Archaeological Field Unit

Post-Medieval Remains at South Bank, Peterborough: An Archaeological Evaluation

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April 2004

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 704

Commissioned by *Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co. Ltd*

Post-Medieval Remains at South Bank, Peterborough: An Archaeological Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Between 4th and 24th December 2003 the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council carried out an evaluation on land that lies on the south bank of the River Nene, off London Road and East Station Road, Peterborough (TL 5195 2980). This work was carried out on behalf of Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co. Ltd in advance of a planning application.

Seven trenches were excavated in order to ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The trenches revealed a number of ditches that may date to the post-medieval period. Many of the ditches probably functioned as drainage channels, as they all apparently led towards the River Nene. Silted-up river channels were also present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8, which again once probably flowed towards the river. The presence of the river channels as well as the ditches suggests a very real problem with water inundation across the area.

The potential problem of flooding may account for the absence of occupational evidence across the site. It is also possible, however, that extensive development of the site, initially through the construction of the railway system during the 19th century and later the construction of industrial units, has removed surviving archaeological remains. At this stage it is impossible to conclude that later industrial development has removed all the archaeological remains across the site. In addition, the great depth of overburden encountered during the excavation of Trenches 1, 2 and 8 meant that trenches could not be extended to provide a fuller understanding of archaeological remains.

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Post-Medieval Remains at South Bank, Peterborough: An Archaeological Evaluation (TL 5195 2980)

1 INTRODUCTION

Between 4th and 24th December 2003 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by staff of the Archaeological Field Unit (AFU) of Cambridgeshire County Council on land known as the South Bank Opportunity Area, New Fletton, Peterborough (TL 5195 2980).

The site covers 18ha and is divided by the Peterborough to Cambridge railway line, which is south of the River Nene and east of London Road, approximately 500m south of the historic core of Peterborough. Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co. Ltd commissioned the work, prior to the construction of dwellings and light industrial units together with services and access roads (Fig. 1).

These investigations form part of a broader scheme of evaluation being undertaken in advance of a planning application. The specification was prepared by Scott Wilson (Appendix 1) and approved by the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Officer.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The local geology consists of alluvium and marine alluvium (Sheet 158, British Geological Survey 1984). Present land use includes light industrial units, a large car park and areas of wasteland.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background to the site was discussed in the Desktop Assessment (White 1998), but is briefly summarised in the following text.

Evidence of prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity is generally confined to stray finds, which include a single sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery (PCCSMR 01665a) recovered from the river silts during the 1950 excavation of a probable Early Iron Age dug-out canoe (PCCSMR 01665). Other prehistoric finds include a Bronze Age palstave (PCCSMR 01640) and two Iron Age coins (PCCSMR 10479 and 10478). The presence of later prehistoric

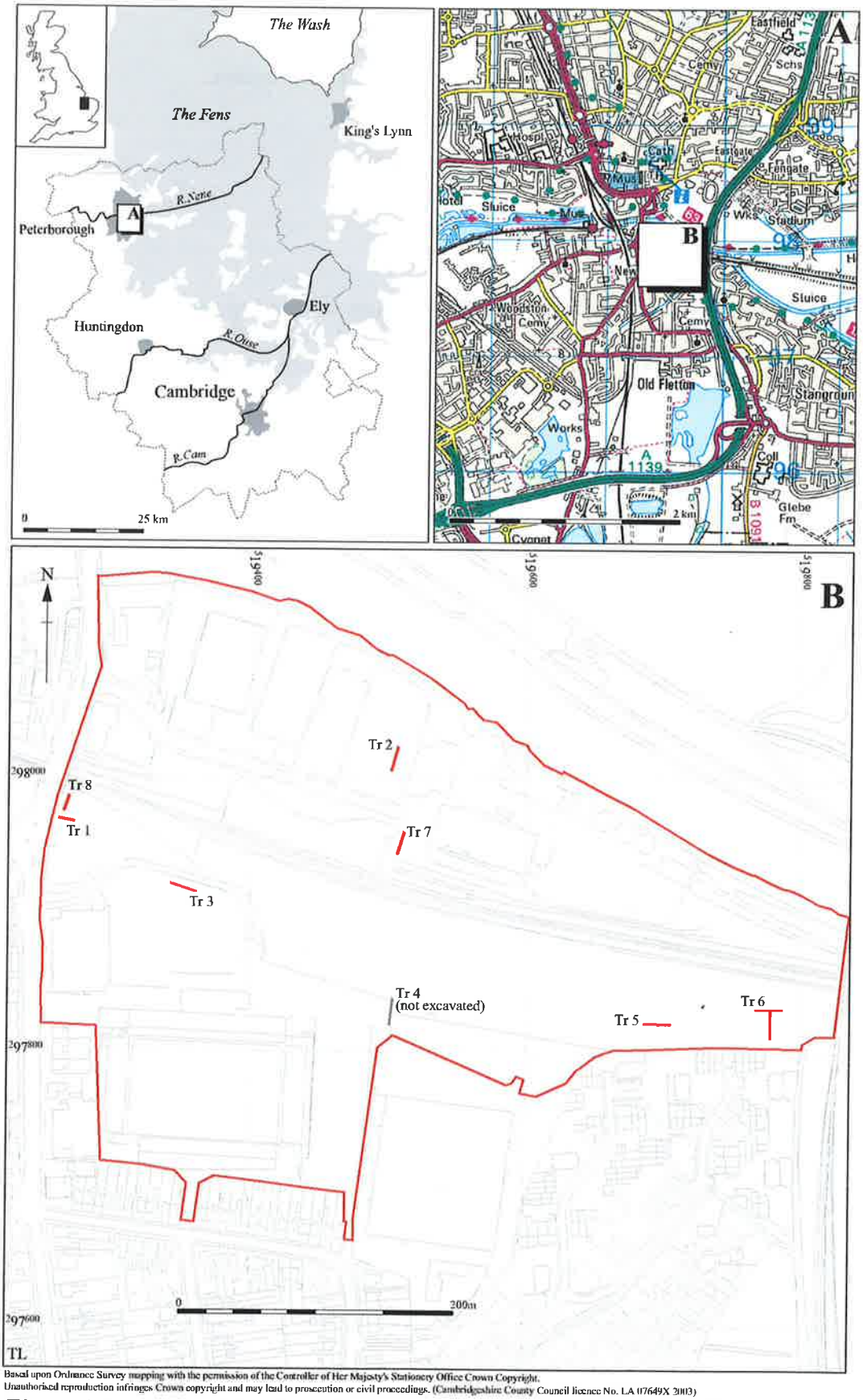

Figure 1 *Location of Development Area with Evaluation Trenches (red)*

material together with Iron Age settlement evidence (PCCSMR 01711) recovered from along the route of the River Nene, demonstrates the importance of this area in relation to the prehistoric fen edge. Further evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of ditches and a single pit was recovered from the Marshall's Garage site (Hatton 2000; 2003). The presence of Roman artefacts, which included coins, pottery and glass bottles (PCCSMR 08762) recovered in 1886 suggested occupation to the north of the River Nene.

An Anglo-Saxon cemetery (PCCSMR 01666) was located 500m south-west of the site and south of the south of the River Nene, the graveyard being gradually uncovered between 1864 and 1920. Excavation revealed bodies adorned with personal objects that included brooches, spearheads, shield-bosses and knives dating from *c.*AD 550. To the north of the cemetery an Anglo-Saxon gold ring was recovered from the river silts, which has been dated to *c.*AD 800 (PCCSMR 01668). Investigation of the ring found its design had a strong Merovingian influence.

The site fronts onto Oundle Road, the meandering course of which served the historic settlements of Yaxley, Farcet, Stanground, Fletton, Woodston, Botolph Bridge and Orton Longueville forming a loop within the two arms of the Nene, rejoining Ermine Street at Alwalton. Even though the Oundle Road connects many small settlements along its route, direct access to Peterborough from south of the Nene before the end of the 11th century (or maybe even later) could only be achieved by ferry.

During the 16th century 'The Bridge Fair' was held on 50 acres of land south of the River Nene, within the parish of Fletton (Page, Proby & Ladds 1974, 3), The site is still the location of the modern Peterborough Fairs, indicating continuity of usage over the centuries.

Archaeological remains in close proximity to the site consisted of ridge and furrow evidence (PCCSMR 01639) that has long since been removed as a result of modern development. Although the ridge and furrow has now gone, its earlier presence indicates that land close to the River Nene was not waterlogged during the medieval period.

Archaeological investigations at Marshall's Garage, approximately 300m to the west of the site identified archaeological features ranging from pits, ditches and postholes, to a large silted-up river channel (Hatton 2000; 2003).

4 OBJECTIVES

The objective of the evaluation was to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

5 METHODOLOGY

A total of seven trenches with a total length of 139m were excavated across the site, which translates into a 0.15% sample of the development area (18ha). Trenches 1, 7 and 8 were opened with a 360° mechanical excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. As a result of restricted access, however, Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6 were excavated using a JCB with a 1.6 toothless ditching bucket. Trench 4 (as set out in the specification; Appendix 1) was not excavated due to Health and Safety considerations (live electric and telecom cables).

The trenches were hand cleaned where possible, photographed and base planned. Once identified, features were excavated either by hand or machine which was largely dependant on health and safety considerations. The features were then recorded using the AFU's standard recording system. Bulk samples were taken from the river channels where possible in order to obtain environmental evidence (Appendix 2). The remaining features were considered to be too contaminated with modern debris to be worthy of environmental sampling.

The original trench plan for the area of investigation specified that Trenches 1 and 2 were T-shaped (Appendix 1). Excavation of Trench 1 revealed the depth of overburden to be substantial, requiring the trench to be stepped in the interest of health and safety. The stepping of the trench prevented the T-shape being achieved and resulted in the use of two single trenches. A slightly different problem occurred with the excavation of Trench 2, where large amounts of *in situ* reinforced concrete were uncovered, which again prevented the T-shape being achieved.

The single ditch and silted-up river channel identified in Trench 3 could not be excavated due to excessive water inundation.

6 RESULTS

6.1 **Trench 1** (Figs 2 & 3)

Trench 1 was 12m long and 2m wide. The depth of overburden was 0.68m. Four archaeological features were identified within this trench; at the western end a double brick retaining wall or drain (**7**) was observed. A large river channel (**09**) aligned north to south was revealed at a depth of 1.60m below the modern ground surface. Two undated ditches (**02** and **04**) located centrally within the trench were also identified, both aligned north-east to south-west.

A test pit was also excavated towards the western end of the trench in order to ascertain the true depth of the silted-up river channel (**09**). However, due to

the excessive depth of this feature it was not possible to fully excavate it and its profile was not exposed.

Context	Thickness (m)	Type	Description
01	0.50	fill of ditch **02**	Reddish brown sandy gravel
02		ditch	Ditch 1.40m wide orientated NE-SW with a concave base and U-shaped profile. 0.50m deep. Recorded for a length of 2.00m.
03	0.50	fill of **04**	Reddish brown sandy gravel
04		ditch	Ditch 2.00m wide orientated NE-SW with a concave base. 0.50m deep. Recorded for a length of 1.50m.
05	0.25	fill of **09**	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional small flint inclusions
06	0.50	fill of **09**	Yellowish mid brown clay with occasional flint inclusions
07		drain?	Two parallel brick walls, 0.25m apart, orientated approximately N-S, only one course of brick surviving. Bricks measure 0.23 x 0.11m. Cuts context 05
08	0.60	fill of **09**	Greyish blue clay
09		water channel	Broad curvilinear channel, 4.90m wide and 1.0m deep, orientated N-S. Recorded for a length of 2.00m and tested to a depth of 1.82m (base not seen).
10	0.30	layer	Brick and concrete rubble
11	0.38	layer	Dark brown silty clay containing fragments of concrete and modern brick, as well as gravel
12	0.15	layer	Yellowish brown silty clay with gravel inclusions
38	0.40	fill of **09**	Dark grey humic clay with occasional stones
39	0.22	fill of **09**	Light grey clay

Table 1: Contexts recorded in Trench 1

Figure 2 *Trench Location showing Excavated Features*

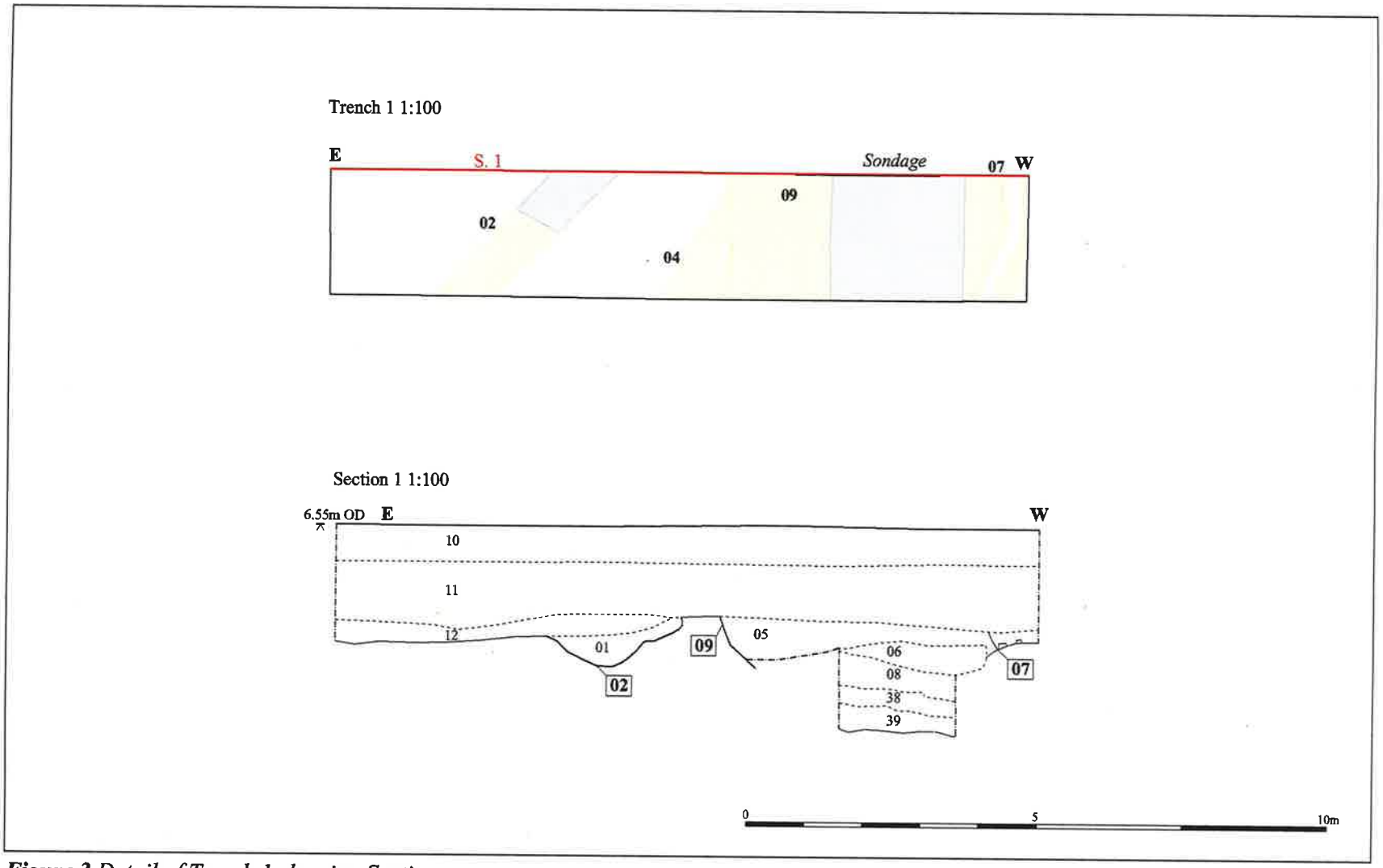

***Figure 3** Detail of Trench 1 showing Section*

6.2 **Trench 2** (Figs 2 & 4)

Trench 2 was 19m long and 2m wide. Excavation revealed four layers (43, 44, 45 and 46) with the initial re-deposited topsoil overlying seven evenly spaced reinforced concrete foundations running across the trench. Towards the southern end of the trench a test pit was excavated which revealed two further layers with the lowest deposit representing a silted-up river channel, the true depth of which could not be ascertained due to water inundation but was detected at 1.55m below modern ground level.

An attempt to excavate a further trench aligned east to west at the northern end of Trench 2 was abandoned due to reinforced concrete slabs to the west and a brick built culvert to the east.

Environmental evidence identified from the river channel deposit (43) consisted of water buttercup and rush seeds (see Appendix 2). No finds were recovered.

Context	Thickness (m)	Type	Description
43	0.38	layer	Dark grey silty clay with occasional pebbles
44	0.60	layer	Mid brown sandy silt containing pea grit gravel
45	0.19	layer	Modern gravel
46	0.58	layer	Dark grey sandy material containing bricks and concrete

Table 2: Contexts recorded in Trench 2

6.3 **Trench 3** (Figs 2 & 5)

Trench 3 was located in a large car park adjacent to Peterborough United Football Club and to the south of Cripple Sidings Lane. The trench was 18.5m long and 1.6m wide. A metre of overburden consisted of hoggin which made up the car park surface and demolition material acting as hardcore.

A single ditch (**20**) aligned north-west to south-east and a silted-up river channel (**18**) on the same alignment were located. The ditch could not be excavated in a detailed manner due to water inundation. The natural geology consisted of silty clay.

Context	Thickness (m)	Type	Description
13	0.40	layer	Light brown sandy silt containing gravel
14	0.60	layer	Dark grey sandy silt containing gravel
15	0.28	layer	Dark grey silty clay with brick fragments
16	0.56	fill of **18**	Brownish grey silty clay with occasional gravel
17	0.56	fill of **18**	Light greyish brown silty clay with occasional gravel
18		ditch	?Linear ditch 8.50m wide and 0.56m deep.
19	0.50	fill of **20**	Greyish brown silty clay with occasional pebbles
20		ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S. 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep.

Table 3: Contexts recorded in Trench 3

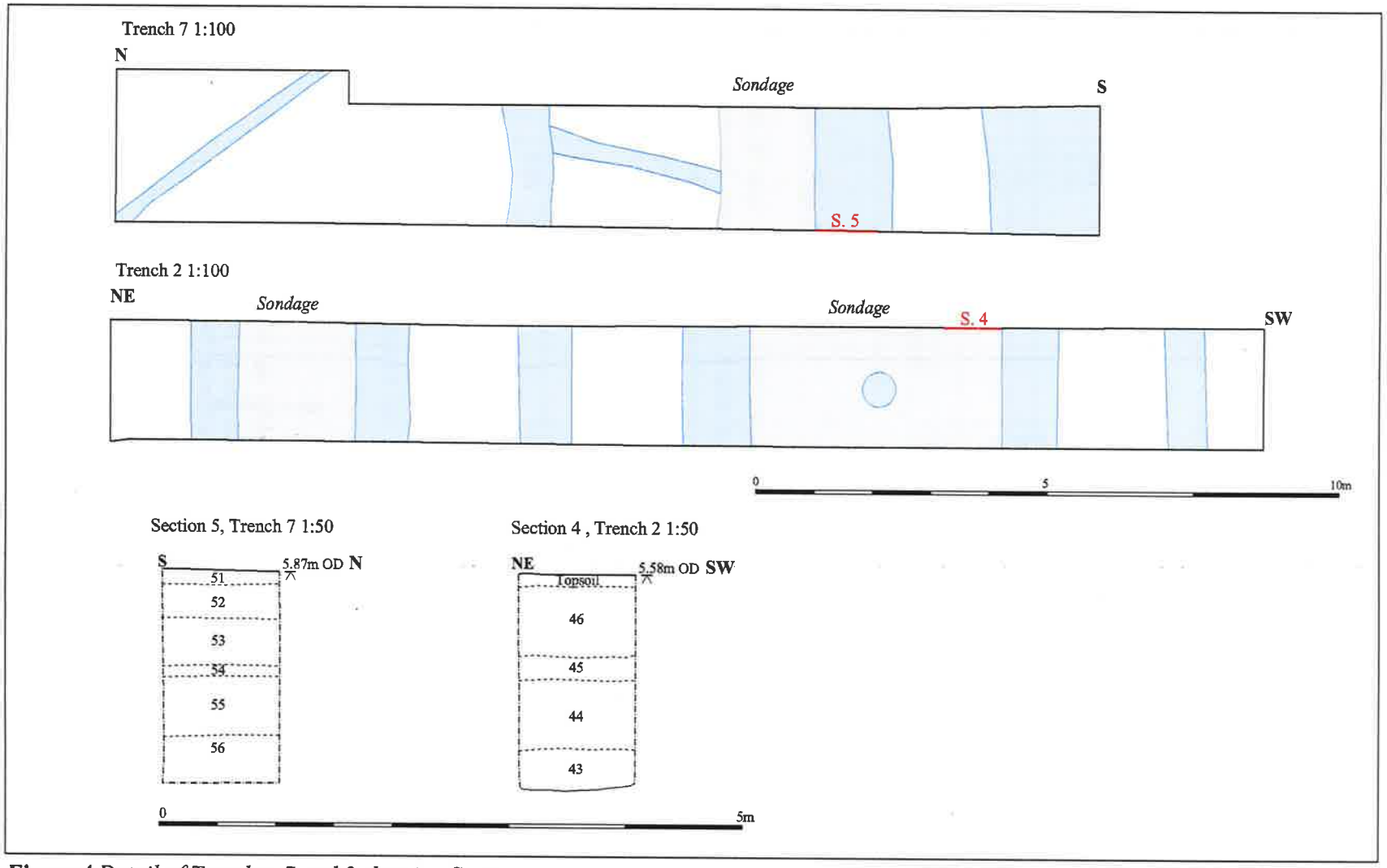

Figure 4 *Detail of Trenches 7 and 2 showing Sections*

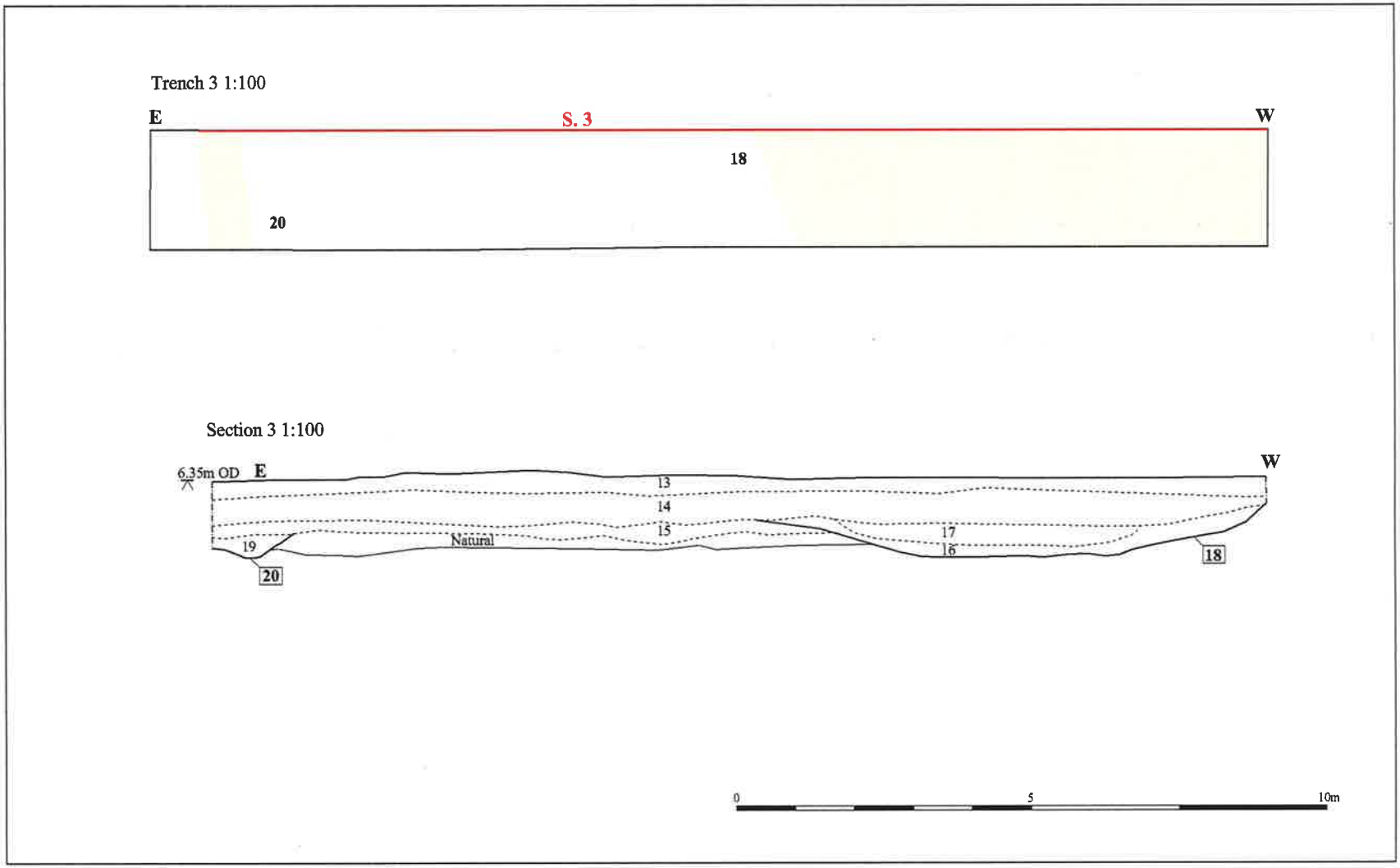

Figure 5 *Detail of Trench 3 showing Section*

6.4 **Trench 4** (Fig. 1)

This trench was not excavated due to Health and Safety concerns.

6.5 **Trench 5** (Figs 2 & 6)

Trench 5 was 20m and 1.6m wide, with 0.9m of overburden. A single silted-up river channel (**57**), identified at a depth of 0.9m, was the only feature in the trench.

Context	Thickness (m)	Type	Description
47	0.20	topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles
48	0.30	layer	Black clinker
49	0.45	layer	Mid brown clayey sand with frequent flint inclusions
50	0.25	fill of **57**	Dark grey silty clay
57		river channel	Channel aligned N-S, width and depth unknown

Table 4: Contexts recorded in Trench 5

6.6 **Trench 6** (Figs 2 & 7)

Trench 6 was 40m long and 1.6m wide, with 1m of overburden. The depositional sequence was found to be the same as Trench 5 with the exception of a large modern rubbish pit at the western end of the east to west aligned trench. Two electric cables were observed within the north to south aligned trench.

Context	Thickness (m)	Type	Description
47	0.20	topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles
48	0.30	layer	Black clinker
49	0.45	layer	Mid brown clayey sand with frequent flint inclusions

Table 5: Contexts recorded in Trench 6

6.7 **Trench 7** (Figs 2 & 4)

Trench 7 was 17m long and 2m wide. Excavation revealed three layers (51, 52, 53) with the initial layer of pea-grit (51) overlying three drains encased in concrete running across the trench and a modern water main located at the northern end of the trench. A centrally located test pit was excavated which revealed a further three layers (54, 55, 56). The true depth of the final layer could not be reached, however, due to water inundation. No finds were recovered.

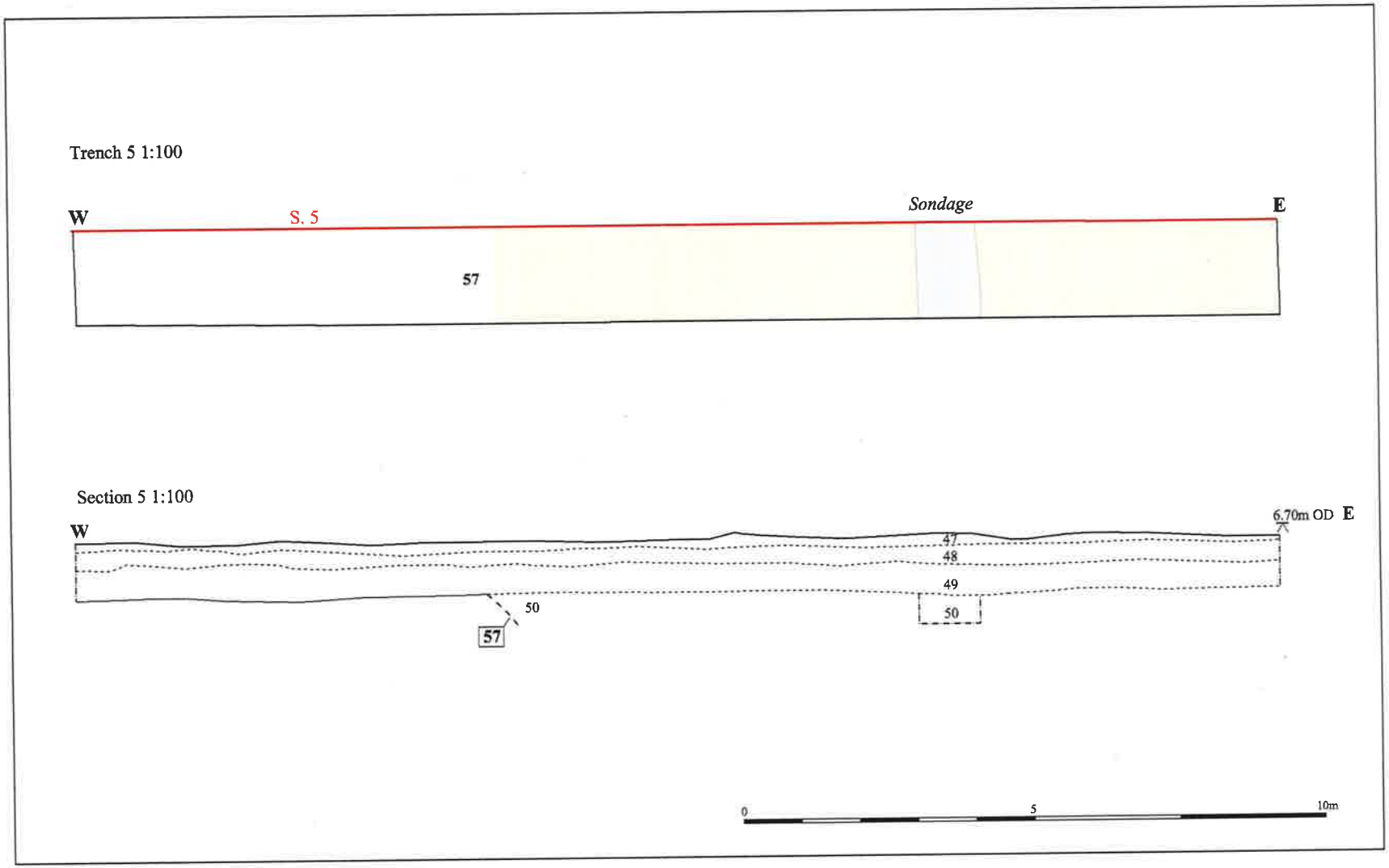

***Figure 6** Detail of Trench 5 showing Section*

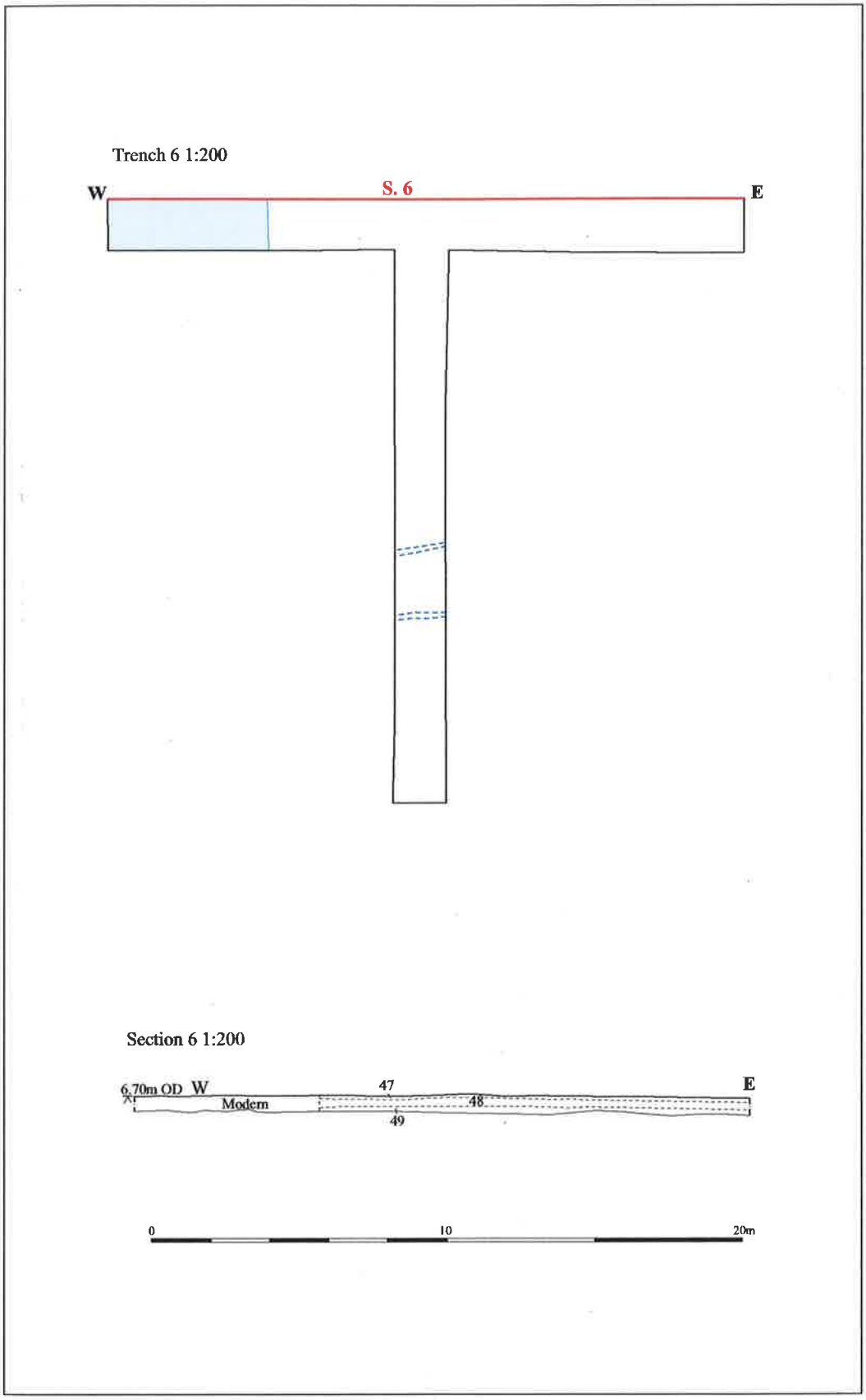

***Figure** 7 Detail of Trench 6 showing Section*

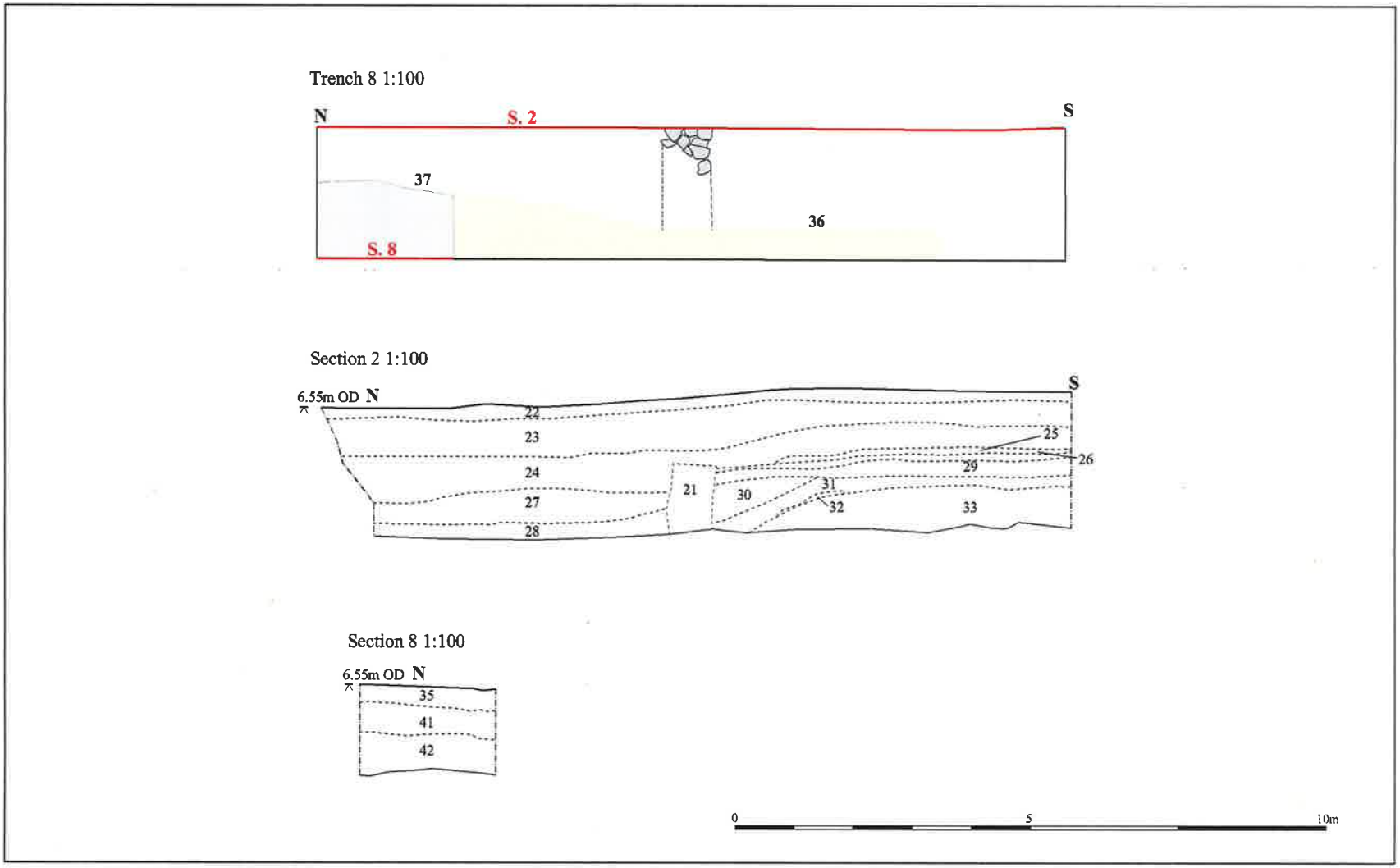

Figure 8 *Detail of Trenches 8 showing Sections*

Context	Thickness (m)	Type	Description
51	0.10	layer	Light brown pea grit gravel
52	0.30	layer	Dark grey silty gravel with modern brick
53	0.40	layer	Dark grey clinker
54	0.10	layer	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional brick fragments
55	0.50	layer	Greyish blue clay with occasional small stones
56	0.40	layer	Mid brown silty clay with occasional stones

Table 6: Contexts recorded in Trench 7

6.8 **Trench 8** (Figs 2 & 8)

Trench 8 was 12.5m wide and 2m deep. The depth of overburden, which consisted of road make-up and demolition material, was 0.68m. The trench was excavated to an average depth of 2.6m, although with the addition of the test pit at the northern end of the trench the depth increased to 3.75m.

Two archaeological features were identified, a single ditch **37** (= **36**) aligned north to south, and a centrally located dry-stone wall **21** (= **34**) running east to west, that may have formed part of a cellar. The excavation of the test pit located at the northern end of the trench revealed a lower black humic deposit (42; truncated by **37**) that could possibly be the infill of a river channel. No finds were recovered.

Context	Thickness (m)	Type	Description
21		wall	Wall of limestone and yellow sand surviving to 0.95m deep and 1.20m long. 0.55m wide.
22	0.30	layer	Concrete
23	0.38	layer	Demolition material
24	0.40	layer	Black silty clay with frequent brick and concrete fragments
25	0.10	layer	Grey silty clay with occasional gravel
26	0.10	layer	Yellow mortar
27	0.35	layer	Yellowish brown silty clay with moderate gravel
28	0.25	layer	Yellowish brown silty clay with moderate gravel
29	0.25	layer	Black ash
30	0.65	layer	Mid brown clayey silt
31	0.25	layer	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional gravel
32	0.10	layer	Yellow clay silt
33	0.65	layer	Dark grey sandy silt with moderate gravel
34		wall	Drystone wall, 0.55m wide surviving to 0.70m.
35	0.71	fill	Grey silty clay
36		ditch	Linear ditch aligned N-S. Dimensions unknown.
37		ditch	Ditch: form and dimensions unknown.
40	0.30	fill	Light brown silty sand with frequent brick
41	0.50	fill	Light brown silty clay with occasional small brick fragments
42	0.70	fill	Black peaty clay with occasional pebbles

Table 7: Contexts recorded in Trench 8

7 DISCUSSION

Across the site the overburden encountered varied. The section of Trench 7 revealed a layer of hoggin (51) used to create a road or yard surface. Foundation material and railway clinker was also identified as overburden within the trench. Trench 2 revealed redeposited topsoil and foundation material together with gravel acting as the overburden of the area.

The overburden seen in the sections of Trenches 8 and 1 consisted of crushed concrete (22), which acted as the surface to a car park. This in turn overlay demolition material (23), which was the result of the pulling down of a public house that had stood on the site. Railway clinker (24) was also observed in the section. All three layers had to be removed before archaeological features could be identified.

The overburden identified in Trench 3 consisted of gravel used to create a stable car park surface (13), which in turn overlay brick and concrete material that would have been imported to act as foundation for the car park (14).

The overburden consisted of re-deposited topsoil (47) which in turn overlay a layer of clinker associated with the railway sidings known to have been located in the area. Below the clinker was a thin layer of re-deposited sandy silt (49).

Archaeological remains were uncovered in two areas of the site, in Trenches 1, 3 and 8 on the western side of the site.

Excavation of Trench 1 identified two parallel brick built walls (**7**) at the western end of the trench: these may have functioned as a drain. The walls were found to be cutting into the upper fill (5) of a large river channel (**9**) that appeared to be a continuation of the channel identified in Trench 8 (see below). A single post-medieval brick was recovered from the river channel, recovery of which indicates a post-medieval or pre- post-medieval date for ditch **4**, the fill of which (3) was cut by ditch (**9**). A further ditch (**2**) was also identified in the trench on what appeared to be virtually the same alignment as ditch **4**. The similarities in ditch alignment may suggest that they were associated, although the degree of truncation prevents this suggestion from being confirmed. The function of the two ditches is difficult to determine given the limited nature of the investigation. With the alignment of both ditches heading towards the River Nene, however, it is possible to suggest that they formed part of a drainage system.

Excavation of Trench 3 uncovered a further ditch (**20**) that unfortunately could not be excavated due to water inundation, which in turn prevented any datable material being recovered. A silted-up river channel (**18**) was also identified within this trench.

Trench 8 contained a foundation trench (**37**). No structural remains were identified, however, having possibly been removed during the construction of

the railway during the late 19th century. The centrally located dry-stone wall (**21**) appeared to be the northern retaining wall of a large cellar, the true extent of which could not be identified. A date for the construction of the wall and later infilling of the cellar could not be clarified due to the absence of datable artefacts. The dry stone construction technique used potentially gives the wall a post-medieval date. Excavation of the test pit at the northern end of the trench identified a silted-up river channel (**42**) that may have been a tributary to the River Nene.

Trenches 2, 5, 6 and 7 contained no archaeological features, although silted-up river channels 43 (Trench 2) and 50 (Trench 5) were present.

No finds were recovered and most of the features remain undated.

8 CONCLUSIONS

The object of the project was establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the site in advance of development, with particular reference to potential remains of the medieval waterfront.

Trenches 1, 8 and 3 were the only trenches where the overburden was found to have sealed possible post-medieval remains. It is possible the same is true of Trenches 2, 7, and also in the area of Trenches 5 and 6.

The evaluation has been partially successful in identifying archaeological remains within the development area, although not in any great number. The reasons for low number of features identified during the evaluation appears to fall into three categories: firstly, the ever present water problem which would have rendered the area to the south of the river uninhabitable at certain times of the year. The possible consequence of having access to land on a seasonal basis may be the reason why no structural evidence was identified. Secondly, the intensive re-development of the area from the late 19th century onwards may have removed most of the archaeological evidence and thirdly, the degree of overburden may be masking archaeological features.

In conclusion, the very small sample excavated, combined with the presence of overburden together with concrete foundations would not facilitate an accurate evaluation of the site's archaeological potential. Removal of the overburden and concrete over a larger area would be a more accurate way of determining the character and state of preservation of archaeological features.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

The site archive is currently held at the AFU's headquarters at Fulbourn under the site code PET SB 03. The site will be archived in accordance with relevant local and national guidelines. The paper record will be archived at the Cambridgeshire County Council offices at Bar Hill, while the finds will be transferred to county stores at Landbeach.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to thank Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Co. Ltd who commissioned the archaeological work. Thanks are also due to Spencer Cooper (Supervisor), Adam Howard, Adam Lodoen and Tom Philips all of whom worked extremely hard in very difficult conditions. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and Emily Oakes produced the illustrations.

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APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION

by Scott Wilson

1. Introduction

Scott Wilson have been commissioned by the South Bank Partnership to carry out archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at South Bank, Peterborough. The investigations are being undertaken as part of a programme of surveys to support an application for planning permission for a redevelopment scheme.

A programme of archaeological evaluation has been devised by Scott Wilson in consultation with Ben Robinson, Peterborough City Council Archaeology Officer.

Previous non-intrusive and intrusive archaeological investigations have revealed that significant archaeological remains are likely to be present within the proposed development area, and this has led to the identification of several locations for further, more detailed, investigation.

This document provides a specification for evaluation by trial trenching of areas of archaeological potential which could be affected by the proposed scheme. The specification defines the areas to be investigated and the methodologies to be used. It has been produced in accordance with the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Officer's 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation' (April 1999) and with reference to his 'South Bank Opportunity Area – Archaeological Issues Update' (May 2002).

2. The Development Area

The proposed development site encompasses an area of *c.*18ha located to the south of Peterborough City Centre (Fig. 1; NGR TL 195 980 site centred). The area lies on the south bank of the River Nene, off London Road and East Station Road. It is currently under a variety of land uses, including car parking, office buildings, retail units, temporary storage etc.

The areas for investigation are owned by a number of different parties and are currently occupied by various tenants. For this reason the trenches will need to be excavated in the order stated in the specification. Access to the sites will be arranged by Scott Wilson.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The archaeological background of the site has been outlined in a previous archaeological desk-based assessment (White 1998) and summarised in a draft brief produced by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCCAS 1999).

The site lies on the south bank of the River Nene, immediately to the south of the core of the medieval town. Prehistoric activity in this area is represented by finds including a Bronze Age palstave and a well-preserved Iron Age canoe which was recovered together with Bronze Age pottery in the river deposits near the Town Bridge.

There is no evidence for Roman or early medieval activity on the development area, although there is known to have been extensive settlement to the west of the London Road and generally along the lower Nene Valley. A few finds dating to the Roman and Viking periods have been recovered from river deposits near the Town Bridge, but none from the proposed development area. It is possible that the site was too low-lying for permanent settlement at this time.

The present Town Bridge marks the position of the medieval river crossing and although the main quay was on the northern bank, there were landing places on the south bank near to the bridge. There is no evidence for domestic medieval settlement on the south bank but the area is known to have been the location for major medieval and post-medieval fairs. It is therefore probable that there was some facility for the loading and unloading of goods here. Evidence for medieval agriculture on the dryer lands has been recorded in the form of ridge and furrow

earthworks to the south of the development area. Towards the river bank deep alluvial and organic deposits have been recorded.

Maps dating to 1720 and 1844 both depict short lengths of canal or barge basins on the south bank to either side of the Town Bridge, and a building is shown close to the present Bridge House. By 1860 there are industrial buildings and a lime kiln and by 1886, the canals have disappeared and a large part of the site is occupied by the railway and related structures.

The nature of the occupation and development on the south bank has resulted in little opportunity for archaeological investigation in the past, but the location of the site on the river and the deposition of alluvial silts within the flood plain suggest that where archaeological deposits and structures are present, they are likely to be well-preserved.

Summary of potential archaeological issues (Robinson 2002):

- The presence of individual or groups of artefacts of prehistoric to medieval date
- The presence of waterside structures of prehistoric to medieval date
- The presence of boat remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date
- The presence of dry land activity and settlement of prehistoric to medieval date
- The presence of environmental indicators of human activity within the alluvium
- The presence of pre-Holocene remains within palaeochannels and gravel deposits
- The presence of a large infilled post-medieval canal basin
- The presence of historic industrial and railway buildings
- The setting of the Old Customs House (Scheduled Ancient Monument (Peterborough) 195)
- The setting of the cathedral and precincts (Scheduled Ancient Monument (Peterborough) 140; Scheduled Ancient Monument (Peterborough) 153; Listed Building)

4. General Aims and Objectives

The investigations will contribute to a programme of evaluation designed to provide sufficient information to enable a decision to be made regarding the archaeological implications of a proposed redevelopment programme. The results will be reviewed in conjunction with the results of other archaeological investigations and geotechnical information in order to contribute to the determination of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy for the development.

The general objectives of the evaluation are as follows:

- to identify the presence/absence of buried archaeological remains
- to determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features encountered
- to determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered
- to identify the depth/extent and complexity of stratigraphy present
- to determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present
- to determine the significance of any archaeological remains present

- to place the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context with reference to local, regional and national resource assessments and research frameworks (English Heritage 1991, 1997; Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
- to provide information on the extent of modern disturbance.

Particular emphasis should be placed on:

- the location and characterisation of buried remains relating to canals and barge basins
- the characterisation of prehistoric and historic activity set back from the river's wet margins
- the environmental history of the river margins.

5. Trench Locations

The locations of the proposed evaluation trenches are shown on Figure 1. Service routes are also shown. Trenches 1, 2 and 6 are T-shaped each comprising two 20m x 2m trenches and Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7 are each 20m x 2m, making a total area of 400m^2. Health and safety considerations may necessitate stepping the trench edges at the top. The deepest deposits are likely to be encountered in Trench 2 which is closest to the river, but generally the trenches are not expected to exceed 2.50-3.00m in depth.

Information from a watching brief on test pits on the South Bank area (Redding 2000) suggests that despite a certain amount of disturbance from the railways and industrial buildings, riverine deposits and buried soils remain intact. Over most of the area they are capped, and thus protected, by a deposit of clean orange gravel varying in depth from 0.10m to 1.30m. The following table presents a summary of the stratigraphy encountered in the test pits closest to the proposed evaluation trenches.

Trench	Nearest test pit	Thickness	Deposits
1	TP26, 40m to east. Surface at 6.38mAOD. Ground water 3,38mAOD	4cm 20-22cm 22-24cm 16cm 52-55cm 30cm 50cm 90cm +	Tarmac Type 1 crushed limestone Made ground - gravel and bricks Gravel Cornbrash - unstructured upper, structured lower **Buried soil** – brown/grey silt/coarse sand Marine clay Fine sand and clay
2	TP22, to southeast. Surface at 6.25mAOD. Stratigraphy more complex towards river	30cm 70cm 13cm 65cm	Ash, cinders, gravel bricks Gravel Buried soil Sands and gravels
3	TP26, 60m to northwest		See above
4	TP48, 30m north Surface at 5.46mAOD.	50cm 0-10cm 36-38cm 14-16cm 30cm	Ash, cinders sealed with tarmac Gravel **Buried soil** – yellowish grey sandy silt Cornbrash Fine wet sand
5	No test pits near		
6	No test pits near		
7	TP22, 20m west		See above

6. Methodology

All work shall be carried out in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and with the IFA *Code of Conduct.*

The trenches will be excavated in the locations specified by Scott Wilson and agreed with PCCAS. The archaeological sub-contractor will establish the trench locations using electronic survey equipment. Trench numbering will follow the nomenclature in this specification.

The trenches will be opened using an appropriate mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The excavation will proceed under direct archaeological supervision, in level spits, until either the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits are encountered. The resulting surface will be cleaned and inspected for archaeological remains.

Any archaeological deposits/features will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and objectives of the investigation.

Exposed deposits and features as well as spoil heaps should be swept with a metal detector prior to and during excavation.

The evaluation will provide a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of archaeological remains therein. Judgement regarding the removal of human remains, structural remains, or other special remains or deposits, will be led by this consideration and will be made in consultation with Scott Wilson and PCCAS.

The following sampling strategies will be employed:

Linear features: A minimum of 10% along the length (each section not less than 1m wide) or a minimum of a 1m wide section through if the feature is less than 10m in length. Where possible one section will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge. All intersections will be investigated to determine the relationship between the component features.

Discrete features/deposits: Pits, post-holes and other isolated features/deposits up to 1.5m diameter will be half-sectioned. Larger pits or deposits will be sample excavated sufficient to define the extent of the feature, a complete profile and to achieve the objectives of the investigation.

Built structures: To be excavated sufficient to define the extent of the feature and to achieve the objectives of the investigation.

A full written, drawn and photographic record of the stratigraphy within a trench will be made even where no archaeological features are identified.

Hand drawn plans, sections and elevations will be produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections/elevations). At least one long section of each trench will be drawn at a scale of not less than 1:50. All plans, sections and elevations will be accurately located within the trench and will include spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum in metres, correct to two decimal places.

Colour and monochrome photographs will be taken at a minimum format of 35mm. In addition to records of archaeological features, a number of general trench photographs and 'working shots' will be taken to provide an overview of the site.

Following excavation the trench limits will be accurately located using electronic survey equipment and fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures or roads. The survey data will subsequently be fixed in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

All artefacts will be retained. Small finds will be recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Finds will be stored in controlled conditions where appropriate. All artefacts will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines of the IFA. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines will apply.

An appropriate soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of carbonised and waterlogged plant remains, insects, molluscs, vertebrate remains and small artefactual material. Sampling will be carried out in accordance with *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines* (English Heritage 2002) and should be directed to a representative range of contexts from each phase to examine the general survival of material and key archaeological contexts.

Provision will be made for the recovery of samples suitable for scientific dating. Given the nature of the deposits in this area (alluvium, buried soils and peat horizons) contingency should be made for 6 radiocarbon dates and 2 dendro dates at this stage.

If human remains are discovered they will be covered and protected and left *in situ* in the first instance. In such an event the contractor will notify Scott Wilson immediately. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations and the Burial Act 1857.

Any artefacts which fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to Scott Wilson and to H.M. Coroner.

7. Reporting

Verbal progress reports will be provided to Scott Wilson on request. Within 2 weeks of the completion of the archaeological works an interim statement will be prepared and submitted to Scott Wilson. It will include:

- a brief summary of the results
- a draft or sketch plan of each trench
- a quantification of the primary archive including finds and samples.

Immediately after the completion of fieldwork the finds and samples will be processed (cleaned and marked) as appropriate. Each category of find or environmental material will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist.

An assessment report will be submitted within 6 weeks of the completion of fieldwork. The report will include the following:

- a non-technical summary
- site location
- archaeological and historical background
- methodology
- aims and objectives
- results (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains)
- an appraisal of the results within their local, regional and national context
- statement of potential with recommendations
- publication proposals if warranted
- archive storage and curation

- general and detailed plans showing the location of the trenches accurately positioned on an OS base map (to a known scale)
- detailed plans and sections as appropriate (to a known scale)
- a complete matrix for each trench
- a cross-referenced index of the project archive

One copy of the complete report will be submitted to Scott Wilson as a draft. In finalising the report, the comments of Scott Wilson will be taken into account.

Nine bound copies, one unbound copy and a digital version of the report and illustrations will be produced within one week of the receipt of Scott Wilson's comments on the draft report. (Digital text to be in Microsoft Word format and illustrations in AutoCAD and/or PDF format).

Of these, one copy will be included in the archive and the others will be submitted to Scott Wilson for distribution.

Dr Peter Murphy, the regional environmental archaeology coordinator for English Heritage must be informed of the results of palaeoenvironmental assessments.

8. Publication

Given the high archaeological potential of the areas of investigation, it is envisaged that publication will be required. The archaeological sub-contractor will prepare a publication-ready synthesis of the results of the evaluation (including illustrations) for inclusion in an appropriate regional or national journal. The report will be submitted to Scott Wilson within 2 months of the submission of the assessment report.

If significant results are obtained it is likely that further stages of archaeological work will be required. In such circumstances a brief note will be submitted for inclusion in an appropriate journal by Scott Wilson and the archaeological sub-contractor's publication synthesis will be incorporated into a subsequent submission.

It is proposed that upon completion of all archaeological works associated with the current scheme the sub-contractor's publication reports will be edited by Scott Wilson for submission to the appropriate journal. All originators will be fully acknowledged and consulted prior to publication.

PCCAS is taking part in the pilot study for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The archaeological contractor will complete the online OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/. Contractors are advised to contact PCCAS before completing the form.

9. Archive Preparation and Deposition

The archive of finds and records generated during the fieldwork will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records and materials produced will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. The archive will be produced to the standards outlined by English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3; Museums and Galleries Commission 1992; Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993, 1995.

Scott Wilson will, prior to the start of fieldwork, liase with Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery to obtain agreement in principle by the museum to accept the archive for long term storage and curation. The archaeological sub-contractor will be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of the museum in respect of the archive, and for adhering to those requirements.

The archaeological sub-contractor will store the archive in a suitable secure location until it is deposited in the agreed museum.

Provision will be made for the long term storage of the paper records on microfilm; one copy of which should be deposited with Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery and one with the National Monuments Record. The specific requirements of the NMR will be consulted and followed (Handley 1999).

The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of the project. The archaeological sub-contractor shall provide Scott Wilson with copies of communication with the recipient museum and written confirmation of the deposition of the archive. Scott Wilson will deal with transfer of ownership and copyright issues.

10. Monitoring

The contractor will be subject to regular monitoring by Scott Wilson who will be given full access to site records or any other information.

Scott Wilson will liase with the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Officer and English Heritage to inform them of the commencement of site works and to offer them the opportunity to visit and monitor the work in progress.

11. Confidentiality and Publicity

All communication regarding this project is to be directed through Scott Wilson. The sub-contractor will refer all inquiries to Scott Wilson without making any unauthorised statements or comments.

The South Bank Partnership may wish to arrange publicity relating to the archaeological works. The archaeological sub-contractor will make available to Scott Wilson any information requested by the clients. This may include brief statements on the progress and results of the archaeological works and photographic materials.

The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of Scott Wilson.

12. Copyright

The archaeological sub-contactor shall assign copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to Scott Wilson. The sub-contractor retains the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all aspects of the project. It is the responsibility of the archaeological sub-contractor to obtain such rights from sub-contracted specialists.

The archaeological sub-contractor may apply in writing to use/disseminate any of the project archive or documentation (including images). Such permission will not be unreasonably withheld.

The results of the archaeological work will be submitted to the clients and the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Officer by Scott Wilson and will ultimately be made available for public access.

13. Resources and Timetable

All archaeological personnel involved in the project should be suitably qualified and experienced professionals. The sub-contractor will provide Scott Wilson with staff details including CVs of the Project Manager, Site Supervisor and specialists.

The fieldwork will be completed within three weeks. The archaeological sub-contractor will provide Scott Wilson with a programme for the works (fieldwork and post-excavation).

14. Insurances and Health and Safety

The archaeological sub-contractor will provide Scott Wilson with details of public and professional indemnity insurance.

The archaeological sub-contractor will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines and which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety policy shall be submitted to Scott Wilson in advance of fieldwork.

The archaeological sub-contractor will undertake a risk assessment detailing project specific Health and Safety requirements. The risk assessment shall be submitted to Scott Wilson in advance of commencement of site work. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological issues.

Scott Wilson will provide information regarding the approximate location of known services within the area of investigation. The archaeological sub-contractor shall, however, be responsible for identifying any buried or overhead services and taking the necessary precautions to avoid damage to such services, prior to excavation.

The successful contractor will be issued with a Health & Safety plan which will incorporate information from the South Bank Partnership since they have the ultimate control and responsibility for H&S on their sites. The plan will detail the sub-contractor's responsibilities and will include risk assessments on the hazards on site which, in the opinion of the owners, need to be considered by the contractor when planning and undertaking their works.

Ultimately there will need to be a detailed method statement on how the works will be carried out and managed by the archaeological sub-contractor; this will be worked up and agreed between Scott Wilson and the successful sub-contractor.

Scott Wilson will detail any constraints which need to be taken into account originating from tenants' operations, designated access routes, close working to public footpaths and structural issues associated with the river and water table levels.

Tenderers will need to include provision for fencing, machinery, appropriate welfare facilities and for undertaking a scan for services in the area of excavations. Reinstatement of the trenches will be the same as found.

The type of fencing needed around the excavations will vary according to the level of risk to the public i.e. Heras fencing (1.8m) should be used for Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Some trenches may need to be completed in stages in order to leave the minimum length of trench open and because of restrictions on space for spoil.

The H&S plan will form a key component of the contractual agreement between Scott Wilson and the sub-contractor.

A briefing meeting has been arranged on site for Wednesday 19th November at 11am with Simon McCudden (Scott Wilson) to explain the H&S arrangements, tenant access/operational issues and reinstatement requirements in more detail.

15. General Provisions

The archaeological sub-contractor will undertake the works to the specification issued by Scott Wilson and in any subsequent written variations. No variation from, or changes to, the specification will occur except by prior agreement with Scott Wilson who will consult with the Peterborough City Council Archaeological Officer.

All communications on archaeological matters will be directed through Scott Wilson.

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APPENDIX 2: APPRAISAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

by Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction

Two 8 litre samples were submitted for assessment. Each was subjected to bucket flotation; the floating element (the flot) was collected in a 0.5mm mesh and the residue was retained in a 1mm sieve. Both fractions were air-dried. The residue was scanned by eye and the flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Preservation was by waterlogging.

2 Results

Sample 1, context 42

A stoneless soil containing numerous roots. This sample contains seeds of *Ranunculus*. (tentatively identified as *R. repens*, creeping buttercup) and several snail species including *Vallonia pulchella, Bithynia* sp and *Planorbis* sp which are all indicative of wet habitats.

Sample 2, context 39

Poorly sorted gravel. This sample contains *Ranunculus* (probably *R. repens*), *Chenopodium sp* (Fat hen), *Silene* sp. (Campion) and *Carex* sp. (sedges) and snails including *Vallonia pulchella* and *Bithynia* sp. The sedges, buttercups and snails indicate a wet environment such as a riverbank with grassland plants growing alongside.

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