

Granham's Farm Great Shelford Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2011

Client: Leigh Smart

OA East Report No: 1261

OASIS No: oxfodar3-99811

NGR: TL 4636 5301

Granham's Farm, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: May 2011

Report Number: 1261
Site Name: 40 Granhams Road, Great Shelford
HER Event No: ECB3579
Date of Works: April 2011
Client Name: Leigh Smart
Client Ref: n/a
Planning Ref:
Grid Ref: TL 4636 5301
Site Code: GSH GRR 11
Finance Code: GSH GRR 11
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No: GSH GRR 11
Prepared by: Nick Gilmour
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Date: May 2011
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Date: May 2011
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Summary

On the 19th April 2011, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at 40 Granhams Road, Great Shelford. This is the site of a medieval moated manor and is adjacent to probable Saxon earthworks.

The evaluation revealed a single ditch, sealed below a post-medieval floor or wall and dumped deposits. Pottery from the ditch is of Early-Middle Saxon date. It is suggested that the ditch may be Middle Saxon and relate to a Saxon manor on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 40 Granhams Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the northern bounds of Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire. Situated on West Melbury Marley Chalk, the site lies at an average of 15 m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site is located within an early medieval landscape. The application area is situated directly within a medieval moated manorial site (Historic Environment No. MCB 15567), with only the south eastern portion of the moat still extant. Directly to the east of the application area is a possible middle Saxon enclosure (HER No. MCB1264), and a possible early medieval chapel is also located directly to the west of the site (HER No. MCB 1265).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Leigh Smart who funded the work. The excavation was carried out by the author, with the mechanical excavator provided by Lattenbury Services. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that 10m of trenching be excavated, to the level of archaeological features, or geological horizon. Due to the presence of a soakaway at the west end of the trench, the trench could only be excavated for 8m.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a 3 tonne rubber tracked 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 It was very sunny on the day of excavation, which made taking photographs extremely difficult.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Only a single trench was excavated. The results are, therefore, presented below by period.

3.2 Possible Saxon Ditch

3.2.1 Sealed by layer **3**, and cut into the natural marley chalk, was ditch **7**. This ran almost parallel to the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. It had near vertical sides and a flat base, with a depth of 0.56m. The total width of the ditch could not be determined, but its visible width was at least 1.30m.

3.2.2 The lower fill of this ditch (6) was a mid-brownish grey, silty clay. Two sherds of pottery of Early-Middle Saxon date were recovered from this fill. The upper fill of the ditch (5) was a mid greyish brown silty clay. It contained no finds, other than a single fragment of burnt stone.

3.3 Subsoil Layer 3

3.3.1 Below layer **2** was layer **3**. This was a mid greyish brown, silty loam, with occasional gravel inclusions. Two sherds of pottery of 17th century date were recovered from this layer.

3.4 Post Medieval Archaeology

3.4.1 Feature **4**, uncovered below the topsoil, was a wall or possibly the edge of a floor, which ran the entire length of the trench (Fig. 2). It continued beyond the excavated area to the south-east, with a maximum visible width of 0.25m. Feature **4** was made up of compact hard mortar with gravel, stone and brick inclusions. The two bricks incorporated in the deposit were both 'Cambridge whites', of the same type used in the construction of the neighbouring house, which date the feature to the late post-medieval to modern period.

3.4.2 Feature **4** was constructed on top of apparently dumped deposit, **2**. This was a pale brownish grey, sandy loam, with frequent gravel inclusions. Two sherds of pottery of 19th century or later date were recovered during machining of this layer.

3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 Very few finds were recovered during the evaluation. Two fragments of animal bone were found in layer **2**, however, the pottery is of greater interest.

3.5.2 Two sherds of transfer printed, refined white earthenware were recovered from layer **2** and these date to the 19th century or later.

3.5.3 A single sherd of Staffordshire type slipware and a further sherd of Metropolitan type slipware were recovered from layer **3**. These date to the 17th century.

3.5.4 Two sherds of organic tempered, soft, handmade pottery were recovered from fill 6 of ditch **7**. These are probably of early-middle Saxon date.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Saxon Archaeology

- 4.1.1 Whatever the original function of deposit **2**, it appears to have to sealed and preserved the underlying archaeology. The single ditch (**7**) recorded in the trench contained two abraded sherds of Early-Middle Saxon pottery. Although this pottery is not sufficient to definitively date the ditch to the middle Saxon period, the near absence of other finds (including charcoal) re-enforces this suggestion. If the ditch belonged to the medieval phase of activity, known to have taken place on the site, then more detritus (muscle shell, animal bone, pottery) would be expected.
- 4.1.2 If this ditch is Saxon it almost certainly belong to a Saxon manor, which developed later into the medieval moated manor on the site.

4.2 Post-medieval Archaeology

- 4.2.1 Given the presence of the standing buildings, some of which are known to have occupied the site since the Georgian period, it is not surprising that evidence of later post-medieval activity was discovered. Wall **4** does not appear on the first edition OS map, although it is of 19th century date. It could represent a garden wall, or less likely part of a structure.
- 4.2.2 The probable dumped deposit (**2**) may relate to the construction of the Georgian sections of the house. It is possible that this is part of a levelling layer, alternatively it could be an attempt to create a stable and dry building platform.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The results of this evaluation may be significant in helping to understand the development of the medieval moated manor on the site from its Saxon precursor.

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-WW	
Trench contained a post-medieval wall and a single ditch				Max. depth (m)	1.16	
				Width (m)	1.7	
				Length (m)	7.9	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.47	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22	Dumped deposit	Pottery, bone	19th century
3	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	Pottery	17th century
4	Wall	>0.25	0.08	Mortar wall or floor	-	19th century
5	Fill	>1.30	0.32	Upper fill of ditch 7	Burnt stone	-
6	Fill	>0.58	0.23	Lower fill of ditch 7	Pottery, shell	Early-middle Saxon
7	Cut	>1.30	0.56	Ditch	-	Early-middle Saxon

APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfodar3-99811			
Project Name	40 Granhams Road, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	19-04-2011	Finish	19-04-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GSH GRR 11	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	ECB3579	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Large/Medium Scale Extensions to Existing Structure

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input checked="" 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
ditch	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	pottery	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
	Select period...	pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Camds	40 Granhams Raod Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire CB22 5JX	
Parish	Great Sheldford		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	c.150 sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 4636 5301

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	Matt Morgan
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

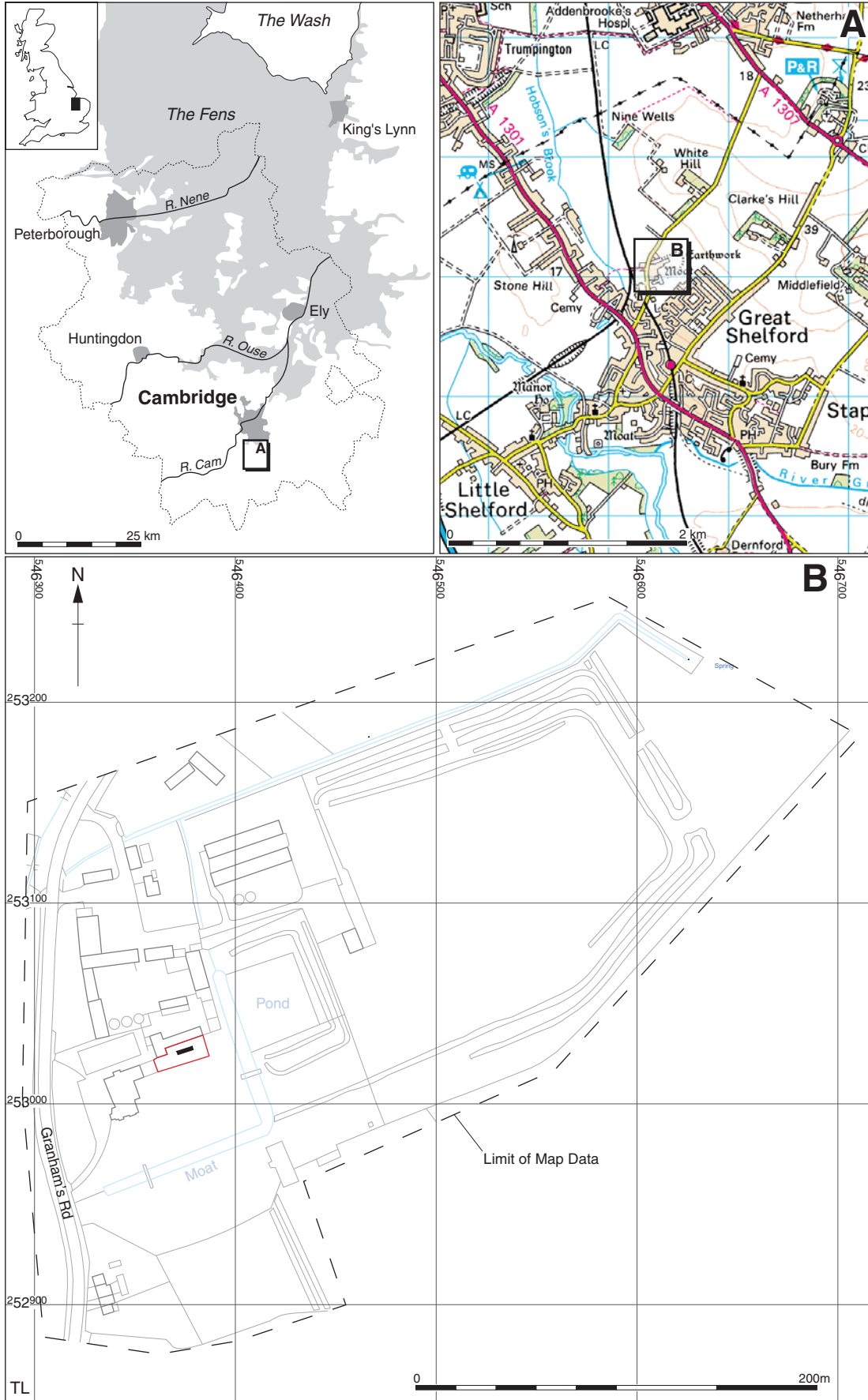
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores	OA East, Bar Hil	CCC Stores
GSH GRR 11	GSH GRR 11	GSH GRR 11

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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

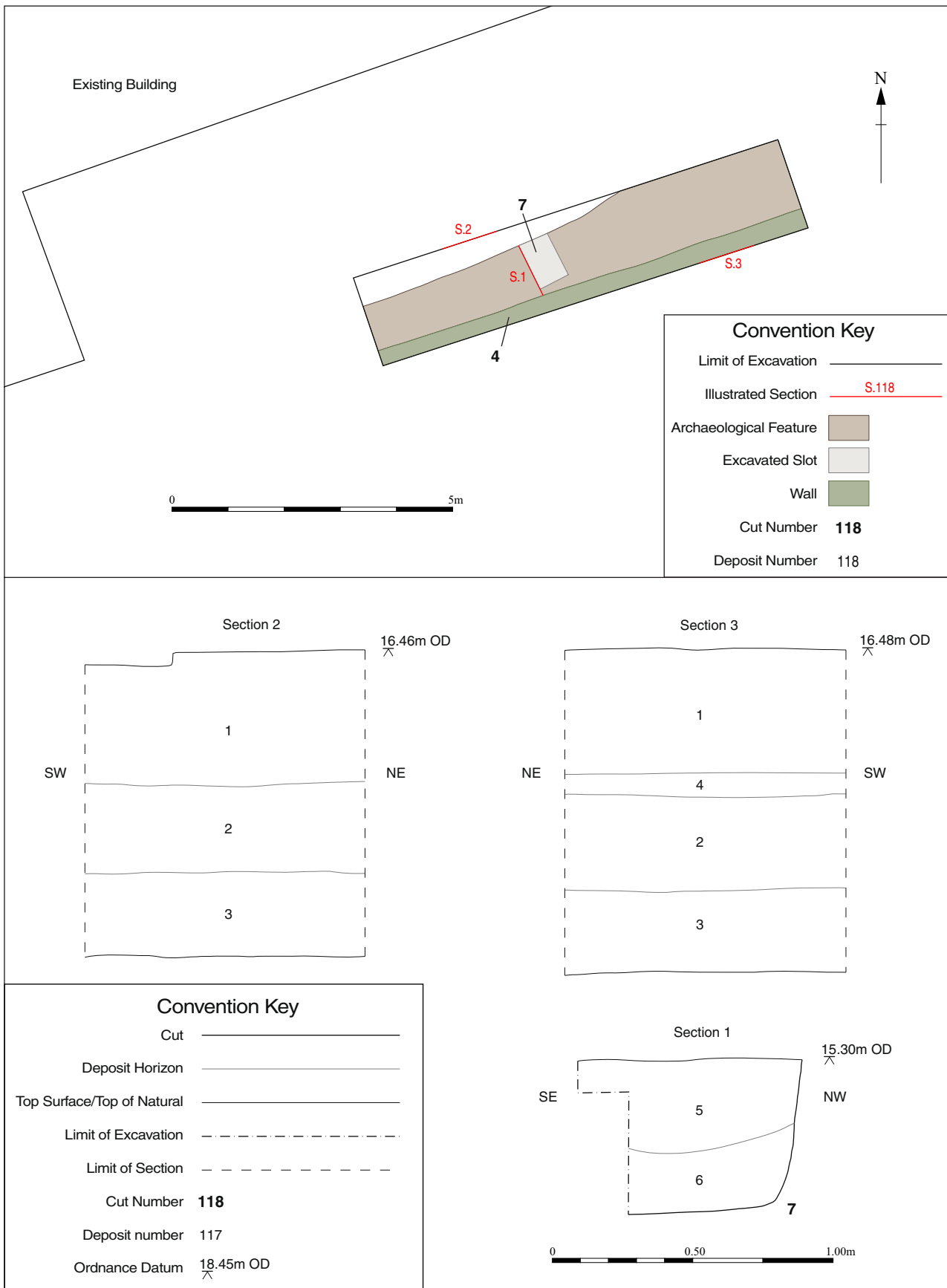


Figure 2: Trench plan and selected sections



Plate 1: Section through ditch 7, from the north-east



Plate 2: Trench section from the south-east



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