

# Archaeological Evaluation at Land between 60a and 62 Benwick Road, Doddington



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



August 2012

**Client: Keith Hurst Design Ltd**

OA East Report No: 1394

OASIS No: oxfordar3-132335

NGR: TL 3920 9087

## **Report Title**

*Archaeological Evaluation at Land Between 60a and 62 Benwick Road, Doddington*

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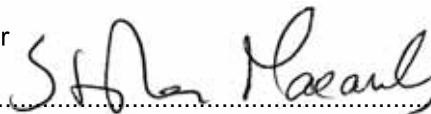
*Report Date: August 2012*

**Report Number:** 1394  
**Site Name:** Land Between 60a and 62 Benwick Road, Doddington  
**HER Event No:** ECB3825  
**Date of Works:** August 2012  
**Client Name:** Keith Hurst Design Ltd.  
**Client Ref:** 14570  
**Planning Ref:** F/YR11/0926/F  
**Grid Ref:** TL 3920 9087  
**Site Code:** DOD BEN 12  
**Finance Code:** DOD BEN 12  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach

**Accession No:**

Prepared by: John Diffey  
Position: Assistant Supervisor  
Date: 9/8/2012

Checked by: Stephen Macaulay  
Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: 16/8/12  
Signed: .....



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## **Summary**

*On the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an evaluation at Land between 60a and 62 Benwick Road, Doddington. 30 metres of trenches were excavated within the footprints of three dwellings proposed for development on the site. No archaeological remains were observed and natural geology was reached at approximately 0.45m below ground level.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land between 60a and 62 Benwick Road, Doddington.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application F/YR11/0926/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 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 CCC, 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 to the west of the core of Doddington, Cambridgeshire. Situated on Amphill Clays which are overlain in this location by superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel of the Flandrian period. The site rests at an average of 8.0m above OD situated on the march island within the fens.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Although March Island generally has, in common with many counterparts in the peat fen, significant later prehistoric and Romano-British remains, very few are known from Doddington parish (Bailey 2006). Those that are recorded include Neolithic finds to the south-west of the development site (HER 08671) and Bronze Age and Roman find spots approx. 2Km south of the site (HER 03748 and 05896) however these finds were made during the 19th century and no prehistoric remains have been found during more recent work within the area. Hall describes the landscape developments from early prehistoric river systems through to the development of the fenland, but provides no known sites (Hall 1992). The development site is situated between the existing village of Doddington and the remains of a deserted medieval settlement (Historic Environment Record Number 09675). The Site is surrounded by ridge and furrow, the remnants of medieval farming, and a medieval moat is known to exist to the north of the site (HER 01052) (McConnell 2012). Doddington was the principal medieval settlement on the island, being much larger than March or Wimblington. This was due to, or resulted in, the development of the Manor Farm as a Major Grange and residence of the Bishops of Ely. The site is currently left under grass but, as was stated by the land owner, was used agriculturally and ploughed until recently.

### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The Author Would like to thank Keith Hurst Design Ltd for commissioning the archaeological work.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation 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.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that; The evaluation should include a suitable level of documentary research , including consultation with CHER, to set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical background. The required scheme shall include a field evaluation of threatened archaeological remains. Where appropriate, fieldwalking or test pitting programmes should be included in the evaluation scheme to characterise the artefact contents of the plough-soil. The evaluation should include a programme of linear trial trenching and/or test-pitting to adequately sample the threatened available area and will excavate sufficient archaeological features to conform with the objectives of the brief. The use of metal detectors on site to aid the recovery of artefacts is required.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB 3CX excavator using a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out manually by John Diffey using the existing building on site to geographically locate the trenches.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 The site was a well draining one with no ground water encountered and conditions were good although bright sunshine impaired the quality of some of the photography.



## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are subdivided below into the three separate trenches excavated.

### 3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was situated in the western area of the development area within the footprint of plot 1 dwelling. It was a 10m x 1.5m trench and orientated NE-SW. The natural geology (003) was reached at a depth of 0.45m and consisted of a mid-light reddish brown silty sand containing natural pockets of flint gravel yellow sand and heavy blueish green clay. A large pocket of clay was uncovered at the NE end of this trench which investigation proved to be natural. Overlying the natural geology was a 0.15m thick layer of subsoil (002) which consisted of a mid yellowish brown sandy silt containing frequent small sub-angular flint stones. This layer is most likely to have formed due to intermittent deep ploughing of the site as indicated by plough scarring within it and a more mixed composition. The Subsoil was in turn overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of plough-soil (001) consisting of a mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt containing frequent small sub-angular flint stones. The plough soil also contained occasional small lumps of charcoal and modern ceramic building material (CBM). No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

### 3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was situated in the centre of the development area within the footprint of Plot 2 dwelling. It was a 10m x 1.5m trench and orientated NW-SE. The natural geology (003) (as described above) was reached at a depth of 0.3m at the NW end of the trench but sloped downward between 2.5m and 1.5m from the SE end of the trench finishing at a depth of 0.45m at the SE end. This was overlain at the SE end of the trench by a layer of subsoil (002) (as described above) 0.15m thick this layer reduced in thickness toward the NW end of the trench petering out at 2.5m from the SE end. The Subsoil layer was overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of plough soil (001) (as described above) which at the NW end sat immediately above the natural geology. The sloping of the layers and lack of subsoil at the NW end of the trench are likely to be due to the proximity of the NW end of this trench to a built up driveway providing access to the old farm building in the centre of the site this would restrict the amount and depth of ploughing occurring in this location. A 20th century brick from the Whittlesey Central brick Co. was found in the topsoil at the NW end of the trench and is thought to relate to the existing farm building and raised access. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

### 3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 was situated in the e area of the site within the footprint of Plot 3 dwelling. It was a 10m x 1.5m trench and orientated NE-SW. The natural geology (003) was reached at a depth of 0.4m. This was overlain by a 0.1m thick layer of subsoil (002), which in turn was overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of plough-soil (001). No archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered.

### **3.5 Finds Summary**

- 3.5.1 The modern brick found in trench 2 was produced by the Whittlesey Central brick company which operated between 1898 and 1968. No Archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

### **3.6 Environmental Summary**

- 3.6.1 It was not deemed necessary to take any environmental samples during the archaeological evaluation

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The development area is situated outside of both the modern and historic centres of settlement at Doddington. With little or no prehistoric archaeology previously recorded in the area and only sparse agricultural remains from the medieval period being found close by it is likely that very little or no archaeological remains exist within the development area. The work carried out encountered no archaeological deposits or artefacts further supporting this hypothesis.

### 4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 None as no archaeological remains were recorded within the development area.

### 4.3 Recommendations

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

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty sand containing pockets of natural sand, gravel and clay				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.45
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	N/A	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	N/A	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying a natural silty sand containing pockets of natural sand gravel and clay. Natural sloped down toward SE end of trench with subsoil thinning and petering out toward NW end.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.37
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	N/A	-
2	Layer	-	0-0.15	Subsoil	N/A	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough soil and subsoil overlying a natural silty sand containing pockets of natural sand gravel and clay.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.4
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.5
				<b>Length (m)</b>		10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	N/A	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	N/A	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bailey, G. 2006. CCC AFU Report Number 851 Land southwest of No. 10 Newgate Street, Doddington. An archaeological evaluation.

Hall, D. 1992. Fenland Project 6, South-West Cambridgeshire Fenlands, EAA 56

McConnell, D. 2012. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation 60a Benwick Road Doddington

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-132335		
Project Name	Evaluation at Land between 60 and 60a Benwick Road, Doddington		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	08-08-2012	Finish	08-08-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	DODBEN12	Planning App. No.	F/YR11/0926/F
HER No.	ECB3825	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Landowner Pre-Sale Planning Application

### 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
none	Select period...	none	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Fenland	Land adjacent to 60a Benwick Road, Doddington, Cambs
Parish	Doddington	
HER	Cambridgeshire	
Study Area	0.36ha	National Grid Reference
		TL 3920 9087

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	John Diffey
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	John Diffey

### Project Archives

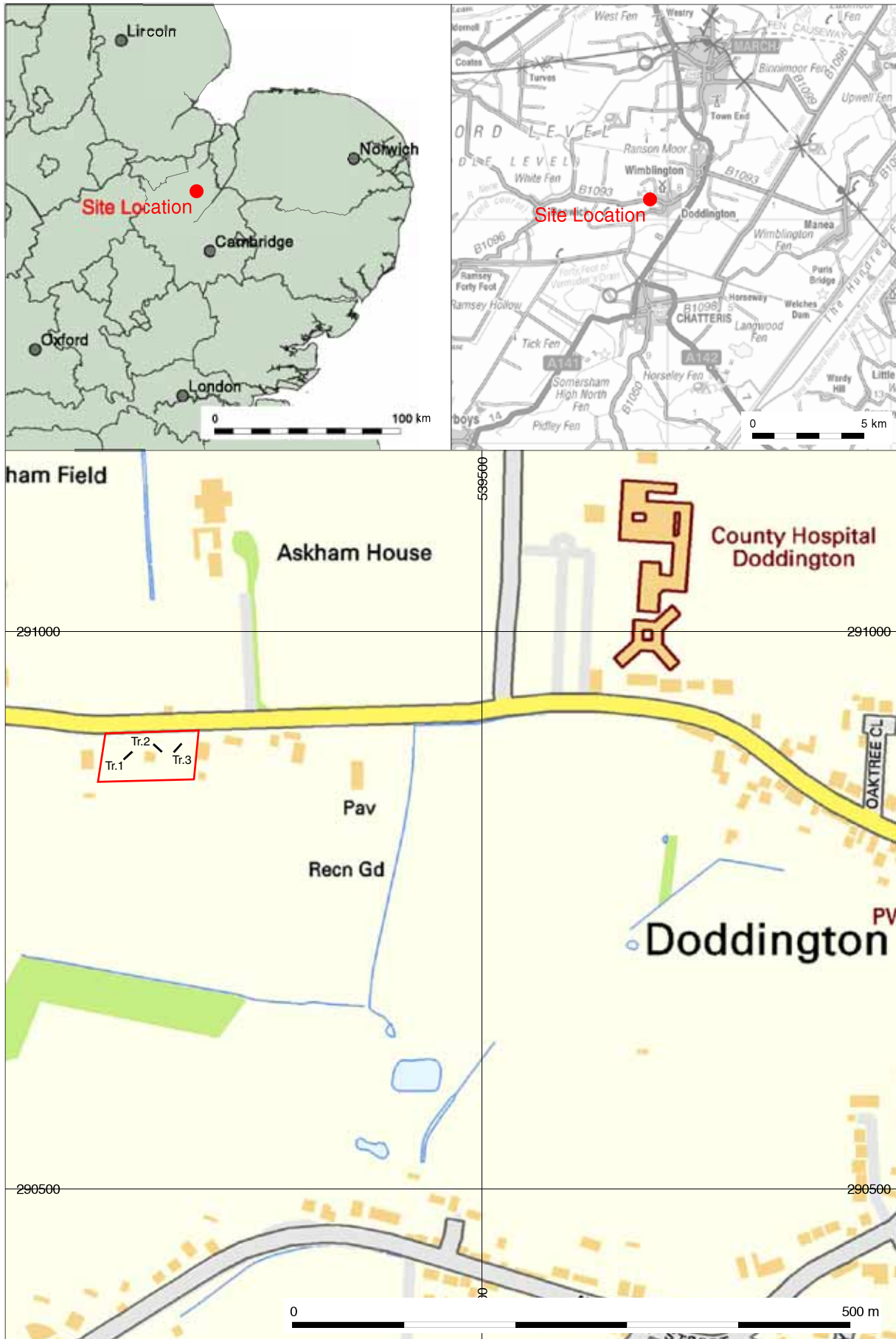
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
n/a	CCC Store	CCC Store
n/a	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

### Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input 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 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: Location of trenches (black) with development area outlined (red)



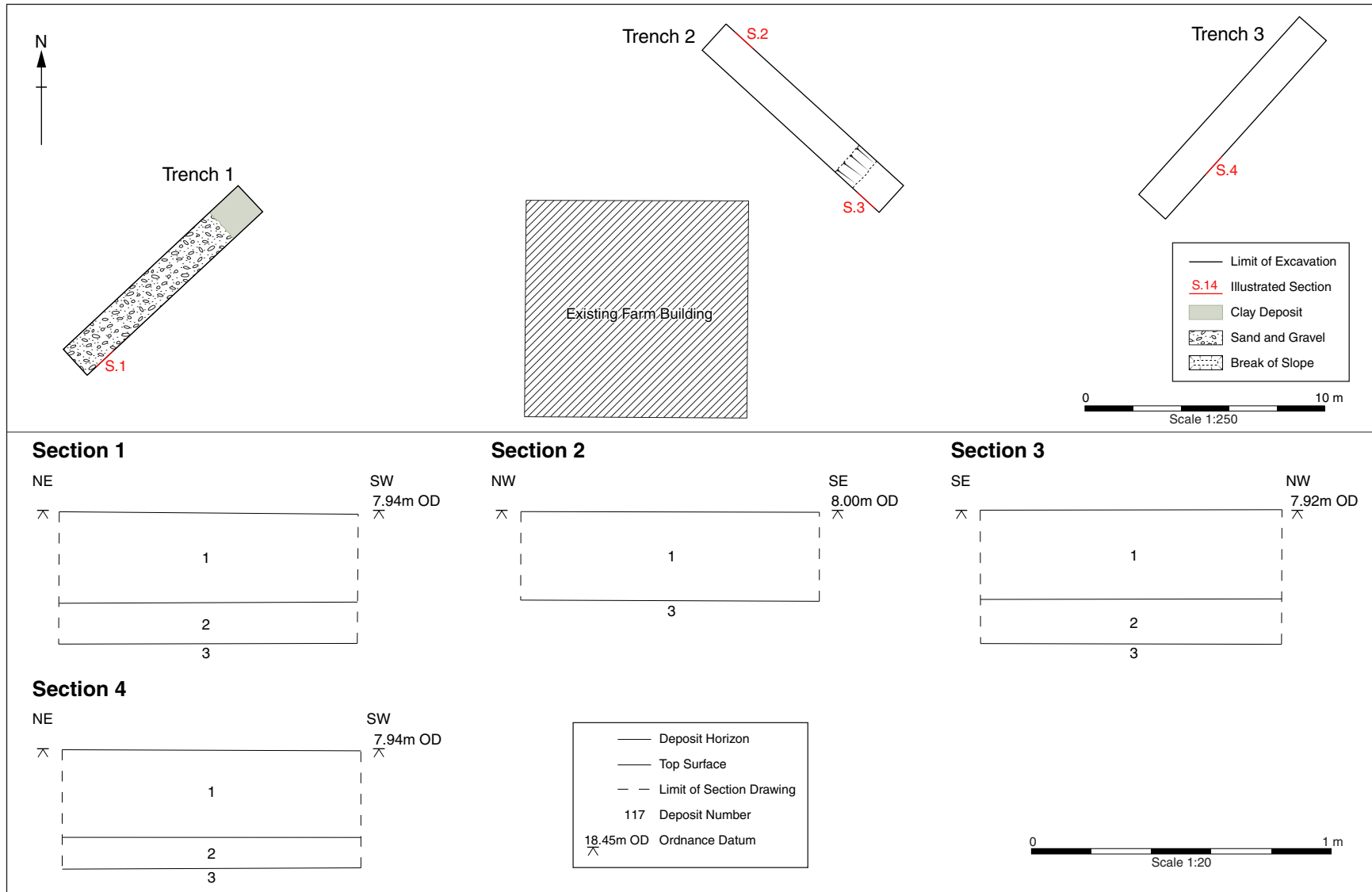


Figure 2: Trench plans and section drawings



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