

The Bell Great North Road Eaton Socon



Archaeological
Evaluation Report



November 2008

Client:

OA East Report No: 1074

OASIS No: oxfordarc3-51608

NGR: TL 1691 5813

Report Title

Archaeological Evaluation

The Bell Great North Road, Eaton Socon

By James Fairbairn

*With contributions by William S. Wadeson, Alasdair Brooks BA MA Dphil, Chris Faine
MA MSC and Rachel Fosberry*

Editor: James Drummond Murray BA MIFA


Illustrator: Gillian Greer Bsc MAAIS

Report Date: November 2008

Report Number: 1074
Site Name: The Bell, Great North Road, Eaton Socon
HER Event No: ECB 3052
Date of Works: October 2008
Client Name: Bell Cornwell Associates
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 0703933FUL
Grid Ref: TL 1691 5813
Site Code: STNBEG08
Finance Code: STNBEG08
Receiving Body:

Accession No:

Prepared by: James Fairbairn
Position: Supervisor
Date: Nov 08

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Manager
Date: Nov 08
Signed: 

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2008
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	6
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	6
1.2 Geology and topography.....	6
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	6
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	6
2 Aims and Methodology.....	7
2.1 Aims.....	7
2.2 Methodology.....	7
3 Results.....	8
3.1 Introduction	8
3.2 Sub-heading (e.g. Trench 1, or Trenches in Field A, etc....).....	8
3.3 Sub-heading (e.g. Trench 2, or Trenches in Field B, etc....).....	8
3.4 Finds Summary.....	8
3.5 Environmental Summary.....	8
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	9
4.1 Sub-heading	9
4.2 Sub-heading.....	9
4.3 Significance.....	9
4.4 Recommendations.....	9
Appendix A. Health and Safety Statement	10
Appendix B. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	11
Appendix C. Finds Reports.....	12
C.1 Pottery.....	12
Appendix D. Environmental Reports.....	13
D.1 Environmental samples.....	13
Appendix E. Bibliography	14
Appendix F. OASIS Report Form	15

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map
- Fig. 2 Trench 1 plan and sections
- Fig. 3 Trench 2 plan and sections
- Fig. 4 Trench 3 plan and sections

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land occupied by The Bell public house, Eaton Socon, St Neots (TL 1691 5813) by Oxford Archaeology East. The Archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 22nd and the 24th of October 2008, prior to the demolition of the Bell public house and the construction of a drive-through restaurant. The work was commissioned by Bell Cornwell Associates.

Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned to mechanically excavate 3 trenches (total area 50m of linear trenching) in the development area. The evaluation revealed two small linear ditches dating to the Roman-British period and pits of varying sizes dating to the Roman and post medieval periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at The Bell Public House, Great North Road, Eaton Socon, (TL 1691 5813).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological Evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Gore of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application No.: 0403933FUL, 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 CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies (TL 1691 5813) on Second terrace River deposits overlying Oxford Clay and is situated on the western bank of the Great Ouse. Historically the Bell Public House was situated in a small hamlet of Eaton Socon called Little End which lies immediately to the south of Eaton Socon village and approximately 2.5km south west of St Neots town centre. The site is now predominately surrounded by large scale industrial and commercial business units.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The background is drawn from the specifications for the works (Drummond-Murray 2008).
- 1.3.2 The site lies on the gravel terraces on the western bank of the river Great Ouse, in a landscape known for its important prehistoric remains, both rural and settlement, and known to have been densely settled in the Romano-British period.

The site lies immediately south of a large area of Romano-British rural activity and possible settlement that was excavated in 1997 (Wessex Archaeology Report No.***). This includes ditches, enclosures, evidence for temporary structures and craft processing. Most pertinently the report concludes that the centre of Romano-British occupation was probably immediately to the south of the excavated area (i.e. including the subject site). Similarly dated remains, although more characteristically field enclosures rather than occupation, are known from the area immediately to the south and west, which were subjected to evaluation trenching in 2001 by Wessex Archaeology.

This area has also produced possible Neolithic activity in the form of a Hearth (HER 00369) and Anglo Saxon occupation just to the north in the shape of a Saxon sunken featured building (ECB1963-Wessex Archaeology).

The site lies close to the frontage of the Great North Road, this formed the most important route northwards from London from the later 17th century onwards with upwards of 36 coaches passing through the town daily. Prior to that this route was secondary to the former Ermine Street. It is possible that some of the features encountered in trench **3** may be associated with the roads development.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Bell Cornwell Associates who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. Chris Thatcher carried out the evaluation with the assistance of James Fairbairn. Gareth Rees surveyed the site using a Leica GPS. The illustrations were produced by Gillian Greer. James Drummond-Murray edited the report.
- 1.4.2 The brief for the archaeological work was written by Eliza Gore, who monitored the evaluation.

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 50m of linear trial trenching be excavated. This consisted of two 20m trial trenches one to the front and the other to the rear of the property. The 10m trench was located in the car park to the north of the property.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a c. 1.8m toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GPS which is located on the Ordnance Survey Grid. Levels were also recorded on the top and bottom of each trench with the GPS. Drawn plans were incorporated with the survey data to accurately plot the position of the trenches.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 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 A total of 50 litres from 3 relevant contexts were sampled to investigate possible survival of micro and macro-botanical remains. These were processed by OA east's environmental department at Bourn and studied by Rachel Fosberry.
- 2.2.7 Conditions on site were reasonable. Weather conditions were dry and overcast. Some water was present in trench 3 but not enough to interfere with excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Three trenches were dug during the evaluation all contained archaeological remains and will be discussed in numerical order.

3.2 Trench 1 (see fig 2)

3.2.1 A total of four archaeological features were found in trench 1, two small linear shallow ditches **101** and **103**, a post medieval pit **112** and a heavily truncated Romano-British pit **105**. (See appendix A).

3.2.2 Ditch **101** ran north-east to south west and had a width of 0.40m and a depth of 0.08m and had a visible length of 6.75m. This gully had a single fill (100) consisting of a mid to light brown sandy silty clay, the fill contained five sherds of Romano-British pottery dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD. (see appendix B)

3.2.3 Ditch **103** had similar dimensions to **101**. Its width was 0.35m, the depth was 0.08m and it ran east-west for a visible length of 1.80m. **103** had a single light brown sandy silty clay fill (102) very similar to that of fill (100) this context contained no finds. Ditch **101** overlay **103** at its north eastern end. This and the similarity of the dimensions and fills suggest a contemporary or near contemporary date. These two contexts could be related to the rural and domestic activity to the north and west of the evaluation area.

3.2.4 A large pit **112** was partially excavated at the northern end of trench 2, visible dimensions were a width of 1.80m and a depth of 0.80m. This pit contained a single mid to dark brown sandy silty clay fill (104). This fill contained post medieval pottery and bone. Pit **112** seemed to truncate an earlier pit **105**. the fill of this pit (106) consisted of a very dark silty clay which contained a single piece of leather possibly from a shoe.

3.3 Trench 2 (see fig 3)

3.3.1 This trench consisted of a mid to dark grey silty clay cultivation soil overlying a sandy clay subsoil. This trench contained five archaeological features, a NW-SE running linear ditch **205**, a N-S running linear ditch **222**, a small pit or post hole **207** of Romano-British date and a large pit **218** truncating an earlier Romano-British pit or ditch **219**.

3.3.2 Ditch **205** was linear in plan and ran NW-SE. Visible dimensions were a length of 3.00m and a width of 0.80m and a depth of 0.34 m. Ditch **205** had two fills the upper (203) consisting of a brown silty sandy clay mixture containing occasional small stones but no finds. The lower fill (204) consisted of a very dark silty clay mixture containing a single piece of animal bone and Romano-British pottery dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD.

3.3.3 Pit/Post hole **207**. This pit or post hole had a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.22m it contained a single fill (206) which consisted of a mid grey silty clay material. Romano-British pottery was found within the fill, this pottery dates from the 2nd to 4th century AD

3.3.4 A box section was dug into an area of modern disturbance to ascertain the presence of any archaeology below. The section was dug through a of mid to dark silty clay topsoil and subsoil mixture revealing a very dark silty fill (201) this fill may have some relationship with pit **105** in trench two.

- 3.3.5 Pit **218** contained a single fill (211) consisting of a mid brown silty clay fill containing post medieval pottery dating to the 18th or 19th century. This truncated an earlier Romano-British pit or ditch. Pit **218** may also truncate a small linear feature **213** that seemed to run very close to the edge of the later feature **218** and maybe a continuation of ditch **101** in trench one.
- 3.3.6 Pit or ditch **219** that contained a single fill (212) consisting of a very dark silty clay mixture, within this Romano-British pottery was found, this fill also contained a small piece of leather (small find2)
- 3.3.7 A linear ditch **222** ran west to East and into the edge of excavation. This ditch had a visible width of 0.80m and an excavated depth of 0.10m. Its single fill (221) contained Romano-British pottery.

3.4 Trench 3 (see fig4)

- 3.4.1 This Trench contained three archaeological features **302**, **305** and **307** all of which were pits. Overlying these was a possible buried plough or cultivation soil and heavily made up ground consistent with the construction of a car park or forecourt. Trench 3 was crossed by modern services at two points.
- 3.4.2 Pit **302** contained a single mid brown silty clay fill (301) containing post medieval pottery. This pit was sub circular in plan and had a length of 1.35m a width of 1.00m and a depth of 0.35m.
- 3.4.3 Pit **305** contained two fills. The upper fill (303) consisted of a mid brown silty clay with no finds but occasional small stone inclusions. The lower fill (304) consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay material. This fill contained a small amount of animal bone.
- 3.4.4 Pit **307** contained a single dark grey brown silty clay fill (306). The fill contained a single piece potter dating to the mid 1st to 4th century AD.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 The finds recovered in all three evaluation trenches suggest two distinct phases of activity, The Romano-British pottery dates mainly to the 3rd and 4th century AD (see appendix B). The next phase of activity seems to date to the late 18th early 19th century and possibly relates to a building that stood somewhere nearby. Interestingly the post medieval pottery found pre-dates the Bell public house but could be related to an earlier building that stood somewhere on the site.

3.6 Environmental Summary

- 3.6.1 The environmental evidence suggests that the presence of charred grain along with the other dietary refuse of animal bone and pottery are indicators of domestic, culinary waste conducive with nearby occupation. The waterlogged samples processed point to a local vegetation of disturbed ground and a wetland environment.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 This archaeological evaluation suggests that the area on which Bell public house presently stands was either occupied or was farmed during the Romano-British period (C1-C4). The area then seems to have been turned over to agricultural activity until the late 18th Century. Pottery dates suggest a possible building on or near the site in the late 18th century. This pre-dates the Bell public house but may have some relationship to the hamlet of Little End.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The results of this evaluation have identified and added to the knowledge of Romano-British activity on this site and in the wider context of Roman Eaton Socon. The discovery of post-medieval pottery on the site that pre-dates the Bell adds to the little known about the hamlet of Little End and its role fronting the Great North Road.

4.3 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench one consisted of a mid to dark grey silty clay cultivation soil overlying a sandy clay subsoil. The trench contained two small ditches of probable Romano-British date and a post medieval pit overlying an earlier possible Romano-British pit.					Avg. depth (m)	0.50m
					Width (m)	1.80m
					Length (m)	10.00m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
110	Layer	-	0.40m	Mid to dark grey silty clay topsoil	-	-
111	Layer	-	0.10m	Silty sandy clay subsoil	-	-
100	Fill	0.40m	0.08m	Mid to light brown sandy silty clay. Fill of 101	Romano-British pottery-	C3-C4
101	Cut	0.40m	0.08m	Shallow ditch		
102	Fill	0.35m	0.08m	Mid to light brown sandy silty clay. Fill of 103		
103	Cut	0.35m	0.08m	Shallow ditch		
104	Fill	1.80m	0.80m	Mid to dark silty brown fill. Fill of 112		
112	Cut	1.80m	0.80m	Partially excavated pit due to its location in the corner of evaluation trench		
106	Fill	0.75m	0.10m	Very dark silty clay. Fill of 105	Leather (small find 1)	
105	Cut	0.75m	-	Heavily truncated pit		
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench two consisted of a mid to dark grey silty clay cultivation soil overlying a sandy clay subsoil. The trench contained a NW-SE running linear ditch, a N-S running linear ditch, a small pit or post hole and a large pit truncating a probable Romano-British pit or ditch.					Avg. depth (m)	0.48m
					Width (m)	1.80m
					Length (m)	20.00m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.38m	Mid to dark grey silty clay topsoil and subsoil mixture		
201	Fill	0.30m	0.12m	Very dark silty fill of pit 202		
202	Cut	0.30m	0.12m	Cut of probable pit		
203	Fill	0.80m	0.25m	A brown silty sandy clay fill		

				of 205		
204	Fill	0.70m	0.09m	Very dark silty clay fill of 205		
205	Cut	0.80m	0.34m	NW-SE linear ditch		
206	Fill	0.40m	0.22m	Mid grey silty clay fill of pit/post hole 207	Romano-British pottery	C2-C4
207	Cut	0.40m	0.22m	Small pit or post hole		
210	Fill	0.20m	0.12m	Dark silty clay fill of 213		
213	Cut	0.20m	.012m	NW-SE truncated linear ditch		
211	Fill	0.90m	0.22m	Mid brown silty clay fill of 218	Post Medieval pottery	C18-C19
218	Cut	0.90m	0.22m	Post Mediaeval pit		
212	Fill	0.80m	0.29m	Very dark silty clay fill of 219	Romano-British pottery. Leather (small find 2) Bone	
219	Cut	0.80m	0.29m	Romano-British pit		
214	Layer	0.50m	0.12m	Deposited layer of sand		
215	Fill	1.20m	0.30m	Mid brown silty clay fill of 220		
220	Cut	1.20m	0.30m	Post Medieval pit		
216	Fill	1.10m	0.20m	Very dark silty clay fill of 217	Romano-British pottery	C2-C4
217	Cut	1.10m	0.20m	Romano-British pit		
221	Fill	0.80m	0.10m	Brown silty clay fill of 222		
222	Cut	0.80m	0.10m			

Trench 3

General description

Trench 3 primarily consisted of made up and re-deposited soils conducive with the construction of the car park. Trench 3 also contained one medieval pit one medieval linear ditch and one post medieval pit.

Orientation

N-S

Avg. depth (m)

1.30m

Width (m)

1.80m

Length (m)

20.00m

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
301	Fill	1.0m	0.35m	Mid brown silty clay fill of 302	Post medieval pottery	C19-C19
302	Cut	1.0m	0.35m	Post medieval pit		

303	Fill	0.88m	0.24m	Mid brown silty clay fill of 305		
304	Fill	0.47m	0.34m	Dark brown silty clay fill of 305	Animal Bone	
305	Cut	1.35m	0.34m	Possible post medieval ditch		
306	Fill	1.50m	0.50m	Dark brown silty clay fill of 307	Romano-British Pottery	MC1-C4
307	Cut	1.50m	0.50m			

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

The Bell, Great North Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire

Romano-British Pottery Assessment

By William S. Wadson

Report Date: November 2008

Table of Contents

1 Introduction.....	3
2 Methodology.....	3
3 Quantification.....	3
4 The Assemblage.....	3
4.1 Romano-British Pottery.....	3
5 Provenance.....	4
6 Discussion.....	4
7 Further Work and Methods Statement	4
8 Bibliography	5
Appendix A: The Pottery Catalogue.....	6

5 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 A total of thirty-one sherds weighing 0.581kg, of Romano-British pottery, from five contexts were recovered during the excavation of evaluation trenches at The Bell, Great North Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (STN BEG 08).
- 5.1.2 The majority of the pottery is significantly abraded with some severely abraded sherds and has an average sherd weight of c.19g. The average weight however is due in part to the inclusion in the assemblage of three sherds of mortaria, weighing 205g without the inclusion of these sherds the average sherd weight is reduced to c.13g. The poor condition of the pottery indicates high levels of post-depositional disturbance possibly the result of middening and/or manuring as part of the waste management during the Roman period (Lyons 2004).

6 METHODOLOGY

- 6.1.1 The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW) vessel form was also recorded.
- 6.1.2 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

7 QUANTIFICATION

- 7.1.1 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted and a spot date has been provided for each individual sherd and context. See appendix A.

8 THE ASSEMBLAGE

8.1 Romano-British Pottery

- 8.1.1 The bulk of the assemblage consists of twenty-six sherds of domestic coarse ware pottery. The majority of these are locally produced, unsourced sandy grey wares and includes a single rim sherd from a lid seated jar dating from the 2nd to 4th century AD.
- 8.1.2 In addition, excavation produced seven sherds of South Midlands shell tempered ware (Tyers 1999, 192), dated from the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD. The sherds may have been produced at the Harrold kilns, Bedfordshire (Tomber and Dore 1998, 115), although an unsourced local production is also possible. In the later Roman period shell tempered coarse wares were often used as an alternative to utilitarian grey wares, indeed several of the sherds have soot residue on their external surfaces where they have been used as cooking pots.
- 8.1.3 Dating to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD, a further three sherds of Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria (Tomber and Dore 1998, 189), a vessel traditionally seen as specialist ware, were also recovered from the assemblage. Produced in the West Midlands around Mancetter and Hartshill (Tyers 1999, 123) mortaria such as these were specially designed for the purpose of mixing and grinding.

- 8.1.4 Only two sherds of fine wares were identified in the assemblage both Nene Valley colour coated wares (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118). Produced in the Lower Nene Valley and centred on the Roman town of Durobrivae (Water Newton) they consist of a single body sherd from a folded beaker dating from the late 2nd century to mid 3rd century AD and a base of a jar dated from the 3rd to 4th century AD.

9 PROVENANCE

- 9.1.1 The Romano-British fabrics are a mixture of local and non local origin with most of the assemblage comprised of unsourced, locally produced coarse wares. The main source for majority of the shell tempered coarse wares in the assemblage is most likely to be the Harrold kilns, Bedfordshire while the only fine wares identified were imported from the domestic regional centres of the Nene Valley, centred on Dorobrivae (Water Newton), near Peterborough. The only specialist ware recovered, the partial remains of a motaria was imported from the West Midlands centred on Mancetter and Hartshill on the Warwickshire/Leicestershire border.

10 DISCUSSION

- 10.1.1 This is a small Romano-British assemblage comprised mainly of locally produced coarse wares and Roman colour coat wares and is typical of a late Roman utilitarian domestic assemblage in this area (Evans 2003, 105). The small number of sherds recovered during excavation is common on many sites, suggesting there is an as yet unlocated Romano-British settlement or farmstead nearby.
- 10.1.2 The presence of Nene Valley wares, probably a chronological indicator rather than one of status, and lack of fine wares from other sources is due to the sites proximity to the pottery production centres of the Nene Valley. Indeed the lack of samian in the assemblage may suggest that this settlement was not active until the end of the samian importation period in the early to mid 3rd century.
- 10.1.3 The majority of this assemblage however dates from the mid 3rd to late 4th centuries AD.

11 FURTHER WORK AND METHODS STATEMENT

- 11.1.1 No further work is necessary on the assemblage unless further archaeological work takes place at the site, in which case it should be integrated into any future assessment and/or analysis.

12 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Darling, M. J., 2004 'Guidelines for the archiving of Roman Pottery'. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* Vol 11
- Evans, J., 2003 'The Pottery' in Hinman, M., *A Late Iron Age Farmstead and Romano-British Site at Haddon, Peterborough*. *British Archaeological Report* 358, 105-107
- Lyons, A., 2004 An archaeological assessment of the pottery from linton Village College, Cambridgeshire
- Tomber, R and Dore, J., 1998 *The National Roman Fabric reference collection, A Handbook*. MoLAS Monograph 2
- Tyers, P., 1999 *Roman Pottery in Britain*. Routledge
- Webster, G., (Ed) 1976 *Romano-British coarse pottery: a student's guide*. CBA Research Report No. 6
- Willis, S., 2004 The Study Group For Roman Pottery Research Framework Document for the Study of Roman Pottery in Britain, 2003. *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* Vol 11

APPENDIX A: THE POTTERY CATALOGUE

Context	Fabric	Des	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Decoration	Spot Date	Context Date	Comments
100	STW	U		2	4		C1-C4	C3-C4	
100	NVCC	B	JAR	1	39		C3-C4		
100	SOW (gritty)	R	LID SEATED JAR	1	6		C1-C4		BLACK SLIP GROG TEMPERED?
100	SGW	U	S/JAR	1	19		MC1-C2		
104	SGW	U		1	3		MC1-C4		M-LC18

206	NVCC	U	FOLDED BEAKER	1	5	ROULETTED	LC2- MC3	MC3- C4	
206	SGW	R	LID SEATED JAR	1	19	LINEAR COMBING	C2-C4		CLAY RELECT (not grog)
206	SGW	U B	JAR	2	64		C2-C4		VARIOUS VESSELS
206	SGW	U		6	49	LINEAR COMBING	MC1- C4		HARROLD TYPE, RESIDUE INSIDE & OUT
206	SOUTH MIDLAND SHELL TEMP. WARE	U R	JAR	7	115	LINEAR COMBING	MC3- C4		SLIPPED?
206	?SGW	U		1	5		MC1- C4		BUFF OW?
206	?OXIDISED WARE	U		3	26		MC1- C3		
221	MANCETTE R- HARTSHILL	U R	MORTARIA	3	205		C3-C4		C3- C4
306	SGW	U B	JAR	1	22		MC1- C4	MC1- C4	

Key: C=Century, E=Early, M=Mid, L=Late.

R=Rim, U=Undecorated body sherd, D=Decorated body sherd, B=Base.

Report Title

STN BEG 08 Post-medieval Pottery Assessment

By Alasdair Brooks BA MA DPhil

Report Date: November 2008

Table of Contents

1 Introduction.....	3
2 Methodology.....	3
3 Quantification.....	3
4 Provenance.....	3
5 Statement of Research Potential.....	4
6 Further Work and Methods Statement	4
Bibliography	5

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 Thirteen fragments of 18th- to early 19th-century (pre-1830) pottery were recovered from two contexts at The Bell public house, Eaton Socon (STN BEG 08). Most of these were recovered from context **104**, with a single sherd recovered from **302**.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 In the absence of standardised UK guidelines for the analysis of later post-medieval ceramics, the ceramic terminology and dating criteria used in this report were usually taken from the author's own book on the identification of later post-medieval ceramics (Brooks 2005), supplemented where necessary by Miller's guide to dating post-medieval finds (Miller 2000). This assessment does not contain minimum vessel counts or other more in-depth analytical techniques. Dates often refer to the traditional most common period of production rather than definitive start and end dates; the transition from creamware and pearlware to whiteware from c.1820-c.1830, for example, is a gradual process rather than a sudden shift from older types to the newer type. The 18th-century advent of increased ceramic standardisation through industrial mass-production often requires a different approach to later post-medieval ceramics than that used for earlier period (Brooks 2005: 22-24); sherd counts, for example, are usually preferred over sherd weights (and, in a full report, vessel counts over either).

3 QUANTIFICATION

- 3.1.1 Context 104 contains:

- 1 fragment of transfer-printed pearlware, probably from a cup
- 5 fragments of painted Chinese porcelain, 4 from a saucer, 1 from a hollow vessel. The saucer is both painted and enamelled (overglaze painted)
- 3 fragments of black-glazed coarse earthenware from a storage vessel.
- 3 fragments of post-medieval redware, at least one of which is a jug handle.

- 3.1.2 Of these, only the pearlware (c.1780-1830) can be dated closely, but the assemblage as a whole is consistent with the second half of the 18th century. One fragment of post-medieval redware features a greenish glaze on the exterior only, and could be a residual fragment of transitional period (late medieval to early post-medieval) redware.

- 3.1.3 Context 302 contains a single fragment of a c.1760-c.1830 undecorated creamware plate rim.

4 PROVENANCE

- 4.1.1 For such a small assemblage, there is a broad mix of points of origin, with at least two Chinese-made vessels, a couple of Staffordshire-made refined whitebodied earthenwares (the creamware and pearlware), and what are most probably locally-made coarse earthenwares. This is not necessarily an unusual distribution except in so far that the Chinese porcelains, the enamelled item of which in particular would have

been relatively expensive in the period in question, are a relatively high proportion of what is an admittedly small assemblage.

5 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH POTENTIAL

- 5.1.1 The assemblage is too small to warrant further analysis at this stage, but the contents are perhaps more unusual and surprising than may first be apparent.
- 5.1.2 While the terminal date of both creamware and pearlware is c.1830, the absence of post-1820 whiteware indicates that the assemblage almost certainly pre-dates 1820, and is most likely late 18th-century. As such, it predates both the current Bell public house and the preceding inn, which main report author James Fairbairn believes probably dates no earlier than 1823. As such, the assemblage is most likely associated with the household, or perhaps neighbouring households, that precede the known public houses. The nature of these households is unknown as of this writing.
- 5.1.3 The enamelled Chinese porcelain vessel is also slightly unusual. This saucer would have been relatively expensive. While care should be taken not to place too much stress on individual items, this does hint at a higher-status occupation of the site in the late 18th century than its subsequent use as a public house might indicate.
- 5.1.4 In summary, while the current post-medieval assemblage does not require further analysis, it does indicate the probable existence of late 18th-century occupation at or near the site, and that this occupation may have been higher-status than anticipated. If further archaeological work takes place at the site, this element of site history should be considered in any research design given its potential for increasing our knowledge of everyday life in Eaton Socon during the period when the Great North Road was at its peak.

6 FURTHER WORK AND METHODS STATEMENT

- 6.1.1 No further work is necessary on the assemblage unless further archaeological work takes place at the site, in which case it should be integrated into any future assessment and/or analysis.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brooks, A. 2005. *An Archaeological Guide to British Ceramics in Australia, 1788-1901*. The Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology, Sydney, and the La Trobe University Archaeology Program, Melbourne.

Miller, G. 2000. Telling Time for Archaeologists. *Northeast Historical Archaeology* 29: 1-22.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

The Bell, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire

Environmental Assessment

By *Rachel Fosberry*

Report Date: November 2008

Table of Contents

Summary	3
1 Introduction	4
2 Methodology.....	4
3 Quantification	4
4 Results	4
4.1 Preservation.....	4
4.2 Plant Remains.....	5
4.3 Ecofacts and Artefacts.....	5
4.4 Contamination.....	5
5 Discussion	5
6 Conclusions and recommendations	5
Bibliography	5

Summary

A total of three bulk samples were taken from a variety of features within the confines of the evaluated area. The results of the flotation of these samples show that plant remains are present and preservation is by both carbonisation and waterlogging.

7 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 Three 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.
- 7.1.2 Features sampled include secure archaeological contexts within two pits and a ditch

8 Methodology

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

The total volume 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).

9 QUANTIFICATION

- 9.1.1 Table 1 summarises the results obtained

Table:1

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Feature Type	Flot contents	Residue Contents
1	102	103	Ditch	Cereal grains, Un-id seeds	Small bones, pottery, CBM, Fe, clinker, clay pipe
2	306	307	Pit	w/l -sambucus, apiaceae, insects	Animal bone, pottery
3	212	213	Pit	peaty, roots, twigs, Sambucus, mentha, urtica, insects	Mammal bone

10 RESULTS

10.1 Preservation

- 10.1.1 The plant remains were preserved by both carbonisation and waterlogging.

10.2 Plant Remains

Cereals

- 10.2.1 Charred cereal grains were present in low quantities (6 grains) in Sample 1. They have been tentatively identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains based on their morphology. No chaff elements are present.

Weed seeds

- 10.2.2 Samples 2 and 3 were preserved by waterlogging and contained several uncharred seeds including elder (*Sambucus* sp.), water-mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica*).

10.3 Ecofacts and Artefacts

- 10.3.1 The majority of the samples contained fragments of animal bone and occasional sherds of pottery

10.4 Contamination

- 10.4.1 Modern roots were present in most of the samples

11 DISCUSSION

- 1.1.1 The ecofacts in this assemblage are dominated by cereal grains. The grains may have been accidentally burnt while being dried prior to storage or during cooking over open fires prior to being deliberately deposited or accumulating in features as general scatters of burnt refuse. The presence of charred grain along with other dietary refuse of animal bone along with pottery are indicators of domestic, culinary waste.
- 1.1.2 The waterlogged samples provide evidence of a local vegetation of disturbed ground and a wetland environment. The insect remains were fragmentary.

12 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1.1 The preliminary appraisal of a selection of samples from this site have shown that there is potential for the recovery of plant remains, however the low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage limits interpretation of the features sampled.
- 12.1.2 If further excavation is planned, sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and possible 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. FAUNAL REPORT

STNBEG08

Faunal remains

By Chris Faine 17/11/08

A total of 10 “countable” bones were recovered from the Bell, Eaton Socon evaluation, with a further 8 fragments not identifiable to species, (44% of the total sample). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not to be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Faunal remains were recovered from Roman, Post-Medieval and undated contexts. Contexts **100** & **104** contained no identifiable elements. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1997).

Faunal material was recovered from two Romano British contexts. Context **205** contained single portion of distal cattle tibia from an adult animal. Context **212** contained the majority of a left hind cattle limb from animal of no more than one year of age. No butchery was observed on the specimen. The remainder of the quantifiable faunal material was recovered from undated context **304**. This consisted of butchered cattle adult humeri and pelvis, along with a butchered distal cattle tibia from an animal of around two years of age.

Identifiable material was recovered from an environmental sample from the Romano-British context **212**. These consisted of phalanges from a large duck (most likely a mallard) and an unidentified small passerine, along with a common frog tibia.

Given the extremely small sample size few conclusions can be drawn about the faunal assemblage. The domestic mammal remains most likely represent general settlement debris.

References

Albarella, U. and Davis, S.J.M., 1994 *The Saxon and medieval animal bones excavated 1985-1989 from West Cotton, Northamptonshire*, Ancient monuments Laboratory Report 17/94.

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	Evaluation on land occupied by the Bell public house		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text" value="01-09-2008"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="01-09-2008"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="STNBEG08"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="0703933FUL"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text" value="Planning condition"/>
Development Type	<input type="text" value="Other"/>

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 checked="" 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
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Cambridshire"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="Eaton Socon"/>	<input type="text" value="The Bell,Great North Road, Eaton Socon."/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="St Neots"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="50 sq.m"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TL 1691 5813"/>

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 ...	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input 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	<u> S.14 </u>
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	

Convention Key

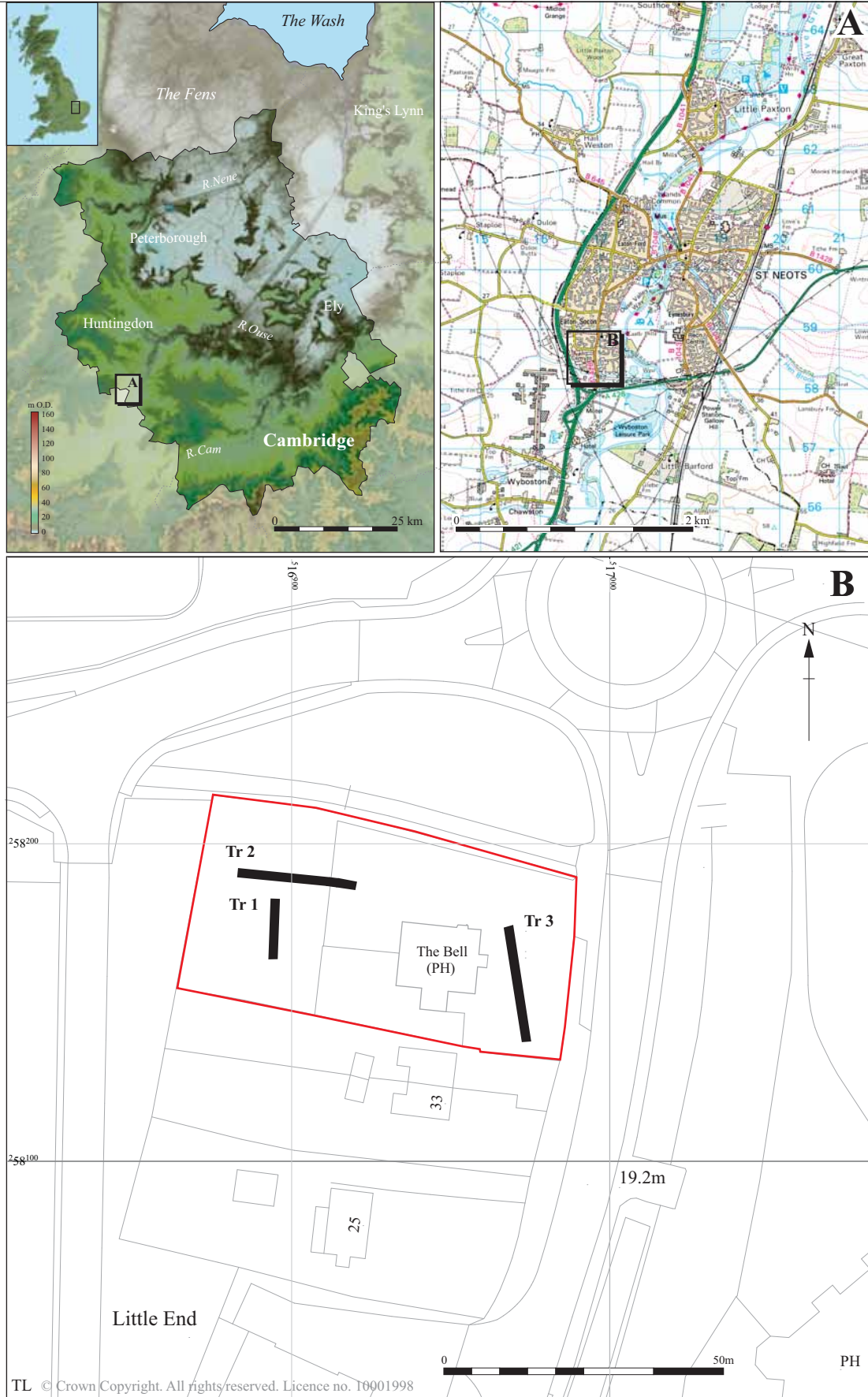


Figure 1 Location of trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

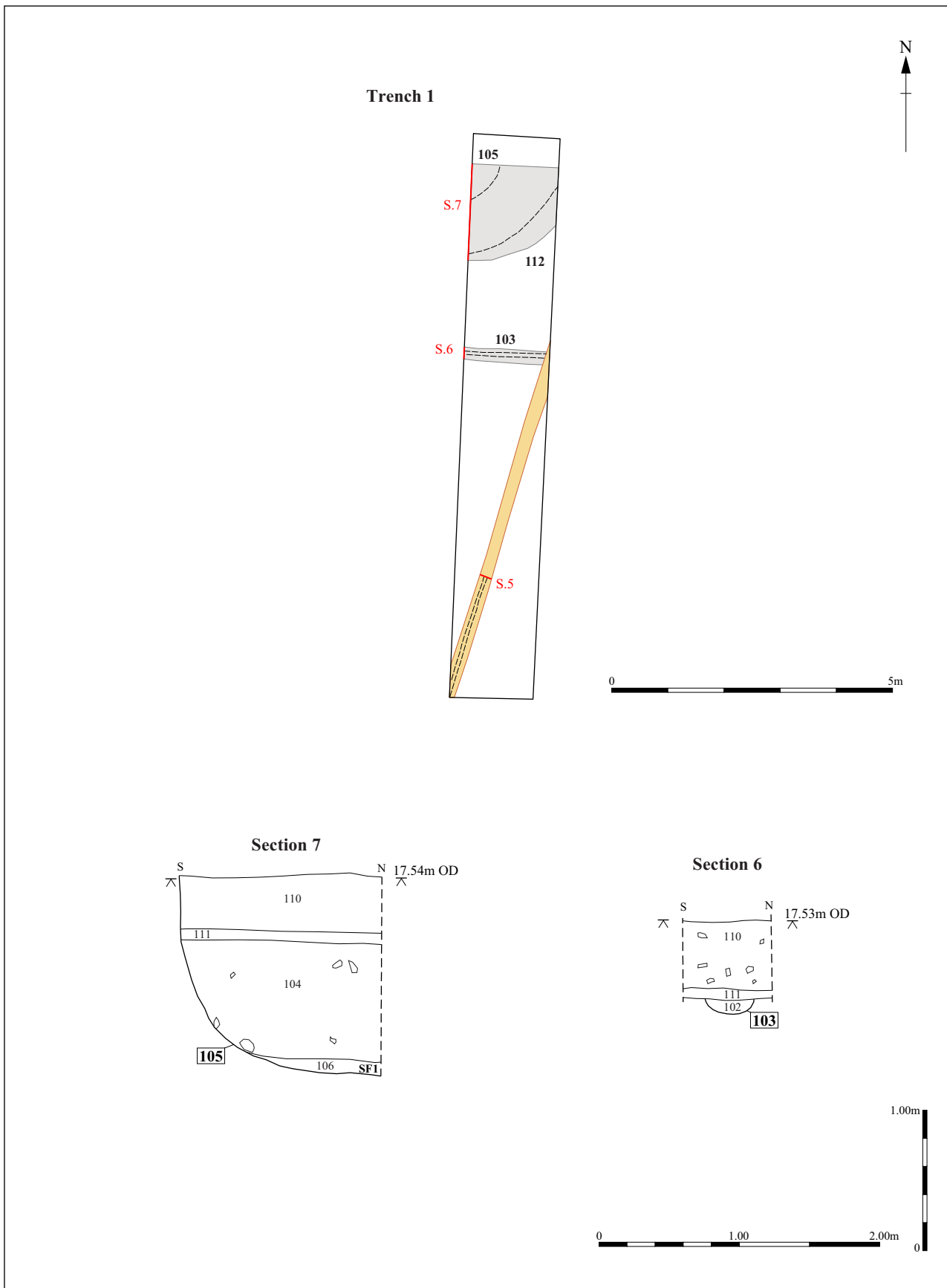
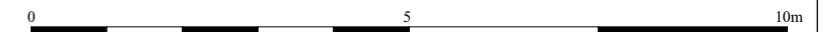
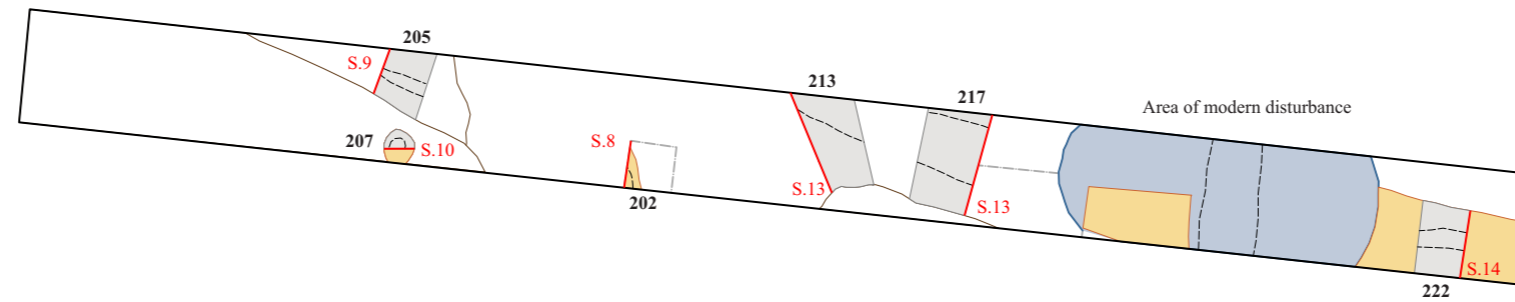
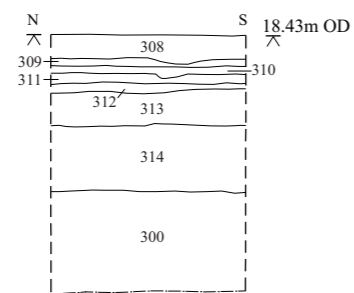


Figure 2: Trench 1 plan (1:100) and sections (1:40)

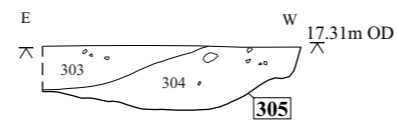
Trench 2



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4

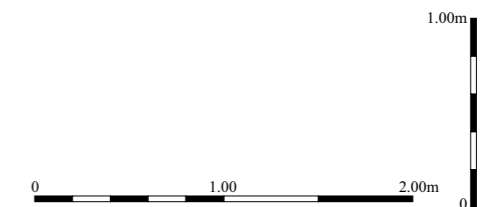
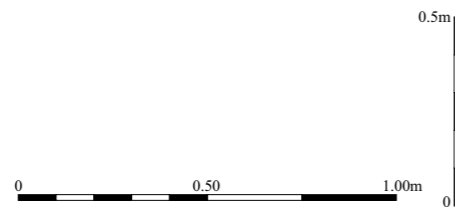
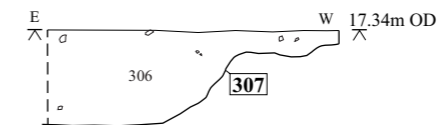


Figure 3 Plan Trench 2 (1:100) and sections (1:20) and (1:40)

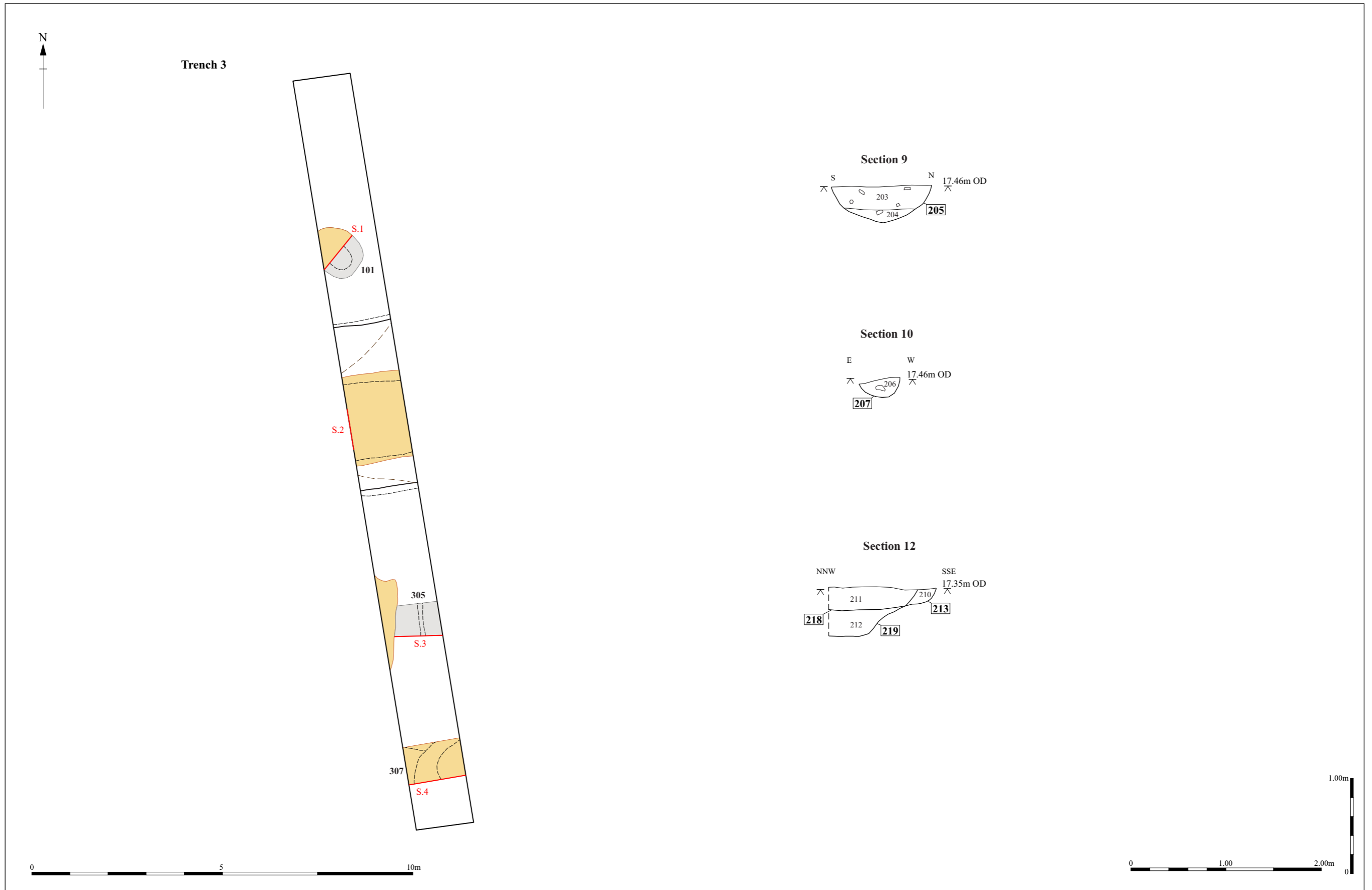


Figure 4 Plan of Trench 3 (1:100) and sections (1:40)



Head Office/Registered Office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*