

CAM ARC Report Number 1019

**Post-Medieval Quarrying at 44
Park Street, Woodston,
Peterborough**

An Evaluation

Alexandra Pickstone BA(Hons) AIFA

Site Code: PET PAS 08
CHER Event Number: n/a
Date of works: 2nd – 3rd April 2008
Grid Ref: TL 1896 9750

Status			
Author	A. Pickstone		
Checked By	R. Mortimer		
Authorised By	R. Mortimer		

Editor: Richard Mortimer MIFA
Illustrator: Crane Begg BSc (Hons)

**CAM ARC OASIS Report Form
Cambridg1-41107**

OASIS Number:

PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Evaluation at 44 Park Street, Peterborough			
Short description	The evaluation revealed Post-Medieval quarrying.			
Project dates	Start	02/04/08	End	03/04/08
Previous work	None		Future work	No
Associated project reference codes	PETPAS08			
Type of project	Evaluation			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Garden			
Planned development	5 Dwellings			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Post-Medieval quarrying			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	None			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County		Parish	Peterborough	
HER for region	Peterborough			
Site address (including postcode)	44 Park Street, Peterborough, PE2 9BH			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.11ha			
National grid reference	TL18962 97502			
Height OD	Min OD	11.35m	Max OD	10.72m
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS)			
Project design originator	Richard Mortimer CAM ARC			
Director/supervisor	Alexandra Pickstone			
Project manager	Richard Mortimer			
Sponsor or funding body	PDG Architects			
ARCHIVES				
	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	Peterborough Museum		None	
Paper	Peterborough Museum		Plans, Proforma Sheets, Report	
Digital				
BIBLIOGRAPHY				
Full title	Post-Medieval Quarrying at 44 Park Street, Peterborough: An Evaluation			
Author(s)	Alexandra Pickstone			
Report number	1019			
Series title and volume	Unpublished client report			
Page numbers				
Date	April 2008			

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the garden of 44 Park Street, Woodston, Peterborough (TL 1896 9750) between the 2nd and 3rd April 2008. Archaeological investigation was carried out on behalf of PDG Architects in advance of the proposed development of five houses and associated parking.

Extensive quarrying dating to the late 19th century was observed across the development area. A series of post-medieval pits and garden features relating to the house and garden of No. 44 Park Street were also discovered.

A photographic record was made of a Second World War air raid shelter within the garden.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Geology and Topography	1
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	1
4	Methodology	2
5	Results	3
	5.1 Trench Dimensions	3
	5.2 Overburden	3
	5.3 Post-Medieval Quarrying	3
	5.4 Post-Medieval Features	4
6	Discussion	5
7	Conclusions	5
	Acknowledgements	6
	Bibliography	6
	List of Figures	
	Convention key	7
	Figure 1: Site Location	9
	Figure 2: Trench Plan	9

1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Ben Robinson of the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service (PCCAS); (Planning Application 07/01041/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC, Cambridgeshire County Council (formerly 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 PCCAS, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The proposed development is for the construction of five dwellings and associated car parking within the garden and on the site of a single storey outbuilding to No. 44 Park Street.

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 a pocket of 2nd terrace river gravels overlying Oxford clay, and the area has therefore been subject to fairly extensive gravel quarrying in the past (BGS Sheet 158, 1984). The site lies between 10.5 and 11.5m OD.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Woodston was originally a separate village and is referenced in historic sources from the late 10th century when the manor was held by Thorney Abbey. A fishery and windmill are recorded and a weekly market and fair. Goods coming up the Nene were disembarked at Woodston and tolls and customs gathered there.

Roman finds are recorded in the area and Early Saxon burials have been found over a wide area of Woodston and neighbouring New Fletton to the east. Most finds were made during quarrying in the 19th century and their location and attribution are generally unknown. However, there is a record of at least one Roman or Saxon burial in a stone coffin close to the subject site, and in Hunting Avenue, 100m to the southwest, an Early Saxon settlement site was found that comprised seven Sunken Feature Buildings along with pits, hearths and ditches.

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.

The Brief required that the evaluation would comprise of a minimum of 70m of trenching covering approximately 10% of the development area with an additional 20m of trenching to be added should further clarity be required.

Eight trenches measuring between 4.25m and 13m were excavated totalling 75.05m in length. Details of trench lengths, depths and orientations are listed in Table1.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 1.5m wide toothless 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 which were obviously modern. No bulk environmental samples were taken as no significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

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.

Site conditions were good, however a second world war air raid shelter and a caravan were located on the west side of the site restricting the location of trenches in this area. A brick pig-sty was sited along the northern boundary of the development area and a barn adjacent to No. 44, due to be demolished with the proposed development, was still standing.

5 Results

5.1 Trench Dimensions

Trench	Length (m)	Depth (m)	Alignment	Topsoil (m)	Subsoil (m)
1	6.3	0.74 – 0.78	E-W	0.42 – 0.44	0.32 – 0.35
2	13	0.53 - 0.72	E-W	0.22 - 0.30	0.12 – 0.32
3	8	0.57 – 0.65	N-S	0.38 – 0.40	0.23 – 0.25
4	12	0.48 – 0.49	NW-SE	0.32 – 0.38	0.11 – 0.17
5	4.25	0.44 – 0.46	E-W	0.38 – 0.39	0.07 – 0.09
6	10.5	0.75	N-S	0.42 – 0.48	0.27 – 0.33
7	9	0.6 – 0.7	N-S	0.41 – 0.45	0.25 – 0.29
8	12	0.7 - 1.06	N-S/ E-W	0.40 – 0.51	0.20 - 0.32

Table 1

5.2 Overburden

Context 1: Topsoil

A loose dark greyish brown, slightly sandy silt with occasional small sub angular stones. Modern garden soil.

Context 2: Subsoil

A compact mid yellowish brown, clay sandy silt with occasional gravel.

5.3 Post-Medieval Quarrying

Evidence of post-medieval quarrying was observed in all trenches except Trenches 1 and 5. The quarries were located extensively across the development area with a particularly high density in the northwestern part of the site. Partial excavation of these features (contexts **32** and **36**) in Trenches 3 and 6 revealed small quantities of pottery, tile, brick and clay pipe stems dating to the early 19th century.

The fills of the quarries were mixed orangey yellow, sandy silt and dark yellow brown, slightly sandy silt with occasional to frequent small stones.

The quarries were irregular or sub circular in shape except for pit **42** which was rectangular. This feature appeared to respect the current boundaries of the garden of No. 44.

Trench	Feature	Fill	Cut	Dimensions	Finds (not kept)
2	Quarry	13	14	Visible – 10.2m Long Unexcavated	-
3	Quarry	21	22	Visible – 5.75m Long 0.65m Deep Not fully excavated	1 fragment clay pipe stem
4	Quarry	25	26	Visible – 4.1m Long Unexcavated	-
6	Quarry	31	32	Visible – 2.75m Long 0.34m Deep Not fully excavated	4 fragments late 19 th century pottery 1 fragment of roof tile
6	Quarry	35	36	Visible – 2.25m Long 0.5m Deep	2 fragments late 19 th century pottery

				Not fully excavated	1 fragment of brick 3 fragments of slate 1 stone tile
7	Quarry	37	38	Visible –4.75m Long Unexcavated	-
7	Quarry	39	40	Visible –1.65m Long Unexcavated	-
8	Quarry	41	42	Visible –7m Long 4m Wide Unexcavated	Machining finds Late 19 th century pottery, glass, brick, roof tile.

Table 2

5.4 Post- Medieval Features

Pits

Post-medieval pits were observed in Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6. The pits recorded in Trenches 2, 3, and 4 all post-date the quarrying activity on the site. Pit **34** in Trench 6 could be contemporary as it had no stratigraphic relationship with the quarry pits but contained 19th century pottery.

Trench	Feature	Fill	Cut	Dimensions	Finds (not kept)
2	Pit group (3 Pits)	9	10	0.25m – 0.35m Wide 0.04m – 0.06m Deep	Animal Bone
2	Pit	11	12	0.8m Wide 0.14m Deep	2 Fragments of late 19 th century pottery
3	Pit	17/21	18/20	0.75m Wide 0.2m Deep 4.5m Long	1 fragment clay pipe stem
4	Pit	23	24	1.1m 0.24m	1 fragment late 19 th century pottery
6	Pit	33	34	1.8m Wide 0.34m Deep	Late 19 th century roof tile, brick, slate 1 fragment of Roman pottery

Table 3

Garden Features

Two possible garden features were observed in Trenches 1, 2 and 4.

A narrow ditch (context **4/6**) aligned approximately east to west was observed in Trench 1 along with a north to south oriented shallow boundary ditch **8**. The north to south boundary ditch was also observed in Trenches 2 and 4 and was on the same alignment as a partially demolished wall separating the more formal garden of No. 44 with a small holding area where animals were probably kept. The pig sty was still present on the site.

Trench	Feature	Fill	Cut	Dimensions	Finds (not kept)
1	Ditch	3/5	4/6	0.3m Wide 0.11m Deep 2.8m Long	1 fragment of clay pipe stem
1	Ditch	7	8	0.95m Wide Unexcavated	-
2	Ditch	15	16	0.95m Wide 0.21m Deep	2 fragments of late 19 th century blue and white pottery
4	Ditch	27	28	1.2m Wide 0.08m Deep	-

Table 4

Well

A brick lined well (Fill 29, Cut **30**) measuring approximately 1.75m in diameter was observed in Trench 5. It remained unexcavated.

6 Discussion

Extensive quarrying dating to the 19th century was observed across the development area. On the 1885 1st edition OS map a large quarry pit is visible to the northwest of the site occupying land adjacent to Fletton Tower and under the present day road of Queen's Walk.

The post-medieval features present can be identified as either small domestic pits with animal burials or garden features associated with the property at No.44 all of which date to the late 19th century.

Despite the presence of Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains in the vicinity only a single residual piece of Roman pottery was identified in a pit dating to the late 19th century. Any earlier activity would have been removed or truncated by the quarry pits.

7 Conclusions

Nineteenth century quarrying was present across the site. The presence of a single sherd of Roman pottery suggests that there was earlier activity within the general area of the gravel terrace but that this has subsequently been removed by the quarrying.

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Graham Walker of PDG Architects who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Spencer Cooper assisted on site and Glenn Bailey surveyed the trenches. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer. The report illustrations are by Crane Begg.

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

Bibliography

British Geological Survey	1984	<i>Sheet 173</i>
Mortimer, R	March 2008	Specification for Archaeological Evaluation
Robinson, B.	March 2008	Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

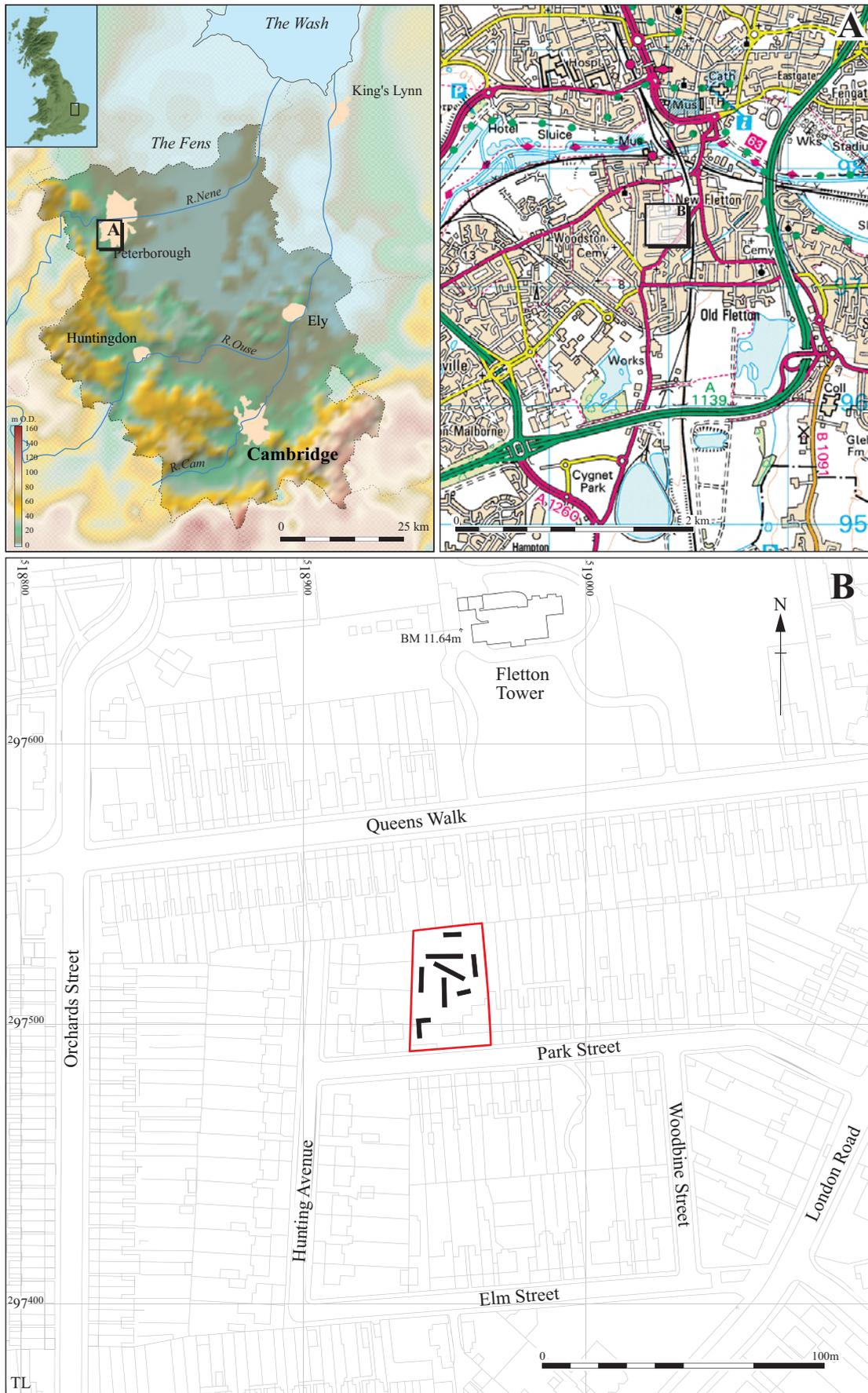
Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Natural Features	—————
Sondages/Machine Strip	- . - . - .
Intrusion/Truncation	- . - . - .
Illustrated Section	————— S.14
Archaeological Deposit	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #c08060; border: 1px solid black; margin-left: 10px;"></div>
Excavated Slot	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #d3d3d3; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 10px;"></div> <div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #90ee90; border: 1px solid black; margin-left: 10px;"></div>
Modern Deposit	<div style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #6495ed; border: 1px solid black;"></div>
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 X
Inclusions	O



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Cambridgeshire County Council 100023205 2008

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

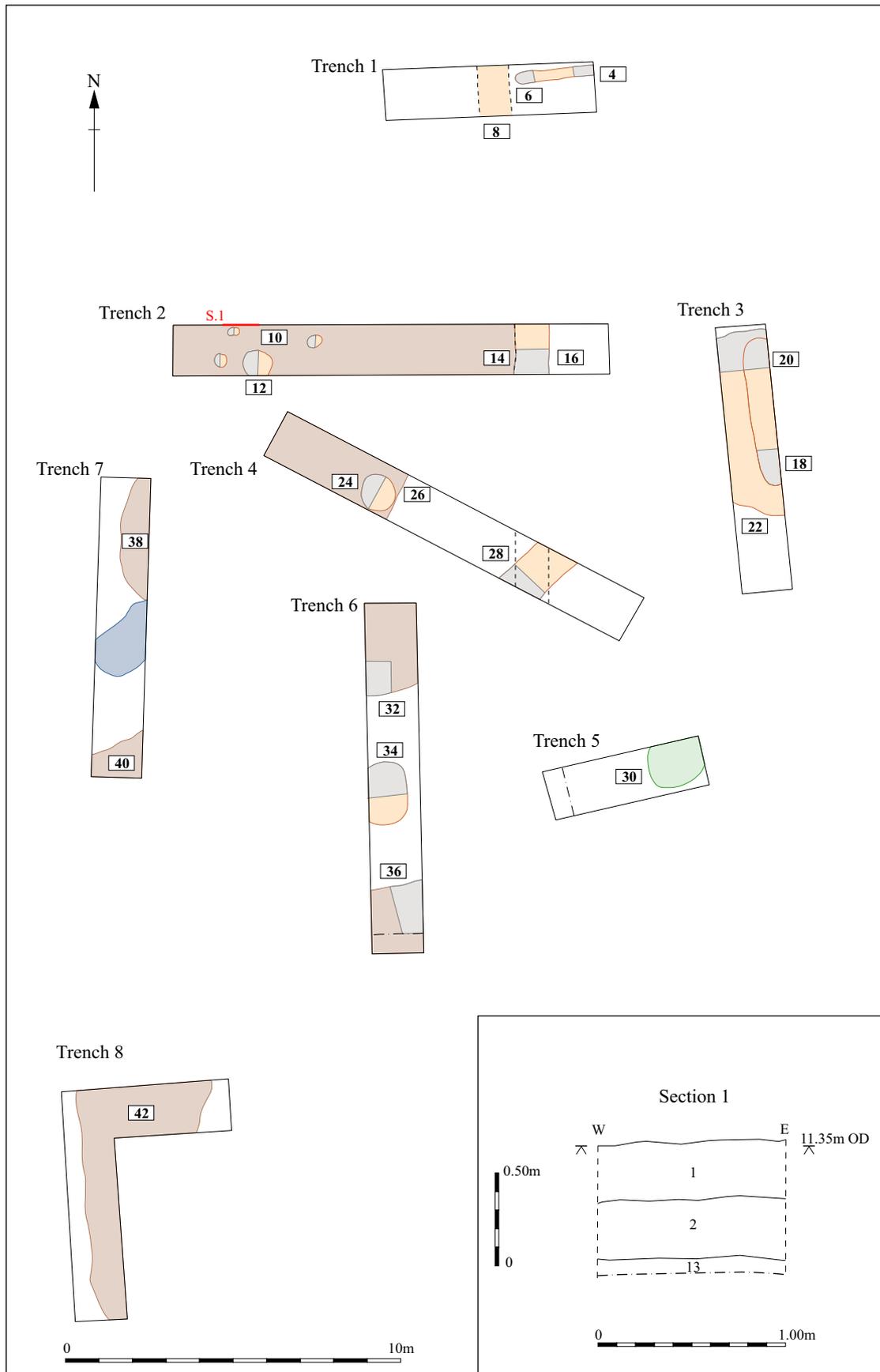
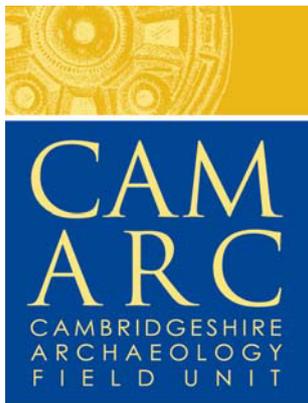


Figure 2: Plan of trenches and section



CAM ARC,
Cambridgeshire County Council,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridgeshire,
CB3 8SQ

General Enquiries: 01954-204191
Fax: 01954-273376

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology>