



**CAM ARC Report Number 1012**

## **Weldon Gap, Rose Lane, Great Chesterford, Essex**

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**An Archaeological Evaluation and  
Watching Brief**

Gareth Rees

April 2008

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## **Weldon Gap, Rose Lane, Great Chesterford, Essex**

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### **An Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief**

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Site Code: XEX WEG 08

Date of works: 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008

22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008

Grid Ref: TL 5104 4275

Status	Approved		
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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Weldon Gap, Roe Lane, Great Chesterford			
Short description	The evaluation revealed evidence to show the presence of archaeology on this site. The two trenches, each 8m in length, uncovered evidence of part of a settlement and its boundary ditch. This dated to the Roman period in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD. The watching brief found further comparative Roman and post-Med evidence.			
Project dates	Start	19/02/08	End	21/02/08
Previous work	Include HER numbers / report references		Future work	Unknown
Associated project reference codes	XEX WEG 08, Essex site code: GC45			
Type of project	Evaluation, Watching Brief			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Garden, driveway.			
Planned development	Residential			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Property Boundary-Roman Domestic? – Roman			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	Roman and medieval pottery, animal bone, tile, brick, slag			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	North Essex	Parish	Great Chesterford	
HER for region	Essex\ Saffron Walden\ Uttlesford			
Site address (including postcode)	Weldon Gap, Rose Lane, Gt. Chesterford, Essex, CB10 1PN			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.05 ha			
National grid reference	TL 5104 4275			
Height OD	Min OD	42.17m	Max OD	43.05m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Richard Havis			
Project design originator	James Drummond-Murray			
Director/supervisor	Gareth Rees			
Project manager	James Drummond-Murray			
Sponsor or funding body	Poulson Architects			
ARCHIVES	Location and accession number	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)		
Physical	CAMARC Safwm 2008.3	Animal bone, ceramic, environmental, glass, slag, lithics		
Paper	CAMARC Safwm 2008.3	Context sheets, correspondence, drawings, photos, report.		
Digital	CAMARC Safwm 2008.3	Digital photos, images, spreadsheets, text.		
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
Full title	Weldon Gap, Rose Lane, Great Chesterford, Essex: An archaeological evaluation and Watching Brief			
Author(s)	Gareth Rees			
Report number	1012			
Series title and volume	-			
Page numbers	-			
Date	February 2008			

## **Summary**

Between the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008 CAM ARC conducted an archaeological evaluation on the land of Weldon Gap, Rose Lane, Great Chesterford in advance of a proposed single residential development. A subsequent watching brief was carried out between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2008.

Two trenches of 8m in length were excavated. These produced evidence of Roman occupation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Settlement evidence of pits and postholes was found to the north of a substantial boundary ditch. The watching brief further characterised the nature of the Roman remains identified.

There was also a small amount of evidence for pre-Roman activity and of later medieval re-use of the boundary.

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## **1 Introduction**

This archaeological evaluation and watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (Planning Application UTT/1846/07), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council.

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). Based on the results of the evaluation the HEM team, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, recommended that a watching brief be undertaken on the foundations of the new structure. The specific aims were to identify any Roman occupation and assess its nature and relationship to the walled town.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with Saffron Walden museum store in due course.

## **2 Geology and Topography**

The site lies on the eastern side of the village of Great Chesterford 30m to the south of Rose Lane. The geology of this area is river terrace deposits and new pit chalk (British Geological Survey 2002). The river Granta is 250m to the south west of the site and flows from south east to north west. New pit chalk was encountered in both trenches at a depth of around 0.42m.

The development site sloped gradually from 43.69m in the north east to 42.88 in the south west where after the land dropped away sharply. The ground conditions varied on either side of a central residential property. In the north and west, where Trench 1 was located, short grass covered the area under investigation. To the south east, where Trench 2 was located, the ground had been compacted and covered with a gravel driveway.

## **3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The development area is shown on the Cambridgeshire 25 inch 1st edition map of 1886-1887 as the back end of a plot of land that extends 70m south west from Rose Lane and that was 22m wide. This was the most southerly of five plots off Rose Lane that ran parallel with the High Street, and its boundaries remain relatively unchanged today. These plots were probably laid out as stripfields for the occupants of the early medieval nucleated village to the west.

### **3.1 Prehistoric**

Great Chesterford has evidence of occupation from the Mesolithic onwards. A single Palaeolithic hand axe incorporated into a garden wall may allude to earlier activity in the area. Mesolithic flint scatters have been found at five locations in the village possibly centred on the Grey Hound public house 120m to the west of the development area (Collins 1996).

There is similar evidence for Neolithic use of this area with 5 flint scatters spread across the surrounding landscape although there is no evidence for settlement in this period. This trend continues in the Bronze Age. With the exception of a single flint scatter the evidence from this period is almost entirely non-domestic and tends towards the earlier Bronze Age. Ring ditches (e.g. SMR 4792) along with finds of beakers, cremation urns and hoards of gold and bronze objects suggest that this area was used for burial rather than settlement.

The first evidence of settlement occurs in the Iron Age. Activity in the surrounding landscape also increases, with hillfort type settlements at Wandlebury, Sawston and Littlebury and smaller settlements at Wendons Ambo, Great Shelford and Howe Wood (Medlycott 1999: 13). In the late Iron Age an open settlement was occupied just under a kilometre north west of the current development plot. This included an extensive spread of pottery, fifteen coins and a cremation burial. The Iron Age settlement appears to have had a similar eastern extent to the subsequent Roman settlement. This continuity is further evidenced at a shrine site 1km to the north east where a Romano-British temple was later built, and at the Ickelton Road cremation cemetery to the west (Medlycott 1999: 9, 13).

### **3.2 Roman**

The majority of archaeological evidence in Great Chesterford dates from the Roman period. The development site lies 570m south east of the Roman fort which has its origins around the time of the Boudiccan revolt (HC 24/4/08). This fort was only used for a short time before the area it covered was subsumed by the expansion of the settlement to the south east that had developed out of its vicus. This 12ha settlement comprised almost entirely timber-framed buildings although some flint foundations have been found (VCH 1963). The settlement expanded into urban status in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD but then experienced a period of decline before the late 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century when another period of expansion was recorded (Medlycott 1999).

The current position of Newmarket Road (B1383) follows the course of the now robbed-out flint wall built around the entire settlement in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD (Medlycott 1999). At this time the settlement expanded to the south and east possibly along the course of a road leading out of the east gate towards the Icknield way that now runs adjacent to the



current site. Another later wall is postulated running from Mill cottage south of the settlement to the current church of All Saints and then beyond although dating for this is uncertain (Collins 1996).

Previous work on Rose Lane at 1, Park Cottages (SMR13894) produced evidence of Roman occupation including a C1 coin of Domitian and a quantity of C4 pottery. Roman pottery was also recorded between Rose Lane and Manor Lane (SMR 4933).

### **3.3 Saxon and Medieval**

There is substantial evidence for Saxon activity in the area although no direct evidence for the location of a settlement. Several cemeteries have been excavated from this period (SMR 4939, 13918, 4951). Evison (1994) excavated a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery of 161 inhumations and 33 cremations. It has been suggested that the settlement may have lain 2km to the north of the modern village near Hinxton Hall (Miller, in Medlycott 1999).

The name Chesterford was first recorded in AD 1004 and derives from Saxon *ceaster ford*, the ford by the camp (Reaney 1935: 519). The Domesday Book records the settlement as Great Chesterford. The settlement prospered during the medieval period due to the cloth trade and became a royal manor. It was certainly this wealth that brought about the construction of the current All Saints church whose earliest features date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The medieval settlement is a nucleated cluster type in the form more commonly found in the midlands (Lewis et al. 1997).

### **3.4 Post Medieval**

Within 140m of the current site are 5 listed properties. These are 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century timber framed buildings.

## **5 Methodology**

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The subsequent watching brief aimed to determine to extent and further significance of these features

The Brief required that 5% of the total area was investigated either side of the current dwelling. A watching brief was to be carried on the foundation works of the new building if significant finds were identified. Two trenches of 8m were excavated (figure 1). A watching brief was required due to the density of Roman features identified and in

accordance with the specific research aim of identifying the nature of the Roman occupation and its relationship to the walled town.

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

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.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARC'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.

Environmental samples of up to 10 litres were taken from 6 features to investigate the possibility and quality of charred remains.

Site conditions were good and generally sunny. Services were present to the south west of trench 1 and trench 2 and appropriate mitigation was carried out. In the case of trench 1 this required moving the trench location two metres to the north east. Trench 2 was located over a compacted gravel driveway. However this did not hinder excavation.

## **6 Results**

### **6.1 Trench 1**

This trench was located to the north of the existing property (figure 2). It was 8m long and ran north east – south west. There was a high density of features in this trench, all cut into a mid reddish brown subsoil (plate 1). The topsoil was 0.36m in depth (figure 4, section 7). All features contained 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD pottery.

The earliest features were pits **27** and **30**. These were both 1m wide and 0.2m and 0.3m deep respectively. These were cut by two north west – south east aligned ditches. Ditch **32** was 2.4m wide and 0.3m deep. Ditch **25** was 1m wide and 0.2m in depth. These may have marked the edge of property boundaries. Environmental samples from these ditches produced poorly preserved cereal grains.

Postholes **19** and **34** may be contemporary with these ditches. **19** was 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep whilst **34** was 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep. The width of these postholes suggests that they may have held moderate sized posts for a small outbuilding but they may equally mark the position of a north east –south west fenced boundary.

Posthole **36** and two shallow gullies then truncated all of these features. **36** was 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. Posthole **23** may have held a later replacement to the post that stood in **36**.

Gullies **21** and **17** may be impressions made by a small beam built structure since their fills were considerably more compact than those around them (plate 2). If this was the case then the remainder of this structure may lay to the south and west of the excavation area. An environmental sample taken from **17** produced cereal grains.

## **6.2 Trench 2**

This trench was located to the south of the existing property on land being used as a driveway (figure 2). The topsoil was heavily compacted and 0.30m in depth below a modern overburden of 0.10m. The trench was opened along the western edge of the fills of a large north – south boundary ditch (Plate 3). This ditch was cut into the subsoil (figure 4, section 6).

The earliest feature was a posthole (**7**) that was cut by ditch **1**. This had a much paler fill than those of other features although no finds were recovered. Cereals and legumes were identified in this feature. Posthole **5** was also cut by ditch **1**. It was 0.45m wide and 0.38m deep and contained 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> century pottery as well as a single horse bone.

Roughly half of the total width of ditch **1** was uncovered. It was 1.74m north west – south east and 0.84m deep and ran for the entire length of the trench (figure 4, section 1). A large quantity of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD pottery was recovered from this ditch as well as one possible Early Saxon sherd. A large piece of iron working slag (s.f.1) as well as butchered cattle bone was also recovered. An environmental sample revealed charred remains of cereal.

The latest features in this trench were three postholes that were cut into the fills of **1**. These were 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century in date. It seems likely that these were a later reuse of the same boundary since they ran parallel with it.

## **6.3 Watching Brief**

No archaeological features were identified during the removal of the original 1960s dwelling. The footings for the new building consisted of a series of interlinked trenches 0.5m in depth, 0.4m wide and with a rectangular plan of 8.25m x 13.25m (figure 3). Four additional 0.4m wide trenches ran across the centre of the rectangular area on a north east – south west alignment (plate 4).

Features in section 50 were equatable with those that had been identified in trench 1. Ditch **104** was a continuation of **32**; **102** the continuation of **25**; and **100** that of **30**. A posthole **107** was also recorded, this was 0.15m wide and 0.25m deep.

The only other Roman feature identified was a pit or ditch **113** (figure 4, section 52; plate 5). This was 1.14m wide and 0.4m deep and may have been the south east continuation of one of those ditches identified in trench 1 although it was not clear which. It was not possible to identify if the potential beam-built structure continued into this area. Section 51 contained the remains of a post medieval pit (**109**) 4.25m north east – south west and 0.64m in depth.

## **7 Discussion**

This evaluation and subsequent watching brief have revealed evidence of Roman occupation and medieval activity within the development site. A single probable pre-Roman feature was undated.

Pottery from the Roman features suggests that this area was in use primarily in the third century and its disuse may relate to the decline of the town that has been proposed for this period (Medlycott 1999). The number of inter-cutting features suggests an intensively occupied activity area. Although the function of the site is uncertain the quantity of pottery and animal bone implies that a domestic area was nearby, whilst the slag found in ditch **1** alludes to a possible industrial function. Evidence of metalworking has been found in small quantities around the Roman town (Burnham and Watcher 1990) and if it were being carried out it would not be unlikely to find it outside of the main town wall.

The large north east – south west boundary ditch (**1**) may well have been a precursor to the boundary laid out when medieval stripfields were allotted and to the boundary that survives today. This continuity is supported by the medieval pottery found associated with one of the postholes that re-use this boundary. The Roman pottery from ditch **1** indicates that the boundary was in use at least until the 4<sup>th</sup> century after which the abandonment of this area may have led to its eventual silting and/or backfilling.

The intensity of the activity may indicate that this settlement was on the main road out of the east gate of the town where settlement may have naturally spread during expansion.

## **8 Conclusions**

The archaeological works at Weldon Gap have revealed evidence of intensive activity in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD within a boundary ditch that

skirted the contours of the local topography. The size of the boundary and the density of the features suggest that the site was a relatively important location at this time. The settlement may have been the site of a small-scale iron working industry the full extent of which could not be located within this plot. Medieval reuse of the boundary raises the possibility of other medieval features in the vicinity.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Poulson Architecture who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James-Drummond-Murray. I am grateful for specialist advice from Steve Wadeson, Alice Lyons, Chris Faine and Rachel Fosberry. Thanks also go to Steve Graham for excavation assistance, John House for conducting the watching brief and Lucy Offord and Caoimhín Ó Coileáin for producing the illustrations.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Richard Havis, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation and watching brief.

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## Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Type	Coarse component	Shape in Plan
1	-	2	Cut	Ditch		Linear
2	<b>1</b>	2	Fill	Ditch	Occ natural stone	
3	<b>1</b>	2	Fill	Ditch	Occ. Gravel and natural stone	
4	<b>5</b>	2	Fill	Post hole	Occ. Gravel	
5	-	2	Cut	Post hole		Round
6	<b>7</b>	2	Fill	Post hole	Occ. Pea grit	
7	-	2	Cut	Post hole		Round
8	<b>9</b>	2	Fill	Post hole	Occ grit and natural stone	
9	-	2	Cut	Post hole		Round
10	<b>11</b>	2	Fill	Post hole	Occ. Nat stone and grit	
11	-	2	Cut	Post hole		Round
12	<b>13</b>	2	Fill	Post hole	Occ. Nat stone and grit	
13	-	2	Cut	Post hole		Round
14	-	2	Layer	Top soil	2% chalk, gravel, charcoal, flint	
15	-	2	Layer	Sub soil	Occ. Chalk natural	
16	<b>17</b>	1	Fill	Slot		
17	-	1	Cut	Slot		Linear
18	<b>19</b>	1	Fill	Post hole	10% stone and chalk	
19	-	1	Cut	Post hole		Sub-circular
20	<b>21</b>	1	Fill	Slot	Freq natural stone, 3% charcoal	
21	-	1	Cut	Slot		Linear
22	<b>23</b>	1	Fill	Post hole	Moderate small stones	
23	-	1	Cut	Post hole		Sub-circular
24	<b>25</b>	1	Fill	Ditch	10% chalk; 20% large stones	
25	-	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
26	<b>27</b>	1	Fill	Post hole	3% chalk; 2% small stones	
27	-	1	Cut	Post hole		Sub-circular
28	-	1	Layer	Top soil	10% stone	
29	<b>30</b>	1	Fill	Pit	5% small stones	
30	-	1	Cut	Pit		
31	<b>32</b>	1	Fill	Ditch	5% chalk	
32	-	1	Cut	Ditch		Linear
33	<b>34</b>	1	Fill	Post hole	2% chalk	
34	-	1	Cut	Post hole		Sub-circular
35	<b>36</b>	1	Fill	Post hole	1% small stones	
36	-	1	Cut	Post hole		Sub-circular
100	-	WB	Cut	Pit		
101	<b>100</b>	WB	Fill	Pit		
102	-	WB	Cut	Pit		
103	<b>102</b>	WB	Fill	Pit		
104	-	WB	Cut	Ditch		

105	<b>104</b>	WB	Fill	Ditch	Freq chalk; occ flint	
106	<b>104</b>	WB	Fill	Ditch		
107	-	WB	Cut	Post hole		Sub-circular
108	<b>107</b>	WB	Fill	Post hole	Occ flint and chalk	
109	-	WB	Cut	Pit		Ovoid
110	<b>109</b>	WB	Fill	Pit	Occ. Flint	
111	<b>109</b>	WB	Fill	Pit	Occ flint	
112	<b>109</b>	WB	Fill	Pit		
113	-	WB	Cut	Ditch		
114	<b>113</b>	WB	Fill	Ditch		
115	<b>113</b>	WB	Fill	Ditch		

## Appendix 2: Romano - British Pottery

by Alice Lyons and Stephen Wadeson

### 1 Introduction

A total of 142 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 1.550kg, (2.69 EVE), were retrieved during the evaluation at Weldon Gap, Rose Lane, Great Chesterford, Essex, (2008.3). The majority of this pottery was recovered from ditches (90.4%) with a smaller amount retrieved from postholes (8.2%) and a possible beam slot (1.4%). In addition a single handmade sherd of Early Saxon pottery was identified along with two intrusive sherds of post-medieval Red ware.

The assemblage is predominantly late Romano-British, the pottery a mix of abraded and moderately abraded sherds with an average weight of c.11g. The poor condition of some of the pottery is an indication of post-depositional disturbance, such as manuring and/or middening.

### 2 Methodology

The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and decoration and abrasion were also noted.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.



### 3 The Assemblage

#### 3.1 Romano-British

Excavation produced 82 sherds of domestically produced coarse ware pottery; representing 54% by weight of the total Romano-British assemblage, the majority of which are typical of locally produced (but unsourced) coarse wares of the late 1st to 4th century. Sandy grey wares are the most commonly utilised of these fabrics making up 21.7% (by weight) of the assemblage including several sherds from jars and dishes as well as a single rim sherd from a late 1st to early 2nd century poppy-headed beaker.

Horningsea type ware (20.5% by weight) makes up the bulk of the remaining coarse wares and is generally associated with large storage jars (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116). Although produced throughout most of the Roman period these jars are particularly common in the 2nd and 3rd centuries (Evans 1991). Other coarse wares found include shell tempered wares 9.2% (by weight) of Harrold type possibly originating from the Harrold kilns in Bedfordshire.

Domestically produced fine wares are well represented accounting for a further 54 sherds, (37.2% by weight) of the assemblage and are dominated by fabrics from the later Roman period, primarily Oxfordshire red colour coat (Tomber and Dore 1998, 176), Hadham oxidised wares (*ibid*, 151) and to a lesser extent Nene Valley colour coat (*ibid*, 118). These include a complete rim from a Hadham red slipped flagon, the only example of a flagon recovered from site.

Imports from abroad account for just seven sherds (8.8% by weight) of the total assemblage and includes a single burnt sherd from a DR20 amphorae (Tomber and Dore 1998, 84) imported from Baetica, Southern Spain. Originally used for the storage and transportation of olive oil it can be dated from the middle of the 1st century to the middle of the 3rd. Also recovered were six sherds of Central Gaulish samian, including the footring from a Dr37 or 38 bowl (Webster 1996, 47) and the rim from a Dr31 bowl (*ibid*, 34), which can be dated to the 2nd century.

Fabric Name	Quantity	Weight (kg)	EVE	Weight (%)
Amphorae	1	0.097	0.00	6.3
Central Gaulish Samian	6	0.041	0.10	2.7
Grey Ware (fine)	1	0.003	0.00	0.2
Hadham Oxidised Ware (burnished)	20	0.108	0.35	7.0
Hadham Red Slipped Ware	1	0.042	1.00	2.7
Horningsea Type Ware	23	0.320	0.00	20.6
Nene Valley Colour Coat	11	0.158	0.14	10.2
Nene Valley White Ware	1	0.002	0.00	0.1
Oxfordshire Coarse Oxidised Ware	1	0.012	0.00	0.8
Oxfordshire Red Colour Coat	20	0.258	0.34	16.6
Sandy Grey Ware	39	0.338	0.52	21.8
Sandy Oxidised Ware	6	0.027	0.00	1.7

Sandy Reduced Ware	1	0.002	0.00	0.1
Shell Tempered Ware	11	0.142	0.24	9.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1.550</b>	<b>2.69</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 1: Quantified Romano-British pottery fabrics in alphabetical order.

### 3.2 Saxon

Context 3 produced the only remains of Saxon pottery recovered from site, a single, abraded hand made sherd dating to the Early Saxon period. The sample is too small to draw conclusions from however this may have originated from a settlement close to the area of excavation.

## 4 Discussion

This small predominantly Romano-British assemblage was recovered from a number of stratified features including ditches and postholes. The assemblage is comprised mainly of sandy grey wares typical of locally produced coarse wares of the late 1st to 4th century. Also present are Oxfordshire red colour coat and Hadham red wares both commonly found in late Roman utilitarian domestic assemblages in the Anglian region (Evans 2003, 105).

The pottery spans a wide chronological period from the 1st to early 5th century and suggests activity in the area during this period. The bulk of the assemblage however dates from later Romano-British period.

This assemblage though small provides important information about the ceramic assemblage of Great Chesterford in the Roman period and will add to our understanding of this small town.

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## Appendix 3: The Faunal Assemblage

By Chris Faine

A total of 6 identifiable fragments were recovered from the assemblage, with 15 fragments unidentifiable to species (71% of the total sample). Faunal material was recovered from fills of ditch <1> and an associated posthole <5>, both dating from the Roman period. Ditch fills 2 and 3 contained butchered adult cattle cranial and lower limb elements. A single intact horse astragalus was recovered from posthole fill 4. Whilst this may represent deliberate deposition the remainder most likely represents domestic/butchery waste.

### References

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## Appendix 4: Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

### 4.1 Introduction and Methods

Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 2.

## 4.2 Results

The results are recorded on Table 2.

Preservation is by charring and is extremely poor. All of the samples contained cereal grains that were very abraded.

Sample Number	Context Number	Cut Number	Flot contents	Residue Contents
1	6	7	Cereal grains, possible legumes	No finds
2	3	1	Cereal grains	Burnt animal bone, pottery
3	10	11	Cereal grains, possible legumes	No finds
4	16	17	Cereal grains	No finds
5	24	25	Cereal grains	Pottery, 2 x glass fragments
6	31		Cereal grains, fishbone	Pottery

Table 2: Bulk samples from 2008.3

## 4.3 Discussion





The assemblage is poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist of cereal grains that were all poorly preserved, either because of taphonomic factors or because they had been charred at a high temperatures. The poor preservation did not allow detailed identifications and the grains have been identified simply as cereals.

## 4.4 Conclusions and Recommendations

The samples show only a low abundance of charred material that is not considered worthy of further analysis. If further work is planned in this area, it is recommended that targeted environmental sampling is included as this assemblage shows that there is some potential for the recovery of plant remains.

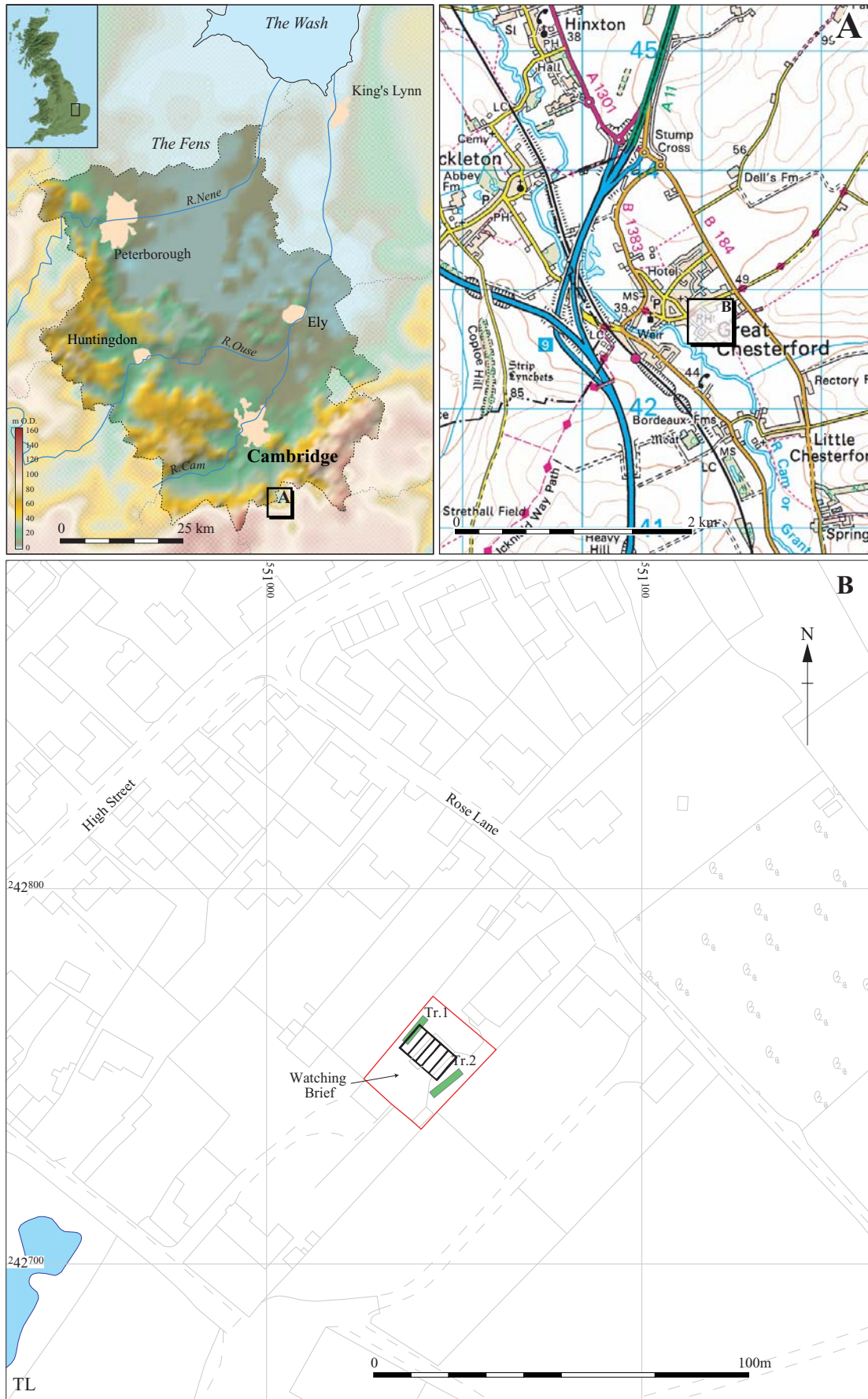
## Drawing Conventions

### Plans

Limit of Excavation	_____
Natural Features	_____
Sondage Through Ditch	- - - - -
Illustrated Section	<u>S.14</u>
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Sub Soil	
Cut Number	<b>118</b>
Deposit Number	117

### Sections

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Cut	_____
Deposit Horizon	_____
Top Surface/Top of Natural	_____
Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Cut Number	<b>118</b>
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	$\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$



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Figure 1 Location of evaluation trenches (green), area of watching brief (black), with the development area outlined (red)

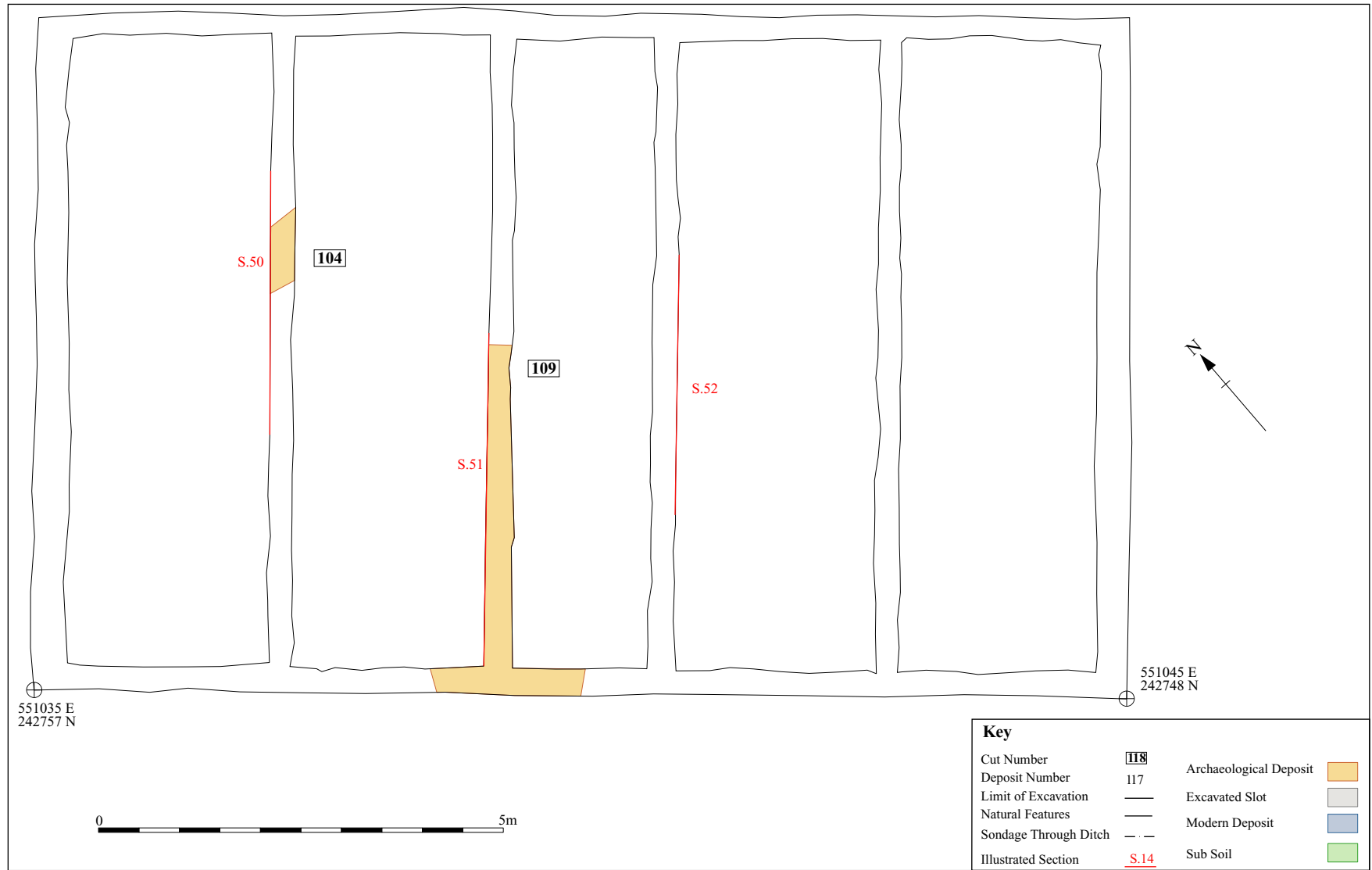


Figure 3: Plan of Watching Brief

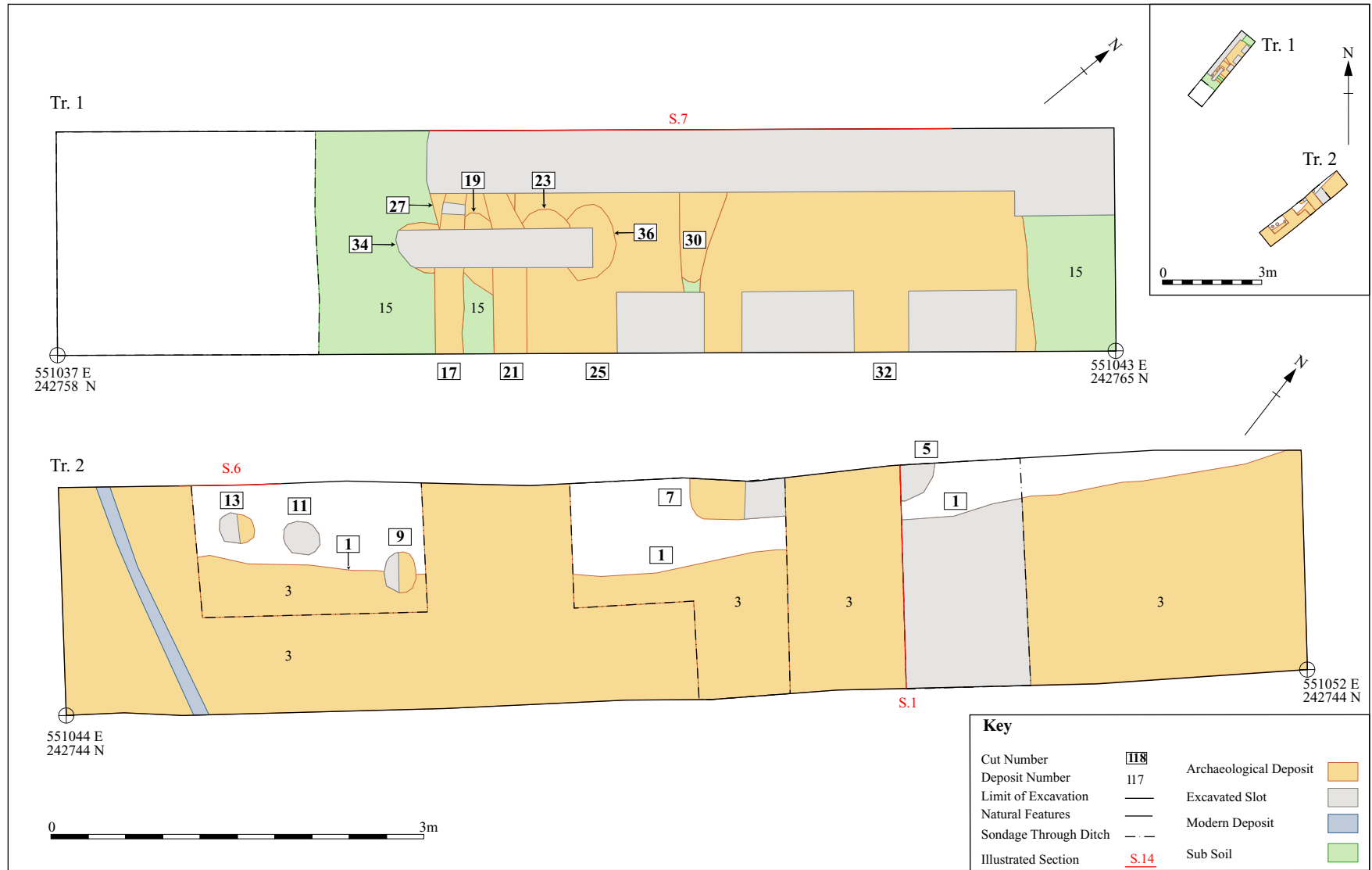


Figure 2: Trench Plans



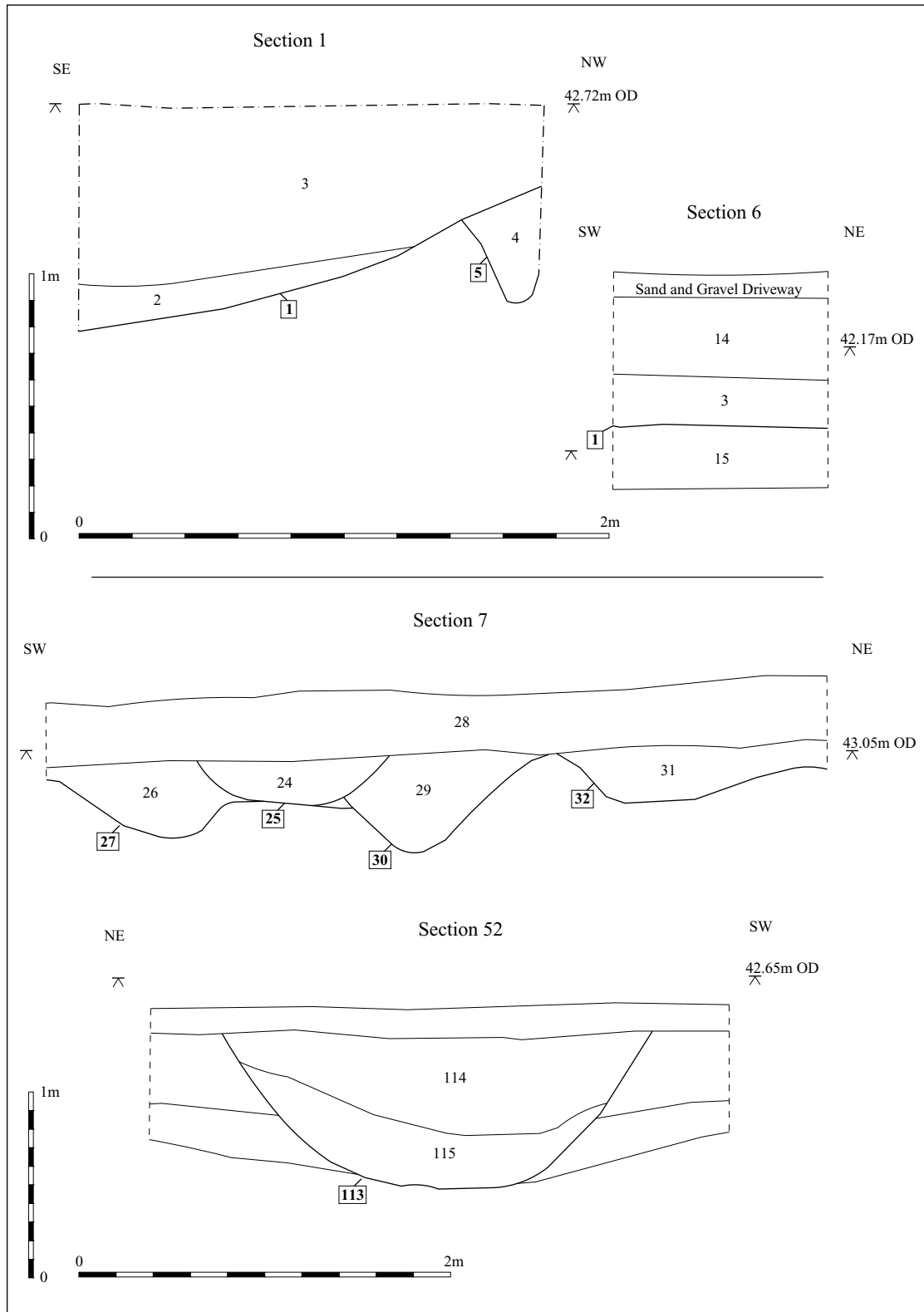


Figure 4: Section drawings



*Plate 1: Trench 1 showing the extent and density of features*



Plate 2: Possible beam impressions [21] and [17]



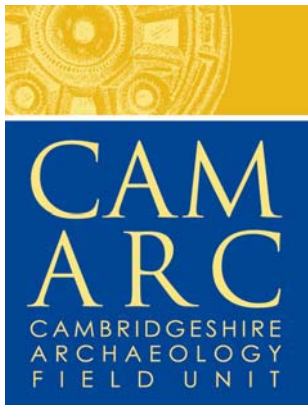
Plate 3: Trench 2 showing extent of ditch [1]



*Plate 4: Location of watching brief, view from the north*



*Plate 5: Ditch [113] from the north west*



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