



# Land off Brick Lane, Mepal, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Evaluation Report

August 2019

**Client: Havebury Housing Partnership**

OA Report No: 2359

Version: 2

NGR: TL 4414 8050

OASIS No: oxfordarch-362528



Client Name: The Havebury Housing Partnership  
Document Title: Land off Brick Lane, Mepal, Cambridgeshire  
Document Type: Evaluation Report  
Report No.: 2359  
Grid Reference: TL 4414 8050  
Planning Reference: Pre-application  
Site Code: ECB5933  
Invoice Code: MEPBRI19  
Receiving Body: Cambridgeshire County Council Stores  
Accession No.: ECB5933  
OASIS No: oxfordarch-362528

OA Document File Location: Y:\Cambridgeshire\MEPBRI19\_Brick Lane\Project Reports  
OA Graphics File Location: Y:\Cambridgeshire\MEPBRI19\_Brick Lane\Project Data\Graphics

Issue No: Version 2  
Date: August 2019  
Prepared by: Emily Abrehart (Supervisor)  
Checked by: Louise Moan (Senior Project Manager)  
Edited by: Liz Popescu (Post-Excavation & Publication Manager)  
Approved for Issue by: Paul Spoerry (Regional Manager)  
Signature:



**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.*

**OA South**  
Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford  
OX2 0ES  
  
t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

**OA East**  
15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridge  
CB23 8SQ  
  
t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

**OA North**  
Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1QD  
  
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)  
w. [oxfordarchaeology.com](http://oxfordarchaeology.com)

Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627



Directorial Chief Executive  
Billie BA PhD FSA MCFA  
Private limited company, No. 118897  
Registered Charity, No. 28437  
Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd  
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

# Land off Brick Lane, Mepal, Cambridgeshire

## *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Emily Abrehart BSc PCIfA*

*With contributions from Carole Fletcher BA ACIfA and  
illustrations by Emily Abrehart BSc PCIfA*

### Contents

List of Figures .....	iv
List of Plates .....	iv
Summary .....	v
Acknowledgements .....	vi
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
<b>2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 Aims.....	3
2.2 Methodology.....	3
<b>3 RESULTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results.....	4
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	4
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	4
3.4 Blank trenches 1-7 and 9.....	4
3.5 Trench 8.....	4
3.6 Trench 10.....	4
3.7 Finds summary.....	5
<b>4 DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	6
4.2 Evaluation objectives and results.....	6
4.3 Interpretation.....	6
<b>APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
B.1 Ironwork.....	11
B.2 Glass.....	11
B.3 Pottery.....	12

B.4	Ceramic Building material and burnt/fired clay.....	13
B.5	Animal bone.....	14
APPENDIX C	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	15
APPENDIX D	SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM.....	16

## List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)
Fig. 2	Site location in relation to CHER entries
Fig. 3	Site plan
Fig. 4	Detail of Trenches 8 and 10 with selected sections

## List of Plates

Plate 1	Blank Trench 7, looking south-west
Plate 2	Blank Trench 9, looking south-east
Plate 3	Furrow 3, Trench 8, looking south
Plate 4	Trench 10, looking south-west
Plate 5	Feature 6, Trench 10, looking north-west
Plate 6	Baulk of Trench 10, showing cut of Feature 6, looking south-east

## Summary

Between the 15th and 18th of July 2019 Oxford Archaeology East undertook a trial trench evaluation on land off Brick Lane, Mepal, Cambridgeshire. A total of ten trenches were excavated across the site, revealing a single furrow, a natural hollow and a series of field drains on varying alignments. A small finds assemblage was recovered from the subsoil and the furrow consisting of highly abraded Roman and medieval pottery sherds along with post-medieval glass, ceramic building material and an iron nail.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) would like to thank The Havebury Housing Partnership for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Gemma Stewart who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET)

The project was managed for OA East by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Emily Abrehart, who was supported by James Green. Survey and digitising was carried out by Thomas Houghton. Thanks are also extended to the various finds processors and editor.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA East was commissioned by The Havebury Housing Partnership to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land proposed for the erection of residential dwellings with associated access, new services and landscaping on land east of the A142, on the southwestern edge of the village of Mepal, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A Brief (Gdaniec 2019) was set by Kasia Gdaniec of CHET and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Kwiatkowska & Moan 2019) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The 3ha site is situated on the southwestern limits of the village of Mepal. It is bounded by Brick Lane to the north, Sutton Road to the east and south, and the A142 to the west. The village of Mepal is located on the edge of the Isle of Ely, around 9km west of Ely and 6.5km south-east of Chatteris.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of a ploughed arable field and is situated on generally flat land at around 6.5m to 7.0m OD.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Ampthill and Kimmeridge clay formation mudstones (British Geological Survey online map viewer accessed 20/06/2019 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is taken from the WSI (Kwiatkowska & Moan 2019). Pertinent CHER data (licence 18-3862) is shown in Figure 2.

#### *Prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon*

- 1.3.2 There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the area, with the findspots of Bronze Age palstaves being the only items found. The first (CHER 05806) was recovered from land immediately north of Brick Lane and the other (CHER 02013) c.350m to the southwest.
- 1.3.3 Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains are equally limited and are evidenced by pottery (MCB16265) on land around 410m northwest of the current site.

#### *Medieval*

- 1.3.4 St Mary's Church (DCB978 & CB14893) dates from the 13th century and is situated around 600m north of the site. The historic shrunken core of Mepal is located around the church. This c.4ha area of land contains upstanding earthworks of housing platforms, a hollow way, a pond and ridge and furrow (CHER 05831). Further contemporary earthworks and features have been recorded on the southern edge of

this area, around 600m to the north of the current site. The earthworks of a series of ditches, a hollow way and possible housing platform was recorded. Trial trenching (ECB4767) at this location uncovered ditches and pits containing 11th to 14th century pottery (MCB20932).

- 1.3.5 Medieval ridge and furrow has also been recorded as earthworks around 4km south-west (CHER 09270), as cropmark evidence 610m north-west (CHER 11464) and as features (CHER 11923 & ECB1371) c.140m east of the site. Archaeological works (ECB1371) on land immediately to the northeast of the site identified ridge and furrow (CHER 11923).

### *Post-medieval and modern*

- 1.3.6 Post-medieval and modern remains across the village are seen in the form of a small number of listed buildings. There are also a series of pumps (MCB20283-20286) illustrated on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1885). A post-medieval windmill (CHER 05591) was located 580m south of the site.
- 1.3.7 The site is orientated with and located just 40m east of the A142 and 660m south of New Bedford River (MCB23934), a 17th century artificial dyke. This dyke was built as a further method to help drain the fens after the construction of the Old Bedford River (MCB23933) earlier in the 17th century. The Old Quarry (MCB22965) is also located in the proximity of the New Bedford River.



## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they were found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains
- ii. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- iii. To provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
- iv. To provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – 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 10 50m x 1.8m trenches were machine excavated using a 13 tonne 360° mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision.

2.2.2 All archaeological features were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital photographs were taken of all trenches, relevant features and deposits.

2.2.3 Site survey was carried out by RTK GPS with SmartNET.

2.2.4 Spoil and features were scanned with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts. Bucket sampling of 90 litres of soil was hand sorted from each trench to characterise artefactual remains in the topsoil, but this did not produce any finds.

2.2.5 No bulk environmental samples were taken during the works as only post-medieval/modern features were revealed.

## 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 that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds reports can be found in Appendix B.

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence across the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology was a reddish brown clay interspersed with blue-grey clay and orange gravel patches. There was no clear subsoil which suggested that ploughing had taken place to a consistent level. The 0.1m thick interface between the natural and the topsoil has been termed 'subsoil' (2) for ease of recording. The topsoil (1) consisted of a dark grey silty clay which had an average depth of 0.3m.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry. Archaeological features, where present, were not very easy to identify against the underlying natural geology due to the drying out of the clay.

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were only present in Trenches 8 and 10 (Fig. 3).

### 3.4 Blank trenches 1-7 and 9

3.4.1 Most of the trenches on the site were devoid of archaeology (Plates 1 and 2). Every trench contained several field drains running on various alignments.

### 3.5 Trench 8

3.5.1 Trench 8 contained the remains of furrow 3 (Fig. 4, S.1) aligned approximately north to south (Plate 3). It was located at the western end of the trench and measured 1.8m wide and 0.3m deep. It had very gently sloping sides. A field drain and several plough scars were seen to be truncating the surface of the furrow and were all on the same alignment. It contained two fills, the lower fill (4) consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay 0.22m thick and contained a shard of post-medieval glass (4g), a nail, five sherds (16g) of 2nd to 4th century AD pottery, 14g of medieval pottery and 3g of brick/tile. The upper fill (5) was a mixture of blueish grey clay and orange gravel which measured 0.08m thick.

### 3.6 Trench 10

3.6.1 Feature 6 was located at the north-eastern end of Trench 10 (Fig. 4, S.3; Plates 4 & 5). It measured approximately 4m wide and 0.32m deep. A 1 x 1m test pit was dug in the centre of the feature to characterise it. The shape in plan could not be seen within the trench. The base was irregular and the fill (7) consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Two fragments (17g) of post-medieval CBM were recovered from the upper part of the fill.

### 3.7 Finds summary

3.7.1 A small finds assemblage was recovered from across the site and is tabulated below.

Context	Cut	Trench	Material	Count	Weight	Date	Comments
2	-	7	Fired/burnt clay	2	6g	Post-medieval	-
		8	Pottery	3	23g	1150-1350	Ely ware jug
		9	Pottery	1	8g	12th-15th C	Glazed Ely ware bowl
7	6	10	CBM	1	21g	Post-medieval	Brick
			CBM	1	17g	Post-medieval	Roof tile
4	3	8	Pottery	2	6g	2nd-4th C	Shell & grog temper
				2	8g		Oxidised sandy ware
				1	2g		Sandy greyware
				1	8g	12th-15th C	Unglazed Ely Ware
				1	1g	1200-1400	East Anglian Redware
				2	5g	1150-1500	Medieval Sandy Coarseware
			CBM	1	3g	Post-medieval	Brick/tile
			Bone	1	1g	Uncertain	-
			Glass	1	4g	17th-18th C	Bottle
			Fe nail	1	-	Medieval-modern	-

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The consistency and variable nature of the geology meant that the archaeological features were not very clear and there was much truncation by field drains. The slightly ephemeral nature of the features was also probably due to the poor preservation resulting from extensive ploughing.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation met the aims and objectives set out in the WSI. The evaluation established that there were very little archaeological remains present and these were concentrated in Trenches 8 and 10 in the central/western area of the site. The two archaeological features uncovered were hand-excavated to establish their character, condition and date. They were both relatively poorly preserved and were probably related to medieval/post-medieval agriculture.

### 4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Feature 6 (Trench 10) did not appear to have a clear function. It was both wider and deeper than a furrow and contained a quite sterile fill with only two fragments of CBM recovered from close to the surface. The diffuse edges and irregular base suggest a natural hollow gradually infilled by plough soil.

4.3.2 Furrow 3 (Trench 8) was dated to the post-medieval period and was truncated by a ceramic field drain. The shallow profile of the feature is consistent with the remains of a furrow and the plough scars following the same alignment support this conclusion. The lack of subsoil on the site indicates the field has been ploughed to a consistent level for many years and therefore the plough has only occasionally disturbed the deeper natural.

4.3.3 Approximately 140m east of the development area, on the other side of Sutton Road, poorly preserved ridge and furrow earthworks were identified (CHER 11923). An archaeological evaluation in this area (ECB1371) uncovered only 17th century field drains in addition to the barely discernible ridge and furrow. On this side of the road, the topsoil was also found to lie directly on top of the natural clay (Bray 1997, 4).

4.3.4 Any land on fen islands has the potential to contain archaeological remains due to dry land being scarce (Bray 1997, 5). However, it appears that the land to the south of Mepal village was primarily used for agriculture. The nature of the very hard clay natural may also have been a factor in deterring more intensive use of this land.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Layer	-	0.43	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil/interface	-	-

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.38
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil/interface	-	-

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil/interface	-	-

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil/interface	-	-

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.57

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil/interface	-	-

Trench 6						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NNE-SSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8	
				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil/interface	-	-

Trench 7						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8	
				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil/interface	Burnt/fired clay	PM

Trench 8						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE	
Trench contained a single furrow. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8	
				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil/interface	Pottery	Medieval
3	Cut	1.8	0.3	Furrow	-	-
4	Fill	-	0.22	Furrow	Pottery Pottery CBM Glass Nail Bone	Roman Medieval PM PM PM N/A
5	Fill	-	0.08	Furrow	-	-

Trench 9						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NNW-SSE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.				<b>Length (m)</b>	50	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8	
				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.4	

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil/interface	Pottery	Medieval

Trench 10						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a feature of probable geological origins. Consists of topsoil overlying mixed reddish brown and blueish grey clay.					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil/interface	-	-
6	Cut	4	0.32	Natural hollow	-	-
7	Fill	-	0.32	Natural hollow	CBM	PM

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Function	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape in Plan	Side	Base	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Compaction
1			Layer	Topsoil				0.3				Dark brownish grey	Silty clay		Firm
2			Layer	Subsoil				0.1				Mixed dark brownish grey and reddish brown	Silty clay		Firm
3	3	8	Cut	Furrow	Agriculture		1.8	0.3	Linear	Gentle	Irregular				
4	3	8	Fill	Furrow				0.22				Mid greyish brown	Silty clay	Occasional small stones	Firm
5	3	8	Fill	Furrow				0.08				Blueish grey	Clay	Orange gravel patches	Firm
6	6	10	Cut	Hollow	Unknown		4	0.32	Unknown	Unknown	Irregular				
7	6	10	fill	Hollow				0.32				Mid greyish brown	Silty clay	Occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks	Firm



## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Ironwork

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### *Introduction and methodology*

B.1.1 The evaluation produced a single iron object: a nail from furrow 3 in Trench 8. Hand-forged nails are a long-lived form and dating is problematic.

#### *Assemblage and discussion*

B.1.2 A hand-forged, incomplete, corroded iron nail broken into two pieces at a distortion in the shank. The head is relatively flat and sub-rectangular (10.4 x 9.6mm), the shank is rectangular in section (6.3 x 5.4mm), tapering to 3.2mm, broken before the tip, the surviving length being 47.8mm. The nail's usage is uncertain, although most nails were used in constructing wooden structures or objects. Dating is uncertain, the nail having been recovered alongside both Roman and medieval pottery, although it does not closely match the description of Roman nails given by Manning (1985 133-137) and is therefore very probably medieval or later.

#### *Retention, dispersal or display*

B.1.3 This statement acts as a full record and the nail may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

### B.2 Glass

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### *Introduction and methodology*

B.2.1 A single fragment of vessel glass was recovered from furrow 3 in Trench 8.

#### *Assemblage and discussion*

B.2.2 The material from furrow 3, is a highly iridized (flaking), irregular, fragment of pale olive green glass (4g), very probably from a utility bottle. The shard is in relatively poor condition, with considerable loss of glass from the original surface. The condition of the glass and the somewhat granular nature of the more recently broken edge suggests some age; however, the glass is not closely datable, other than to say it is post-medieval and pre-19th century. The glass bottle that this shard formed a part of, may have been domestic rubbish spread upon the fields of have been lost by a worker in the fields some time during the 17th or 18th centuries.

#### *Retention, dispersal or display*

B.2.3 This statement acts as a full record and the glass may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

## B.3 Pottery

*By Carole Fletcher (with Roman identification by Stephen Macaulay)*

### *Introduction and methodology*

- B.3.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of pottery from the subsoil in Trenches 8 and 9 and a furrow in Trench 8. The pottery is a mix of Roman and medieval fabrics, all are highly abraded, and the smaller sherds are not closely datable.
- B.3.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), and The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards.
- B.3.3 Due to the small size of the assemblage, a simplified method of recording has been undertaken, with fabric, basic description (form for the Roman sherds could not be established), weight and count recorded in the text. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

### *Assemblage*

- B.3.4 Trench 8, subsoil 2, produced three unglazed, leached and abraded body sherds (23g), one with a possible handle scar, from an Ely ware jug (1150-1350). Subsoil in Trench 9 produced a single leached and abraded body sherd (8g) from an internally glazed Ely ware bowl (12th-15th century); the sherd is so abraded that the glaze can only be seen with magnification.
- B.3.5 Furrow 3 in Trench 8 produced the bulk of the assemblage, including Roman material. Two abraded body sherds (6g) were recovered from a shell (with grog) tempered vessel, the shell has almost completely been leached out. Two abraded body sherds (8g) came from an oxidised sandy ware (reduced outer surface) vessel, one sherd has a fine incised line of the surface and an abraded, thin-walled sherd (2g) from a sandy greyware (with oxidised surfaces) vessel. The pottery can only be broadly dated from the 2nd to 4th centuries and is very probably a locally produced ware.
- B.3.6 The medieval material consists of a leached and abraded unglazed Ely ware body or base sherd (8g, 12th-15th century), an undiagnostic sherd (1g) from an East Anglian Redware vessel (1200-1400) and two undiagnostic body sherds (5g) of Medieval Sandy Coarsewares (1150-1500).

### *Discussion*

- B.3.7 Roman pottery has previously been recovered (MCB16265) on land around 410m north-west of the current site (see section 1.3.3). The sherds recovered from this evaluation are highly abraded and very probably relate to Roman middening and manuring, having been further reworked and redistributed by medieval ploughing. The bulk of the medieval pottery is from the pottery industry at Ely, which lies to the east of the site. These sherds are also abraded and are also very probably the result of middening and manuring across the medieval fields.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.3.8 This statement acts as a full record and the sherds may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

## **B.4 Ceramic Building material and burnt/fired clay**

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction and methodology*

- B.4.1 A fragmentary assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from furrow 3 and feature 6 in Trenches 8 and 10 respectively, and two undiagnostic fragments of fired or burnt clay from the subsoil in Trench 7.
- B.4.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded, where this was identifiable. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. Fabrics are briefly described, dating is tentative, and Woodforde (1976), and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification.

### *Assemblage and discussion*

- B.4.3 Subsoil in Trench 7 produced two undiagnostic fragments of fired or burnt clay (6g), quartz-tempered, with a jagged dull red-brown external surface and dark grey/black core.
- B.4.4 Furrow 3, in Trench 8, produced a single, irregular and moderately abraded, fragment of brick or tile (3g) with a partial surviving surface; the fabric is like that of Bourne D-type pottery.
- B.4.5 Feature 6, Trench 10, produced two fragments of CBM, a sub-rectangular piece of post-medieval flat (roof) tile (17g) with partial upper and lower surfaces surviving. The lower is rough from the mould, and the fragment has a surviving thickness of 12.5mm (approximately half of an inch). It is in a hard-fired, pale, dull red quartz-tempered fabric with intermittent pale grey core. The second piece of CBM (21g) is an irregular fragment of post-medieval brick in a relatively hard-fired, dull brick red fabric, coarse quartz-tempered with a rough hackly fracture.
- B.4.6 The CBM indicates the presence of some post-medieval building material distributed across the site, probably by ploughing and probably relating to material being dumped, possibly as hardcore, somewhere in the field and subsequently redistributed. There is not enough CBM to indicate the presence of buildings. The burnt or fired clay is undiagnostic and not datable.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.4.7 The plain and fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little interest. This statement acts as a full record and the CBM and burnt or fired clay may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

## B.5 Animal bone

*By Carole Fletcher (with identification by Zoe Ui Choileain)*

- B.5.1 A single degraded fragment animal bone weighing 1g was recovered from furrow **3** in Trench 8; the fragment is from the long bone of a medium mammal. The degraded and fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little interest. This statement acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

## APPENDIX C      BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bray, S.            1997    *Witcham Road, Mepal: An Archaeological Evaluation*, CCC AFU Report No. A115. Unpublished
- Kwiatkowska, M. & Moan, L.    2019    *Land off Brick Lane, Mepal: Written Scheme of Investigation*. OA Project Number 23315. Unpublished
- Manning, W.H.    1985    *Catalogue of the Romano-British Iron Tools, Fittings and Weapons in the British Museum*. British Museum Publications. London  
*A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials*. York Archaeological Trust. An Insight Report. Consulted 15/07/2019
- McComish, J.M.    2015    <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c62d8bb809d8e27588adcc0/t/5ce6ad5e9b747a09f79f91d8/1558621555715/A-Guide-To-Ceramic-Building-Materials.pdf>
- Medieval Pottery Research Group PCRG SGRP MPRG            1998    *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I  
*A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*
- Woodforde, J.    1976    *Bricks: To Build A House*. London

## APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordarch-362528		
Project Name	Land off Brick Lane, Mepal, Cambridgeshire		
Start of Fieldwork	15-07-2019	End of Fieldwork	18-07-2019
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB5933	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER Number	ECB5933	Related Numbers	N/A

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Housing
Place in Planning Process	Pre-application

### 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

Furrow	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Natural hollow	None
	Choose an item.

### Object

### Period

Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Nail	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Glass	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Bone	Uncertain

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including postcode) Land off Brick Lane, Mepal Cambridgeshire, CB6 2AH
District	East Cambs	
Parish	Mepal	
HER office	Cambridgeshire County Council	
Size of Study Area	3 hectares	
National Grid Ref	TL 4414 8050	

### Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec (CHET)
Project Design Originator	Louise Moan (OA East)

Project Manager	Louise Moan (OA East)
Project Supervisor	Emily Abrehart (OA East)

### Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Store	ECB5933
Digital Archive	OA East	MEPBRI19
Paper Archive	CCC Store	ECB5933

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Digital Media

Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>





Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019. All rights reserved. Licence no. 100019980

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





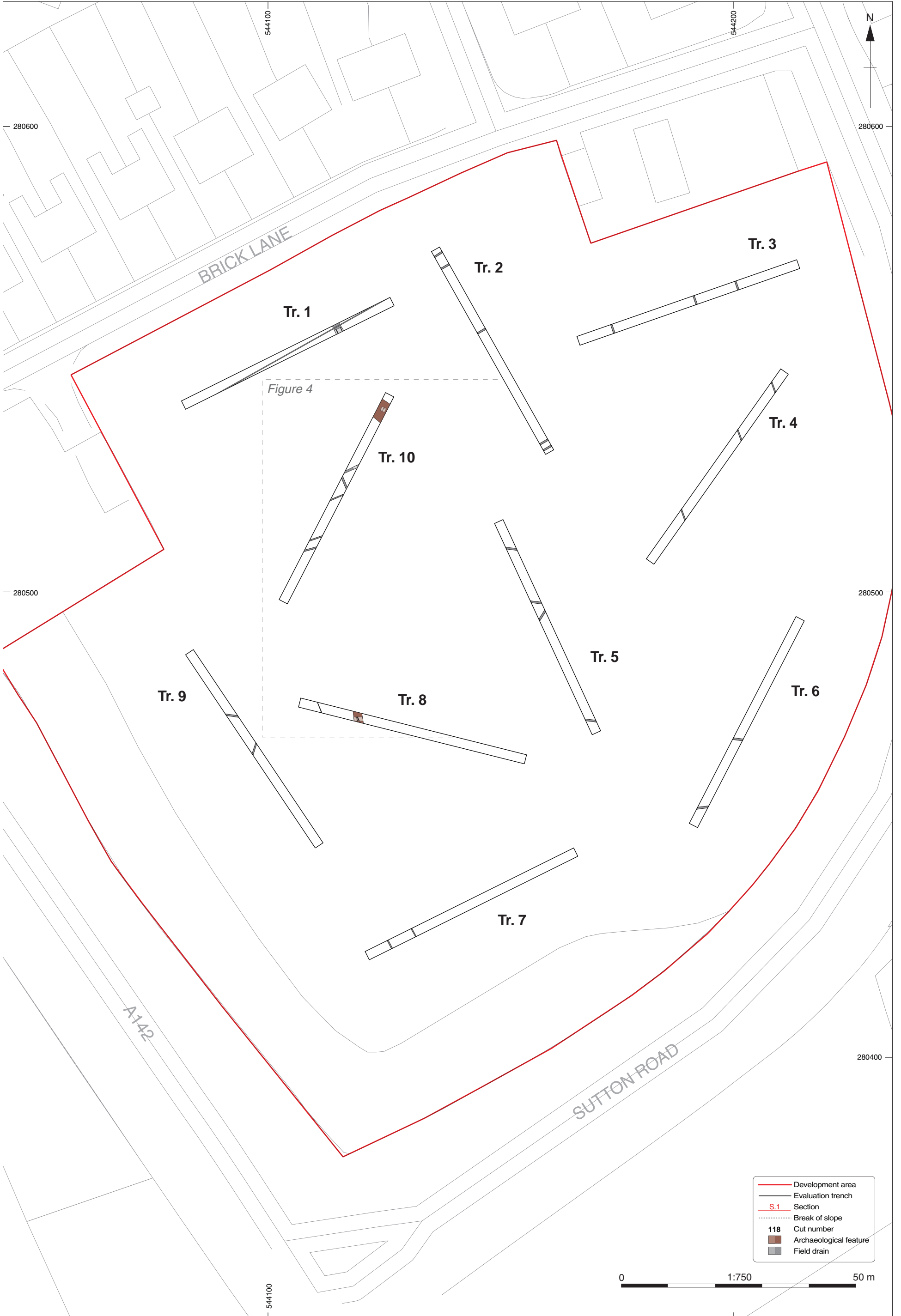


Figure 3: Site plan

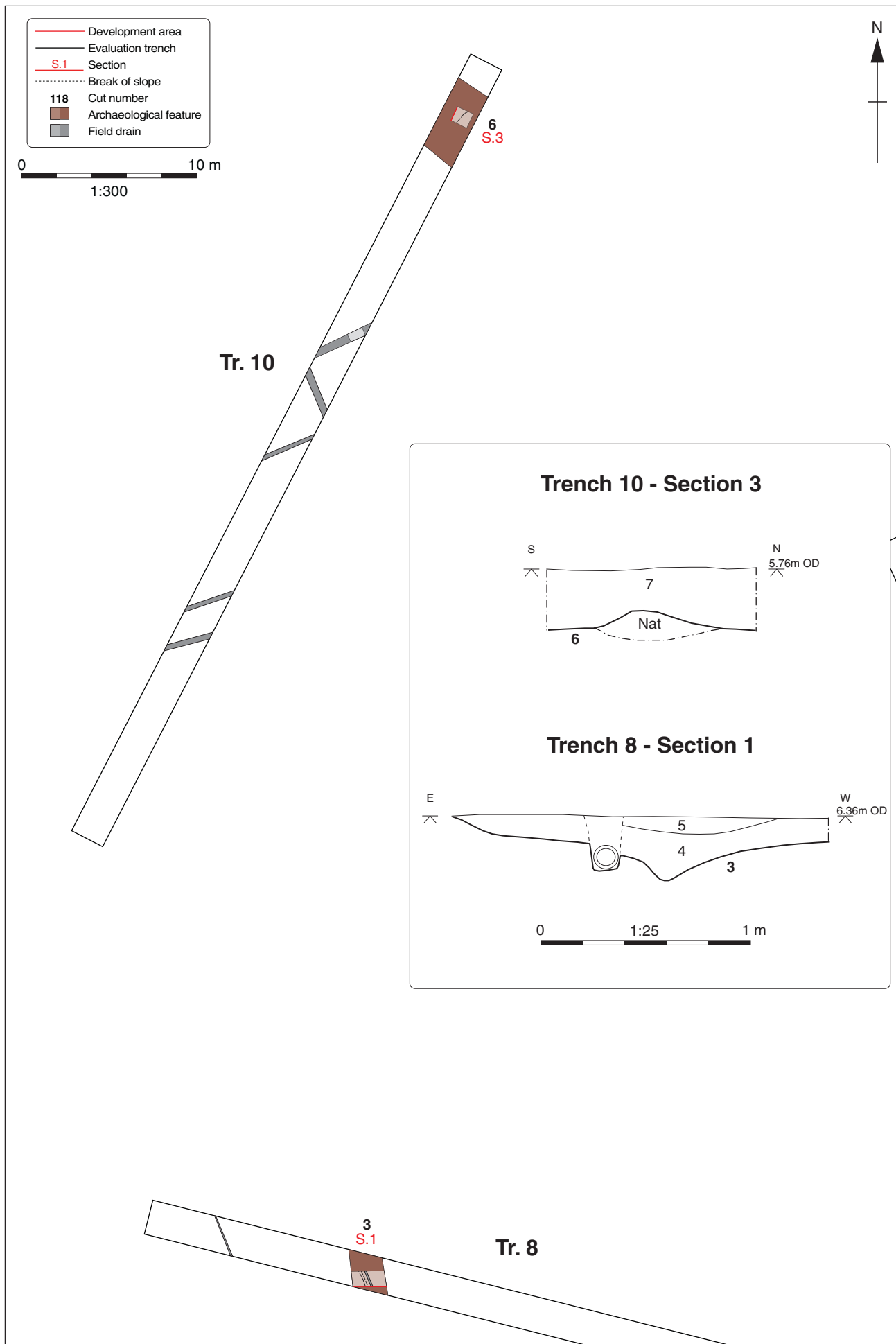


Figure 4: Detail of trenches 8 and 10 with selected sections





Plate 1: Blank Trench 7, looking south-west



Plate 2: Blank Trench 9, looking south-east





Plate 3: Furrow 3, Trench 8, looking south



Plate 4: Trench 10, looking south-west





Plate 5: Feature 6, Trench 10, looking north-west



Plate 6: Bulk of Trench 10, showing cut of feature 6, looking south-east





**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@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto:info@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA  
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*