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archaeological field unit

CAM ARC Report Number 938

An Iron Age settlement and associated field boundaries at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough.

Evaluation Report

Spencer Cooper

March 2007

Cambridgeshire County Council
Environment & Community Services

Commissioned by Bidwells

CAM ARC Report Number 938

An Iron Age settlement and associated field boundaries at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough

Evaluation Report

Spencer Cooper HND, BA

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	An Iron Age settlement and associated field boundaries at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe			
Short description	This evaluation revealed important remains of a large Middle to Late Iron Age settlement at Wesleyan Road in Dogsthorpe, Peterborough. These included a possible farmstead with a number of field boundaries, a possible roundhouse, a small number of pits and a kiln/industrial feature.			
Project dates	Start 15/1/07	30/1/07	End 30/1/07	
Previous work	HER numbers 2169 and 2169 Hatton 1999,		Future work	yes
Associated project reference codes				
Type of project	Evaluation			
Site status	. none,			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Disused Allotments			
Planned development	Housing Development			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Iron Age unenclosed settlement Mid-Late Iron Age Field Boundaries			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	Mid-Late Iron Age Pottery Iron Age Bone pendant Loom Weights			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Peterborough	Parish Dogsthorpe		
HER for region	e.g. Peterborough,			
Site address (including postcode)	Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough			
Study area (sq.m or ha)				
National grid reference	TF 1910 0160			
Height OD	Min OD10.50		Max OD 11.23	
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCCAS)			
Project design originator	CAM ARC			
Director/supervisor	Spencer Cooper			
Project manager	James Drummond- Murray			
Sponsor or funding body	Bidwells			
ARCHIVES	**Location and accession number**		**Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)**	
Physical			Pottery, Animal Bone, and Fired Clay	
Paper			Plans, sections . Context Sheets.	
Digital			Photographs.	
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Summary

Between 15th and 30th of January 2007, CAM ARC (formerly CCC AFU) conducted an archaeological evaluation at Land at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough (TF 1910 0160). The work was carried out at the request of Bidwells. This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Peterborough City Council and a Specification prepared by CAM ARC.

This evaluation revealed important remains of a large Middle to Late Iron Age settlement at Wesleyan Road in Dogsthorpe, Peterborough. These included a possible farmstead with a number of field boundaries, a possible roundhouse, a small number of pits and a kiln/industrial feature. The synthesis of information gained as a result of this evaluation and previous work undertaken within the environs of Peterborough will aid interpretation of the development of the local Iron Age landscape. The remains at Weslyean road have the potential to make a contribution towards local Iron Age research.

Contents

List of Figures

List of Appendices

1 Introduction

Between 15th and 30th of January 2007, CAM ARC conducted an archaeological evaluation at Land at Wesleyan Road, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough (TF 1910 0160). The work was carried out at the request of Bidwells in order to fulfil a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation written by Ben Robinson of Peterborough City Council.

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Peterborough City Council and a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly the Archaeological Field Unit).

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 *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by Peterborough Museums, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

The site lies on river terrace deposits with a finger of Oxford Clay possibly stretching into the northern half of the site. The site is relatively flat at around 11m OD, although there is a slight slope with the higher ground lying in the eastern part of the site.

3. Archaeological Background

The site lies to the north of the historic settlement of Peterborough but there may be remains associated with prehistoric and Roman settlement in the area. Extensive works to the north in the Paston area have revealed evidence for Romano-British occupation.

The deserted medieval hamlet of Cathwaite lies to the north and medieval remains were uncovered during the construction of Paston Parkway.

Previous archaeological work undertaken at Wesleyan road (Hatton 1999) produced no archaeological features or artefacts.

Prehistoric

Evidence of human activity in the immediate area takes the form of Palaeolithic worked flint (HER 2169) together with later prehistoric worked flint (HER 22059). To the east of the development site further finds of flint tools and flints and flakes dating to the Late Neolithic.

Iron Age

According to the HER Iron Age pottery (HER 2208) has been collected from the Wesleyan Road area.

Further away, a number of large Iron Age settlements have been identified within the Nene and Welland valleys. A few miles to the east at Eye a number of Iron Age sites have been investigated. An Archaeological investigation conducted by CAM ARC in 2000 (Casa Hatton 2000) revealed Middle Iron Age domestic occupation, in the form of a roundhouse and boundary ditches. Similar settlement evidence has been uncovered at Eye Quarry. In particular, excavations conducted at Eye Quarry have produced evidence for a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement in the form of a round house, four-post structures and pits of varying sizes (Gibson & White 1998)

Roman

There are a number Roman sites which have been investigated to the north of Dogsthorpe at Paston. In 1997 BUFA (HER 50526) undertook an evaluation and excavation at Paston Reserves which revealed Roman boundary ditches and postholes. Associated with the enclosures was a considerable quantity of pottery and building material including hypocaust tiles and painted plaster.

Another site to the north of the subject site was excavated by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust (HER 50529) which revealed Roman ditches which related to a settlement. Fragments of tegula, imbrex and box tile recovered suggest a settlement of some status. This evaluation also revealed material related to the Car Dyke.

4 Methodology

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.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless 1.8m wide ditching bucket.

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 that were obviously modern.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using CAM ARC'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.

Environmental samples were taken from across the development area.

The conditions were generally wet with Trench 7 experiencing the wettest conditions in the development area.

5 Results (Figs 2-6)

Fourteen trenches were excavated across the development area (Fig.1). The overburden was 0.36m–1.2m in depth across the site. In most areas it consisted of, a dark greyish silty clay (topsoil) which overlaid a brownish grey silty clay (subsoil). The exception to this basic sequence was in trench 7 which had four or five layers (173, 174, 175, and 184) of modern build up.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on a northeast to southwest alignment and was 50m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.40m in the northeast end to 0.70m in the southwest end. This trench was located in the northern half of the development area.

Ditch terminus **241** (Section 40) ran on a north to south alignment and measured 1.20m wide and 0.47m deep. It had concave sides and flat base and contained two fills 239 and 240. The primary fill (240) contained a light brown sandy silt which produced several sherds of Iron Age pottery (Appendix 2). The upper fill (239) consisted of a light orange brown with occasional sub rounded pebbles. One fragment of animal bone (Appendix 3) was recovered from this context. This feature appears to represent a terminus of an Iron Age field boundary.

To the west of 241 was a narrow ditch **243** that measured 0.42m wide and 0.16m deep. It was filled by a light grey silt sand which contained no artefacts.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located on a northeast to southwest alignment and was 49.5m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.62 m

in the east end to 0.36 m in the west end. This trench was located in the northern half of the development area. The majority of the features were identified in the eastern part of the trench and these included an Iron Age pit (**231)** and several undated pits or ditch termini (**236** and **238**).

Pit **231**, (Section 37) measured 1.20m wide and 0.75m deep and had concave sides. It contained a single fill (230) which consisted of a mid-greyish brown silty sand. Finds recovered from this fill included early Romano-British pottery and a small copper pin. Immediately to the west of pit **231** was a possible pit/ditch **238** which measured 0.25m deep and 1.30m wide. It had concave sides and flatish base and contained three fills (237, 250 and 251). The primary fill (237) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a moderate amount of small sub-rounded gravel. Early Romano-British pottery was recovered from this fill. Fill 250 was an orange brown silty clay with occasional medium size gravel inclusions. The upper fill (251) consisted of a brown silty clay which was 0.10m deep. From the available evidence it should be noted that there is a doubt over whether this feature represents a pit or a ditch terminus.

Pit **236** may represent a pit or possibly a ditch terminus. A section was excavated across this feature which was 0.95m wide and 0.45m deep, and contained several fills (234 and 235). The primary fill (235) was a mid orange grey silty clay which was 0.10m deep. The secondary fill (234) was an orange grey silty clay which was 0.35m deep. No pottery was recovered from this feature.

5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located on an east to west alignment and was 40m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.40m in the northeast end to 0.80m in the southwest end. This trench was located in the northern half of the development area. A single boundary ditch **220** was observed in the western part of the trench. This ditch (**220**) ran on a north to south alignment and measured 1m wide and 0.42m deep. It had concave sides and was filled with a mid brown orange silty sand (219). No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located on a northeast to southwest alignment and was 42m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.45m in the east end to 0.60m in the west end. Three features (**249, 247 and 229**) were encountered in this trench. Two of them lay in the western part of the trench.

Pit **249** had concave sides, a flat base and was filled with a mid greyish brown clayey silt (248). It measured 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep.

Ditch **247** (Section 42) ran on a north-south alignment with concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.75m wide and 0.30m deep and contained a single greyish brown silty sandy clay. Several pieces of fired clay including a loom weight were recovered from fill 246. In the eastern side of the trench a possible pit (**229**) was investigated. Pit **229** (Section 38) measured 1.10m wide and 0.56m deep and contained three fills 233, 228 and 232. The primary fill 233 was a dark brown clay sand with a moderate amount of gravel. Fill 228 was a mid brown sandy clay with a moderate amount of stones. Fill 232 was a light brown silty clay which was devoid of artefacts.

5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was 48m long, orientated on a northwest to southeast alignment. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.50m in the northern end to 0.30m in the southern end. Three large ditches (**225**, **227** and **214**) were identified across the trench. In the centre of the trench a large boundary ditch was encountered. This ditch (**225)** ran on a north-south alignment with concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled with a greyish brown sandy silt fill which contained Iron Age pottery and animal bone.

To the south of ditch **225** was a curving ditch **227**. Ditch **227** ran on a northeast to southwest axis and had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.70m wide and 0.028m deep and was filled by an orangy mid brown sandy silt fill (227).

In the northern part of the trench a curving ditch **214** was investigated. Ditch **214** ran on an east to west alignment with concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 1.04m and 0.60m deep and was filled by three fills (211 212 and 212). The primary fill (213) was an orangey light brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of gravel inclusions. Fill 212 was a brownish dark orange silty sand with a moderate amount of gravel inclusions. Fill 211 was a dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebble inclusions.

5.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located on an east to west alignment and was 50m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.40m in the east end to 0.70m in the west end. A possible kiln or industrial feature (**218**) (Sections 45 and 46) located in the western part of the trench was identified. This feature was key shaped and was 1.20m long and 0.45m deep. It contained fired clay, pottery and charcoal. A large number of fills were identified in the excavation of this feature (215, 216, 217, 252, 253, and 259). These fills all contained charcoal and probably represent the last phase of this kiln. Fill 252 was of particular interest as it produced seventy-three sherds of a single vessel, which was Middle Iron Age in date. It appears that these sherds may have formed some kind of lining for this industrial feature. To the west was

a second possible kiln. This was 0.80m wide and 0.32m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. It contained four fills (254, 255, 256 and 257). All the fills contained a substantial amount of charcoal. One sherd of Iron Age pottery was collected from the upper fill (254) of this feature.

To the east of the industrial feature was a curving ditch **210** that was 1.78m wide and 0.53m deep. This ditch contained fills 209 and 208. The lower fill (209) was a mid orange brown sandy clay with a frequent amount of gravel. A bone pendant was recovered from this context that is probably Iron Age in date. The upper fill (208) was a mid-grey brown silty clay with occasional gravel.

5.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was 50m long, orientated approximately northwest to southeast. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from1.3m in the north end to1.20m in the south end. A significant number of Iron Age features were uncovered in this trench. These features included field boundaries, pits and a possible roundhouse/ring ditch.

A large boundary ditch **192** which ran on a north to south alignment dominated the northern end of the trench. This ditch had concave sides and sloping base and measured 1.38m wide and was 0.28m deep. It contained fills 190 and 191. The primary fill (191) consisted of a blue mid grey silty clay with occasional medium sized gravel. The upper fill was a brownish dark grey silty clay which contained animal bone. A further section (**177**) was excavated across the same ditch to the south and had similar dimensions and characteristics.

Pit **199** was a steep sided, sub-circular feature that contained two fills (197 and 198). This pit had concave sides and measured 1.20m wide and 0.70m deep. The primary fill 198 was a dark greyish blue and was 0.34m deep. The secondary fill (197) was a mid bluish grey clay which was 0.36m deep. No finds were observed from these fills. To the south of pit **199** was ditch **196**. Ditch **196** was 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep and ran on a roughly east-west alignment. It had concave sides with a sloping base and contained a single fill (195). Fill 195 was a mid grey silty clay with a moderate amount of sub-angular gravel. No finds were recovered from this fill but this feature was truncated by modern feature **260** (Section 23). Pit **260** was a modern feature that was only observed in section. It measured 1.8m wide and 0.20m deep and was filled by a dark brown silty clay 194. This modern feature appears to cut **196** and **199**.

Further to the south ditch **154** was revealed which measured 0.42m wide and 0.28m deep. It ran on a roughly east to west alignment which had steep sides and flat base. It was filled by a mid bluish grey silty clay wit some flint inclusions. Immediately to the south of ditch

154 was another larger ditch **152** that ran on an east to west alignment. Ditch **152** had concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.90m wide and 0.35 deep and contained two fills 151 and 193. The primary fill (151) was a mid bluish grey clay which contained animal bone. The upper fill (193) was a mid greyish brown silty clay which contained no finds.

Pit **150** was oval in plan and had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.67m wide and 0.07m deep and was filled by a mid brown grey silty clay.

In the centre of the site a possible ring ditch or roundhouse was uncovered. A section was excavated through the northern arc of this ditch **148** which was 0.40m wide and 0.11m deep. It was filled by a mid bluish grey silty clay which produced no finds. A section 0.30m wide and 0.05m deep was excavated in the southern arc (ditch **146**) of the roundhouse. This section was filled by a light brown grey silty clay (134) which contained animal bones.

Ditch **146** was truncated by a narrow ditch (**144**, **186** and **135**) which ran on a northwest to southeast axis. Ditch **186** measured 0.40m wide and 0.15m deep and had concave sides and a flatish base. It was filled by a light brownish grey silty clay (185) which contained no artefacts. An environmental sample taken from this fill was devoid of botanical remains.

To the south of the possible roundhouse, a large pit (**140**) was encountered. This pit measured 1m wide and 0.34m deep and contained several fills. The primary fill (139) was a dark brown silty clay which was 0.12m deep. The upper fill (138) was a light blue grey clay with occasional sand and gravel. Pit **140** truncated a small pit **137**. Pit **137** had concave sides with a flat base and was filled by a mid brown clay 136. In the southern part of the trench a large pit (**142)** with concave sides and a shallow base was investigated. It measured 2m wide and 0.14m deep and was filled by a mid orange grey sandy clay (141).

A few metres to the south of pit **142** was a curving ditch (**133**) that measured 0.20m wide and 0.05m deep. It was filled by a mid grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

Immediately to the south of ditch **133** was a large ditch (**131**)**,** which had steep sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.95m wide and 0.29m deep and was filled by a mid orange grey sandy clay. Approximately 1m to the south a ditch terminus was identified. This terminus **129** had steep sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.52m wide and 0.13m deep and filled by a mid grey brown silty clay.

5.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was 50m long, orientated on a northwest to southeast alignment. Significant remains were uncovered in this trench including a substantial Iron Age field boundary ditch (**201** in addition to four smaller ditches (**170**, **172**, **222** and **163**).

An Iron Age boundary ditch **201** (Section 32) was investigated in eastern part of the trench. This ditch ran on a north to south alignment and had concave sides with a sloping base. It measured 1.90m wide and 0.70m deep and contained two fills (200 and 223). Primary fill (223) was a dark brown silty clay which was devoid of artefacts. Upper fill (200) was a greyish brown silty clay which produced Iron Age pottery.

A few metres to the east of field boundary **201,** two smaller ditches were uncovered (**222** and **163**). Ditch **222** measured 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. Its fill (221) was light brown silty clay with no artefacts. Ditch **163** measured 0.65m wide and 0.35m deep and had concave sides with a sloping base. Its fill 162 a dark brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles.

Two shallow ditch termini (**170** and **172**) were investigated to the west of ditch boundary **201.** Ditch **170** had concave sides with a flat base and measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep. It was filled with a dark brown silty clay which contained no artefacts. Ditch **172** had concave sides with a flat base and measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep. It was filled with a light grey silty clay with occasional sub-rounded gravel. The arrangement of these termini ditches is interesting since it may represent some form of enclosure.

5.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located on a northwest to southeast alignment and was 60m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.50m in the north end to 0.70m in the south end. Seven features (including pits and ditches) were identified along the trench.

Two small ditches (**203** and **179)** were investigated in the southern side of the trench. An east-west ditch (**203)** had concave sides with a sloping base. It measured 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep and was filled by a mid brown silty clay which contained Iron Age pottery. A ditch terminus (**179)** was investigated to the west of **203**. This shallow ditch ran on a northwest to southeast alignment, which measured 0.40m wide and 0.05m deep. It had concave sides and a flat base and was filled with mid brown silty clay (178) that contained middle Iron Age pottery.

Further to the north an isolated pit/posthole **181** was investigated**.** It measured 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep and had concave sides and sloping base. It was filled with a mid brown grey silty clay (180) which was devoid of artefacts. It is difficult to ascertain at this stage whether

this feature represents a structural feature which links with ditch terminus **179.**

Immediately to the north of posthole **181** an east to west aligned ditch (**183**) was excavated. Ditch **183** had concave sides with a sloping base and measured 0.74m wide and 0.36m deep. It was filled with a dark yellow brown silty clay with occasional sub rounded gravel.

Ditch **205** had concave sides with a sloping base and measured 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep. It was filled with a light grey silty clay with occasional sub rounded gravel.

In the northern part of the trench an east to west ditch (**207**) had U-shaped profile with an irregular base. It measured 1.10m wide and was 0.70m deep and was filled with a mid grey brown silty sand (206).

In the northwest corner of the trench pit **189** was identified. This pit measured 1.1m wide and 0.53m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (188) which consisted of a mid blue grey clay.

5.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was located on an east to west alignment and was 48.5m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.40m in the east end to 0.70m in the west end.

A number of ditches and pits were identified predominantly in the western part of the trench. The most westerly feature was pit **168,** which was 0.35m wide**,** and 0.10m deep and had concave sides and a sloping base. It contained a single fill (167) which consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from this pit. Immediately to the east of pit **168** was pit **166** that was 1.2m wide and 0.12m depth. It had concave sides and was filled with a mid brown grey silty clay (165).

Pit **162** was 1.1m wide and 0.10m deep and was filled with a light orange brown silty clay. It had concave sides and a sloping base and contained animal bone.

A possible boundary ditch (**158**) running northeast to southwest was investigated in western half of the trench. This ditch had concave sides and a sloping base. It measured 1.17m wide and 0.25m deep and was filled with two fills. The lower fill (157) consisted of a light grey brown clay while the upper fill (156) was a light grey orange clay. To the east of this boundary ditch (**158)** was ditch **160**. Ditch **160** ran on a northeast to southwest alignment and measured 1.2m wide and 0.32m deep. It was filled by a light brown grey clay which contained animal bone.

5.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was located on a northwest to southeast alignment and was 50m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.40m in the east end to 0.70m in the west end.

A number of features were identified including a number of ditches and pits. In the northern end of the trench a large pit (**110**) truncated a posthole **106**.

Pit **110** was circular in plan with steep sides. It measured 0.85m wide and 0.45m deep and was filled by a mid brown sandy clay (103). Posthole **106** was 0.50m wide and 0.27m deep and contained a several fills (104 and 105). The lower fill (105) was a mid orange grey clay while the upper fill (104) consisted of a mid brown brown orange sandy clay.

Further to the south boundary ditches **115** and **109** were identified.

Ditch **115** a large boundary ditch that was 3.10m wide and 0.98m deep. It ran on an east to west alignment and had steep sides with a U-shaped profile. The primary fill of this ditch was a dark greyish orange clay (114) that produced Iron Age pottery. Sealing the primary fill were a number of secondary fills (113,112 and 111). Fill113 was a mid orangey grey silty clay which produced animal bone and early Romano-British pottery. Fill 112 was a mid brownish grey silty clay which contained mid Iron Age pottery. The upper fill (111) was a dark greyish brown silty clay which contained evidence of butchered cattle and dog bone and sherds of Late Iron Age pottery.

To the south of ditch **115** an east-west ditch **109** (Section 1) was identified. This ditch ran on an east to west alignment and had concave sides with a flat base. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.50m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill 108 was a mid orange brown clay with occasional gravel while the upper fill (107) was a light orange brown clay. Thirteen sherds of Iron Age pottery was recovered from both of these fills.

5.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was located on a north to south alignment and was 22.5m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.94 m in the north end to 1.19m in the south end. Two ditches (**117** and **119**) were identified in the northern part of the trench.

Ditch terminus **117** had concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.60m wide and 0.35m deep and ran on an east to west alignment. It was filled by a light yellowish grey clay (116) which contained burnt animal bones.

Ditch **119** had concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.70m wide and 0.25m deep and ran on an east to west alignment. It was filled by a mid orange grey clay (118) which contained animal bones.

5.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was located on a northwest to southeast alignment and was 50m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.50m in the southeast end to 0.70m in the northwest end. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench.

5.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was located in the southern part of the development area on an east to west axis and was 47m long. The overburden of this trench varied in depth from 0.58m in the east end to 0.60m in the west end. This trench revealed two ditches and two postholes that were difficult to identify. In the eastern part of the trench postholes **127** and **125** were investigated. It is uncertain at this juncture whether these postholes formed part of a roundhouse or a fenceline. Posthole **125** was 0.20m wide and 0.08m deep and had concave sides. Its fill (124) was dark orange silty sand that produced no artefacts.

Two ditches (**121** and **123**) were encountered to the west of postholes 127 and 125. Ditch **121** had concave sides and a flat base. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.60m deep and ran on a north to south alignment. It was filled by a mid orange grey clay (122) which contained animal bones. In the western corner of the trench ditch **123** was encountered. This ran on a northwest to southeast alignment and measured 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled by a light greyish blue clay that produced no finds.

6 Discussion

This evaluation has revealed a Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead in the Nene valley. From the material culture collected from the evaluation it is apparent that there were at least three phases of development of the farmstead that originated in the Middle Iron Age and continued into the Early Roman period.

One of the most significant observations in the evaluation was the pennanular ditch (**148** and **146**) which may have formed part of a roundhouse, or a ring ditch. Indeed, this ditch may have formed an eaves-drip gully for a roundhouse. Other possible structural features include the ditch termini **170** and **172** in Trench 7 which may represent some form of stockade or building.

Another significant element was the density of field ditches that were uncovered across the development area. The differing alignments and stratigraphic relationships of the ditches encountered imply longevity of occupation within the subject site. Some basic patterning could be ascertained such as the ditches **220** (Trench 3) **247** (Trench 4) and **225** (Trench 5) running on a roughly north to south alignment forming part of a droveway or field system. These ditches may have been part of an Iron Age landscape with possibly more extensive settlement to the west. It may be the case that the whole system of land division was laid out to facilitate the management and movement of livestock. Of particular note was ditch **115** which was a large boundary which contained both Iron Age and Early Roman material.

A small number of pits were identified in Trenches 2, 7 and 10 across the development area. The most significant group of pits **231**, **238** **236**, were the ones in Trench 2 which produced Early Roman pottery. The other pits uncovered such as **162**, **166** and **168** (Trench 10) are, most likely to be Iron Age date on the basis of the morphology and fill characteristics. It is difficult to ascertain the function of most of these pits

The kiln/industrial feature (**218=258**) uncovered warrants further attention in order to elucidate function. From the limited excavation of this kiln seventy-two sherds of a single large Iron Age vessel were recovered, which seem to form a temporary lining. Other observations of this feature that suggest industrial activity were the presence of burnt deposits and fired clay.

The remains at Weslyean Road have potential to make meaningful contribution local research priorities as highlighted in the strategy for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). For instance the

East Anglian research agenda has identified the increase in agricultural production as being the most important development in the Iron Age.

7 Conclusions

The aim of the project was to establish the character, date, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains within the site. The results of the evaluation have made a substantial contribution to the understanding of the Iron Age landscape of Dogsthorpe.

The most notable observations were the presence of a possible Iron Age roundhouse and at least one kiln in trenches 6 and 7. The density of field boundaries may imply that the development area was well cultivated from the Middle Iron Age through to the Early Roman period. The major components of the landscape identified (pitting and field boundaries) imply settlement activity in close proximity to the development area.

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

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the client, Bidwells, who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray.

The brief for archaeological works was written by Ben Robinson, of Peterborough Museum, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation.

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Appendix 1: Finds Summary

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
107	Ceramic	Vessel	0.29	
108	Ceramic	Vessel	0.09	
108	Ceramic	Vessel	0.00	
111	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
112	Ceramic	Vessel	0.22	
113	Ceramic	Vessel	0.33	
114	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
169	Flint		0.00	Burnt Flint
171	Flint		0.02	
108	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.02	
112	Slag		0.15	
122	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.00	
163	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.00	Trench 8.
108	Bone	Bone	0.15	
111	Bone	Bone	0.16	
112	Bone	Bone	0.32	
113	Bone	Bone	0.42	
114	Bone	Bone	0.15	
122	Bone	Bone	0.02	
169	Bone	Bone	0.00	
104	Bone	Bone	0.11	
116	Bone	Bone	0.03	
118	Bone	Bone	0.03	
159	Bone	Bone	0.01	
161	Bone	Bone	0.01	
178	Ceramic	Vessel	0.09	
182	Ceramic	Vessel	0.11	
187	Ceramic	Vessel	0.04	
200	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	TR 8.
202	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
206	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
215	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
215	Ceramic	Vessel	0.12	
216	Ceramic	Vessel	0.04	
224	Ceramic	Vessel	0.27	

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
224	Ceramic	Vessel	0.13	
230	Ceramic	Vessel	0.02	
230	Metal	Copper	0.001	SF 2 Pin
237	Ceramic	Vessel	0.04	TR.2.
240	Ceramic	Vessel	0.03	
252	Ceramic	Vessel	0.16	
252	Ceramic	Vessel	0.04	
252	Ceramic	Vessel	0.31	
252	Ceramic	Vessel	0.45	
254	Ceramic	Vessel	0.01	
182	Bone	Bone	0.13	
187	Bone	Bone	0.10	
190	Bone	Bone	0.81	
128	Bone	Bone	0.00	
134	Bone	Bone	0.01	
151	Bone	Bone	0.03	
215	Bone	Bone	0.01	
216	Bone	Bone	0.04	
224	Bone	Bone	0.06	
204	Bone	Bone	0.02	
209	Bone	Pendant	0.02	SF 1. TR 6.
213	Bone	Bone	0.01	
226	Bone	Bone	0.02	
239	Bone	Bone	0.01	
814	Bone	Bone	0.38	
206	Flint		0.01	
224	Flint		0.00	
224	Flint		0.01	
224	Slag		0.06	
230			0.00	Charcoal
182	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.06	
215	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.01	
215	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.08	
216	Ceramic	Loom weight	0.31	SF 3.
230	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.02	
217	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.02	
246	Ceramic	Loom weight	0.07	TR 4. SF 4.
246	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.03	
246	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.02	TR 4.
253	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.01	

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg	Comments
215	Stone		0.23	
215	Stone		0.73	
216	Stone		0.19	
217	Stone		0.57	

Appendix 2: Pottery Report

by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 184 sherds with a total weight of 2,844g. The estimated vessel equivalent (EVE), by summation of surviving rimsherd circumference was 0.72. The range of pottery types present indicate that there was activity at the site from the later part of the Middle Iron Age to the Early Roman period.

Fabric

The following fabrics were noted:

F1: Coarse shell up to 10mm. Rare to sparse sub-angular quartz up to 0.2mm. 139 sherds, 1,908g, EVE = 0.55.

F2: Moderate sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, most < 0.5mm. Sparse shell fragments up to 2mm. 4 sherds, 103g, EVE = 0.

F3: Sparse to moderate shell up to 5mm, rare to sparse sub-angular quartz up to 1mm. 10 sherds, 35g, EVE = 0.

F4: Sparse fine shell up to 3mm, rare to moderate sub-rounded red grog up to 3mm. 2 sherds, 95g, EVE = 0.

F5: Dense fine shell up to 3mm. 15 sherds, 154g, EVE = 0.13.

F10: Wheel-thrown, sparse to moderate sub-angular grog up to 1mm, rare shell up to 2mm. LIA? 7 sherds, 164g, EVE = 0.04.

F1001: Romano-British shelly ware. 7 sherds, 288g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a

terminus post quem. The range of fabric types is typical of Middle and Late Iron Age sites in the Nene Valley and its hinterland, comprising a variety of largely shelly, sandy or grogged fabrics, and combinations thereof.

The Iron Age pottery is in reasonably good condition, although the most of the coarse shelly inclusions have been leached out, meaning the sherds are somewhat fragile. This aside, the assemblage is generally good condition, with a mean sherd weight of 19.75g, which is fairly high for such friable pottery. It was possible to reconstruct a Middle Iron Age vessel to a full profile, and it seems that most of the ceramic is the product of primary deposition.

Chronology

The range of fabric types suggests that there was no activity at the site before the Middle Iron Age. Flint-tempered fabrics, which are typical of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age in the region, are entirely absent. All the fabrics which did occur here are variations on sand- and/or shell-tempered wares, other than the wheel-thrown wares which had grog in the fabric. These are typical of the Middle and Late Iron Age pottery traditions of the region.

This chronological picture is reinforced by the range of decorative techniques which were utilized. Pottery with finger impressions on the body is very typical of the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age in the east midlands, and can be paralleled at many sites in the region, such as Fengate (Knight 2002, Fig. 12.3, no 16). None was noted here, with scoring the only decorative technique noted, apart from a single small sherd with incised horizontal cordons.

A number of sherds were incised on the body, in a manner typical of the Scored Ware tradition (Elsdon 1992). Scored ware, which is commonly found on Middle–Late Iron Age sites in the south-east midlands, particularly Northamptonshire, is thought to be of Middle Iron Age date, ie. 5th /4th – 1st centuries BC (Knight 2002, 134-6). The bulk of the pottery is of this type consists of a single vessel from context 252, with joining sherds from contexts 215 and 216. Unusually, the scoring is horizontal rather than vertical or diagonal, and covers most of the body of the pot other than small areas above the base and below the rim. This vessel apart, only two other Scored Ware sherds were noted, suggesting that activity at the site may have started towards the end of the period of use of such pottery.

The wheel-thrown Iron Age vessels are likely to date to the Late La Tene period, probably the 1st century BC – mid/late 1st century AD. The wheel-thrown assemblage includes a large sherd from the lower part of a vessel in the ‘Belgic’ style.

The Romano-British assemblage comprises two rimsherds from two very large shell-tempered storage vessels. There are a number of production centres for such pottery in the south-east midlands (eg Marney 1989, 68), and they are likely to date to the late 1st – early 2nd century AD.

It is possible that the Middle Iron Age pottery from this site dates to the very end of the period. Certainly, the occurrence of Scored Ware alongside wheel-thrown wares does appear to be a feature of later Iron Age pottery assemblages in the lower Nene Valley (Knight 2002, 134). It would appear therefore that there was activity at the site from around the 2nd century BC –Late 1st / Early 2nd century AD, although it is possible that the earliest pottery from the site dates to the 3rd or 4th century BC.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	F1		F2		F3		F4		F5		F10		RB		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt			No	Wt	Date
107	1	209	1	81											IA
108									12	95					IA
111	2	10									1	3			LIA
112	13	150					1	8	2	54					MIA
113	3	35	1	11	1	32							5	245	ERB?
114	1	12													MIA
178							1	87							MIA
182	7	28			5	64					3	18			LIA
187	2	27	1	8											IA
200	2	10							1	5					IA
202	2	11													IA
215	14	129													MIA
216	1	19			2	19									MIA
224	15	257									3	140			LIA
230	1	18	1	3							1	2			ERB
237													1	41	ERB
240	1	12			2	20									IA
252	73	968													MIA
254	1	13													IA
Total	139	1908	4	103	10	135	2	95	15	154	8	163	6	286	

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Appendix 3: Faunal remains

by Chris Faine

Introduction

A total of 37 "countable" bones were recovered from the sample, with 119 fragments being unidentifiable to species (76.5% of the total sample). Fragments were obtained from a variety of features including pits and ditches dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods. All bone was recovered by hand. The condition of the assemblage is good albeit fragmented, with the majority of fragmentation being attributed to butchery rather than any taphonomic processes.

Methodology

All elements identifiable to species and over 25% complete were noted and recorded. Loose teeth, caudal vertebra and ribs without proximal epiphyses were noted but not included in any quantification. Elements not identifiable to species were classed as "large/medium/small mammal" but again not included in any quantification. Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion tooth wear was assessed using Grant (1982). Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI. Any instances of butchery were also recorded. The type of lesion, its position, severity and direction were all noted. The presence of any further taphonomy, i.e. burning, gnawing etc was also noted. No pathology was noted on any fragments.

The Assemblage

The largest number of identifiable fragments came from a number of contexts (84, 104, 113 and 190). Context 84 contained portions of butchered adult cattle inominate, metatarsal and lumbar vertebrae. Context 104 contained a butchered cattle 1st phalange and metatarsal. Both were bleached and weathered indicating exposure for a period of time before being buried.

Context 113 contained a butchered portion of cattle humerus and horn core, along with a single sheep/goat metatarsal and mandible belonging to an individual of around 6 months to 1 year old. A number of adult horse teeth were recovered from context 190, along with a portion of fragmented inominate.

The remaining contexts contain very few identifiable fragments. Context 107 contained a number of loose horse and sheep/goat teeth along with a gnawed cattle metatarsal. More loose horse teeth were recovered from context 108, along with portions of butchered sheep/goat radius and cattle scapula. Context 111 contained portions of dog maxilla and heavily worn and butchered cattle humerus. A pair of butchered and unfused pig tibiae (along with a single fragment of cattle radius), were recovered from context 112. Context 114 contained a single heavily butchered portion of cattle radius. Context 116 contained no identifiable elements, but is worthy of note due to the extensive burning seen on the surviving fragments. Contexts 151 and 187 contained a single butchered cattle metatarsal and humerus respectively. Context 204 contained a single sheep/goat mandible from individual aged around 6 months to 1 year old. Contexts 215 and 216 contained a single butchered sheep/goat scapula and radius respectively. Contexts 118, 122, 128, 134, 159, 161, 169, 213, 226 and 239 all contained no elements identifiable to species.

Discussion

Unfortunately few conclusions can be drawn from such a small and fragmentary assemblage. The scattered nature of the animal remains is not surprising given the nature of the majority of the contexts (i.e. field/enclosure boundaries). The assemblage most likely represents scattered domestic or agricultural waste. However, a larger faunal sample from a wider area would help provide much more information in terms of spatial analysis, husbandry strategies etc.

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Appendix 4: Environmental Remains

by Rachel Fosberry

1 Introduction and Methods

Twenty-nine bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Pottery date of late middle Iron Age to early roman period together with a probable round-house would suggest occupation and associated plant remains were expected. Unusually, the environmental samples were unproductive with only rare occurrences of charred plant remains.

Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 1mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification.

2 Results

Preservation is by charring and is generally poor. Flot volumes were small and rarely exceeded 1ml. Sparse charcoal fragments are present in some of the samples but most are devoid of any charred plant remains. Cereal grains were recovered from four samples. They were mostly fragmented and poorly preserved. Two weed seeds were recovered from one sample only, Sample 4, context 112 from ditch 115. They were identified as a small grass (*Poaceae* sp.) seed and half of a vetch (*Vicia* sp.) seed. Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and a few common weed seeds such as *Chenopodium* sp. (Goosefoot) are present in most of the samples.

Appendix 5 Fired Clay by Paul Blinkhorn

Report Pending

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Deposit

Excavated Slot

Modern Deposit

Cut Number 118

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number 118

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Inclusions

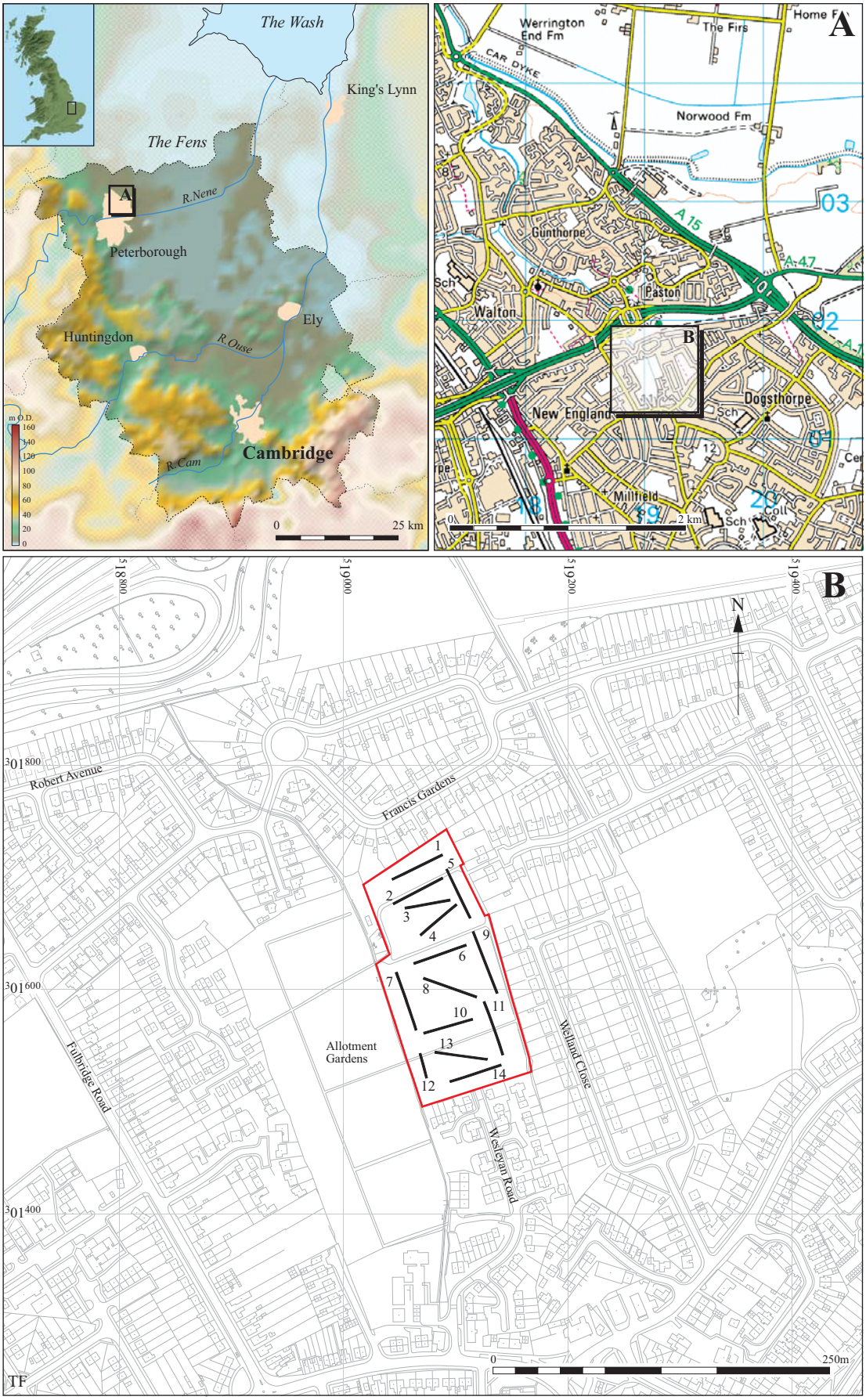


Figure 1 Location of evaluation trenches (black) with the development area outlined (red)

CAM ARC Report No. xxx

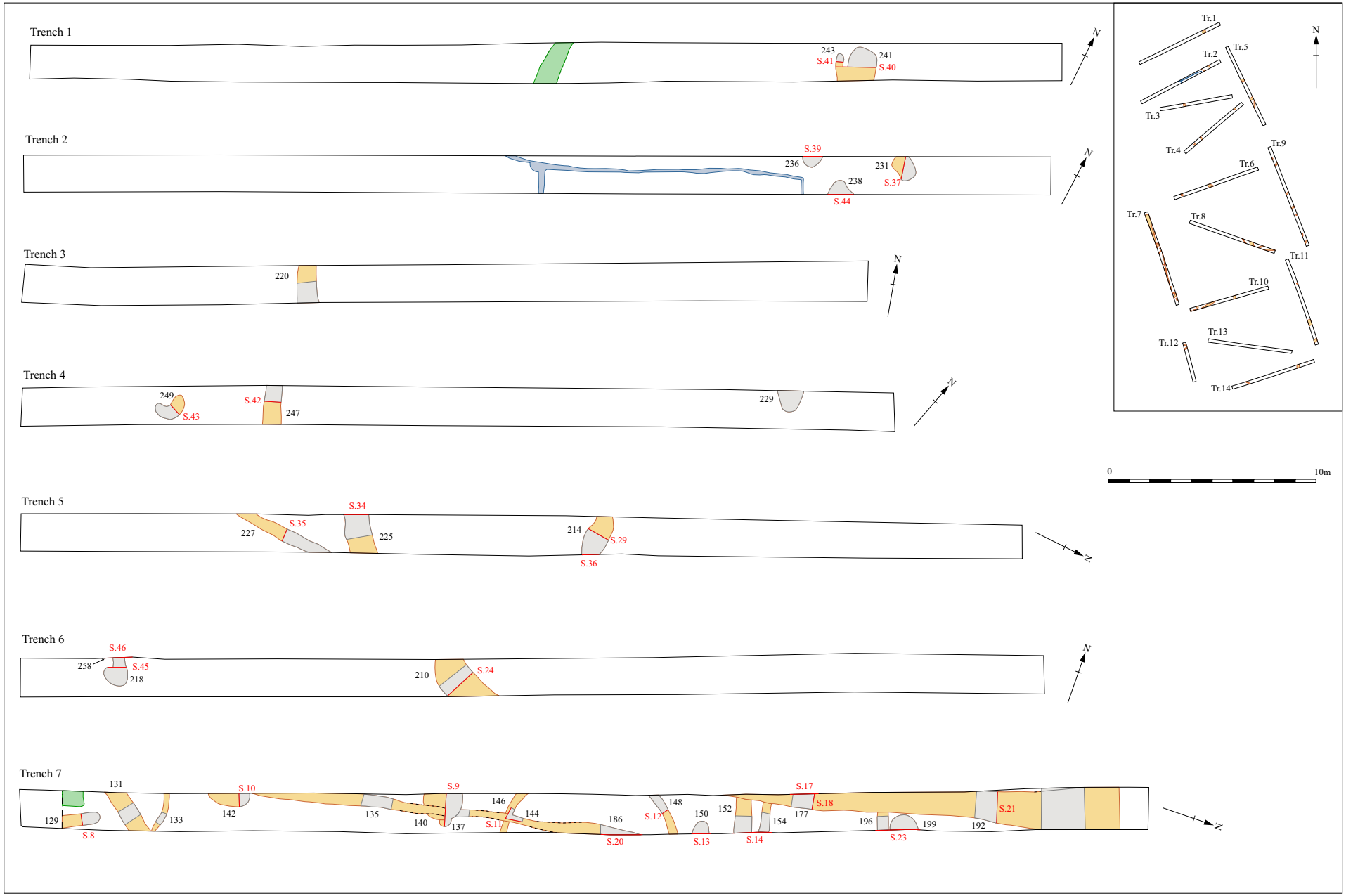


Figure 2: Trench plans 1 -7

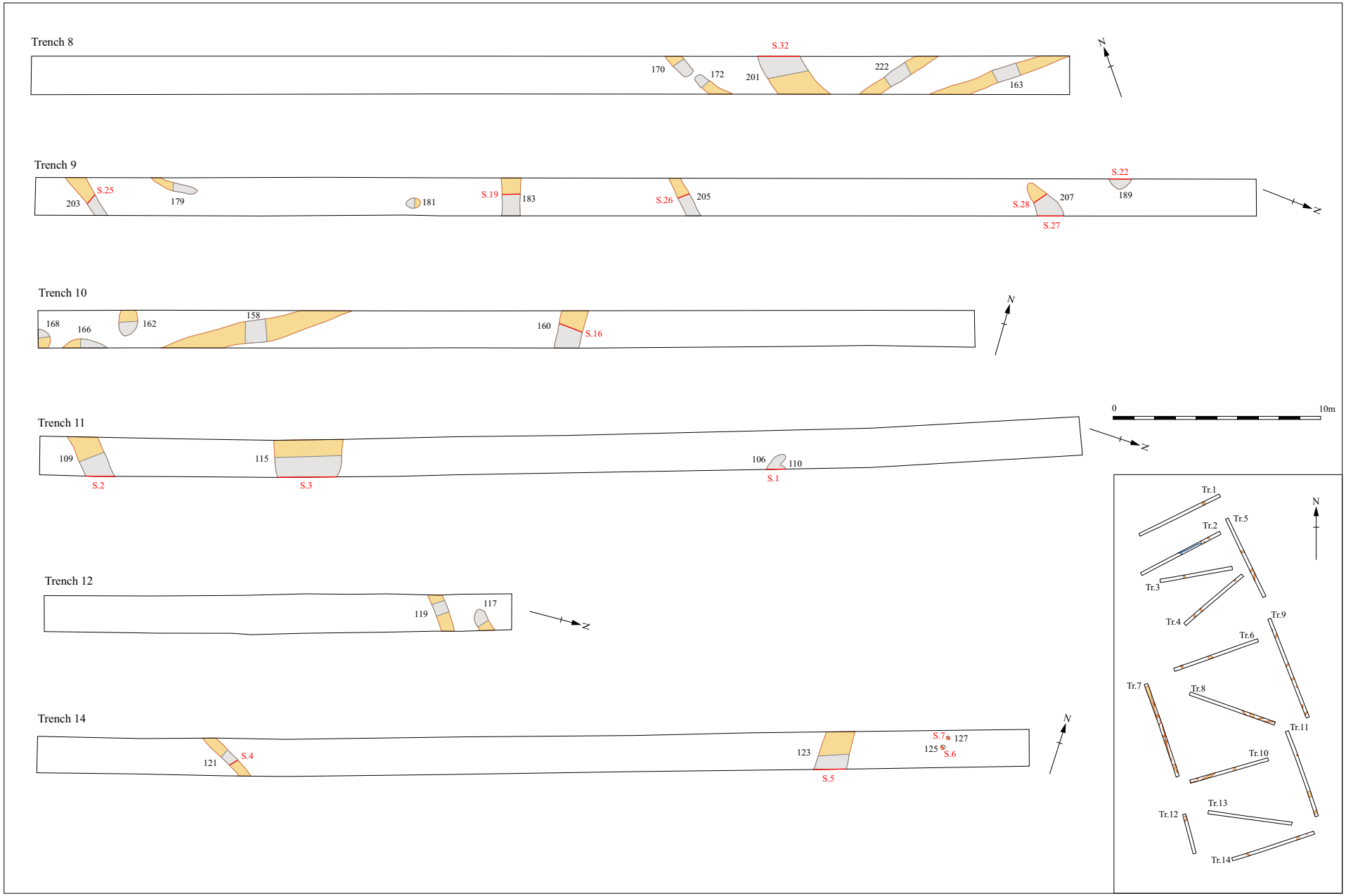


Figure 3: Trench plans 8 - 14

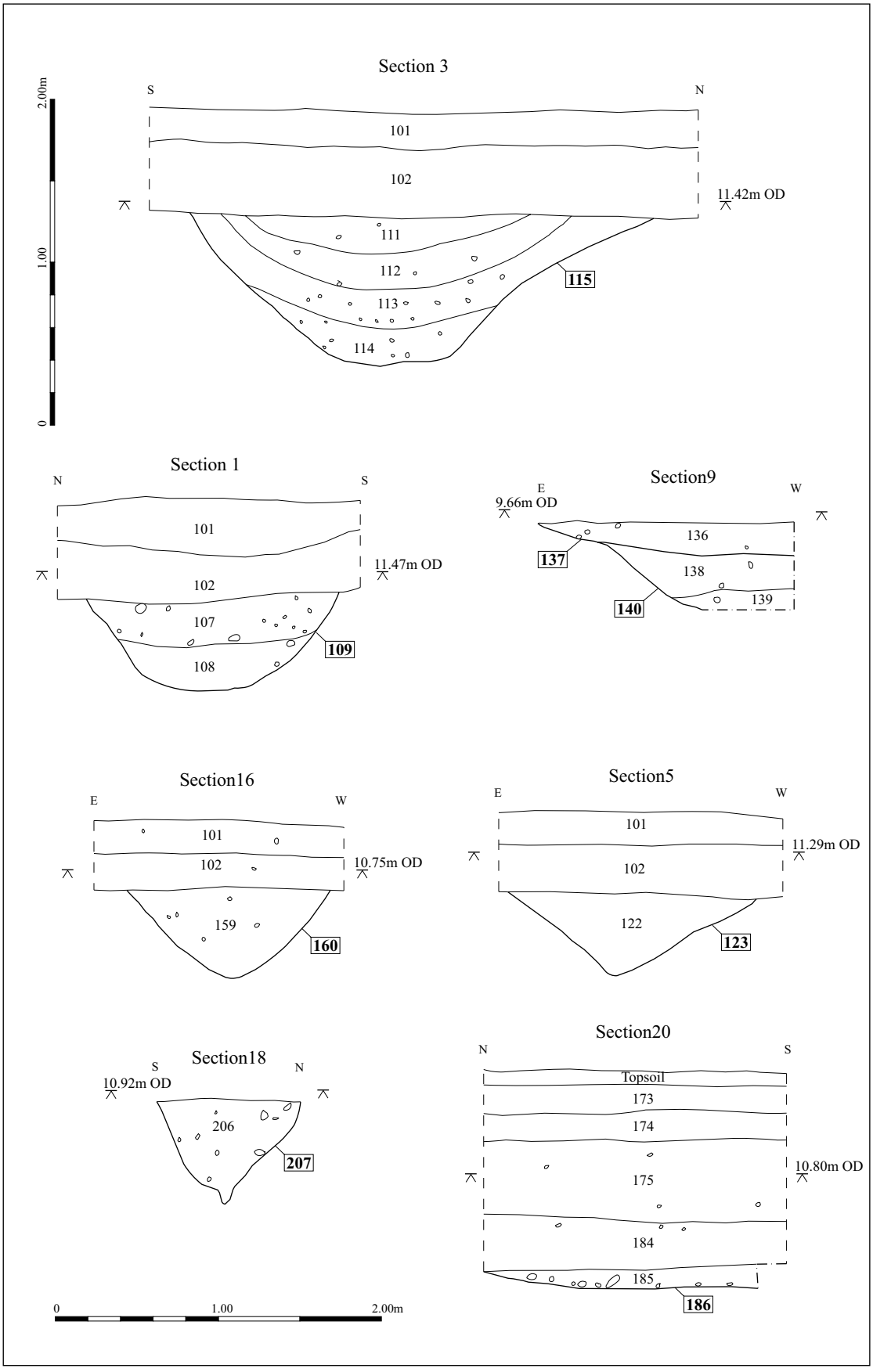


Figure 4: Sections

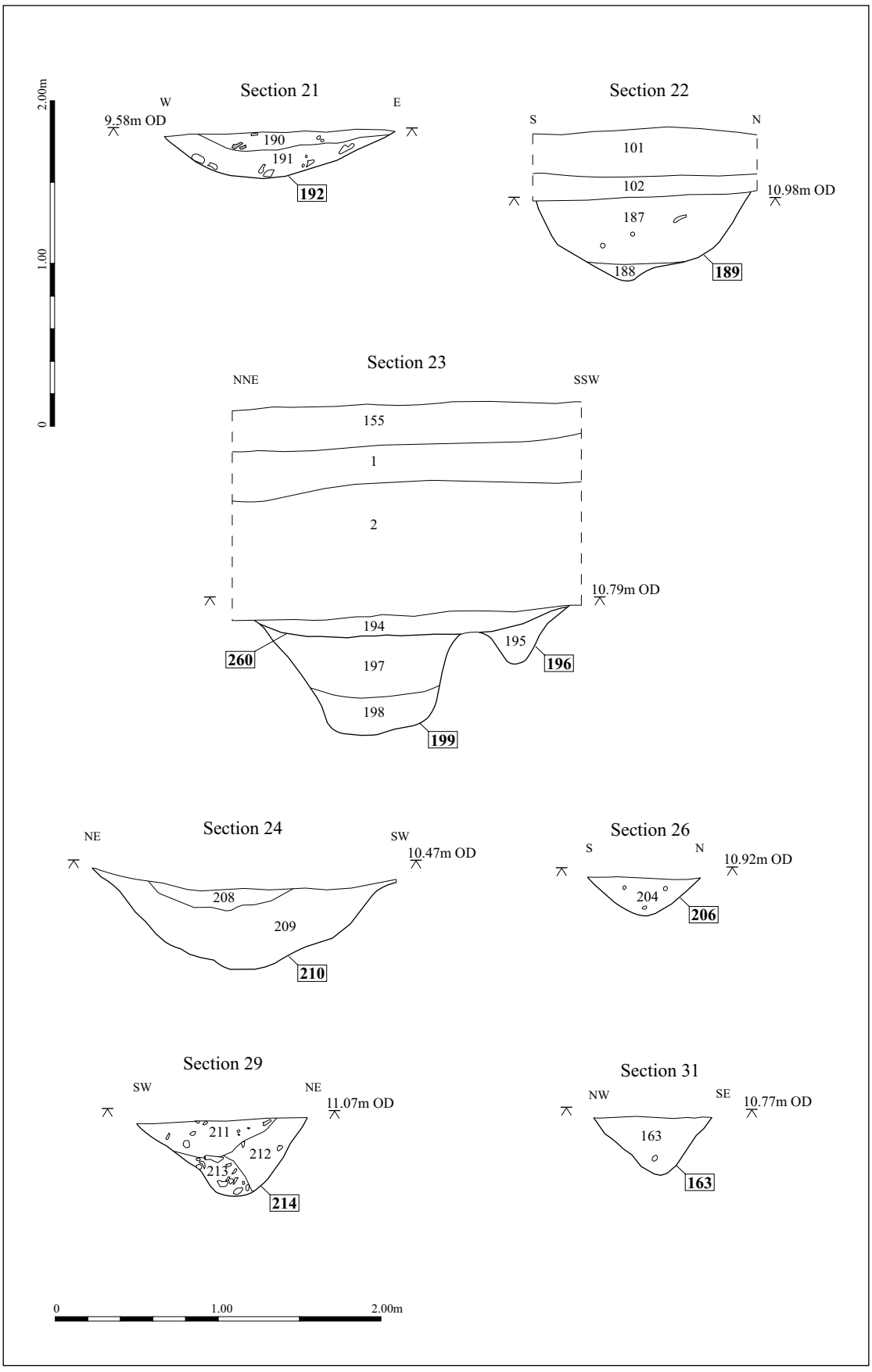


Figure 5: Sections

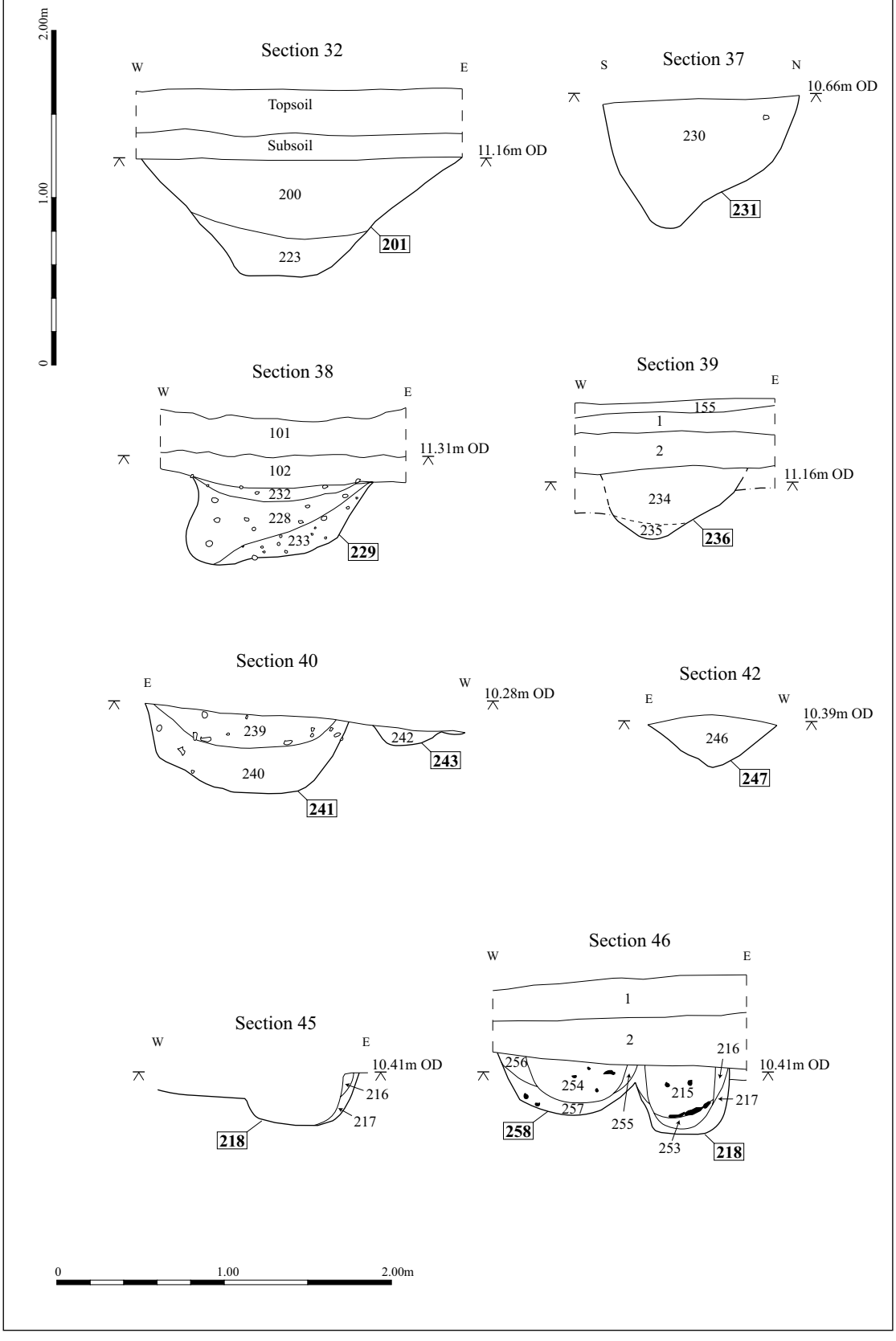
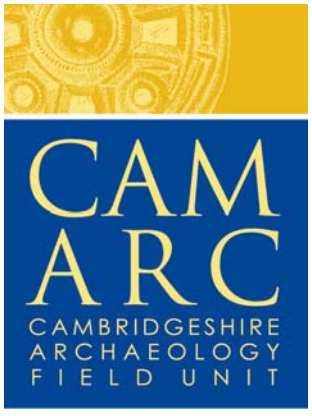


Figure 6: Sections



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