

# Land at Tern Gardens Chatteris



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



December 2009

**Client: Richard Knight Homes Ltd.**

OA East Report No: 1151

OASIS No: Oxfordar3-69045

NGR: TL 3926 8657

## **Land at Tern Gardens, Chatteris**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Illustrator: Andrew Corrigan BA*

*Report Date: December 2009*

**Report Number:** 1151  
**Site Name:** Land at Tern Gardens, Chatteris  
**HER Event No:** ECB 3285  
**Date of Works:** December 2009  
**Client Name:** Richard Knight Homes Ltd.  
**Client Ref:** N/A  
**Planning Ref:** F/YR07/0543/F  
**Grid Ref:** TL 3926 8657  
**Site Code:** CHATEG09  
**Finance Code:** CHATEG09  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach  
**Accession No:** CHATEG09  
**Prepared by:** Jonathan House  
**Position:** Archaeological Supervisor  
**Date:**  
**Checked by:** Richard Mortimer  
**Position:** Project Manager  
**Date:**  
**Signed:** .....

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## **Summary**

### *Summary text.*

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the land at Tern Gardens, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (TL 3926 8657) between 1st and 2nd of December 2009. The archaeological remains consisted of Post Medieval backyard activity, associated with the property fronting onto the High Street at the southwestern end of the development area; features included relatively modern structural remains.*

*The northeastern end of the site had seen much disturbance and soil displacement due to the construction and subsequent backfilling of a large pond in recent decades.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Tern Gardens, Chatteris, grid reference TL 3926 8657.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Eliza Gore of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application F/YR07/0543/F), 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 and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). 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 lies on West Walton and Ampthill Clay overlain by sands and gravels on the northeastern edge of the island of Chatteris at between 8m (at the western, High St end of the site) and 6m AOD, this gives the site a gentle slope from the southwest end sloping downwards to the northeast.
- 1.2.2 To the north running east to west is the A142, which joins the A141 that runs north south into the High St, to the west of the site. The town centre is about 0.5km to the south (Fig.1).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Prehistoric*

- 1.3.1 During the Neolithic period a major river channel, with associated tributaries, ran close to the northern edge of the island. Tidal or intertidal marshes lay between the tributaries and, whilst much of the island was dry land, the soils were too heavy to attract settlement (Hall 1992). The majority of the settlement and finds evidence come from the southern and eastern part of the island although a flint scatter and Neolithic axe found to the west of the modern settlement and a polished axe from Delve Terrace suggest limited occupation elsewhere.
- 1.3.2 During the Bronze Age, peat fen encroached on the area covering the marine sediments. The relative dryness of much of the land during this time appears to have led to more extensive occupation of the island, as evidenced by the considerable amount of Bronze Age metalwork reported from Chatteris, possibly as a result of cemeteries being disturbed by agriculture. A dispersed barrow field occupying the eastern half of the island towards the fen edge was the chief monument from this period and comprised at least fifteen barrows (Hall 1992).

- 1.3.3 Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery forms found in two areas suggest continued intensive occupation into the Iron Age period (Hall 1992). A number of pits and postholes datable to the Early Iron Age were also recorded during the CAM ARC excavation in 2001, and smaller settlement sites of later Iron Age date have also been identified.

#### ***Roman***

- 1.3.4 Chatteris appears to have been an important area in the Roman period with evidence for settlement and a local economy based on stock rearing. A continuous sequence of occupation was identified in 2001 in the form of ditches (suggesting a field system), pits and postholes datable to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period and enclosure systems, structures and industrial features datable to the 2nd to 4th century.

#### ***Saxon***

- 1.3.5 No Saxon remains were identified by the Fenland Project survey around Chatteris Island, away from the town. It is possible that the present town is built over the Saxon settlement and a number of features recorded during the 2001 excavations to the south support this theory. These consisted of pits, postholes and ditches suggestive of structural remains datable to the Anglo-Saxon period. The main island was subjected to Midland-type strip cultivation in the medieval period.

#### ***Medieval***

- 1.3.6 Two manors are known for Chatteris from the medieval period. Athelstan Mannesson gave a part of Chatteris to Ramsey Abbey; Edgar confirmed the gift in 974. Eadnoth, Abbot of Ramsey founded a small nunnery at Chatteris between 1006 and 1008 (Hall 1992).
- 1.3.7 The church of SS Peter and Paul consists of a chancel, north and south chapels, a north vestry, clerestoried nave, aisles, two south porches and a west tower. It is built of rubble with stone dressings and the roof is part tiled and part leaded. The oldest remaining part of the structure dates from the mid-14th century and the porch is 15th century.

#### ***Post Medieval and Recent Investigations***

- 1.3.8 The proposed development area is thought likely to contain evidence for the later Medieval and post-medieval development of Chatteris, with particular potential for backyard activities such as brewing, baking and other light industries and for quarry pits and wells etc. used for subsequent waste disposal.
- 1.3.9 Recent evaluations both immediately adjacent to the site (Evaluation at 91 High St, Chatteris, 2008, Archaeological Solutions) and to the north at Bridge St and Black Horse Lane (Cooper 2005, CCCAFU Report 801 and Cooper 2002, CCCAFU Report B097) have revealed relatively limited archaeology, mostly post-medieval in date.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The Author would like to thank Richard Knight Homes Ltd, who commissioned and funded the archaeological works. The Author would also like to thank Richard Mortimer who managed the evaluation.



1.4.2 The brief for the archaeological works was written by Eliza Gore, and the site was monitored by Dan McConnell.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of the 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 the evaluation should include a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area and that sufficient archaeological features should be excavated and recorded to meet the project objectives.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 No environmental sampling was carried out on the site.
- 2.2.5 A large portion of the northeast of the site was unsuitable for archaeological investigation due to the extensive pond known to have been excavated and backfilled there within recent years. There was also a protected tree highlighted within the southern edge of the development area, which guided the archaeological trenching.
- 2.2.6 Spoil heaps could be seen across the site, from land clearance and other local area works, the majority of the heaped soil may be left over from the pond excavation and subsequent backfilling.
- 2.2.7 The conditions on the site were very wet.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Three trenches were opened totalling 88 linear metres (see Fig.2) and the results are presented and described by trench, full details by trench/context appear in Appendix A. All trenches were 2.00m wide and the percentage of the available area opened (excluding the modern pond) was a little over 5%.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 The trench was located at the southwest end of the site and was 32m long. Topsoil and subsoil measured 0.23m and 0.27m respectively. The trench contained the heavily truncated remains of two modern brick walls, parallel, c. 10m apart and on a northwest to southeast alignment. The southwestern wall (109) survived as a concrete footing 0.45m wide. The northeastern wall had a brownish yellow gravel footing (105), and two mortared (though damaged) courses of brick (106) see Fig.2, section 1. A thin spread of dark yellowish brown material (108) lay between the walls and contained a small quantity of animal bone.

#### 3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was located at the centre of the development area, running almost north to south, the trench measured 26m in length. The topsoil measured 0.22m, and the subsoil 0.29m deep. At the southern end of the trench a small brick structure was observed (110), a single layer of eight bricks formed a circle of 0.60m internal diameter. The area within the bricks had been backfilled with brick rubble. The structure was within a construction cut through the subsoil. A ditch, **103**, was excavated at the northern end of the trench, the ditch ran on a northwest to southeast alignment and cut through the subsoil (Fig.2, section 2). A 1m wide slot was excavated through the ditch and the finds assemblage consisted of a small amount of animal bone and 1 pot sherd, dating to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 3.4 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located south of the known pond and ran east to west. There were no features of archaeological significance within the trench, however, there were clearly modern features and ground disturbance related to the large pond along the northern edge of the trench. There also appeared to be a smaller, separate modern pond with black pond lining material.

#### 3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 Clearly modern, 20th century, material was observed across the site, and within the areas of modern disturbance, but was not collected. The earliest datable finds recovered consisted of pottery dating to the late 18th or early 19th century.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The walls recorded in Trench 1 are likely to relate to small outbuildings and/or garden walls. Either way they are backyard structural remains belonging to the property fronting the High Street to the west. The evidence of backyard activity is supported by the presence of the small circular brick structure, seen in Trench 2.
- 4.1.2 Ditch **103** in Trench 2, is parallel to the walls in Trench 1 and aligned with the major property boundary still extant to the northwest. This boundary clearly marks the back of the plots along the High Street northwards and would presumably have done so within this property up to the point where it was extended eastwards some time in the 19th century.
- 4.1.3 There were no post-medieval remains to the northeast of this earlier boundary ditch, with modern features only being recorded in Trench 3. This area was presumably within the fields until the extension of the property.
- 4.1.4 A range of small buildings can be seen in the area of Trench 1 on the 1891 Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Map Ordnance Survey ma (1:10,560), however, this map is not clear enough to definitively attribute the remains within the trench to an exact building depicted.
- 4.1.5 The features seen in Trench 3 are all likely to relate to the pond works, and it appears there may also have been subsidiary pond features.

### 4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 The northeastern side of the site, outside the early boundary ditch, is highly disturbed by the pond and associated works, and there has been a high degree of soil displacement within the area.
- 4.2.2 The late post-medieval and modern remains to the western side of the ditch can be considered to relate to the properties that would have fronted onto the High Street, with long plots of land to the rear. No features or artefacts were recorded that pre-date the late 18th/early 19th century and it is suggested that this northern part of the High Street did not get taken into the settled area of the town until the post-medieval period. The limited structural remains that were present were quite heavily truncated and the limited finds assemblage seem to imply domestic activity rather than anything industrial.

### 4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 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						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench at southwest end of the development area, running northeast southwest.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	32
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
105	Fill	0.6	0.16	Bedding Material	-	-
106	Wall	0.6	0.18	Brick Wall	Brick	-
107	Cut	0.6	0.32	Construction Cut	-	-
108	Layer	-	0.29	Midden	Pot-Bone	L18th E19th C
0	build	0.50	0.20	concrete foundation		
Trench						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N-S
Trench located in the middle of development area, running north south.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.51
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	26
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	Pot	L18th E19th C
101	Layer	-	0.29	Subsoil	-	-
103	Cut	0.8	0.21	Cut of Ditch	-	-
104	Fill	0.8	21	Fill of Ditch	Pot	19th C
110	build	0.60	0.12	brick base		
Trench						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench located south of known pond feature, running east west.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.64
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Length (m)</b>	31
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.39	Subsoil	-	-

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Drummond-Murray, J., 2009, *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Tern Gardens, Chatteris*.

Hall, D., 1992, The Fenland Project Number 6: *The South-Western Cambridgeshire Fenlands*, *East Anglian Archaeology*, Cambridgeshire County Council.

Thatcher, C., 2008, *Multi-period excavation at New New Road, Chatteris*, OA East Report Number 985.

OS. 1891, *Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Map*, 1:10,560

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-69045		
Project Name	Land at Tern Gardens, Chatteris		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	01-12-2009	Finish	02-12-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CHATEG09	Planning App. No.	F/YR07/0543/F
HER No.	ECB 3285	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Urban Residential

### Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" 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 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
Wall	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Brick	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Fenland	Land at Tern Gardens Chatteris, Cambs. PE16 6DX
Parish	Chatteris	
HER	Cambridgeshire County Council	
Study Area	2700m <sup>2</sup>	National Grid Reference TL 3926 8657

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Jonathan House

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Landbeach, Cambs	OA East Office, Bar Hill	Landbeach, Cambs
CHATEG09	CHATEG09	CHATEG09

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input checked="" 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:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the land at Tern Gardens, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (TL 3926 8657) between 1st and 2nd December 2009. The archaeological remains consisted of Post Medieval backyard activity, associated with the property's fronting onto the High Street at the southwest end of the development area; features included late post-medieval to modern structural remains.









## Drawing Conventions

### Plans

Limit of Excavation	
Illustrated Section	
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Feature	
Wall	
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	119
Structure Number	120

### Sections

Cut	
Deposit Horizon	
Top Surface/Top of Natural	
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	
Cut Number	118
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD 
Brick	

Convention Key



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

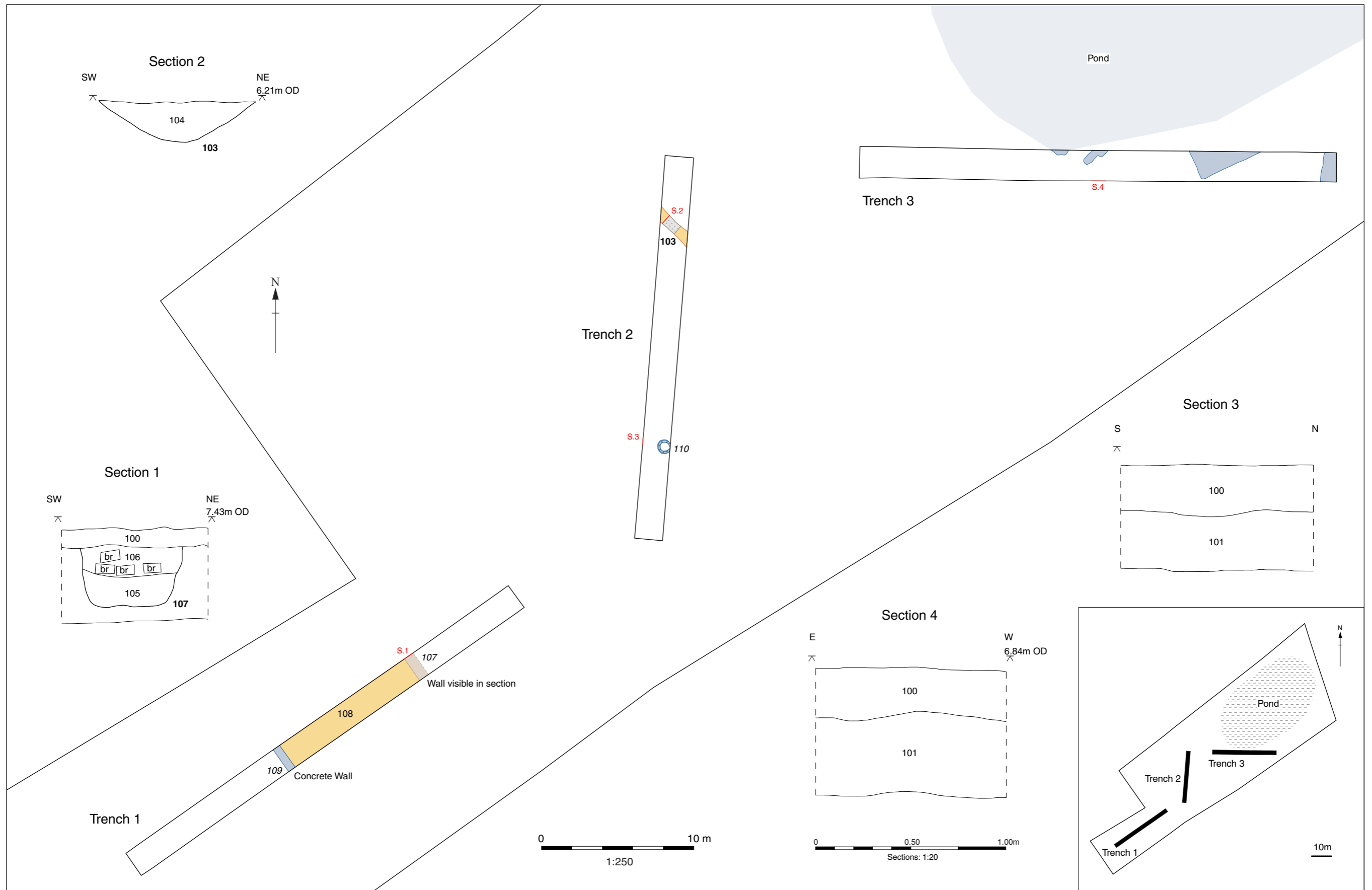


Figure 2: Trench plans (1:250) and section drawings (1:20)



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