

# Beechwood Park School Markyate, Hertfordshire



## Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report



July 2015

**Client: Beechwood Park School**

OA East Report No: 1795

OASIS No: oxfordar3-216000

NGR: TL 0449 1454

**Beechwood Park School, Markyate, Hertfordshire**  
**Archaeological Strip, Map and Recording**

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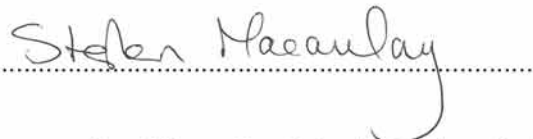
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## **Summary**

*Between the 23rd of February and the 14th May 2015 Oxford East Archaeology undertook a programme of strip, map, recording and monitoring groundwork at Beechwood Park School, Markyate, Hertfordshire.*

*An area to south of the present day school and adjacent to an 18th century walled garden produced evidence of an entrance way to a possible Late Iron Age enclosure and a metalled surface exiting the walled garden. No further archaeological features were revealed during the investigation.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological strip, map, recording and monitoring was conducted at Beechwood Park School, Markyate, Hertfordshire (TL 0449 1454).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological strip, map record and monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council supplemented by a Specification prepared by Oxford Archaeology East (OAE).
- 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by 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 is located 2.4km to the south-west of Flamstead, 8km to the south-east of Dunstable, 6.4km to the south-west of Luton, and 7.2km to the north of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire (Fig 1: TL 0449 1454). The school is set in a prominent location in an undulating landscape, approached from the south by a long, partially tree lined avenue. The monitored area was located on a distinct plateau 144m south of the house and adjacent to an 18th century walled garden.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is comprised of deposits of Lewes and Seaford Nodular Chalk formation overlain by Clay-With-Flints (<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk> February 2014). Upper geological horizons consisted of a silty sand clay with gravel and flint deposits.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Previous Excavations*

- 1.3.1 A detailed historical desk based assessment was produced in 2014 prior to any archaeological work being undertaken. This report contains detailed cartographic and historical records for the area of the school, from which the following section is largely drawn (OA East 2014).
- 1.3.2 To date Oxford Archaeology East have conducted three phases of archaeological test pitting at Beechwood Park School. This work was undertaken as an Education and Outreach project, in conjunction with Mr Tim Rowe and the Beechwood Park School Archaeology Group, aided by parents and teachers from the school.
- 1.3.3 A first phase of geophysical survey was carried out by Peter Masters of Cranfield University on the lawn to the south-east of the school entrance in 2010. This revealed possible walls, surfaces and garden features that were initially thought to be associated with the 13th century Benedictine Nunnery of St Giles In The Wood, that once stood on ground now occupied by the school, but whose exact position has never been verified. It had been thought that this Nunnery occupied a piece of land in the field to the east of the school frontage but the geophysical survey, and latterly archaeological investigation, have now suggested otherwise.

- 1.3.4 As a result of the geophysical survey, six test pits were excavated within this area and these revealed a series of garden features and walls along with compressed chalk surfaces. The latter were thought to relate to pathways and areas of garden that have long since disappeared. Nothing however, could be attributed to the nunnery itself, although the fact that medieval pottery was found gave an indication that occupation lay close by.
- 1.3.5 The second phase of excavation, in 2011, sought to find further evidence for the location of the Nunnery. A further six test pits were opened on the lawn to the north of the school entrance. These uncovered substantial flint walls; several phases of construction were also apparent. Cobbled surfaces were also recorded along with the structural remains of a putative base of a pillar or plinth. Medieval pottery was found as was a small crystal, thought to be from a ring, and the base of a candle holder. Furthermore, copper alloy pins and a double eyed needle were discovered, which indicated needlework and particularly veil and net making were taking place; crafts typical within a nunnery. These features are believed to be related to the Nunnery of St Giles In The Wood.
- 1.3.6 Another geophysical survey was undertaken prior to the third phase of investigation, in 2012; this time with the aim of tracing the continuation of walls and features excavated during 2011. Subsequently, a series of larger trenches were opened near to the previous test pits. These revealed more walls, some of which were almost 1m in width and constructed from dressed flint. At least two phases of construction were observed, which indicated continued occupation and alteration of the site in the medieval period. Local building materials were also in evidence in the form of clunch or Totternhoe stone which was quarried in the village of Totternhoe near Dunstable. Medieval pottery and copper alloy pins were also recovered.

### ***Prehistoric***

- 1.3.7 There are no known prehistoric remains within the vicinity of the school.

### ***Roman***

- 1.3.8 As with the preceding period no known Roman remains are recorded close the development site. However, it should be noted that the line of Roman Watling Street lies only 2.5km to the east.

### ***Late Saxon and Medieval***

#### ***St Giles in the Wood***

- 1.3.9 Based upon the available evidence, the development area lies outside of the known limit of the putative Late Saxon nunnery of St. Giles In The Wood (MHT2855). It should, however, be borne in mind that the full extent of the nunnery and its associated grounds have not been confidently defined. The location of the de Tony manor house is also a matter of conjecture, with some suggestions that it was located close to the present building. The discovery of stone coffins to the north-east of the school building in the 19th century may be significant in this regard but does not further elucidate the location of any structural remains.



- 1.3.10 The foundation of the nunnery of St Giles in the Wood probably has its origins in Saxon times. A Tudor historian William Lambarde tells us that in the reign of Edward the Confessor, Wulfigious, the 3rd Abbot of St Albans, founded a small Nunnery near to St Albans Abbey. This, however, was moved by Winoth, a later abbot, to a wooded site known as Woodchurch, in the parish of Flamstead. This site was. After the accession of William the conqueror the manor of Flamstead was given to a knight, Ralph de Tony for services rendered. This then past to Ralph's grandson Roger de Tony who is credited as renewing the nunnery with gifts of land rights and 'a tenth of the bread made in his house' He also had the nunnery dedicated to the French hermit St Giles and so this institution became known as St Giles in the Wood. It is suggested that the de Tony manor house may have been located close to the present building. In the time of Sir Edgar Saunders Sebright, stone coffins were discovered during excavations to the north-east of the school building.
- 1.3.11 Although it was stipulated that no more than thirteen nuns were to be in residence at any one time, this small nunnery it became increasingly wealthy due mainly to bequeaths and gifts from wealthy benefactors. The Nunnery was attacked in 1269 by 50 robbers. Later the Nunnery suffered severe hardship due to local and national problems and the nuns decided to provide education to bolster their finances.
- 1.3.12 The Nunnery was dissolved in 1537 and proceeds of the sale of the inventory was paid into the Royal Treasury on May 12th of that year.
- 1.3.13 After the dissolution of the monasteries the lease on St Giles in the Wood passed to Sir John Tregnowell who was one of Henry VIII commissioners for the monastic dissolutions. This, however, was a short lived tenure when it was realised that the wealth attributed to the lands owned by the Nunnery was too great to given to Tregnowell.
- 1.3.14 The estate then passed to Sir Richard Page who was another major figure in the court of Henry VIII. He became lord of the Manor of Flamstead and built the Tudor H shaped mansion that makes up part of the school building today.
- 1.3.15 Sir Richard Page died without a male heir and the estate passed through the marriage of his daughter to a Sir William Skipworth of Kent. The estate was then held in trust until it was acquired by Thomas Saunders of Long Marston. The estate was now known as Beechwood.
- 1.3.16 The Saunders family line undertook major building work to the house and it suggested that a Thomas Saunders was responsible for the alterations to the facade as seen in a plan of 1670. Through the marriage of Anne Saunders and Sir Edward Sebright the estate passed into the Sebright family where it was to remain in their ownership for the next 250 years. The family made major changes to the building and the park including having the grounds landscaped by Capability Brown sometime in the 1750's. The house was eventually brought in 1961 for use as Beechwood School.
- 1.3.17 The building (Plate 16) and walls of the walled garden have a Grade I listing (Listed Building Number 1100376) designation.

### ***Post-medieval***

- 1.3.18 The cartographic evidence suggests that there has been little change within the development site since the mid 16th century; much of the estate was not built on. Much of the data relating to the post-medieval period within the vicinity of the proposed

development site relates to Listed Buildings is associated with Beechwood Park rather than the grounds.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Allison Curran, the director of operations at Beechwood Park School, for commissioning and funding the work and Kate Batt of Hertfordshire County Council who visited the site and monitored the work. The on site excavation was directed by James Fairbairn who was assisted by Emily Abrehart. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

#### 2.1.1 The objectives of this archaeological strip, map record and monitoring were:

To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

To determine whether there were any Anglo-Saxon remains on the site, which would pre-date the foundation of the 12th century Benedictine Nunnery.

To identify, excavate and record any remains which may relate to the Benedictine Nunnery of St Giles In The Wood.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that the entire footprint of the new nursery building (an area of c. 330 sq metres; 22m x 15m) be stripped with a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed (c. 1.8m wide) bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. Excavation would be to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as necessary, in order to clarify located features and deposits. Trench spoil would be scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts.

2.2.3 Once the area had been stripped and mapped, all archaeological features would be investigated by hand.

2.2.4 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.5 The site survey was carried out by James Fairbairn using a Leica GS08

2.2.6 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.7 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.

2.2.8 A total of 50L of bulk samples were taken from three separate contexts. 20L from each ditch terminal and 10L from a post hole within the entrance to the enclosure. These were processed by Oxford Archaeology East at their dedicated environmental unit.

2.2.9 Site conditions were mainly overcast with periods of heavy rain.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The Area 1 strip map and record is described first followed by the results of the subsequent monitoring work.

#### 3.2 Area 1 (Fig 2 and Plate 9)

3.2.1 Area 1 was located on a distinct plateau 144m south of the house and adjacent to an 18th century walled garden. An area measuring 22m x 15m was stripped of topsoil and subsoil. The subsoil (100) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay with a maximum thickness of 0.35m, the subsoil contained modern brick and tile. This was in turn capped by a grey silty topsoil that also contained modern building material. The maximum thickness of this layer was 0.25m.

3.2.2 Four archaeological features were recorded within Area 1; two opposing ditch terminals, forming an east facing entrance way to a possible enclosure, and two corresponding postholes just within this entrance way.

##### ***Ditch terminal 101*** (Fig 2,3 and Plate 3)

3.2.3 The southern ditch terminal (101) measured 1.5m x 1.2m and had a depth of 0.40m. The sides of the ditch were moderately steep and terminated in a flat bottom. (Plate 3). The fill (102) of this terminal consisted of a mid greyish brown silty sandy clay that contained occasional small stones and flints but no archaeological artefacts. A 40L sample was taken for environmental analysis but was devoid of plant remains other than modern holly or rootlets (Appendix C). Scrub and holly covered most of the western end of the Area 1 and were removed before any archaeological investigations were undertaken.

##### ***Ditch terminal 103*** ( Fig 2, 3 and plate 4)

3.2.4 The opposite terminal to **101** measured 1.0m x 0.8m and had a depth of 0.37m. Terminal **103** was similar to **101** in that the sides were moderately steep and the bottom was flat, giving a “U” shaped profile. A mid greyish brown silty clay material (103) filled ditch terminal **103**. This fill contained small stones, the occasional flint and a single sherd of pottery tentatively dated to the Late Iron age (Appendix B). Environmental samples from the ditch fill were devoid of any ecofacts (Appendix C).

##### ***Post Hole 107*** (Figs 2, 3 and plate 5)

3.2.5 Approximately 1m to the north-east of ditch terminal **101**, a posthole was recorded. This small circular feature had a diameter of 0.36m and a depth of 0.18m (Section 4). The posthole contained a single (108), consisting of light greyish brown sandy silty material. There was no evidence of either post pipe or post packing within the feature.

##### ***Post Hole 105*** (, 3 and plate 6)

3.2.6 The second of the two postholes was located 0.75m west of ditch terminal **103**. It was circular in plan and steep sided (Section 3). The bottom of the posthole was concave and it had a diameter of 0.30m and a depth of 0.16m. The fill (106) of the posthole

consisted of a light greyish brown sandy silt material which contained two moderately large stones. These stones were considered large enough, and to be in the correct position, to be the remnants of stones used for post packing.

- 3.2.7 The position of the two postholes just within the entrance of the enclosure does suggest that this spot may have been an entrance way to an Iron Age enclosure

### **3.3 Monitoring**

- 3.3.1 For the purposes of monitoring, the development site at Beechword Park School was divided into 5 different areas. All of these were located to the north-west of the house and adjacent to the wall garden.

#### ***Area 1 and 7*** (Fig 2)

- 3.3.2 This area was located on the footprint of the modern wooden building used by the gardeners until the time of the erection of the new structure. Area 1 was to be subjected to new drainage runs and a car parking area was to be built.
- 3.3.3 A great deal of truncation had taken place when the modern wooden building had been constructed. A concrete slab had been laid over the entire area to a depth of 0.35m. In order to carry this out topsoil and some had been removed (Plate 11). The subsoil that remained consisted of a yellowy brown silt clay that contained small amounts of sand.
- 3.3.4 The northern end of Area 1 had been truncated to a greater depth (0.80m) to accommodate drains that served the gardeners building. No archaeological features were recorded within this area.
- 3.3.5 A deeper drainage trench (Area 7) was dug through Area 1 at a latter date. This trench was 1m wide and had a maximum depth of 1m. No archaeology was noted within the drainage run.

#### ***Area 2*** (Fig 2)

- 3.3.6 Area 2 was was ran along north-eastern side of Area 1 and was excavated to accommodate a linear drainage run. The trench measured 6m x1m and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.80m. This run was located beneath the concrete slab of the gardener's building and had suffered the same degree of truncation as Area 1.

#### ***Area 3*** (Fig 2)

- 3.3.7 This Area, in theory, would have been most likely to have revealed any remaining archaeology as it was locate close to the south arm of the Iron Age ditch found during the excavation. Again, the area monitored was related to a drainage run for the newly erected classroom. It ran for a length of 9.5m, a width of 0.5m and a maximum depth of 1.20m. This linear drainage trench had been dug after the construction of the classroom and was confined between this building and the high wall of the garden (Plate 12).
- 3.3.8 The width, depth and the constricted position of the trench meant that due to health and safety regulations it was not possible to enter it, so all monitoring was undertaken from ground level. Although truncation by building works, i.e. the garden wall and the classroom, was not as evident as in Areas 1 and 2, trees and bushes had disturbed the topsoil and subsoil at a location where the continuation of the ditch would have been. The disturbed subsoil consisted of a yellowy brown silty, sandy clay that had a

thickness of 0.30m. Topsoil in Area 3 had a maximum depth of 0.35m and consisted of a grey brown sandy silty clay material which contained small stones and pieces of modern building materials.

- 3.3.9 One feature unrelated to the Iron Age ditch was noted and this was close to the entrance to the walled garden (Plate 13). This consisted of a gravel laid on an area that would have once been pathway or metalled surface leading to and from the walled garden. This gravel layer (112) had a maximum thickness 0.10m and covered a length of 4.5m. The fine to medium pea like gravel had been pushed into a compressed subsoil (Plate 14).
- 3.3.10 Covering the area of gravel a modern soil layer had been sloped upwards toward the gate giving a modern access. The gravel layer contained four small sherds of pottery dating to the 19th century and was most likely in use at this time.

#### **Area 4** (Fig 2)

- 3.3.11 This area was circular in plan, had a diameter of approximately 18m and was located to the east of the excavation area. This was to be stripped of topsoil and a small amount of subsoil to a depth of 0.25m to provide enough room for the car park turning circle. The area was stripped of turf and a dark grey clay silt topsoil and in a small area truncated into the subsoil layer. The area was devoid of any archaeological features.

#### **Area 5** (Fig 2)

- 3.3.12 This was again a linear drainage trench and ran from the southern side of the newly constructed classroom for a length of 6m where it then turned north for a further 2.5m. The width of the trench measured 0.10m and was dug to a depth of between 0.60 and 0.80m. A yellowy sandy silty clay subsoil that with a depth of 0.25m was overlain by a dark grey clay topsoil that had a depth of 0.20m. This was capped by a modern turf. Area 5 was devoid of archaeological features.

#### **Area 6** (Fig 2)

- 3.3.13 Area 6 was the southern most of the areas monitored. It was located on grass to the south-east of the demolished gardeners building. The length of the drainage run was 6m it and terminated in an area for a small holding tank, which measured 1.8m x 2.0m. The depth of the trench measured 0.80m and the depth of the tank measured 1.80m. It was found that a yellowy brown subsoil, with a depth of 0.30m, was overlain by a silty grey topsoil that had a depth of 0.35m. Neither the linear drainage run or tank pit revealed any archaeological features.

### **3.4 Finds Summary**

- 3.4.1 Finds other than modern ceramic building material and rubbish were almost non-existent during the excavation and monitoring work. The one small pottery sherd found within the fill of southern arm of the enclosure ditch was tentatively dated to the Late Iron Age (Appendix B). Pottery found during the monitoring work in Area 3 was dated to the c.19th and would have come from flower pots that were used within the walled garden.
- 3.4.2 One piece of unstratified decorative stone work (Plate 15) was found on a rubble spoil heap. It is unknown where this came from but it is most likely that it was used as part of

the hardcore foundation when the base of the gardener's shed was laid. It is thought that this would have once been part of an ornamental garden feature that was located somewhere within the grounds. Parts of the broken statue of Diana, which was erected at the time of Capability Brown's landscaping, were discovered on the other side of the main building by Tim Rowe a few years previously and the stone work found during the monitoring work could be part of another similar garden feature.

### **3.5 Environmental Summary**

- 3.5.1 The samples taken from suitable features during the excavation were devoid of ecofacts other than rooting or modern holly seeds.



## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Strip map and recording

- 4.1.1 The discovery of a probable enclosure at the western corner of the excavation area was unexpected. Although lacking in artefactual evidence for a definite date, the possible shape of the enclosure and its and position within the landscape suggest that it probably belongs to the Iron Age.
- 4.1.2 Only a small section of the enclosure was visible within the excavation area (Plate 2), the greater extent was underneath the overburden created by moving soil from the all weathers sports surfaces to the north or by the wall garden to the west. What was seen strongly suggested the existence of an enclosure that was either round or elongated in plan. The western terminal seemed to turn very gradually to the north whilst the eastern ditch terminal did not seem deviate from a straight line. This may be due in part to the relatively short stretches of the feature it was possible to excavate. A hollow way does exist to the west of the enclosure (Plate 8) and terminates in the wood land located a few metres to the west. This, however, is more likely to be related to a former road leading to either the park land or possibly the Nunnery of St Giles in the Wood.
- 4.1.3 The presence of two postholes just within the enclosure (Plate 1) and respecting the ditch terminals also suggests some structure close to the entrance way (Plate 2).
- 4.1.4 The feature is positioned on a flat plateau (Plate 7) that would have given fairly extensive views in all directions. This would have been an ideal site for a small settlement. The surrounding area would have been highly populated in the Iron Age period with many small settlements located throughout this part of Hertfordshire.
- 4.1.5 The large Iron Age settlement or oppidum of the Catuvellauni tribe was located close to modern day St Albans, which is located approximately 11km to the south-east. The features found at Beechwood Park School could be evidence of a small Catuvellauni satellite community.
- 4.1.6 The single worn sherd is in a sandy fabric, which in Hertfordshire isn't late Iron Age – the late Iron Age cultural marker is grog-tempered, and some shelly wares. So this may be 'middle Iron Age', i.e. a Little Waltham fabric, which is known across the county at an increasing number of sites (still not many compared with the late Iron Age ones). So the apparent enclosure here may be c400-100 BC, and another of these middle Iron Age sites, which makes it even more interesting. There's nothing in the limited extent recovered which contradicts this (Isobel Thompson pers comm.).

### 4.2 Monitoring

- 4.2.1 The lack of archaeological features found during the monitoring phase of the work could be due to the fact that any evidence relating to the Iron Age occupation of the site was likely to be contained within the enclosure and any exterior evidence would have been sparse; and probably confined to field boundaries which would have been located outside the monitoring area.
- 4.2.2 Some evidence was seen relating to the modern day life of the building in the form of the gravel path (Plate 14) (112) which led from the walled garden into the park land. This was most probably covered over when the school was established on the site in the mid 1960s.
- 4.2.3 The other areas monitored during the building work only revealed areas of heavy truncation or areas that were devoid of historical intervention.



### **4.3 Significance**

- 4.3.1 The work carried out at Beechwood Park has shown previously unknown evidence of Iron Age settlement in this part of Hertfordshire.

### **4.4 Recommendations**

- 4.4.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Area 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE - SW
Area A was located south of the main house and adjacent to the walled garden. Two ditch terminal and two post holes of probable Iron Age date were located to the north east of the excavation area.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.40
					<b>Width (m)</b>	15m
					<b>Length (m)</b>	22m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Cut	1.2	0.4	Ditch terminus of enclosure entrance		
102	Fill	1.2	0.4	Mid grey brown sandy silty clay fill of ditch terminal		
103	Cut	0.80	0.37	Ditch terminus of enclosure entrance		
104	Fill	0.80	0.37	Mid grey brown sandy silty clay fill of ditch terminal	Pottery	Late Iron Age
105	Cut	0.30	0.16	Cut of post hole		
106	Fill	0.3	0.16	Light greyish brown sandy silt fill of post hole		
107	Cut	0.36	0.18	Cut of post hole		
108	Fill	0.36	0.18	Light greyish brown sandy silt fill of post hole		
109	Cut	1.60	0.15	Cut of natural feature		
110	Cut	1.30	0.12	Cut of natural feature		
111	Cut	1.40	0.18	Cut of natural feature		
112	Layer	4.5	1.5	Pea gravel	Pottery	19thC

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*By Sarah Percival*

- B.1.1 A small sandy body sherd weighing 1g was recovered from ditch fill 104. The sherd is undecorated and very abraded. The poor condition of the sherd prohibits exact dating however the fabric suggests that it could be Later Iron Age.

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## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction**

- C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas at Beechwood Park School, Markyate, Hertfordshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples 1 and 2 are from ditch terminals **101** (fill 102) and **103** (fill 104) and Sample 3 is from fill 108 of a small post hole **107** located within the entrance.

#### **Methodology**

- C.1.2 Ten litres of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60

#### **Results**

- C.1.3 All of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) seeds. This precludes any further interpretation of the site as there is no preservation of contemporary plant remains in the feature sampled.

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## APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rowe, T. 2006	<i>The Beechwood Companion – The Story of a House and its People</i> , Published by Beechwood Park School.
Thatcher. C. 2014	Beechwood Park School, Markyate. <i>Desk Based Assessment</i> . OA East report No: 1609

## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-216000			
Project Name	Archaeological Strip, Map and Recording at			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	23-02-2015	Finish	14-05-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes		Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XHTBWP15	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Development Type	For DBA/Evaluation - select the type of development planned for the site...

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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
Ditches	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Hertfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	St Albans	Beechwood Park School Markyate Hertfordshire
Parish	Markyate	
HER	St Albans	
Study Area	400sqm	National Grid Reference TL 0449 1454

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Hertfordshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Rob Wiseman
Project Manager	Stephem macaulay
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

### Project Archives

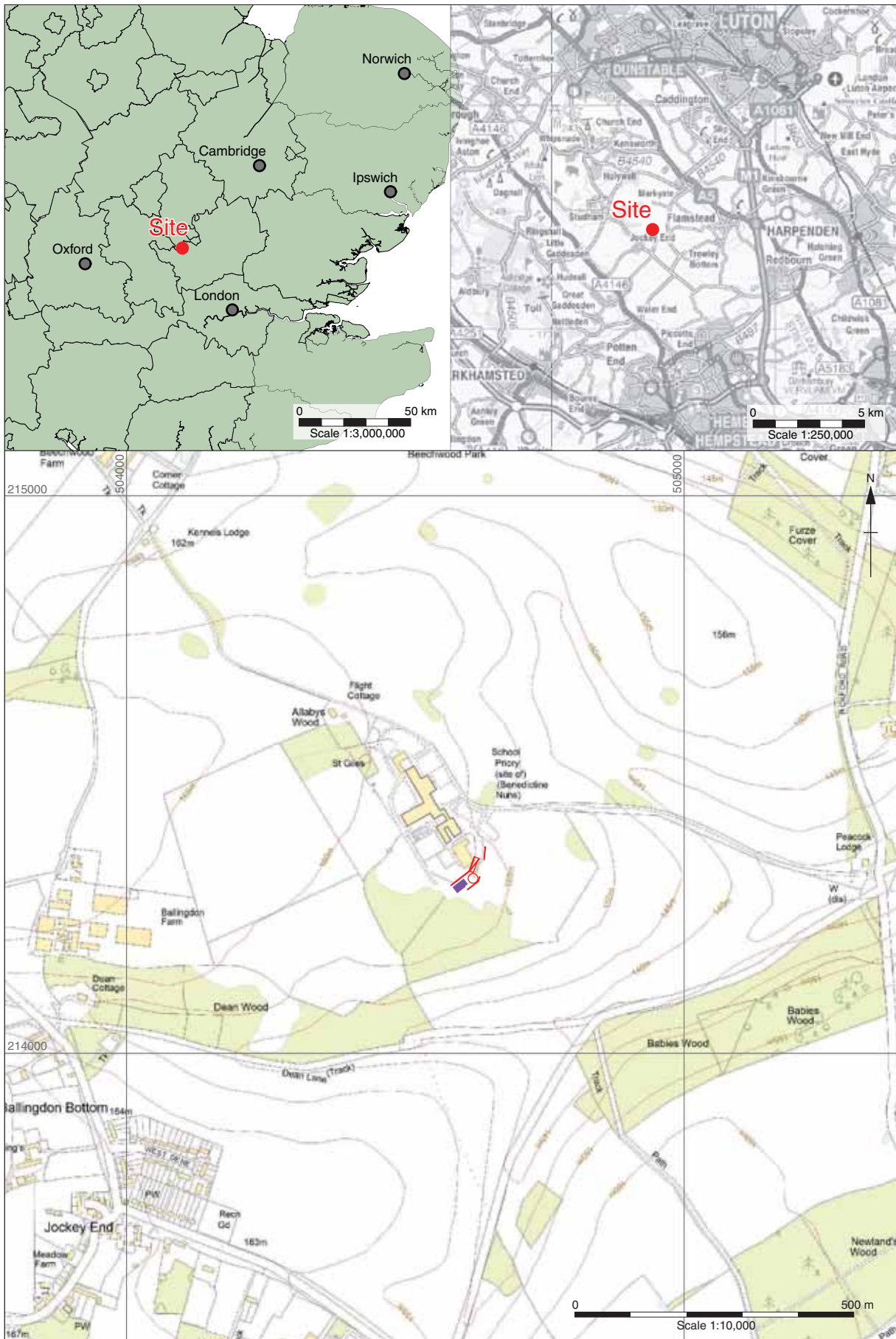
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OA East	OA East	OA East
XHTBWP15	XHTBWP15	XHTBWP15

### Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" 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 with evaluation area (purple) and monitoring areas outlined (red)



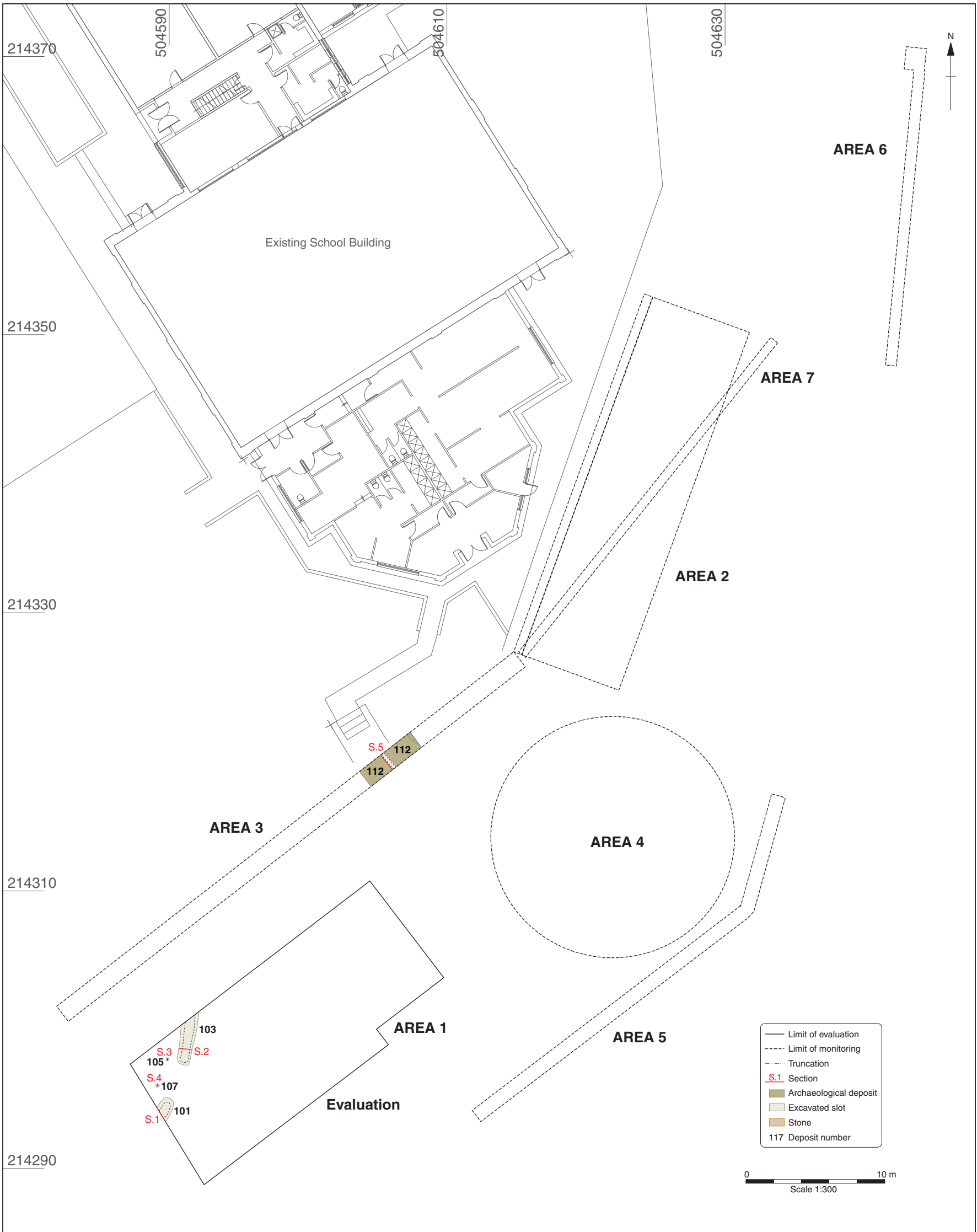


Figure 2: Detail plan

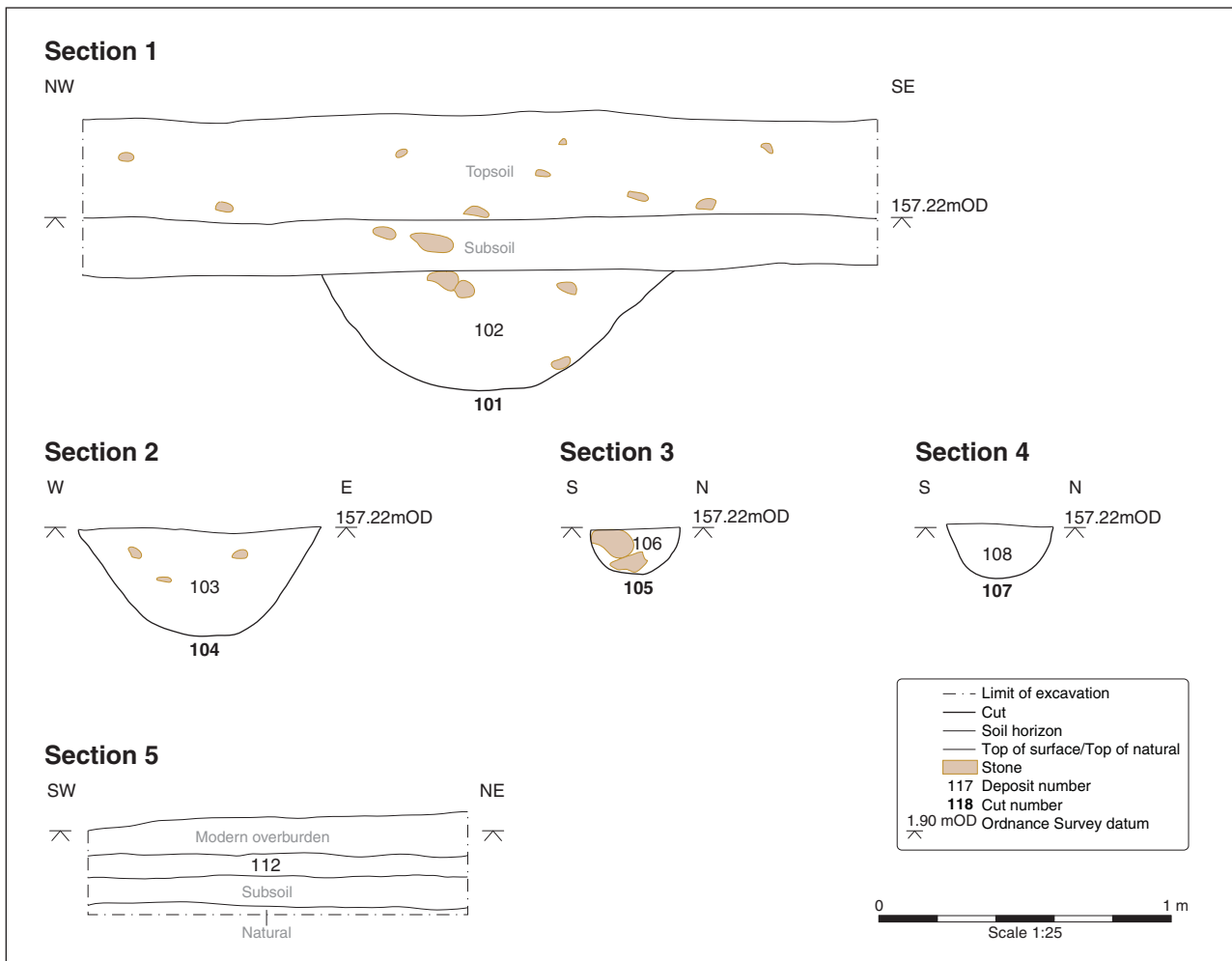


Figure 3: Sections



Plate 1: Enclosure entrance viewed from the south



Plate 2: Enclosure viewed from the South-East





Plate 3: Southern ditch terminal



Plate 4: Northern ditch terminal





Plate 5: Southern post hole



Plate 6: Northern post hole





Plate 7: View of plateau from the South-East



Plate 8: Possible hollow way or pond



Plate 9: Removal of the building slab



Plate 10: Soil removal in the area of the turning circle





Plate 11: Typical truncation in the monitoring area



Plate 12: Monitoring area 3





Plate 13: Entrance to walled garden



Plate 14: Gravel layer 112



Plate 15: Stonework recovered from the soil heap



Plate 16: The House





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