

Agricultural field systems
at 243 Peterborough
Road, Stanground
Peterborough



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



July 2012

Client: CgMs Consulting

OA East Report No: 1387

OASIS No: oxfordar-3 130977

NGR: 520194 295897

**Agricultural field systems at 243 Peterborough Road, Stanground
Peterborough**

An Archaeological Evaluation

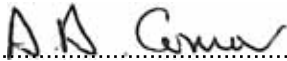
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Report Date: July 2012

Report Number: 1387
Site Name: 243 Peterborough Road, Stanground, Peterborough
HER Event No:
Date of Works: July 2012
Client Name: CgMs Consulting
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 08/01544/FUL
Grid Ref: 520194 295897
Site Code: PETPER 12
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Accession No: PETPER12
Prepared by: Michael Webster
Position: Assistant Supervisor
Date: 13th July 2012
Checked by: Aileen Connor
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 25th July 2012
Signed: 

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Summary

Between 11th and 12th July 2012, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at 243 Peterborough Road, Stanground, Peterborough. This was in response to a condition on a planning application for the construction of new housing. The evaluation revealed a number of early post-medieval and modern features associated with former cultivation activity within the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 243 Peterborough Road, Stanground Peterborough (Fig 1) by staff of Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) during July 2012.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East (Connor 2012) and approved by Peterborough City Planning Archaeologist (Rebecca Casa-Hatton).
- 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable Peterborough City Planning Archaeologist to advise 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 at between 15m and 16m AOD on an elongated northeast-southwest ridge underlain by glacial tills, often referred to as the “chalky boulder clay” (Critchley in Cooper 2007 unpublished report no CAMARC874).
- 1.2.2 The site itself lies on very gently sloping ground (south to north), clay was encountered in all of the trenches.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The application area lies within a rich archaeological landscape, particularly for the later prehistoric and Roman periods.
- 1.3.2 Excavations by both Northamptonshire Archaeology (unpublished report NA06/35) and Oxford Archaeology East (unpublished report CAMARC874) have in recent years revealed late Iron Age and Roman settlement in an extensive area immediately to the east of the development site. This previous archaeological work had unearthed the site of an enclosed farming settlement with at least three roundhouses. Outside the enclosure a kiln bar was found, suggesting pottery production close by.
- 1.3.3 The presence of Ermine Street running some 6km west of the subject site and the density of remains known along its length adjacent to the fens and south of Durobrivae, clearly indicate a densely settled landscape in this period and it would not be unexpected for further remains to be found here, between known settlement of the period to the east and the major north-south road to the west.
- 1.3.4 The First edition Ordnance Survey map shows the subject site to have been within a field in the late 19th century and turned into allotments by 1901.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank the following; Greg Pugh of CgMs who commissioned and arranged the work on behalf of David Turnock Architects; Rebecca Casa-Hatton, planning archaeologist Peterborough City Council who monitored the work. The excavation was carried out by the author, with the assistance of John Diffey. The

author and Aileen Connor surveyed the site. Stephen Critchley carried out the metal detector survey of the trenches and spoil heaps. The project was managed by Aileen Connor.

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 A total of 48m of linear trenching was excavated providing an approximately 5% sample of the development area.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out using a wheeled JCB-type excavator fitted with a toothless 1.50m wide ditching bucket under the constant supervision of the author.

2.2.3 Trenches were measured into standing buildings and tied into Ordnance Survey mapping. The Ordnance Survey Bench Mark, located at Mill Cottage, Peterborough Road, was used for the level survey on site, which was carried out using a dumpy level.

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.

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 Site condition were reasonable with cloud cover giving a mixture of showers and sunny intervals.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Four trenches were excavated across the proposed development area, comprising a total length of 48m (Fig 2). The natural geology encountered in all four trenches comprised a yellow brown chalky boulder clay. A 0.14m-0.18m thick silty clay subsoil was present in all trenches. An intermittent topsoil between 0.25m-0.38m thick survived across the site, although it was truncated/overlain in Trenches 1 and 2 by a modern gravel surface. Only two of the trenches (3 and 4) contained cut features, all of which were post-medieval or modern. Full details of each trench are given in Appendix A.

3.2 Trenches 1 and 2 (Plate 1)

3.2.1 These trenches were located at the western edge of the site towards the rear of the development area. Trench 1 (5m long) was orientated on an east to west alignment, with Trench 2 (15m long) joining it at its east end and perpendicular to it. No archaeological features were present within the trenches.

3.3 Trench 3 (Plate 2)

3.3.1 Trench 3 (19m long), located towards the east edge of the site was aligned southwest to northeast. The trench location was partially dictated by the presence of concrete hardstanding. The northern end of the trench contained a modern dump of rubble, at 0.22m thick, which was sandwiched between the topsoil and subsoil deposits and sealed a post-medieval pit **9**.

3.3.2 Pit **9** (Fig 3), was only partially exposed within the limits of the north end of the trench. It was 1.20m wide and machined to a depth of 0.30m, where it cut the subsoil and natural boulder clays (6) and (7) respectively. The fill (8) comprised a mid-dark grey brown silty clay which contained post-medieval pottery and glass.

3.3.3 A linear feature **11**, was only partially exposed and aligned north to south, parallel to a similar feature (**14**) located in Trench 4. This was a probable furrow (a result of ploughing) and was 0.42m deep cut into the subsoil and natural (6) and (7) respectively. The fill comprised (10) a pale grey brown clay silt which contained pottery, bone flint and CBM.

3.4 Trench 4 (Plate 2)

3.4.1 Trench 4 (9m long) was perpendicular to the eastern boundary edge of the site on a roughly east to west alignment.

3.4.2 Crossing the middle of the trench on a north to south alignment was a linear feature **14**. The feature was 3.85m wide and 0.32m deep (Fig 3), it cut the subsoil and natural clay (13) and (12) respectively, was filled by (15) a mid brown clay silt with sand patches, flint chalk and charcoal lumps which contained pottery glass, and bone. It is likely to be the remains of medieval or early post-medieval agriculture (ridge and furrow caused by ploughing).

3.4.3 A modern planting pit **19** was located at the eastern end of the trench, the feature was encountered during initial stripping of the over grown vegetation and cut through the topsoil.

4 FINDS SUMMARY

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 Full details of the finds are given in appendix B. The majority were 18th to 19th century in date. A George II half penny was recovered from the spoil heap of trench 4.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 No Environmental material was recovered from site.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Earlier features

- 6.1.1 Three tiny and abraded sherds of Early Roman pottery were recovered from the site, all were found in later features. It is surprising that so little Roman material was present given the close proximity of an extensive late Iron Age and Roman settled landscape only a short distance to the east of the subject site, no features dating to this period were found. The pottery sherds are likely to represent evidence for manuring of fields during the Roman period and it can thus be inferred that the site lay within an agricultural landscape during the Roman period.
- 6.1.2 It is possible that the two shallow linear features **11** and **14** were of late medieval to early post-medieval date. They are likely to be the remains of a “ridge and furrow” agricultural system in common usage during that period. The surviving furrows contained abraded sherds of medieval pottery mixed with early post-medieval material, suggesting manuring.

6.2 Later post-medieval and modern features

- 6.2.1 There were a small number of later post-medieval and modern features across the site. Two pits **19** and **9** represented a planting pit and rubbish pit and a modern dumping layer **17**. The planting pit may belong to the sites use as allotments during the first half of the 20th century.

6.3 Significance

- 6.3.1 It may be concluded that the subject site lay within an agricultural landscape at least from the Roman period onwards. The site appears to have been continuously used for agriculture until the late 19th century when it was converted into allotments and finally developed for housing in the mid 20th century. No significant archaeological remains were identified.

6.4 Recommendations

- 6.4.1 In light of these results no further work will be required. This has been confirmed by Peterborough City Archaeological Advisor.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		E-W
The trench was devoid of any archaeology. A modern gravel/rubble surface truncated a top soil which in turn sealed a subsoil. A natural boulder clay was encountered in the base of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.5
				Length (m)		5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-		Natural	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-0.15	Top Soil	-	-
4	Layer		0.2	Surface/Hard standing		Modern
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Identical make up to trench 1. Void of any archaeology.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.5
				Length (m)		15
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer			Natural		
2	Layer			Subsoil		
3	Layer			Top Soil		
4	Layer			Surface/Hard standing		Modern
Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		SW-NE
The trench contained a modern dump deposit and pit and a possible late medieval furrow.				Avg. depth (m)		0.58
				Width (m)		1.5
				Length (m)		19
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Layer		0.25	Top Soil		Modern
6	Layer		0.18	Subsoil		
7	Layer			Natural		
8	Fill	3.2		Pit fill	pot, glass	Modern
9	Cut	3.2		Pit cut		
10	Fill		0.42	Furrow fill	pot, bone	Late Medieval-early

					CBM	post-medieval.
11	Cut		0.42	Furrow		
17	Layer		0.22	Dump material		Modern

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	ESE-WNW
The trench contained a modern vegetation pit and possible late medieval furrow. A probable George II half penny was recovered from the spoil heap by metal detector.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.5
					Length (m)	9
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
12	Layer			Natural		
13	Layer		0.14	Subsoil		
14	Cut	3.85	0.38	Furrow		
15	Fill	3.85	0.38	Furrow fill	pot, glass bone	Late Medieval-early post-medieval
16	Layer		0.35	Top Soil		
18	Fill	0.6		Fill of pit		Very Modern
19	Cut	0.6		Vegetation pit		Very Modern

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

- B.1.1 A single copper alloy coin was recovered from an unstratified context. The coin appears to be worn and is lightly encrusted, with any surviving surface detail obscured. The coin is 28mm in diameter and weighs approximately 9 grams. The size and weight when taken into consideration with the post-medieval pottery and glass recovered, suggest that this is a half penny of George II.

B.2 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

- B.2.1 A single unabraded shard of transparent brown glass from a small jar was recovered from context 8 (Trench 3). Although there is no moulded lettering on the glass, the colour and shape of the shard suggest it is a fragment from a Bovril or beef extract jar and is late 19th or 20th century.

B.2.2 Context 15 (Trench 4) produced an abraded shard of olive green vessel glass. The glass is covered with iridescence, which is flaking off, revealing a devitrified surface. It is most likely from an 18th century bottle.

B.2.3 No further work is required on this assemblage.

B.3 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher, Roman pottery identification by Steve Wadson

Introduction

B.3.1 The archaeological evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of eight sherds, weighing 0.142kg, from three contexts, two of which were the fills of probable furrows and the third was the fill of a recent planting pit. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the average sherd weight is moderate at approximately 17g.

B.3.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the dating table are:

Bourne B	BOUB
post-medieval Black Glazed ware	PMBL
Post-medieval Redware	PMR
Sandy Grey Ware (proto)	SGW (proto)
Shelly Ware	SHW
Verulamium White Ware	VRW

Methodology

B.3.3 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *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.

B.3.4 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 medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

B.3.5 Three abraded sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from context 8 (Trench 3). The smallest sherd, in a shelly fabric, weighs less than 1g and is not closely datable. Also present is a single abraded sherd of Verulamium White Ware (mid 1st-late 2nd century AD), and an abraded sherd of proto-Sandy Grey Ware (mid 1st-mid 2nd century AD).

B.3.6 Context 10 produced the largest number of sherds at four, weighing 0.124kg. Of these, a single sherd is an abraded sandy ware tentatively identified as medieval Bourne B. The remaining sherds are post-medieval, a rim and base sherd from two post-medieval Redware bowls and a rim sherd from a 17th century post-medieval Black Glazed Ware bowl. The bowl has a diameter of 300mm and may have been a shallow bowl used in dairying.

B.3.7 A body sherd from post-medieval Redware bowl was recovered from context 15, which also produced a piece of 18th century glass.

B.3.8 The pottery, although domestic in origin, most likely represents rubbish disposal, with the earlier Roman and medieval sherds disturbed by the post-medieval activity, most likely in the 17th or 18th century.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

B.3.9 An assemblage of this size provides basic dating information for the site. No further work on the assemblage is required unless further archaeological investigation is undertaken.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Context Date Range
8	SHW		1	<0.001	Mid 1st-mid 2nd century AD
	VRW		1	0.002	
	SGW (proto)		1	0.004	
10	BOUB		1	0.010	17th century
	PMR	Bowl	2	0.060	
	PMBL	Bowl	1	0.054	
15	PMR	Bowl	1	0.012	16th-end of 18th century

Table 1: Pottery dating

B.4 Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher,

Assemblage

B.4.1 The fieldwork generated a small abraded assemblage of ceramic building material (0.015kg), all recovered from context 10 and not closely datable.

B.4.2 No further work is required on this assemblage.

CBM Type	Fabric	Fragment Count	Weight (kg)
Roof Tile	Soft sandy feel, common fine quartz, occasional moderate quartz moderate coarse calcareous inclusions and occasional red inclusions and red swirls in the orange-pink oxidised fabric.	1	0.010
Undiagnostic	Hard fired, dull red fabric with occasional pink swirls with some reduced patches.	1	0.004

Table1: Ceramic building material

B.5 Miscellaneous

B.5.1 Two small fragments of coal were recovered from context 15.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Assessment

by Chris Faine

Assemblage

C.1.1 Eleven fragments of animal bone were recovered, with 5 fragments identifiable to species. The total weight of the assemblage is 0.165kg. Context 10 contained portions of shattered cattle metatarsal and vertebra. Context 15 contained no identifiable fragments.

C.1.2 No further work is required on this assemblage.

C.2 Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Assemblage

C.2.1 A total of 0.001kg of shells of marine molluscs were collected. The shells were collected by hand from context 15. The shell is poorly preserved.

C.2.2 No further work is required on this assemblage.

Context	Type	Weight (kg)
15	Cockle : <i>Cerastoderma (Cardium) edulis</i>	<0.001

Table 1: Mollusca

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Taylor, E.
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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar-3 130977		
Project Name	Evaluation at 243 Peterborough Road Stanground, Peterborough.		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	11-07-2012	Finish	12-07-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PETPER 12	Planning App. No.	08/01544/FUL
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Small Scale (e.g. single house)

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
Ridge and Furrow	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	George II half penny	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Stanground	243, Peterborough Road , Stanground, Peterborough PE7 3BW
Parish	Farcet	
HER	Peterborough	
Study Area	0.2 ha	National Grid Reference
		520194 295897

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	Aileen COnnor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Michael Webster

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Peterborough City Museum	Oxford Archaeology	Peterborough City Museum ...
PETPER12	PETPER12	PETPER12

Archive Contents/Media




	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

Metal finds is AE coin (George II half penny).

Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Sondages/Machine Strip	- - - - -
Intrusion/Truncation	- - - - -
Illustrated Section	<u>—————</u> S.14
Archaeological Feature	
Excavated Slot	
Modern	
Cut Number	118
Deposit 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	117
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X

Convention Key



Ordnance Survey. © Crown Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Licence number 10001998

Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Trench plans

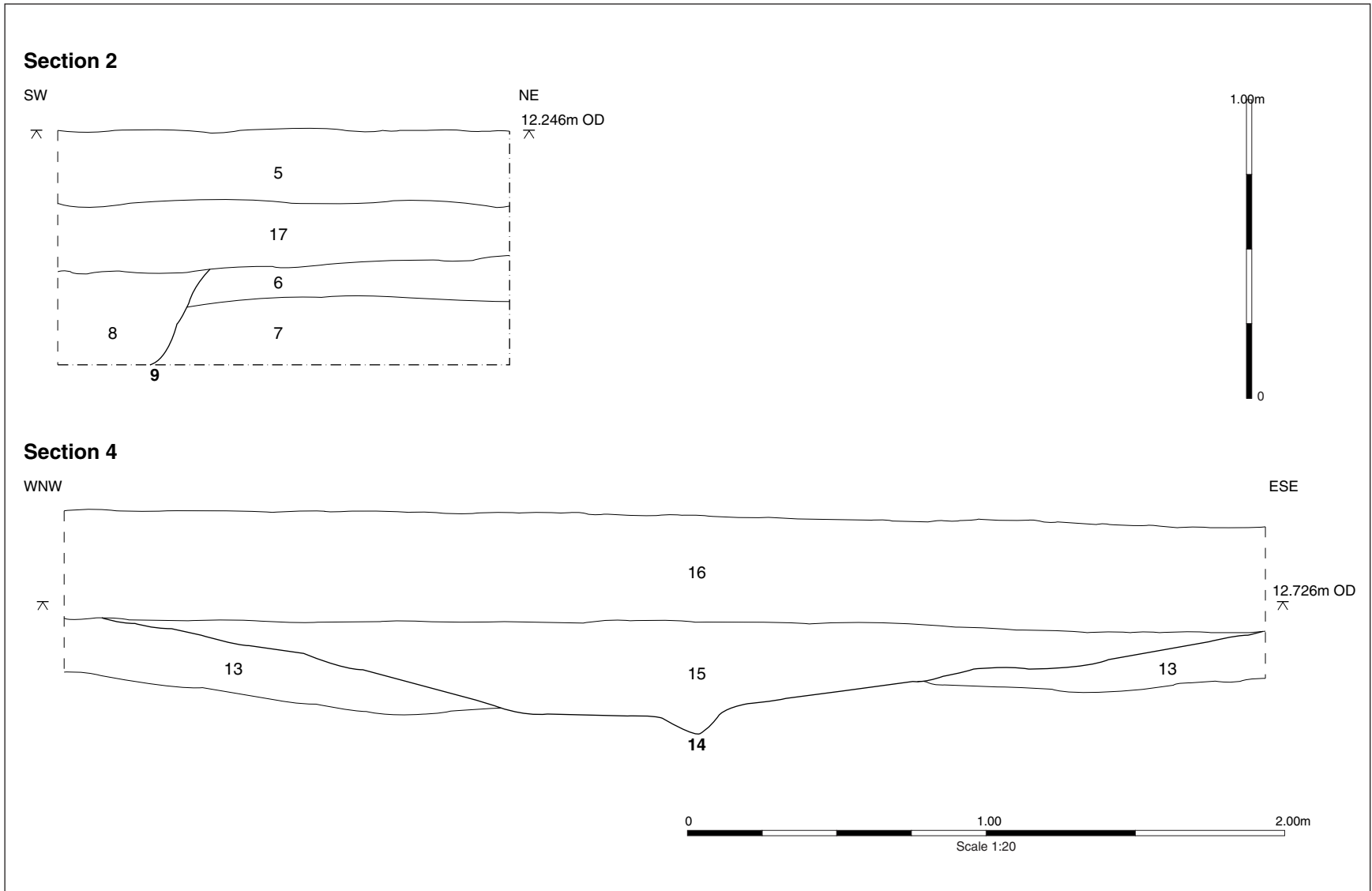


Figure 3: Section drawings





Plate 1: General view of Trenches 1 and 2 looking south-west



Plate 2: General view of Trenches 3 and 4 looking north-east



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