

Thomas Clarkson Community College



Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2010

**Client: Cambridgeshire County
Council**

OA East Report No: 1141

OASIS No: Oxfordar3-67404

NGR: TF 4655 0866

Thomas Clarkson Community College

An Archaeological Evaluation

By Jonathan House BA

Editor: Richard Mortimer MfA

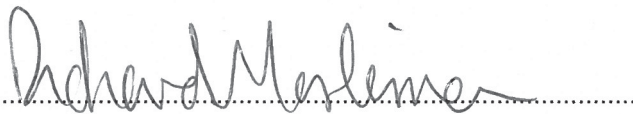
Illustrators: Louise Bush BA MA PlfA, Severine Bezie BA MA

Report Date: March 2010

Report Number: 1141
Site Name: Thomas Clarkson Community College
HER Event No: ECB3282
Date of Works: October 2009
Client Name: Cambridgeshire County Council
Client Ref: P/O 306720
Planning Ref: n/a
Grid Ref: TF 4655 0866
Site Code: WISTCL09
Finance Code: WISTCL09
Receiving Body: Landbeach
Accession No:

Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Archaeological Supervisor
Date: March 2010

Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Project Manager
Date: March 2010
Signed:



Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2008
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Summary.....5

1 Introduction.....6

 1.1 Location and scope of work.....6

 1.2 Geology and topography.....6

 1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....6

 2.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER).....6

 2.2 General Background.....7

 2.3 Site Background.....9

 1.4 Acknowledgements.....10

2 Aims and Methodology.....11

 2.1 Aims.....11

 2.2 Methodology.....11

3 Results.....12

 3.1 Introduction12

 3.2 Trench 1.....12

 3.3 Trench 2.....13

 3.4 Trench 3.....13

 3.5 Finds Summary.....13

 3.6 Environmental Summary.....14

4 Discussion and Conclusions.....15

 4.1 Discussion.....15

 4.2 Conclusion.....15

 4.3 Recommendations.....15

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....16

Appendix B. Bibliography18

Appendix C. OASIS Report Form19

List of Figures

Fig. 1 Site location map

Fig. 2 Plans

Fig. 3 Sections

List of Plates

Plate 1 Trench 1 Section

Plate 2 Trench 2 Section

Plate 3 Trench 3 Section

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the playing fields of the Thomas Clarkson community college, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (TL4655 0866) between 26th and 29th October 2009. Deep stratified natural deposits were encountered, however archaeological remains within these deposits were limited to the Post Medieval, and Modern eras. The Post Medieval archaeological remains took the form of drainage ditches, showing evidence of land management, and reclamation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at within the playing fields of Thomas Clarkson community college, Wisbech.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological Evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Solid geology in the vicinity of Wisbech comprises Jurassic Amphill clays, and pre-Flandrian gravels have been observed at below minus 15.0m OD. Settlement patterns, however, have been dictated by a complex and locally variable Flandrian sequence of marine transgressions, river channel (or roddon) formation, and reed swamp growth. These have led to the deposition of a thick accumulation of silts, clays, and peats overlying the solid geology.
- 1.2.2 The Flandrian deposits (deposits since the last Ice Age) covering the whole of Wisbech are Terrington Beds comprising marine clays, silts and sands. (British Geological Society 1995) .There is a relatively high band of silt running roughly west to east, from the estuary at Kings Lynn to the Lincolnshire border, that underlies the town of Wisbech. The entire island lies below 10m OD, and has been subject to repeated flooding episodes. To the south of this island lies the fresh water peat fen and to the north the salt waters of the Wash. The Nene estuary at Wisbech marks a salt water intrusion into the silt island.
- 1.2.3 The development area occupies flat ground at between 3.00m and 4.00m AOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 The Historic Environment Record (HER)

The HER research was gathered from a 1km search radius around the development area. Very little archaeological data occurred in the immediate vicinity of the site, however the search radius does clip part of the old town and castle and in this area there is a high density of archaeological information, as would be expected.

2.2 General Background

2.2.1 Prehistoric

Prehistoric remains are almost unknown in the parish, apart from generally unprovenanced stray finds.

Peat growth has been recently dated to the Late Bronze Age near Wisbech, and may have continued into the Romano-British period in some places (Waller 1994, 250). The area was almost entirely submerged during the Iron Age, and dry land only began to emerge in the Roman period.

2.2.2 Roman

Roman activity in the area is of two main types – salterns and agricultural settlements. The salterns lie on the roddons along the fen edge, and are fairly numerous. While the predominantly urban nature of the parish of Wisbech masks potential archaeological finds, occasional finds of coins and pottery from within the town suggest the possibility of a Roman predecessor to the Saxon and medieval town. Finds recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment record include a Roman coin hoard 600m to the south of the castle (CHER 03910), a single coin at the Reason Homes site on the South Brink, 500m to the west (CB 14764), a painted Roman pottery sherd 500m to the south-west (CHER 03891) and two other Roman coin findspots (CHER 03934, 08001). The main Roman communication route across the Fens, the Fen Causeway, lies approximately 12km to the south.

2.2.3 Saxon

Evidence of Early Saxon activity is limited to two brooches found at the Corn Exchange (CHER 04012). However, the island was likely to have been settled throughout the Middle and Late Saxon period - a series of Middle Saxon sites occupied similar sites to the northeast of Wisbech. At some point before the medieval period Wisbech became the primary settlement, probably due to its location at the confluence of the two principal rivers (the Nene or Wys Beck and the Great Ouse tributary known as the Well Stream). This point was also the outfall of the two rivers until the beginning of the 14th century when violent storms caused the diversion of the Ouse from Wisbech to its present course via King's Lynn (Hinman 2002). Recent excavations at the Library within the castle moat, and at the castle itself, have produced tantalising evidence of a possible Middle Saxon occupation of the site (Fletcher 2009).

It is known that by the Norman Conquest the entire silt isle supported around 50 households under the overlordship of the Abbey of Ely. Again the issue of marginal land comes into play, and the construction of the two sea defences either side of the estuary to protect the landscape from water incursions demonstrates the determination of the church to hold onto these fertile lands, and also proves that the island was subject to centralised authority.

Again, it is most likely that Saxon settlement is to be found in the north and west of the current town, i.e. into the silt island itself. That this area was noted as the Old Market by the end of the 12th century is suggestive of the antiquity of this area as a settlement centre, as is the establishment of the administrative centre of the manorial estates on this side. It should also be noted that the main access route from Ely to Wisbech would have been along the Old Croft River, through Upwell to the settlement. The best disembarkation point for such a journey would have been the location of the Old Market.

2.2.4 Medieval

Wisbech in Domesday Book was not a particularly large or important, yet throughout the medieval period the core of the modern town that we know evolved.

Wisbech is first referenced as a grant to the abbey at Ely c. AD1000 from the East Anglian Bishop Aelfwine. The scale and nature of Saxon occupation is unknown but a manor is currently thought to have been located on the west bank of the Wysbeck due to the siting there and presumed pre-Norman origins of the Old Market (VCH Vol. IV, 243).

The construction of the church, castle and new market moved the focus of settlement away from the north bank of the Nene, a process accentuated when the Nene outflow was finally blocked by silt in the earlier mediaeval period, leaving the Well Stream as the most important water course in the emerging town. The maintenance of two market places is indicative of a change in focus for activity on the Isle. The Old Market maintained its local connections, but it is likely that the new market became more associated with the commercial trade that was beginning to emerge during the 13th century.

The castle was first built by the orders of William the Conqueror in 1086 (VCH Vol. II, 47). This castle was probably of Motte and Bailey type although whether it had a mound or not is not known. According to the Victoria County History it was of stone, and the buildings covered 2 acres, the whole area of the castle being 4 acres (ibid.). The earliest dated evidence of episcopal tenure of the castle is in the vacancy of 1215-19, when it was entrusted in turn to Ralph de Normanville and Robert de Cantia, and to Richard (Poore), Bishop of Salisbury (VCH Vol. IV, 252). King John stopped at the castle on 12th October 1216 on his last journey.

Episodic flooding was a major problem in Wisbech and in 1236 a particularly devastating flood may have destroyed the castle and laid waste to the surrounding area. The *Flores Historiarum* described the 1236 flood: 'But on the morrow of the blessed Martin (November 12th)...the waves of the sea flooded in, transgressing their accustomed limits, so that in the confines of that same sea, and in the marsh, as at Wisbech and in similar small places, small boats, herds, and also a great multitude of men perished.' (FH, vol. 2, 219 as quoted in Hallam 1965, 127).

Given the problems afflicting the water flows out of the town, it is interesting to speculate as to why a port evolved here. It appears that the more reliable water flows lead through Lynn, and certainly Cambridge and Ely regarded Lynn as their main trading town. Wisbech and its environs must have possessed some attribute that focussed trade here, and although it did afford access to the western fens (in particular Holme and Yaxley) presumably there was a commodity here that was traded. This probably was the agricultural surplus generated by the fertile lands, especially when an ongoing programme of drainage created more of the same.

The town however, remained fairly small in size, compared to similar ones in the region. Only one church was built (compared to the 42 in Huntingdon during the mediaeval period). The population was centred on around the two cores, the Old Market and the castle areas, but the town did not stretch much beyond these areas. The marginality of the land may have had something to do with this, for despite the continuing existence of the sea defences, and the ongoing reclamation projects, the core area (around the castle) flooded on a regular and catastrophic basis. It is quite possible that the town existed as a focus for the area, but most of its population still inhabited the hinterlands in scattered settlements.

Most of these hinterlands fall outside the remit of this survey. However, the area to the immediate south-west of the town has revealed a form of agriculture known as darlands. These are drainage ditches roughly 2m wide used to delineate strips of agricultural land. These strips are around 12m wide and 160m long, which corresponds reasonably well to plots of land identified under the Midlands system of ridge and furrow.

The castle was rebuilt although in what form and with how many alterations is unknown. From the late 13th century the building was mainly used as a prison and as a place for holding the bishop's courts. In the 15th century the castle fell into ruin, and was rebuilt during the episcopate of Bishop Morton (1479-86) (VCH Vol. IV, 252), suggesting a further change in form of the castle.

2.2.5 Post-Medieval Town

The main growth of the town took place in the post-mediaeval period, when the population expanded rapidly. This could be down to several factors. Firstly, widespread drainage of the fens coupled with mechanical means of pumping water off the lands created wide swathes of very fertile agricultural land that could be used for crops or (in the case of marginal land) summer pasture. Secondly, there were deliberate attempts to free up the flow of the Nene through the town and improve access to the port facilities.

The impact of this was two-fold. The area could now generate larger agricultural products to export, and also the access to the port was improved to permit larger vessels to ship it. The use of mechanical pumps generated a need for certain products, in particular wood and coal. Most of the port facilities were located below the Town Bridge, especially out towards the Horseshoe sluice to the north. Sutton bridge still provided a mooring for large vessels.

As the trade grew, so the town prospered. The creation of extensive and elaborate Georgian and Regency properties are a reflection of that. However there was also a requirement for housing for the growing number of labourers that served the port and the town, and there are several references to a lack of such housing in the 18th and 19th centuries. The areas around Walsoken were always regarded as the poorer areas, so it is unsurprising that this is the direction in which the town expanded from the mid-19th century.

It also grew southwards, and the terraces around Victoria Road, Milner Road and such like were laid out at this time. The town expanded along Leverington Road and Lynn Road in a linear fashion, and in time Walsoken became totally absorbed. Expansion westwards was hindered by the fact that the wealthy families (especially the Peckovers) who owned the houses around here also owned the land, and would not permit much development in their vicinity.

The town probably reached its zenith by the end of the 19th and into the 20th century.

2.3 Site Background

The development area is located approximately 1km to the south of the centre of the town, the area of the development is likely to have generally been freshwater fen, with periods as— mudflat of saltmarsh type environments. This may render the site an unlikely location for habitation, with use being limited to periodic agricultural farming and fishing.

Canalisation of the rivers and subsequent reclamation of the land, allowed for more effective and better established land use. From the 17th century the development area appears to have seen constant use for grazing or agricultural farming. The landscape remained unchanged until the establishment of the railway in 1847, with two lines running close to the site to the West and the South. The railway caused some initial expansion, however this did not intrude upon the current development area. The encroachment of the town appears to have taken place at the start of the 20th century, with the first school on the site being constructed after the first world war.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The Author would like to thank John Martin Associates, working on behalf of for CCC Schools, and Philip Morgan of Building Schools for the Future, who respectively commissioned and funded the archaeological works. The Author would also like to thank Dave Brown who worked on the site, and Richard Mortimer who managed the evaluations
- 1.4.2 The brief for the archaeological works was written by Andy Thomas, who visited the site and monitored the evaluation trenches.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that the evaluation should include a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened area and that sufficient archaeological features should be excavated and recorded to meet the project objectives.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a 6ft toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Louise Bush using a Leica 1200GPS
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 No environmental sampling was carried out on the site.
- 2.2.6 There were some restrictions to the trenching, these included the preservation of the sports pitches and the avoidance of existing services, there were also two areas where trenching would have been a major inconvenience, namely the school's playground and fire assembly area, and trenches were placed to avoid these areas. The restricted areas are highlighted on the trench location map.
- 2.2.7 Three trenches were excavated totalling 157 metres in length and 251.2 sq m in area. The development area was c. 1.5 ha with the area available for trenching at c. 8,000 sq m, resulting in an approximate 3.6% evaluation of the available area.
- 2.2.8 The ground condition at certain levels was very hard and compacted, causing machining to be slower at times. Overall the site conditions did not inhibit the excavation and recording of archaeological deposits.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Three trenches were opened totalling 157 linear metres and the results are presented and described by trench, full details by trench/context appear in Appendix A.

3.2 Trench 1

Layers

3.2.1 Seven layers were observed and recorded within the trench (see fig. 3 section 1). The topsoil (100) was 0.21m thick, the subsoil (101) 0.15m, both were well compacted and were fairly uniform across the site. The sequence of underlying layers seen below the subsoil were all deposited by alluvial processes.

3.2.2 Layer 102 measuring 0.3m thick, was a greyish yellow, silty sand, this layer appeared to seal all the latest features within the trench. The next layer down the sequence comprised of a yellowish brown sandy silt (103) 0.38m thick. Below this was a sequence of laminated layers of yellow sand and light brown silts 0.55m deep, indicative of rapid flooding and settling, beneath this were further layers of dense, yellow sands with bluish-grey clay seams, measuring 0.46m deep. The final layer encountered 2.05m below ground surface, was a yellowish brown silty sand (110), the deposit was not excavated.

Post Medieval Cut Features

3.2.3 Trench 1 measured 84m and contained 6 features, all the features were dated to the Post Medieval period, either by finds or by association. Four appeared to be cut features and two appeared to have formed by natural processes. Two Post medieval features were recorded in plan but not excavated, a further two Post Medieval linear features were excavated, ditches **109** and **117**.

3.2.4 Ditch **117** was an east-west aligned ditch, and could be seen in the trench edge cutting from the top of alluvial layer 103. The fill was a silty clay (118) with charcoal inclusions, and contained a small fragment of clay tobacco pipe.

3.2.5 Ditch **109** was 1.00m wide, 0.42m deep, and cutting from the top of layer 103; it was filled by 108, a clayey silt. The feature did not contain any finds, however its similarity to the other dated features and its stratigraphic relationship place it as Post Medieval.

Post Medieval Natural Features

3.2.6 Feature **105** could only be partially seen at the northeast end of the trench, none of its full dimensions were seen, making it difficult to be certain that the feature was formed by natural processes, though this seems most likely. It was sealed by alluvial layer 103 and filled by an homogeneous sterile clayey silt (104), likely to have been deposited by slow moving or standing water.

3.2.7 Linear feature **111** was aligned northwest to southeast and was a wide shallow cut, 3m wide and 0.6m deep containing a sterile silty clay (112) likely to have been deposited by slow moving water. The fill contained a single brick fragment and a small fragment of clay tobacco pipe.

3.3 Trench 2

Layers

- 3.3.1 Four layers were recorded within this trench - besides the previously described topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) - and they were generally the same as those seen in Trench 1 (see plates 1 and 2). The layer directly below the subsoil (121) was the same as the stratigraphically comparable layer in Trench 1, measuring 0.16m in this trench. The next layer however, 122, was not present in Trench 1, and was a brownish grey, clayey silt, 0.19m thick. Beneath this, layer 123 was the same as 103 in Trench 1, measuring 0.22m thick. Machine excavation within this trench was stopped at the top of layer 124, equivalent to layer 106 (Trench 1).

Features

- 3.3.2 The trench contained a single feature, which was not excavated. Its fill and alignment showed it to be the continuation of feature 111 in Trench 1.

3.4 Trench 3

Layers

- 3.4.1 As with Trench 2, aside from topsoil 100 and subsoil 101 four layers were recorded (see fig. 3 section 4). However, the layers below the subsoil were different from those in Trenches 1 and 2. The first layer below the subsoil was 113, a brownish orange, clayey silt, measuring 0.17m thick. Below this layer 114 was a lighter brownish orange, clayey silt, measuring 0.3m thick - it contained a large hand made brick fragment; both these layers were extremely dense and compact. The next layer (115) was a homogeneous and sterile, orange brown, silty clay, measuring 0.34m thick. The lowest layer recorded was 116, a yellowish grey, sandy silt, which appeared similar to 106 and 124 in the first two trenches.

Features

- 3.4.2 No archaeological features were observed, however two modern features were recorded at the southwestern end of the trench.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 As well as the finds detailed in the table below, brick fragments and animal bone were observed in features, and within some of the upper layers (in particular Trench 3), there was a lot of very modern material, derived from recent works within the school grounds. These were noted, but not retained. The finds in the table below have been photographed and dated, but have also not been retained.

Qty	Description
1 sherd	Late 18 th C to early 19 th C Stoneware
1	Modern bathroom tile fragment
1 sherd	Late 19 th C plate
4	Tobacco pipe stem fragments (Undated)
1	20 th C Plastic Button.
1 sherd	Late 18 th C early 19 th C Glazed Red Earthenware (Staffordshire) plate/bowl rim

1 sherd	19 th C Stoneware lid fragment.
2 sherds	Late 19 th C early 20 th C Bowl
1 sherd	19 th C Transfer print
1 sherd	Late 19 th C yellow ware
1 sherd	18 th C Staffordshire slip ware.
1 sherd	Medieval Fenland sandy ware (highly abraded)

3.6 Environmental Summary

3.6.1 No environmental samples were taken from either the natural or post-medieval/modern features.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The Terrington bed deposits recorded across the site show a relatively uniform stratigraphic make up of alluvial or roddon deposits, with some variation in parts of the site, particularly towards the east. Layer 106 may represent the latest consistent deposit across the site, while the overlying layers result from subsequent periods flooding and reclamation, whether natural, or managed drainage. The lack of features and limited finds assemblage suggests that little more than drainage was occurring in the area until the late post-medieval period, with use of the land limited to pastoral uses, and perhaps fishing.
- 4.1.2 Layer 102, which sealed the features within Trench 1, is likely to have been deposited quite late and may represent part of the final drainage. Layers 106 and 107 and their equivalents within Trenches 2 and 3, may have formed by tidal or seasonal flooding, akin to estuarine deposits.
- 4.1.3 The presence of mottling in 102 may represent the bioturbation associated with former potential pasture/marshland, or possibly reed beds.
- 4.1.4 Layer 122 appears to be a buried soil, a potentially grassland land surface buried and sealed by subsequent alluvial deposits.
- 4.1.5 The features seen within Trench 1, aside from those that may be derived from natural processes, are likely to relate to drainage works.

4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 It would appear that the area was not suitable for habitation, at least until late Post Medieval and Modern eras, and until modern times the town of Wisbech had not spread this far south. It is likely that the area had limited uses, with little more than drainage and perhaps seasonal pasture. Any activities occurring on the site are likely to have been archaeologically invisible, such as fishing. The single sherd of medieval pottery does not suggest use occurring at this period, perhaps having arrived on the site with the flood waters.

4.3 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench located at the end of the football pitches.				Avg. depth (m)		0.95
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		84
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	Various	Modern
101	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.3	Alluvial Layer	-	-
103	Layer	-	0.38	Alluvial Layer	-	-
104	Fill	>0.6	0.63	Fill of 105	-	-
105	Cut	>0.6	0.63	Cut of Linear/channel	-	-
106	Layer	-	0.55	Alluvial Layer	-	-
107	Layer	-	0.46	Alluvial Layer	-	-
108	Fill	0.9	0.45	Fill of 109	-	-
109	Cut	0.9	0.45	Cut of shallow ditch	-	-
110	Layer	-	-	Alluvial Layer	-	-
111	Cut	3	0.6	Cut of River Channel	-	-
112	Fill	3	0.6	Fill of 111	Clay Pipe	Post Medieval
117	Cut	0.95	0.5	Cut of Ditch	-	-
118	Fill	0.95	0.5	Fill of 117	Clay Pipe	Post Medieval
119	Cut	0.11	N/A	Cut of Bore Hole	-	-
120	Fill	0.11	N/A	Fill of 119	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench running along existing fence line, and sub-surface drain.				Avg. depth (m)		0.9
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		34.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
121	Layer	-	0.16	Alluvial Layer	-	-
122	Layer	-	0.19	Alluvial Layer	-	-
123	Layer	-	0.22	Alluvial Layer	-	-
124	Layer	-	N/A	Alluvial Layer	-	-
Trench 3						

General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench in eastern part of development area.				Avg. depth (m)	Varied	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	38.25	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
113	Layer	-	0.17	Alluvial Layer	-	-
114	Layer	-	0.3	Alluvial Layer	Brick	-
115	Layer	-	0.34	Alluvial Layer	-	-
116	Layer	-	N/A	Alluvial Layer	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Society, 1995, *Wisbech. England and Wales Sheet 159. Solid and Drift Geology*

Fletcher, T., 2009, *Wisbech Castle Defences and Georgian Cellars: Archaeological Investigations at Wisbech Library 2008-2009*. OA East Report no 1091

Hinman, M., 2002, *Deeply Stratified Medieval and Post-Medieval Remains at Market Mews, Wisbech*, Archaeological Field Unit Report 156

Mortimer, R., 2009, Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Thomas Clarkson Community College.

Waller, M., 1994 *The Fenland Project, number 9: Flandrian Environmental change in Fenland*. East Anglian Archaeology Report 70

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-67404		
Project Name	Evaluation At Thomas Clarkson Community College		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	25-10-2009	Finish	29-10-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WISTCL09	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	ECB3282	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Public Building

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

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
Drainage Ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Clay Pipe	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Fenland	Corporation Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2SE	
Parish	Wisbech		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	8000sqm	National Grid Reference	TF 4655 0866

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Jonathan House

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Landbeach	Bar Hill (OA East office)	Landbeach
WISTCL09	WISTCL09	WISTCL09

Archive Contents/Media






	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the playing fields of the Thomas Clarkson community college, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (TL4655 0866) between 26th and 29th October 2009. Deep stratified deposits were encountered, however archaeological remains within these deposits was limited to the Post Medieval, and Modern eras. The Post Medieval archaeological remains took the form of drainage ditches, showing evidence of land management, and reclamation.

Plans

Limit of Excavation	—————
Deposit - Conjectured	- - - - -
Sondages/Machine Strip	- · - · - ·
Intrusion/Truncation	- · - · - ·
Illustrated Section	————— S.14
Archaeological Feature	
Archaeological Deposit	
Excavated Slot	
Modern Deposit	
Natural Feature	
Cut Number	118

Sections

Limit of Excavation	- - - - -
Cut	—————
Deposit Horizon	—————
Intrusion/Truncation	- · - · - ·
Top Surface/Top of Natural	—————
Break in Section/ Limit of Section Drawing	- - - - -
Cut Number	117
Deposit Number	117
Ordnance Datum	18.45m OD X

Convention Key

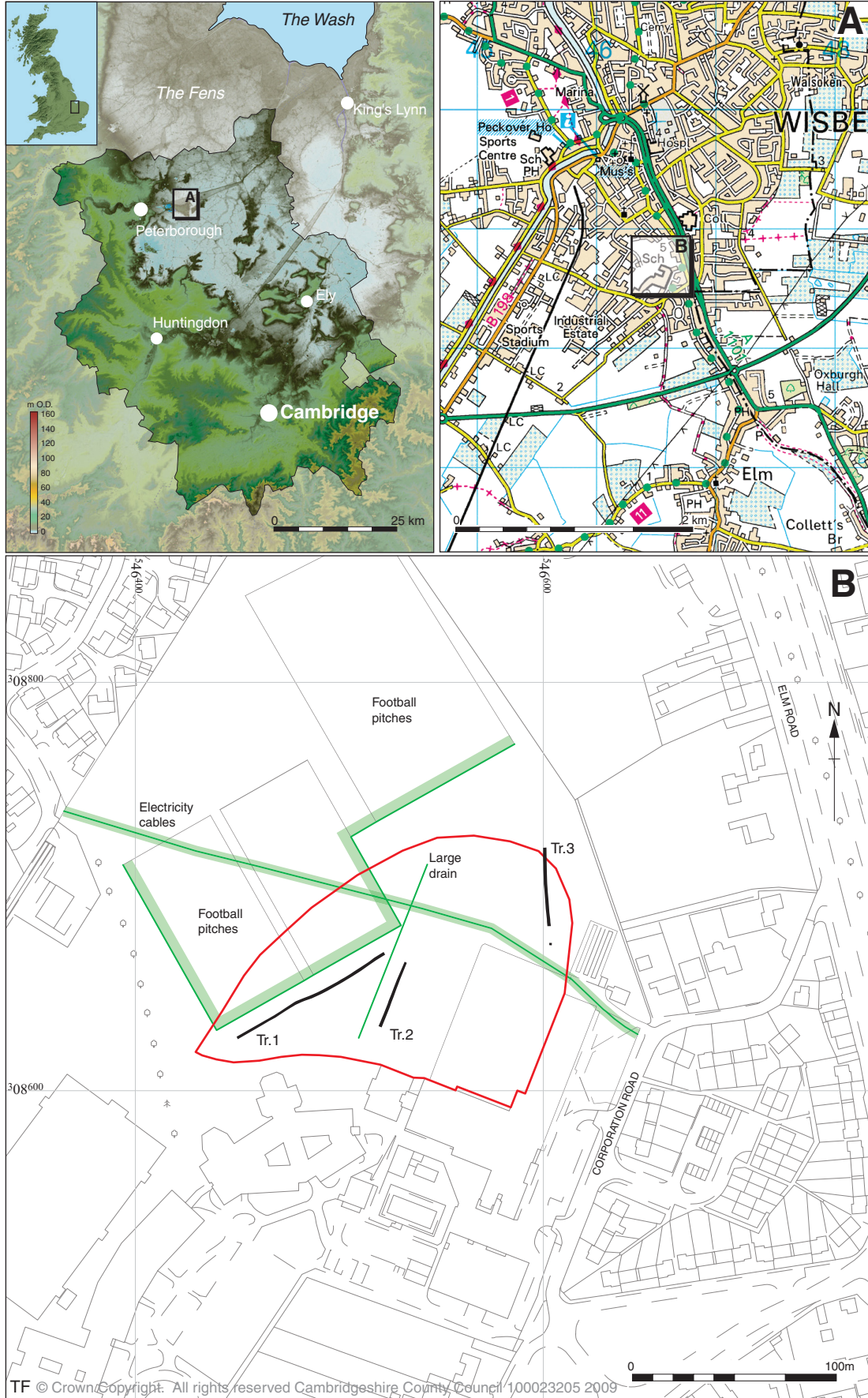


Figure 1: Location of trenches (black) with development area outline (red) and restrictions (green)

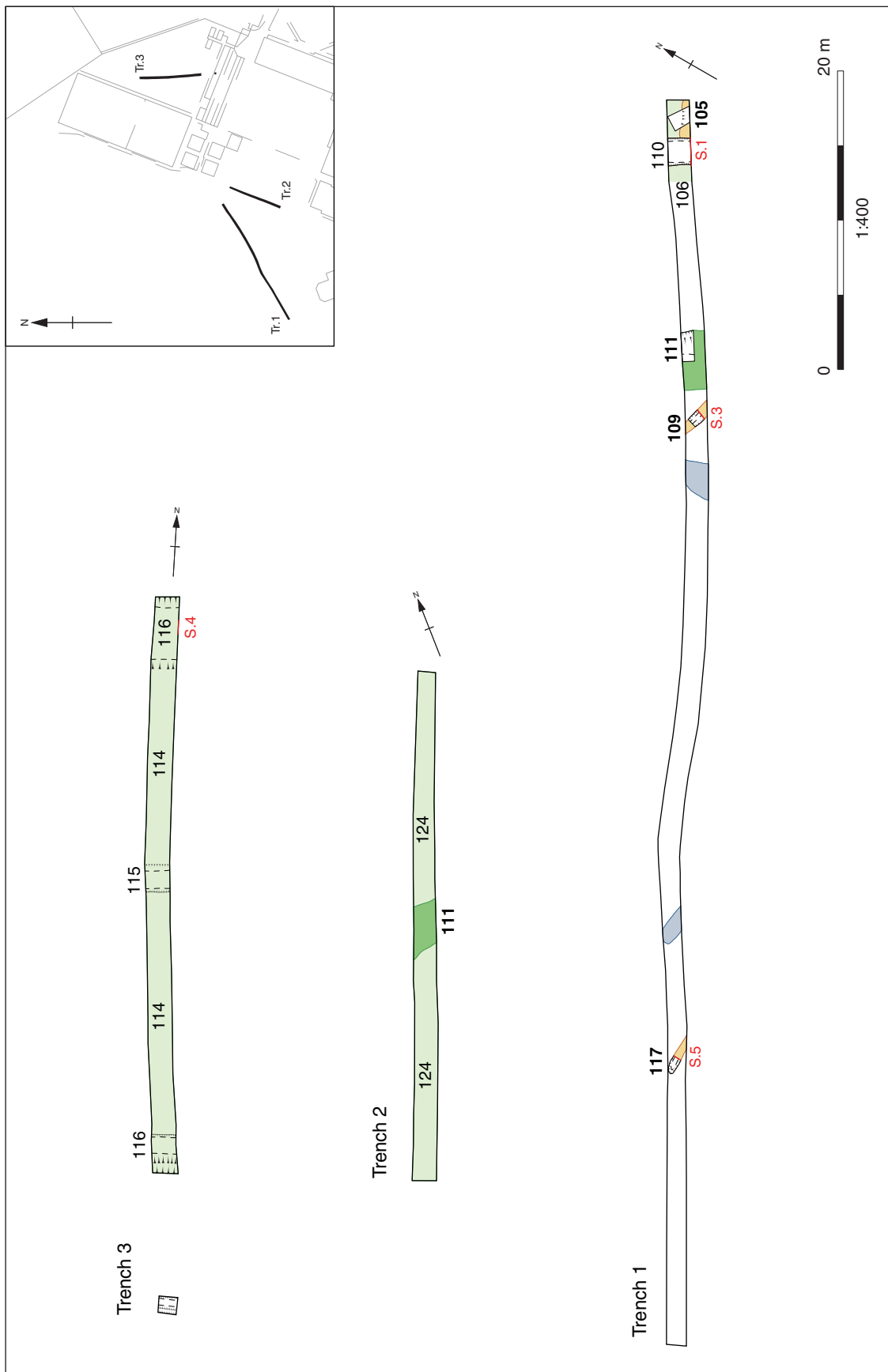


Figure 2: Trench plan

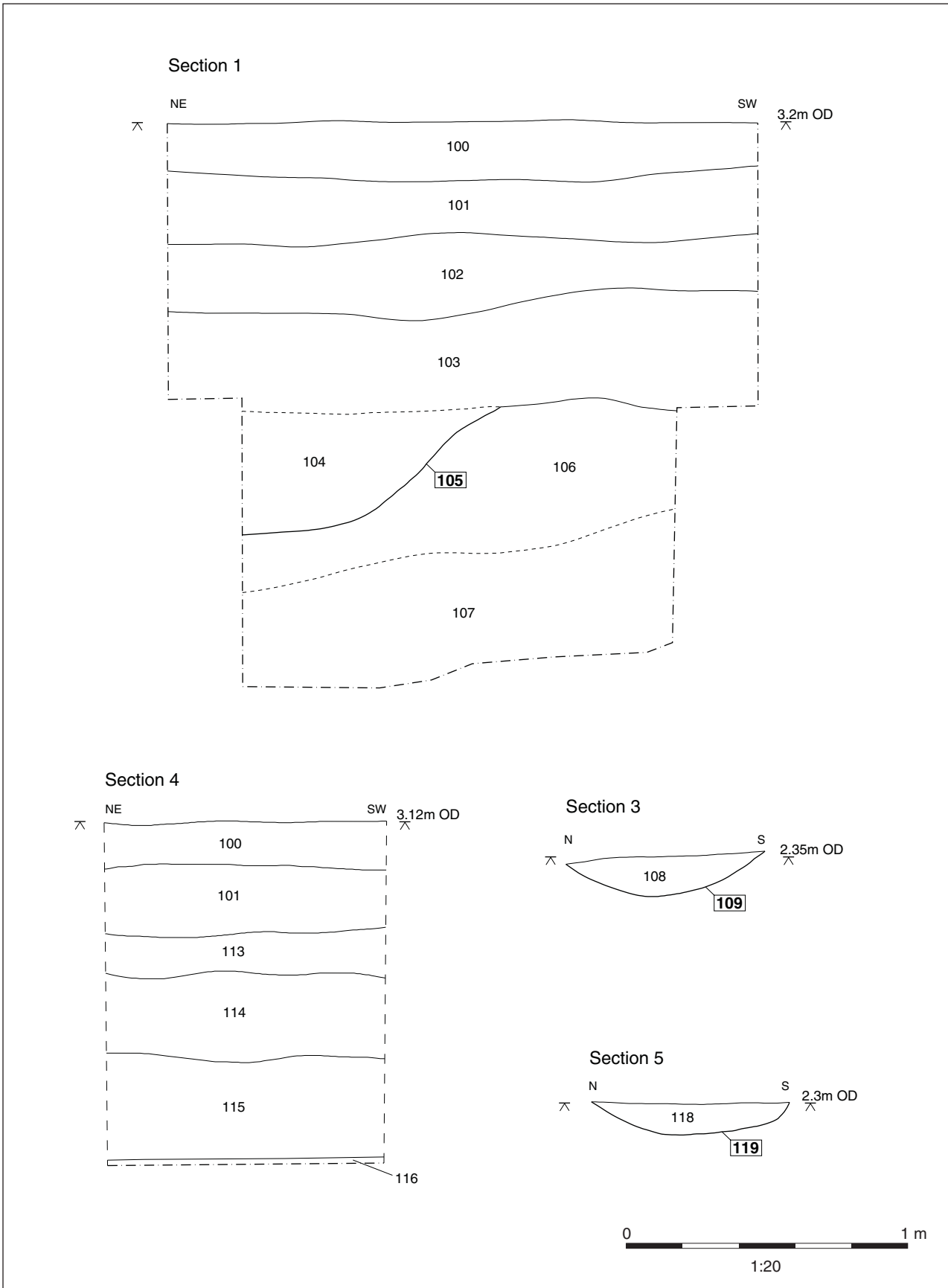


Figure 3: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 section



Plate 2: Trench 2 section



Plate 3: Trench 3 section



Head Office/Registered Office

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeological Unit is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*