



Hill House Farm, Dullingham

Archaeological Evaluation Report

April 2017

Client: Enterprise Property Group

Issue No: 1

OA Report No: 2074

NGR: TL 6152 5867

oxfordarchaeology



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Client Name: Enterprise Property Group
Client Ref No.: n/a
Document Title: Hill House Farm, Dullingham
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Report No.: 2074
Grid Reference: TL 6152 5867
Planning Reference: 16/00978/FUL
Site Code: DUL HHI 17
Invoice Code: DUL HHI 17
Receiving Body: CCC Stores
Accession No.: ECB 4973

OA Document File Location: X:\Active Projects_Use KT\Cambridgeshire\DULHHI17\Project Reports
OA Graphics File Location:

Issue No: 1
Date: April 2017
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Hill House Farm, Dullingham
Archaeological Evaluation Report
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Summary

Between the 28th and 29th of March 2017 Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation at Hill House Farm, Station Road, Dullingham. Three trenches of 10m, 20m and 30m in length were excavated along the western edge of the existing farmyard.

No features of archaeological significance other than an early modern gravel farmyard surface were found.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Enterprise Property Group for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to Andy Thomas who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council for their advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Aileen Connor. The fieldwork was directed by Nicholas Cox, who was supported by Eben Cooper. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Gareth Rees. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell, and prepared the archive under the management of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Enterprise Property Group to undertake a trial trench evaluation and building recording at the site of Hill House Farm, Dullington, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Consent (planning ref. 16/00978/FUM). A brief was set by CCCHET (Thomas 2017) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (Drummond-Murray 2017), this document outlines how OA proposed to implement the specified requirements.
- 1.1.3 This report details the results of the trial trench evaluation only, the results of the building recording will be presented in a separate document (Fairbairn 2017).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north-west of Dullingham village, north of the railway line, 5.4km south-west of Newmarket.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development currently consists of existing farm buildings and surrounding farm yard.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – Chalk.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Hill House Farm dates from the 19th century. The site of Shuckburgh Castle is located to the north-west (HER07931). A 19th century clunch pit is located on the other side of the road (MCB22380). Cropmarks to the south-east indicate a Romano-British settlement (HER09136). Further cropmarks of a gated enclosure are located north of the station (HER09140). A malthouse was located close to the station but is now demolished (MCB 22379).
- 1.3.2 The Dullingham to Swaffhams River Support Pipeline ran through the fields on the other side of the road from the farm (ECB555; Robinson 1992). Fieldwalking produced a single undated tile fragment.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions
- iv. To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of 3 trenches were excavated. One measuring 10m x 1.6m, one measuring 20m x 1.6m and one measuring 30m x 1.6m.
- 2.2.2 Service plans were checked before work commenced on site. Before trenching, the footprint of each trench was scanned by a qualified and experienced operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate.
- 2.2.3 All machine excavation was undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.4 The trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits. A toothless ditching bucket used to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.
- 2.2.5 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits was kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand, in slots of at least 1.0m in width.
- 2.2.7 Bucket samples of 90 litres of spoil were collected from each trench from each soil horizon encountered, in order to characterise artefactual remains in the topsoil and other soil horizons above the archaeological level.
- 2.2.8 Each sample was sieved in order to retrieve artefacts which consisted entirely of modern garden waste.
- 2.2.9 Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica CS10/GS08 or Leica 1200) fitted with "smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.10 The site grid is accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and located on the 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. Elevations are levelled to the Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2.11 A register has been kept of all trenches, features, and photographs.
- 2.2.12 All features, layers and deposits have been issued with unique context numbers. Each feature is individually documented on context sheets, and hand-drawn in section and

plan. Written descriptions are recorded on pro-forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.

- 2.2.13 Site plans have been drawn at 1:50. Sections of features have been drawn at 1:20. All sections are tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2.14 All site drawings include the following information: site name, site code, scale, plan or section number, orientation, date and the name or initials of the archaeologist who prepared the drawing.
- 2.2.15 The photographic record comprises of high resolution digital photographs.
- 2.2.16 Photographs include both general trench shots and photographs of specific features. Every feature has been photographed at least once. Photographs include a scale, north arrow, site code, and feature number (where relevant), unless they are to be used in publications. The photograph register records these details, and photograph numbers are listed on corresponding context sheets.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits for the content of Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of chalky silts was overlain by a silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, would be easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 No significant archaeological features were present in any of the trenches.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 was located in front of a barn in the north-west corner of the development area. It was 20m long and had an average depth of 0.28m and aligned north-east to south-west (Fig.2, Plate 1).

3.4.2 A reddish brown silty subsoil (2) 0.15m thick ran across the trench. This was overlain by a layer of crushed brick and rubble (5) 0.16m thick, acting as a bedding layer for an early modern yard surface. The yard surface itself (4) consisted of gravel 0.09m thick and contained a number of modern metal artefacts, including a horseshoe and chain links (Fig.3 Section 1, Plate 2).

3.4.3 A thin layer of topsoil and turf (1), 0.02m thick had formed over the top of the yard surface.

3.5 Trenches 2 and 3

3.5.1 Both of these trenches were devoid of archaeological features, just containing modern water pipe trenches and periglacial features.

3.5.2 Trench 2 located between the other two trenches aligned just off east to west. The trench was 10m long and averaged 0.42m deep, with subsoil (2) with a maximum thickness of 0.2m and topsoil (1) up to 0.3m thick (Fig.2, Plate 3).

3.5.3 Trench 3 was located on the western edge of the development area in the south-west corner. It was 30m long and had an average depth of 0.52m, on a north-east to south-west alignment. The subsoil (2) had a maximum thickness of 0.37m and the topsoil (1) of 0.28m. Two modern services lines crossed the trench at right angles and there was considerable root disturbance from a number of trees throughout the trench (Fig.2, Plate 3).

3.6 Finds summary

- 3.6.1 Artefacts comprised modern iron fragments and brick, all of modern date and not retained.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches all showed a similar pattern of periglacial features which were clearly visible against the chalky natural.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation has established the general lack of archaeological remains in the area of the proposed development, the only feature found being a yard surface that was no earlier than early to mid-20th century in date and was clearly associated with the adjacent open fronted barn.

4.2.2 The results indicate that the area was not used prior to the construction of the current farm during the 19th century.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 All the trenches contained natural periglacial features and no archaeologically significant features.

4.3.2 Trench 1 contained a gravel surface laid over a bedding layer of brick rubble. As this was only just below the modern ground surface and was located immediately in front of an existing barn this was likely to be an early modern yard surface relating to the barn.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The trenching found no evidence for activity on the site prior to the construction of the current farm in the 19th century. A yard surface may be associated with the recent use of the farm.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a modern gravel yard surface with a rubble bedding layer underneath. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.09	Yard surface	-	Modern
5	Layer	-	0.16	Yard bedding	-	Modern

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

Drummond Murray, J., 2017 *Hill House Farm, Station Road, Dullingham, Written Scheme of Investigation, Archaeological Evaluation*, OA East (unpublished)

Robinson, B., 1992 *An Archaeological Investigation of Dullingham-Swaffhams Pipeline*, CCCAFU (unpublished)

Thomas, A., 2017 *Hill House Farm, Station Road, Dullingham, Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording*, Cambridgeshire County Council (unpublished)

APPENDIX C OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-282629		
Project Name	Hill House Farm, Dullingham		
Start of Fieldwork	28-03-2017	End of Fieldwork	29-03-2017
Previous Work	None	Future Work	None

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	DUL HHI 17	Planning App. No.	16/00978/FUL
HER Number	ECB 4973	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Direction from local planning authority
Development Type	Rural Residential
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <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	Period
Surface	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.

Object	Period
None	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Hill House Farm, Station Road, Dullingham, Cambs, CB8 9UT
District	East Cambs	
Parish	Dullingham	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	84 sq.m	
National Grid Ref	TL 6152 5867	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray

Project Manager	Aileen Conner
Project Supervisor	Nicholas Cox

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	N/A	ECB 4973
Digital Archive	OA East	ECB 4973
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 4973

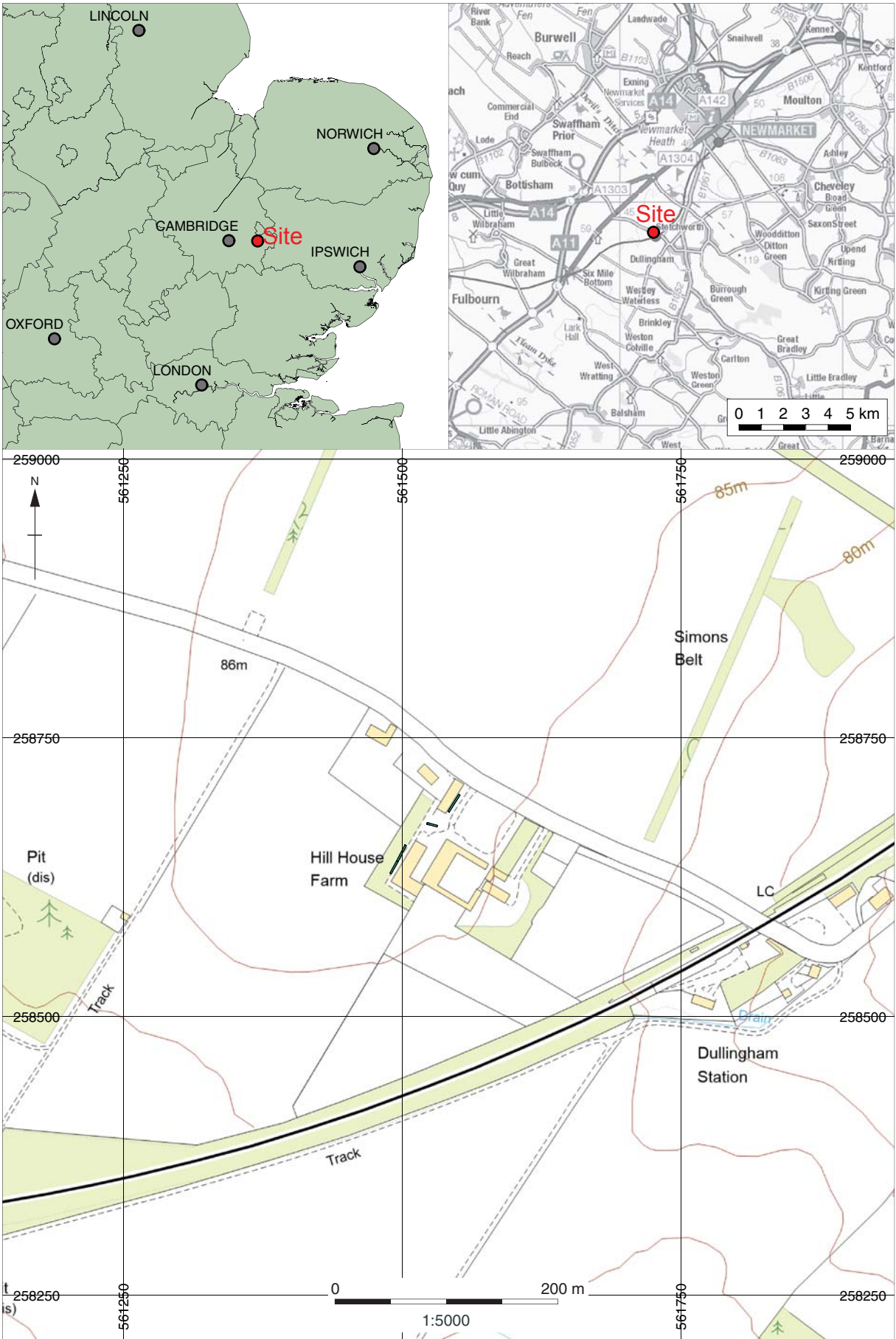
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media

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Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

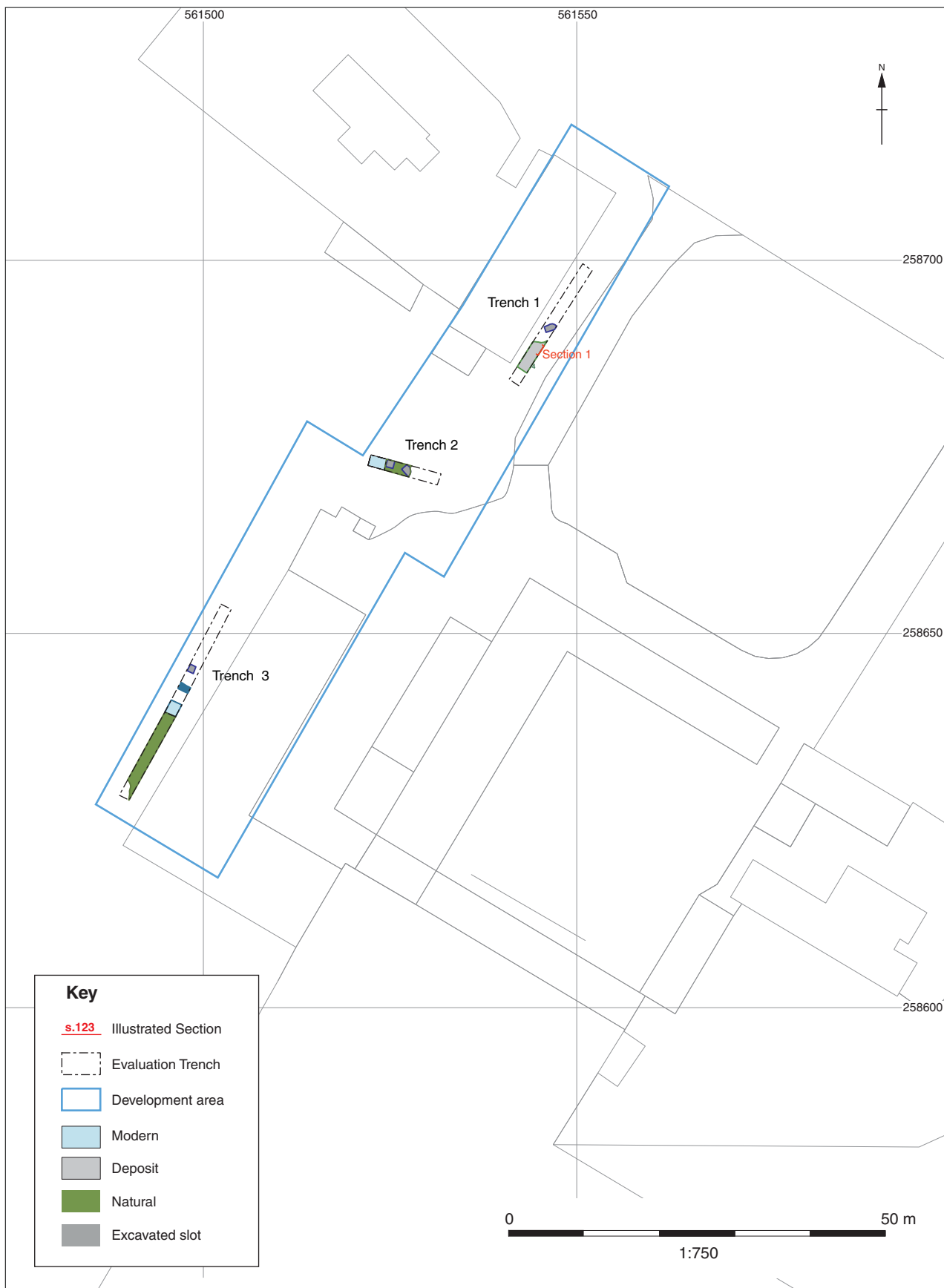


Figure 2: Trench layout

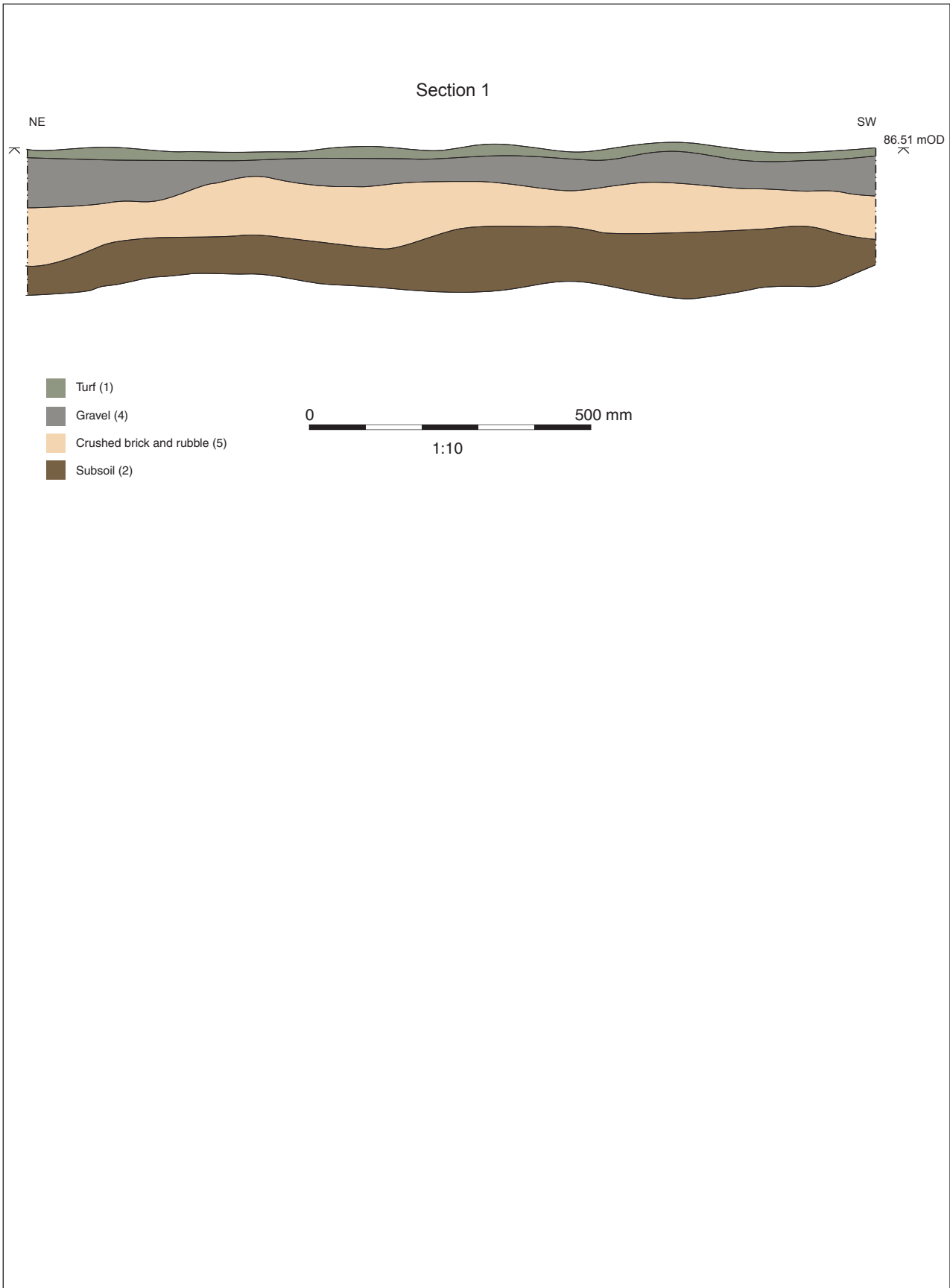


Figure 3: Section through Trench 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-east



Plate 2: Yard surface 4, Trench 1, looking south-east



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking south-west



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