

Evaluation of Land
to the rear of
17-19 Bandon Road,
Girton,
Cambridgeshire



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



October 2016

**Client: DPA Architects on behalf of
Dean and Dean Construction Ltd.**

OA East Report No: 1991
OASIS No: oxfordar3-264040
NGR: TL4277 6073

Evaluation of Land to the rear of 17-19 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: October 2016

Report Number: 1991
Site Name: 17 Bandon Road, Girton
HER Event No: ECB 4802
Date of Works: September 2016
Client Name: DPA Architects on behalf of Dean and Dean Construction Ltd.
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: S/0849/16/FUL
Grid Ref: TL4277 6073
Site Code: CAMBRG16
Finance Code: CAMBRG16
Receiving Body: CCC Stores

Accession No:

Prepared by: Anthony Haskins
Position: Fieldwork Project Officer
Date: 7/10/2016

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 10/10/2016
Signed: 

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East excavated three trenches on land to the rear of numbers 17 – 19 Bandon Road, Girton Cambridgeshire (TL 4277 6073) over two days in September 2016. A small number of modern features were revealed including a ditch and a modern glass and plastic bottle dump.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the rear of numbers 17-19 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridgeshire (TL4277 6073).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/0849/16/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Mortimer 2016).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development 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 within an area of housing on the outskirts of Girton and Cambridge close to Huntingdon Road. The site lies at c.25m OD and is on a bedrock of gault formation with overlying superficial deposits of silt, sand, clay and gravels (BGS).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential as recorded by information held by the County Historic Environment Record (HER). It is located in the hinterland of the Roman town of Cambridge and adjacent to one of the town's principal access roads. The surrounding landscape contains extensive evidence for prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval activity.
- 1.3.2 Prehistoric activity includes the identification of substantial Bronze Age enclosures and monuments during excavations in advance of the University of Cambridge North West development to the south. Iron Age activity is also evident from excavations undertaken in advance of the proposed development of Darwin Green to the east, and cropmarks to the north-east.
- 1.3.3 Roman activity is suggested by the proximity of the road linking the Roman town at Cambridge with Godmanchester (the current version, Huntingdon Rd, being just 35m to the south of the site) and the extensive areas of settlement identified by the excavations of the University site to the south side of Huntingdon Road. Further evidence of Roman activity is evident from Darwin Green and includes a cemetery and a feature interpreted as a shrine or temple. Burials of Roman date are also recorded at Girton College to the west.
- 1.3.4 An extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery is recorded at Girton College to the West. The excavations at the University North West development identified an area of Medieval settlement to the south east. This probably relates to a small area of settlement known as Howes Close, which was abandoned in the late medieval period.

- 1.3.5 The Ordnance Survey maps from 1885 show the site lying within fields until residential development in the post-war years.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Nicole Close of DPA Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of Dean and Dean Construction Ltd. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team monitored the works. The site work was carried out by Anthony Haskins and site survey by Dave Brown.

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 a 5% sample of the site was excavated through linear trenching. Three trenches 1.8m wide and measuring 35m, 25m and a 17m in length were excavated across the site.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Lecia GS08.
- 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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 No environmental sampling was carried out as all excavated features were modern. Bucket sampling as specified in the brief was carried out on site on the deposits within the area but these proved largely sterile with only obviously modern material recovered.
- 2.2.7 The site was a derelict area around the back of Bandon Lane. It was largely covered with dense scrub. The site was excavated in good light.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 All three trenches were similar in formation, with a reduced topsoil generally c. 0.20m deep overlying a natural of reddish-brown to reddish-yellow sandy clay. No finds other than the very modern were recovered from any of the trenches and a description of the trenches is presented in Appendix A.

3.2 Modern Features

Trench 3

3.2.1 A single unexcavated feature was revealed in this trench. The feature was circular in plan and contained a number of glass and plastic jars and bottles.

Trench 2

3.2.2 The trench contained a modern service run made from salt glaze pipe, a water pipe and two field drains. One of the two field drains (**4**) was truncated by ditch (**2**). Ditch **2** was a linear feature, which had steep sides and a V-shaped profile was 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep. The ditch was filled with a reddish-brown sandy clay.

3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 The only artefactual remains (bricks and bottles) were obviously modern and have not been retained.

3.4 Environmental Summary

3.4.1 No environmental samples were taken.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Modern Features

4.1.1 The only identified features were in trenches 2 and 3. These comprised a small modern bottle dump, which contained glass and plastic bottles, a modern ditch and two land drains.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 No significant archaeological features or finds were recovered from the excavation.

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						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of clayey sand and sandy clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.2
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	17
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of clayey sand and sandy clay. The natural was cut by a modern water pipe, a modern salt glazed pipe, two field drains and a modern ditch					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1	Fill	1.1	0.45	Fill of 2	-	Modern
2	Cut	1.1	0.45	Cut of Ditch	-	Modern
3	Fill	0.25	0.25	Fill of 4	-	Late Post-Med or Modern
4	Cut	0.25	0.25	Cut of field drain	-	Late Post-Med or Modern
Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of clayey sand and sandy clay. The natural was cut by a small modern pit					Avg. depth (m)	0.2
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	35
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> website accessed 28/09/2016

Mortimer, R. 2016 Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Evaluation, 17 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire Unpublished

Thomas, A. 2016 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, 17 Brandon Road, Girton Unpublished

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-264040			
Project Name	Evaluation of Land at 17-19 Bandon Road, Girton, Cambridgeshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	27-09-2016	Finish	27-09-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMBRG16	Planning App. No.	S/0849/16/FL
HER No.	ECB4802	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Housing Estate

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input 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
Ditch	Modern 1901 to Present	None	Select period...
Pit	Modern 1901 to Present		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	South Cambridgeshire	17 - 19 Brandon Road
Parish	Girton	Girton
HER	Cambridgeshire	Cambridgeshire
Study Area	0.26 ha	National Grid Reference
		TL4277 6073

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

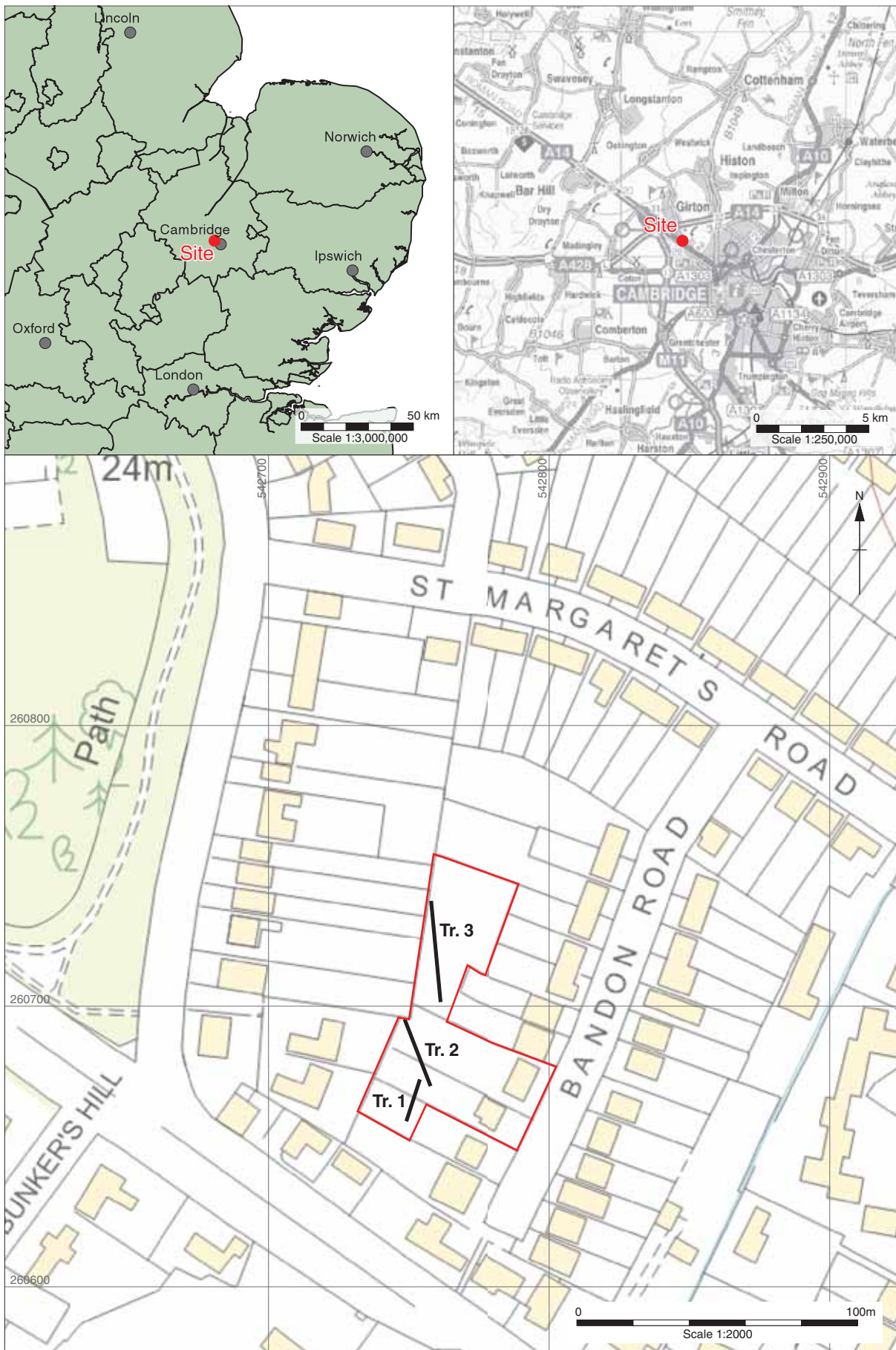
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
N/A	OA East	CCC Stores
N/A	CAMBRG16	ECB4802

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright 2016. All rights reserved. Licence number 10001998

Figure 1: Site location map

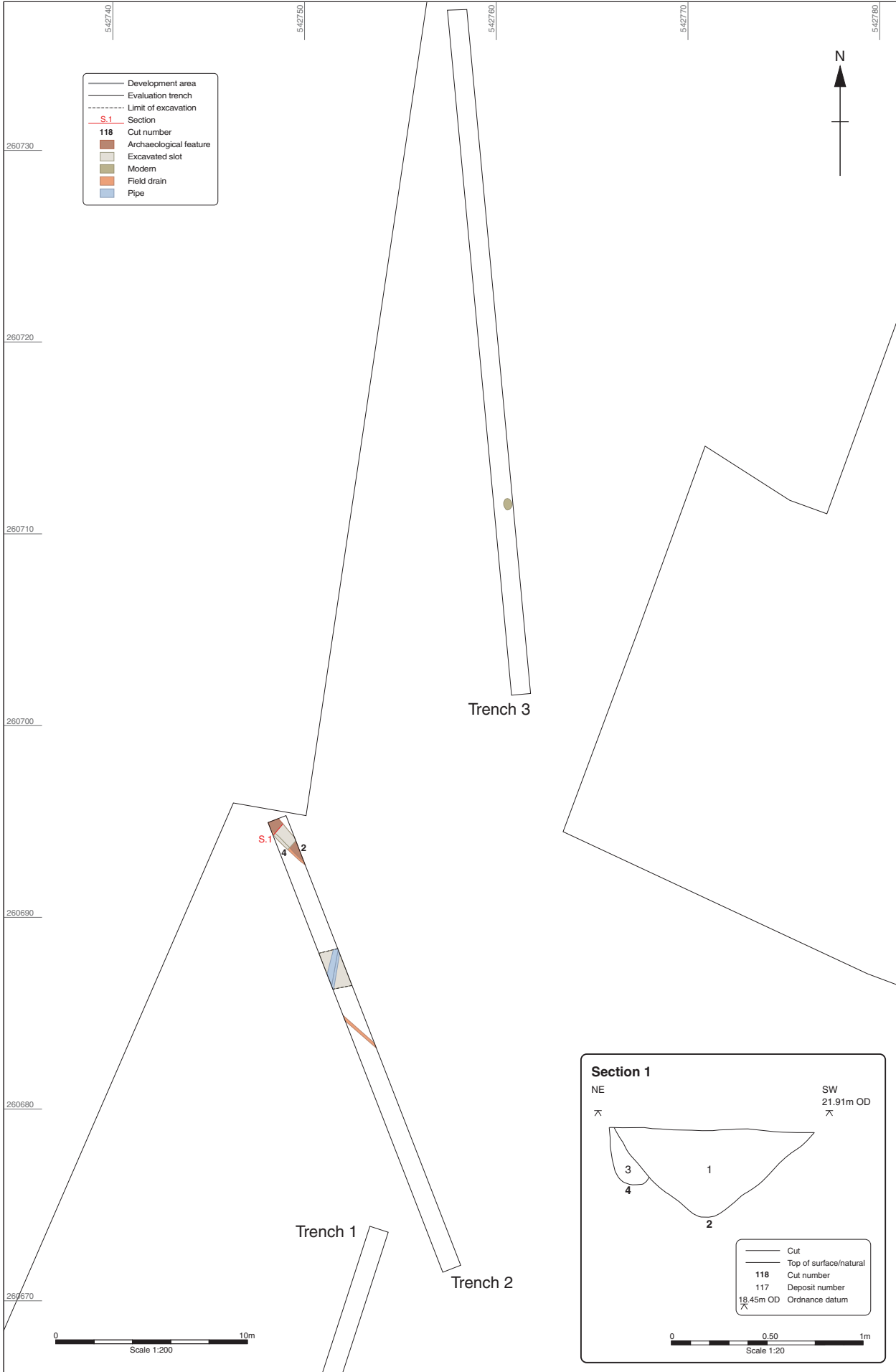


Figure 2: Trench plan and section drawing



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking South



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-west



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north



Plate 4: South-east facing section of Field Drain 4 and Ditch 2 in Trench 2



Plate 5: Modern bottle dump in Trench 3



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