

# Land south of Fletton Parkway, Hampton, Peterborough



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



December 2017

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 2163

OASIS No: oxfordar3-303418

NGR: TL 187 958

**Land south of Fletton Parkway, Hampton, Peterborough**

*Watching Brief*

*Site Code:* PETHAM17  
*Date of Works:* 23rd – 26th October 2017  
*Report No:* 2163  
*Event No:* 54087  
*Excavator:* James Fairbairn  
*Client:* Anglian Water  
*Report Date:* December 2017

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## Summary

*Between the 23rd and 26th October 2017 OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief on land south of Junction 3 of the A1139 (Fletton Parkway) in Hampton, Peterborough (TL 187 958). The monitoring was carried out on a 65m length of open-cut trenching terminating in a drill pit. The site sits immediately south of a Scheduled Monument, a Romano-British settlement south-east of Orton Longueville (SM PE 134, HA 1006833). Other than layers of modern made ground no archaeological remains or finds were observed during the watching brief.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### ***Location and Scope of the work***

- 1.1.1 Between the 23rd and 26th of October 2017 an archaeological Watching Brief was conducted at the site of a new mains pipeline on land south of Junction 3 of the A1139 (Fletton Parkway) in Hampton, Peterborough (TL 187 958; Fig. 1). The site sits immediately south of a Scheduled Monument, a Romano-British settlement south-east of Orton Longueville (SM PE 134, HA 1006833). Due to the proximity of the scheduled area, Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained from Historic England before work commenced (ref. S00173585, dated 17th August 2017). Part of the area, at Orton Hall Farm, has previously been excavated (Fig. 1). Until the late 1970s large scale quarrying and brick production was located directly to the south of the site.

### ***Geology and topography***

- 1.1.2 The bedrock geology is Lower Oxford Clay, overlain by River Terrace gravels Geology - bedrock and superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2014, (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>))
- 1.1.3 The site is flat at 23m OD, and sits on a low rise between the Nene valley to the north, and the shallow valley to the south. The excavated trench ran from an existing mains pipe location along a public footpath to the edge of a grass bank.
- 1.1.4 The pipeline trench was orientated east to west and had a length of approximately 65m and a width of 0.5m. The trench terminated in a drill pit that measured 3m x 3m and had an excavated depth of 1.2m.

### ***Archaeological Background***

#### **Neolithic to Iron Age (c. 4000 BC – AD 43)**

- 1.1.5 There are scattered Neolithic findspots in the local area (HER 01633a, 01412, 51121).
- 1.1.6 There is Bronze Age occupation at Wyman Bridge, 1.5km north-east of the site, including food vessels, cremated remains and inhumation burials (HER 1633, 18196).
- 1.1.7 Quarrying to the south and east has recovered evidence of Iron Age settlement, including number of roundhouses and pits (HER 1348).

#### **Roman and Anglo-Saxon (c. AD 43 – 1066)**

- 1.1.8 Immediately to the north of the site is a Scheduled Monument of a Romano-British settlement (SM PE 134, HA 1006833). It now lies beneath the Fletton Parkway, and is likely to have been substantially disturbed or destroyed during road construction.
- 1.1.9 Excavations at Orton Hall Farm, on the southern edge of the scheduled area (Fig. 1), identified occupation stretching from the Late Iron Age, through the Romano-British period, into the early Saxon period, ending in the 6th century AD (Mackreth 1996). Excavations uncovered a large wooden building, dating from the 2nd century, later replaced by a large Roman farmstead or villa.
- 1.1.10 Saxon sunken feature buildings were excavated on the eastern side of the Orton Hall Farm site.

1.1.11 An extensive Saxon inhumation cemetery was excavated to the north at Old Fletton, along with sunken feature buildings (HER 1716).

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to excavate and record any significant archaeological finds, features and/or deposits located within the drill pits or trench, prior to their destruction.
- 2.1.2 Removal of soil from Test Pit 1 and Drill Pit 1 was carried out by suction excavation and loose material was stored within a tanker type lorry. This material was stored on site and later redeposited within the test pits. This method of excavation was used to lessen the risk of damage to an existing high pressure main.
- 2.1.3 The trench linking the two pits was excavated by a small tracked 360 excavator using a 0.5m wide bucket.
- 2.1.4 Weather conditions on site were bright and sunny.

### **Research frameworks**

- 2.1.5 The works took place within, and will contribute to the goals of local and Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24)
  - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);
  - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8)

### **Test Pit 1**

- 2.1.6 A test pit measuring 3m x 4m was excavated at the western end of the excavation area to locate an existing pipe line (Fig. 1 and Plate 1). This work was undertaken entirely using suction excavation and the loose material was stock piled close to the site. The spoil consisted of whole and crushed modern bricks along with sand, gravel and topsoil (Plate 2).
- 2.1.7 The test pit had a maximum depth of 2m. The earliest excavated layer comprised natural geology of sand and gravel (104), measuring 0.6m thick (Fig. 2, section 1 and Plate 3).
- 2.1.8 Sealing layer 104 was a thin layer of redeposited grey clay (103). This had a maximum thickness of 0.1m. The material located above the clay consisted of a 0.8m thick redeposited brick and soil mixture (102), which had been used to build up a bank adjacent to the footpath. Sealing this was another layer of silty soil and brick (101), which had again been deposited as a layer of made ground, although there was less brick rubble than in the layer below.
- 2.1.9 The area of Test Pit 1 was sealed by a silty clay topsoil and turf.



### ***Drill Pit 1***

- 2.1.10 Drill Pit 1 was located at the eastern end of the pipeline (Fig. 1 and Plate 4). It measured 3m long, 2.5m wide and had a maximum depth of 1.2m. The whole of the area had previously been excavated to accommodate an existing pipeline (Plate 5). The deposits examined related to the back fill of the previous pit and consisted of layers of sand, gravel, re-deposited soil and rubble, sealed by turf. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted in Drill Pit 1.

### ***Trench 1***

- 2.1.11 Trench 1 (Fig. 1) linked Test Pit 1 and Drill Pit 1. It was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, turning south-east to north-west for 10m at the western end. The trench measured approximately 65m long, 0.5m wide and up to 1.65m deep.
- 2.1.12 Excavation of the trench revealed a single, mixed layer of redeposited brick, rubble and soil (Plate 6 and 7), indicating severe truncation of the original ground level.
- 2.1.13 Weather conditions on site were bright and sunny.

## **3 RESULTS**

- 3.1.1 No archaeological finds or features were present within the area of the Watching Brief. The soil sequence across the two test pits was fairly uniform, comprising redeposited or disturbed soils. The sequence could be due to landscaping, back fill or levelling at the time the houses were constructed to the south. The only natural geology encountered was layer 104 in Test Pit 1 (Fig. 2, section 1 and Plate 3).

## **4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 4.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Tom Phillips. James Fairbairn conducted the Watching Brief. The illustrations were produced by Dave Brown.

## 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mackreth, D.F., 1996, *Orton Hall Farm: A Roman and Early Anglo-Saxon Farmstead*. East Anglian Archaeology, Report No. 76

Wiseman, R. 2017, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief for Land to the East of the A15 Hampton, Peterborough*.

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

|                            |   |            |             |            |
|----------------------------|---|------------|-------------|------------|
| OASIS Number               | oxfordar3-303418                                      |            |             |            |
| Project Name               | Land south of Fletton Parkway, Hampton, Peterborough. |            |             |            |
| Project Dates (fieldwork)  | Start   | 23-10-2017 | Finish      | 26-10-2017 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | No  |            | Future Work | Unknown    |

### Project Reference Codes

|           |          |                       |     |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|-----|
| Site Code | PETHAM17 | Planning App. No.     | n/a |
| HER No.   | 54087    | Related HER/OASIS No. | n/a |

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

### Please select all techniques used:

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits) | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)              | <input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation           | <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief        |

### 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           |
|----------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| none     | Select period... | -none  | Select period... |
| none     | Select period... | none   | Select period... |
| none     | Select period... | none   | Select period... |

### Project Location

|            |                   |  |            |
|------------|-------------------|--|------------|
| County     | Cambridgeshire    | Site Address (including postcode if possible)                    |            |
| District   | Peterborough      | Land south of Fletton Parkway, Hampton, Peterborough.<br>PEZ 8FZ |            |
| Parish     | Orton Longueville |  |            |
| HER        | Peterborough City |  |            |
| Study Area | 0.1ha             | National Grid Reference  | TL 187 958 |

## Project Originators

|                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Organisation              | OA EAST               |
| Project Brief Originator  | NA                    |
| Project Design Originator | Rob Wiseman (OA East) |
| Project Manager           | Tom Phillips          |
| Supervisor                | James Fairbairn       |

## Project Archives

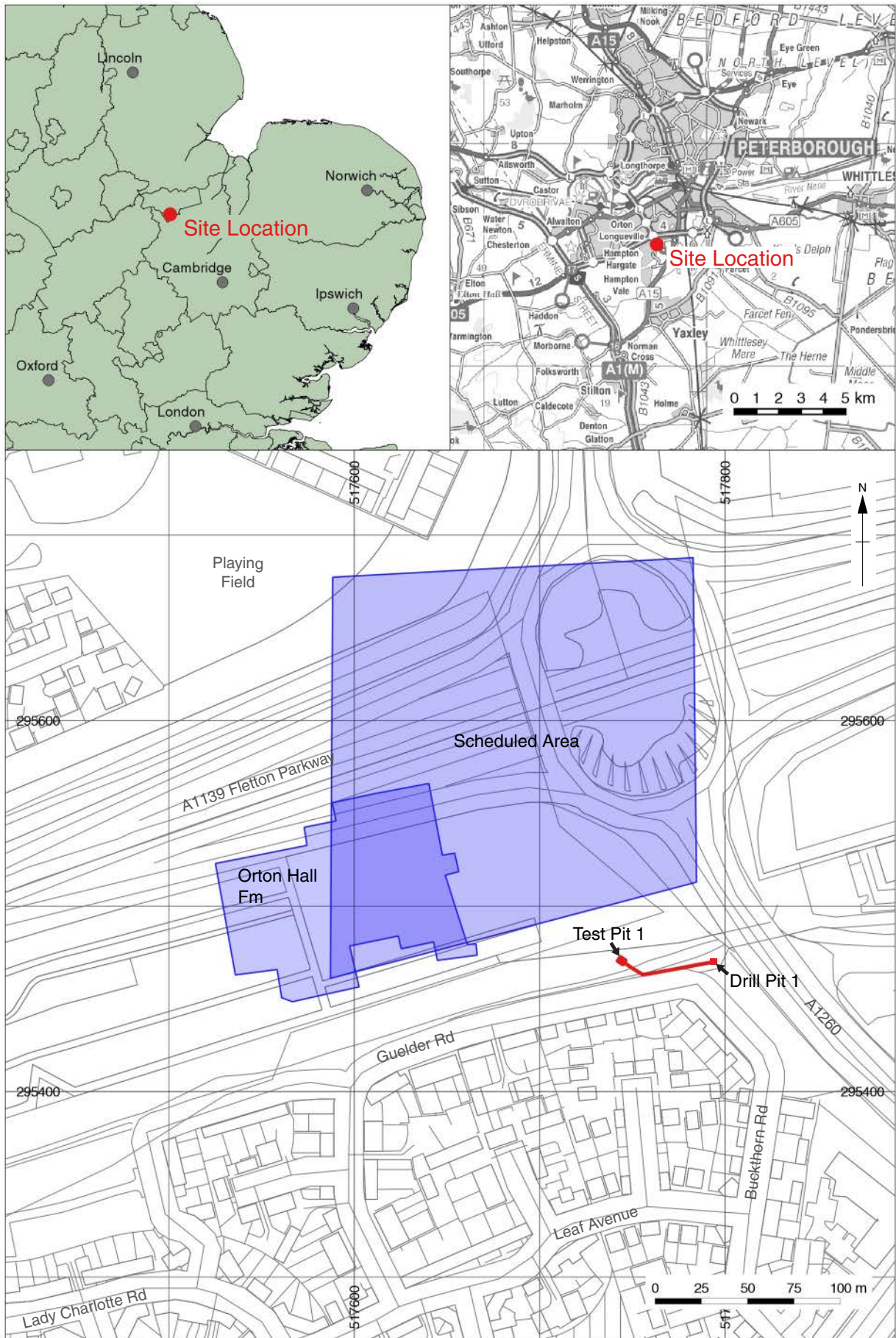
| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive       |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| none             | OA East         | Peterborough Museum |
| none             | PETHAM17        | PETHAM17            |

## Archive Contents/Media

|                     | Physical Contents                   | Digital Contents                    | Paper Contents                      |
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| 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"/>            |
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| Leather             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Metal               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
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| Worked Stone/Lithic | <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                                  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics               | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence      |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image             | <input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets             | <input type="checkbox"/> Map                 |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text          | <input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality          | <input type="checkbox"/> Misc.               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes      |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Photos              |
|   | <input 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 showing archaeological monitoring (red), Orton Hall Farm and scheduled area

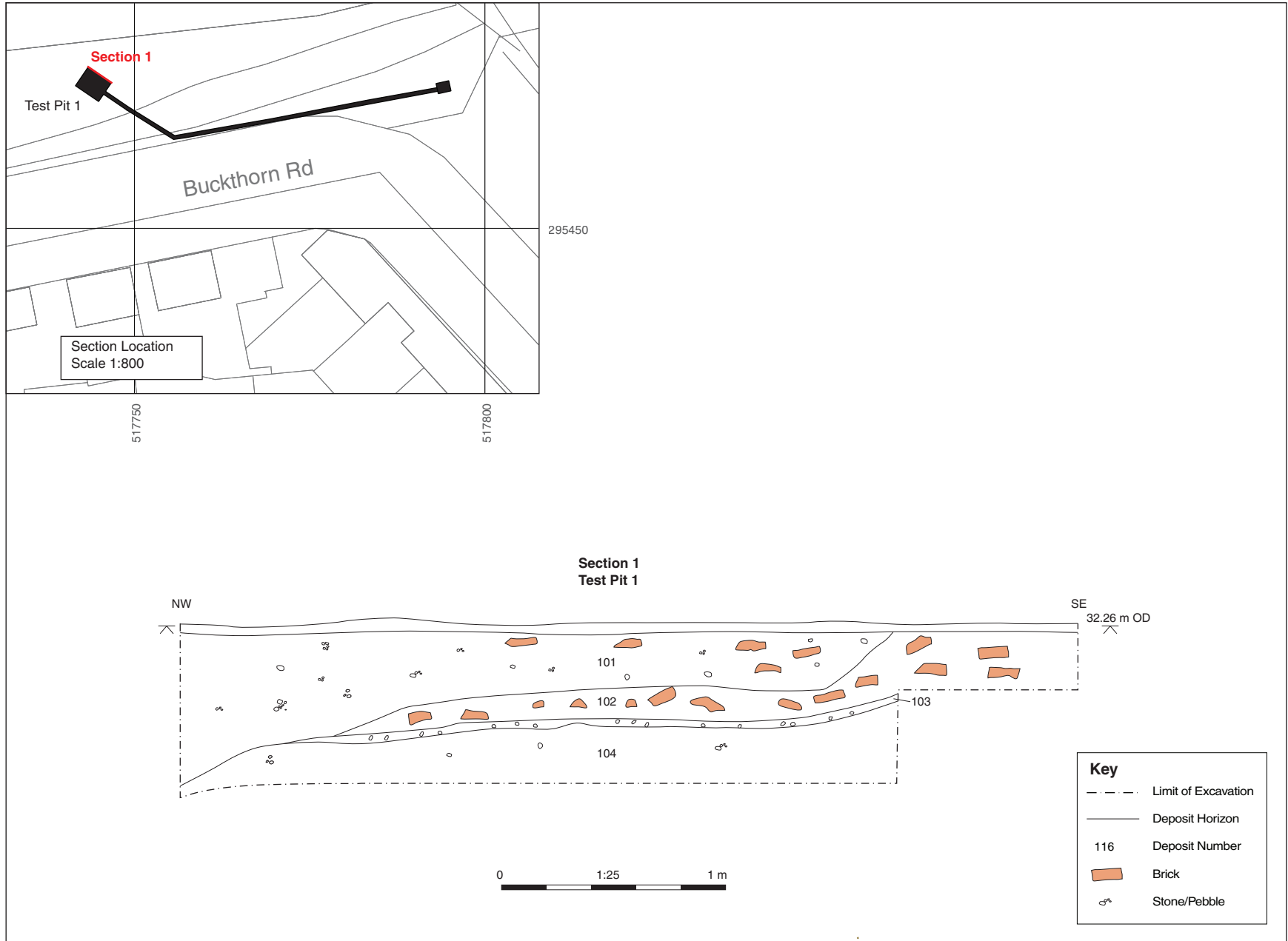


Figure 2: Section of Test Pit 1. Scale 1:25





Plate 1: Test Pit 1 Suction excavation



Plate 2: Material excavated from Test Pit 1



Plate 3: South-west facing section of Test Pit 1



Plate 4: Position of Drill Pit 1. Viewed from the west





Plate 5: North-west facing section of Drill Pit 1



Plate 6: Disturbed material seen in Trench 1. Viewed from the south



Plate 7: Trench run looking west





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