

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHED EVALUATION
ON LAND NORTH OF 2 OWLS END,
BURY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, PE26 2NJ.**

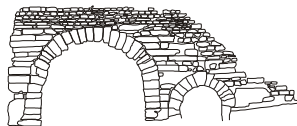
Site Code: OEB 12
Event No. ECB 3739
NGR: TL 2831 8393
Planning Ref: 1101173FUL

Report prepared for
G.L. Developments Ltd

By

Steve Williams

May 2012



MIDLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SERVICES

Old House
59 Church Street
Digby
Lincoln
LN4 3LZ

e-mail: info@midlandarchaeologicalservices.co.uk
www.midlandarchaeologicalservices.co.uk

MAS 338/11

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Summary

- A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land north of 2 Owls End, Bury, Cambridgeshire, PE26 2NJ. This was conducted by Midland Archaeological Services prior to the development of the site.
- Late 19th/mid 20th Century imported soils representing made ground and levelling activity were encountered as well as natural clay/gravel deposits.
- The archaeological evaluation concluded that archaeological remains were not present throughout the evaluated area and that it had been subject to heavy truncation by late 19th and early to mid 20th Century field drains and levelling activities associated with the sites former use as a dairy farm.

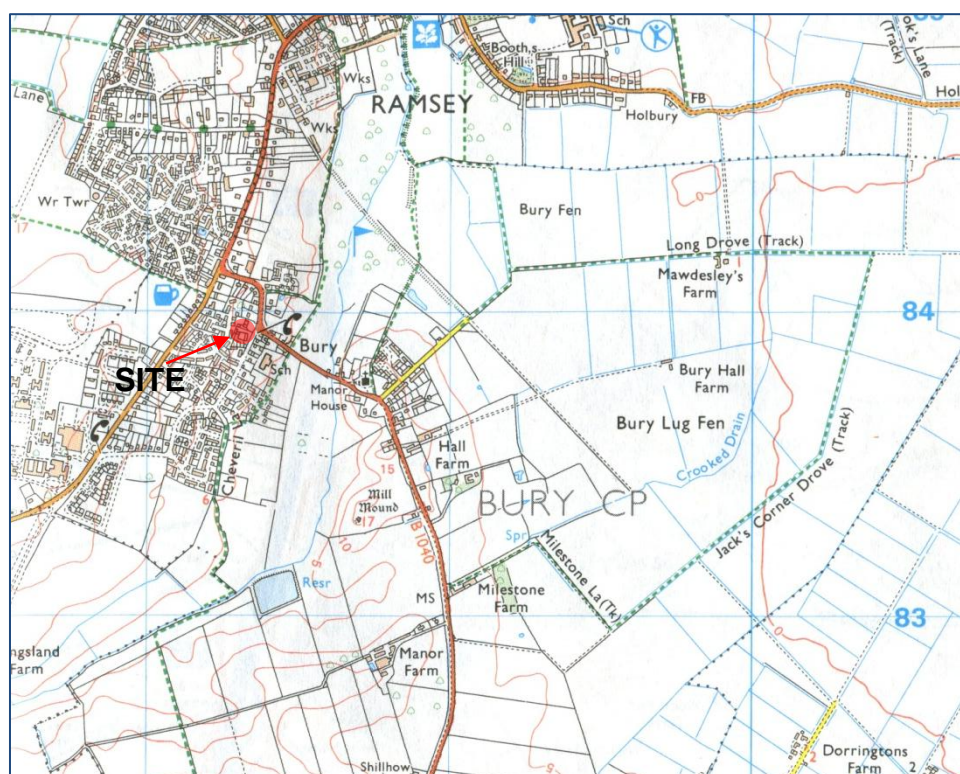


Fig. 1: Site location.

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1.0 Introduction

Midland Archaeological Services (MAS) was commissioned G.L. Developments Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to groundworks associated with a development on land north of 2 Owls End, Bury, Cambridgeshire, PE26 2NJ, henceforth called the site (figs. 1, 2).

The work was undertaken at the request of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET), as the site lies close to an area of some archaeological potential, with the possibility of archaeological remains of late Saxon and or Medieval origin being present in the immediate site area.

This approach is consistent with the *Planning Policy Statement 5* (Planning for The Historic Environment 2010), Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (IFA, 2008), English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, 2006 (MoRPHE).

2.0 Location and Description

Bury is c.48.8km north-west of Cambridge and c.1.8km south of Ramsey. The development area is located to the immediate north of 2 Owls End and where it meets the junction with Bury High Street (figs. 1, 2). The site area forms a rectangular plot measuring approximately 2,280sqm in area; this was previously occupied by a series of derelict buildings which had formed part of a dairy farm. The site is centred on NGR TL 2831 8393 at 8.60m OD, while the underlying geology consists of Till deposits (BGS, 1995), (figs. 1, 2).

3.0 Planning Background

Huntingdonshire District Council has granted planning permission for the erection of six dwellings, associated garages and landscaping on land north of 2 Owls End, Bury, Cambridgeshire, planning reference (1101173FUL).

Permission is subject to conditions, and by the recommendation of CHET that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken prior to the development of the site, as it is close to an area of some archaeological potential, with the possibility of archaeological remains of late Saxon and medieval origin in the immediate area of the site.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest recorded evidence that relates to Bury dates to the late 10th Century when it is first mentioned as a berewick or out-lying district attached to Wistow or Kingston, forming part of a grant by Oswald Archbishop of York to Ramsey Abbey. By the latter half of the 12th Century Bury had become the head of this holding, and Wistow and Raveley were berewicks to it. The name of Bury or '*Biri* or *Byrig*' meaning (place by) the fort or stronghold' or burgh, a burgh being the Old English term for a fortified place (Mills, A. D., 1993). The site of the Danish burgh of Wistow (CHER 11305) has been suggested to lie approximately 700m south-east of the site area and south of the medieval Church of The Holy Cross (CHER DCB3269).

Early archaeological evidence for the settlement of the village was recorded in 1994 just 300m south of the site and adjacent to Cheveril Lane (CHER 10115). This evidence would suggest the settlement's origins go back as far as the Late Iron Age, continuing through into the Roman-British period with a shift to higher ground during the Saxo-Norman period when the settlement begins to focus around a system of rectilinear enclosures which are later replaced by a larger open ditch system within a moated site sometime during the 13th Century. Further evidence of the medieval settlement of the village can also be seen in the upstanding earthworks present 500m south-east of the site which that survive as a series of house platforms (CHER 10114), while close to this an evaluation in 2011 near to the church hall revealed evidence of medieval and post-medieval features and pottery (CHER ECB367).

5.0 Methodology

The methodology required that a total of 87 linear metres of trenching was to be located throughout the development area and targeting areas which were to be disturbed by the development. Finally, due to the constraints of the site only 74 linear metres were used. Trenching was undertaken with a 360° tracked excavator with a back operating arm fitted with a bladed bucket. All groundworks and spoil were monitored for archaeological remains by eye and also metal detected. These investigations resulted in the production of written descriptions, complemented by colour slide/photographs and scale drawings in both plan and section.

The work was undertaken by the author on the 10th and 11th of April 2012.

6.0 Results

A total of ten deposits were recorded throughout the trenches investigated, these were: (001), (002), (005), (007), (009) representing 20th Century dumped/levelling layers; (006), (008), (010) representing 19th/20th Century dumped/levelling layers and natural deposits (003) and (004), (fig.4, plates 5 -11, appendix 1).

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The deposits recorded are representative of natural soils and re-deposited/imported soils, the latter having taken place over a period of years and to presumably 'level' up the site when it was used as a yard area for the former dairy farm. The site area has also been subject to heavy truncation by late 19th and mid to late 20th Century field drains.

The absence of archaeology throughout the area investigated was unexpected, and scanning of the spoil both visually and by metal detecting revealed no stray artefacts. It may be that a lack of archaeology is because the site lies on the very fringes of the known settlement area to the south (CHER 100115) and with any features being more dispersed, or that this area was never subject to occupation in the past and was reserved for arable or pastoral farming practices.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology required the monitoring of three evaluation trenches within the site area. Sufficient time was given by the developer to insure that complete recording of the deposits encountered was possible, thus enabling the site to be preserved by record.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Midland Archaeological Services would like to thank Mr Ian Lockheart for this commission and also the CHET for advice and comments prior to and after the undertaking of this project.

10.0 Publication

A summary of the findings will be prepared for inclusion in the annual round of 'Fieldwork' section of the *Cambridge Antiquarian Society Journal*.

11.0 Site Archive

The site archive of written, drawn and photographic elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Historic Environment Record within three months of the completion of the work.

12.0 References

ALGO (east) 2002: *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, EAA Occasional Paper 14.

BGS 1995 Ramsey, Sheet 172. 1:50 000 Solid and Drift Edition, British Geological Survey, Keyworth.

CCC 2004: *Deposition of archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store*.

IFA 2008 *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists).

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Environmental Archaeology A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Second Edition), English Heritage 2011

Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).

Health and safety at work act 1974.

Mills, A. D., 1993, *English Place-Names*. Oxford University Press.

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Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. Published for the Department for Communities and Local Government, under licence from the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office 2010.

Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990), *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992)

Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluations, (Institute for Field archaeologists 2009).

Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1: Resource Assessment and 2 Research Agenda and Strategy documents (EAA Occasional Papers 3 and 8).

The Treasure Act 1996, Code of Practice (2nd Revision) England & Wales.

Internet Resources

Archaeological Data Service 2011: www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk

British Listed Buildings Online 2011: www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

British History Online 2011: www.britishhistoryonline.co.uk

Heritage Gateway 2011: www.heritagegateway.org.uk

Archives/Historic Environment Records

Cambridge Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

- (001)** Mid grey silty clay, 30/70%, 0.32m in thickness, frequent brick fragments, concrete, small/medium angular, sub-rounded and rounded stones 5mm in size poorly sorted. Modern 20th Century dumped/leveling layer associated with the sites former use.
- (002)** Dark grey/brown fine silty loam, 20/80%, 0.20m in thickness, occasional small sub-rounded stones 5mm in size, also small to medium sized angular coal fragments, modern brick and charcoal fragments and flecks. Dumped modern 20th Century leveling layer evident across most of the site area.
- (003)** Mid orange sandy silt, 20/80%, in excess of 0.20m in thickness, occasional sub-angular 'gravel' inclusions between 5-7mm in size, poorly sorted. Natural.
- (004)** Mid/light blue/grey stiff clay, in excess of 0.20m in thickness, no inclusions. Natural Alluvium.
- (005)** Mid brown sandy silt, 20/80%, 0.40m in thickness with frequent modern brick and concrete fragments. Modern 20th Century leveling layer.
- (006)** Mid grey firm brown clay, 0.21m in thickness with occasional charcoal flecks and brick fragments. Leveling layer, possibly late 19th, or early 20th Century.
- (007)** Mid brown clayey silt, 15/85%, 0.21m in thickness with occasional charcoal flecks and fragments, frequent modern brick fragments. Modern 20th Century leveling layer.
- (008)** Mid pinkish/orange hard gritty layer, 0.11m in thickness with frequent fragments of crushed brick and brick fragments. Crushed brick leveling layer, possible 19th, or early 20th century in origin.
- (009)** Dark grey soft silt, 0.22m in thickness with occasional small angular flint inclusions 7mm in size, small sub-rounded stones 5-8mm in size, moderately sorted. Modern 20th Century dumped/leveling layer.
- (010)** Dark grey silty 'ashy' layer, 0.10 in thickness, no inclusions. 19th to early/mid 20th Century dumped deposit.

Appendix 2: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Site view looking west.



Plate 2: Site view looking north-west.



Plate 3: Site view looking north-north-west.



Plate 4: Site view looking south.



Plate 5: Trench 1 looking south.



Plate 6: Trench 2 looking south.



Plate 7: Trench 2 looking north.



Plate 8: Trench 3 looking east.

Appendix 3: Oasis Documentation

OASIS ID: midlanda1-124869

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Trenched evaluation on Land North of 2 Owls End, Bury, Cambridgeshire.
Short description of the project	Trenched field evaluation on land north of 2 Owls End, Bury, Cambridgeshire prior to development of the site.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2012 End: 11-04-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3739 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	OEB 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE Post Medieval
Monument type	NONE Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Documentary Search','Metal Detectors','Photographic Survey','Sample Trenches','Visual Inspection'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE BURY Land North of 2 OqIs End, Bury, Cambridgeshire, PE26 2NJ
Postcode	PE26 2NJ
Study area	2280.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 2831 8393 52.4378699627 -0.112227414069 52 26 16 N 000 06 44 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min: 8.55m Max: 8.60m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Midland Archaeological Services
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Midland Archaeological Services
Project director/manager S.L.W Williams
Project supervisor S.L.W.Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body G.L.Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Digital Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire Historic environment Record
Paper Archive ID ECB 3739
Paper Contents 'none'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological Trenched Evaluation on Land North of 2 Owls End, Bury, Cambridgeshire, PE26 2NJ

Author(s)/Editor(s)	S.Williams
Other bibliographic details	MAS 338/11
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	MAS
Place of issue or publication	MAS/Lincolnshire
Description	Trenched field evaluation of land north of 2 Owls End, Bury, Cambridgeshire prior to development. Three trenches were located within the footprint areas of the buildings to be built. No archaeology was encountered, only natural soils, and made/levelled ground dating to between the late 19th and late to mid 20th Century. The site had suffered heavy truncation by land drains.
URL	www.midlandarchaeologicalservices.co.uk
Entered by	Steve Williams (steve@midlandarchaeologicalservices.co.uk)
Entered on	2 May 2012

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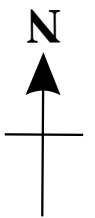


Fig. 2

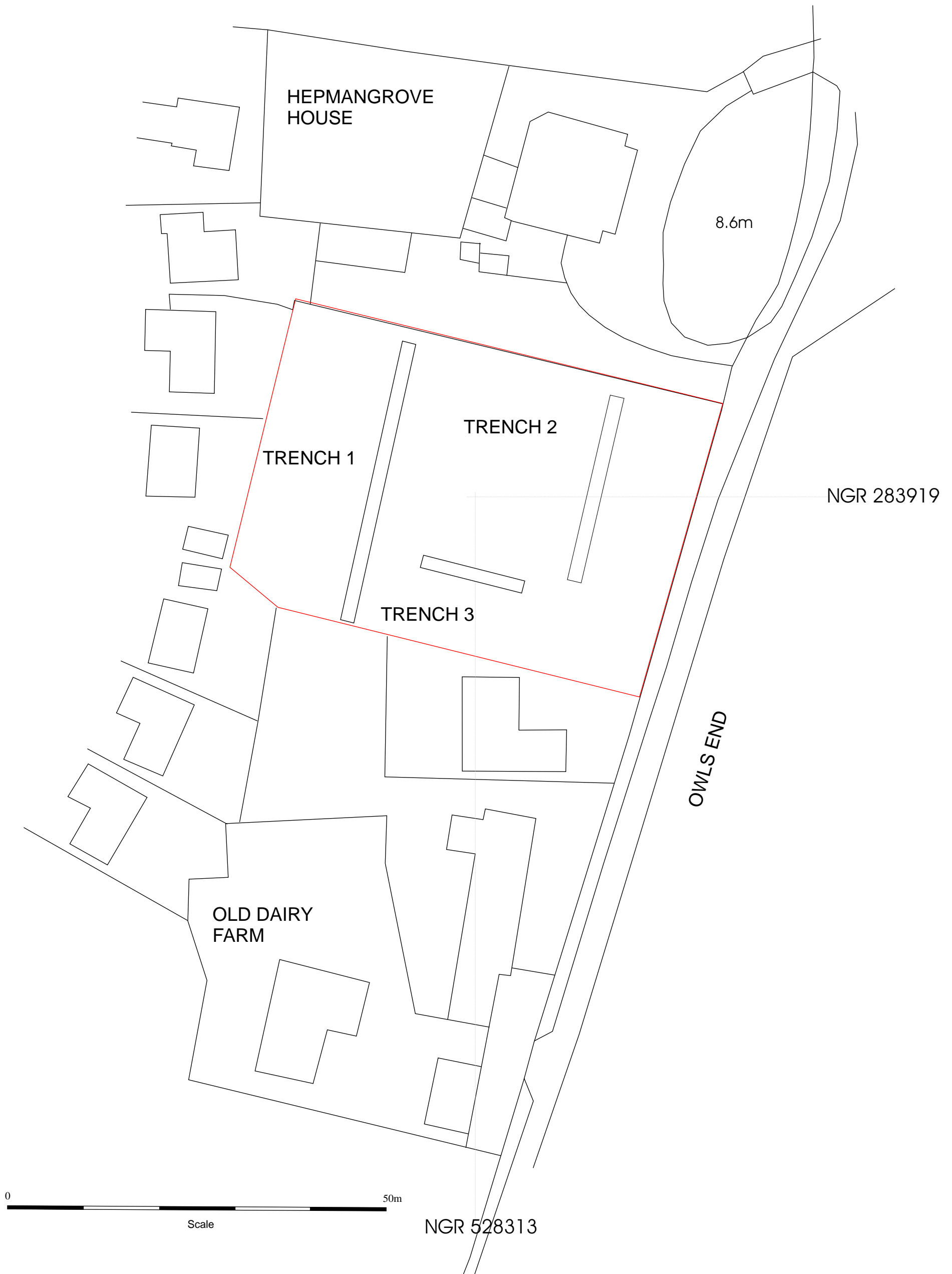
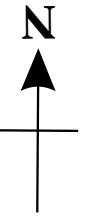


Fig. 3

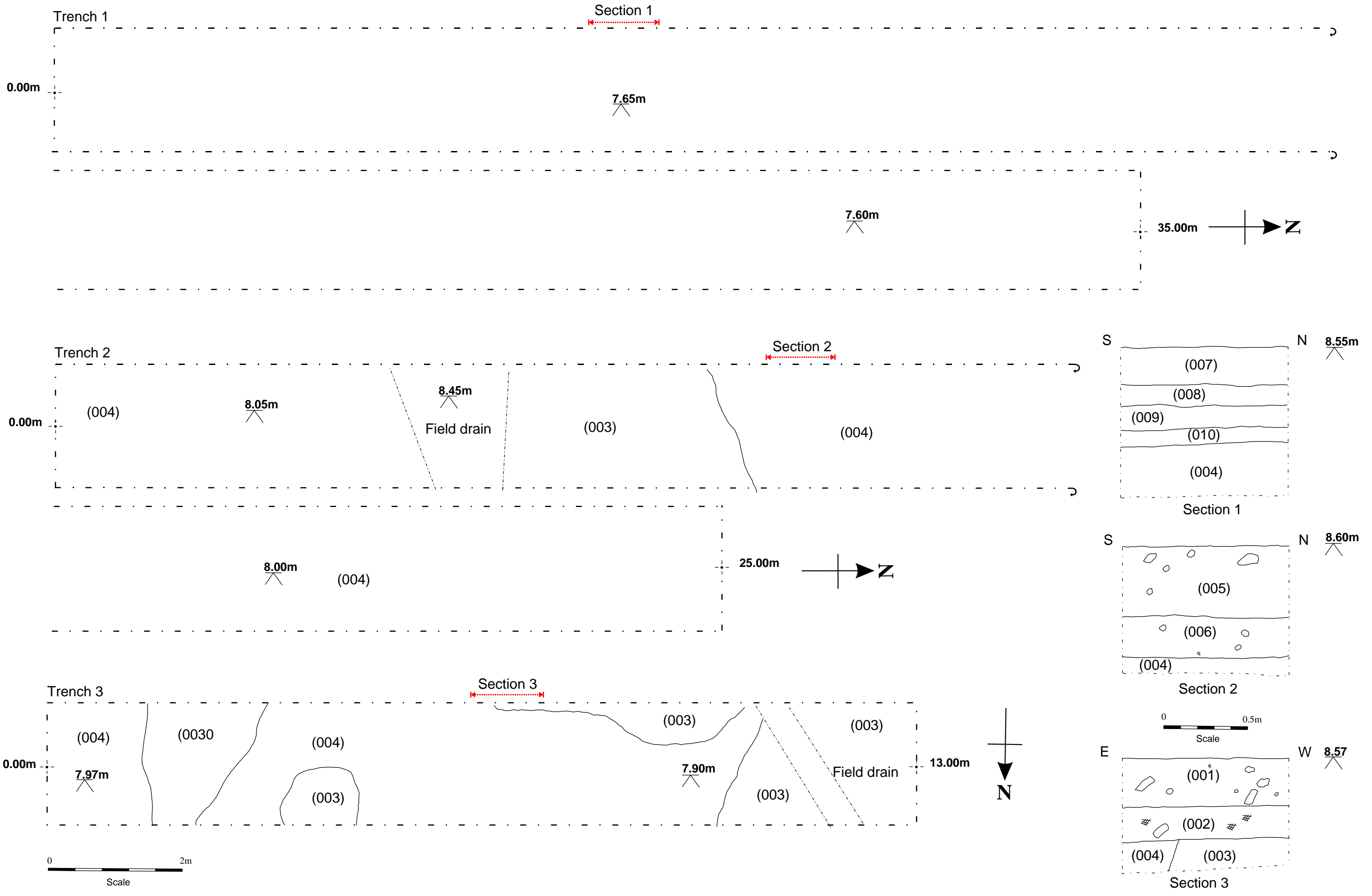


Fig.4