

**DIXON INTERNATIONAL GROUP LTD
BREWERY ROAD
PAMPISFORD
CAMBS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

JUNE 2007

DIXON INTERNATIONAL GROUP LTD

BREWERY ROAD

PAMPISFORD

CAMBS

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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CONTENTS

	Page No.
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.0 BACKGROUND	2
2.1 Topography and Geology	
2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background	
3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	3
3.1 General aims	
3.2 Objectives	
4.0 METHOD	4
5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS	4
6.0 FINDS	5
7.0 DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
BIBLIOGRAPHY	6
APPENDICES	
APPENDIX 1 Context Data	
APPENDIX 2 Finds Data	
APPENDIX 3 Contents of Archive	
APPENDIX 4 Oasis Summary	
FIGURES	
Fig. 1 Location and trench plan	
Fig. 2 Sections	

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING

Client: T & F Design

NGR: TL 49304 48409

Event Number: ECB 2611

Oasis No.: essexcou1-27062

Date of Fieldwork: Thursday 17th May 2007

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the grounds of Dixon International Ltd, Brewery Road, Pampisford, Cambridgeshire. A single trench was excavated to the north of an existing structure, on the site of a proposed new test building.

One undated pit/ ditch was excavated. The remainder of the trench contained pits, post-holes and other disturbances all dating to the 20th century.

Although the area is rich in archaeological potential, no remains dating to the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or Medieval periods were identified and it is unlikely that further archaeological remains are present within the footprint of the proposed new building.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Dixon International Group Ltd, Brewery Road, Pampisford, in advance of the construction of a new test building. The evaluation was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU), on behalf of T&F DESIGN for Dixon International Group Ltd, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA 2006) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2007).

As a result of the area of high archaeological potential in which the development is situated, an archaeological investigation was required under a condition attached to planning consent for the construction for the new building (S/1174/06/F). The planning condition states that:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The archive will be deposited in the Cambridgeshire County Store under the event number ECB 2611. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)

The proposed development area lies on the eastern side of the village of Pampisford, in the north-western corner of the Dixon International Group Ltd site (TL 49320 48340). The proposed new test building covers a rectangular area of approximately 228 square metres (24.m long by 9.5m wide). This sloped gradually from north to south, and consisted of an area of bare topsoil that had been cleared of vegetation prior to the fieldwork. The underlying geology consists of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) held at Shire Hall, Cambridge.

The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, with evidence for virtually every phase of human activity since the Bronze Age known from the surrounding area. Finds of Neolithic flint tools have been made to the west of the site (CHER 04108, 04109), while evidence for Neolithic activity has also been recorded in the grounds of nearby Sawston Hall (ECB 2291). Numerous cropmarks of Prehistoric and Roman date are known from around the edges of the village, including those at Rectory Farm (CHER 04169, 08904), to the south, and around College and Manor Farms (CHER 09360, 06203). Iron Age and Roman features have also been recorded at Sawston Hall (ECB 2291), while the site lies to the west of one of the terminals of Brent Ditch, a nationally important Saxon boundary dyke.

The development, which is situated within the site of a former brewery shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, sits within a landscape rich in medieval remains, including a Scheduled moated site at College Farm (CHER 01269), to the east, and a series of earthworks at Manor Farm (CHER 05220), to the north. Blenheim Cottage, which sits towards the front of the Dixon International Group site, is of 17th century date and Grade II Listed.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

The principle aim of the archaeological investigation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the development area and to combine this evidence with a suitable level of documentary and aerial photographic assessment to set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context.

3.2 Objectives

Specific objectives for the evaluation were laid out in detail in sections 3.1 – 3.6 of the CAPCA Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (CAPCA 2007). Most of these objectives, however, are no longer considered appropriate given the lack of dated archaeological remains from the site. CAPCA have confirmed that the aerial photographic study will not now be required.

4.0 METHOD

One evaluation trench, 20m long by 1.8m wide, was excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned and hand-excavated; non 20th-century finds were collected. Work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) standards and guidance and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 1 and 2)

Alongside a number of features of recent (20th century) date, only one feature of possible antiquity was identified, although this remained undated. Context information is presented in Appendix 1.

The evaluation area was covered by dark brownish-grey sandy silt topsoil (1), approximately 0.3m-0.38m deep (Fig. 2, Section 1). This sealed a compacted surface (2) of yellowy-buff crushed Limestone up to 0.35m thick. Plastic-coated wire was recovered from beneath this surface implying it was of fairly recent (late 20th century) origin. This date was confirmed by a passing employee who remembered the area in use as an overflow car park in the 1990s. The surface had been laid directly upon an earlier topsoil deposit of brownish grey sandy silt (3), between 0.4m and 0.5m in thickness, which became browner and chalk-flecked with depth. The total depth of overburden ranged from approximately 1.10m to 1.25m deep.

The underlying natural chalk was cut by a north-south aligned irregularly-shaped feature (5) (Fig. 2, Section 2). The excavated edges of the feature curved inwards suggesting that this may be the remains of a pit or the end of a ditch (Fig. 1). It was filled with mid greyish-brown sandy silt (5) and contained one piece of abraded animal bone. No datable finds were recovered. An irregular brown sandy patch within the chalk was also investigated and appeared to be of natural origin.

The base of the trench was cut by numerous modern pits, post-holes and other disturbances filled with dark grey clay silt, charcoal and ash. In the western half of the trench an east-west alignment of at least three post-holes was identified with each still containing the decaying remains of wooden fence posts. A fourth post was noted in the east of the trench. Many features were cut from high in Section 1 (Fig. 2) and/or contained a variety of 20th-century

finds, such as white earthenware, cast-iron pipe, engineering bricks, glass, slate and wire. None of this material was retained. The east end of the trench was truncated by a deep modern cut filled with large concrete blocks and plastic sheeting.

6.0 FINDS, by Joyce Compton

A single find was recovered; a fragment of animal bone from the fill of pit/ditch 5. This comprises a section of rib from a large mammal. There are no distinguishing features, nor any surviving marks which might indicate butchery or bone-working. The bone has been badly affected by burial in adverse soil conditions, masking any surface marks which may have been present. The bone fragment has not been retained. Further finds data is included as Appendix 2.

7.0 DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

Although the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential only one pit/ditch of possible antiquity was identified. The fill of this feature did not contain any dating evidence but was lighter in colour than the numerous 20th century disturbances and is almost certainly earlier in date. The one piece of animal bone recovered may have been a residual find within this feature as it was in poor condition.

The recent pits and post-holes, including a fence-line, are probably all associated with 20th century activity on the former brewery site. Of note is the depth of overburden across the development area which is in excess of 1.1m deep and should afford some protection to any remaining archaeological remains.

As only one undated archaeological feature of possible antiquity was present within the evaluation trench it is unlikely that further remains exist elsewhere within the development footprint.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to T & F Design for commissioning the archaeological evaluation on behalf Dixon International Group Ltd. The fieldwork was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Tony Blowers of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby of ECC FAU and monitored by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---|
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CCC CAPCA, October 2006 |
| ECC FAU | 2007 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at Dixon International Group Ltd, Brewery Road, Pampisford, Cambs.</i> ECC FAU, February 2007 |
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| Institute of Field Archaeologists | 1999 | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation</i> (revised) |

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Type	Description	Period
1	Layer	Topsoil, dark brownish-grey sandy silt, 0.38m thick	Modern
2	Surface	Compacted crushed Limestone, 0.35m thick	Modern
3	Layer	Brownish grey sandy silt, 0.5m thick	Modern
4	Fill of 5	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt	?
5	Pit/ditch	1.8m+ x 1.6m x 0.24m deep	?

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All Weight in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description
4	5	1	12	Animal bone; rib fragment, large mammal, poor surface condition

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: Dixon International Group Ltd, Brewery Road, Pampisford, Cambs

EVENT NUMBER: ECB 2611

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 CAPCA Brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU WSI

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 – 5)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 Levels Register
- 3.6 Trench location plan
- 3.7 Photographic Register
- 3.8 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on disk)
- 3.9 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

- 1 large plan/section drawing

Finds

No finds were retained

APPENDIX 4: OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: essexcou1-27062

Project details

Project name	Dixon International Group Ltd, Brewery Road, Pampisford, Cambs
Short description of the project	A single 20m evaluation trench was excavated on the site of a proposed new test building. One undated feature, a pit or ditch, was excavated. The remainder of the trench contained pits, post-holes and other disturbances all dating to the 20th century. Although the area is rich in archaeological potential, no remains dating to the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or Medieval periods were identified.
Project dates	Start: 17-05-2007 End: 17-05-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PIT OR DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE PAMPISFORD Dixon International Group Ltd, Brewery Road, Pampisford, Cambs
Study area	36.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 49304 48409 52.1133788448 0.180694085002 52 06 48 N 000 10 50 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office
Project design originator	Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby

Project supervisor Trevor Ennis

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Council

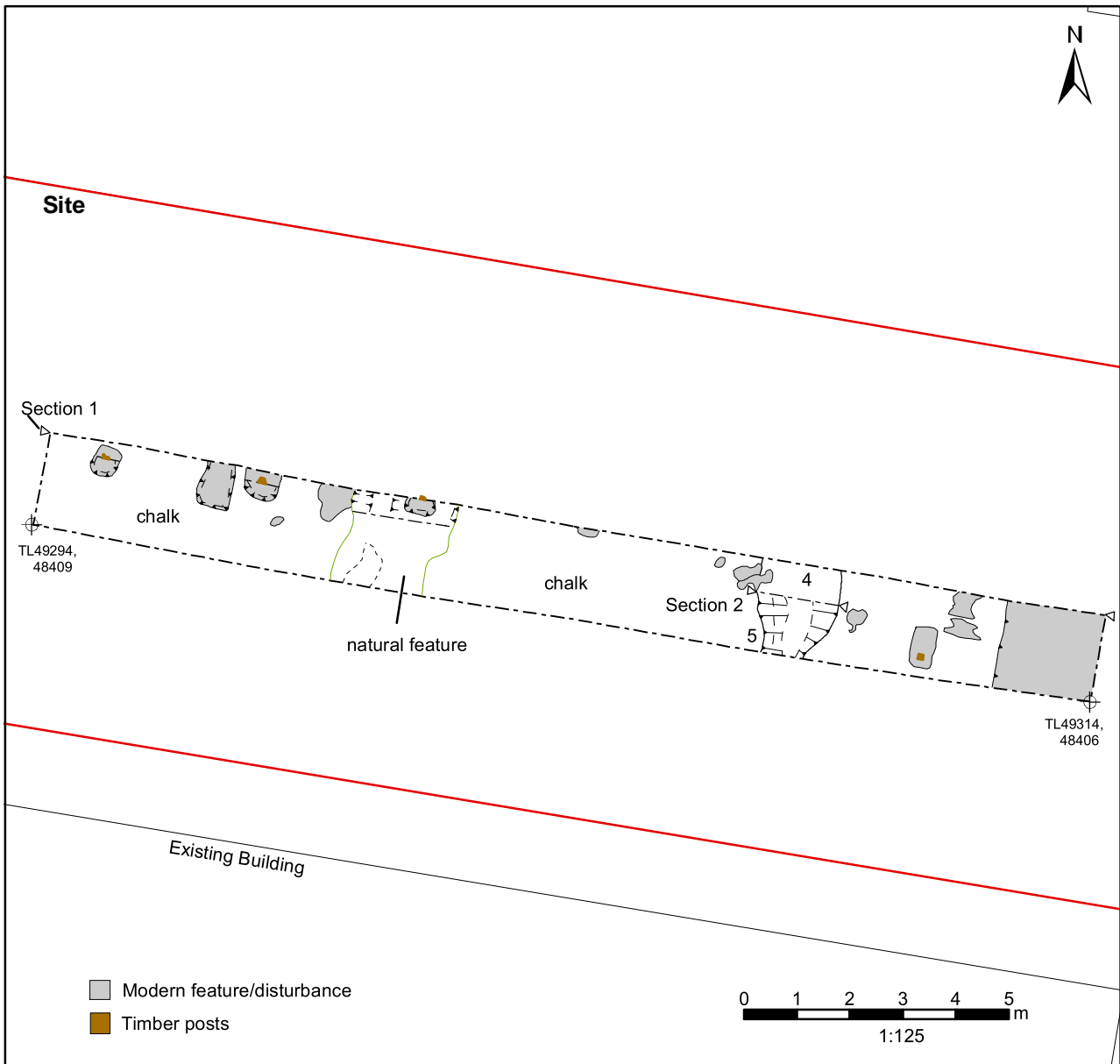
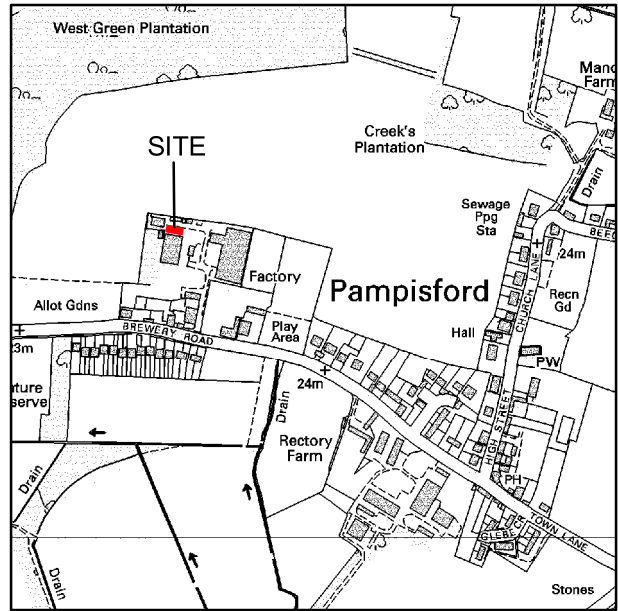
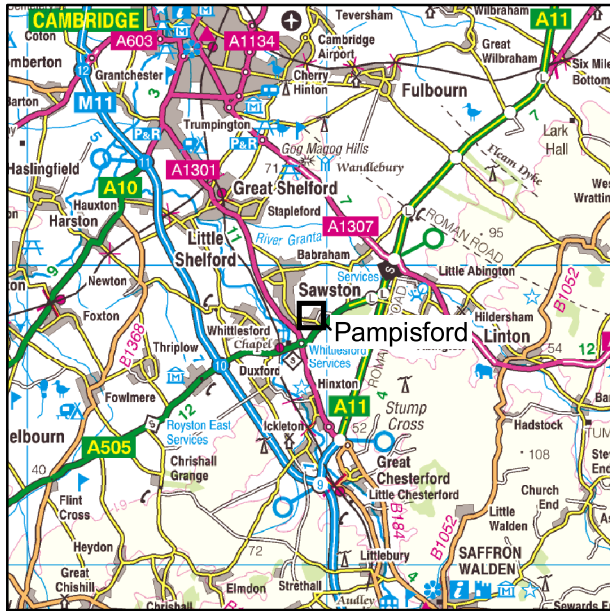
Paper Contents 'Animal Bones', 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

Entered by Trevor Ennis (Trevor.Ennis@essexcc.gov.uk)

Entered on 31 May 2007

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Fig.1. Location and trench plan

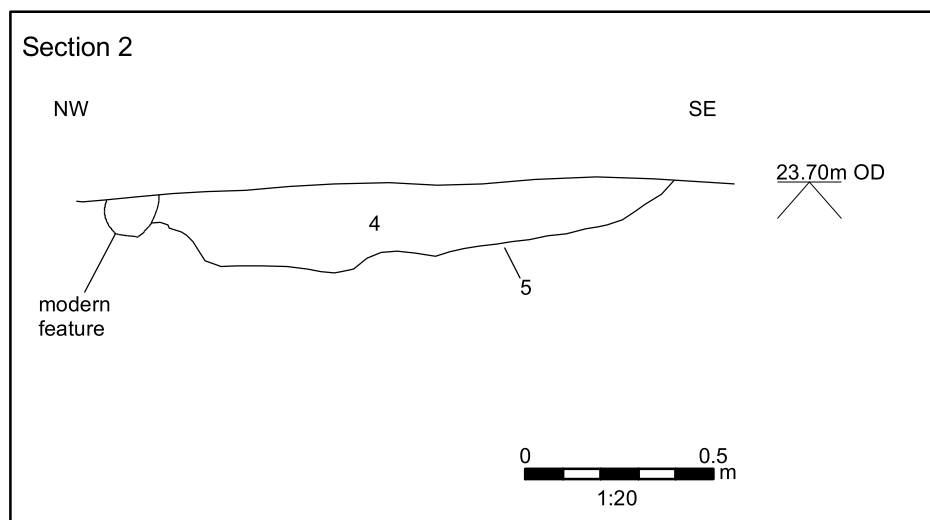
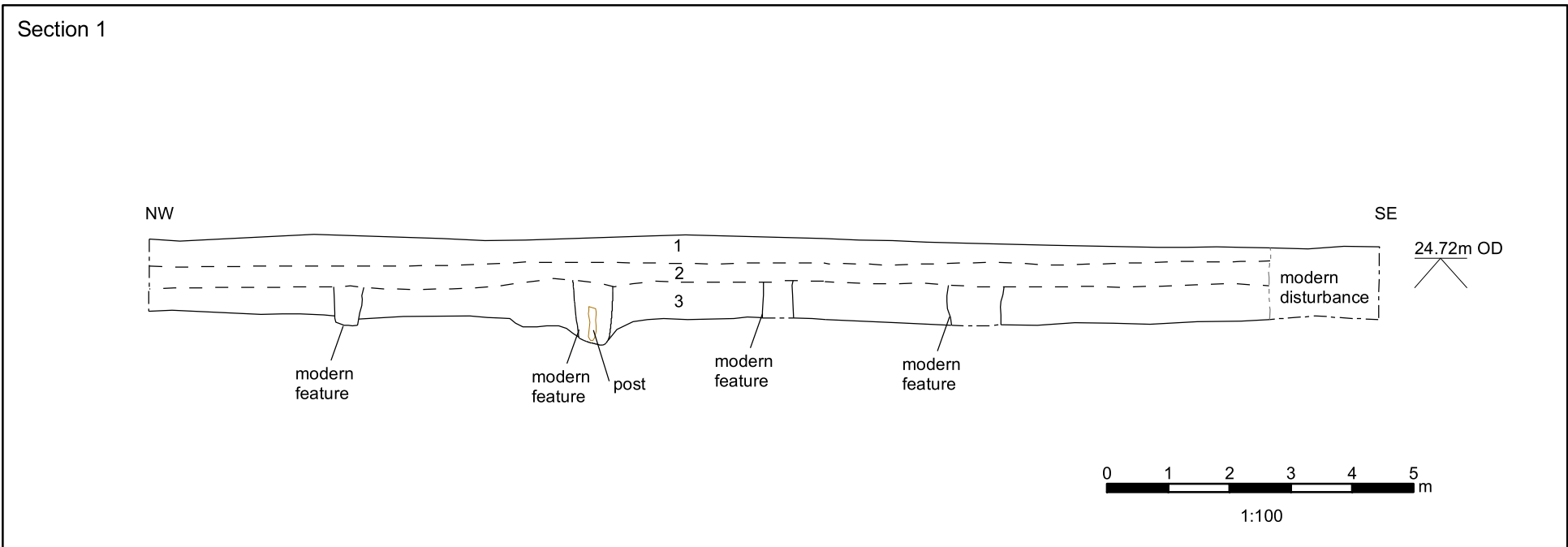


Fig.2. Sections