

Prehistoric Remains at Marks Warren Quarry Phase 10



Excavation Report



August 2010

Client: Brett Lafarge Aggregates

OA East Report No: 1198

OASIS No: oxfordar3-81576

NGR: TQ 4861 8937

Prehistoric Remains at Marks Warren Quarry Phase 10

Archaeological Excavation

By Jonathan House BA

Editor: James Drummond Murray BA MIFA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

Report Date: August 2010

Report Number: 1198
Site Name: Pre-historic Remains at Marks Warren Quarry
HER Event No:
Date of Works: July 2010
Client Name: Brett Lafarge Aggregates
Client Ref: 12073
Planning Ref:
Grid Ref: TQ 4861 8937
Site Code: MWN10
Finance Code: XGLMWQ10
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Position: Supervisor
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Checked by: James Drummond Murray
Position: Project Manager
Date:
Signed:

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Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

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Summary

An Excavation was carried out at Marks Warren Quarry, centred on grid reference TQ 4861 8937. The excavation area formed phase 10 of the quarry and is the final phase of gravel extraction from the quarry.

The excavation uncovered prehistoric remains, with Neolithic activity, late Bronze Age and early Iron Age features. A single, apparently isolated Saxon structure was also uncovered, though this may relate to Saxon activity recorded in previous phases of work at the quarry site. Evidence of WWII activity relating to the Chadwell Heath Battery was also found in the form of demolition material and large scale ground disturbance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation was conducted at Marks Warren Quarry, Whalebone Lane North, Chadwell Heath. The site is part of on going archaeological works upon the site, with this phase, phase 10 of the aggregate extraction, being the final phase.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by David Divers of EH GLAAS, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to preserve by record any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).
- 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 approximately 200m east of Whalebone Lane North and approximately 700m north of the A12 centred on grid reference TQ 4861 8937, at a height of 38.45m AOD. The site is located in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, with the centre of Chadwell Heath 2km to the south-west.
- 1.2.2 The site lies on a spur of Black Park terrace gravels (BGS1978) and is located in an area dominated by the Hucklesbrook and Windsor associations. The site forms a high point within the landscape, with a distinct decline to the east, the Thames runs east west 7.5km to the south of the site, with the site on the northern side of the Thames valley, and the river Rom to the east.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Two areas of archaeological significance are located immediately east of the site. The archaeology comprises an early Iron Age fortified settlement, and a late Iron Age to early Roman rectangular enclosure, flint foundations of Roman buildings adjacent and a contemporary trackway. A programme of archaeological works was carried out by the Passmore Edwards Museum in 1988 (Site Code RO-WF 88). This revealed prehistoric evidence (Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age features (GLSMR 060283, 60706), an Iron Age ditched enclosure (GLSMR 060110), a Roman rectangular enclosure (GLSMR 061279), the flint foundations of Roman buildings (GLSMR 06127901) and a contemporary trackway leading eastwards (GLSMR 06127902). It also examined a late Iron Age/early Roman field system (GLSMR 060276). 10 discrete areas of archaeological interest were identified. The Passmore Edwards Museum recommended that the two areas of Archaeological Alert become a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Aerial photography of the area identified a ring-ditch cropmark in the north-western area of Area 8, while two ditches shown to cross each other were depicted running north-east to south-west and north-west to south-east in the eastern area of the site.
- 1.3.2 Medieval activity was also examined, in the form of a windmill and small area of occupation, probably comprising a single dwelling (GLSMR 060792). The 15th century moated site of Marks Manor House (GLSMR 060137) also lies on the western side of Whalebone Lane, to the west of the site. Modern WWII defences, including anti-tank

traps and an anti- glider trench, were also examined (GLSMR 061702). Other listed features include two boundary marker stones, the Warren Stone and the Marks Stone, one of which lies within the site, and an 18th century barn beyond the site to the south-west.

- 1.3.3 The site lies within an area that is known to contain substantial evidence of archaeological remains. Areas were excluded from the overall extraction plan due to the presence of significant archaeological remains identified during previous archaeological investigations by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants in 2000.
- 1.3.4 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out by Archaeological Solutions in 2006 and 2007 during the topsoil stripping for Areas 5 & 7 at the quarry. These areas lay to the north-west of the current site. No significant archaeological remains were recorded during the monitoring of Area 5, and the site revealed evidence of areas of disturbance associated with 20th century activity (refuse pits, concrete blocks, drains etc). Area 7 revealed a pair of post-medieval parallel linear ditches, which extended across the site and were aligned east to west. Nine pits, three of which were identifiable as Iron Age, and three furrows, were recorded.
- 1.3.5 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was also carried out by Archaeological Solutions in 2008 during soil stripping for Area 8, to the immediate north of Area 9. This revealed archaeological features indicative of five phases of activity, and undated features. The north-eastern corner of Area 8 contained part of a ring ditch, presumed to be a barrow with Iron Age, Roman and Saxon insertions. As the ring ditch lay on the edge of the extraction area, and taking advice from EH and Andrew Josephs Ltd, Brett Lafarge offered to preserve this *in situ* and carefully reinstate the soils.
- 1.3.6 Further work by Archaeological Solutions on Area 9 revealed four phases of activity.. Phase 1 comprised late Bronze Age/early Iron Age ditches, possibly part of an enclosure, pits and postholes. Phase 2 was Roman and comprised cremation, pits and possibly a ditch as part of an enclosure. Phase 3 evidence comprised a single medieval posthole. Post-medieval and modern activity was assigned to Phase 4 and included ditches, pit, field drains and plough damage layer. Several undated features were identified across the site.
- 1.3.7 Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age features were found widely scattered across the whole site. The dominant feature was the ring ditch. In the centre of the eastern half were two pits and a possible small rectangular posthole structure. Part of a possible round house was also revealed on the northern edge. The western half of the site contained a small cluster of pits, an alignment of postholes and two pits on the edge of what appears to have been a small Saxon cremation cemetery. Late Iron Age/early Roman features were confined to the eastern half of the site. These were dominated by a series of inter-cutting ditches, which are likely to represent different phases of enclosures. There were also three burials associated with the barrow, with an inhumation inserted into it and two cremations to the south. Saxon features were dominated by a cremation cemetery in the north-western corner.
- 1.3.8 A pit containing a complete vessel was situated to the north-east of these cremations. A further cremation was found inserted into the ring ditch of the barrow. A further ditch was also tentatively dated to this phase. The windmill identified in the Passmore Edwards assessment was also revealed. It was a 'sunk post', or 'buried trestle', windmill. The buried cross timbers of the trestle base were well preserved but the diagonal braces were only fragmentary and the only part of the central post to remain was the tenon, where it was located in the mortise. An undated pit, surrounded by

features possibly representing a windbreak and situated to the south, contained a large quantity of charred grain and could conceivably have been associated with the windmill. Two large pits, a gully, a large recut ditch running north to south bisecting the site, the terminus of a gully and two further pits were of post-medieval/modern date. An assessment of the Quaternary geology within Area 8 was also carried out by Dr Simon Lewis of the University of London. The Saxon features were poorly dated.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like thank Brett Lafarge Aggregates who commissioned and funded the work and Andy Josephs who acted as consultant for the client. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and the illustrator was Séverine Bézie, with Jonathan House, Helen Stocks, and Steve Morgan as the on-site staff. The project was monitored by David Divers of EH GLAAS.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this excavation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 2.1.2 Archaeological deposits and features exposed during ground works will be excavated, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard in accordance with IFA guidelines and EH GLAAS Guidance.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.
- 2.2.2 The site survey was carried out by Louise Bush using a Leica GPS which is located on the ordnance survey grid.
- 2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 Environmental samples were taken on appropriate features, or deposits with a high potential for environmental remains.
- 2.2.6 The weather for the duration of the fieldwork was generally very dry and sunny, which made the identification of features difficult, and lowered the quality of the on-site photography, however the effects to the standard of excavation and recording were minimal.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Phase 10 of the works consisted of a single stripped excavation area, the results of which follow below.

3.2 Excavation area

3.2.1 The excavation area or Phase 10, extended over an area of 12000m², the Phase 10 area was located at the south west side of the quarry.

3.2.2 A palaeochannel ran through the site, running roughly from the south east to the north west, the width of the feature varied across the trench, ranging from approximately 1m to 5m. A small collection of flints were recovered from the uppermost deposit.

3.2.3 Running roughly east west at the northern end of the site two segmented ditches were observed seemingly running parallel to each other, they had clearly been truncated, however enough of the ditches survived to be sure that the segments of ditches were defined, and not a result of the level of truncation. 7 slots were excavated into these features, with an average depth of 0.10m, and 0.40m to 0.50m in width. A small amount of Late Bronze age pot was retrieved from the ditch in slot **124**.

3.2.4 A further ditch appeared to link in with the parallel ditches, but the level of truncation made this unclear, and any physical visible relationship impossible to discern.

3.2.5 At the north-east corner of the area a further ditch was observed on a similar alignment to a portion of the pre-mentioned segmented ditch this ditch had a straight north-west to south-east alignment. This ditch was either a deeper cut or less truncation had occurred in its location, the earlier being the more likely explanation.

3.2.6 A spread of isolated pit features were seen across the site as a whole, with slight concentration on the west side of the excavation. Among these a distinct group of features could be recognised, all of these features contained a single very pale fill, and were shallow cuts, again appearing to have been truncated by later land use. The very few finds from these features were worked flints, and the majority came from a single feature, pit **107**

3.2.7 There were also a selection of other pits again spread over the site, but a greater variety of size and shape, of which a good proportion contained pottery, pit **167** contained 0.4kg of pot, and feature **113** contained 0.09kg of pot and a loom weight, pit **109** contained a single sherd of pot, but had 3 fills and was the only pit with a significant depth at 0.51m. These pits were visibly darker, and generally a greyish brown silty sand fill.

3.2.8 The most recognisable feature on the site was a Sunken Feature Building, or S.F.B. (**119**), just south-west of the centre of the site, it measured 4m by 4m, and had two fills, the upper fill (118), which filled the majority of the feature was a very stony greyish brown silty sand, and the second fill, (192) which was in patches around the base was a very similar fill, but just contained considerably less stones. The feature was a rough square with rounded corners and an average depth of 0.4m. There were post holes in the middle of the west and east sides. A tiny fragment of undatable pot was recovered from the west post hole, the only other finds consisted of some fragments of Roman tegular and a residual flint tool, from fill (118).

- 3.2.9 A large trench was excavated running east west through the middle of the area, the trench contained a very large quantity of demolition material. The demolition material comprised of broken up hardened concrete, the same concrete was observed at the site of the Anti Aircraft battery, also amongst the demolition were pieces of sheet metal and metal fittings and fixtures. The materials all appeared to relate to WWII dated structures, there appeared to be some squared edges protruding from the main trench, however demolition appeared to be complete and no in-situ remains were uncovered. The quantity of the concrete and the demolition materials suggests that there had been a structure present, with the current trench removing any foundations.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

Neolithic

- 4.1.1 The site appears to have seen some use in the Neolithic with perhaps some deliberate tree clearance, accounting for the many pale amorphous features seen sporadically across the site. Neolithic flints were also recovered from the upper most deposit of the palaeochannel.

Bronze Age

- 4.1.2 There appears to be a phase of activity in the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, with a potential field system and pits spread across the area. However all the features from this phase appear to be heavily truncated.

Saxon

- 4.1.3 A single Saxon feature was identified, the S.F.B structure, it would appear to be an isolated structure, however could be an outlying structure from the close by settlement, identified in early phases of work at the quarry.

WWII

- 4.1.4 It seems highly likely that part of the military installations were present on the site, as the concrete was of the same construction, with a second material layered to the exterior surface, the amount and the size of the concrete fragments would suggest they had not travelled very far, square edges in the middle of the trench may suggest the location of a structure.

4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 A full discussion and conclusion will be forthcoming in the overall report for the site.

APPENDIX A. FINDS QUANTIFICATION

| Context | Material | Object Name | Weight in kg | Comments |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 108 | Flint | | 0.04 | |
| 110 | Flint | | 0.01 | |
| 118 | Flint | | 0.00 | |
| 193 | Flint | | 0.03 | |
| 110 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.00 | |
| 115 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.01 | |
| 160 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.01 | |
| 155 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.00 | |
| 179 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.00 | |
| 127 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.00 | |
| 111 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.01 | |
| 118 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.00 | |
| 132 | Flint | | 0.01 | |
| 118 | Ceramic | Ceramic Building Material | 0.00 | |
| 114 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.09 | |
| 111 | Organic | charcoal | 0.00 | |
| 166 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.40 | |
| 125 | Ceramic | Vessel | 0.01 | |
| 160 | Ceramic | Loom weight | 0.12 | |
| 115 | Ceramic | Loom weight | 0.45 | |
| 115 | | | 0.11 | fragments of larger loom weight |

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Drummond Murray. J. 2010. Specification For An Archaeological Excavation: Marks Warren Quarry.

Websites

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Council. 2010. [Online]. Available from: <http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/8-leisure-envir/planning/urban-design/pdf/chadwell-heath.pdf> [Accessed: 28th July 2010]

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------|-------------|------------|
| OASIS Number | oxfordar3-81576 | | | |
| Project Name | Pre-historic Remains at Marks Warren Quarry Phase 10 | | | |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) | Start | 05-07-2010 | Finish | 20-07-2010 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | No | | Future Work | No |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| Site Code | XGLMWN10 | Planning App. No. | |
| HER No. | | Related HER/OASIS No. | |

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

| Monument | Period | Object | Period |
|----------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| S.F.B. | Early Medieval 410 to 1066 | C.B.M. | Roman 43 to 410 |
| Pit | Bronze Age -2.5k to -700 | Loom Weight | Bronze Age -2.5k to -700 |
| Pit | Bronze Age -2.5k to -700 | Blade | Neolithic -4k to -2k |

Project Location

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------|---|--------------|
| County | Greater London | Site Address (including postcode if possible) | |
| District | Barking and Dagenham | Whalebone Lane North Marks Gate RM6 5QX | |
| Parish | Marks Gate | | |
| HER | EH GLAAS | | |
| Study Area | 11000m2 | National Grid Reference | TQ 4861 8937 |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Organisation | OA EAST |
| Project Brief Originator | David Divers |
| Project Design Originator | James Drummond Murray |
| Project Manager | James Drummond Murray |
| Supervisor | Jonathan House |

Project Archives

| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| LAARC | OA East Office (Bar Hill) | LAARC |
| | XGLMWN10 | |

Archive Contents/Media

| | Physical Contents | Digital Contents | Paper Contents |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Animal Bones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ceramics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Human Bones | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Leather | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Metal | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stratigraphic | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Survey | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Textiles | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wood | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Worked Bone | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Worked Stone/Lithic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Digital Media | Paper Media |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics | <input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images | <input type="checkbox"/> Diary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image | <input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets | <input type="checkbox"/> Map |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Matrices |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text | <input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality | <input type="checkbox"/> Misc. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Report |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey |

Notes:

The excavation uncovered pre-historic remains, with Neolithic activity, with late Bronze Age, early Iron Age features. A single, apparently isolated Saxon structure was also uncovered. Evidence of WWII activity relating to the Chadwell Heath Battery was also found in the form of demolition material and large scale ground disturbance.

| Plans | |
|---|---|
| Limit of Excavation | ————— |
| Deposit - Conjectured | - - - - - |
| Natural Features | ————— |
| Sondages/Machine Strip | - - - - - |
| Intrusion/Truncation | - - - - - |
| Illustrated Section | ————— S.14 |
| Archaeological Feature | |
| Excavated Slot | |
| Modern Feature | |
| World War 2 Feature | |
| Paleochannel | |
| Furrow | |
| Pottery | |
| Cut Number | 118 |
| Deposit Number | 117 |
| Sections | |
| Limit of Excavation | - - - - - |
| Cut | ————— |
| Cut Conjectured | - - - - - |
| Deposit Horizon | ————— |
| Deposit Horizon Conjectured | - - - - - |
| Intrusion/Truncation | - - - - - |
| Top Surface/Top of Natural | ————— |
| Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing | - - - - - |
| Cut Number | 117 |
| Deposit Number | 117 |
| Ordnance Datum | 18.45m OD ^ |
| Stone | |
| Pottery | |
| Charcoal | |

Convention Key



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010

Figure 1: Site location

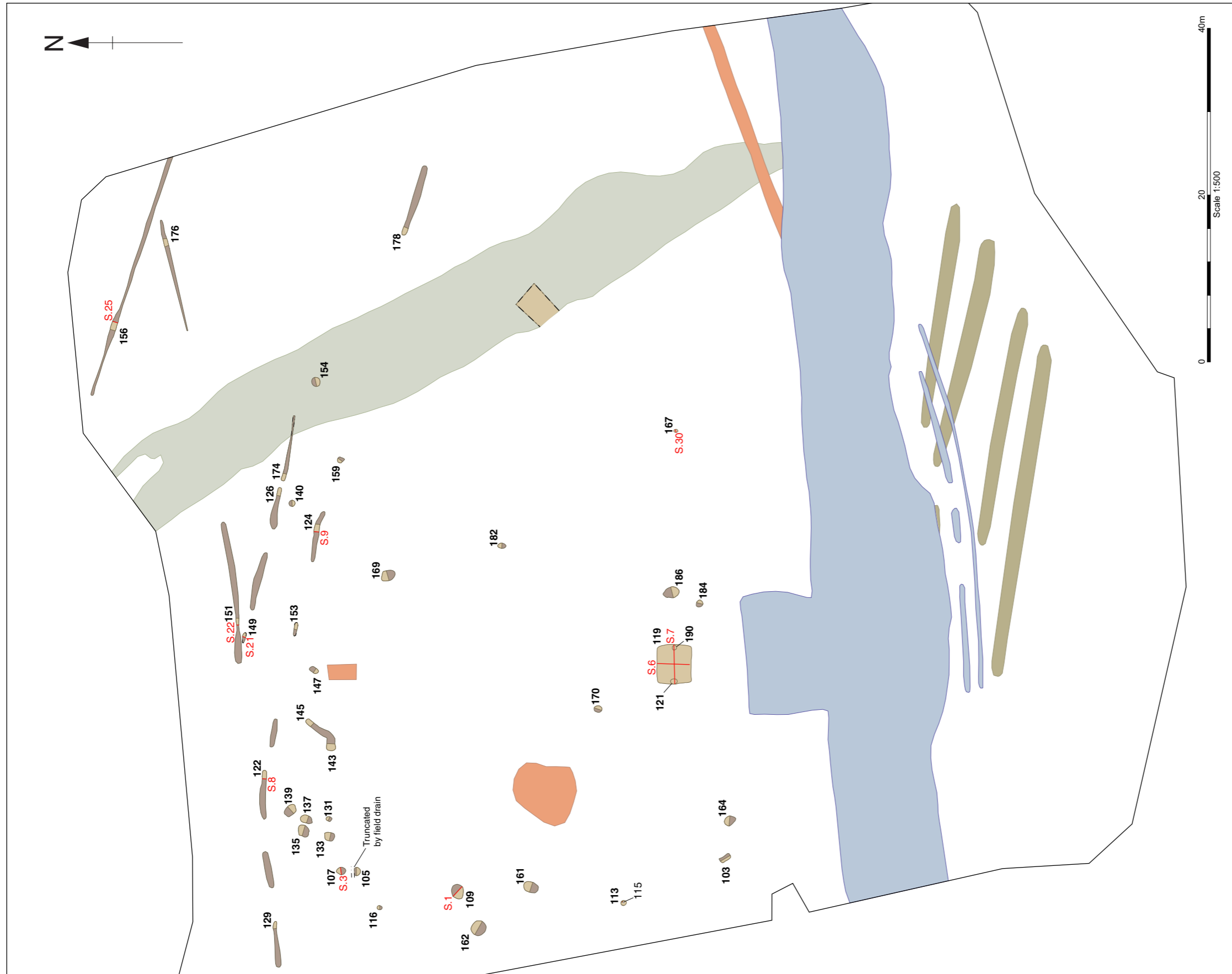


Figure 2: Excavation plan

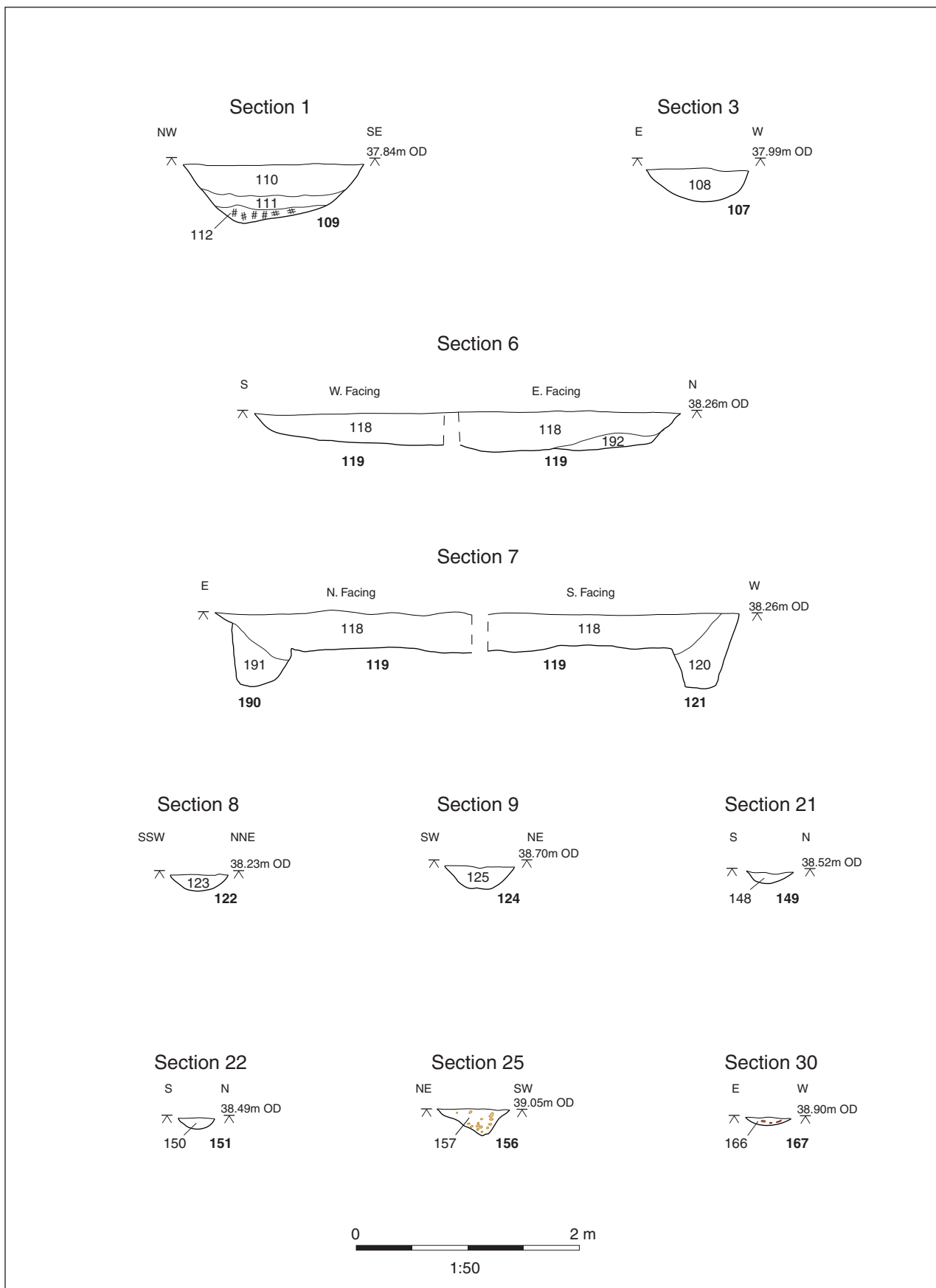


Figure 3: Section drawings



OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA Grand Ouest

7 Rue des Monderaines
ZI - Ouest
14650 Carpiquet
France

t: +33 (0) 249 88 01 01
f: +33 (0) 249 88 01 02
e: info@oago.fr
w: <http://oago.fr>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Maugeio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: oamed@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA



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