

# The Bricklayers Arms Station Road Whittlesey



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



April 2015

**Client: CgMs Consulting on behalf of  
McCarthy & Stone and Jomast  
Developments Ltd**

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## **The Bricklayers Arms, Station Road, Whittlesey**

### *Archaeological Evaluation*

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## Summary

*Between the 31st March 2015 and the 7th April 2015, Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation consisting of four trial trenches on land to the rear of the Bricklayer's Arms Public House, 9 Station Road, Whittlesey (NGR: 527168, 296841).*

*The northern half of the site consisted of a series of hollows which were most likely of natural origin and a pit containing modern backfill. The southern half of the site was situated on an island of river terrace sand and gravels. Its eastern edge was bounded by one, possibly two ditches. Within the southern half of the site there was a series of intercutting pits all possessing a uniform depth, profile and width. The pits contained a small amount of medieval pottery but the majority of the finds were post-medieval in date. These were most likely quarry pits for the extraction of sand and gravel, possibly of a medieval date but this could not be proven.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the site of the Bricklayers Arms Public House, 9 Station Road, Whittlesey (Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 Following the preparation of a Desk Based Assessment this archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of CgMs (Richard Smalley) in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Stocks-Morgan 2015).
- 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 Whittlesey lies upon a large gravel capped island of high ground in the Fens immediately east of the 'mainland' at Peterborough. It straddles the Romano-British Fen Causeway route across the fens from Peterborough to March and on into Norfolk (Thatcher 2008).
- 1.2.2 The Bedrock geology of the site is Oxford Clay Formation-Mudstone. This is overlain to the north by superficial March sand and gravel deposits and to the south by River Terrace sand and gravel deposits (British Geological Survey, 1984).
- 1.2.3 The proposed development area is flat, approximately 8m above Ordinance Datum (OD). The ground slopes downhill to the south and uphill north, east and west (Smalley 2014). The site is bounded to the west by Station Road, south by Hardy's Lane. The east and north of the site are defined by the gardens of the adjacent residential developments.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

#### *Prehistoric*

- 1.3.1 Whittlesey has been extensively settled and exploited particularly during the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Large areas of settlement and ritual archaeology have been excavated along the western fringes of the island prior to gravel and clay extraction (Mortimer 2008). Their distribution along the fen edge places emphasis upon the economic significance of the Fen as a grazing resource (Casa Hatton 2001). The early prehistoric presence is represented by lithic scatters and stray find spots.
- 1.3.2 Bronze Age Activity in the Whittlesey area has included unenclosed settlement with pits and postholes at Bradley Fen (Knight 2000). Extensive timber alignments at Must Farm (Evans *et al* 2005) and at Kings Dyke West, excavations uncovered a short lived open Bronze Age settlement with roundhouses, four post structures and pits (Knight 1999).



- 1.3.3 Iron Age activity in the area is represented by two adjacent areas of domestic occupation on the western side of Whittlesey and Iron Age finds have been retrieved from the Brick Clay quarry to the west of the town (Hall 1987).

#### **Roman**

- 1.3.4 Whittlesey parish is crossed by the Fen Causeway, a Roman trackway with an accompanying ditch (CHER11048). The causeway extends from the southern boundary of Flag Fen near Peterborough in the west through to Grandford near March to the east, following higher ground whenever it is possible (Casa Hatton and Hounsell 2006). Excavations at Stonald Field at Whittlesey confirmed the route in the western part of the parish and indicated that the trackway was built in the 1st century most probably for military purposes (Knight 2000). It has been suggested that the presence of the causeway probably encouraged the development of Roman rural settlements along its length (Casa Hatton and Hounsell 2006).
- 1.3.5 An archaeological evaluation at Kings Dyke Pit produced a high density of archaeological features and artefacts corresponding to an already known Romano-British crop marked settlement. The finds included a possible earlier phase of the Fen Causeway. Paddocks, ditches, pits and postholes were all investigated (Mortimer 1996). Further excavations identified a metal surface, an inhumation and a kiln. A small rectangular structure and ring ditch seem to have been contemporary with the road and may have been associated with a shrine (Gibson and knight 2002)
- 1.3.6 The top part of a large Roman cooking pot was retrieved during the 1983 Post Office yard excavation (CHER 01963A).
- 1.3.7 Late Roman coins were retrieved from Lattersey Field, Whittlesey (HER02938) and a silver coin from the reign of Carausius (MCB16746).

#### **Anglo-Saxon**

- 1.3.8 The place name of Whittlesey indicates a Late Saxon origin being recorded in c.972 as *(W)itlesig* meaning 'Wil(t)el's island'. Early documentary sources refer to two separate manors on the Whittlesey island which were acquired by the monasteries of Ely and Thorney in the Late Saxon period (Casa Hatton 2001).
- 1.3.9 Saxon evidence for Whittlesey is sparse, possible *Grubenhauser* features have been identified from areal photographs (Hall 1987) and in 1828 a Saxon cemetery was discovered in Bassenhally Field north-west of the town centre containing several inhumations on a west-east alignment (Hall 1987).
- 1.3.10 An evaluation at Manor View 180m to the west of the present development area identified a number of pits containing Late Saxon pottery, along side postholes and other features. However, even though this pottery was suggested to be residual it indicates possible Anglo-Saxon activity within the ilocal landscape (Fletcher 2004).

#### **Medieval**

- 1.3.11 Medieval activity is likely to have been centred around the area of the current town centre. The following examples being those closest to the proposed development area.
- 1.3.12 Intense medieval activity was revealed at Manor View including pits, postholes, a ditch and a wall (Fletcher 2004).
- 1.3.13 An archaeological evaluation north of the development area at the Whittlesey Baptist Church, 32 Gracious Street, uncovered a pit dated from the 13th to 16th century, and a

ditch containing a fragment of medieval CBM typical of the type produced up to the 15th century (Quinn and Stoakley 2012).

- 1.3.14 A series of sixteen test pits were excavated by the Whittlesey Society from 1981-83 at Post Office Yard north-west of the development site. At least nineteen medieval pits (containing basal fills and St Neots type pottery, animal bone, a 15th century silver penny and copper alloy broach) were uncovered, one of which was overlain by a chalk yard surface (Thatcher 2008).
- 1.3.15 A later excavation at the same site by OA East revealed a number of large pits across Post Office Yard, including probable gravel extraction pits, some of which were re-utilised as rubbish pits. A further pit with vertical sides was considerably deeper than the other features and was interpreted as a well (containing 15th to 16th century pottery in its upper fills (Thatcher 2008)). An additional watching brief four years later during the redevelopment of the site uncovered further medieval features at the same location (Diffey 2012).
- 1.3.16 To the north-west of the site at 15 Queen Street, a single evaluation trench produced eight pits, either undated or containing a mixture of Roman and medieval pottery. These were attributed to Late medieval gravel extraction, possibly indicative of medieval back plot activity with no structural evidence (House 2008).
- 1.3.17 Also north-west of the site, excavations at Finkle Lane revealed a sequence of field systems, pits and tanks dating from the 12th century onward. The evidence indicated that these could be potential *burgage* plots, domestic rubbish pits and leather working tanks in use up to the 18th century (Wood 2007 and 2008).
- 1.3.18 Medieval rubbish pits were also densely located north of Station Road at Broad Street (Trimble 2010).
- 1.3.19 A single ditch dated to the Late medieval period, possibly part of a much larger complex was recorded at Eastgate directly to the north of the development area (Hatton 2004).
- 1.3.20 The Churches of St. Andrew and St. Mary appear to be relatively late in date, c.13th century. The manor house to the south of St. Mary's Church is medieval in origin but was extensively modified during the 17th century (Casa Hatton and Hounsell 2006).

### ***Post-Medieval***

- 1.3.21 During the post-medieval period the town prospered with the right to hold a market being granted in 1715 (Casa Hatton and Hounsell 2006). The economic importance of Whittlesey grew in the 17th century when the town was ranked second in importance amongst the 'towns of the isle' after Ely (Casa Hatton 2001).
- 1.3.22 There were a series of attempts at Whittlesey to control the Nene waters, as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century and these continued in the 15<sup>th</sup> and later 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The latter drainage, in which the main period of drainage commenced in earnest, was with Royal Assent and supported by private investors led by the Earl of Bedford. And was followed by the enclosure of large portions of the land, the last of which being awarded in 1844 (Casa Hatton 2001).

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology East would like to thank McCarthy & Stone and Jomast Developments Ltd. who funded the work and CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on their behalf. The site was managed by Stephen Macaulay. The fieldwork was carried out by the author with the assistance of Adele Lord, Bronagh Quinn and Lexi Scard. The archaeological works was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec of CCC HET.

## 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.
- 2.1.2 The evaluation was in response to an application to develop the area into a new residential scheme with access roads, car parking and landscaping.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that a system of trial trenching be undertaken. A total of four trenches were excavated (three measuring 30m x 2m and one measuring 15m x 2m).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. A concrete breaker was required to penetrate the tarmac surface over Trench one.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by David Brown using a Leica GS08 GPS.
- 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 Bulk soil samples (140 litres in total) were taken from the basal fills of various features throughout the site for environmental flotation.
- 2.2.7 Conditions were generally dry with a mixture of bright sunshine and overcast weather, however surface water was present particularly in Trenches 1 and 2.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Four trenches were excavated within the development area (Fig. 3) and each one shall be considered in turn.
- 3.1.2 A comprehensive index of trench depths and descriptions can be found in Appendix A. Unless otherwise stated, no finds were recovered from feature fills.

#### 3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the site, this area was used as the pub car park and had a tarmac surface. The trench was 2m wide and 15m in length with an orientation of north-east to south-west (Fig. 4, Plate 1).
- 3.2.2 The entire trench was sealed by 0.6m of hardcore, beneath which was subsoil layer 101, consisting of a 0.40m thick mid grey brown sandy silt. Cutting through the subsoil was pit **107**. The pit measured 2.60m in width and 0.64m in depth. It contained a backfill of sand silt (108) filled with post-medieval brick, tile and ceramic fragments.
- 3.2.3 Beneath the subsoil and running the entire length of the trench was a band of dark grey silt clay (103), 0.2m in thickness which sealed all the other features. This layer contained a small amount of bone and fragments of post-medieval brick and tile.
- 3.2.4 The earliest features were two potential pits or hollows, **105** and **112** respectively (Fig. 4, S. 100). The first hollow (**105**) was 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep. It consisted of a single fill of dark blue clean clay silt (106). Directly to its northern edge was similar hollow **112**. Very little of this hollow was available in the excavated slot but its fill (113) was exactly the same blue grey clay silt. Both of these hollows were sealed by a layer of dark red brown clay sand (104) containing a small amount of bone. This layer was only present above the hollows and nowhere else in the trench.
- 3.2.5 South of these hollows was an apparent layer (109) of compacted medium angular stones in a clay silt covering an area of 2.9m. This layer was truncated by potential pit **110**. Only a small percentage of this pit was visible within the trench and was excavated to a depth of 0.1m. The fill (111) was made up of a grey brown clay silt.

#### 3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 This trench was located in the north-east corner of the site in an area given over to allotments at the back of the pub. The trench was orientated from the north-west to the south-east with a width of 2m and a length of 30m.
- 3.3.2 A topsoil (200) measuring 0.3m thick sealed the entire trench. This was followed by the subsoil (201) which measured 0.25m in thickness.
- 3.3.3 Located in the south-east corner of the trench was pit **207**. The feature extended beyond the limits of the trench but was at least 1.5m wide and was 1.1m deep. Its basal fill (208) was a dark grey clay silt containing fragments of unworked wood. Above this was a dark green grey clay silt (209) containing a few fragments of bone and medieval pottery. This was sealed by a dark blue grey clay silt (210) 0.2m thick with a final upper fill (211) of dark green grey clay silt, 0.5m in thickness.
- 3.3.4 Situated across the centre of the trench was a large amorphous mass (215) of very organic dark green grey clay silt measuring 16.85m in length and 0.14m in thickness. Two slots were excavated into this deposit (one by hand and one with the machine). The interventions exposed a series of smaller intercutting hollows sealed by layer 215.

- 3.3.5 Hollows **212** and **203** were seen within the first intervention. Only part of each hollow was visible within the intervention but both hollows were seemingly the same in size, shape and composition of fills. Feature **212** was 0.4m wide and 0.26m deep with two fills. The earliest (213) was a dark green grey clay silt and above this was a dark blue grey sand silt (214). Feature **203** was 1.4m wide and 0.38m deep consisting of three fills. The primary fill (204) was similar to that of 208, a dark grey clay silt again containing some small fragments of unworked wood. Above this was a dark green grey clay silt (205) and the final fill was a thin (0.08m thick) dark blue grey sand silt (206).
- 3.3.6 A further 5m to the north-west, the machine slot uncovered two hollows (**220** and **216**), both were similar in size, depth, shape and the composition of their fills to each other and the similar features within the trench. Feature **220** contained three fills, the earliest of which (221) was again a very organic dark green clay silt. Above this was a dark reddish grey clay sand, whilst the upper fill (223) was a mid grey clay silt. The feature located directly to its north, **216** was 1.9m wide and 0.91m deep (Fig. 5, S.202). Its fills were identical in composition to those of pit **220**. A primary fill (217) of dark green clay silt was followed by a fill (218) of reddish grey sand and a final fill (219) of mid grey clay silt. This layer contained both medieval and post-medieval pottery. This was in turn sealed over by a horizontal band (224) of mid grey clay silt.
- ### 3.4 Trench 3
- 3.4.1 This trench was located within the centre of the development area. The trench was 30m long and 2m wide aligned west-northwest to east-southeast (Plate 2). The topsoil (300) had an average thickness 0.4m beneath which was a subsoil (301) averaging 0.2m in thickness.
- 3.4.2 Within the trench there were two groupings of features, a pit and a ditch at the eastern end and a series of shallow features to the west. Located at the eastern end of the trench was ditch **303** (Fig. 5, S.303). This was 2m in width and 0.84m deep with a broadly north to south orientation. The primary fill (304) was a dark red grey sandy clay lens 0.04m thick. Above this was a light brown grey silty clay (305). The ditch's final fill (306) was a mid red brown clay silt containing a fragment of tile. This ditch was truncated by two features either side of it. These two features had no stratigraphic relationship to each other.
- 3.4.3 Cutting into the eastern side of the ditch's upper fill was small feature **307**, a possible small pit or posthole. This was 0.44m wide and 0.46m deep. It contained a single fill of mid grey sandy silt (322)
- 3.4.4 Truncating ditch **303** on its western side was probable pit **308** with a depth of 1.35m and a width of 4.1m (Fig. 5, S.303). An excavation slot was dug through two thirds of the width of this feature revealing four fills. The primary fill (309) was a very dark red silt sand slumping in from the eastern side, the fill was 0.2m thick containing a small amount of bone. Above this was a dark grey clay sand fill (310). This was followed by a mid grey brown clay silt (311) which contained a piece of tile. The final upper fill (312) was a dark grey brown clay silt containing post-medieval pot and bone.
- 3.4.5 Located at the western end of the trench, the earliest feature was pit **320**. This very shallow pit measured 0.5m wide, 0.12m deep and contained a fill of mid grey sand silt (321).
- 3.4.6 This pit was truncated by linear feature **318**, running in a broad east to west direction. Ditch **318** measured 0.5m to 0.62m wide and 0.24m to 0.3m deep. The basal fill (315, 319) consisted of a dark grey silt sand. The upper fill (313) was a dark grey sandy silt.



- 3.4.7 The ditch was clearly truncated by a pit **316**. This pit measured 2m in diameter and 0.95m in depth. Only one fill was evident, a dark grey sandy silt (317) containing a large amount of 18th and 19th century pottery, clay pipe stems and a single masonry nail (SF2).

### 3.5 Trench 4

- 3.5.1 This trench was located at the southern end of the site. It was 2m in width and 30m in length with an orientation of north-east to south-west. All features were sealed by a 0.38m thick topsoil (400) and a subsoil (401) 0.26m thick.
- 3.5.2 At the centre of the trench was a large amorphous mass 10.5m wide. A slot 2m in width was machine excavated in the centre of this revealing it to be a pit (**404**), one of a possible series of intercutting pits (Fig. 5, S.400 and Plate 3). The pit extended beyond the limits of the trench, but measured 1m deep. The initial fill (405) was a mid red brown clay sand sloping down from the northern side. Above this was a dark red brown clay silt (406). This was followed by a mid red brown sand (407) which also slumped in from the north. The final fill (408) was a dark red brown clay silt containing medieval pottery and bone. Whilst this deposit could have been a single large feature there were strong indications from the uniform depth and size of the pits directly to the west that this was probably a series of similar sized pits all intercutting each other.
- 3.5.3 At the eastern end of the trench was ditch **409**, running in a north-east to south-west orientation (Plate 4). The ditch was 1.44m in width and 0.5m deep. It contained a single fill (410) of mid grey brown silt clay which contained bone. Its proximity to ditch **303** in Trench 3 suggests that it may have been a continuation of the same feature. There were however differences in the composition of the fills between the two ditch slots fills. Also the ditch in Trench 4 had a far more north-east to south-west orientation to that of Trench 3. Without further excavation between the two trenches, it could not be conclusively proven if this was a single feature with a sharp turn or two separate ditches.
- 3.5.4 The western side of the large feature **404** was truncated by elongated feature **411**. In plan this feature had the appearance of a linear ditch 5m in length with an east-west orientation. The feature extended beyond the limit of the trench so its full width was not seen. However it was at least 1.12m wide and was 1.2m deep. The feature contained three fills, the basal fill (413) was a dark blue grey clay silt which contained medieval pottery and bone. Above this was a mid grey brown silt clay (412) also containing bone and a badly corroded iron knife blade (SF3). The latest fill consisted of light grey brown clay silt (422).
- 3.5.5 Further along the trench to the west was a series of intercutting pits. The earliest of these was pit **419**. This pit was 2.5m wide with a depth of 0.98m. The basal fill (421) was a dark blue grey clay silt. Above this was a mid orange brown silt clay (420) containing a post-medieval Dutch coin (SF1). This pit was cut on its east side by pit **414**.
- 3.5.6 Pit **414** was 0.9m wide and 1m deep and contained three fills. The primary fill (415) was a dark grey brown silty clay containing traces of charcoal slumping in from the north. Above this was a dark blue grey clay silt (423) containing shell and traces of tile. This was overlaid by a thin (0.08m) lens of redeposited sand and gravel (424). The final fill was a mid brown grey clay silt (416) containing post-medieval pottery and tile.
- 3.5.7 Both pits (**414** and **419**) were themselves truncated by pit **417**. This feature was 0.6m wide and 0.52m deep with a single fill (418) of dark brown silt clay containing flecks of charcoal, bone and a small amount of post-medieval CBM.

### 3.6 Finds Summary

- 3.6.1 A pottery assemblage of 140 sherds (1.064kg) was collected ranging from the mid 12th to the 19th century. The overwhelming bulk of the assemblage was post-medieval dating to the 19th century and was domestic in nature.
- 3.6.2 A number of window and vessel glass sherds (0.323kg) were retrieved and dated to the 19th century. A small assemblage of clay tobacco pipes were also collected. Pit **316** produced two fragments datable to the 1600's, the rest were all from the early 19th century.
- 3.6.3 Nine fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered. Of these, six were identifiable as being medieval, the rest were either undatable or from the 18th century onwards.
- 3.6.4 Three metal objects were recovered. These were a Dutch coin (SF1) dating from 1703 from the upper fill of quarry pit **419**, an iron masonry nail (SF2) from the fill of quarry pit **316** and an iron knife blade (SF3) potentially medieval in date, collected from the middle fill of quarry pit **411**.

### 3.7 Environmental Summary

- 3.7.1 The animal bone assemblage (1.4kg) was dominated by sheep, with lesser amounts of cattle, pig and horse being seen. Pit **316** produced a small amount of pheasant.
- 3.7.2 Seven bulk samples were taken from the pits/hollows and ditch. They were for the most part uninformative except those taken from pit **411** which contained traces of deliberately deposited charred grain. The clay silts from the samples taken from Trenches 1 and 2 are consistent with flooding events from the nearby river.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The site consisted of two distinct areas which were broadly separated by an east to west divide across the middle of the development. The northern half, where, Trenches 1 and 2 were located, was lower with natural Oxford clays and a higher water table making the fills waterlogged and more organic. The southern half of the site, where Trenches 3 and 4 were located, was higher with river terrace sandy gravels.
- 4.1.2 Whilst it is possible that the hollows noted within Trenches 1 and 2 may be archaeological features (quarrying for clay?), the available evidence would suggest otherwise. The basal fills of these hollows were all dark blue grey organic clay silts and were devoid no finds. Furthermore the small amounts of unworked wood found at the base of three of these hollows (**105**, **203** and **207**) are indicative of rooting. This suggests that some of the hollows within the trenches are probably tree throws. The small amount of medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds found in the upper fills of these features are consistent with rooting activity. Directly above the hollows was a band of clay silt containing post-medieval pottery and bone. The close proximity of the River Briggate to the south and the higher water table would have made the northern half of the site waterlogged and would have limited the usage of this part of the site (certainly before the drainage of the Fens in the 1700s). This was in all probability why most of the land directly south of Station Road was given over to meadowland and permanent grass (London School of Economics, 1937).
- 4.1.3 An explanation for the hollows is that they were a result of natural activity such as trees or drainage channels. The blue-grey basal fills are consistent with those of Gley soils, which are developed under conditions of intermittent or permanent waterlogging. Gley soils are often confined to those sites, where anaerobic conditions are a result of waterlogging through surface water collection or groundwater conditions. These hollows would have filled up over time to form a pond, accounting for the large mass of organic fill in Trench 2. The environmental evidence (see appendix C) indicated that the samples taken from the hollows in Trenches 1 and 2 are consistent with flooding events from the nearby river although there was no archaeobotanical evidence (such as ostracods or duckweed) to support this interpretation.
- 4.1.4 In both Trenches 1 and 2, these hollows were sealed by a band of silt clay (103 and 215) containing bone and post-medieval finds. This is most probably a flood silt from one of many episodes of flooding at Whittlesey's fen edge.
- 4.1.5 Both Trench 3 and 4 contained at their eastern end a ditch running in broadly the same north to south orientation. The proximity of the two ditches (**303** and **409**) to each other indicates that it may have been a continuation of the same feature. However there were sufficient differences between the two, such as the width, composition of the fills and the slight difference in orientation to suggest that they could be two separate entities. The only dating evidence for these features came from Trench Three, a fragment of post medieval tile (306).
- 4.1.6 On the existing evidence, if these ditches are two separate features then either ditch **409** must have turned sharply before reaching Trench 3 or terminated between the two trenches. If the ditch did continue on the same trajectory, then it would have been heavily truncated by ditch **303**. There was no evidence of any ditches on the same orientation within Trench 2.
- 4.1.7 The most probable interpretation of these ditches is that they represent boundaries. They follow both the line of the modern Inham's Road and the row of houses on the



site's south western corner as identified on the 1841 Whittlesey Tithe Map (Smalley 2014). There was no evidence to date these ditches as earlier than post-medieval.

- 4.1.8 Although the relationship between ditch **409** in Trench 4 and the mass of potential pits to its west remains uncertain, there was no doubt that the ditch in Trench 3 (**303**) was clearly truncated by pit **308** on its western side.
- 4.1.9 Of interest was the small linear ditch in Trench 3. Despite two excavation slots (**314** and **318**) no dating evidence was produced from this feature. However it is clearly truncated by the adjacent pit (**316**). This ditch may be an example of strip quarrying of the type found at other sites such as at Grantchester (Graham 2015). However, there is a distinct lack of similar features either at this site or in the immediate area. Whilst it is conceivable that this may be some form of beam slot in association with the shallow circular features close by (such as the pit/posthole **320**), there was no evidence of either packing or post within the fills of these excavated features.
- 4.1.10 The most numerous features found within this area were the pits. Those pits individually identified (**316**, **414**, **417** and **419**) were all steep sided and flat based with an average depth of 1m. Their fills were all broadly similar as were the finds retrieved from them, all being mostly post-medieval with a small amount of medieval pot. Within Trench 4 was a potential ditch (**411**), however when excavated it was shown to have the same depth, profile and fills as the other pits. Whilst this could conceivably be the terminal of a ditch, the proximity of the individual pits within the immediate area suggest it is more likely to be a cluster of individual pits.
- 4.1.11 Two notable features found within Trenches 3 and 4 were a large pit (**308**) and the potentially very wide feature **404**. Excavation proved that these features were steep sided, flat based with the same depth as all the individual pits. Although unable to be confirmed during the evaluation, it is highly probable that the apparent large feature in the middle of Trench 4 is a series of smaller intercutting pits of the same type as those directly to its south-west. This may also be the case with the apparent large pit (**308**) in Trench 3. The lower fills of this pit (309, 310) were distinctly darker and more organic than that of the other pits, however this feature was located close to the east-west divide of the site where the river sand gravels become the moist Oxford clays.
- 4.1.12 The most probable function of these pits is that they were for the quarrying of the river sand and gravels in the higher part of the site. Other excavations close to the development area, such as that at Post Office Yard (Thatcher 2008), have provided evidence for medieval quarrying. The lower fill of the pit **411** and the upper fill of pit **404** contained medieval pot (although the same fill within **411** also contained material from the late medieval to the very early post-medieval period). There is evidence for some medieval activity in or around the site as well as the pottery such as the medieval knife and fragments of medieval roof tile. The environmental samples of charred grain taken from pit **411**, combined with the animal bone evidence indicate some form of agricultural activity happening on or close to site. Therefore these pits are potentially a result of medieval quarrying activities that were backfilled later with 18th and 19th century rubbish.
- 4.1.13 The pheasant bones found in pit **316** are consistent with a medieval date, however they were reintroduced in the 19th century and so could equally be used to prove a post-medieval date. Were these features to be medieval quarry pits then this would be consistent to the results from other excavations carried out in the immediate environs.
- 4.1.14 The evidence at present could also indicate that these quarry pits are post-medieval in date which and have disturbed earlier medieval features or soils (which have become

part of the backfill). Only one feature (pit **404**) contained solely medieval pottery and that was in its upper fill. The very large amounts of domestic post-medieval pottery within the pits and hollows often mixed with small amounts of medieval pottery may be indicative of post-medieval quarrying in the 17th and 18th centuries which were then backfilled with domestic rubbish in the 19th century (possibly from the Bricklayer's Arms?).

## **4.2 Significance**

- 4.2.1 Whilst small amounts of post-medieval pottery, tile and bone have been found within the layers beneath the subsoils of Trenches 1 and 2, there is no evidence to suggest specific archaeological features within these trenches pre-dating late 19th century. All the activity within the site seems to have occurred on the slightly higher sands and gravels around Trenches 3 and 4. This activity seems to have been predominately the quarrying of sand and gravel. Whilst the bulk of the material found within the features is from the 18th and 19th century, the presence of low levels of medieval material implies the presence of medieval features either on or immediately beyond the site.

## **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 contains three undated pits, one post-medieval pit. Consists of sealing layer (103), subsoil (101) and a tarmac hardcore overlying natural clays.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.20
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.00
					<b>Length (m)</b>	15.0
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	-	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Layer	-	0.20	Sealing layer	Bone, pot	post-medieval
104	Fill	-	0.24	Upper fill of pit 106	bone	-
105	Cut	1.20	0.32	Pit/Hollow (?)	-	-
106	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of 105	bone	-
107	Cut	2.60	0.66	Pit	-	post-medieval
108	Fill	-	0.66	Fill of 107	CBM, Pot	post-medieval
109	Layer	-	-	Hard stone surface (natural?)	-	-
110	Cut	0.60	0.10	Pit	-	-
111	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 110	-	-
112	Cut	0.22	0.12	Pit/Hollow (?)	-	-
113	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of 112	-	-
Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench consisted of one discrete pit and a large amorphous mass which upon investigation was revealed to contain at least four pits. All features were sealed over by an organic silt clay layer (224), subsoil (201) and a topsoil (200). The natural was clay.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.80
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.00
					<b>Length (m)</b>	30.0
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	1.40	0.38	Pit/Hollow (?)	-	-
204	Fill	-	0.38	Fill of 203	-	-
205	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of 203	Pot, CBM	post-medieval
206	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of 203	-	-

207	Cut	1.50	1.10	Pit/Hollow (?)	-	-
208	Fill	-	1.10	Fill of 207	-	-
209	Fill	-	1.02	Fill of 207	Pot, CBM	post-medieval
210	Fill	-	0.70	Fill of 207	Bone, CBM	-
211	Fill	-	0.50	Fill of 207	-	-
212	Cut	0.40	0.26	Pit/Hollow (?)	-	-
213	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of 212	-	-
214	Fill	-	0.19	Fill of 212	-	-
216	Cut	1.90	0.91	Pit/Hollow (?)	-	-
217	Fill	-	0.91	Fill of 216	-	-
218	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of 216	-	-
219	Fill	-	0.20	Fill of 216	Pot	post-medieval
220	Cut	0.90	0.70	Pit/Hollow (?)	-	-
221	Fill	-	0.70	Fill of 220	-	-
222	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of 220	-	-
223	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of 220	-	-
224	Layer	-	0.20	Sealing layer	-	-

### Trench 3

#### General description

Trench contains two ditch's, three pits and is sealed over by a subsoil (300) and a topsoil (301). Natural is sandy gravels (302)

#### Orientation

NW-SE

#### Avg. depth (m)

0.90

#### Width (m)

2.00

#### Length (m)

30.0

#### Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
300	Layer			Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer			Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer			Natural	-	-
303	Cut	2.00	0.84	Ditch	-	-
304	Fill	-	0.84	Fill of 303	-	-
305	Fill	-	0.81	Fill of 303	-	-
306	Fill	-	0.45	Fill of 303	Pot	post-medieval
307	Cut	0.44	0.46	Pit ?	-	-
308	Cut	4.10	1.35	Pit	-	-
309	Fill	-	1.35	Fill of 309	Bone	-
310	Fill	-	1.24	Fill of 309	-	-
311	Fill	-	0.95	Fill of 309	CBM	medieval
312	Fill	-	0.34	Fill of 309	Bone, Pot, CBM	post-medieval

313	Fill	-	0.08	Fill of 314	-	-
314	Cut	0.50	0.24	Ditch	-	-
315	Fill	-	0.24	Fill of 314	-	-
316	Cut	2.00	0.95	Pit	-	-
317	Fill	-	0.95	Fill of 316	Bone, Pipe Glass, Pot, metal	post-medieval
318	Cut	0.62	0.30	Ditch cut	-	-
319	Fill	-	0.30	Fill of 318	-	-
320	Cut	0.50	0.12	Pit	-	-
321	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of 320	-	-
322	Fill	-	0.46	Fill of 307	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a definite ditch 409, a probable ditch and a series of inter-cutting pits. The trench is sealed over by a sub soil (401) and a topsoil (400) over a sand gravel natural (402)					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	30.0
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-		Natural	-	-
404	Cut	-	1.00	Pit	-	-
405	Fill	-	1.00	Fill of 404	-	-
406	Fill	-	1.00	Fill of 404	-	-
407	Fill	-	0.80	Fill of 404	-	-
408	Fill	-	0.80	Fill of 404	Pot, CBM	Medieval?
409	Cut	1.44	0.50	Ditch	-	-
410	Fill	-	0.50	Fill of 409	Bone	-
411	Cut	1.12	1.20	Ditch terminal/Pit	-	-
412	Fill	-	0.80	Fill of 411	metal	medieval
413	Fill	-	1.20	Fill of 411	Bone, Pot	medieval
414	Cut	0.90	1.00	Pit	-	-
415	Fill	-	1.00	Fill of 414	Glass, Pot, Pipe	post-medieval
416	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of 414	Glass, Pot, Pipe, CBM	post-medieval
417	Cut	0.60	0.52	Pit	-	-
418	Fill	-	0.52	Fill of 417	Pipe, CBM	post-medieval

419	Cut	2.50	0.98	Pit	-	-
420	Fill	-	0.62	Fill of 419	Metal	post-medieval
421	Fill	-	0.98	Fill of 419	-	-
422	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of 411	-	-
423	Fill	-	0.86	Fill of 414	-	-
424	Fill	-	0.46	Fill of 414	-	-

## APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Pottery

*by Carole Fletcher*

#### **Introduction and methodology**

- B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 140 sherds, weighing 5.3kg. The assemblage spans the mid 12th to the end of the 19th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is unabraded to moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is moderate at approximately 0.038kg.
- B.1.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG 2001) act as a standard for the post-Roman pottery.
- B.1.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

#### **Results**

- B.1.4 Layer 103 produced a single sherd from a Post-medieval Redware jar, while pit **203** produced a single sherd from a Bourne 'D' ware jug and a sherd of south-east Fenland Medieval calcareous buff ware. The latter sherd appears to be from a large bowl, however it is sooted internally and may be a fragment from a curfew. The date of this context is likely to be early 15th century if both the south-east Fenland Medieval calcareous buff ware and the Bourne 'D' ware are contemporary.
- B.1.5 Pit **216** produced residual medieval sherds alongside the base from a post-medieval Black-Glazed ware type. Ditch **303** and pit **308** both produced single sherds of Post-medieval redware, suggesting a date of mid 16th to end of the 18th century.
- B.1.6 From pit **316**, were recovered 20 sherds of pottery weighing 0.562kg, the third largest feature assemblage from the excavation. The context assemblage includes a large fragment from a Frechen Stoneware jug decorated with an armorial design dating from the mid 16th to end of the 17th century. Also present were two small sherds from a Tin-Glazed Earthenware jug, small fragments from a Metropolitan-type Slipware bowl and the bulk of the material recovered being from Post-medieval Redware vessels, mainly bowls.
- B.1.7 Pit **404** produced a small sherd from a Medieval Ely ware green-glazed jug dating from the mid 12th to mid 14th century, while context 413 produced both late Medieval reduced ware and Bourne D ware, suggesting a 15th century date range for the context
- B.1.8 Two contexts from quarry pit **414** produced pottery, context 415 produced the second largest feature assemblage from the excavation, while 416 produced the bulk of the pottery recovered from the excavation. Context 415 produced 16 sherds of blue coloured dyed bodied ware that dates from *circa* 1820 to the end of the 19th century. These sherds included fragments from a minimum of two sources and a cup or small bowl; similar sherds were recovered from context 416.

- B.1.9 Also present was a sherd from a flow blue flared cup and the base foot ring from another Pearlware drinking vessel, again most likely a cup. Large sherds providing the complete profile of a Pearlware carnation bowl with sponged decoration was also recovered, dating from the early part of the 19th century. Other fabrics present include a sherd from a refined white earthenware slip-decorated bowl, also small pieces of 19th century creamware and Staffordshire white salt-glazed ware, both of which are residual, alongside the Post-medieval Redware shards. Overall the context dates to the 19th century.
- B.1.10 The second context in quarry **414**, **416**, produced 33 sherds weighing 1.064kg of transfer-printed Pearlwares, including serving vessels, plates and a baluster-type jug. Also present were sherds from a large Nottingham sherd/Derbyshire stoneware jar, an English stoneware bottle and a small English stoneware jar that may have contained ointment. Also present were a small number of residual Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware sherds alongside a number of Post-medieval Redware shards. Overall the context and the feature dates to the 19th century.

### ***Discussion***

- B.1.11 The assemblage is domestic in nature, there are a small number of medieval sherds present that suggest some level of medieval activity in the vicinity of the site, although no features have been dated to this period, the majority of the fabrics being residual within later features. A number of the post-medieval sherds relate to the consumption of liquids such as the tyg fragments and the Frechen drinking jug, suggesting perhaps that the Bricklayers Arms was continuing the tradition of beer drinking that started in the vicinity of the site during the post-medieval period.
- B.1.12 The majority of the pottery recovered comes from quarry pits that appear to have been backfilled in the 19th century, although possibly the origins of the quarry are earlier. A great deal of the 19th century pottery relates to the serving and consumption of food and drink. Much of the pottery is transfer-printed Pearlwares, many decorated with willow pattern-type designs, although the pattern and quality varied, suggesting they were not all from one service. A transfer-printed Pearlware plate from context 416 was marked on the base MOORE & CO. This mark is illustrated in Godden and relates to (Samuel) Moore & Co of Southwick, Sunderland, Durham, who produced pottery featuring this mark between 1803-74 (Godden 1991 447, No. 2744). A plate rim bore a partial makers' mark showing part of a unicorn and coat of arms, above which were the letters NTED which may be part of the word warranted or patented, however the design has not been identified. The majority of the Pearlwares and other early modern fabrics are related to the serving of food and consumption of liquids and some if not all of this 19th century assemblage may have come from the Bricklayer Arms.



### Pottery Catalogue

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Sherd No.	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range
103		- Post-medieval Redware	Jar	1	0.005	1550-1800
205	<b>203</b>	Bourne 'D' ware	Jug	1	0.024	1430-1650
209	<b>207</b>	Bourne 'D' ware	Bowl	1	0.034	1430-1650
		Bourne 'D' ware	Jug	1	0.015	1430-1650
		South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff Ware	?Curfew	1	0.021	1150-1450
219	<b>216</b>	East Anglian Redware (late)		2	0.018	1350-1550
		Medieval Coarseware		1	0.031	1200-1500
		Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware	Drinking vessel – tyg	1	0.142	1580-1700
306	<b>303</b>	Post-medieval Redware	Bowl	1	0.004	1550-1800
312	<b>308</b>	Post-medieval Redware	Bowl	1	0.013	1550-1800
317	<b>316</b>	Bichrome	Bowl	1	0.010	1480-1600
		Frechen Stoneware	Drinking jug	1	0.076	1550-1700
		Metropolitan-type Slipware	Bowl	1	0.003	1630- 1700
		Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware		1	0.002	1580-1700
		Post-medieval Redware		1	0.015	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware	Bowl	1	0.019	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware	Flared bowl	1	0.131	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware	Bowl/lid	1	0.014	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware	Handled jar	7	0.149	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware/Transitional Redware	Jar	2	0.043	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware – Broad Street Red Earthenware	Bowl	1	0.094	1550-1800
		Tin Glazed Earthenware	Jug	2	0.006	1570-1846
408	<b>404</b>	Medieval Ely ware	Jug	1	0.003	1150-1350
413	<b>411</b>	Bourne 'D' ware		1	0.011	1430-1650
		Bourne 'D' ware	Jug	1	0.142	1430-1650
		Late Medieval Reduced ware	Bowl	1	0.021	1350-1500
415	<b>414</b>	Bone China	Bowl	1	0.022	1794-1900
		Creamware		3	0.003	1740-1830
		Dyed Bodied ware		2	0.023	1820-1900
		Dyed Bodied ware	Saucer	6	0.189	1820-1900
		Dyed Bodied ware	Drinking vessel	5	0.127	1820-1900
		Dyed Bodied ware	Drinking vessel Cup	3	0.103	1820-1900
		Pearlware	Plate	2	0.040	1770-1840
		Pearlware	Drinking vessel	1	0.005	1770-1840

<i>Context</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Sherd No.</i>	<i>Weight (kg)</i>	<i>Pottery Date Range</i>
416		Pearlware	Jug	2	0.030	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Flow blue	Drinking vessel: flared cup	1	0.021	1830-1900
		Pearlware – Sponged	Carinated bowl	1	0.131	1800-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed	Oval dish	2	0.060	1770-1840
		Porcelain		1	0.005	1745-1900
		Post-medieval Black glazed ware	Bowl	1	0.002	1580-1700
		Post-medieval Redware – Broad Street Red Earthenware	Handled bowl	1	0.045	1550-1800
		Refined White Earthenware		2	0.033	1805-1900
		Refined White Earthenware – industrial slipware	Flared bowl	1	0.038	1805-1900
		Staffordshire White Salt-Glazed ware		1	0.003	1720-1780
		Bone China	Bowl	6	0.122	1794-1900
		English Stoneware	Bottle	1	0.138	1700-1900
		English Stoneware	Jar	1	0.085	1700-1900
		Late slipped kitchen wares	Bowl	1	0.030	1800-1900
		Nottinghamshire/ Derbyshire stoneware	Jar	3	0.255	1700-1900
		Pearlware		1	0.007	1770-1840
		Pearlware	Oval shell-edged serving plate	7	0.548	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Sponged	Handled bowl: chamberpot	3	0.142	1800-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed		4	0.028	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed	Bowl	3	0.062	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed	Plate	14	0.379	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed	Serving vessel	1	0.024	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed	Oval serving vessel	9	0.329	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed	Jug	1	0.018	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed	Baluster jug	1	0.224	1770-1840
		Pearlware – Transfer-printed/painted	Jug	3	0.070	1770-1840
		Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware	Bowl	3	0.345	1580-1700

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Sherd No.	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range
		Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware	Flared bowl	1	0.333	1580-1700
		Post-medieval Redware	Bowl	1	0.071	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware	Bowl/jar	1	0.024	1550-1800
		Post-medieval Redware - Broad Street Red Earthenware	Bowl	1	0.031	1550-1800
		Yellow ware - industrial slipware	Bowl	2	0.082	1820-1900
		Yellow ware - Industrial Slipware	Rounded bowl	1	0.027	1820-1900
				<b>140</b>	<b>5.300</b>	
<b>Total</b>						

Table 1: Pottery quantification

## B.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe

by Carole Fletcher

- B.2.1 The excavation generated a small assemblage of material (0.150kg). Context 317 produced fragments of 17th-century clay pipe, while context 416 produced 19th century material, the most interesting of these being the clay pipe bowls decorated with images of beehives. In the 19th century it was common for pipes to be decorated, often with a form of advertising, commonly symbols representing public houses. There seems to be no suggestion that the Bricklayers Arms had a different name, and no pub in the village appears to have been called either the bee keeper or the beehive. It is unclear what the beehive on these clay pipes actually represents, although it is possibly masonic.

Context	Cut	No. Stems	No. complete or partial bowls	Weight (kg)	Description	Date
317	316		1	0.009	Complete bowl with partial heel, no stem. Most likely an Oswald type 5	1640-1660
			1	0.011	Near complete burnt bowl having lost part of rim small section of incised line below rim survives, most likely rouletted, the heel/foot are missing. Appears to be an Oswald type 5	1640-1660
		6		0.025	Various stems all unmarked	Not closely datable
415	414	1		0.001	Mouthpiece glazed in a pale olive green	Not closely datable
		9		0.020	various stems, mostly unabraded	Not closely datable
416			1	0.003	Partial bowl decorated along the seam lines and on both sides of the bowl a beehive. Above this and below the rim are three faint images, most likely bees. Below the beehives is a spray of what appear to be leaves. Oswald type 24	1810-1840
			1	0.007	Complete bowl broken at end of stem,	1810-1840

Context	Cut	No. Stems	No. complete or partial bowls	Weight (kg)	Description	Date
					decorated along the seam lines and on both sides of the bowl a beehive. Above this and below the rim are three faint images, most likely bees. Below the beehives is a spray of what appear to be leaves. Oswald type 24	
			1	0.008	Complete bowl and partial stem and heel, decorated along the seam lines and on both sides of the bowl a beehive. Above this and below the rim of three faint images, most likely bees. Below the beehives is a spray of what appear to be leaves. Oswald type 24	1810-1840
			1	0.007	Complete undecorated bowl broken above the heel/stem. Oswald type 24	1810-1840
			1	0.011	Complete undecorated bowl and partial stem and heel. Oswald type 24	1810-1840
			1	0.011	Complete undecorated bowl and partial stem and heel. Oswald type 24	1810-1840
		9		0.035	Various stems mostly unabraded	Not closely datable
418	417	1		0.002	Single stem fragment	Not closely datable
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.150</b>		

Table 2: Clay Tobacco Pipe

### B.3 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

- B.3.1 The excavation produced a number of shards of window and vessel glass, including from natural black glass bottles and two stemware drinking vessels. Where the material can be dated it is mainly 19th century. The glass most likely relates to the building's usage as a pub and to its residents.

Context	Cut	Weight (kg)	Form	Detail	Date
317	316	0.038	Bottle	Four shards from a dark olive green/natural black glass bottle that is heavily iridised.	?18th -19th century
415	414	0.006	Vessel	Folded rim of clear colourless glass covered with a translucent white film. The rim is decorated with vertical wheel-engraved cuts. Possibly from a beaker or vase.	?19th century
416	414	0.003	Window glass	Single irregular fragment of clear, near colourless glass, slightly cloudy surfaces, relatively fresh breaks and no grazed edges. 2mm thick	Not closely datable
		0.050	Bottle	Two body shards from a cylindrical dark olive green/natural black glass bottle	Not closely datable
		0.181	Drinking vessel - stem	In clear colourless glass, a partial foot, stem and bowl. The foot is plain-conical with a partially	19th century

Context	Cut	Weight (kg)	Form	Detail	Date
			ware	polished pontil mark. The stem is plain and undecorated, the bowl shape is indeterminate but may be ovoid/funnel or cup. Most likely a rummer or goblet type of glass	
		0.045	Drinking vessel - stemware	In clear colourless glass, an undecorated stem and base of bowl from a trumpet or conical form glass.	19th century
<b>Total</b>		<b>0.323</b>			

Table 3: Glass

## B.4 Ceramic Building Material

by Carole Fletcher with Robert Atkins

- B.4.1 Nine fragments of ceramic building material, and a single fragment of undiagnostic fired clay were recovered. The majority of the roof tile is medieval and does not appear to relate to the building or buildings associated with the Bricklayers Arms, and is most likely residual. The single fragment of floor brick recovered from pit **417** has a smooth, worn upper surface, suggesting it came from an area of relatively high foot traffic, possibly within the Bricklayers Arms itself.

Context	Cut	Material	Form	Count	Weight (kg)	Date
205	<b>203</b>	Ceramic	Roof tile	2	0.083	Medieval
209	<b>207</b>	Ceramic	Roof tile	1	0.067	Medieval
210		Fred clay	Undiagnostic	1	0.012	Not closely datable
311	<b>308</b>	Ceramic	Roof tile	1	0.040	Medieval
312		Ceramic	Roof tile	1	0.017	Post-medieval
408	<b>404</b>	Ceramic	Roof tile	1	0.016	Medieval
416	<b>414</b>	Ceramic	Roof tile	1	0.095	19th-early 20th century
		Ceramic	Brick	1	0.039	19th-early 20th century
418	<b>417</b>	Ceramic	Floor brick	1	0.535	Late 18-19th century
<b>Total</b>				<b>10</b>	<b>0.904</b>	

Table 4: Ceramic Building Material

## B.5 Metalwork Catalogue

By Chris Faine

- B.5.1 SF 1 (Context 420) Copper alloy *duit* of Gelderland. Dated 1703. Obverse: Crowned arms of Gelderland. Inscription: IN DEO SP NOS. Reverse inscription: \*D\*/GEL/RIÆ 1703. Diameter: 22.7mm.
- B.5.2 SF 2 (Context 317) Square section iron masonry nail, with square head. Length: 94mm. Medieval/Post-Medieval
- B.5.3 SF 3 (Context 412) Iron knife blade. Badly corroded. Whittle tang set below back with sloping shoulder. Length: 78.7mm. Medieval.

## APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Animal Bone

*By Chris Faine*

- C.1.1 A total of 1.4kg of animal bone was recovered during the evaluation. The assemblage consisted of 30 fragments of which 20 were identifiable to species. Faunal material was recovered from Late Medieval/Post-Medieval contexts. Table 5 shows the species present in terms of fragment numbers (NISP). Sheep are the dominant taxon, consisting largely of butchered limb elements with 3 mandibles being recovered from contexts 103, 413 & 410, all from animals around 4-6 years of age at death. Smaller numbers of cattle were also recovered, again consisting of butchered long bones.
- C.1.2 Context 309 contained a juvenile metacarpal fragment. A partial horse radius and mandible were recovered from contexts 312 & 317 respectively. A single old adult pig mandible was recovered context 210. Context 317 contained a partial pheasant cranium and mandible. Naturalised in Britain by the 10th Century, the largest number of pheasant remains have been recovered from Late Medieval sites, with the species largely disappearing from Britain in the 17th century until the early 1800's (Albarella & Thomas, 2002). This a small assemblage representing general settlement waste. No further work is recommended.

	NISP	NISP %	MNI	MNI %
Cattle ( <i>Bos</i> )	6	30	5	33.3
Sheep/Goat ( <i>Ovis/Capra</i> )	9	45	5	33.3
Pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	1	5	1	6.6
Horse ( <i>Equus</i> )	3	15	3	33.3
Pheasant ( <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> )	1	5	1	6.6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 5: Bone species distribution

### C.2 Mollusca

*by Carole Fletcher*

- C.2.1 Oyster and cockle shells were recovered from the excavation, all are indicative of consumption of shellfish and are not in themselves closely datable. The low numbers suggest these may be residual and do not relate directly to the occupation of the Bricklayers Arms.

Context	Cut	Count	Weight (kg)	Material
209	207	1	0.005	Oyster ( <i>Ostrea edulis</i> )
210	207	4	0.036	Oyster
306	303	1	0.009	Oyster
317	316	2	0.082	Oyster
410	409	1	0.003	Oyster
413	411	2	0.004	Cockle ( <i>Cerastoderma edule</i> )
		2	0.004	Oyster

Table 6: Mollusca



### C.3 Environmental Samples

*By Rachel Fosberry*

#### **Introduction**

- C.3.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas at The Bricklayers Arms, Station Road, Whittlesey in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- C.3.2 Features sampled include quarry pits and a ditch.

#### **Methodology**

- C.3.3 For this initial assessment one bucket (approximately 10 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 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table xxx. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

#### **Quantification**

- C.3.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories
- # = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens #### = 100+ specimens
- C.3.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance
- + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

#### **Results**

- C.3.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor with most of the samples producing small flot volumes. The results are discussed by trench number.

#### **Trench One**

- C.3.7 Sample 6 was taken from a band of silt clay layer 103 encountered in Trench One. Both flot and residue were devoid of preserved remains other than rootlets.

#### **Trench Two**

- C.3.8 Sample 7 was taken from clay silt layer 209 and contains fine rootlets and fragments of a wood branch that is untransformed and possibly contemporary with the deposit. This

trench was located in the north-east corner of the site in an allotment area at the back of the pub.

### Trench Three

- C.3.9 Trench three was located within the middle of the development area. Sample 1 was taken from the second fill 305 of ditch **303** and contains occasional charred free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains. Sample 2, (fill 310) was taken from the secondary fill of possible pit **308**. Both flot and residue were devoid of preserved remains.

### Trench Four

- C.3.10 This trench was located at the southern end of the site and contained intercutting pits of which Sample 3 was taken from final fill 408 of pit 404. The sample contains occasional charred wheat grains and small fragments of animal bone, some of which is burnt
- C.3.11 Two samples were taken from primary fill 413 (Sample 5) and subsequent fill 412 (Sample 4) of feature **411**. Sample 5 is the most productive sample from this site and contains abundant charred barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wheat grains. Charred weed seeds include dock (*Rumex* sp.) and clover (*Trifolium* sp.) which are likely to have been harvested with the cereals. There are also several charred sedge (*Carex* sp.) seeds present. This wetland plant species grows in damp soils and may indicated the use of sedges as fuel, bedding or flooring material or may represent the burning of peat. Occasional fish bones may be evidence of consumption of fish in addition to 7 cockle shells which are also likely to be a dietary constituent. Sample 4 contains only occasional barley seeds which may have been redeposited from the previous fill.

Sample No.	Cxft No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Trench No.	Vol processed (L)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Flot comments
1	305	303	Ditch	3	8	#	0	0	#	+	Occasional charred wheat grains, single charred sedge seed
2	310	308	Pit	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	no preservation
3	408	404	Pit		8	#	0	0	0	+	occasional charred wheat
4	412	411	Linear		6	#	0	0	0	+	occasional barley grains
5	413	411	Linear		9	###	0	0	##	++	abundant charred barley and wheat grains and sedge seeds
6	103		Layer	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	no preservation
7	209	207	Fill	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	no preservation

Table 7: Environmental samples

### Discussion

- C.3.12 The environmental samples taken from The Bricklayers Arms, Station Road, Whittlesey are largely uninformative other than Sample 5 fill 413 of pit **411** which represents a deliberate deposit of charred grain that is likely to have either been accidentally burnt and discarded or may represent the deliberate burning of spoilt grain mixed with dirty flooring material. The scarcity of crop weed seeds and the lack of chaff (cereal stem fragments) suggest that the grain had been fully processed prior to burning. Both wheat and barley are staple cereals that would have been used for human consumption (in the form of bread, stews and beer) and also as animal fodder. The charred sedge seeds are interesting as they may represent the use of peat as fuel although charred reed stems (culm nodes) were not noted.



- C.3.13 The clay silts encountered in trenches 1 and 2 could possibly represent flooding events from the nearby river although there was no archaeobotanical evidence (such as ostracods or duckweed) to support this interpretation.

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## APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-209399		
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at the Bricklayers Arms Public House, Whittlesey.		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	31-03-2015	Finish 03-04-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WHSBLA15	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB4408	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - Direction 4
Development Type	Urban Residential

### 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input checked="" 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
Ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Pit	Uncertain	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...	Animal bone	Uncertain

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Fenland	The Bricklayer's Arms 9 Station Rd Whittlesey, PE7 1UA
Parish	Whittlesey	
HER	CCC store	
Study Area	0.26	National Grid Reference TL 2715 9684

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	Helen Stocks-Morgan
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Steve Graham

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC store	OA East	CCC store
WHSBLA15	WHSBLA15	WHSBLA15

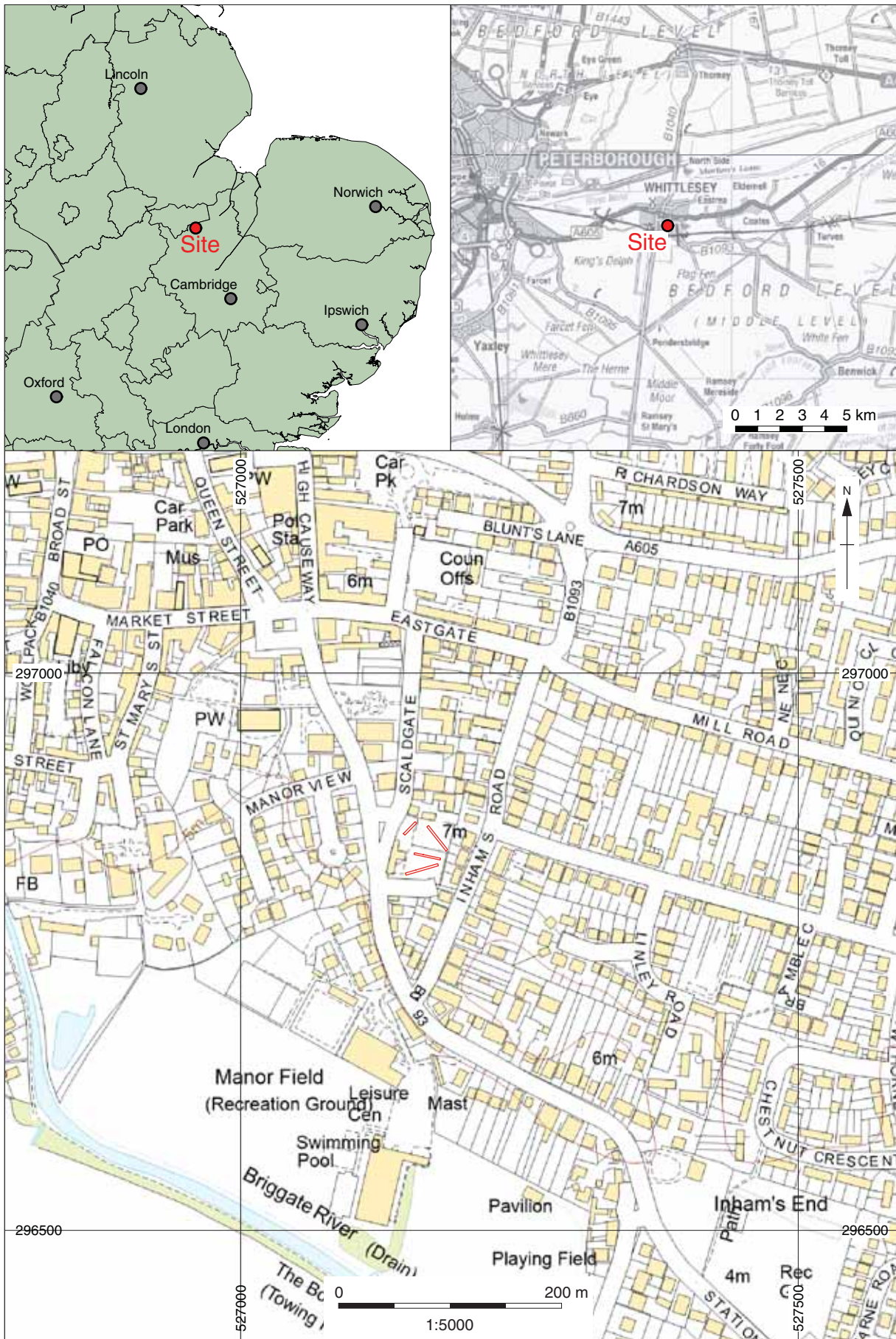
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Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### Notes:





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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (red)

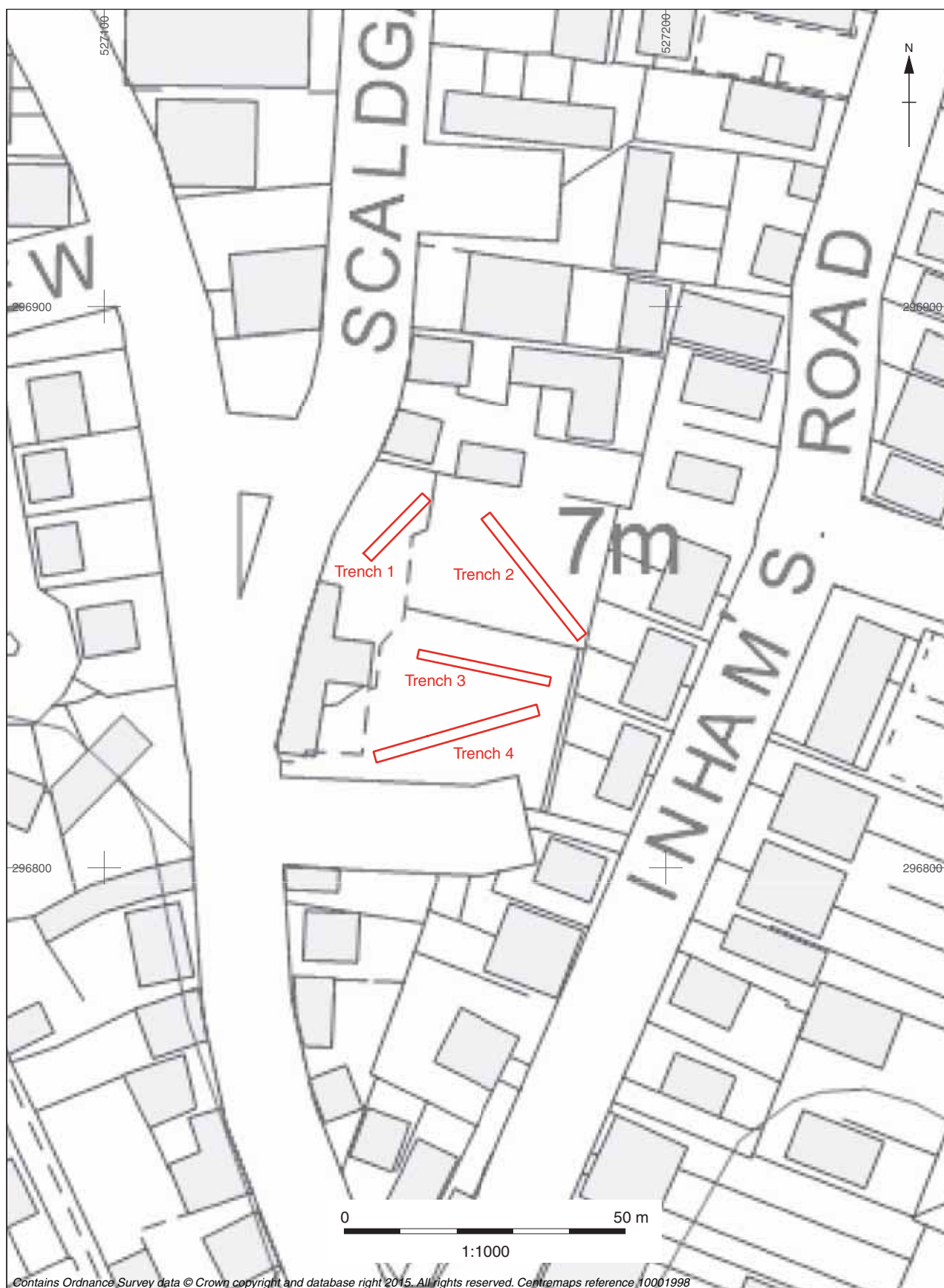


Figure 2: Trench location plan

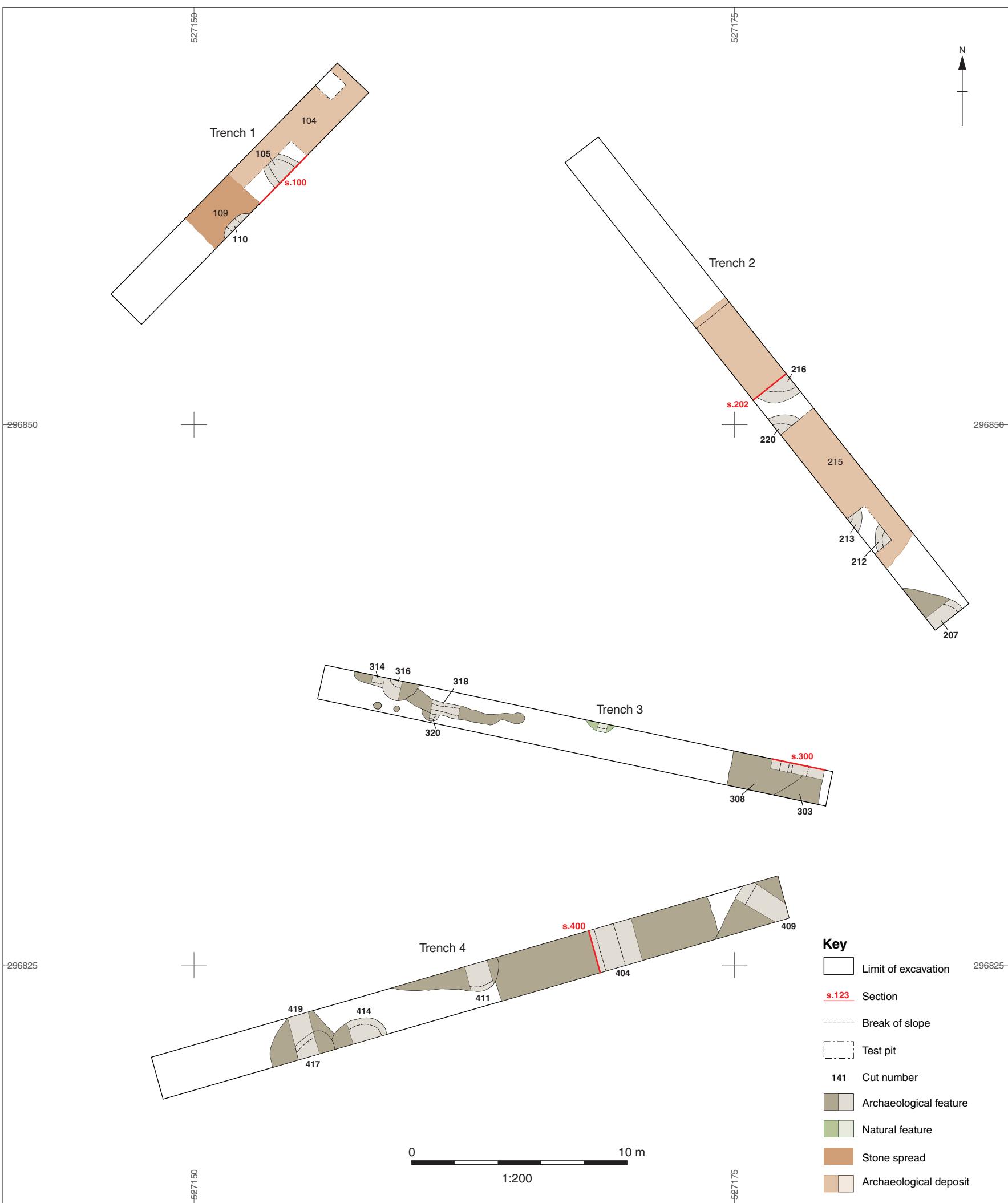


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1, 2, 3 and 4



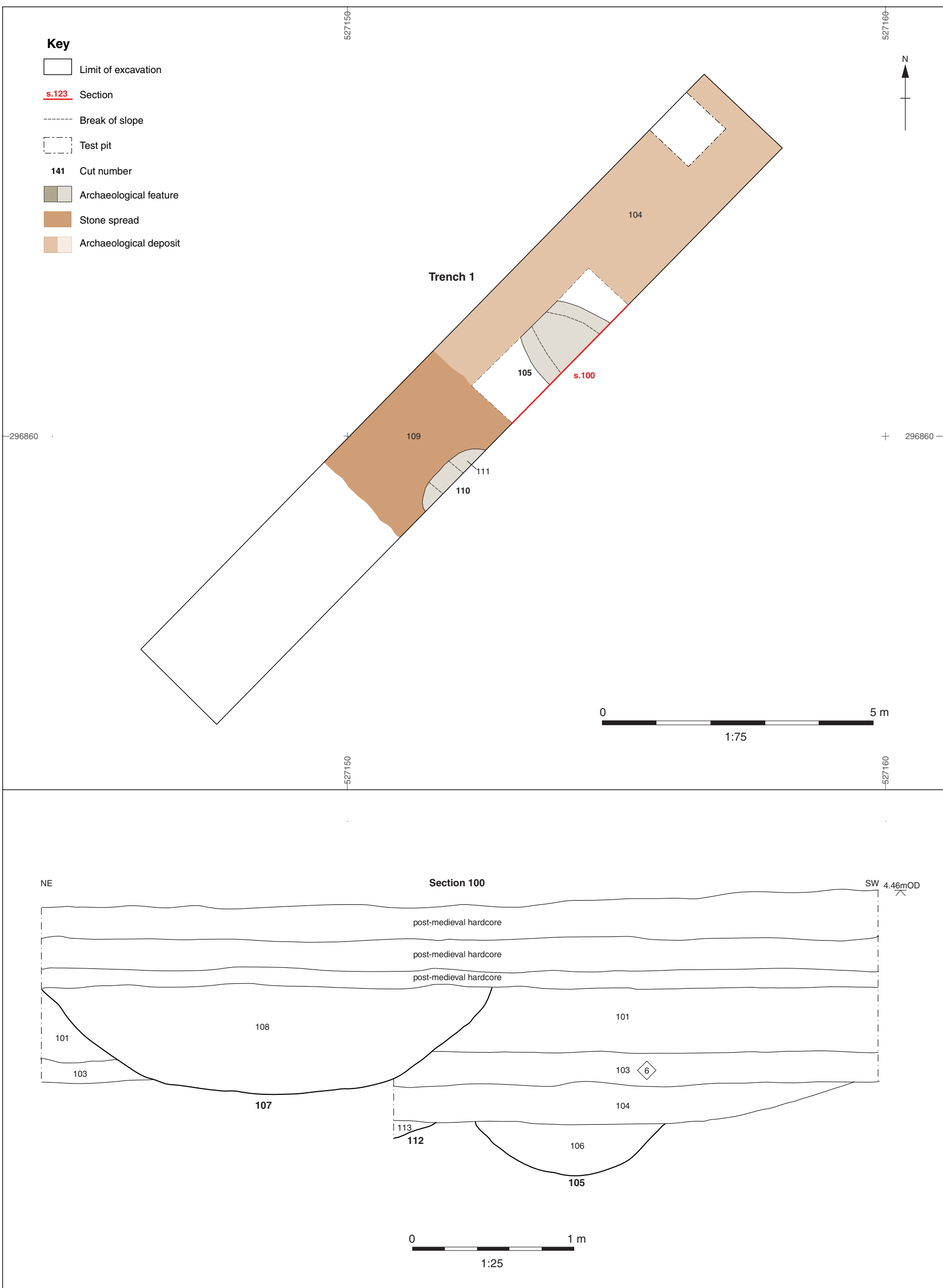


Figure 4: Profile of trench 1 and section 100

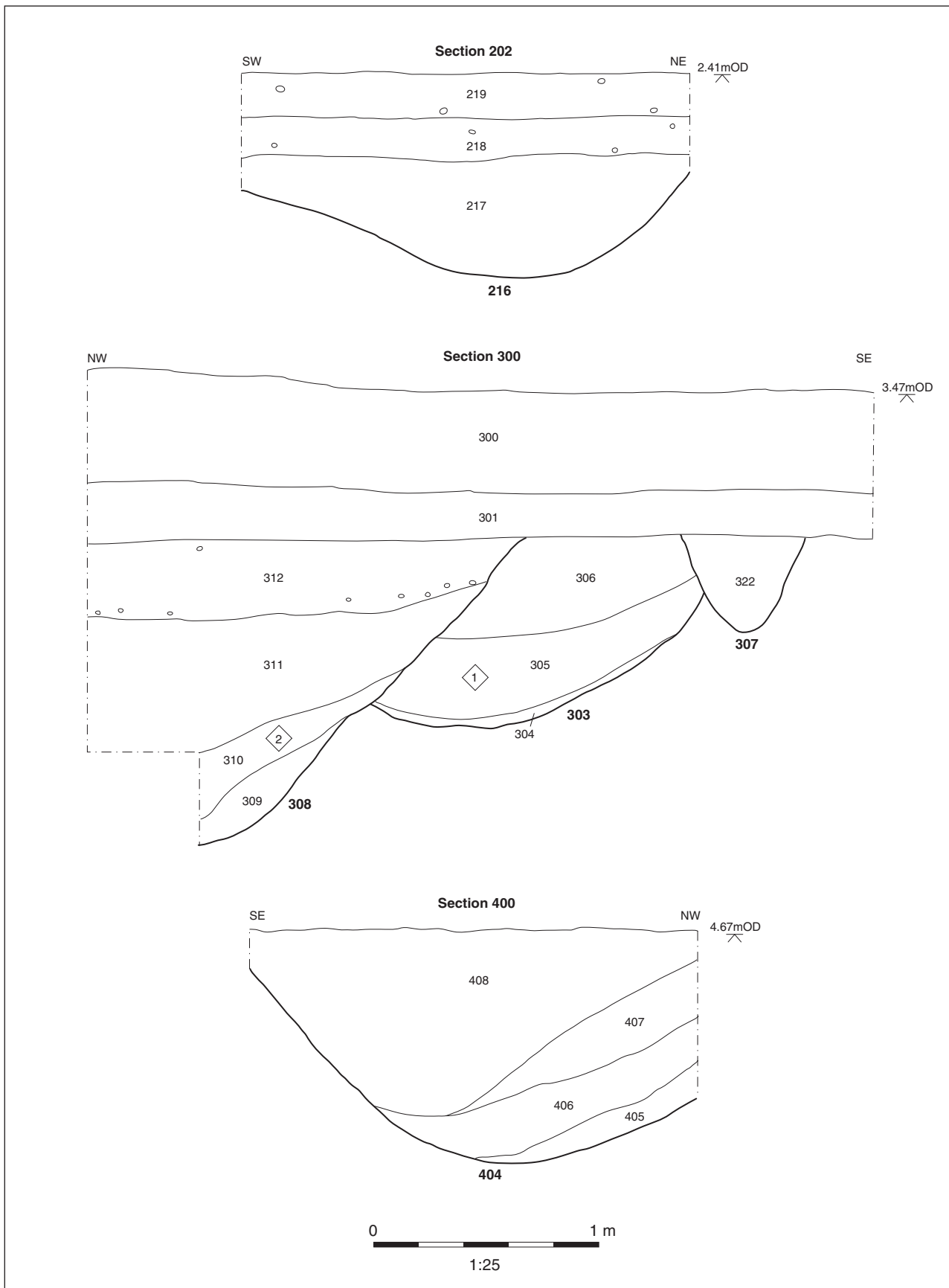


Figure 5: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing north



Plate 2: Fill of hollow **105** within Trench 1, from the south-east





Plate 4: Trench 3, from the south-west



Plate 3: Trench 2, from the north-west





Plate 5: Pit **404**, from the east



Plate 6: Ditch **409**, from the south-east

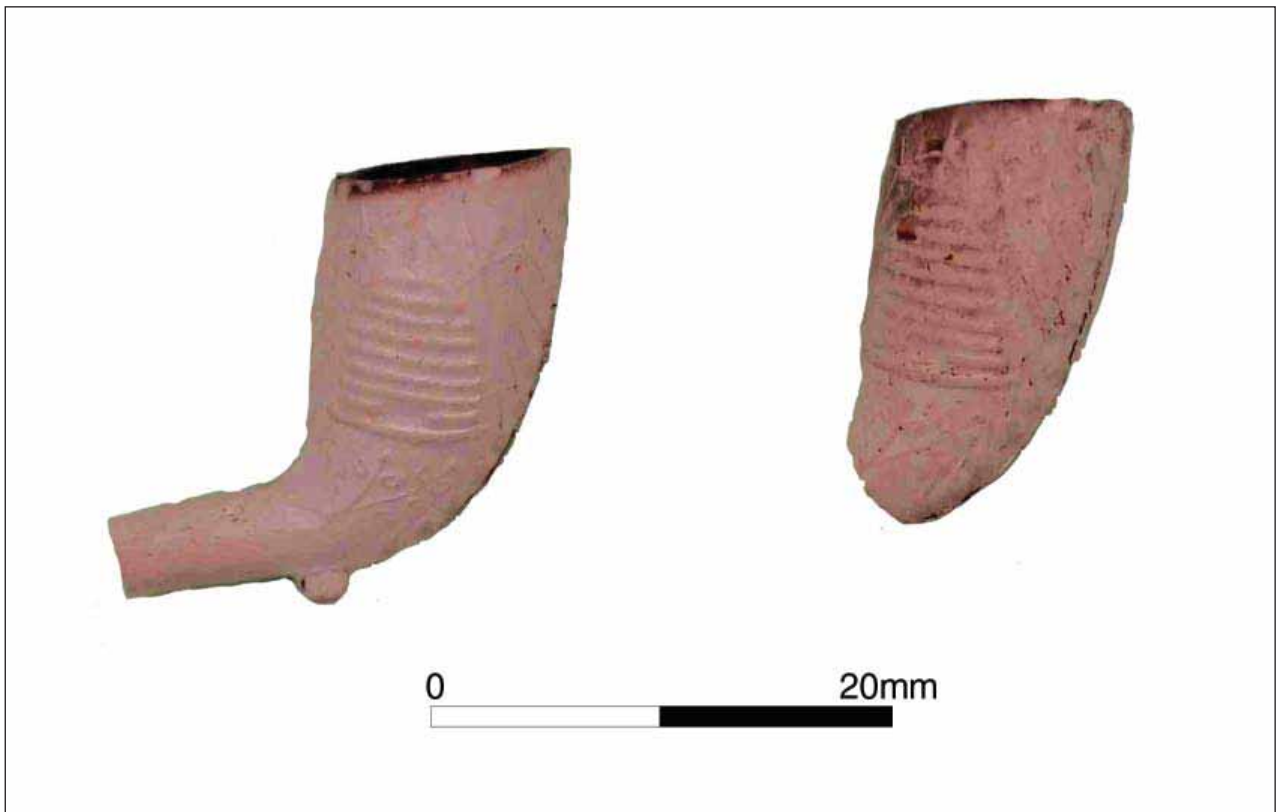


Plate 7: Clay pipes with beehive design from the 19th century found within quarry pit **316**



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