

Land at Harlton Road, Little Eversden, Cambridgeshire



Excavation Report



March 2009

Client: Beechdale Homes

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Land at Harlton Road, Little Eversden, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Excavation

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Summary

In December 2008 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation on land adjacent to 52 Harlton Road, Little Eversden, Cambridgeshire (TL 3728 5285). The work was carried out on behalf of Beechdale Homes in advance of the construction of 10 affordable dwellings with access road, landscaping and services.

At least two phases of activity were identified with secure dating for the second phase to the post-medieval period. Archaeological remains included two different alignments of parallel ditches representing agricultural activity and possible enclosure boundaries as well as a series of pits, a quarry and a well. These remains indicate the likely existence of a domestic area within close proximity to the development area.

The excavated area, 15m x 77m, was stripped directly after the completion of the evaluation and represented an area within which the proposed buildings are to be constructed. Given the results of the evaluation this area was considered to be of high archaeological potential.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land adjacent to 52 Halton Road, Little Eversden (figure 1; figure 2).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/0629/08/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results of the evaluation led to a decision by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, to proceed immediately to stripping of the entire development footprint. Based on the evaluation results and what was uncovered by this stripping, selected excavation was then required.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with CCC Stores, Landbeach in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Little Eversden lies on a spur of the West Melbury marly chalk formation that protrudes north over the lower lying Cretaceous gault clay that continues to the north east and west (British geological survey 1976). The site lies 0.3km north of the Long Brook and 0.1km to the west of another brook both of which flow north into the Bourn Brook 1.5km to the north.
- 1.2.2 The development area, at a height of 32.9m O.D., sloped gradually from west to east falling by 1.7m. There were no surviving earthworks and the site was 1.3m lower than the level of the existing Harlton Road.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

- 1.3.1 Prehistoric remains are sparse within Little Eversden itself. Mesolithic activity in the vicinity is likely given the presence of a trachet axe from this period from nearby Haslingfield (HER 04351). A Neolithic flint axe found in the gardens opposite the development area and another found in Great Eversden attest to the presence of human activity in the area from at least 3500BC (HER 03306; 03416).
- 1.3.2 Prehistoric finds have been found on the gravels along Bourn Brook to the north and crop marks seen in aerial photographs to the south east have been interpreted as Iron Age, but this has yet to be confirmed by finds or excavation (Roberts 2002). Burial mounds (MCB17724) and arrow heads (HER 04347) dating to the Bronze Age are known in the vicinity and suggest the possibility of more widespread ritual and domestic remains from this period (Atkins 2005).

Roman

- 1.3.3 The development area lies 0.5km to the north west of the A603 which has origins as a Roman road. It also lies between Ermine Street 5km to the west and Lot Way 2km to the north. These roads were associated with the remains of and probable locations of Roman villas at Harlton (HER3439) and Comberton (SMRPRN03462). Excavation of the Fox's Bridge villa in Comberton in 1993 proved inconclusive although a large amount of Roman pottery and coins dating to the 4th century were uncovered (Kemp and Way 1993). Fieldwalking adjacent to the Wheatsheaf pub in Harlton also recovered a large amount of 1st to 4th century pottery and tiles (HER11325). A Roman burial mound is also known near Church Farm in Comberton.

Medieval

- 1.3.4 The parish of Little Eversden contains 790 acres and lies immediately to the east of Great Eversden. The two villages have been distinct since at least Saxon times but have always been closely connected and are described as a unit in the Domesday Book (RCHME 1968).
- 1.3.5 The Domesday Book records the settlement of *Euresdone* meaning Boar's Hill or that of *Eofor* (Heaney 1943: 159), whilst the prefix *Little* may have been added later to differentiate the smaller settlement and church from that of Great Eversden.
- 1.3.6 The parish church of St. Helen stands 0.5km north of the development area (plate 1). The church post-dates that of St. Mary's in Great Eversden. St. Helen's may have been founded in the 12th century to serve the growing population of Little Eversden who had previously been served by St. Mary's (Elrington 1973). The first record for a church in Little Eversden is in a tithe dispute in 1229 (ibid) although today the fabric of the church can be dated back only to the 14th century (RCHME1968). A medieval limestone cross found at Five Gables Farm may be associated with the first phases of this church (ibid.; HER 03232A)
- 1.3.7 Excavation to the east of the church uncovered pits dating to the early medieval period which may indicate backyard dumping of occupational debris from buildings forming a settlement focus around the church. Post-medieval dumping into earlier features was also observed (Thorpe et al. 2004).
- 1.3.8 Directly north west of the development area lie the remains of a moated site dating from the 14th century (HER 01111). Several buildings and a large portion of the moat can be seen on the 1814 enclosure map (figure 3); however, today the only extant remains are that of the eastern segment of the moat which survives as a pond. There is little record of the founders and occupants of this manor but it is clear that they were closely related to the inhabitants of the larger more established manor in Great Eversden which remains today as a moated manor farm (RCHME 1968).
- 1.3.9 The field in which the development area lies is recorded as no.103 and as being an 'old enclosure' on the 1811-14 enclosure map (Kemp and Way 1993).
- 1.3.10 Evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture survives to the north west of the village with further examples to the east in Harlton. There was no evidence on or adjacent to the current site although this may be due to recent ploughing.

Post-medieval

- 1.3.11 There are multiple records of the listed buildings in Little Eversden. These primarily date to the 17th and 18th century which appears to have been a period of expansion in this area. Others date from the 15th century onwards.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Martin Jackson of Beechdale Homes who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. I am grateful for specialist advice from Chris Faine, Rachel Clarke, Steve Wadeson, Richard Mortimer and Carole Fletcher. Thanks also go to Jim Hull for machining the site, Shaun Matthews for driving the dumper during machining and site manager Stuart Roe for his cooperation throughout. Spencer Cooper, Jonathan Lay and Steve Graham provided excavation assistance and Gillian Greer produced the illustrations.
- 1.4.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Kasia Gdaniec, who visited the site and monitored the works.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of the 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 subsequent excavation aimed to determine further the extent, date and significance of these features.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that an adequate sample of the threatened area was investigated with linear trial trenches. A total of 125m of trenches were excavated covering 5% of the area. Subsequently, following advice from CCC a strip and map survey of the area directly under the proposed development footprint was required. This covered 23% of the total development area. Due to the nature of the deposits uncovered excavation of all features was undertaken.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation for both evaluation and excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° mechanical excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica G.P.S 1200. All height and location data was recorded during this survey from a calibrated source.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East'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.
- 2.2.6 Environmental samples of 20 litres were taken from the basal fills of all major features as well as other contexts that appeared to have good preservation. These samples were used to investigate the quality of preservation and the quantity of charred remains, macro-fossils and land molluscs.
- 2.2.7 The site conditions were generally good with sunny and bright overcast conditions leading to good feature identification. The ground itself had been ploughed the previous summer. The area parallel with the road where Trench 1 was located had been partially stripped and hardcore laid before the evaluation; however, no archaeological deposits were lost. The area of the excavation and evaluation Trench 3 had been used to drive the machine and dumper over prior to machining. Topsoil and subsoil in this area were very compact and pulled up in clumps straight down to the natural chalky marl. This may have led to features cut higher up in the subsoil being missed.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The findings of both the evaluation and the excavation will be presented together by period, based on stratigraphy and dating of pottery association. Features will be described by their group number which is inclusive of all excavated interventions. A comprehensive listing of individual trench depths, descriptions and related context and group data can be found in Appendix B and C. Group numbers will be represented in **bold** text and all other contexts will be in standard text. A phased site plan is provided in figure 4.
- 3.1.2 All recovered artefacts and ecofacts are recorded in the specialist Appendices D and E

3.2 Period 1: Undated Pre post-medieval

- 3.2.1 Twelve features have been associated with this phase of activity; five ditches, six pits and one well. None of them were directly dateable and were assigned to this phase based on stratigraphy and association alone. The features lay in two distinct areas; those to the west and those to the east.

Western area

Ditches

- 3.2.2 In the western most corner of the site a linear ditch was cut by three shallow pits. Ditch **43** was linear in form but its complete profile could not be seen within the excavation area. It was in excess of 1.3m wide and 0.9m deep. It had steep stepped sides and a concave base and contained a small amount of bone, a piece of ceramic building material and a single highly abraded fragment of pottery possibly dating to the early Medieval period. The abrasion on these finds suggests that they were residually deposited.

Pits

- 3.2.3 The pit group consisted of three pits of different profiles and depths, but all were generally shallow. Pit **41** was 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep. It had a 'U' shaped profile with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a soft mid grey brown silty clay fill and no finds. Pit **39** was 1.05m wide and 0.36m deep. It contained no finds. To the east of these two pits was pit **42**. This pit was sub-circular, 1m wide and 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a light brown grey friable silty clay fill and no finds.
- 3.2.4 These pits may indicate to the location of trees and shrubs growing along the edge of the ditch or maybe pits testing for sources of clunch.

Eastern area

Ditches

- 3.2.5 Four ditches ran on north to south alignments. They were not all exactly parallel and had different profiles so may not have been contemporary (plate 2).
- 3.2.6 Ditch **68** was 0.6m wide and 0.21m deep. It had a steep sided 'U' shaped profile with a concave base. It ran south for 1.5m from the north eastern baulk before terminating. It contained two fills and no finds.

- 3.2.7 Ditch **52** was located 9m to the west of **68**. It was 0.55m wide and 0.14m deep (plate 3). It ran from the north eastern baulk, south for 2.6m before terminating. It had a 'U' shaped profile with sharp sides and a flat base (figure 5, section 19). This ditch may have formed part of a trackway or enclosure system relating to ditch **11**.
- 3.2.8 7.5m to the east of ditch **52**, ditch **11** ran north to south from the north eastern to the south western baulk (figure 5, section 6). This ditch was 1.25m wide and 0.25m deep and contained no finds. An environmental sample produced a small amount of charcoal. It had a wide 'U' shaped profile with moderately sloping sides. The southern half of this ditch kinked out to the east by about 1m before returning to its original course. This may have been due to the presence of quarry pit **69**. Ditch **11** may have formed the south eastern corner of an enclosure with ditch **4** in Trench 1. Ditch **4** had a similar profile and was 1.4m wide and 0.18m deep. It ran on an east west course that would have intersected with that of **11**. If this was the case then former quarry pit **69** may have acted as a waterhole in the corner of this enclosure.
- 3.2.9 Ditch **58** lay 7.5m to the east of **11**. It ran directly north to south. It was 0.67m wide and 0.57m deep with a steep sided 'V' shaped profile and a flat base (figure 5, section 21; plate 4). It contained no finds apart from a large alluvial cobble deposited at the base. Given the difference in profile from ditch **11** it seems likely that ditch **58** was a boundary enclosing land to the east possibly including pits **28** and **30**.

Pits

- 3.2.10 A large quarry pit was excavated 10m south of ditch **52**. This pit (**69**) was 5m wide, 1.4m deep and 10m from east to west (figure 5, section 23). It had steep straight sides and a concave base and contained animal bone and burnt stone in its upper fill. This may indicate that it was used as a dew pond or waterhole in the tertiary stages of sedimentation. Environmental samples of the lower fill produced no finds suggesting that it may have been backfilled shortly after excavation.
- 3.2.11 Lying between ditches **11** and **58** was a large pit (**59**). It was sub-circular in plan, had steep sharp sides and a concave base (plate 5). It was 2.2m wide and 1.45m deep with a lip of 0.3m around the top edge (figure 5, section 22). This feature was half sectioned by hand and then the remaining fill was excavated by machine with all the spoil being scanned for finds. The lower 0.5m of fill appeared to be waterlogged but no organic material survived. Given the depth and profile of this feature it has been interpreted as a well. 33g of animal bones and a moderate quantity of charcoal were the only finds from this feature. It is unusual for so few finds to be in a deep feature such as this especially given its likely use as a well. A Medieval or post-Medieval date can be ruled out on the basis of this lack of finds.
- 3.2.12 The well was cut down through the natural clunch that lies under the chalky marl natural. The basal fill (75) and the first two secondary fills (62 and 63) only had occasional inclusions of this natural stone strongly suggesting that immediate deliberate backfilling had not occurred. This may also be indicative of use of this natural clunch as a building material.
- 3.2.13 The upper secondary fill (64) was a light grey brown clay containing occasional grit and natural stone inclusions and was very similar to the natural chalky marl. This layer may have been a capping or closing deposit, deposited when the well had silted up too much to be useful.

- 3.2.14 This well may indicate that a settlement was nearby although whether it was the same one indicated by pits **28** and **30** cannot be asserted with any certainty given the lack of dating evidence.
- 3.2.15 Located against the eastern baulk of Trench 2, 10.5m to the south east of the well were two pits. Pit **28** was 1.2m wide and 0.65m deep and had a concave 'U' shaped profile (figure 5, section 12). A single Neolithic denticulated blade from this feature was the only datable evidence of prehistoric activity on the site (R. Mortimer pers. comm.). Given its location under the baulk it is possible that this feature was the terminus of a ditch that ran south east. Along with the blade this feature contained the largest bone assemblage from anywhere on the site consisting of adult cattle remains including a butchered scapula. This feature also contained charcoal and the remains of charred cereal grains.
- 3.2.16 7.5m to the north, pit **30** was 0.9m wide and 0.52m deep with a similar 'U' shaped profile (figure 5, section 13; plate 6). It contained no finds but a small amount of charcoal was identified. Together these pits may represent the north western end of a large post built structure 7.5m wide, but may equally indicate that an area of settlement activity was close by.

3.3 Period 2: Post Medieval

- 3.3.1 Five features dated to this period. Four were linear ditches that ran on east west alignments across the site (plate 7) and one was a small pit.
- 3.3.2 Ditch **23** was 2.65m wide and 0.16m deep. It had a broad shallow 'U' shaped profile gently sloping to a flat base. It contained abraded medieval and post-Medieval pottery and building material as well as a possible residual Roman sherd.
- 3.3.3 A shallow ditch, **60**, ran parallel to **23** 3.75m to the south. At 0.8m wide and 0.06m deep this ditch was considerably smaller than the other in this period. It contained a single abraded sherd of early medieval St. Neots ware pottery. This ditch was cut from higher up and may be later than the others in this phase.
- 3.3.4 Ditch **50** ran on a parallel course 6.5m to the south. It had a broad 'U' shaped profile with gradually sloping sides and a concave base (figure 5, section 18; plate 8). It contained a mid grey brown silty clay fill including post-Medieval pottery.
- 3.3.5 A further 8.7m to the south ditch **12** followed the same east-west course (figure 5, section 4). It was up to 2.5m wide and 0.45m deep. It truncated quarry pit **69**, ditch **11** and ditch **58**. It contained cinder and fired clay.
- 3.3.6 Cut into the edge of ditch **12** were a series of stakeholes spaced about 0.05m apart. There were up to 0.1m wide and 0.27m deep and tapered to a sharp 'V' at their bases. With the section of ditch **12** that was uncovered in Trench 3 these stakeholes were located on the southern edge of the ditch; however, in the section of ditch **12** that was uncovered in Trench 2 they were located to the north.
- 3.3.7 These stakeholes clearly indicate the location of a fenceline post-dating ditch **12** (plate 9). This may have been put in to demarcate the southern boundary of activity in this area or to change an agricultural strip field into one that was for pastoral use. The change in the location of the stakeholes from south to north may be indicative of a break in the fenceline, and maybe also the ditch, at this point.
- 3.3.8 Pit **54** was a shallow feature 0.3m wide and 0.04m deep. It contained an iron nail, animal bone, fired clay and ceramic building material dating to the later post-Medieval period.

3.4 Undated

- 3.4.1 Five features were undated by stratigraphy, pottery or association with other dated features.

Layer

- 3.4.2 Layer 9 was uncovered only in Trench 1. It was 8m in length, 1.45m wide and 0.2m deep and contained no finds. There was no evidence of a deliberate cut.

Ditches

- 3.4.3 Ditch **8** was seen only in Trench 1. It ran on an irregular east west course truncating layer 9. It was 0.5m wide and 0.18m deep with a concave 'U' shaped profile and a flat base.
- 3.4.4 Located at the southern end of Trench 2, ditch **25** was in excess of 2m wide and 0.23m deep. It had a concave 'U' shaped profile and a flat base.

Pits

- 3.4.5 Feature **44** was a shallow pit or posthole located 0.5m to the north of the the western end of ditch **23**. It was 0.6m wide and 0.1m deep with a shallow concave profile.
- 3.4.6 Located at the south eastern end of Trench 1, pit **34** was only partially uncovered. It was in excess of 0.69m wide and 0.34m deep with steep sides and a flat base.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 Very few finds were recovered from the site and those that were recovered were very abraded. The only positive dating was from features **12**, **23**, **50** and **54**, and indicated a post-Medieval date. Abraded early Medieval pottery from ditches **43** and **60** suggests earlier activity on the site but provides no definitive evidence. A single lithic from pit **28** alludes to Neolithic activity although without further dating evidence this cannot be said with any certainty.
- 3.5.2 A single nail was found along with several pieces of ceramic building material. Only three identifiable fragments of bone were recovered.

3.6 Environmental Summary

- 3.6.1 Seventeen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area. Features included pits and ditches, some of which were undated, and a well. The results of the flotation of these samples reveal that preservation of plant remains is poor; charred plant remains were rare and waterlogged plant remains were absent.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Period 1: Pre post-Medieval

- 4.1.1 The features assigned to this phase were notable by the lack of pottery found in them. The single flint blade found in pit **28** may indicate a Neolithic date for this pit\terminus. This may be significant in light of the Neolithic hand axe previously found just across the Harlton Road. This blade may have been redeposited. Regardless of date, the large bone and charcoal assemblage from this pit does suggest that settlement activity was nearby. Pit **30** to the north is also indicative of this.
- 4.1.2 The lack of finds in the well (**59**) and its sedimentary history suggests a prehistoric date and taken together with pits **28** and **30** may indicate the location of a prehistoric settlement to the east of the development area. Further dating would be required to support this. Ditch **58** which runs between the well and the pits had no obvious return to the west and so would seem to have enclosed an area to the east.
- 4.1.3 Pit **69** appears to have been dug in order to extract clunch. This is most likely to have occurred during the medieval period when this was commonly used as a building material. Its position in the corner of the possible enclosure formed by ditch **11** and ditch **4** suggests a secondary use as a waterhole.
- 4.1.4 Ditch **11** appears to have post-dated pit **69** due to the manner in which it kinked out to the east to avoid it.
- 4.1.5 Ditch **43** and the associated pit group in the western corner may represent another area of activity. **43** appears to have been a deep wide boundary ditch but not enough of its profile was uncovered to make any firm assertions.
- 4.1.6 Early medieval pottery found in ditches **43** and **60** is indicative of activity in this period nearby and may relate to that found during evaluation at Church Farm to the north (Thorpe et al. 2004).
- 4.1.7 Perhaps most interesting about the features of this phase is their alignment on a north south\east west axis at an acute angle to the road. Their alignment appears to have related more to the boundary to the north on the 1814 map (figure 3) that forms a triangle of land with the road. This may imply that this boundary is older than the road.

4.2 Period 2: Post-Medieval

- 4.2.1 Three large ditches were laid out from east to west in this period (**12**, **23**, **50**). They formed a typical pattern of medieval strip fields or furrows which appear to have fallen out of use in the post-medieval period around the mid 18th century. The line of stakeholes cut into ditch **12** may indicate a secondary use for this furrow as a more permanent fenceline boundary. These furrows were aligned on the boundary to the north rather than the road to the south.

4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The results of the evaluation and excavation at Harlton Road have added some depth to knowledge of the history of Little Eversden. The findings are of local significance given the evidence of prehistoric or medieval settlement close to the site. These early ditches indicate that an alignment may have existed in this landscape before the road was laid out or the manor house was built, but unrelated to the Roman road to the east. This may prove significant to further studies in this area and the surroundings. The

possible Neolithic pit is of greater significance although this date would need to be corroborated with further more reliable dating.

- 4.3.2 The finding of previously unknown clunch quarrying and ridge and furrow cultivation on the site may also be of local interest. The use of these furrows appears to be contemporary with many of the earlier listed buildings extant in the village.

APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Two parking bays had been stripped down to natural and covered with hardcore prior to evaluation. This was pulled back by machine and no archaeological features were lost. The topsoil in this trench became deeper from east to west and appeared to relate to the steep bank down from the road to the site. The subsoil was of a uniform depth. The natural was a chalky marl throughout. The trench contained two ditches, one pit and a naturally deposited layer.	Topsoil (m)	0.39
	Subsoil (m)	0.24
	Width (m)	2.00
	Length (m)	26

Trench 2		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
The topsoil was of uniform thickness in this trench but the subsoil increased in depth from north east to south west. The natural was a chalky marl throughout. This trench contained two pits and two ditches. Flint and animal bone was recovered from the pits.	Topsoil (m)	0.3
	Subsoil (m)	0.3
	Width (m)	2.00
	Length (m)	18

Trench 3		
General description	Orientation	NW-SE
The topsoil and subsoil in this trench were relatively uniform, becoming gradually thicker from north west to south east. The natural was a chalky marl throughout. This trench was extended by two metres to the south west at its south eastern end to uncover the relationship between ditches 11 and 12. Four features were uncovered, two ditches and two pits.	Topsoil (m)	0.24
	Subsoil (m)	0.24
	Width (m)	2.00
	Length (m)	60

Trench 4		
General description	Orientation	NE-SW
The topsoil and subsoil were of uniform depth in this trench. The natural was a chalky marl throughout. Four features were uncovered; two ditches and two pits.	Topsoil (m)	0.25
	Subsoil (m)	0.30
	Width (m)	2.00
	Length (m)	19

Context Inventory

Context	Cut	Trench	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Width	Depth	Group	Shape in Plan	Profile
1		1 2 3 4	Natural	layer	Topsoil		0.25	Natural		
2		1 2 3 4	Natural	layer	Subsoil		0.3	Natural		
3	4	1	Unphased	fill	ditch	1.4	0.18	Ditch4		
4	4	1	Unphased	cut	ditch	1.4	0.18	Ditch4	linear	wide U
5	6	1	Unphased	fill	ditch	0.75	0.18	Ditch8		
6	6	1	Unphased	cut	ditch	0.75	0.18	Ditch8	linear	wide U
7	8	1	Unphased	fill	ditch	0.5	0.18	Ditch8		

Context	Cut	Trench	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Width	Depth	Group	Shape in Plan	Profile
8	8	1	Unphased	cut	ditch	0.5	0.18	Ditch8	linear	U
9		1	Unphased	layer	subsoil	1.45	0.2			
10	10	3	1	cut	pit	0.95	0.24	Well	sub-circular	U
11	11	3	1	cut	ditch	1.25	0.25	Ditch11	linear	U
12	12	3	2	cut	ditch	0.85	0.09	Ditch12	linear	U
13	13	3	1	cut	pit		0.3	Pit13		
14	12	3	2	fill	ditch	0.85	0.09	Ditch12		
15	10	3	1	fill	pit	0.95	0.24	Well		
16	13	3	1	fill	pit		0.3	Pit13		
17	11	3	1	fill	ditch	1.25	0.25	Ditch11		
18	19	3	2	fill	stake hole	0.1	0.27	Stkehols		
19	19	3	2	cut	stake hole	0.1	0.27	Stkehols	circular	V
20	21	3	2	fill	stake hole	0.07	0.15	Stkehols		
21	21	3	2	cut	stake hole	0.07	0.15	Stkehols	circular	V
22	23	4	2	fill	ditch	2.65	0.16	Ditch23		
23	23	4	2	cut	ditch	2.65	0.16	Ditch23	linear	wide U
24	25	2	Unphased	fill	ditch	2	0.23	Ditch25		
25	25	2	Unphased	cut	ditch	2	0.23	Ditch25	linear	U
26	28	2	1	fill	pit	1.2	0.34	Pit28_30		
27	28	2	1	fill	pit	1.2	0.31	Pit28_30		
28	28	2	1	cut	pit	1.2	0.65	Pit28_30	circular	U
29	30	2	1	fill	pit	0.9	0.52	Pit28_30		
30	30	2	1	cut	pit	0.9	0.52	Pit28_30	circular	U
31	32	2	2	fill	ditch	0.6	0.15	Ditch12		
32	32	2	2	cut	ditch	0.6	0.15	Ditch12	linear	wide U
33	34	1	Unphased	fill	pit	0.69	0.34	Pit34		
34	34	1	Unphased	cut	pit	0.69	0.34	Pit34	circular	U
35	37	4	1	fill	pit	1.3	0.25	Ditch43		
36	37	4	1	fill	pit	1.3	0.3	Ditch43		
37	37	1	1	cut	pit	1.35	0.4	Ditch43	sub-circular	U
38	39	4	1	fill	ditch	0.95	0.55	PitGroup		
39	39	4	1	cut	ditch	0.95	0.55	PitGroup	linear	
40	41	4	1	fill	pit	0.75	0.35	PitGroup		
41	41	4	1	cut	pit	0.75	0.35	PitGroup	sub-circular	U
42	42	Ex	1	cut	pit	1	0.15	PitGroup	sub-circular	bowl
43	43	Ex	1	cut	ditch	1.1	0.9	Ditch43	linear	
44	44	Ex	Unphased	cut	post hole	0.6	0.1	PH44	sub-circular	
45	44	Ex	Unphased	fill	post hole	0.6	0.1	PH44		
46	43	Ex	1	fill	ditch	1.1	0.7	Ditch43		
47	43	Ex	1	fill	ditch	0.3	0.2	Ditch43		
48	42	Ex	1	fill	pit	1	0.15	PitGroup		

Context	Cut	Trench	Phase	Category	Feature Type	Width	Depth	Group	Shape in Plan	Profile
49	50	Ex	2	fill	ditch	2.1	0.18	Ditch50		
50	50	Ex	2	cut	ditch	2.1	0.18	Ditch50	linear	
51	52	Ex	1	fill	ditch	0.55	0.14	Ditch52		
52	52	Ex	1	cut	ditch	0.55	0.14	Ditch52	linear	U
53	54	Ex	2	fill	pit	0.3	0.04	Pit54		
54	54	Ex	2	cut	pit	0.3	0.04	Pit54	sub-circular	
55	56	Ex	2	fill	ditch	1.07	0.04	Ditch23		
56	56	Ex	2	cut	ditch	1.07	0.04	Ditch23	linear	
57	58	Ex	1	fill	ditch	0.67	0.57	Ditch58		
58	58	Ex	1	cut	ditch	0.67	0.57	Ditch58	linear	V
59	59	Ex	1	cut	pit	2.2	1.45	Well	sub-circular	U
60	60	Ex	1	cut	ditch	0.8	0.06	Ditch60	linear	
61	60	Ex	1	fill	ditch	0.8	0.06	Ditch60		
62	59	Ex	1	fill	pit	1	0.4	Well		
63	59	Ex	1	fill	pit	1.2	0.2	Well		
64	59	Ex	1	fill	pit	1.9	0.4	Well		
65	59	Ex	1	fill	pit	2.07	0.3	Well		
66	68	Ex	1	fill	ditch	0.6	0.1	Ditch68		
67	68	Ex	1	fill	ditch	0.6	0.11	Ditch68		
68	68	Ex	1	cut	ditch	0.6	0.21	Ditch68	linear	U
69	69	Ex	1	cut	pit	5	1.4	Quarry	sub-circular	U
70	70	Ex	2	cut	ditch	2.5	0.45	Ditch12	linear	U
71	70	Ex	2	fill	ditch	1.6	0.3	Ditch12		
72	70	Ex	2	fill	ditch	1.4	0.25	Ditch12		
73	70	Ex	2	fill	ditch	2.5	0.3	Ditch12		
74	69	Ex	1	fill	pit	4	0.6	Quarry		
75	59	Ex	1	fill	pit	0.8	0.2	Well		
76	69	Ex	1	fill	pit	3.8	0.8	Quarry		

APPENDIX D. FINDS REPORTS

D.1 Pottery

By Alasdair Brooks

Introduction and methodology

Introduction

Eleven fragments of pottery were recovered from the site at Harlton Road, Little Eversden. These consist of Post-medieval, medieval and possibly Roman materials. The small assemblage appears to be a light scatter of often highly-abraded and difficult to identify materials of no particular research value.

Methodology

The terminology for the post-medieval pottery is based upon this author's own *Guide to British Ceramics in Australia, 1788-1901* (Brooks 2005). The terminology for the pottery from other periods follows that outlined by the relevant pottery Research Groups.

Post-medieval pottery quantification is usually presented as sherd counts, while medieval pottery quantification is usually presented by weight. Both types of data are used here given the multi-period nature of this small assemblage.

Quantification

Full quantification, description, and dating of the assemblage, listed by context, may be found in the table accompanying this report.

Fabrics and Forms

The assemblage contains industrially mass-produced creamware, post-medieval redwares, and highly-abraded and difficult to identify medieval wares in small quantities. A single sherd of abraded possibly Roman pottery was also recovered.

The Post-medieval sherds were recovered in contexts **49** and **55**. The medieval sherds were recovered from contexts **22**, **35**, and **61**. The single potential Roman sherd was recovered from context **22**.

Two small quartz-tempered sherds in context 35 are, according to OA East medieval pottery specialist Carole Fletcher, not St. Neots Ware. However, they are so small and abraded that no further identification is possible; they could date to any period from the Saxon through the medieval.

Most of the sherds are too small for any forms to be diagnostically identifiable. The medieval handle from context 22 is probably from a jar or pipkin.

Provenance

The medieval sherds, where identifiable, are all from Cambridgeshire. The post-medieval redware sherds are of unknown provenance, while the creamware sherds are most likely from Staffordshire. The potential Roman sherd is too abraded for diagnostic identification of point of origin.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

Given the small, scattered, and multi-period nature of the assemblage, there is no real research potential in the assemblage, and no further work is recommended.

Quantification Table

Context	ware type	decoration	date	sherds	weight
22	Unid abraded medieval	undecorated	c.1200-c.1350	1	10
	Unid abraded, possibly Roman		Roman?	1	2
35	unidentified quartz-tempered	undecorated	unidentified	2	2
49	creamware	undecorated	c.1760-c.1820	2	14
	post-medieval redware	slip-decorated	c.1600+	1	5
55	misc. post-medieval redware	undecorated	c.1600+	1	10
	unidentified abraded post-medieval			1	10
61	St. Neots	undecorated	c.850-c.1150	2	1

(NB – All weights in grams)

D.2 Faunal Assemblage

By Chris Faine

An extremely small amount of faunal material was recovered from the site. Twenty one fragments were recovered with only 3 being identifiable to species (14% of the sample). All identifiable fragments came from context **26**; the fill of a possible Neolithic pit. These all consisted of cattle remains, including an intact 1st phalange, 2nd molar and a butchered portion of scapula (all from adult animals).

APPENDIX E. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

E.1 Environmental Assessment

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

Seventeen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Features sampled include secure archaeological contexts within pits, ditches and a well

Methodology

The volume of bulk soil samples collected was 20L

The total volume of each sample were processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flots were collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residues were washed through a 0.5mm mesh. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residues were passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for ecofacts (e.g. animal bone, fish bone, charcoal, shell, etc..) and artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification. Identifications were made by the author without comparison to the OA East reference collection and should be seen as provisional. Nomenclature for the plant classification follows Stace (1997).

Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Table 1 summarises the results obtained at the end of this report

Results

Preservation

The plant remains were preserved by carbonisation.

Plant Remains

Cereals: Charred cereal grains are present in only two samples, Sample 5 (Context 27) and Sample 11 (Context 61). In both Samples the cereal grains were single fragmented specimens.

Weed seeds: Weed seeds are absent

Ecofacts and Artefacts

No finds were recovered from the sample residues. Mollusc shells are present in all of the samples, mostly crushed.

Discussion

The flots produced a low abundance of charred material in the form of cereal grains and sparse charcoal fragments. This suggests the samples represent general scatters of burnt debris rather than discrete purposeful deposits. The cereal grains recovered were extremely abraded and were only identifiable as cereals by their characteristic dense honeycomb structure.

None of the three samples from well [59] contained plant remains preserved by waterlogging. The flots from these samples were almost identical to those of the other samples in that they were comprised of crushed snail shells and sparse charcoal fragments. This is somewhat unexpected as deep features such as wells usually produce waterlogged remains. A possible explanation is that the water table lowered considerably at some point.

Conclusions and recommendations

The preliminary appraisal of a selection of samples from this site have shown that there is limited potential for the recovery of plant remains.

In the absence of any other dating evidence it may be possible to radiocarbon date the cereal grains recovered from Samples 5 and 11.

In conclusion, the samples showed only a low abundance of charred material that is not considered worthy of further analysis.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Comments	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments
1	17	11	ditch	20	No dating evidence	100		+	0	sparse charcoal
2	22	23	ditch	20	ditch fill	100		+	0	sparse charcoal
3	26	28	ditch/pit	20	ditch fill	200		+	+	sparse charcoal
4	29	30	pit	20	pit/ditch terminus	400		+	+	sparse charcoal
5	27	28	pit	20	lower fill	20#		++	+	moderate charcoal
6	35	37	ditch	20	contained pottery	300		+	0	sparse charcoal
7	36	37	ditch	20	ditch/pit fill	200		0	+	sparse charcoal
8	46	43	ditch	20	need pot. Organic/charcoal evident	200		+	+	sparse charcoal
9	51	52	ditch/beam slot	20	terminus. Any pot or flint?	100		0	+	sparse charcoal
10	57	58	ditch/gully	20	no dating evidence	100		0	0	no cpr
11	61	60	ditch	20	no dating evidence	5#		+	0	sparse charcoal
12	63	59	well	20	basal fill of well. No dating evidence	200		+	+	sparse charcoal
13	62	59	w ell	20	basal fill of well. No dating evidence	150		++	++	moderate charcoal
14	66	68	ditch	20	terminus. Contained pot	100		0	0	no cpr
15	71	70	ditch	20	no dating evidence	100		+	+	sparse charcoal
16	74	69	pit	20	lower fill of deep pit/pond/quarry	100		0	0	no cpr
17	75	59	well	20	basal fill of well out of machine bucket	100		++	++	moderate charcoal

Table 1. Summary of environmental results

APPENDIX F. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX G. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-53465		
Project Name	Excavation at land at Harlton Road, Little Eversden		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	10-12-2008	Finish	18-12-2008
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	EVE LAH 08	Planning App. No.	S/0629/08/F
HER No.	ECB3100	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
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Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Agriculture	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
Boundaries	Uncertain	Pottery	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
Well	Uncertain	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambridgeshire	Land adjacent to 52 Harlton Rd Lt Eversden South Cambridgeshire CB23 1HB	
Parish	Little Eversden		
HER	Cambridge		
Study Area	0.13ha	National Grid Reference	TL 3728 5285

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Gareth Rees

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC stores, Landbeach	OA East	CCC stores, Landbeach
EVE LAH 08	EVE LAH 08	EVE LAH 08

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

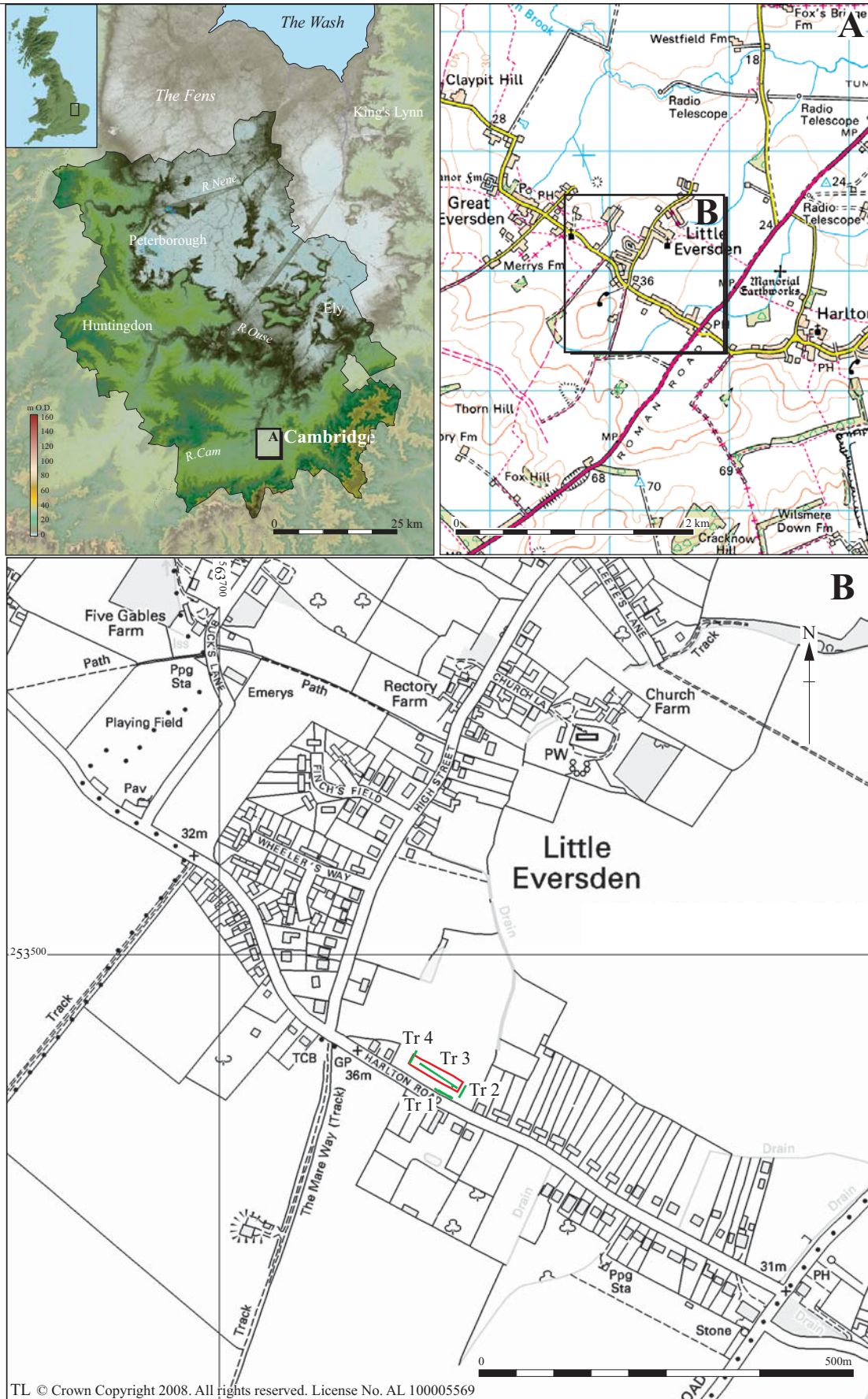


Figure 1: Location of excavation area (red) with the trenches outlined (green)

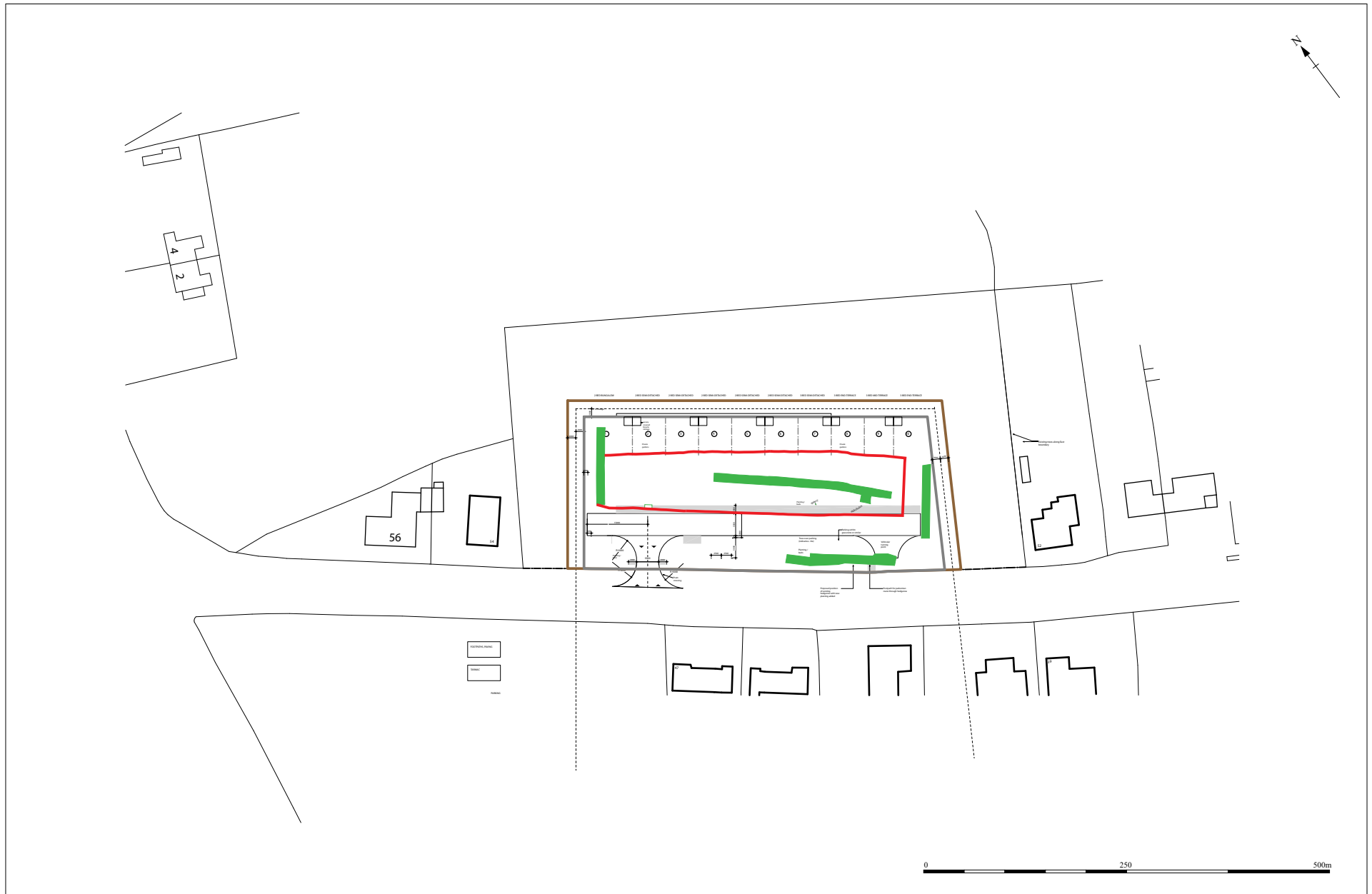


Figure 2: Development area showing excavation area (red) and trenches (green) overlaid on client file 08.358 Site plan D

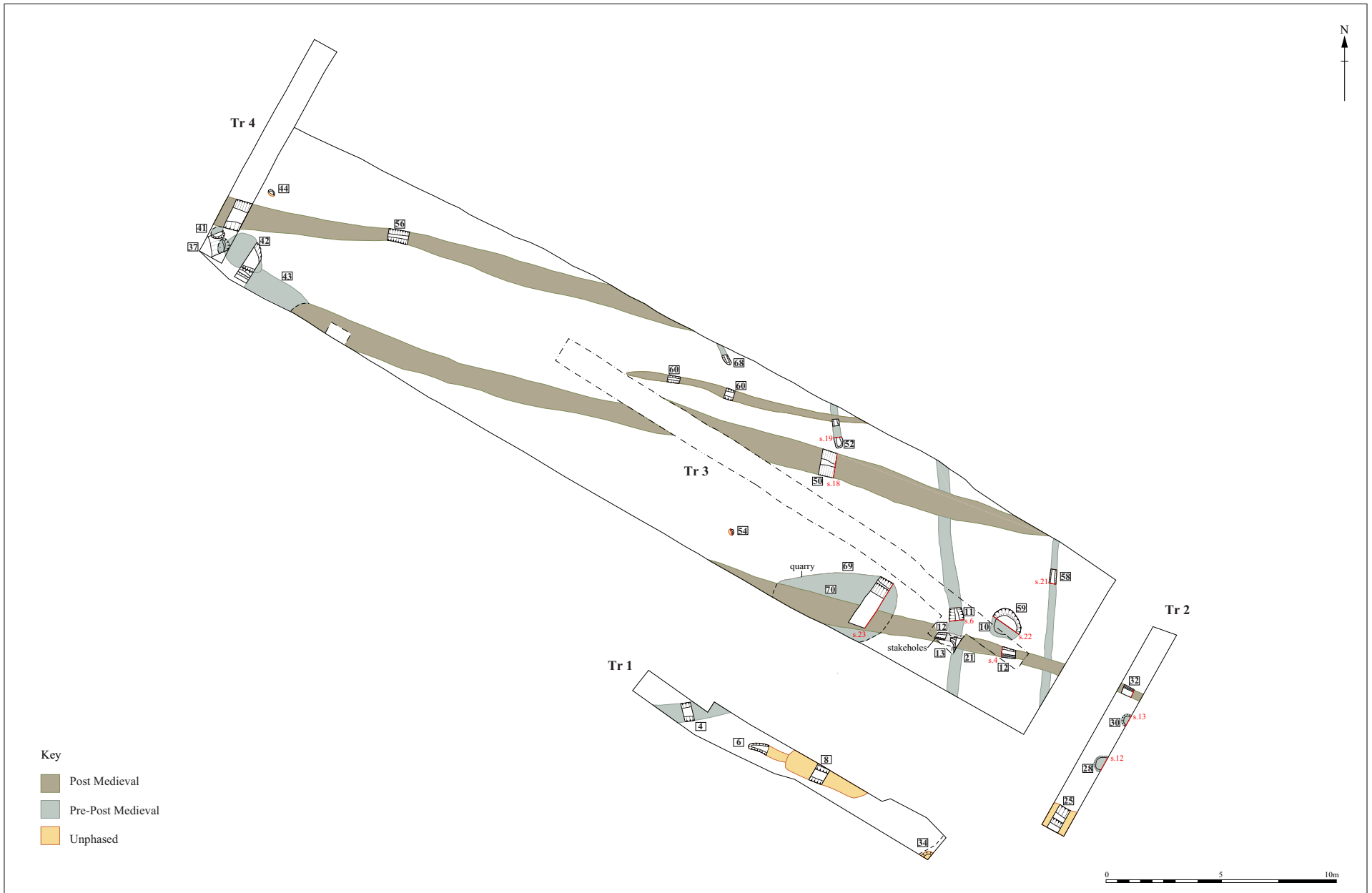


Figure 4: Phase plan showing excavation area and trenches 1 and 2, (Scale 1:300)

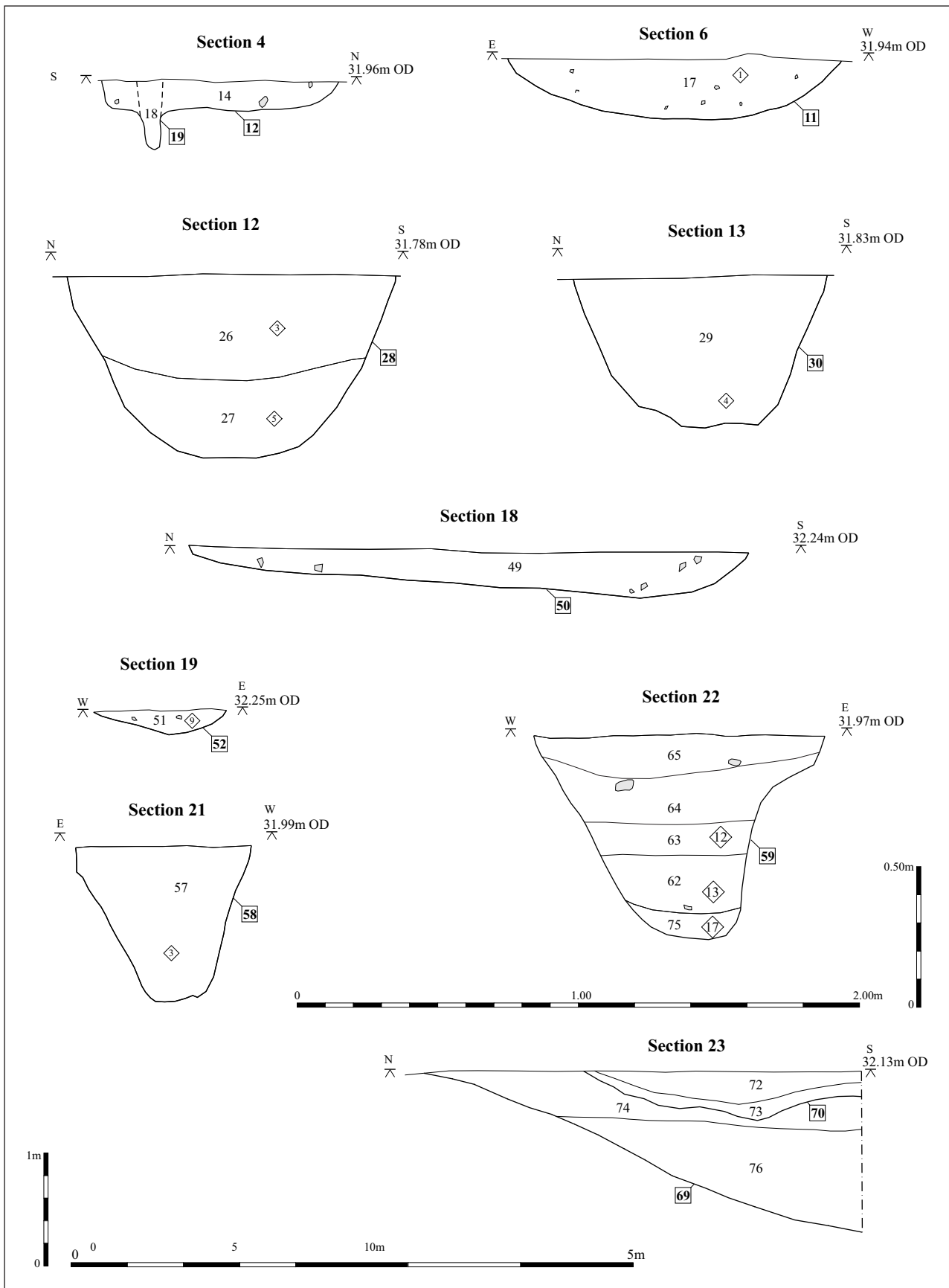


Figure 5: Sections (Scale 1:20 and 1:50)



Plate 1: St. Helen's church, Little Eversden



Plate 2: Ditches 11 and 58 from the north



Plate 3: Ditch 52



Plate 4: Section through ditch 58



Plate 5: Well 59



Plate 6: Pit 30 Trench 2



Plate 7: Ditches 23 and 50 from the south west



Plate 8: Section across ditch 50



Plate 9: Stakeholes in ditch 12



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