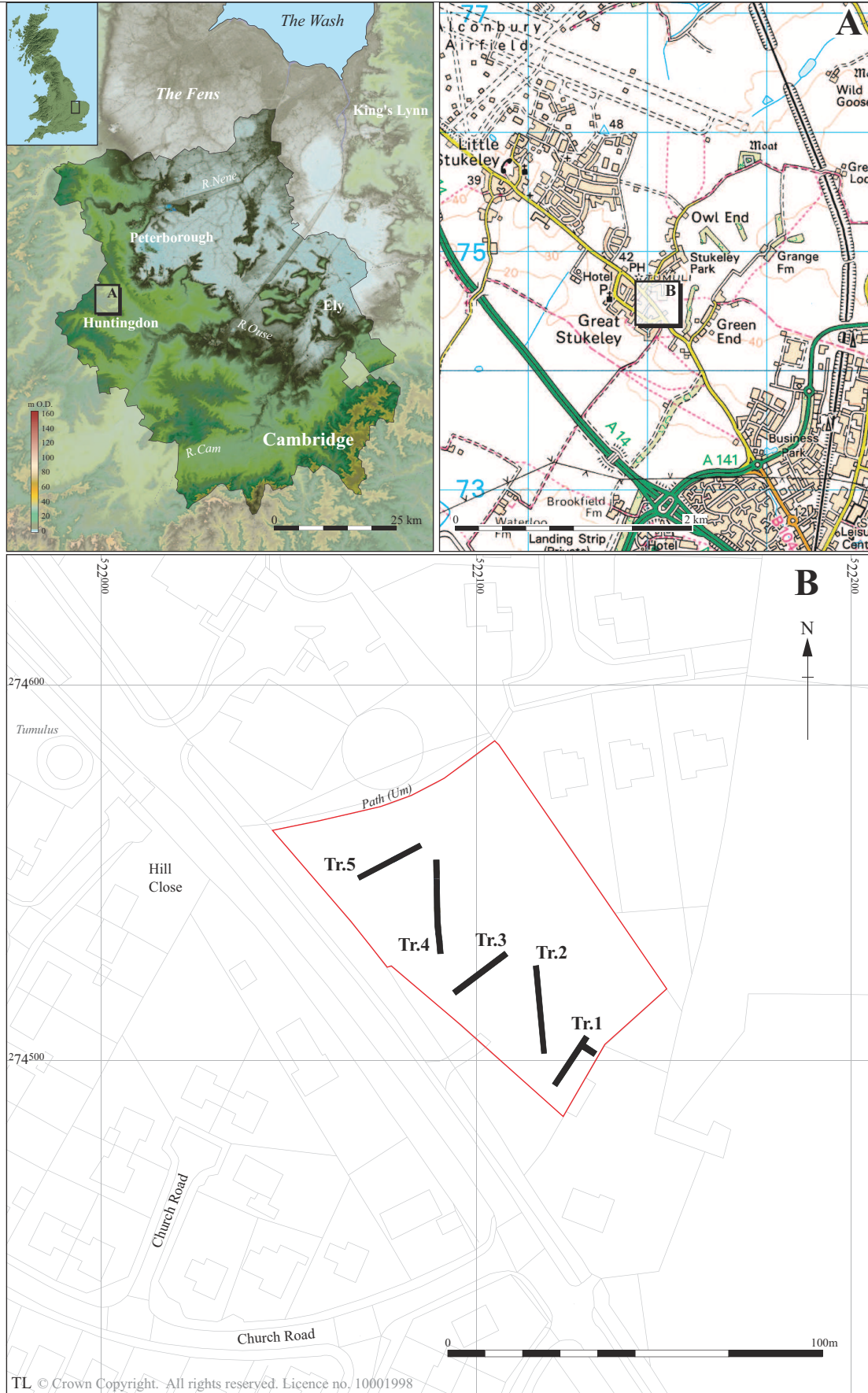


Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)



Figure 2: Trench 1 plan and section (1:100)

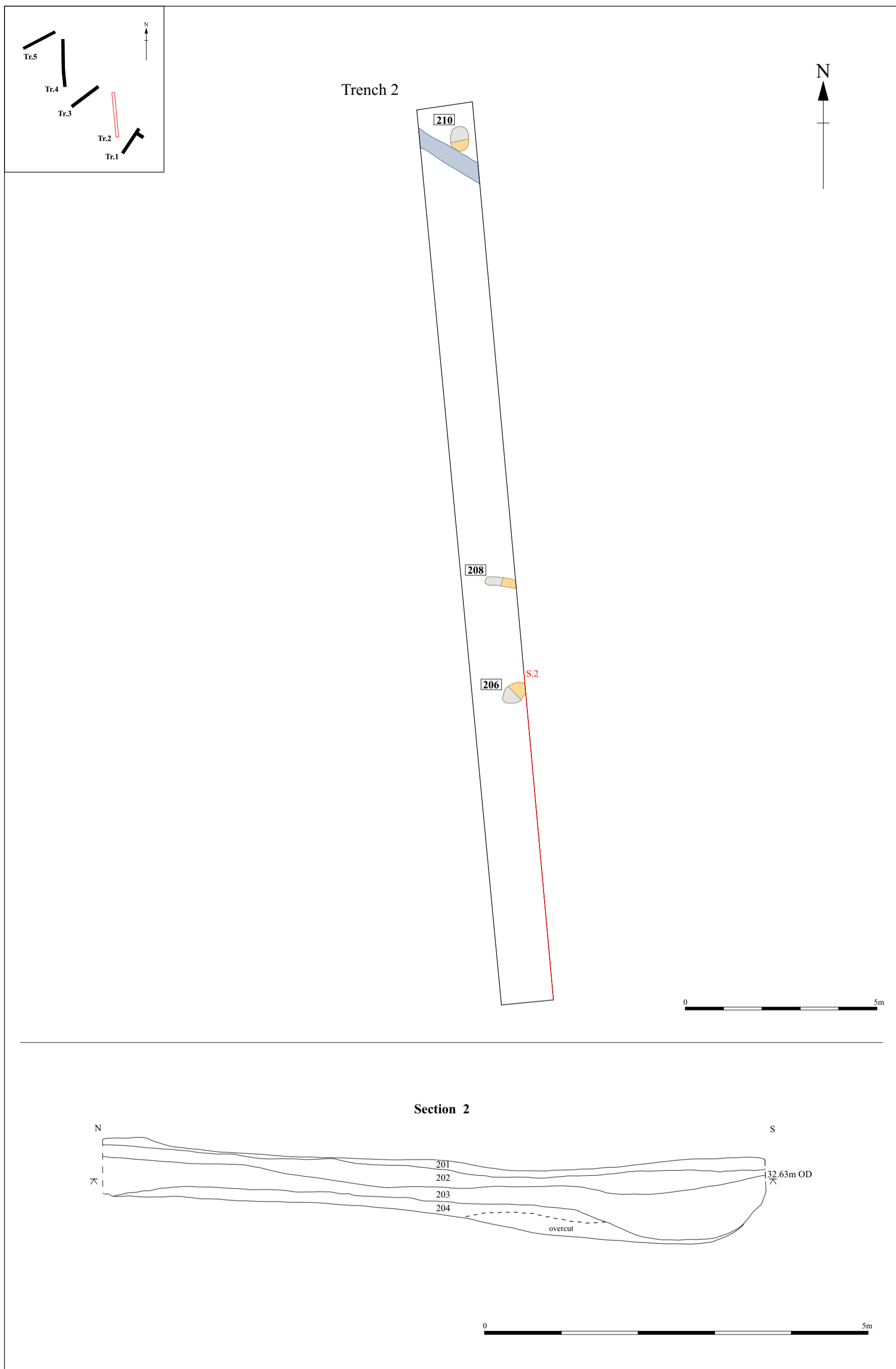


Figure 3: Trench 2 plan (1:100) and section (1:50)

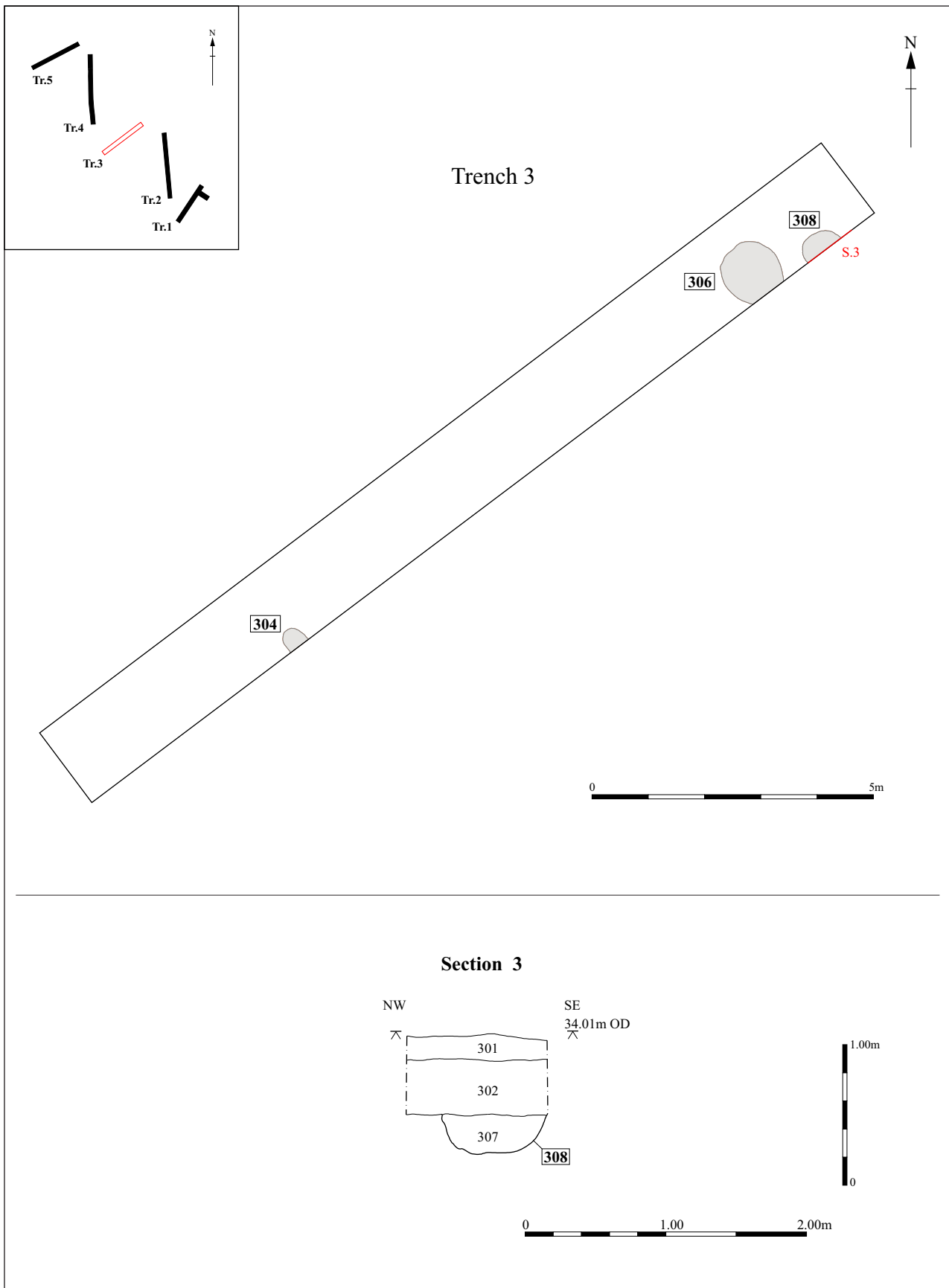


Figure 4: Trench 3 plan (1:100) and section (1:40)

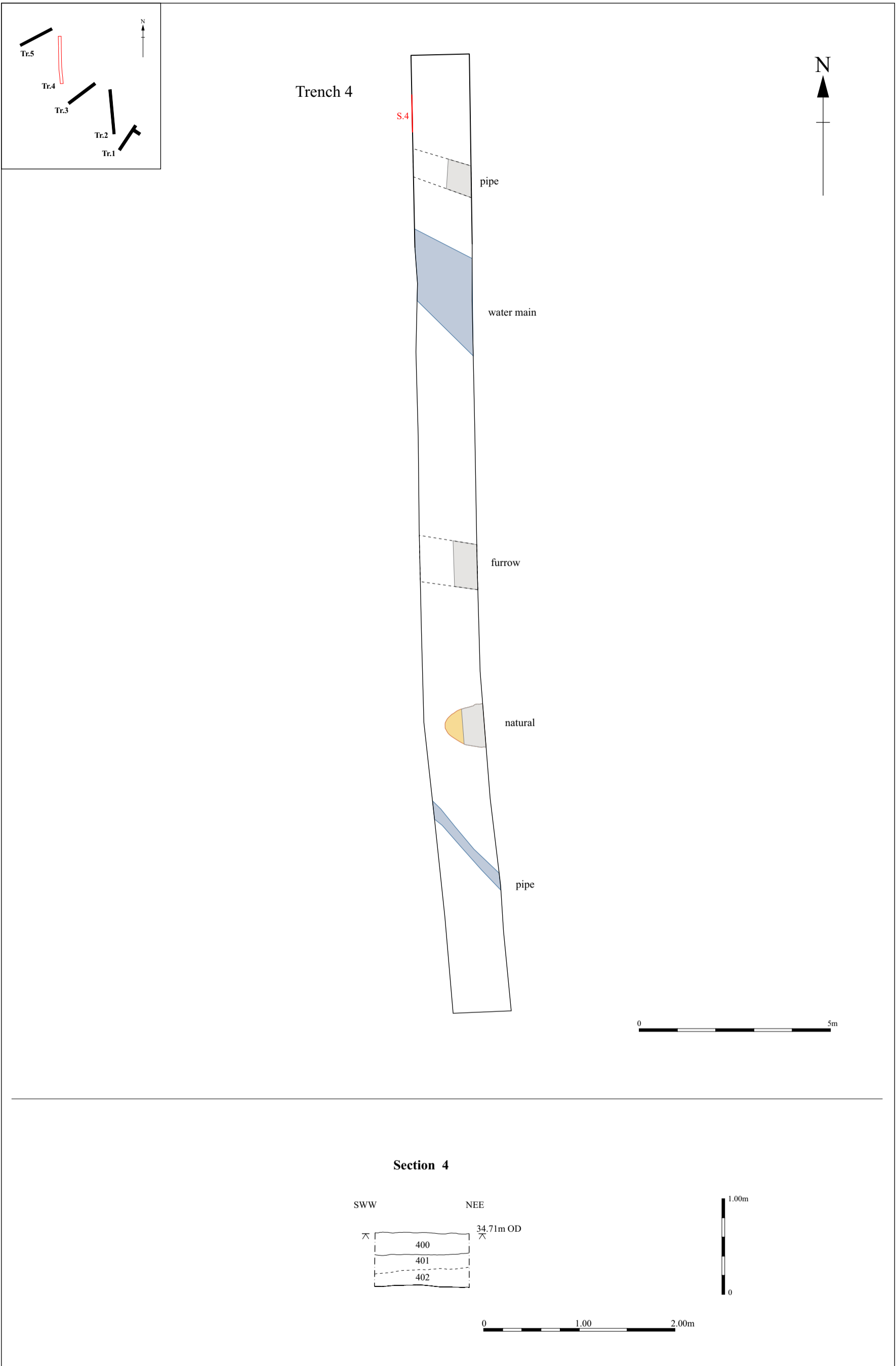


Figure 5: Trench 4 plan (1:100) and section (1:40)

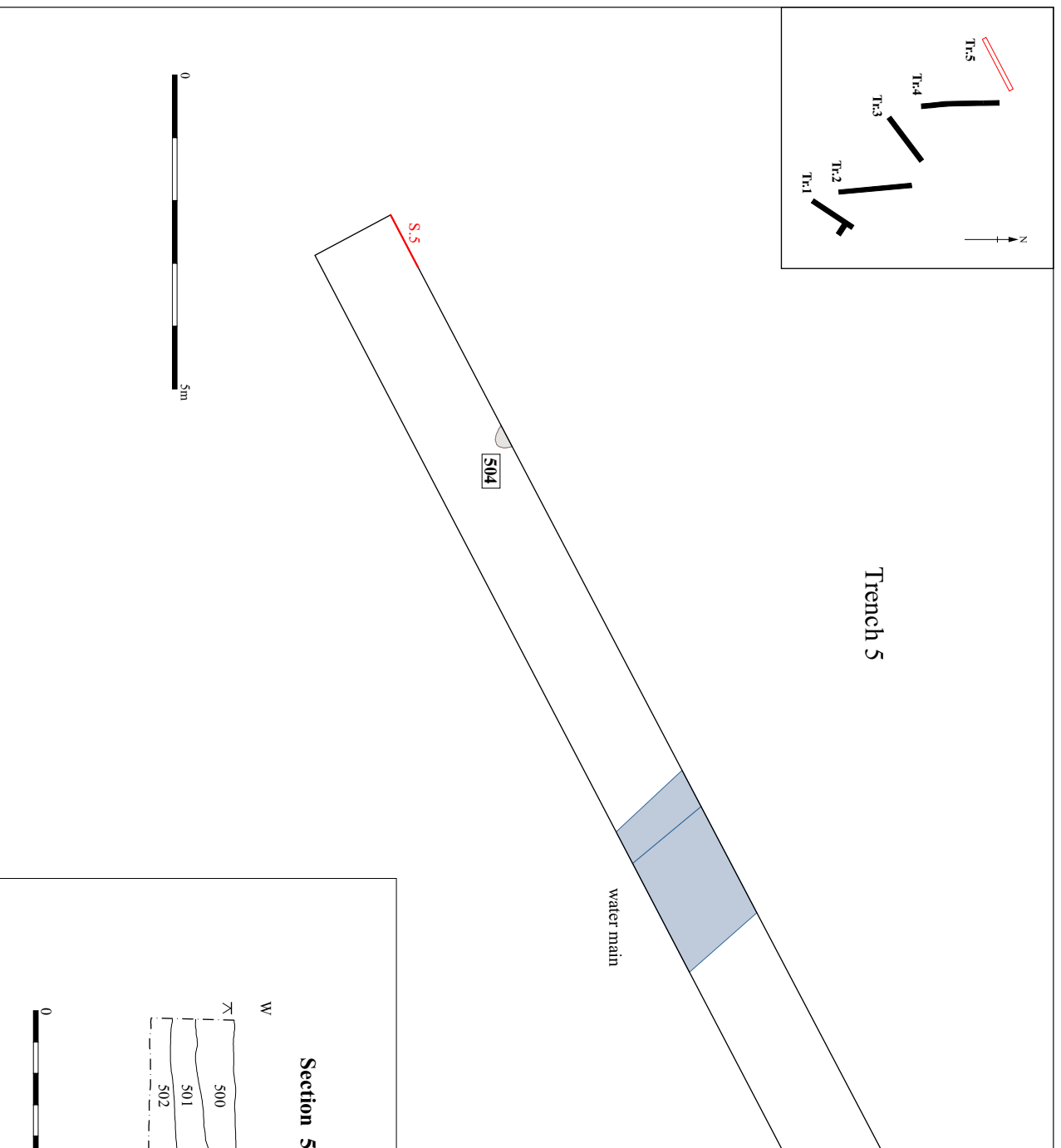


Figure 6: Trench 5 plan (1:100) and section (1:40)



Plate 1: Corner of Trench 1 with extension



Plate 2: Buried soil (204) at South end of Trench 2



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