



CAM ARC Report Number 1029

Land at Red Lion Lane, Sutton

Evaluation and Excavation

Glenn Bailey

June 2008

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With contributions by Carole Fletcher, Rachel Fosberry, Alice Lyons, Will Punchard and Steve Wadeson

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Evaluation and Excavation at Red Lion Lane Sutton			
Short description	<p>Between the 4th and 20th September 2007 CAM ARC carried out an archaeological investigation on land to the south of No.1 Red Lion Lane, Sutton, Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>The initial evaluation trenching was extended during the evaluation to open excavation on part of the site. Four phases of usage were recorded for the site. Firstly, a system of large inter-cutting ditches and postholes on the western side of site dated to the Romano-British period. Secondly, a diverse series of features including a track way, ditch and pits from the High Medieval period. The third phase comprised a road, ditches and pits from the Post-Medieval period. The final phase includes those features that clearly date to the modern period, (1750 to present).</p>			
Project dates	Start	04/09/07	End	20/09/07
Previous work	No		Future work	No
Associated project reference codes	SUTRLL07 / CHER 2670			
Type of project	Excavation			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Residential Garden			
Planned development	Urban Residential			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Boundary Ditch – Romano British Road – Trackway - Medieval			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)				
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Sutton	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Land at Red Lion Lane, Sutton, Cambs, CB6 2NE			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	660 sq. m			
National grid reference	TL4446 7874			
Height OD	Min OD	17.64m OD	Max OD	13.50m OD
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Kasia Gdaniec			
Project design originator	James Drummond-Murray			
Director/supervisor	Glenn Bailey			
Project manager	James Drummond-Murray			
Sponsor or funding body	Richard Hough Building Ltd - Developer			
ARCHIVES	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	CAM ARC		Plans, drawings, Site Records, Finds (Bone, Metal, Ceramic)	
Paper	CAM ARC		Site Records, Maps, Correspondence, Photo's.	
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Summary

Between the 4th and 20th September 2007 CAM ARC carried out an archaeological investigation on land to the south of No.1 Red Lion Lane, Sutton, Cambridgeshire.

The initial trenching was extended during the evaluation to open area excavation on part of the site.

It was thought that the site may well show further evidence of the Romano-British and Medieval exploitation of this fen "island" revealed during previous work in Sutton.

Four phases of usage were recorded for the site. Firstly, a system of large inter-cutting ditches and postholes on the western side of site dated to the Romano-British period. Secondly, a diverse series of features including a track way, ditch and pits from the High Medieval period. The third phase comprised a road, ditches and pits from the Post-Medieval period. The final phase includes those features that clearly date to the modern period, (1750 to present). For clarity, this period is taken as from 1800 onward as some post-Medieval pottery dating to the 18th century was recovered.

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1 Introduction

This archaeological evaluation and subsequent small-scale excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice team (CAPCA; Planning Application E/06/01176/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 site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

2 Geology and Topography

Geology

The British Geological Survey (1980) indicates that the site is located on an area of Kimmeridge Clay, lying immediately south-west of a spur of boulder clay that is itself partially capped by glacial sand and gravel.

The excavation showed that several layers of naturally deposited fine silt and clayey silt covered the entire site. Towards the bottom of these sands a sequence of very thin layers of alternating clay and sand was revealed. Only at the extreme western edge of site, along Red Lion Lane was the underlying (and undisturbed) clay exposed. This difference in records may be due to a localised remnant of previously extant glacial sands that was omitted from the Survey map or eroded material from the capped area. The laminated profile of the clay and sand deposits is expanded upon below.

Topography

The local highpoint of 26m above Ordnance Datum is approximately 150m to the north-east of the site. The site itself is recorded at ground level from 17.64mOD to 13.50mOD, north to south. The sunken road (Red Lion Lane) was one of the lowest points of present ground level, at 14.15mOD.

The site is located on the south-facing slope of the ridge that forms the fen island of Sutton-on-the-Isle. Looking south from the site, one is immediately struck by the profile of the next boulder clay outcrop, that

of North Hill. North Hill lies on a ridge aligned almost parallel to the one on which Sutton is located. These landscape features would have given excellent observation point over the surrounding fens, especially for trading and defensive purposes.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric

Important prehistoric remains have been found in the parish of Sutton, most from the rises and islands of lighter soil in the fens, particularly North Fen and Sutton Meadlands to the west of the village. These sites include Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age period activity including a long barrow and round barrows. In addition a number of important prehistoric artefacts have been discovered within the village including a Bronze Age sword of the Wilburton phase (HER 020340).

An evaluation by CCC AFU at the Brook, Sutton (ECB 1796; Atkins 2004) identified the eastern part of a Late Iron Age and Roman settlement, with evidence of mixed farming.

3.2 Roman

Roman remains have been found in the vicinity of the village, including a cremation of probable 2nd-century date (CHER 05744) found whilst cutting a drainage channel along Oates Lane, which is approximately 250m north of the subject site. The ashes were contained in a large storage jar with another smaller jar placed inside. Other Roman remains have been found in the parish but these are largely unprovenanced. Tebbutt found pottery sherds in 1953 at TL 3929 7897 'on a roddon' (Hall 1996). Hall notes that a site at that location is unlikely and the finds probably represent some outliers of the Roman complex in neighbouring Colne Fen to the west. A bronze statuette of Hercules was found before 1891 (HER 05631; Heichelheim 1937) and a Christian hoard of six large platters and a pewter tazza of the 4th century were found in 1898 (HER 05884; Toynbee 1964).

3.3 Anglo-Saxon

Archaeological work in the village has found dwellings (c.500m to the west of the subject area) dating from the 9th century to later medieval period (Abrams 2000; Hatton 2002). Anglo-Saxon remains including a gold ring (Albert 1849) have been recorded in the parish but these again are unprovenanced.

3.4 Medieval

The name Sutton means South Town and may relate to its position in the Isle of Ely. The medieval village probably clustered around the church and along the High Street. The village is L-shaped, more than a kilometre long, and runs along the former main road from Ely to Chatteris. Medieval pottery has been found in the village, as might be expected in a village which is listed in the Domesday survey (Pugh 1967). The general importance of medieval Sutton can be seen by the fact that in 1313 the Prior of Ely received the right to hold a weekly market at Sutton on Thursdays. The village was the only conventual estate outside Ely itself with such a privilege (Pugh 1967). The market continued into the post-medieval period.

An archaeological excavation was undertaken to the rear of No. 31 High Street in 2004 (Wills, J. 2004). produced pottery datable to the 10th to the 19th century, although the majority of features are securely dated to the 13th century. The location of these features set back from the medieval High Street is representative of backyard activity including rubbish deposition and drainage.

Another small excavation at Red Lion Lane revealed 12th to 14th-century pits, ditches and two hearths. Activity came to an end c.1350 (Hatton 2002, ECB 252).

3.5 Post-Medieval

The high degree of prosperity in Sutton is demonstrated by the name of Golden Sutton found in the Chancery proceedings of 1599 (Pugh 1967). Immediately to the east of the development is a brick built Georgian Baptist chapel with an associated burial ground. This chapel was built in 1749 and by 1820 it had a regular membership of nearly 60 and a congregation of 200 to 250 (Pugh 1967).

Archaeological evidence for this period is characterised by post-medieval quarrying which is located at Nos 8-10 the Row (ECB1864; Atkins 2005), and also at Painters Lane (ECB251; Hatton 2001).

4 Methodology

The objective of this evaluation and excavation 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 original Brief required that 5% of the site be subject to trial trenching. However trench 2 was expanded into a small excavation once significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 1.55m 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 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 to allow for detailed soil analysis of deposits retrieved from excavated archaeological features. The majority were taken from the large ditches exposed in the central area of the site

Surveying

The site planning was set out according to the predetermined trench layout, as agreed by the Planning Office. Initially two trenches were opened; one aligned east to west along the northern edge of site, the second running north to south, just east of the site centre.

Following the visit of Planning Officer Kasia Gdaniec and the developer Mark Hough, it was decided to extend the area under investigation. Further stripping of the overburden was carried out immediately to the west of Trench 2 with the aim of revealing the partial exposed flint surface (potential track way) and large ditches visible in the northern half of Trench 2. The area extended to the extreme western limit of site, bounded by the asphalted, sunken lane known as Red Lion Lane. This took the stripped area to approximately 210m².

The nearest benchmark with a value of 22.11m was taken from the corner of No. 41a High Street. This was traversed into the site in order that levels could be readily taken for sections and plans.

Site conditions

During the majority of the time on site the weather was warm, dry and bright. Visibility was excellent, with strong, unbroken sunshine and an occasional light breeze. This was positive for excavation and recording in general, although dust and strong shadows were a hindrance.

The desiccated nature of the upper half metre of soil was in contrast to the presence of water near the base of the large ditch sequences. This water was an active perched aquifer that has been retained in the

lower silt layers by impermeable clay layers. This was most evident close to the base of ditches (**74** and **75**) in Trench 3 where a saturated and unstable sand layer was releasing water and oozing out under hydraulic pressure. This was unexpected as it was assumed the drop-off in absolute height would disperse any existing ground water. The water did hamper excavation and recording of the basal fills of the ditches.

5 Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 was 4.0m long, 1.55m wide and aligned WNW to ENE, and positioned so as to run close to the northern site boundary.

Half a dozen relatively small pits were recorded along the length of the trench. Three ditches of quite different characters were excavated, along with a possible metallised track way.

Post pit **137** located less than one metre from the southern end of Trench 2 had nearly vertical, straight sides leading down to a step on the north side. From this point the steep sides continued to a concave base. The step was likely to have been the broader pit into which the post was sunk with the deeper part representing the post setting. The southern side showed evidence, in the form of a ruffled horizon, for the post being slid into place. Measured 0.68m long, >0.40m wide and 0.75m deep. No other features proved to be related to this feature, although its proximity to an ill-defined ditch-like feature (not recorded) at the southern end of Trench 2. There were two fills within the post pit: 142 and 138. Fill 142, a soft dark orangey brown clayey silt with rare small stones, filled the lower 40% of the pit to a depth of up to 0.42m. Fill 138, a firm mid orangey brown clayey silt with frequent small stones and chalk flecks filled the remaining of the pit to a thickness of 0.35m. The horizon between the two fills was substantially above the step (0.2m from the base) and straight illustrating that basal fill 142 is not the remains of an *in-situ* post, rather the soil that fell in once the post was removed. Fill 138 had a very diffuse upper horizon, indicating it had been filled by the surrounding overburden. The pit was sealed by deposit 144, a mid brown clayey silt that increases from 0.4 to 0.5m thick across the metre of ground above pit 137. Overlying this was 0.2m of topsoil.

Ditch **139**, less than 1.5m north of 137 had ill-defined, shallow and slightly convex sides with an imperceptible break of slope to its concave base. The topsoil above the ditch was 0.3m thick.

The general thickening of deposits towards the south were countered close to the southern end of site. The thinning of the topsoil apparent

for the next two metres south may be associated with the limits of arboriculture that took place on site in the recent past (present landowner's pers com).

An interesting comparison between the stratigraphic relationship of post pit 137 and ditch 139 indicates that these features were cut in different periods. The build-up of deposit 160 post-dated the complete infilling of ditch 139, whereas it formed a strata that was cut through by the cutting of post-pit 137. This eroded material was also picked up in relation to the track way 39, discussed below.

To the north of ditch 139, Pit **42** (fill 43) was a small undated pit, but was sealed by fragmentary gravel **44** that may be a continuation of surface 39

Surface **39**, an external surface, probably a trackway, running east to west along the upper part of the south facing slope. The trackway displays two clear construction elements, medium and coarse sized flint and pebble layer with quantities of pea gravel mixed in. The latter probably coming from the original surface and working their way down in amongst the foundation layer.

Pit **45** (fill 103) cuts through the trackway 39 on its north side and contained pottery dating to the 13th-14th centuries as well as residual Roman sherds.

Ditch **03**, a large boundary ditch measuring >6.25m long, >1.08m wide and 0.95m deep, (ditch extends out of excavation area therefore measurements are 'greater than'). The ditch contained 4 fills, 04 an brownish mid orange sandy silt 0.28m thick, 05 an orangey dark grey clayey silt 0.94m thick, 06 an orangey mid grey clayey silt 0.17m thick and 07 an orangey dark brown clayey silt 0.26m thick. The ditch runs along the north of trench 2 and is truncated by medieval pit, 8. This ditch also runs roughly parallel to Red Lion Lane.

Pit **8**, a large pit measuring 1.15m wide, >0.68m wide and 1.14m deep (width runs out of excavation area). This large pit contained 3 fills, 09 a very dark brown clayey silt 0.74m thick, 10 a brownish mid orange silty sand 0.30m thick and 11 an orangey mid grey slightly sandy silt 0.52m thick. The function of the pit is unclear however the fills suggest it could be a cesspit. Medieval pottery was found within the pit

.Trench 2

Trench 2 was 21m long, 1.55m wide and aligned NNW to SSE, positioned so as to run close to the eastern site boundary.

The majority of the features within this trench were small pits; those that were large did not attain a great depth. Whilst most of the subsoil

(02) remains undisturbed on the northern trench face, it was completely absent from the southern face, indicating a more vigorous, but still shallow removal of the overburden. Indeed, as the larger pits barely cut into the natural formation, it is unlikely that they were functional quarries. The shallowness and continuity of features in this trench lead to it being heavily machined with some loss of potential stratigraphic relationships.

The first group of features were several pits: 17, 19, 145, 147, 149, concentrated towards the eastern end of the trench. They were significantly smaller, generally less than one metre wide, and steeper sided than the subsequent pits. They were all cut into the natural silt layers (21-24) underlying subsoil 02 and sealed by topsoil 01. Of this group, 145 and 149 were the deepest and most likely to have been excavated as quarry pits.

The second series of pits differed in being broad and shallow. Pits 29, 58 and 31 extended along the entire southern baulk (s.4) of the trench, entirely removing subsoil 02, but not cutting deeply as the majority of the upper natural layer (21). This seems to have been more an exercise in the removal of the fertile, organic upper soils rather than to give access to mining of the underlying deposits. Deposits 25 and 32 were initially considered separately but proved to be the same fill within the larger pit 31.

Topsoil 01 was noteworthy for the thinning exhibited between the northern (0.42m to 0.30m) and the southern (0.26m to 0.12m) sides of the trench. This was true for all but the extreme eastern end where the proximity of a solid property boundary had caused an accumulation of topsoil.

Subsoil 02 was present only on the southern side of the trench where it ranged from 0.12m to 0.40m, in-filling any undulations in the soft natural deposits below.

Pit 145 Recorded in section and plan, this pit was sub-circular in plan, with a shallow to steep stepped western side (the eastern side was not exposed), a sharp break of slope to a concave base measuring >1.20m long, >0.75m wide and 0.52m deep. Filled by (146) a firm dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent clay lenses and chalk fragments. No finds were retrieved from this deposit.

Pit 147 had steep, convex sides with a sharp break of slope to a concave base, measuring >0.55m long >0.40m wide and >0.64m deep. Filled by 148 a mid brown slightly clayey silt.

Pit 149 had steep, concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a concave base, measuring 1.25m long, 0.80m wide and 0.54m deep. Filled by 150 a mid grey-brown slightly clayey silt with moderate pale

orange sandy lenses, moderate chalk fragments and occasional charcoal and ceramic flecks.

Pit **17** had steep, convex sides with a sharp break of slope to a concave base, measuring 0.84m wide and 0.54m deep (length not recorded as truncated by machining). Filled by 18 a mid orange-brown sandy silt with moderate pebbles and chalk/limestone fragments.

Pit **19** had steep to nearly vertical straight sides with a sharp break of slope to a concave base, measuring 1.03m wide and 0.48m deep (length not recorded as truncated by machining). Filled by 20 a orangey mid-brown clayey silt with moderate fine pebbles and occasional chalk and charcoal flecking.

Pit **29** had shallow, concave sides with a gradual break of slope to a flattish base, measuring 0.92m wide and 0.24m deep (length not recorded as truncated by machining). This pit extended into the eastern end of Trench 1. Filled by 30 a mid grey-orange sandy silt with frequent dark grey silt lenses and moderate chalk fragments.

Pit **26** had steep to nearly vertical straight sides with a sharp break of slope to a concave base, measuring 0.96m long, >0.40m wide and 0.72m deep Filled by two deposits; 27, a orange-brown sandy silt forming a small deposit in the western corner of the base. Fill 28, filled the remaining 90+% of the pit. a mid dark grey-brown clayey silt with moderate small chalk fragments and occasional pebbles.

Pit **58** has a moderate, concave eastern side with a gradual break of slope to the flattish base and occupies a large area of the southern trench section (s.4), where it truncates the western end of pit **29** and is truncated by pit **26** centrally and pit **31** to the west. Pit dimensions were 3.64m long by 0.21m deep (width not recorded as truncated by machining). Filled by two deposits; 57, a dark orange-brown sandy silt forming a deposit 0.10 to 0.20m thick along the base of the pit. Fill 36, a mid dark grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small pebbles and chalk fragments forms a 0.10 to 0.32m thick deposit occupying the remaining, upper half of the pit, sealing 57 below.

Pit **33** had a steep concave eastern side (others truncated) with a gradual break of slope to a flattish base extending into the western end of Trench 1. Pit dimensions were 1.55m by 1.30m by 0.21m deep. Filled by two deposits; 34, a mid orange-grey slightly clayey silt with occasional small pebbles and chalk flecks, forming a 0.20m thick deposit along the base of the pit and fill 35, a pale orange-grey sandy silt with moderate sand lenses filled the remaining upper 40% of the pit, sealing 34 below.

Pit **31** had a moderate, straight eastern side (others truncated) with a sharp break of slope to an undulating base. Pit dimensions were 5.30m long, >1.55m wide and 0.52m deep. Pit **31** extended from mid

trench to the western end and was the largest feature in Trench 1, spanning the trench (as shown in s.3 and s.4). Filled by 32 a dark grey-brown clayey silt with moderate chalk fragments and pebbles.

Natural layers encountered here comprised 21, exposed along the whole trench and 22, 23 and 24 exposed at the far eastern end of the trench. These layers were excavated and recorded to aid in the topographic, geologic and stratigraphic interpretation of the site. They were somewhat helpful in interpretation, but unfortunately due to massive truncation and partial exposure were limited in advancing the overall understanding.

Trench 3

Trench three was 11m long, 9m wide and aligned WNW to ENE, and positioned to extend from the northern half Trench 1 to the western site boundary, thereby exposing the greater extent of the track way and reveal the full extent of the ditches (**37/176, 03**) at the northern end of trench 1

The western boundary was defined by Red Lion Lane, an active single-lane “sunken” road, sloping steeply from the High Street down to the dwellings at the southernmost limit of Sutton.

This trench was stripped in a segmental fashion so that the relationships between features on site and the road could be recorded.

A post-medieval well exposed in the northwest corner of the trench was excavated and recorded (s.7) prior to its partial removal.

To the east of the well a series of broad ditches (**37/176, 03, 74, 75, 76, 79**) were shown to extend west across to Trench 1. These ditches were poor in artefacts and ecofacts, but where datable, were shown to be 2nd to 3rd century Roman and high Medieval in origin.

A possible continuation of these ditches was revealed, to the south, in section 11.

The earliest ditch in this phase was **116=156**, a large ditch containing 2-4th century Romano British pottery. It had 6 fills, 117 a mid grey sandy clay 0.20m thick, 118 a greyish blue clay 0.04m thick, 119 a mid yellowish grey silty sand 0.08m thick, 120 an orangey sand 0.04m thick, 121 a mid orange gritty clay 0.31m thick and 135 a dark brownish grey silty clay 0.36m thick with large stones in the base of the fill. Ditches **129** and **110** truncated this ditch.

110, a large U shaped ditch that contained 2nd – 3rd century Romano British pottery. The ditch has 6 fills; 136 a dark grey clay with orange mottling 0.11m thick, 132 a mid orangey grey sandy silty clay 0.12m

thick, 131 an orangey sandy deposit 0.06m thick, 111 0.34m thick, 112 a mid olive grey clay 0.22m thick, 113 a mid greyish brown silty clay 0.12m thick, 114 a mid olive brown silty clay 0.30m thick

129, a small ditch in the western edge of the section, contained no dateable material however 178, a 2nd – 3rd century Romano British ditch, truncated it on its eastern edge. The fill 130 was a mid orangey grey sandy clay 0.44m thick.

178=154, a large wide U shaped ditch containing 2nd – 3rd Century Romano British pottery. The ditch had 9 fills, 115 an orangey brown clayey silt 0.60m thick, 122 a mid brownish grey silty clay 0.20m thick, 123 a 0.18m thick fill, 124 a mid greyish brown silty clay 0.04m thick, 125 a mid brownish orange silty clay 0.18m thick, 126 a mid grey silty clay with orangey brown mottling 0.20m thick, 127 a very dark grey silty clay 0.42m thick, 133 a mid olive grey clay 0.20m thick and 134 a mid orangey grey clay 0.14m thick.

177, a wide but shallow ditch that contained one fill, 128 a dark brownish grey silty clay 0.54m thick and contained 16th century pottery.

A series of small postholes were evident along the western edge of the ditch sequence (**77**, **78**). Unfortunately due to the logistics, the stripping of subsequent sections prevented the recording of them all. Those that were most important to understanding the stratigraphic sequence were recorded in section (s.9).

These massive ditches occupied the majority of area exposed in Trench 3, the remainder showed the extent of a potential “track way” with underlying ditch and other smaller pits and ditches similar to those of trenches 1 and 2.

Modern / post-Med road way

The modern road surface (**69**) of Red Lion Lane runs N - S for 190m from the settlement’s axis, (High Street), south towards the fen edge. Whilst the full width of this lane is difficult to determine due to growth of the banks on either side, the width of the exposed surface is approximately 6m.

It was recorded in two sections, which allowed the longitudinal section and one end of the width to be recorded. Two road surfaces were identified along with a pit and several layers.

Surface **69** was an asphalt layer of at least 0.09m deep, extending over a gravely clay-silt layer (**68**) 0.08 to 0.12m thick.

Below 68 was a make-up layer (**67**) of finer gravel and sandy silt. Layer 68 is an earlier stone road surface, equivalent to 55 identified previously (S.7). Layer 67 was a gravely sand and silt deposit identified on the northern side of pit **59** (S.8)

Layer **66** was a silty sand with clay lenses 0.14m to 0.25m thick and extending more than 4.50m along the road section (the full length of S.8) immediately below 67 (a more patchy deposit) and sealing pit **59**. The position and composition of these two soils indicate they were laid down to form the base of the roads previous surface (**55**).

Both these elements were laid during the re-laying of the road in the 20th Century.

Deposits **62**, a “dirty” sand with occasional stones and charcoal, **61**, a loose sand and 60, clay with sand lenses, were evident to the south side of pit **59** and. deemed make-up layers as they were distinct from the well preserved natural deposits and the road construction materials. They were not identified elsewhere other than at this, the most westerly limit of site. Deposits 60, 61 and 62 are likely to have been laid down before Red Lion Lane was metalled, but still active as a “green lane”. These layers pre-date pit **59**.

A modern land drain was shown to run below layer 68 and pre-dated it.

A med or post med road **49** was recorded as surviving below the present road. Material removed from overlying deposits yielded post med pottery dated as 16th to 18th century.

A brick-lined well, **41**, with clay capping (105) was revealed close to the western site boundary. This had a slightly elliptical form in plan (1.18m by 1.16m) and excavated to a depth of 0.9m, the bricks (106) were laid in un-mortared courses, comprising 13.5 bricks each. The 11 courses recorded to a depth of 1.3m from present ground level were.

The recorded soils indicate that the area of the proposed well was levelled off prior to construction. The build-up of differing soils on either side and associated factors in the construction of the well support this assumption. One such constructional element is the concurrence of the lower horizon of deposits 47 and 53 with that of the well’s clay capping 105.

Lesser ditches / plot boundary

176/37 and 98 (98 had RB pottery in its fill). This is probably due more to its placement than its provenance. The massive in-filled Romano-British ditches that 98 is cut into and any remnant banks of the excavated material would have been the origin for the eroded I that subsequently in-filled this shallow ditch.

6 Discussion

Topsoil was present over the whole site to a thickness of 0.29 to 0.37m. The depth was somewhat determined by the position of the 20th century orchard which occupied the site.

The western half of the site was subject to massive truncation and severe erosion. The eastern side of site did have surviving subsoil, although it post-dated most of the archaeological features. The original subsoil was otherwise absent.

The position of the site, between the highest and lowest habitable areas of Sutton can also be seen as a study of the exploitation of the finite land space available to the settlement and exploitation of a “Fen Island”.

The highest and lowest upper horizons of exposed and recorded archaeological features were 16.92mOD in Trench 1 and 13.50mOD in Trench 3. The topography is worth mentioning in general because it is locally unusual and in particular given that the track way follows the approximate course of the 14m contour. This 3.42m drop in height was over a distance of some 30m, averaging a gradient of just under 1:9.

Roman Activity

The large roman ditches (**178=154/116=156/110**) could represent boundary markers or demarcate an enclosure. Pottery from the fills indicates a date of around the 3rd century, with the ditch being re-cut, along roughly the same line, at least 3 times. The excavation at 35 – 45 Bellairs (Woolhouse, T. McConnell, D. Weston, P and Grassam, A, 2006) roughly 500m to the north west of the site revealed evidence of Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity, including ditches forming a possible enclosure. Although these ditches are earlier in date, they could signify a precursor to the ditches at the Red Lion Lane site.

The trackway

During the machining of the southern end of Trench 2, an area of flint was exposed. The soil that was below the flint was very similar to that above, which is why it wasn't initially noticed as a different context. These soils were later shown to be redeposited and derived from upper layers of naturally lain fine silts with little organic admixture. This masking deposit lead to the southernmost limit of the surface being machined away, although the extent of the flint surface was preserved and recorded in the trench baulk. Once this surface was identified as such, further careful machining allowed for this horizon to be systematically left covered and exposed. The northern limit was not exposed due to the presence of other large features.

Surface 39 was sealed by deposit 40, which contained two fragments of Roman pottery dated as 2nd – 3rd century.

Pit 45 was excavated and showed to have been partially infilled by flints consistent with those making up surface 39. Deposit 40 continued for two metres to the north of pit 45 before being completely obscured by truncation.

The dating of the ceramics recovered from deposit 40 does suggest surface 39 pre-dates or is of the Roman phase of the site. However, the massive Roman-period ditches revealed to the northwest could offer evidence to counter this explanation. The potential erosion of material resultant from the initial excavation of these ditches would have been high. The large amount of soil excavated from the ditches must have formed banks and these were eroded over the following centuries, where those small pottery fragments recovered were redeposited on top of the flint surface. This is presuming a later date for the surface.

Two sites to the east revealed possible evidence for the continuation of this feature.

A gravel surface encountered during the excavation at 11a Lawn Lane 380m to the east, was interpreted as a farmyard surface (S. Hickling, 2005). This was due to the relative lateness in the stratigraphic sequence and associations with the rest of the features exposed. The gravel was shown to be later than deposits dated 850-1200 and 1350-1500. From the illustrated record, it could be argued that the sequence has been misinterpreted and one or both of the dated pits actually truncate the gravel surface (Hickling, 2005). Their positioning does give the impression of respecting the edges of the surface.

At the second site, 31 The High Street, 170m to the east, a pair of shallow parallel ditches some four meters apart was recorded as contemporaneous features (Fletcher, 2007). Their alignment, running east to west, also favoured this interpretation, especially since clarifying the alignment of the surfaces proved problematic. Although the paired ditches are not the *same* as the metalled surface, the alignment and width compares favourably to that of surface 39 exposed at the Red Lion Lane site.

A stone surface may not have been required as the site was generally flatter than Red Lion Lane or simply machined away because it was so close to the present ground level, as happened at Lawn Lane (Hickling, 2005).

The active processes of erosion that this site has undergone would necessitate the placement of a firm roadbed across a fairly steep slope so as to “make good” the track way and forestalling further erosion.

To the south of surface 39 the ground becomes increasingly steep as the island merges into the fen.

The erosion has evidently been an issue on this plot in both ancient and present times. The present developers of the site have offset the issue by cutting into the slope to allow for level domestic dwellings to be built. Even with modern technology the utilisation of the site has remained problematic.

7 Conclusions

The evaluation and subsequent excavation at Red Lion Lane has revealed a significant amount of archaeology and has contributed towards our understanding of these small 'Fen Island' settlements.

Roman activity

The presence of Roman occupation/activity on the higher land of this 'Fen Island' is reasonably unusual. Nearby Roman occupation in the form of small settlements and farmsteads are generally situated on lower ground just below the high land. Activity revealed here and at the Bellairs excavations in 2004, clearly shows that there was Roman activity taking place within Sutton itself during the 1st –3rd centuries.

Here at Red Lion Lane it is unclear as to the function of the ditches, they could have either been marking some sort of boundary, perhaps a nearby, defended area on the high ground? Or could be part of a large enclosure for animals. The ditches show signs of being re-dug/cut at least 3 times, indicating that they served an important function in the landscape and required re-cutting.

The Trackway

It is perhaps tenuous to link the three sites (Hickling, 2005; Fletcher, 2007) following the line of the track way but, if accurate, a potentially important one. If this flint surface were indeed a continuation of the "low road" track way revealed at Red Lion Lane the site this would be a significant discovery in the understanding of local land use during this period. The path of a modern road (Stewart's Close) closely follows a part of the implied route of the track way.

The position of all three sites on the south-facing slope of a fen island, within a comparatively flat landscape must have been significant for a variety of factors; defence, transportation, access to fen resource and crop-yield. The fens, until they were drained would have been a useful highway and resource-rich environment. The limits of inundation from permanent, seasonal or periodic flooding is well defined and dwellings

have, until relatively recently, clustered around the pronounced up-thrust in the landscape that is Sutton-in-the-Isle.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

CTXT	Same as	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type	Function	Length	Width	Depth	Colour	Fine component	component	Truncated	Other Comms.	Shape in Plan	Orientation
1		0		layer	natural	top soil	0									
2		0					0									
3		0.2		cut	ditch	boundary	6.25	1.08	0.95					only east portion of feature exposed by trial trench	linear	NNE-SSW
4		3.2		fill	ditch	disuse/neglect	0	0.48	0.28	brownish mid orange	sandy silt	rare fine chalky bits, occasional brown silty lenses				
5		3.2		fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.97	0.94	orangey dark grey	clayey silt	moderate occurrence of fine chalk flecks, occasional fine pebbles and charcoal flecks, occasional silty lenses	pit [8], [74]	becomes sandier towards eastern edge		
6		3.2		fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.85	0.17	orangey mid grey	clayey silt	occasional mid sized flint fragments and chalky/marley lumps. Moderate orange clay lenses and occasional chalk flecks				

7	32	fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.65	0.26	orangey dark brown	clayey silt	occasional chalky flecks and rare pebbles				
8	02	cut	pit	unknown	1.15	0.68	1.14					west side has notable step-like profile at top due to additional breaks of slope (see reverse of sheet 4). Only western portion of feature exposed by trial trench	oval	
9	82	fill	pit	disuse	0.67	0.66	0.74	very dark grey	clayey silt	moderate fine pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks				
10	82	fill	pit	disuse	0.67	0.6	0.3	brownish mid orange	silty sand	moderate fine chalky flecks and occasional silty lenses (probably rooting)				
11	82	fill	pit	disuse	0.77	0.38	0.52	orangey mid grey	slightly sandy silt	occasional fine sized pebbles and chalk flecks				
12	02	layer	natural	geology	0.35		0.05	greyish mid orange	sandy clay	occasional pale blueish clay lenses		base of layer unseen		

13	02	layer	natural	geology	0.34		0.12	orangey light grey	slightly clayey sand					
14	02	layer	natural	geology	0.31		0.18	brownish mid orange	silty sand					
15	02	layer	natural	geology	0.28		0.28	orangey pale yellow	sandy silt	frequent chalky flecks		some root disturbance		
16	02	layer	natural	geology	0.24		0.29	pale yellow	sandy silt	occasional more orangey hard sandy lenses	pit [8]			
17	01	cut	pit	unknown	0	0.84	0.54						oval?	
18	171	fill	pit / post hole	disuse	0	0.84	0.54	mid orangey brown	sandy silt	occasional medium pebbles and chalky/limestone lumps				
19	01	cut	pit / ditch?	boundary	0	1.03	0.48					might be associated with or the continuation of [26] in opposing section	linear?	N-S?
20	191	fill	pit / ditch	disuse	0	1.03	0.48	orangey mid brown	clayey silt	moderate fine pebbles, occasional chalky flecking/charcoal flecking, rare orange sandy lenses				
212?	01	layer	natural	subsoil	3.74	1.55	0.3	mid brownish orange	slightly silty sand	rare fine pebbles	pits [33] and [29]			

22	0 1	layer	natural	natural buildup	0			light yellowish orange	slightly silty sand	moderate whitish yellow sand lenses				
23	0 1	layer	natural	geology	0.7		0.24	pale orange brown	slightly silty sand	occasional pale yellow sandy lenses				
24	0 1	layer	natural	geology	0.46		0.33	mid yellow brown	sand	occasional chalky flecks				
25	0 1	layer	natural	sub soil	2.46		0.42	dark grey brown	clayey silt	moderate chalky lumps/flecks				
26	0 1	cut	pit / ditch	unknown / boundary	0.4	0.96	0.72						oval?	unseen
27	26 1	fill	pit / ditch	disuse	0	0.28	0.2	mid orangey grey	sandy silt	occasional grey clayey silt lenses				
28	26 1	fill	pit / ditch	disuse	0.4	0.8	0.7	dark greyish brown	clayey silt	moderate fine sized chalky lumps and pebbles, occasional medium sized sub angular pebbles				
29	0 1	cut	pit	quarrying	0.92	1.55	0.46					only western extent exposed	unseen	unseen
30	29 1	fill	pit	disuse	0.92	1.55	0.46	mid grey orange	sandy silt	frequent dark grey silt lenses and moderate fine sized chalky lumps	pit [58] on western side			
31	0 1	cut	pit	quarry	0	5.2	0.52						unseen	unseen
32	31 1	fill	pit	disused quarry	0	5.2	0.52	dark greyish brown	clayey silt	moderate fine sized chalk fragment inclusions				
33	0 1	cut	pit	quarrying	1.55	1.3	0.3						unseen	unseen

34	0.1	fill	pit	disuse	1.55	1.3	0.21	mid orangey grey	slightly clayey silt	occasional medium sized pebbles/flints, moderate fine sized pebbles and occasional chalky flecks				
35	33.1	fill	pit	disuse	1.55	1.48	0.11	light orangey grey	sandy silt	moderate orange sandy lenses	pit [31]			
36	58.1	fill	pit	disuse	2.56		0.31	dark orangey grey	clayey silt	occasional fine pebbles and chalky flecks	pits [26] and [31]			
37.3	0.2	cut	ditch	boundary	8	0.3	0.27					see sheet 3, just eastern side of feature clipped by this investigation		
38	37.2	fill	ditch	disuse	0	0.3	0.27	orangey dark brown	clayey silt	occasional fine and medium sized pebbles/flints				
39	0.2	layer	surface (external)	trackway / road	1.55	6.15	0.12		flint and pebble and pea gravel with occasional lenses of orangey brown silt	frequent fine and medium sized sub angular pebbles. Occasional coarse sized flints/pebbles. Frequent pea gravel		seems to be orientated E-W, along the land contour		

40	02	layer	occupational buildup	trackway disuse/neglect	1.05	3.25	0.13	mid orangey grey	slightly clayey silt	occasional fine and medium pebbles, moderate chalky flecks	ditch [37] on west side			
41	03	cut	well	construction cut	1.18	1.16	0.9						oval	
42	0	cut	pit		0									
43	42	fill	pit		0			dark brown	silty clay	brick/mortar(?) flecks / fragments and occasional small gravel				
44	42	fill	pit		0			grey blue	clay with chalk flecks and mid yellow brown silt	fine sized burnt flint fragments and brick fragments. 2 pottery fragments, occasional small and medium sized pebbles				
45	0				0									
46	03	layer	natural formation / occupation buildup	natural layer / well construction	1.12		0.14	pale yellow	silty clay					
47 54?	03	layer	subsoil / occupational buildup	natural / levelling and dumping	1.46		0.31	dark grey	clayey silt	rare chalk	well [41]			
48	03	layer	occupational buildup	road construction	0.78		0.29	dark orange grey	clayey silt	occasional pebbles	possibly sunken road, not certain, obscured by layer (52)			

49	0.3	cut	construction cut	trackway / road	0	1.32	0.54						only east side exposed, full extent masked by layer (52)	linear?	N-S
50	49.3	fill	trackway	buildup / silting	0	0.13	0.1	mid orangey grey	clayey silt						
51	49.3	fill	trackway / road	silting etc / use	0	0.76	0.12	dark grey brown	clayey silt	rubble					
52	0.3	layer	occupation buildup	trackway neglect	0	1.94	0.48	dark brownish grey	clayey silt	occasional pebbles	levelled off by well construction activity [41]	layer masks extent of cut [49], see sheet 49 for full story...			
53	0.3	layer	natural	sub soil / dumping	1.25		0.12	mid greyish orange	clayey silt	rare chalk					
54 47?	0.3	layer	occupational buildup / natural formation	levelling / natural layer	1.21		0.21	dark orangey grey	clayey silt	common charcoal, occasional stones	well [41]				
55	49.3	fill	surface (external)	trackway / sunken road	0	0.36	0.08		metalling of road	frequent fine and medium sized pebbles, moderate brick/ tile					
56	0.3	layer	natural	subsoil	1.1		0.21	orangey brown	sandy silt	mixed, dirty. Moderate brown silty lenses	sunken road [49] and well [41]				
57	58.1	fill	pit	disuse	2.58		0.18	dark orangey brown	clayey silt	occasional medium sized pebbles and degraded chalk lumps					

58	0.1	cut	pit	quarrying	3.4	1.55	0.48											unseen
59	0.3	cut	pit	unknown / quarrying	2.44	1	0.86											oval
60	0.3	layer	occupational buildup	levelling / makeup	0	1.06	0.12	mid blue grey	clay		orange sandy lenses							
61	0.3	layer	occupational buildup	levelling / makeup	0	0.8	0.15	mid yellow brown	sand									
62	0.3	layer	occupational buildup	levelling / makeup	0	0.6	0.14	dirty mid yellow brown	sand		occasional stones and charcoal flecks	pit [59]						
63	59.3	fill	pit	disuse	0	2.5	0.38	mid yellow grey	clayey sand		rare stones							
64	59.3	fill	pit	disuse	1.74		0.2	pale yellow grey	clayey sand		occasional stones							
65	59.3	fill	pit	disuse	2		0.36	pale yellow grey	clayey sand		occasional stones	ceramic land drain						
66	0.3	layer	occupation buildup	makeup / levelling	4.6		0.25	pale yellow brown	silty sand (quite mixed)		occasional blue clay lenses							
67	0.3	layer	occupation buildup	levelling / makeup	1.56		0.22	mid grey brown	gravelly sand and silt		moderate stones							
68	0.3	layer	surface (external) / occupation buildup	make up / trackway	4.6	0.25		dark grey brown	clayey silt		frequent gravel							
69	0.3	layer	surface (external)	modern road	4.6		0.17											modern tarmac road surface
70	0.3	layer	natural	littoral deposit	2.94		0.34	dark blue grey	gault clay									
71	0.3	layer	natural	pelagic formation	2.98		0.43	pale yellow	rotted limestone									
72	0.3	layer	natural	littoral deposit	1.94		0.36	dark blue grey	gault clay									

73	03	layer	natural	pelagic formation	1.32	0.3	pale yellow	rotted limestone						
74	0	cut	ditch		0	2.74	0.92							
75	0	cut	ditch		0	1.2	1.02							
76	0	cut	ditch		0	1.44	0.88							
77	0	cut	post hole		0	0.38	0.34							
78	0	cut	post hole		0	0.44	0.14							
79	0	cut	ditch		0	1.12	0.5							
80	78	fill	post hole		0	0.42	0.1	mid yellow brown	sandy clay					
81	78	fill	post hole		0	0.44	0.1		silty clay					
82	77	fill	post hole		0	0.1	0.3	mid yellow	sandy clay			[69]		
83	77	fill	post hole		0		0.26							
84	78	fill	post hole		0		0.14							
85	79	fill	ditch		0	1.24	0.52	mottled mid brownish grey	silty clay	sand lenses and some mollusc shell inclusions		[76]		
86	76	fill	ditch		0	0.94	0.56	as 85	as 85	as 85		[75]		
87	76	fill	ditch		0	0.62	0.32	as 89	as 89	as 89		[75]		
88	76	fill	ditch		0	0.96	0.56						as 85	
89	76	fill	ditch		0	1.46	0.4	mottled mid brown / brownish grey	clay	rotted limestone and silty clay				
90	76	fill	ditch		0	2	1.08	mid greyish brown	silty clay	rare chalk and charcoal flecks		[75]		
91	75	fill	ditch		0	1.2	1.02	very dark brown grey	slightly silty clay	charcoal and ceramic flecking and rare small stones		[74]		
92	74	fill	ditch		0	1.5	0.72	mottled dark brown grey / mid yellow brown	silty sandy clay	charcoal and ceramic flecking and rare small stones				

93	74	fill	ditch			0	2.64	0.9	mottled mid yellow brown / dark brown grey sandy clay					
94	0	cut	ditch			0	1.76	0.81						
95	94	fill	ditch			0	0.5	0.13						
96	94	fill	ditch			0	1.18	0.4						
97	94	fill	ditch			0	1.76	0.47						
98	0	cut	ditch			0	0.54	0.09						
99	98	fill	ditch			0	0.54	0.09						
100	0	cut	ditch			0	0.69	0.41						
101	100	fill	ditch			0	0.5	0.27						
102	100	fill	ditch			0	0.62	0.28						
103	0					0								
104	0					0	7	1.7						
105	41.3	fill	well	clay sealing / use		1.21	1.18	0.38	mid grey blue clay					
106	0.3	masonry	well	construction / use		1.18	1.16	0.82					see masonry sheet	
107	41.3	fill	well	disuse		0.98	0.86		dark reddish brown clayey silt	unseen				
108	41.3	fill	well	backfill / disuse		0.98	0.86	0.36	mid orange brown silt	frequent brick rubble				
109	41.3	fill	well	backfill		0.98	0.86	0.54	mid orange brown sandy silt	occasional bricks / rubble				
110	0	cut				0		0.4						
111	110	fill				0	0.5	0.18						
112	110	fill				0	2.1	0.54	mid olive grey	heavy cassy mottling				
113	100	fill	ditch			0	0.69	0.31					appears in cut [100] in section 10 and cut [110]	

133	0				0													
134	0				0													
135	116	fill			0	1.56	0.58	dark brownish grey			large stones towards base							
136	110	fill			0	0.54	0.4	dark grey with orange mottling	clay									
137	0	cut	post hole		0	0.67	0.75											
138	137	fill	post hole		0	0.67	0.48											
139	0	cut	ditch		0	1.19	0.4											
140	139	fill	ditch		0	1.1	0.23	mid orangey brown	clayey silt		frequent small stone inclusions and chalk flecks							
141	0				0													
142	137	fill	post hole		0	0.58	0.39											
143	139	fill	ditch		0	0.88	0.37	dark orangey brown	clayey silt		rare small stones							
144	0				0													
145	0	cut			0													
146	145	fill			0	1.16	0.5	mid orange brown	sandy silt		rare charcoal flecks	[147] [149]						
147	0	cut			0													
148	147	fill			0	0.44	0.62	mid brown	slightly clayey silt			[149]						
149	150	cut			0													
150	149	fill			0	2	0.54	mid grey brown	slightly clayey silt		moderate pale orange sandy lenses, moderate chalky lumps/flecks and occasional charcoal and ceramic flecks							
151	0				0													

152	0				0														
153	0				0														
154	0				0														
155	0				0														
156	0				0														
157	0				0														
158	0	fill			0	7	1.3				darkened silt lenses and charcoal flecking	[77] [78] [76] [75] [74] [3]							
159	0	fill			0		0.5	mid grey brown	clay silt		frequent stone and chalk inclusion								
160	0	fill		redeposited natural	0		0.23	pale yellow brown	sandy clay		rare stone inclusions	[137]							
161	0				0							[137]							
162	0	fill			0	0.5	0.28	orangey yellow with mixed iron pan mottling	slightly silty clay			[116]							
163	0	fill			0	0.7	0.42	blue grey with occasional orange brown sandy mottling	gault clay			[116]							
164	0				0														
165	0				0														
166	0				0														
167	0				0														
168	0				0	0.37	0.05	reddish grey	sandy clay			[94]							
169	0				0	0.62	0.05	mid brown grey	sandy clay			[94]							
170	0				0	0.55	0.05	dark blue grey	clay										
171	0				0	0.35	0.03	dark red	clayey sand										

Appendix 2: Romano - British Pottery

by Alice Lyons & Stephen Wadeson

1 Introduction

A total of forty-one sherds, weighing 0.391kg, of Romano-British pottery was recovered during the excavation of evaluation trenches at Red Lion Lane, Sutton (SUT RLL 07).

Just over half of the assemblage, twenty-one sherds, is made up of coarse ware pottery from local domestic sources, while the remaining sherds are colour coated fine wares. The pottery is moderately abraded, with an average sherd weight of only 9.5g.

2 Methodology

The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy grey ware = SGW) vessel form was also recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and decoration and abrasion were also noted.

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

3 The Assemblage

The excavation produced twenty sherds of fine ware pottery including a single sherd from an imported Cologne colour coated ware beaker (Tomber and Dore 1998, 57) possibly dating from the 3rd century. The remaining sherds are all Nene Valley colour coat (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) of which eighteen sherds are from a single dish dating to the late Roman period.

The remainder of the assemblage is comprised of undiagnostic and not closely datable, locally produced sandy grey and sandy reduced coarse wares. There are also several sherds of a distinctive Black slipped red ware present suggesting a local manufacturing site close-by.

Only one sherd of diagnostic coarse ware pottery was recovered an everted rim fragment (133) from a black slipped grey ware, medium mouthed jar which can be dated to between the 2nd to 3rd century AD.

4 Discussion

This is a small assemblage comprised of undiagnostic, locally produced coarse wares and late Roman colour coat wares, typical of a utilitarian domestic assemblage.

The small number of sherds recovered during excavation is common on many sites, suggesting there is an as yet unlocated Romano-British settlement or farmstead nearby.

The presence of NVCC, probably a chronological indicator rather than one of status, along with a distinct lack of samian in the assemblage would suggest that this settlement was not active until the end of the samian importation period, 3rd to 4th centuries.

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Appendix 3: Post Roman Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

1 Introduction and Background

The evaluation at Red Lion Lane, Sutton, Cambridgeshire produced a small post Roman pottery assemblage of 21 sherds, weighing 0.699kg. In addition 22 sherds, 0.286kg of Roman pottery were recovered, of these four sherds were identified as residual within medieval contexts the remainder were found unassociated with post Roman material. These residual sherds have been noted on the dating table though not included in the total count or weight. The remainder of the contexts have been recorded by the Roman specialist and are fully described and discussed by them. Material from the topsoil and unstratified material are included in the totals.

Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the following text and dating table are:

LMU	Locam medieval unglazed ware
LYST	Lyveden-Stanion ware
MEL	Medieval Ely ware
MEMS	Medieval Essex Micaceous sandy ware
PMR	Post-medieval red wares
RFWE	Refined white earthenware
RBSRW	Roman black slipped red ware
RSGW	Roman sandy grey ware
RSRW	Roman sandy reduced ware
S W	Sandy ware
TRAN	Transitional red wares

2 Methodology

The basic guidance in the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) has been adhered to (English Heritage 1991). In addition the Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents Guidance for the processing and publication of medieval pottery from excavations (Blake and Davey, 1983), A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG, 1998) and Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

Dating was carried out using CAM ARC's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been spot dated on a context-by-context basis.

The pottery and archive are curated by CAM ARC until formal deposition.

3 The Assemblage

Fieldwork generated a small assemblage of 21 sherds, weighing 0.627kg with an average sherd weight of approximately 33g, this relatively large sherd weight is due entirely to the presence of nine sherds of PMR from context 51 and 109, these sherds make up 84% of the post Roman assemblage by weight. The assemblage consists of mainly of moderately abraded post medieval and medieval pottery. The majority of the post medieval pottery is PMR and dates from the 16th to late 18th century in addition context 109 also produced a sherd RFWE suggesting the PMR is residual in a 19th century context. The RFWE would appear to represent the latest activity on the site.

Roman pottery was recovered as a residual element in context 91, which also produced the earliest post Roman material, a sherd of EMEMS of indeterminate form, dated to mid 11th-12th century. Context 103 also produced a residual RSRW sherd alongside the only medieval glazed vessel in the assemblage, a body sherd from a MEL jug. A further three contexts span the 13th and 14th centuries; contexts 11, 32, and 150, the fabrics present in these contexts are LMU, an unglazed LYST sherd, MEL and MEMS. The remaining contexts represent the 16th-17th and 19th century assemblage.

The assemblage contains mainly jars with only a single jug sherd recovered from the 13th-14th century contexts. The jars are present in almost all fabrics throughout the assemblage and are the most common form in all centuries except the post-medieval where bowls are also present.

4 Conclusion

The assemblage is small, few features have more than one context containing pottery and the majority of contexts produced no pottery. This has made the assemblage difficult to assess beyond providing dating information. Dating has however indicated a low level of medieval domestic activity, unfortunately the material of this date appears to have been reworked and redeposited, and it may not therefore accurately date the features from which it was recovered.

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- | | | |
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Medieval Pottery Research Group
Occasional Paper I

Dating

Context	Fabric	Form	Number of sherds	Weight in kg	Date Range for context
11	LYST		1	0.023	13th to mid 14th century
32	LMU	Jar	3	0.020	13th to mid 14th century
51	PMR	Jar	6	0.272	16th to end of 18th century
91	EMEMS		1	0.011	Mid 11th to early 13th century
	RSGW		1	0.011	
	RSRW		1	0.007	
103	MEL	Jug	1	0.011	13th to late 14th century
	RBSRW		2	0.003	
	RSRW		1	0.007	
109	PMR	Bowl	3	0.321	19th century
	RFWE	Lid	1	0.011	
128	TRAN		1	0.004	16th century
150	LMU	Jar	2	0.015	13th to mid 14th century
	MEL	Jar	1	0.002	
	MEMS	Jar	1	0.009	

Appendix 4: The Pottery Catalogue

Key: C=Century, E=Early, M=Mid, L=Late.
R=Rim, U=Undecorated body sherd, D=Decorated body sherd, B=Base.

Context	Fabric	Des.	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Decoration	Spot date	Context date	Comments
40	Black slipped red ware	U		1	7		C2-C3	C2-C3	Standground NV?
40	SGW	U		1	6		C2-C3		
44	SGW	U	Wide mouthed jar	1	14		MC1-C2	LC2	
44	NVGW	U		1	16		LC2-EC4		
91	SRW	U		1	11		C1-C4	Medieval	Residual
91	SGW	D		1	7	Horizontal oxidised bands	C1-C4		Residual
99	Cologne/ Rheinish CC	U	Beaker	1	4		C2-C3	C2-C3	
102	Black slipped red ware	U		1	16		C2-C3	C2-C3	
103	Black slipped red ware	U		2	3		C2-C3	Medieval	Residual
103	SRW	U		1	7		C1-C4		Residual
111	SGW	U		1	19		C2-C3	C2-C3	Standground NV?
115	SGW	U		2	12		C2-C3	C3	Standground NV?
115	Black slipped red ware	U		2	15		C2-C3		
115	NVCC	U	Dish	18	173		C3-4		
115	SGW	U		1	3		C2-C3		
115	SGW	U		1	7		C1-C4		
121	NVCC	U		1	7		C3-4		C3-C4

133	Black slipped grey ware	R	Medium mouthed jar	1	16		C2-C3	C2-C3	Everted rim
133	Horningsea type GW	U		2	26		C2-C3		
135	Horningsea type GW	U		1	22		C2-C3		

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation —————

Evaluation Trench - - - - -

Deposit - Conjectured - - - - -

Natural Features
.....

Sondages/Machine Strip - - - - -

Test Pit - - - - -

Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -

Illustrated Section S.14 —————

Archaeological Deposit		Sample Number	
Archaeological Feature		Cut Number	
Excavated Slot		Deposit Number	118
Well		Well Number	
Stone			
Flint			

Sections

Limit of Excavation - - - - -

Cut —————

Cut-Conjectured - - - - -

Deposit Horizon —————

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured - - - - -

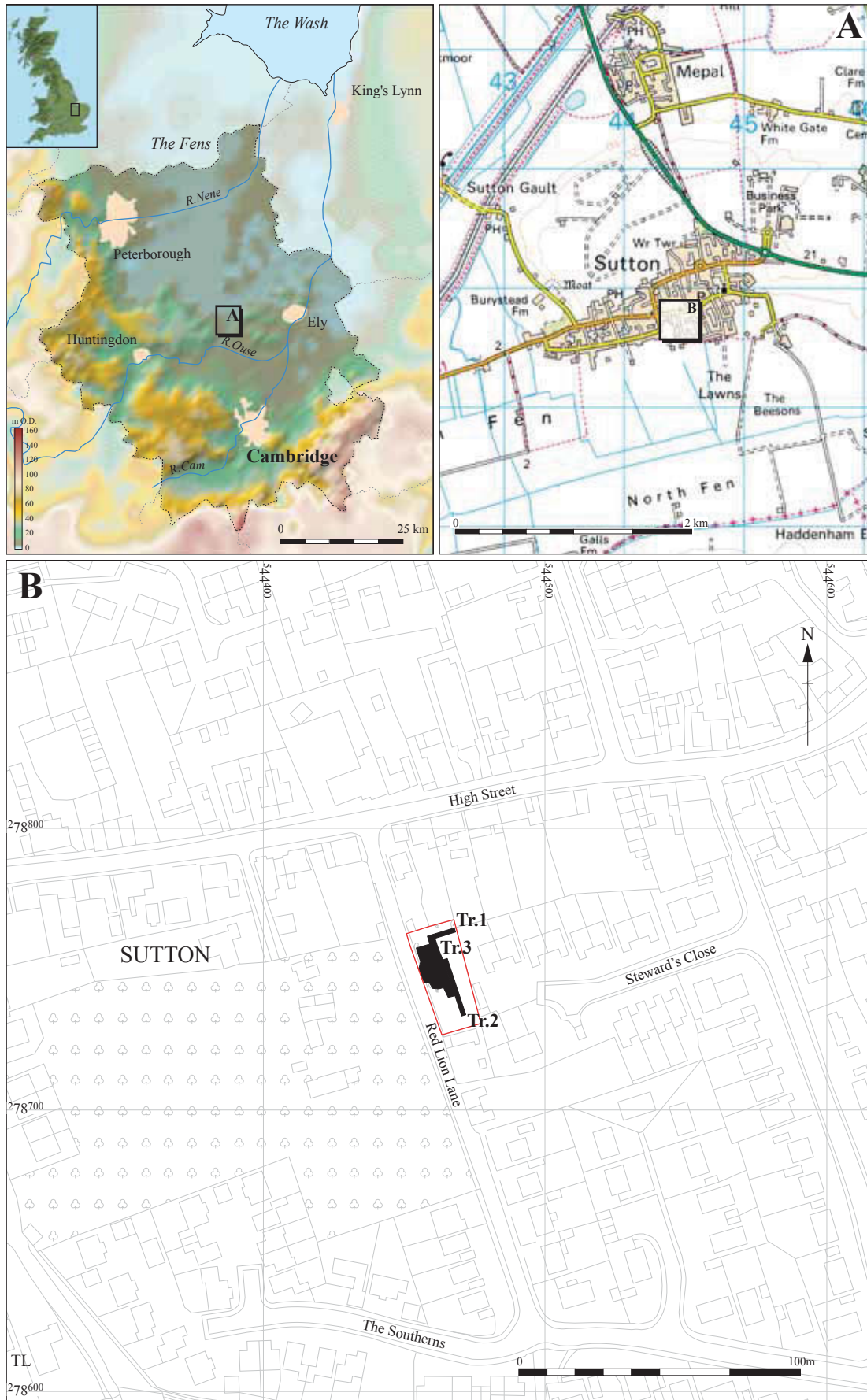
Natural Deposit
.....

Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -

Top Surface/Top of Natural —————

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing - - - - -

Cut Number		Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD
Deposit Number	117	Inclusions	
Wall Number		Burnt Clay	
Brick			



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

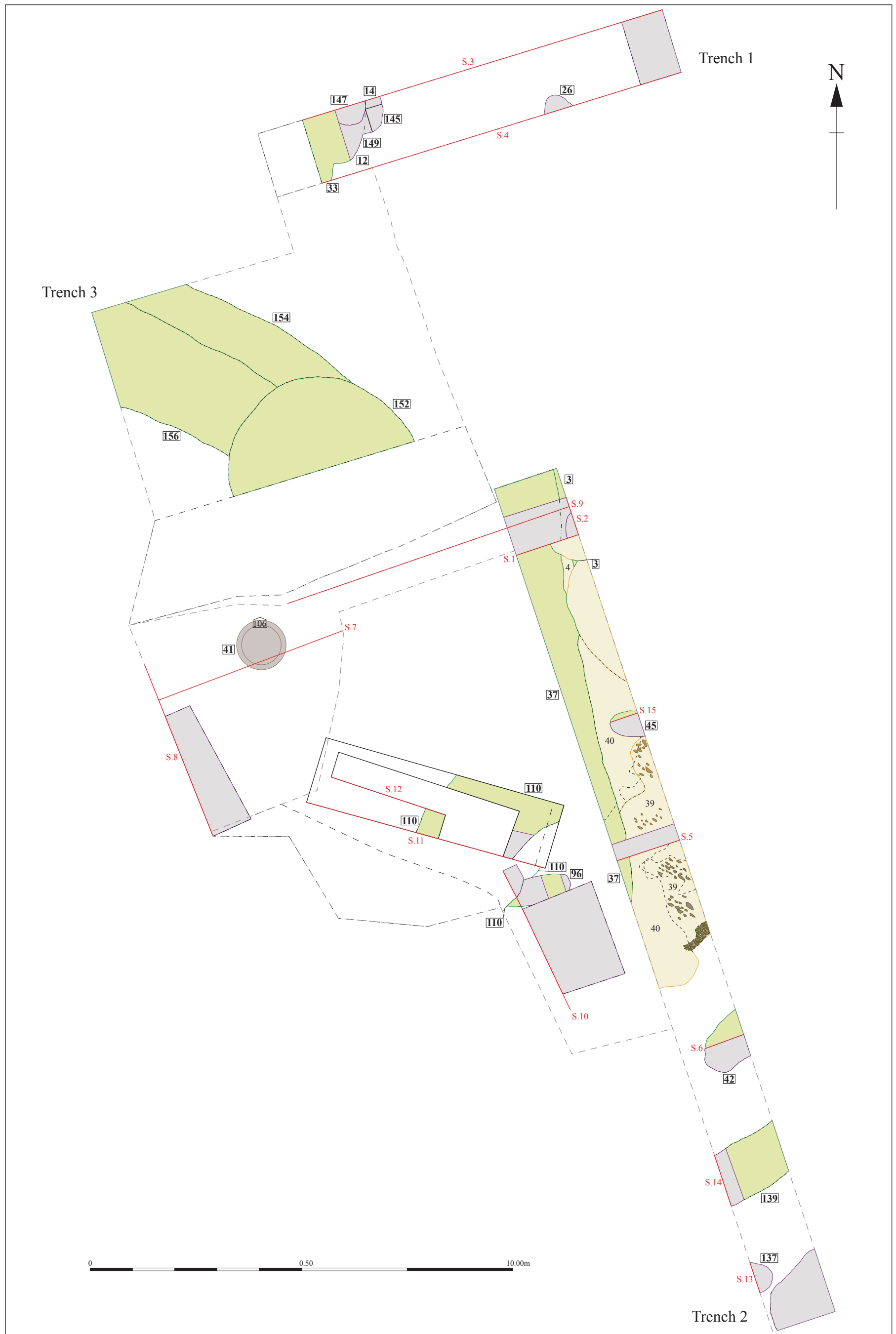


Figure 2: Trench plans

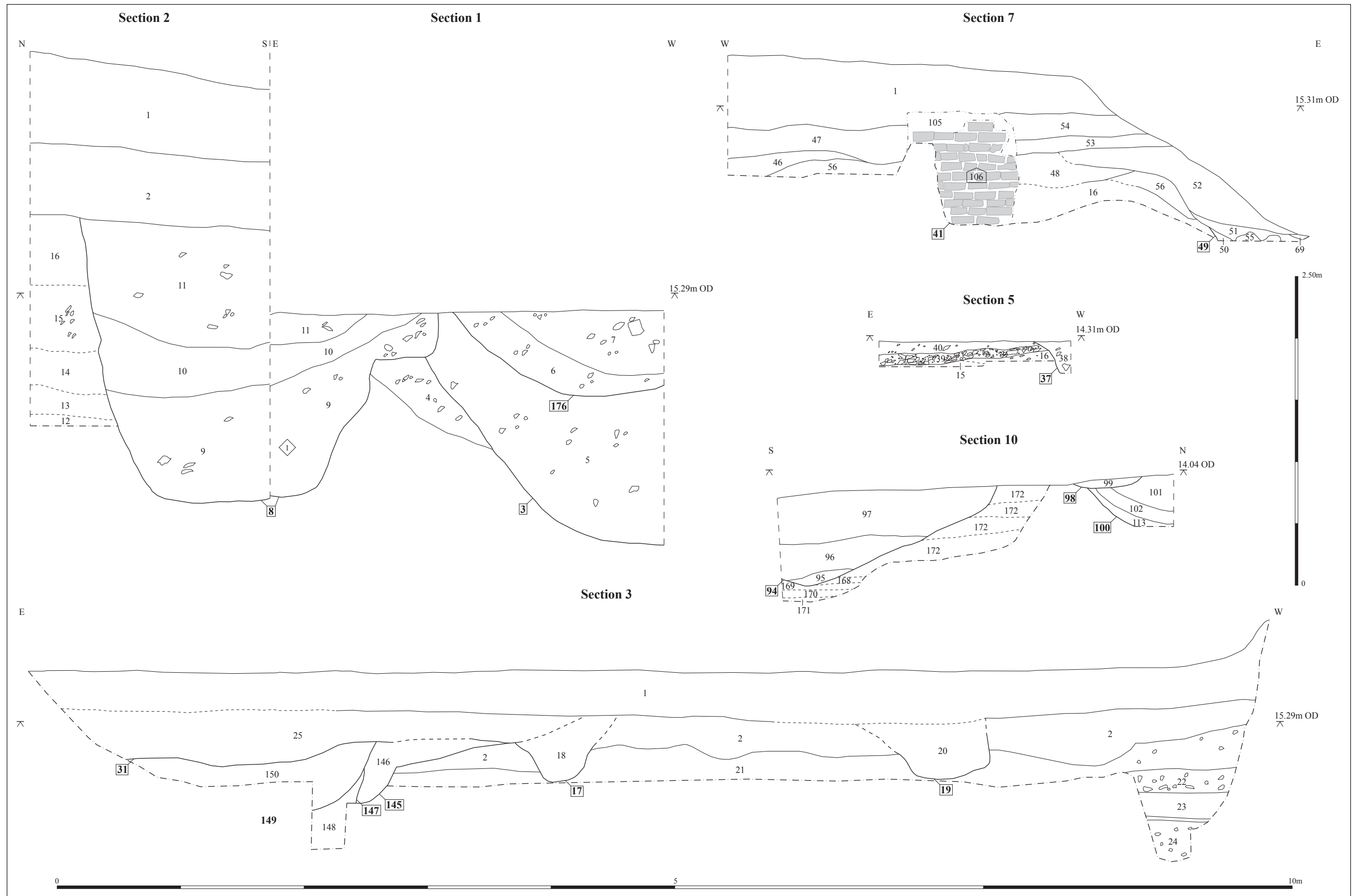


Figure 3: Section drawings

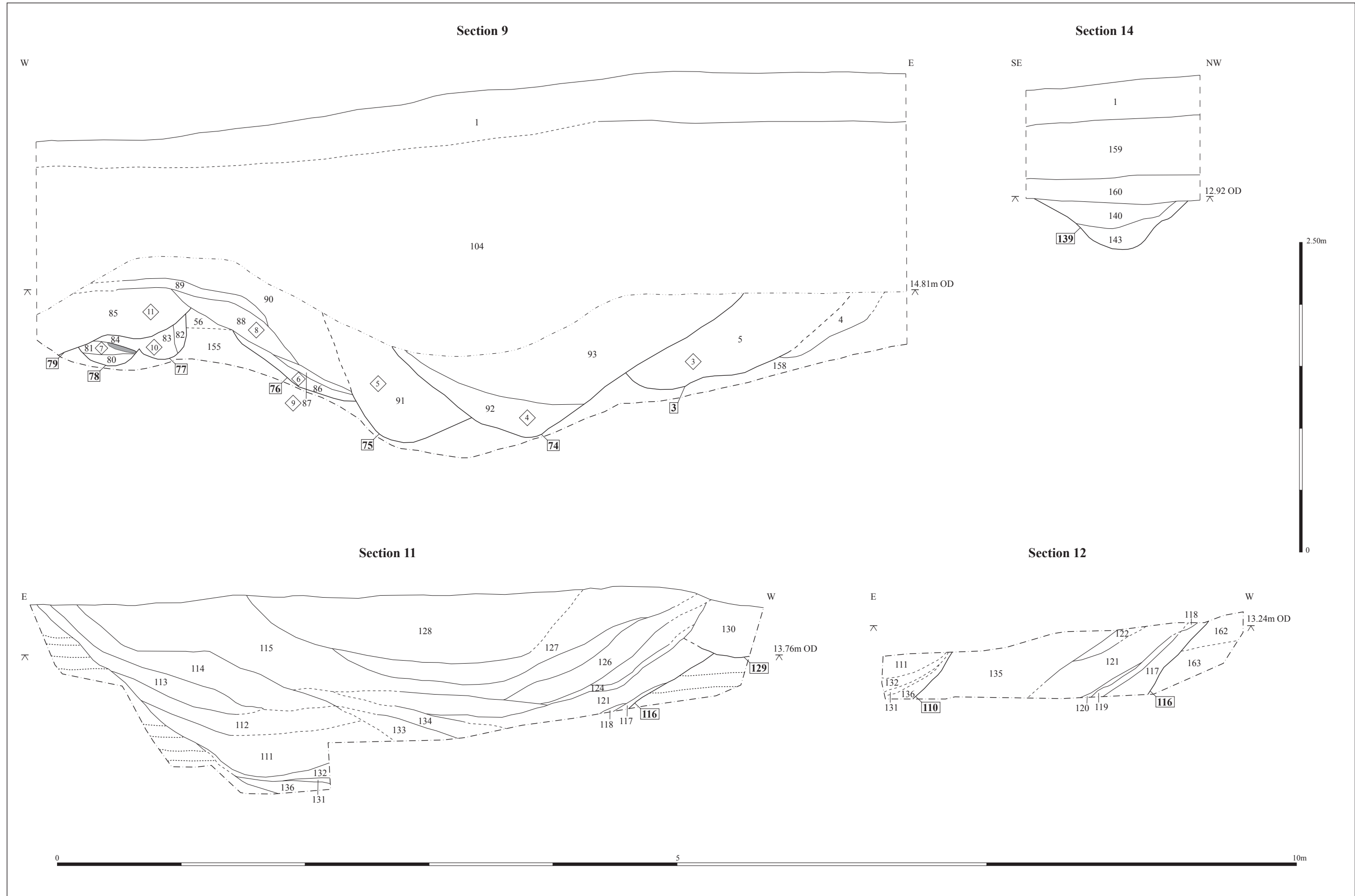


Figure 4: Section drawings

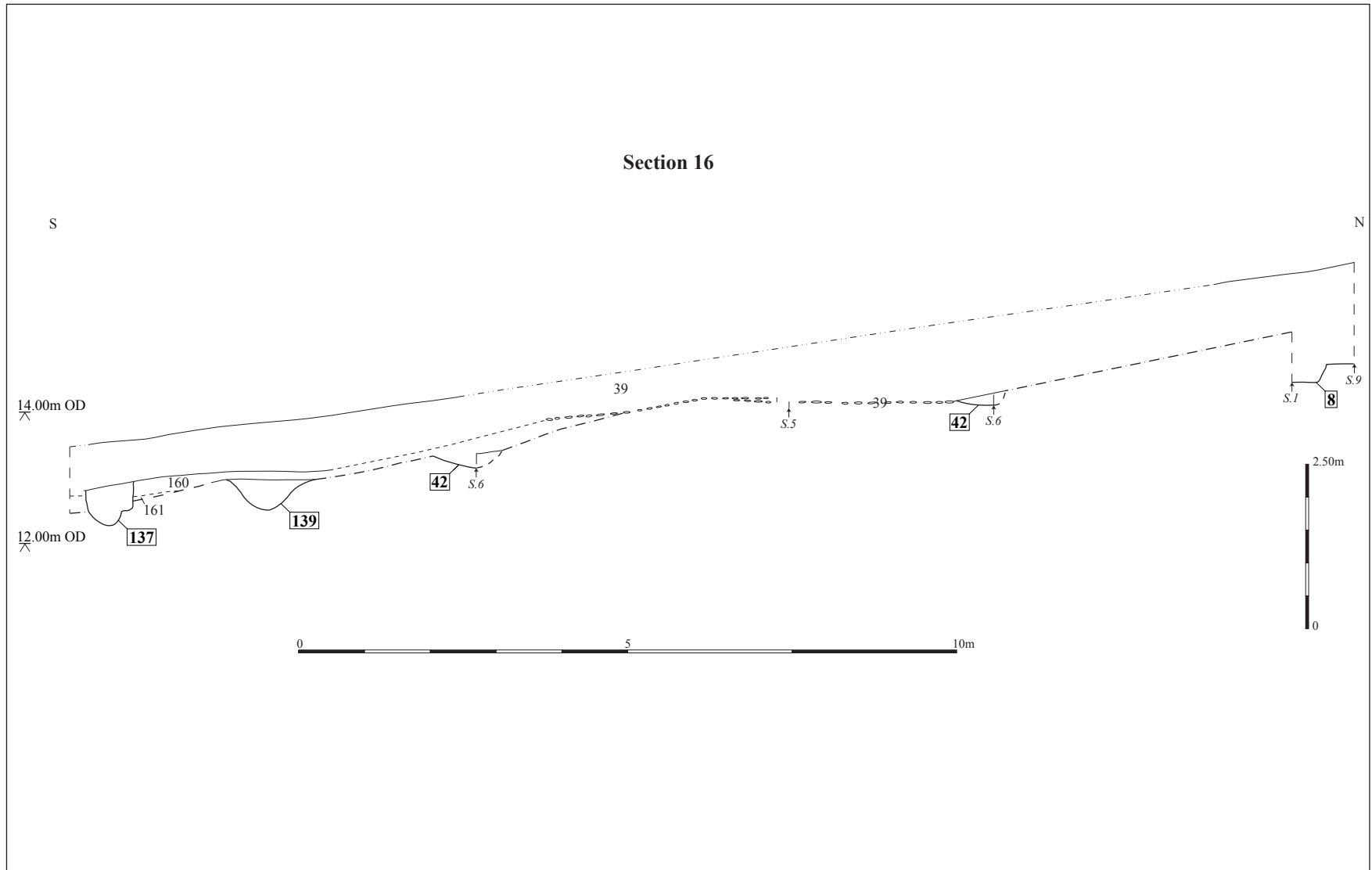


Figure 5: Section drawings



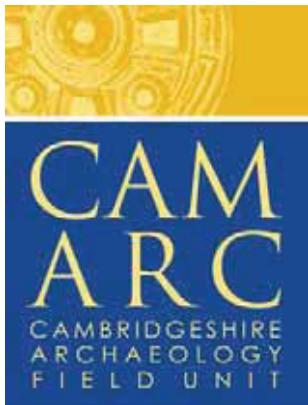
Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



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