

Elsham STW
Middlegate Lane
Elsham



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



April 2012

Client: Anglia Water

OA East Report No: 1348
OASIS No: oxfordar3-124178
NGR: TA 0350 1353

An Archaeological Evaluation at Elsham STW, North Lincolnshire

Archaeological Evaluation

By Helen Stocks-Morgan BSc PIFA

Editor: James Drummond-Murray BA, MIFA

Illustrator: David Brown BA

Report Date: April 2012

Report Number: 1348
Site Name: Elsham STW, Middlegate Lane, Elsham
HER Event No: ELAT
Date of Works: February 2012
Client Name: Anglia Water
Client Ref:
Planning Ref:
Grid Ref: TA 0350 1353
Site Code: ELAT
Finance Code: XLI ESH 12
Receiving Body: North Lincolnshire Museum

Accession No:

Prepared by: Helen Stocks-Morgan
Position: Supervisor
Date: 17/03/2012

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: April 2012

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 2011
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

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 110

 3.3 Trench 2.....10

 3.4 Trench 3.....10

 3.5 Trench 4.....10

 3.6 Finds Summary.....11

4 Discussion and Conclusions.....12

 4.1 Discussion.....12

 4.2 Recommendations.....12

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....13

Appendix B. Bibliography15

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form16

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location map
Fig. 2 Trench Layout and Sections 1, 2 and 3

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 1 looking south-east
Plate 2 Trench 2 looking north
Plate 3 Trench 3 looking north-east
Plate 4 Trench 4 looking south-west

Summary

OA East conducted an evaluation on land at Elsham STW in February 2012. The evaluation consisted of four trenches 79.1m in total length.

Three trenches were excavated down to natural geology and no archaeological deposits of any significance were encountered. One trench was excavated to 4m in depth before further investigation was halted due to health and safety concerns.

The land investigated showed evidence of heavy truncation and previous activity to level the ground, this is believed to have occurred during the land's use as an airfield in the 20th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Elsham STW, Middlegate Lane, Elsham. The evaluation took place on the 16th and 17th February.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Specification prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2012).
- 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 North Lincolnshire Museum, 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 on a small plateau 84m OD at the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The underlying bedrock is of Welton Chalk formation. No superficial deposits are recorded for this area (British Geological Survey).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric Period

- 1.3.1 A series of flint scatters have been recovered c. 1km to the south of the site. The quantity and concentration of artefacts retrieved during field walking events would suggest that a settlement lies in the vicinity (HER 20550, 20681, 21260).
- 1.3.2 Aerial photographs taken in the 20th century have shown the presence of two rectilinear cropmarks to the west of the site (HER 20944, 20962). An additional cropmark was located immediately to the south (HER 2312). These have been interpreted as prehistoric enclosure systems. To the north-east of the site a trackway has been identified from aerial photographs, running north-east to south-west for a length of 90m. A further cropmark has been identified which is semicircular in shape and c100m in diameter.

Romano-British period

- 1.3.3 Several scatters of Roman pottery have been located during fieldwalking surveys to the south of the site (HER 2312). A Carinated vessel was retrieved 300m to the west during

quarrying. These finds suggest a presence within the landscape during the Romano-British period, though no settlement has been identified at present.

Anglo-Saxon Period

Fieldwalking to the south of the site, near to Elsham village centre has identified an area of possible settlement, with pottery and metalwork associated with domestic use retrieved (HER 21748). A cemetery containing over 600 urned cremations has been excavated 1.3km to the south of the site (HER 2305). Cropmarks have revealed a boundary ditch which is thought to enclose the cemetery and mark its limits.

Medieval Period

- 1.3.4 During the Medieval period settlement seems to be focused around the church of All Saints 1.5km to the south of the site. Several scatters of early medieval and medieval pottery (HER 20554 and 21262) were found surrounding the modern village during further fieldwalking projects.

Modern

- 1.3.5 Elsham Wold Airfield (HER11651) occupied an area approximately 130 hectares that included the whole of the site. This airfield was in use through both World Wars and was closed in 1947. The A15 was built across the site in the 1970s as well as the Elsham Wold Industrial Estate.

1.4 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mott Macdonald Ltd who commissioned the work on behalf of the Anglia Water Services Ltd. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and monitored by Alison Williams of North Lincolnshire Museums Service.

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 Three trenches were excavated measuring c. 25m long and 2m wide. A further trench, measuring 6.5m by 2m, was excavated, at which point further excavation was stopped due to health and safety concerns (see fig. 2).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 15 tonne 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by the contractor using a Leica GPS 1200 system.
- 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 The site conditions were good and the evaluation was carried out during dry and mild weather.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented by trench, then chronologically (see Fig 2 for trench locations).

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Natural geology was not reached during the excavation of this trench. The earliest deposit was a loose white chalk rubble (2), excavated to a depth of 3.9m. During the excavation of the trench the sides were continually collapsing. Overlying this was a dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil (1), measuring 0.2m in thickness.

3.2.2 The depth of the deposits and the the loosely compacted nature of the deposits meant that the trench sides were collapsing into the trench as the machine was excavating. This restricted any entry and any meaningful excavation of the ground. A decision was made after consultation to halt the excavation of this trench on health and safety grounds (see plate 1).

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 The natural chalk geology was revealed at an average depth of 1.7m across the trench. No archaeological features were present throughout the trench (see plate 2). A previous levelling deposit of loose crushed white chalk rubble (5) interspersed with a dark orangey brown silty sand was excavated, measuring 0.9m in depth. Overlying this was a layer of densely compacted chalk rubble (4) 0.55m in depth. Topsoil was present across the trench, this consisted of a dark greyish brown silty sand, measuring 0.25m in depth (for section see fig. 2)

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 Natural was revealed across the trench at an average depth of 1.5m. No archaeological features were observed throughout the trench (see plate 3). Overlying the natural was a levelling deposit, measuring 0.8m in depth. This consisted of a crushed white chalk nodules with dark orangey brown silty sand (5) and was loosely compacted. Above this was a layer of crushed white chalk (4), which was densely compacted, which measured 0.45m in depth. Topsoil (1) was present across the trench, measuring 0.25m in depth. This was a dark greyish brown silty sand (for section see fig. 2).

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 The natural chalk geology was revealed at an average depth of 2.1m across the trench. No archaeological features were present throughout the trench (see plate 4). A levelling deposit of loose crushed white chalk rubble (5) interspersed with a dark orangey brown silty sand was excavated, measuring 1.45m in depth. A further levelling deposit lay above this, which was a densely compacted chalk rubble (4) 0.4m in depth. Overlying these deposit was topsoil, this consisted of a dark greyish brown silty sand, measuring 0.25m in depth (for section see fig. 2).

3.6 Finds Summary

3.6.1 No finds were retrieved during the excavation.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 No archaeological features were present in the excavated trenches. The land itself has been subject to several episodes of truncation and levelling. This is believed to have occurred when the land was used as an RAF airfield. Trench 1 is believed to be in the area that was subject to the disposal of build up material during the construction of the nearby water lagoons. The result of this levelling activity is that it is likely to have truncated the majority of any archaeological remains.

4.2 Recommendations

- 4.2.1 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	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and modern make up material. Natural was not reached.					Avg. depth (m)	4.1
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	6.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	>3.9	modern make-up	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and modern make-up material overlying a natural of chalk.					Avg. depth (m)	1.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	23.4
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.25	topsoil	-	modern
3	layer	-	0.55	make-up	-	modern
4	layer	-	0.9	make-up	-	modern
5	layer	-	-	natural	-	-
Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and modern make-up material overlying a natural of chalk.					Avg. depth (m)	1.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	24.7
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.25	topsoil	-	modern
3	layer	-	0.45	make-up	-	modern
4	layer	-	0.8	make-up	-	modern
5	layer	-	-	natural	-	-
Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and modern make-up material overlying a natural of chalk.					Avg. depth (m)	2.1
					Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	25.1
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.25	topsoil	-	modern
3	layer	-	0.4	make-up	-	modern
4	layer	-	1.45	make-up	-	modern

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Drummond-Murray, J 2012 Specification for Archaeological Trenching
- Pevsner, N & Harris J 1978 The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire. Penguin

Maps Consulted

- British Geological Survey, 1993 Sheet 90, England and Wales 1:50,000

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-124178"/>			
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Elsham WTW, Middlegate Lane, Elsham"/>			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	<input type="text" value="16-02-2012"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="17-02-2012"/>
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="ELAT"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	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="Service Infrastructure"/>

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
<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="Lincolnshire"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="north lincolnshire"/>	<input type="text" value="Elsham WTW
Middlegate Lane
Elsham, Lincs
DN12 0PH"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="ELsham"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="7000 sq m"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TA 0350 1353"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Allison Williams
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan

Project Archives

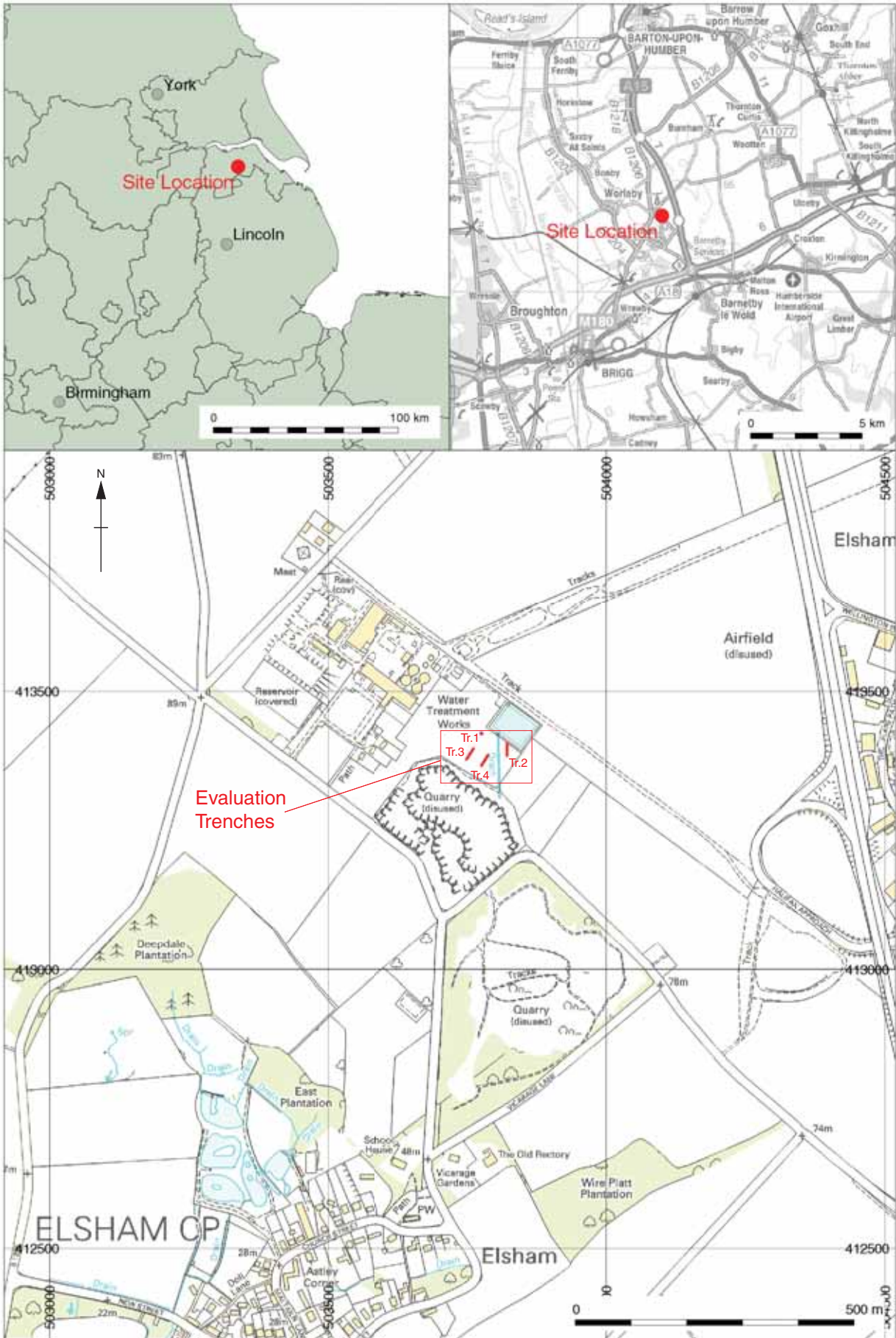
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
NLM	OA EAST	NLM
ELAT	ELAT	ELAT

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
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 type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input 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:



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right April 2012. All rights reserved. License No. 10001998

Figure 1: Site location

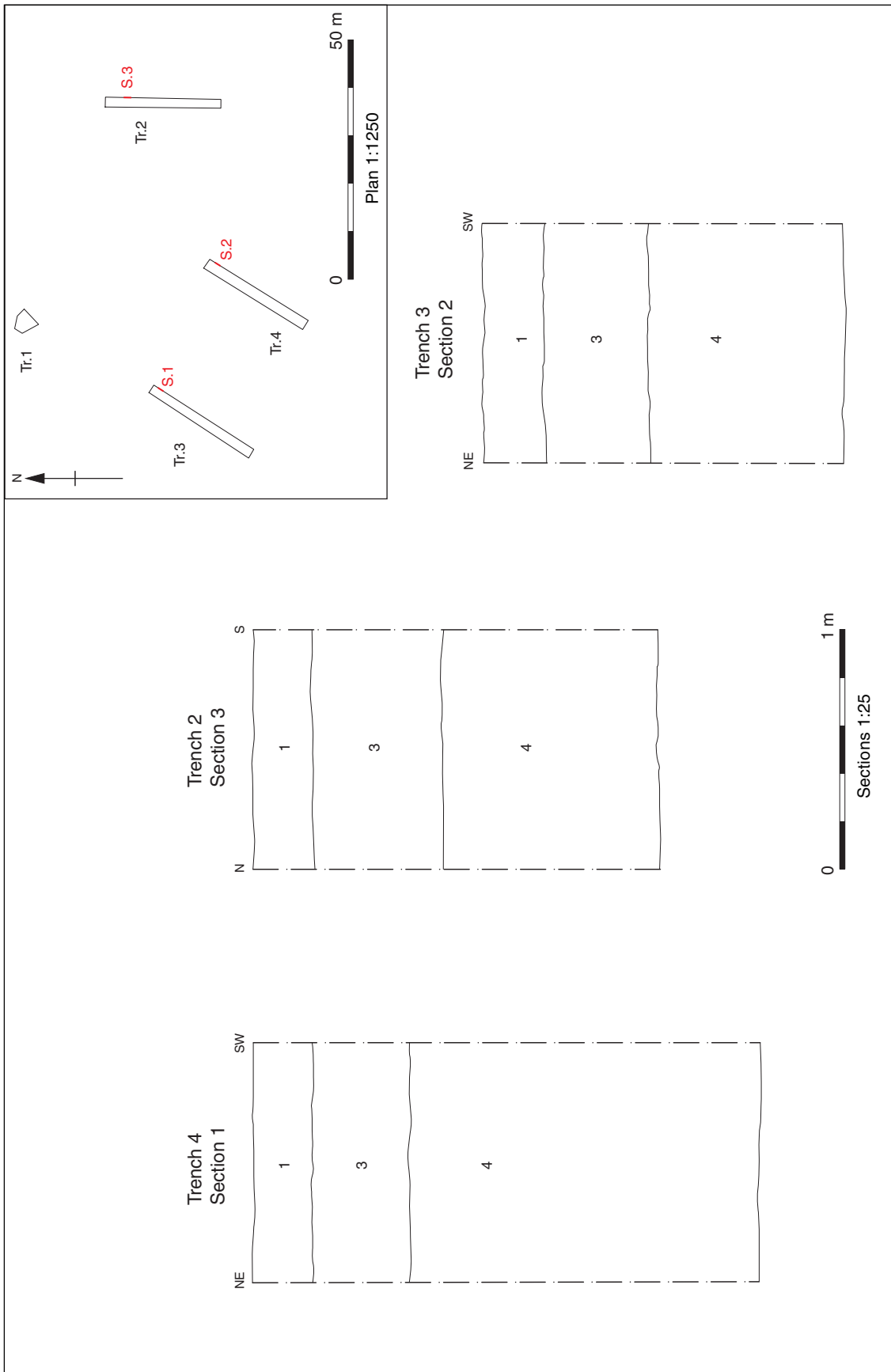


Figure 2: Trench layout and Sections 1, 2 and 3



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 4: Trench 4



Plate 3: Trench 3



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
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>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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