Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry

Archaeological Evaluation

Grid Ref: TL 14669 66988
Event No: ECB7549
Planning Number: 24/01701/FUL
Oasis No: contoura1-533155

By Neil Jefferson BSc (Hons) at
Contour Archaeology

May 2025

V.1

Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry

Event No: ECB7549
NGR: TL 14669 66988
Planning Application: 24/01701/FUL
Version: 1
Report Number: 420
March 2025

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry. The project was commissioned by James Duberly in order to provide information on the archaeological impact of proposed development, in support of planning application submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council .

Ridge and Furrow cultivation and a modern pits were seen within this evaluation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry. The project was commissioned by James Duberly in order to provide information on the archaeological impact of proposed development at the site, in support of planning application 24/01701/FUL submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council , to satisfy the archaeological condition as advised by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. A WSI was written in response to a brief for archaeological evaluation written by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. Fieldwork was carried out between the 17th and 18th March 2025 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Contour Archaeology Ltd and approved by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET).

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Contour Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA: 2019).

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1, 2 and 3)

West Perry lies 7.3km northwest of St Neots and 10km southwest of Huntingdon, in the district of Huntingdonshire. The development lies within the core of the village of West Perry, resting at a height of 59m AOD.

The bedrock geology of the site consists of Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone, overlain by superficial deposits of Oadby Member –Diamicton. (British Geological Viewer 2025). This matched the geology seen on site.

3.0 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

A 2km search of available records was conducted around the site By the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET). The search indicated that the site lay within the historic core of West Perry where a number of Grade II listed sites were situated. (National Heritage List Entry references 1214660, 1288434 and 1214731).

Roman

Roman remains and features have been located within the search radius of the site. The course of a possible Roman road has been suggested to the east of the site. The road is recorded as running south towards a scheduled Roman site south of Great Staughton about 3.5km to the southwest of the site (National Heritage List Entry reference. 1491190). Roman finds have been recovered from the area around the site including coins, weights, brooches and horse fittings (CHER. Ref 11756).

Anglo-Saxon

No record has been made of Anglo-Saxon features in the area but, a find of an Anglo-Saxon buckle has been discovered (CHER ref. 11756A).

Medieval

Medieval features were identified to the south of the site in the form of earthworks, a holloway, moat, ditches and an earthen bank have been recorded (CHER ref. 11366). Within Perry woods a rectangular earthwork has been recorded (CHER ref. MCB29309). To the southeast of the site a moated site is known at Manor Farm which is overlain by the ruins of a 16th century house (CHER ref. 00478). Evidence from cropmarks suggest the presence of an area of cultivation to the north of the site from previously identified ridge and furrow remains in that location (CHER refs. MCB18710 and 116029). A medieval coin (CHER ref. 11756B) was also located near the vicinity of the site.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Contour Archaeology specification were:

- The aim of this programme of work (trial trenching) is to gather information on the location, geoarchaeological context, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains. So that an informed recommendation can be made to the local planning authority regarding the potential impact of development upon any archaeology within the development area.

- To evaluate the impact of past land uses and to determine the amount of truncation across the site area.

- To evaluate the impact that the proposed development, or future development will have on any remains which are present.

- To take adequately representative samples of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened in order to be studied.

- To establish the potential for any surviving geoarchaeological and palaeo-environmental evidence as well as general site formation processes.

- To record the presence or absence of palaesols and old land surface soils/deposits.

- The evaluation should also carefully consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial or economic evidence to assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence and in the development of future mitigation strategies.

- To preserve any archaeological remains by record.

- To provide sufficient information to create a conservation strategy dealing with the preservation, recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost should anything be found.

- To assess the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The project specification provided for the excavation of 4 trenches, 30m x 1.8m (Fig. 2). The machining of the trenches was carried out in the presence of archaeologist Neil Jefferson.

All topsoil and overburden removal from trenches were carried out by mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Trench bases and sides were then cleaned by hand to allow characterisation and where possible dating of the stratigraphic sequence.

A record of the site was compiled through plans drawn at scale 1:50 and sections at 1:20, colour digital photographs and individual written context records on pro forma recording sheets. Trenches were located by a survey grade GPS.

The project will be broadly carried out in a manner consistent with English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, 2006 (MoRPHE), reissued Historic England 2015.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with current best practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines, including:

Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, D. 2003, EAA Occasional Paper 14).

CCC 2020: Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire.

English Heritage 2011, Environmental Archaeology, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth.

Health and safety at work Act 1974.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (2024)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologist Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2024).

Management of Archaeological Research Projects (MoRPHE), (English Heritage, reissued 2015).

National Planning Policy Framework, 2024 (NPPF).

Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011).

The Treasure Act 1996, Code of Practice (2nd Revision) England & Wales.

The earthwork survey will be completed by a Leica GS07/ CS20 (connected to the RTK network), survey grade GPS over the earthworks.

6.0 RESULTS

Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A. Fig. 3 depicts an overall plan of the site so that features in separate trenches can be easily related to each other. The metal detector search across the trenches and features found only modern metal objects. Within the artefact characterisation only late 20th century finds were recorded. These consisted general household rubbish and bricks. These were discarded on site.

All Trenches (Figs 3 and 4)

The first layer encountered was 0.3m of dark blackish brown silty clay topsoil (101). This covered the entire site and covered mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil (102). Cutting the subsoil in Trench 2 was two modern pits. They contained building rubble, 20th century pottery and plastic (106). Under the subsoil Trench 1 was two 0.7m wide x 0.21m deep furrows 7m apart [105]. They were aligned northeast to southwest and contained a mid greyish brown silty clay (104). Theses were cutting a mid greyish yellow clay natural (103)

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The evaluation recorded two furrows and two modern pits. The furrows indicate the site is located in the field systems outside the medieval settlement of West Perry.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank James Duberly and Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for their support in ensuring that the project was brought to a successful conclusion.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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LandLand Adjacent 26 West Perry, PerryBrief for Archaeological Evaluation: issued by CHET

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists), code of conduct 2019

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists) 2019: Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists).

Management of Archaeological Research Projects (MoRPHE), (English Heritage, reissued 2015).

Environmental Archaeology A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Second Edition), English Heritage 2011

Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).

Health and safety at work Act 1974.

Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire 2020

Archaeological site Manual, MoLAS 1994

https://www.old-maps.co.uk accessed March 2025

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: ECB7549

FIELD OFFICER: N. Jefferson

NGR: TL 14669 66988

DATES OF INTERVENTION: 17th to 18th March 2025

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: James Duberly
Event Number: ECB7549

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION:
Contour Archaeology,
Serenity, Lawnwood Lane,
Elkesley
Retford
DN22 8AD

FINAL LOCATION:

Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Archive Facility

Contour Archaeology will seek transfer of the title for archive.

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	6
Plans at Scale 1:50	1 sheet
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	1 sheets
Digital Photographs	15

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: General shot of site, looking northeast



Plate 2: General shot of site, looking northeast



Plate 3: Trench 1, looking southeast



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking northeast



Plate 5: Trench 2, looking southeast.

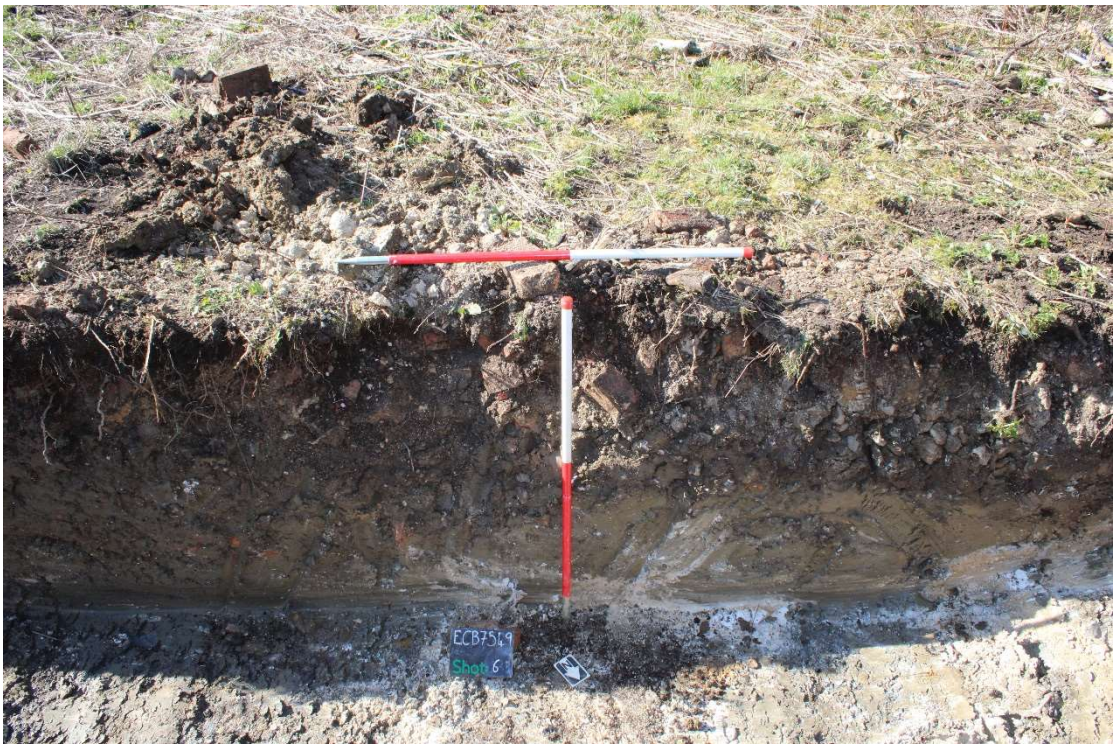


Plate 6: Trench 2, Section 2, looking southwest



Plate 7: Trench 3, looking north.



Plate 8: Trench 3, Section 3 looking northwest.

Appendix A: Context descriptions

Context	*Interpretation*	*Description*
(101)	Topsoil	Dark blackish brown silty clay 0.3m deep
(102)	Subsoil	Mid brownish grey silty clay 0.2m -0.3m Dark blackish brown silty clay 0.3m deep
(103)	Natural	Mid greyish yellow clay >0.30m deep
(104)	Fill of Furrow	Mid greyish brown silty clay 0.21m deep x 0.70m wide.
[105]	Cut of Furrow	Gradual break of slope at top and base. Concave base, 0.70m wide x 0.21m deep
(106)	Modern damage	Mid brownish grey silty clay containing modern building rubble.

Ordnance Survey Licence No: 100058440

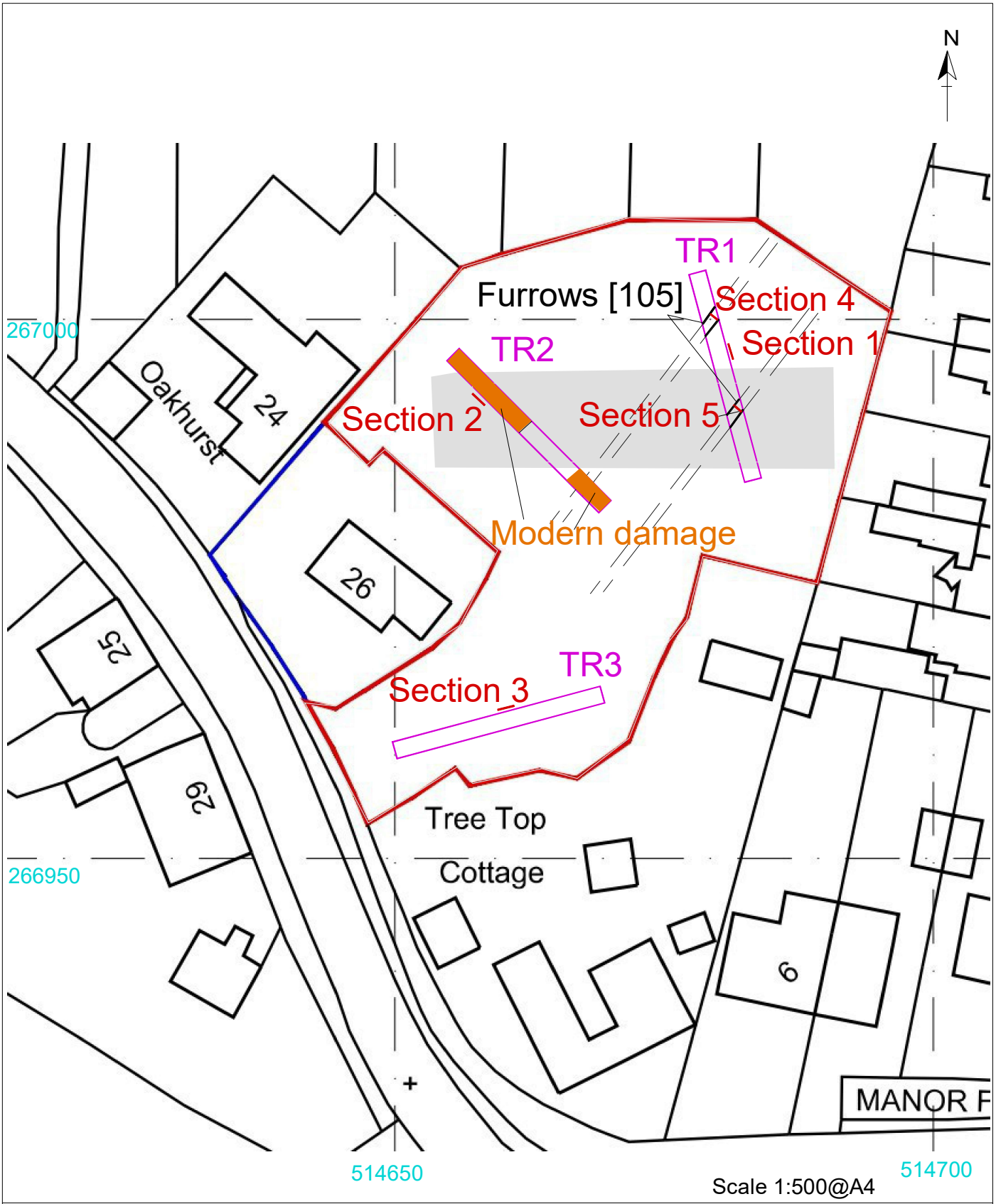


0 1000m

Site Location

Figure 1 Site location map

Scale 1:25,000 @A4



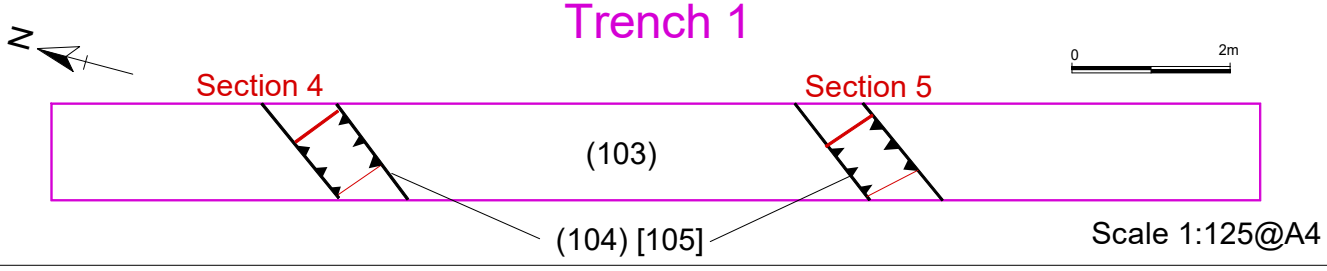


Fig 2 Trench plan

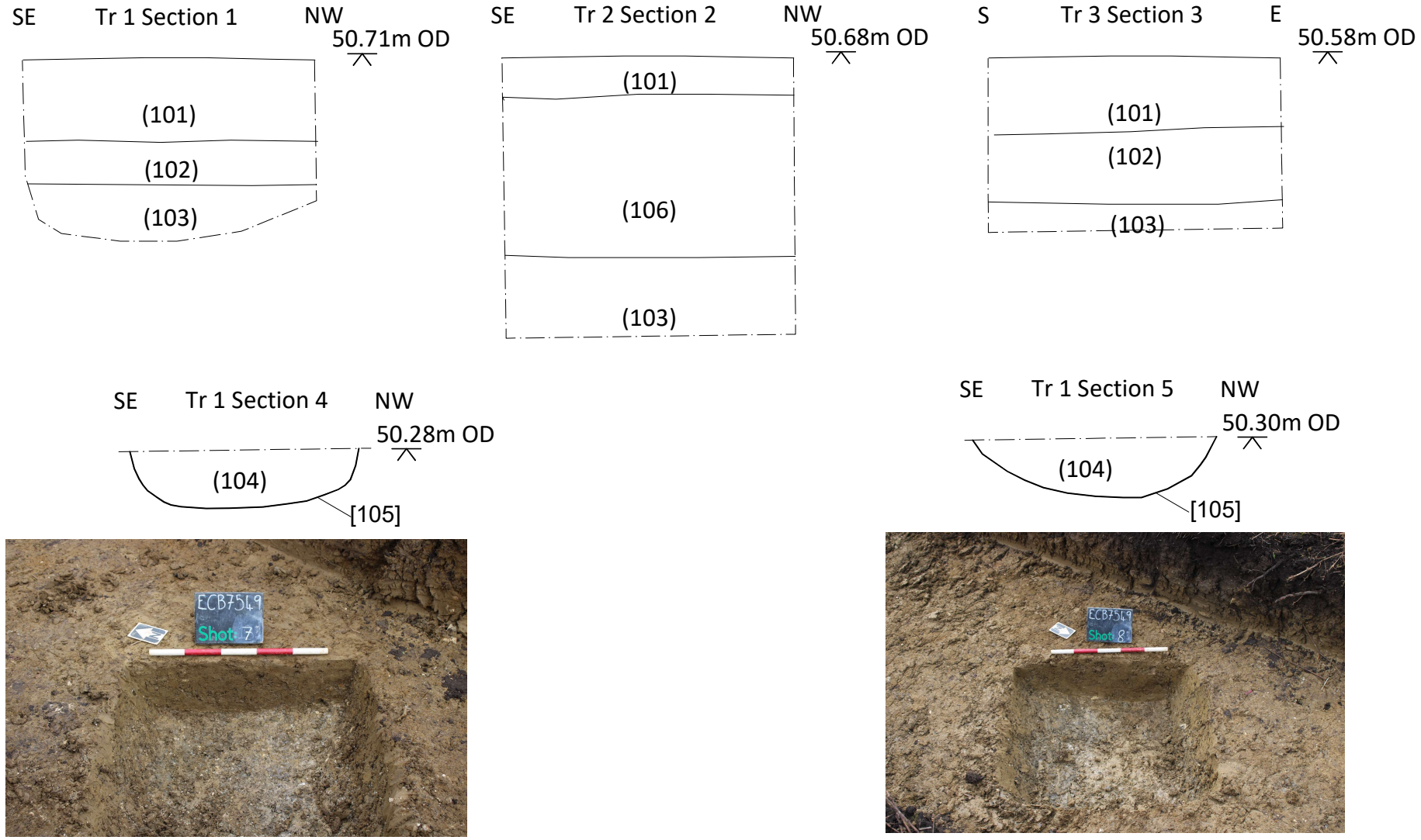


Figure 3 Section drawings 1-5

Scale: 1:20 @A4

OASIS Summary for contoura1-533155

OASIS ID (UID)	contoura1-533155
Project Name	Evaluation at West Perry, Perry, Huntingdonshire PE28 0BX, United Kingdom
Sitename	West Perry, Perry, Huntingdonshire PE28 0BX, United Kingdom
Sitecode	ECB7549
Project Identifier(s)	Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	24/01701/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Contour Archaeology ltd
Project Dates	17-Mar-2025 - 18-Mar-2025
Location	West Perry, Perry, Huntingdonshire PE28 0BX, United Kingdom NGR : TL 14608 66985 LL : 52.28905790990358, -0.321132540187364 12 Fig : 514608,266985
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Cambridgeshire Local Authority District : Huntingdonshire Parish : Perry
Project Methodology	an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry. Ridge and Furrow cultivation and a modern pits were seen within this evaluation.
Project Results	Ridge and Furrow cultivation and a modern pits were seen within this evaluation.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Neil Jefferson
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECB7549
Archives	Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeological Store;

Report generated on: 11 Apr 2025, 10:52