

The Scout Hut
Perse Upper School
Cambridge



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



December 2011

Client: The Perse School

OA East Report No: 1317

OASIS No: oxfordar3-115349

NGR: TL 4627 5603

Report Title

Archaeological Evaluation at the Scout Hut, Perse Upper School, Cambridge.

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Report Date: December 2011

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Site Name: The Scout Hut, Perse Upper School, Cambridge
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Date of Works: December 2011
Client Name: The Perse School
Client Ref: Pleasance, Hookham and Nix
Planning Ref: 110532FUL
Grid Ref: NGR TL 4627 5603
Site Code: CAMPUS11
Finance Code: CAMPUS11
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No:

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Date: December 2011

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Summary.....5

1 Introduction.....7

 1.1 Location and scope of work.....7

 1.2 Geology and topography.....7

 1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....7

 1.4 Acknowledgements.....8

2 Aims and Methodology.....9

 2.1 Aims.....9

 2.2 Methodology.....9

3 Results.....10

 3.1 Introduction10

 3.2 Trench 1.....10

 3.3 Trench 210

 3.4 Finds Summary.....10

4 Discussion and Conclusions.....11

 4.1 Trenches 1 & 2.....11

 4.2 Significance.....11

 4.3 Recommendations.....11

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....12

Appendix B. Bibliography13

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form14

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map
- Fig. 2 Trenches 1, 2 and sections
- Plate1. Trench1 from the south
- Plate2. Trench 2 from the south

Summary

On the 5th of December 2011 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation on land in front of the Scout hut at the Perse Upper School, Cambridge (TL 4627 5603). This evaluation was carried in the advance of the building of a new Outdoor Pursuit Centre. Two seven metre trenches were opened but no archaeological features were identified in either.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at The Scout Hut, The Perse School, Cambridge. NGR TL 4627 5603
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 110532FUL), 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 evaluation area is situated on relatively flat ground to the south of Cambridge adjacent to Launds road and Hills road and overlies West Melbury marly grey chalk (British Geological survey 2002). It stands at a height of approximately 15.20m and is currently occupied by a wooden building used by the local scout group. It is bounded to the west and north by a mature conifer hedge and to the east by an asphalt path leading to the Perse school buildings. The ground itself was covered in short grass.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies in an area where there have been widespread Iron Age and Roman remains discovered. Off Hills Road, and at the Perse School itself, various interventions over the years revealed the presence of a Roman road (CHER 04819 - Walker 1910, MCB5834), and other chance finds of Roman material (HER 04735, 04824) as well as post-medieval activity (HER 11902 – Leith 1996).
- 1.3.2 Immediately to the east of the school off, Glebe Road, produced Middle Iron Age pottery from a small number of features including a pit and ditch as well as several undated features (Connor, A 2000: Iron Age Pits and Post-medieval Ditches: Archaeological Evaluation at 90 Glebe Road, Cambridge CCC AFU Report No. A158), whilst an evaluation at 95 Glebe Road in 2007, although producing no datable artefactual material, revealed archaeological features thought to date to the Iron Age (Muldowney, M. 2007: Undated Remains to the Rear of 95 Glebe Road, Cambridge CAMARC Report no. 966).
- 1.3.3 A little further north up Hills Road, also on the west side a two phase evaluation at Homerton College produced multi-period remains, including prehistoric, Roman and medieval ditches as well as a Roman enclosure (HER 11958 – Alexander 1997, Webb and Dickens 2006).

- 1.3.4 A Roman cremation (HER 04820) and undated inhumation (HER 07972) have also been found close to Hills Road.
- 1.3.5 In recent years large archaeological investigations during the re-development of Addenbrookes Hospital and the southern Cambridge fringe (Clay Farm, Trumpington Meadows, Trumpington Park & Ride and Guided Bus Scheme), have identified the remains of extensive prehistoric and Roman settlements and field systems in the area.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Pleasance, Hookham and Nix and the Perse Upper School who commissioned and funded the work. Additional thanks go to Nick Gilmour for excavation assistance, to Stuart Ladd for producing the illustrations. Thanks also to Adrian Roberts of the Perse Upper School Archaeology Club for his enthusiastic interest. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and the brief for the archaeological works was written by Dan McConnell .

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 At least 10m of linear trenching were to be excavated to provide a sample of the development area, ultimately 14m of linear trenching were opened.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Weather conditions were good, being cold and dry.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Trenches are listed in numbered order. Both were positioned directly in front of the existing scout hut on a nnw-sse orientation and were excavated by machine to the upper geological horizon.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench one was orientated nnw-sse directly in front of the present Scout hut at its eastern end. It measured 7.0m x 2.10m and was excavated to a depth of 0.63m. No archaeological features were found. A layer of mid orangey brown silty loam (101) with occasional gravel and small stones was overlain by a dark brownish grey silty loam (100) which contained occasional pieces of flint. Small pieces of CBM of a post medieval and modern date was present in both layers.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench two was orientated nnw-sse directly in front of the present Scout hut at its western end. It measured 7.0m x 2.10m and was excavated to a depth of 0.65m. No archaeological features were found. A layer of mid orangey brown silty loam (201) with occasional gravel and small stones was overlain by a dark brownish grey silty loam (200) which contained occasional pieces of flint. Small pieces of CBM of a post medieval and modern date was present in both layers. Both trenches were capped by a layer of turf.

3.4 Finds Summary

Small amounts of Tile Ceramic Building Material (CBM) consisting mainly of brick and tile was found in the subsoil and topsoil layers of both evaluation trenches. All CBM was of a post-medieval or modern date. All finds were thought to be of an intrusive nature.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Trenches 1 & 2

4.1.1 Neither trenches produced any evidence of archaeology. Small amounts of CBM were found in both trenches in subsoil and topsoil layers.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 Although nothing of archaeological interest was found during the evaluation at the scout hut it may add a little to the knowledge of the extent and limits of archaeology in the area.

Recommendations

4.2.2 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		nnw-sse
Trench one was devoid of archaeology and consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky marl.				Avg. depth (m)		0.63
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		7
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	CBM	Modern
101	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	CBM	Modern
102	Layer	-	0.08	Natural	-	-
Trench						
General description				Orientation		nnw-sse
Trench two was devoid of archaeology and consisted of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky marl.				Avg. depth (m)		0.65
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		7
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	CBM	Modern
201	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	CBM	Modern
202	Layer	-	0.1	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alexander, M. 1997: *An Archaeological Evaluation at Homerton College, Cambridge*. Unpublished report.

British Geological Survey 2002: Solid and Drift Geology Sheet 205 1:50, 000 series

Connor, A. 2000a: *Iron Age Pits and Post-medieval Ditches: Archaeological Evaluation at 90 Glebe Road, Cambridge*. CCC AFU Report No. A158

Connor, A. 2000b: *Middle Iron Age Activity at 90 Glebe Road: Further Investigations*. CCC AFU Report No. A160

Leith, S. 1996: *An Archaeological Evaluation at The Perse School for Boys, Hills Road, Cambridge*. Unpublished report

Muldowney, M. 2007: *Undated Remains to the Rear of 95 Glebe Road, Cambridge*. CAMARC Report no. 966

Walker, F.G. 1910: Roman Roads into Cambridge. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society* 14: 141-76.

Webb, D. and Dickens, A. 2006: *Homerton College, Cambridge. Archaeological Evaluation on the Site of New Undergraduate Accommodation*. Unpublished report

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-115349"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Archaeological Evaluation at the Scout Hut, Perse Upper School, Cambridge."/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text" value="05-12-2011"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="05-12-2011"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="CAMPUS11"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text" value="110532FUL"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="ECB 3699"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text" value="Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5"/>
Development Type	<input type="text" value="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 checked="" 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 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
<input type="text" value="None"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text" value="None"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
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Project Location

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District	<input type="text" value="Cambridge City"/>	<input type="text" value="The Perse Upper School
Hills Road
Cambridge
CB2 8QF"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Cambridge"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Cambridgeshire"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="20sqm"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="NGR TL 4627 5603"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

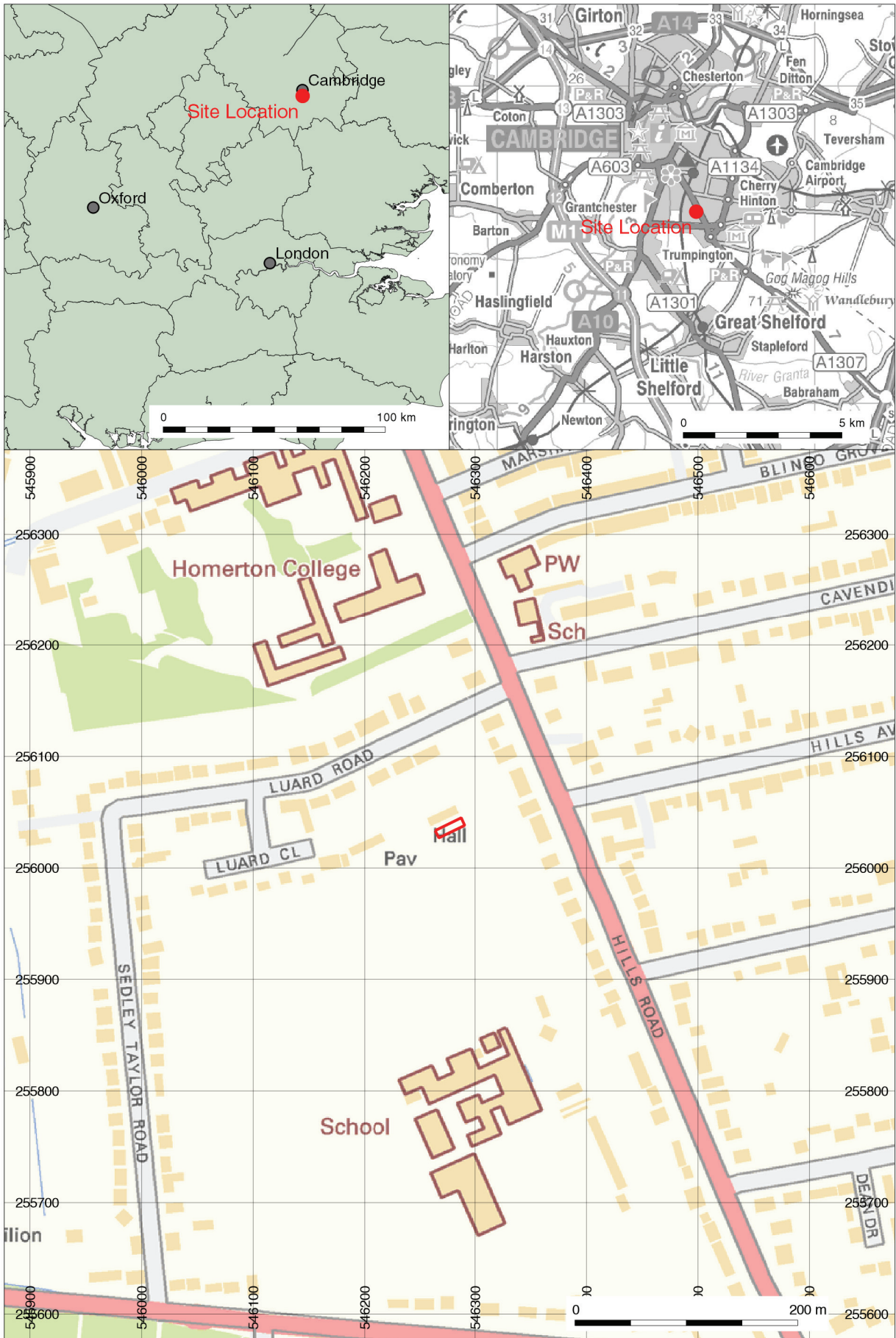
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CCC Stores	OA East Bar Hill	CCC Stores
CAMPUS11	CAMPUS11	CAMPUS11

Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
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<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: Site location

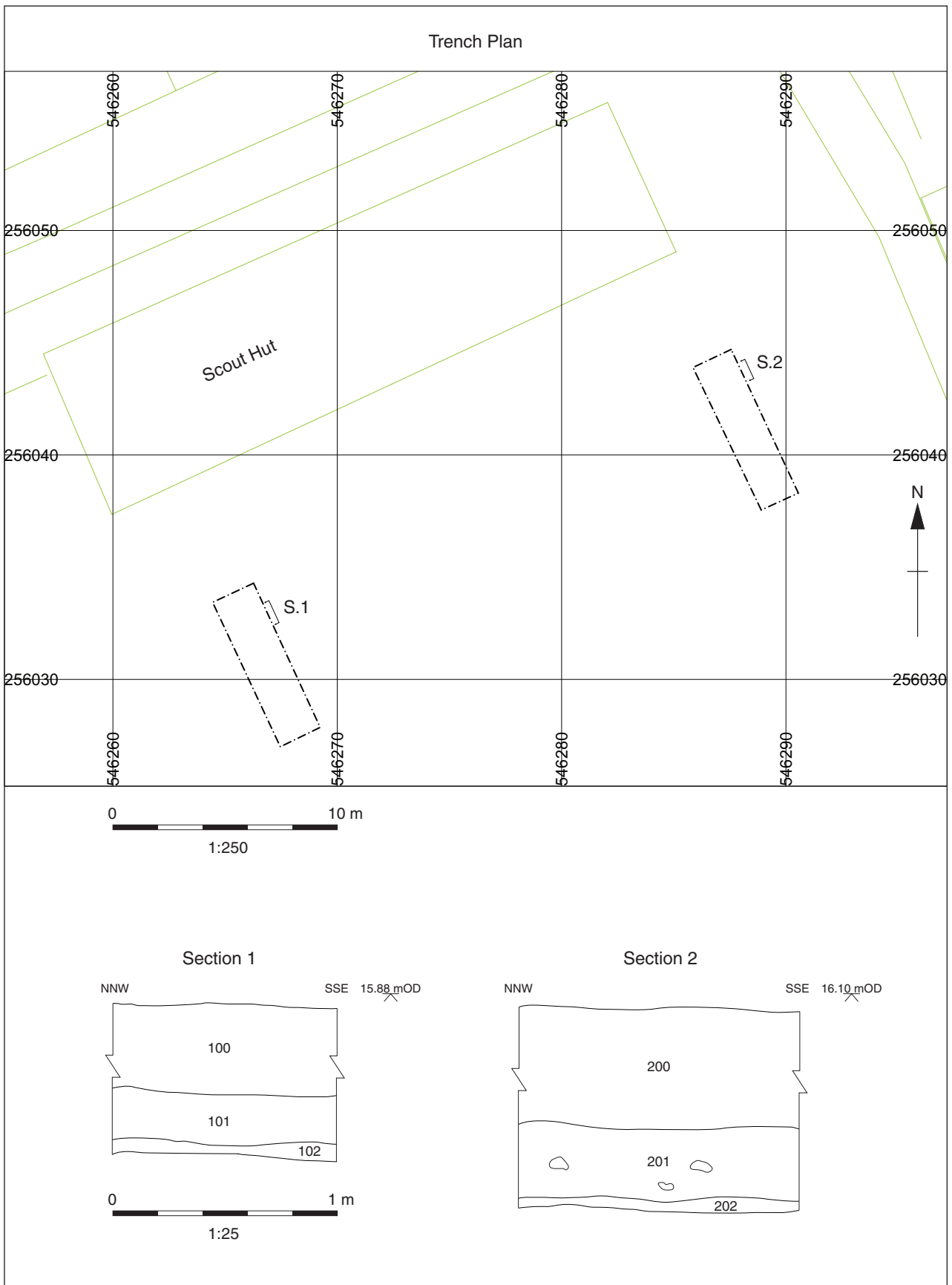


Figure 2: Trenches 1, 2 and sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 from the south



Plate 2: Trench 2 from the south



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