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Mansion Farm, Coveney, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 6th and 10th of March 2017 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) were commissioned by PlanSurv to excavate six evaluation trenches within the yard of Mansion Farm, Coveney, Cambridgeshire (TL 48967 82299; Figs 1 and 2). The evaluation revealed deposits associated with one or more former ponds within Trenches 1 and 4, and the remnants of a demolished post-medieval agricultural building located at the eastern end of Trench 5. In addition to post-medieval finds recovered by the evaluation – including a 19th-century folding fruit knife – small quantities of Roman and medieval pottery were also found as residual sherds in Trenches 1 and 4.

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The project was managed for OA East by James Drummond-Murray. The fieldwork was directed by James Fairbairn who was supported by Sarita Louzolo. Survey and digitizing was carried out by David Brown. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA East staff who cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell. The archive was prepared under the direction of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by PlanSurv to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Mansion Farm, Coveney (TL 48967 82299; Figs 1 and 2). The c.1ha proposed development site is located within a farmyard at the northern end of the village and the work was undertaken in advance of the demolition of farm buildings in advance of the construction of residential dwellings.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 16/00730/FUL) to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief/specification was set by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2017) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies 6km to the north-west of Ely on a prominent spur of land that rises approximately 13m AOD. There are extensive views to the west towards Chatteris and to the east towards Ely. The evaluation site itself is adjacent to Mansion Farm and would have historically been part of the farm complex; late 19th century maps depict that parts of the site were under fields and orchards at that time. The evaluation trenches were located in the north, east and west areas of the yard.
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists mostly of a concrete yard surface (c. 11m OD) that had been laid within living memory. Two large modern agricultural sheds are located in the north of the development area, while two further buildings are positioned to the west (Fig. 1). Both of these are of 20th-century construction.
- 1.2.3 An older building which can be seen on the 1885 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2) is located in the south-east of the development area.
- 1.2.4 The geology of the area is mapped as Ampthill Clay Formation – Mudstone, and overlain by peat <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies on the west side of the High Street at the north end of the village (Fig. 1). The site is to the north of the medieval church of St Peter-Ad-Vincula. A possible moated site is recorded to the east (CHER 01061) but is of dubious provenance.
- 1.3.2 Prehistoric finds have been recorded in the vicinity of the village, including a Neolithic axe (CHER 05855) and a complete Iron Age pot (CHER 05851); both found 0.8 km to the south-west of the development site. A polished axe (CHER01720) was also found opposite the development area, while post-medieval earthworks (HER 05849) are recorded to the south of the village.

- 1.3.3 The development area was once part of the farm complex connected to Mansion Farm. The house itself is a Grade II listed building (1127005); the following is an abridged version of the listing description given by Historic England:

'House. Late C16, with late C17 service addition to north end. Timber frame, plaster rendered, on brick plinth with south gable end rebuilt in C18 in red brick. Reed thatched roof hipped to south end and limestone ridge stack, having red brick above the ridge. Single range five bay and lobby entry plan. Two storeys with the first floor jettied on the front. The service wing is at the north end. Late C17. One storey and attic. Strict Baptist chapel adjoining at the south west. C19 gault brick, now covered in asbestos.

The manor was vested in the prior and convent of Ely but the long tenure of the Lisle family and their successors the Scrope family of Bolton, Yorks, suggests that it was regarded differently from other manors held of the prior and convent. The 5/- annual rent was not enforced from the tenant. It is thought that the Mansion House is the successor of the medieval manor house. In 1563 the tenancy of the manor was sold to Symeon Steward and held in that family until 1649 when it passed to Thomas Allen. In the C18 the house was owned by Robert Drake of Cambridge'.

- 1.3.4 The listing indicates that the farmhouse was the successor to the Manor house. The plan of the farm complex shown on the early OS maps does not, however, suggest that the farm at that time was particularly high status. There is no evidence that the buildings were altered or laid out in the then fashionable model style of the mid 19th century associated with larger and richer farms.
- 1.3.5 The existing farm buildings which lie outside the development area appear to date to the early to mid 19th century, with nothing of an earlier date being apparent. There is a possibility that the Mansion Farm complex had developed and been altered around the time of the Napoleonic wars, when farming in the area had become a profitable business.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of six trenches were machine excavated at predetermined locations across the proposed development area, around and within extant farm buildings (Fig. 3). A combined length of just under 100m was excavated, with most trenches measuring 2.25m wide.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using toothless ditching bucket and breaker where concrete was present. Modern overburden and deposits were removed, stopping at the top of the natural geological horizon or the top of archaeological deposits, whichever came first.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 RTK GPS.

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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.5 Due to the presence of contamination from hydrocarbons, bulk soil samples were not taken for environmental analysis.

2.2.6 All features, trench bases and spoil heaps were metal detected throughout the evaluation. Obviously modern items were discarded.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches, including orientations, with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds and environmental data are given in Appendices B and C. The trenches locations are provided in Fig. 3, with more detailed plans on Figs 4-5 and sections shown on Fig. 6, supplemented by Plates 1-14.
- 3.1.2 Trenches are discussed in numerical order and context numbers reflect the trench numbers unless otherwise stated (for example, pit **102** is a feature within Trench 1, while ditch **304** is a feature within Trench 3).

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence differed between trenches. Trenches 1 and 2 were located on areas of modern disturbance. The underlying geology in all areas was a silty clay. Trenches 3, 4 5 and 6 were overlain by modern concrete.
- 3.2.2 Trench 4 was located within a large agricultural building where lighting was potentially an issue but did not overly hamper the excavation or recording of the trench.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the course of the evaluation were poor. Heavy rain and a high water table caused all trenches to flood; Trenches 1, 4, 5 and 6 were most affected. Hydrocarbons were also encountered in these trenches. The latter probably originated from a diesel tank that existed to the south of the development area. Work in these trenches was curtailed for health and safety reasons.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Evidence of at least one former pond was noted in Trenches 1 and 4, while remnants of a possible medieval soil horizon were recorded in Trench 2. A small modern pit and an undated pit were revealed in Trenches 3 and 6 respectively. In Trench 5, a demolition layer and remnants of a 19th century agricultural building were recorded.

3.4 Trench 1 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Plates 1-2)

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 was located close to the northern boundary of the development area, adjacent to a large modern agricultural shed (Plate 1). The trench measured 24m long and 2.25m wide with an average depth of 0.90m.
- 3.4.2 The gently sloping edge of a pond (**105**; Plate 1) was recorded 8.5m from the western end of the trench. This amorphous feature contained a single silty clay fill (**104**; Plate 2) which was excavated to a depth of 0.18m. The fill contained no finds.
- 3.4.3 This feature was sealed by a patchy layer of redeposited clay (**103**) that had a thickness of between 0.08m and 0.15m, which was overlain by a thick (*c.* 0.5m) silty clay peat subsoil (**102**). Layers 102 and 103 were probably deposited when the modern farm

shed to the south was erected. Layer 102 contained a moderate amount of modern brick and tile mixed with occasional plastic and barbed wire (not retained).

- 3.4.4 This area was covered by a layer of disturbed soil (101) and mixed vegetation, with an average depth of 0.25m
- 3.4.5 A 20th-century ceramic land drain was recorded at a distance of 1.80m from the eastern end of the trench. This was left undisturbed

3.5 Trench 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Plate 3)

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 was positioned on the western side of the proposed development area. It had a length of 20m, a width of 2.25m and was excavated to a depth of 0.60m
- 3.5.2 The trench contained a ceramic land drain located 3m from its northern end and a modern farm drain at 5m from the northern end. Both of these drains were left undisturbed.
- 3.5.3 Adjacent to the run of the farm drain a localised spread of dark grey silty soil (202) was exposed (Fig. 4, S.5), from the surface of which a small piece of medieval pottery was recovered (see Appendix B). Above this layer, which may have been a remnant of former ploughsoil, was a layer of heavily disturbed soil (201) which contained modern brick, metal and plastics (not retained). The latter probably relates to disturbance associated with the construction of the modern farm buildings.

3.6 Trench 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 6; Plates 4-6)

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 was located between two farm buildings (Figs 1 and 2). To the north was a large steel structure which was erected in the 1990s and to the south was a small single-storey brick open-fronted barn constructed sometime in the 20th century (Plate 4). The trench was 13.70m long and 2m wide, with a maximum depth of 0.60m.
- 3.6.2 The natural clay geology was encountered at a depth of 0.35m. Above this was a thin mixed layer of silty sand and charcoal (303) that was overlain by a modern brick sublayer (302). The latter was recorded in plan at the eastern end of the trench (Plate 5) and measured 4m x 2m but was also noted in section (Fig. 4, S. 8) and appears to have extended beyond the trench boundaries. The bricks were manufactured by The London Brick Company and are of a type that have been in constant production since the 1950s.
- 3.6.3 A small circular pit (305) with a maximum depth of 0.10m was present 2.75m from the western end of the trench (Fig. 6, S.8 and Plate 6). No datable evidence was found within the feature, although its shallow nature and sharp edges suggest a modern date.

3.7 Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3, 5; Plates 7, 8 and 15)

- 3.7.1 Trench 4 was positioned within the confines of a large modern barn located in the north-eastern corner of the development area (Fig. 2). It was 14.8m long, 2.25m wide and was excavated to an average depth of 0.90m
- 3.7.2 Towards the southern end of the trench a grey silty clay natural geology was encountered at a depth of 0.40m, this sloped gently towards the northern edge of a

large former pond (Plates 7 and 8). The edge of the pond (filled by 405) dropped sharply away to a depth of 2m. Health and safety concerns prevented any further excavation beyond this depth. The fill (405) of the pond consisted of a very dark grey peaty clay that had a thickness of between 1.5m and 2m and which contained pieces of post-medieval ceramic building material and a small fruit knife (SF 1). A similar deposit was also present in Trench 6 and may have extended across the eastern extremity of the farmyard.

- 3.7.3 The pond fill was sealed by a thin dark grey sandy silt (404) that had a thickness of 0.10m (Plate 8). This layer contained no finds. Above this was the makeup of the concrete floor of the barn. This consisted of a 0.10m-thick layer of broken brick and sand (403). Above this a 0.15m-thick layer of yellow sand (402). The barn floor comprised a concrete layer (401) which was 0.15m thick (Plate 8; Fig. 6).

3.8 Trench 5 (Figs 3, 5 and 6; Plates 9-11)

- 3.8.1 Trench 5 was located within the south-west part of the development area (Fig. 3) close to the modern property boundary (Fig. 1). The trench measured 15m in length and was 2m wide; it was excavated to a depth of 0.50m.
- 3.8.2 At the eastern end of the trench the remnants of a demolished agricultural building were revealed (Plates 10 and 11). This consisted of a small brick pier or pad (505) measuring 0.40m x 0.40m comprising a single course of bricks laid directly onto the natural clay geology. The bricks were handmade and date to the 19th century.
- 3.8.3 To the west of the brick pier was a compacted demolition layer (506) that had a thickness of 0.10m. This layer either derived from the demolition of an earlier building in this location, or from imported material laid down as a rudimentary hard standing.
- 3.8.4 Located to the east of the brick pier was a poorly-sorted cobbled surface (504; Plate 10). The cobbles varied in size and shape, suggesting that this was a makeshift hard standing rather than a properly formed yard surface. Above the cobbles was a thin and patchy band of redeposited clay (503). Overlying the redeposited clay was a sandy layer that contained brick (502) and which was sealed by the modern concrete yard surface (501). These had a combined thickness of 0.28m.
- 3.8.5 A small sondage (508) was excavated into an area west of the demolition layer 506 in order to investigate any earlier deposits. As the sondage subsequently flooded and hydrocarbons were encountered, no further excavation was undertaken. A dark silty clay (507) was, however, noted, the presence of which indicates that the demolition material may only extend for 1m from the brick pier or pad.

3.9 Trench 6 (Figs 3, 5 and 6; Plates 12-14)

- 3.9.1 Trench 6 was located in the south-eastern corner of the development area and measured 12m in length and 2.25m wide with an average depth of 0.90m.
- 3.9.2 The underlying geology within the trench consisted of a grey brown silty clay. This was overlain by a dark grey silty peat layer (603, Plate 14), which was very similar to that found within Trench 4 (405). Layer 603 contained a mixed finds assemblage including a small amount of animal bone (dog and cattle), Roman and post-medieval pottery, an 18th-century brick and a single iron nail (Appendices B and C). Due to its excessive

depth and water inundation (Plate 13), and following consultation with CHET (Gemma Stewart), it was decided to machine excavate the layer. It was found to have a depth of 2m; sloping westwards toward the western end of the trench.

- 3.9.3 A small sub-circular pit (605) was noted at a distance of 2.5m from the western edge of the trench. Due to flooding and the presence of hydrocarbons it was not possible to fully excavate the pit. It appears to have been roughly 1.50m wide and 0.25m deep. The fill of the pit (604) consisted of a sterile mid grey silty.
- 3.9.4 Overlying this was a modern sublayer (602) and a concrete yard surface with a combined thickness of 0.22m.

3.10 Finds summary

- 3.10.1 The few finds recovered from the evaluation include occasional sherds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery along with late medieval to post-medieval and modern brick and tile, a nail (not retained where) and a small amount of animal bone (Appendix B and C). The majority of the pottery is likely to be residual, possibly introduced through manuring or perhaps imported soil used as levelling or hardcore material.
- 3.10.2 Artefact characterisation was undertaken on trenches 1 2 and 4 where no artefacts were recovered other than modern brick and plastic. Upper layers of trenches 3, 5 and 6 consisted of modern concrete and hardcore.
- 3.10.3 The small fruit knife (SF 1) found in Trench 4 most probably represents casual loss by an individual working within the orchard in the northern part of the site, which is depicted on 19th century maps (Fig. 2).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was hindered by flooding due to a high water table and heavy rain. The presence of hydrocarbons in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 prevented the use of a pump and also hampered investigation within these trenches. Despite this, the evaluation has characterised the range of features and deposits, and how this relates to cartographic evidence and the recollections of former occupants of Mansion House Farm.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to:

- iii. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- iv. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

4.2.2 The results have demonstrated that where present, archaeological remains were predominantly of post-medieval (*c.* 19th century) date and heavily truncated by modern intrusions. Features found were related to farm buildings that were still in use well into the 20th century, or were associated with the remains of one or more in-filled ponds. Two pottery sherds from Trenches 2 and 6 are of an earlier date (Roman and medieval) but appear to be residual finds possibly introduced through manuring or levelling activities. They could, however provide tentative evidence for earlier activity in the vicinity of the site.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation at Mansion Farm Coveney found little evidence of significantly earlier land-use within the proposed development area. A brick foundation related to a 19th century farm building was noted within Trench 5: previous occupants of Mansion House Farm mentioned that a pigsty may have been located in this area.

4.3.2 Evidence of a large former pond was found in Trenches 1 and 4, and possibly Trench 6. A pond is shown in this general location on the 1885 OS map (Fig. 2) and is still visible on a modern OS map of 1984 (<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/548500/282500/10/101322>). This pond (or ponds) was presumably only filled in when the large agricultural building was erected on the site. The 1885 map also shows that there was an orchard in this area, which would be consistent with the more humic soils present in some of the trenches and recovery of the small fruit knife found in Trench 4.

4.3.3 The absence of earlier remains within the evaluated area may be related to the site's location. The original farmhouse is located to the south of the site and presumably any earlier remains are likely to be present to the rear and south of this, in the area of the existing farmyard and outbuildings related to Mansion Farm. In contrast, cartographic evidence indicates that much of the proposed development site was historically fields or under orchard.

- 4.3.4 Truncation by the construction of modern farm buildings has also been of detriment to any archaeological features that remained. The modern materials found in Trenches 1 and 2 suggest that the soil was cleared from the area of the modern barns and pushed down the slope to the west of the evaluation area. A localised, thin layer of soil was encountered in Trench 2, close to which a single small sherd of medieval pottery was found. This could conceivably represent the former ground level in the medieval period, but too little survived to be certain.
- 4.3.5 Similar truncation also seems to have occurred when the modern farmyard was developed. No traces of any earlier yard surfaces remained in this area, other than the rough cobbles revealed in Trench 5 and these could simply have been a pathway or floor surface relating to piggeries that were known to exist in this part of the farm.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 No archaeological features that demonstrably predate the 19th century have been identified by the archaeological evaluation at Mansion Farm. The work has confirmed the presence of at least one large infilled pond within the northern part of the site, along with the remains of an earlier farm building, indicating that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the 19th century.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NNW-ESE
Trench 1 was located to the north of the development site. It contained disturbed soil layers and the northern edge of a known pond.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	2.25
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
101	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
103	Layer	-	0.15	Patchy clay	-	-
104	Fill	-	0.18	Pond fill	-	-
105	cut		0.18	Edge of pond		

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench 2 was located to the west of the development area. It contained a heavily disturbed soil layer and a possible earlier soil horizon					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	2.25
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
201	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	Pottery	Medieval 1250-1350

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NNW-ESE
Trench 3 was located between two agricultural buildings. It contained one small post medieval pit					Length (m)	13.70
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
301	Layer	-	0.08	Concrete	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.10	Brick sub layer	-	-
303	Layer	-	0.06	Silty sand	-	-
304	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of pit	-	-
305	Cut		0.10	Cut of pit		

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench 4 was located within a modern agricultural shed. It contained peaty soil layers and the southern edge of a known pond.					Length (m)	14.8
					Width (m)	2.25
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
401	Layer	-	0.15	Concrete	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.15	Sub layer	-	-
403	Layer	-	0.10	Sandy silt	-	-
404			0.10	Peaty subsoil		
405			1.50	Silty soil	Pottery, CBM, Fruit knife	18th-19th Century
406	Cut			Possible pond		

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NNW-ESE
Trench 5 was located to the south western corner of the development site and contained evidence of 19th Century agricultural buildings.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
501	Layer	-	0.12	Concrete	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.16	Sub layer	-	-
503	Layer	-	0.10	Clay		
504	Layer			Cobbles	-	-
505	Layer	0.40	0.12	Brick foundation		
506	Layer		0.10	Demolition		
507	Layer		0.25	Layer		
508	Sondage		0.25	Cut		

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NNW-ESE
Trench was located to the south-eastern corner of the development area and contained a peaty soil layer and a small undated pit.					Length (m)	12
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
601	Layer		0.12	Concrete	-	-
602	Layer		0.10	Sub layer	-	-
603	Layer		2.0	Peat	Nail, Pottery, CBM and bone	Roman to Post Med
604	Fill	1.5	0.25	Pit fill	-	-

605	Cut		0.25	Pit cut		
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APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

- B.1.1 Archaeological works recovered a small pottery assemblage of seven sherds weighing 0.233kg, representing a minimum number of vessels (MNV) of seven.
- B.1.2 The pottery suggests multi-period activity in the vicinity of the evaluated area, with material recovered from subsoil and other layers. In Trench 2, layer 2 produced an abraded sherd from a high medieval Grimston face jug, dating from the mid 13th-mid 14th century. The largest group of sherds from the site were recovered from a subsoil layer in Trench 4, context 405. All the sherds are post-medieval and include an undecorated Pearlware (1770-1840) lid from an oval serving vessel, a sherd from an English Stoneware bottle, alongside two sherds from a Post-medieval Redware bowl (1650-1800). The final piece of pottery was recovered from Trench 6, context 603, which produced a moderately abraded sherd from a Roman Nene Valley Colour Coat plain-rimmed dish (late 3rd-4th century; Stephen Wadeson pers. comm.).
- B.1.3 The Roman pottery suggests some Roman activity near the area evaluated, however, the sherd was recovered alongside post-medieval ceramic building material, indicating the sherd is residual. The single sherd of medieval pottery is relatively abraded and is likely to be the result of medieval manuring rather than medieval rubbish deposition. The widely differing ages of the pottery recovered indicate significant reworking of the deposits, with the latest phases of activity most likely to be later post-medieval rubbish disposal.
- B.1.4 If no further work is undertaken, the following catalogue acts as a full record and the pottery may be deselected prior to deposition of the archive.

Trench	Context	Cut/ Feature	Fabric/Description	MNV	No. of Sherds	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date
2	202	Layer	Grimston Glazed ware, strut from a face jug	1	1	0.013	1250-1350
4	405	Subsoil	Post-medieval Redware bowl rim, internally glazed	1	1	0.066	1550-1800
			Post-medieval Redware bowl or jar body sherd, glazed externally and internally	1	1	0.009	1550-1800
			Pearlware, undecorated lid from an oval serving vessel with small handle scar	1	1	0.071	1770-1840
			English Stoneware body sherd from a bottle	1	1	0.029	1700-1900
			Refined White Earthenware,	1	1	0.005	1805-1900

Trench	Context	Cut/ Feature	Fabric/Description	MNV	No. of Sherds	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date
			undecorated body sherd				
6	603	Layer	Roman Nene Valley Colour Coat ware, base and part of wall from a plain-rimmed dish	1	1	0.040	Mid 1st-4th century
Total				7	7	0.233	

Table 1: Pottery

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher

B.2.1 A largely fragmentary and undiagnostic assemblage (five fragments weighing 3.931kg) of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered from layers in Trenches 4, 5 and 6. The majority of fragments are post-medieval, and include a complete 18th or possibly early 19th century Burwell-type brick recovered from a brick pier or pad relating to a demolished agricultural building. The material recovered from context 405 is somewhat earlier, including a late medieval-early post-medieval roof tile fragment and brick. The assemblage most likely represents material that was originally used in buildings that formed part of the Mansion Farm complex.

B.2.2 If no further work is undertaken, the following catalogue acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to deposition of the archive.

Trench	Context	Cut/ Feature	CBM Description and Form	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
4	405	Layer	Irregular fragment of roof tile 103mm long, 65mm wide and 19mm thick, with a single surviving corner. Consistently pale orange-pink, hard fired smooth fabric with numerous small voids. Fine quartz temper, rare shell, moderate small voids. Mortared on lower surface.	1	0.114	Late medieval-early post-medieval
			Fragment of brick 113mm long, 53mm wide and 41mm thick, with surviving upper and single side surfaces. Lower surface and other side damaged. Dull red fabric, evenly mixed, with occasional large grog fragments. Marks on surviving surfaces indicate the brick was laid on straw or grass while drying.	1	0.225	Post-medieval
			Fragment of brick 105mm long, 74mm wide and 44mm thick, with surviving upper, base and both side surfaces. Upper surface quite concave across the width, surface has a slightly smooth almost soapy feel. Base probably originally flat. Poorly mixed relatively soft, pale	1	0.374	Late medieval-early post-medieval

Trench	Context	Cut/ Feature	CBM Description and Form	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
			pink fabric with yellow swirls and lenses. Occasional grog, quartz and calcareous material, rare voids.			
5	505	Brick pier or pad	Complete (some surface chipping) Burwell "white" brick 110 wide, 222mm long and 67mm deep, traces of mortar on all surfaces and sooting slightly blackening all surfaces, except on side which is highly concreted, possibly with soot, suggesting the brick may have been part of a hearth or chimney at some point and subsequently reused.	1	2.576	18th-early 19th century
6	603	Layer	End fragment of a Burwell-type brick, possibly a floor brick. Length 107mm, 94mm wide and 44mm thick. Both sides, upper, base and end surfaces survive, with traces of mortar on three of these. Upper surface slightly concave side to side. Exterior surfaces pale creamy yellow, pale grey and very dark grey (reduced) core, swirled and folded. Occasional grog and calcareous inclusions, moderate small voids in core.	1	0.642	18th century
Total				5	3.931	

Table 2: CBM

B.3 Metalwork

By James Fairbairn

- B.3.1 A fruit knife with folding iron blade (SF 1) recovered from context 405 in Trench 4 is of 19th century date. The sides are fashioned from convex and elongated pieces of bone secured to the blade casement by three iron rivets that are unevenly spaced. The bone handle shows vertical marks and scratches that would have been pre-depositional. The pivot point for the blade is located at 10mm from the end of the bone case.
- B.3.2 This knife would have been a personal item and would have been missed when it was lost. The knife was found within Trench 4, which based on cartographic evidence (Fig. 2) was located in the area of an orchard in the latter part of the 19th century and would presumably have been used there often.

SF 1 (405) Length: 93.5mm, Width: 22mm, Thickness: 15mm, Weight: 50g

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Zoë Ui Choileáin

C.1.1 Three fragments of bone weighing a total of 187g were found during the evaluation. All identifiable elements were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1987). Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) supplemented by use of the OA East reference collection. Preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by McKinley (Brickley and McKinley 2004, 11). Results are displayed in the table below. Two fragments of dog and two of cattle were recovered, all of which derive from a peat-rich layer (603) in Trench 6.

Context	Element	Taxon	Erosion*	Age	Weight (g)
603	Humerus	Cattle	2 (more extensive erosion)	adult	129
603	Femur	dog	1 (slight patchy erosion)	adult	35
603	Tibia	dog	1 (slight patchy erosion)	adult	23

Table 2. Animal bone (Erosion grades are a simplified version of Brickley & McKinley 2004, 14-15)

C.1.2 Due to the small size and fragmentary nature of this assemblage, no further work is required.

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brickley, M., & McKinley, J., (eds.), 2004 Guidelines To The Standard For Recording Human Remains.
IFA Paper 7 (Reading: IFA/BABAO)

Davis S.J 1987 *The Archaeology of Animals* Routledge

Schmid, E 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones* Elsevier Publishing Company

APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-280878		
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Mansion Farm, Coveney		
Start of Fieldwork	6/03/17	End of Fieldwork	10/03/17
Previous Work	None	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	COVMAN17	Planning App. No.	16/00730/FUL
HER Number	ECB 4974	Related Numbers	

Prompt	
Development Type	Rural Residential
Place in Planning Process	Pre-application

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pond	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
	Choose an item.	Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
	Choose an item.	Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) 1 Mansion Farm Buildings. 1 Main Street, Coveney, CB6 2DJ
District	East Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Coveney	
HER office	Cambridge	
Size of Study Area	1ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 48967 82299	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	CCC
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray

Project Supervisor

James Fairbairn

Project Archives
Location
ID

Physical Archive (Finds)

CCC Archaeological stores

COVMAN17

Digital Archive

OA East

COVMAN17

Paper Archive

CCC Archaeological stores

COVMAN17

Physical Contents
Present?
Digital files associated with Finds
Paperwork associated with Finds

Animal Bones

Ceramics

Environmental

Glass

Human Remains

Industrial

Leather

Metal

Stratigraphic

Survey

Textiles

Wood

Worked Bone

Worked Stone/Lithic

None

Other

Digital Media

Database

GIS

Geophysics

Images (Digital photos)

Illustrations (Figures/Plates)

Moving Image

Spreadsheets

Survey

Text

Virtual Reality

Paper Media

Aerial Photos

Context Sheets

Correspondence

Diary

Drawing

Manuscript

Map

Matrices

Microfiche

Miscellaneous

Research/Notes

Photos (negatives/prints/slides)

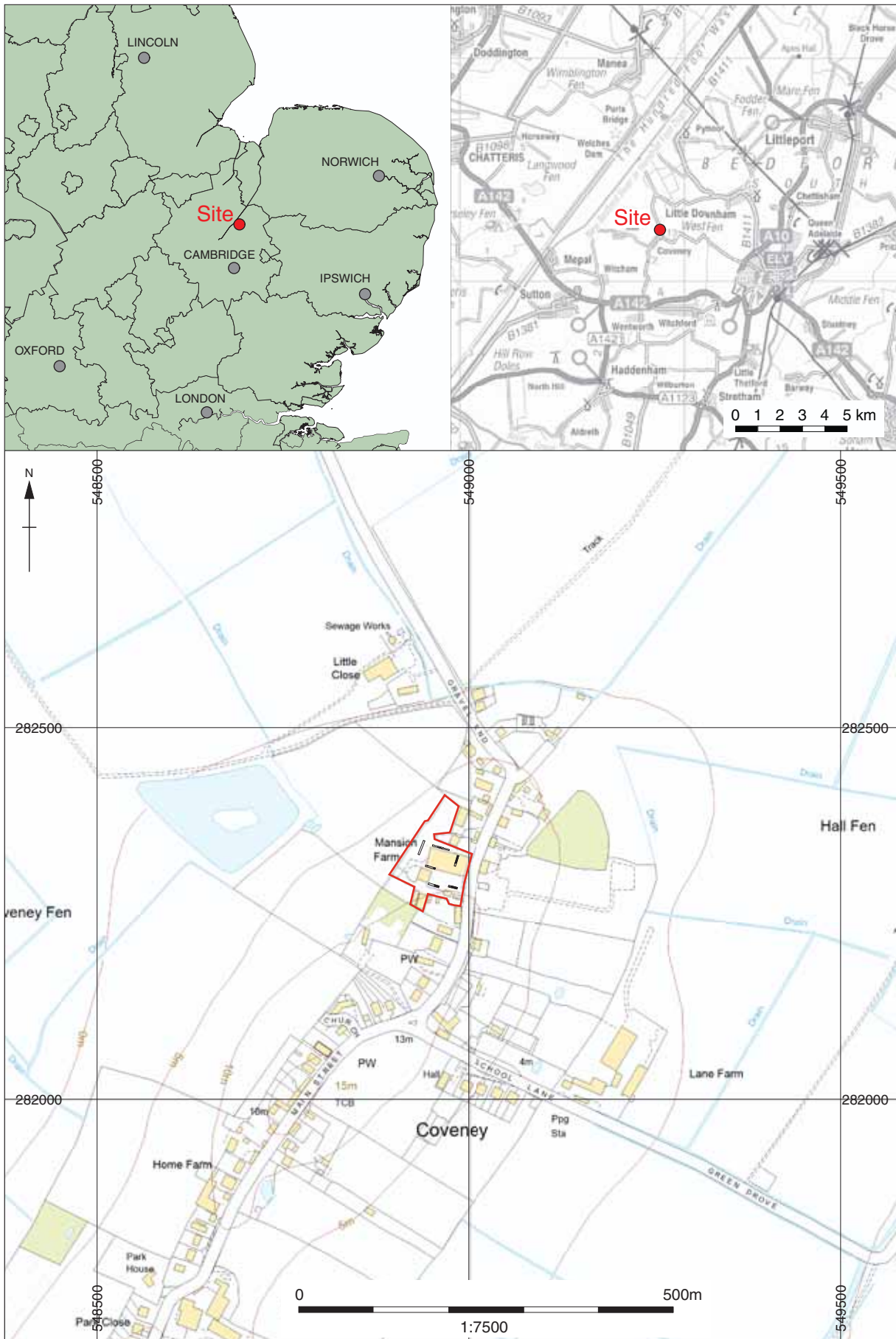
Plans

Report

Sections

Survey

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

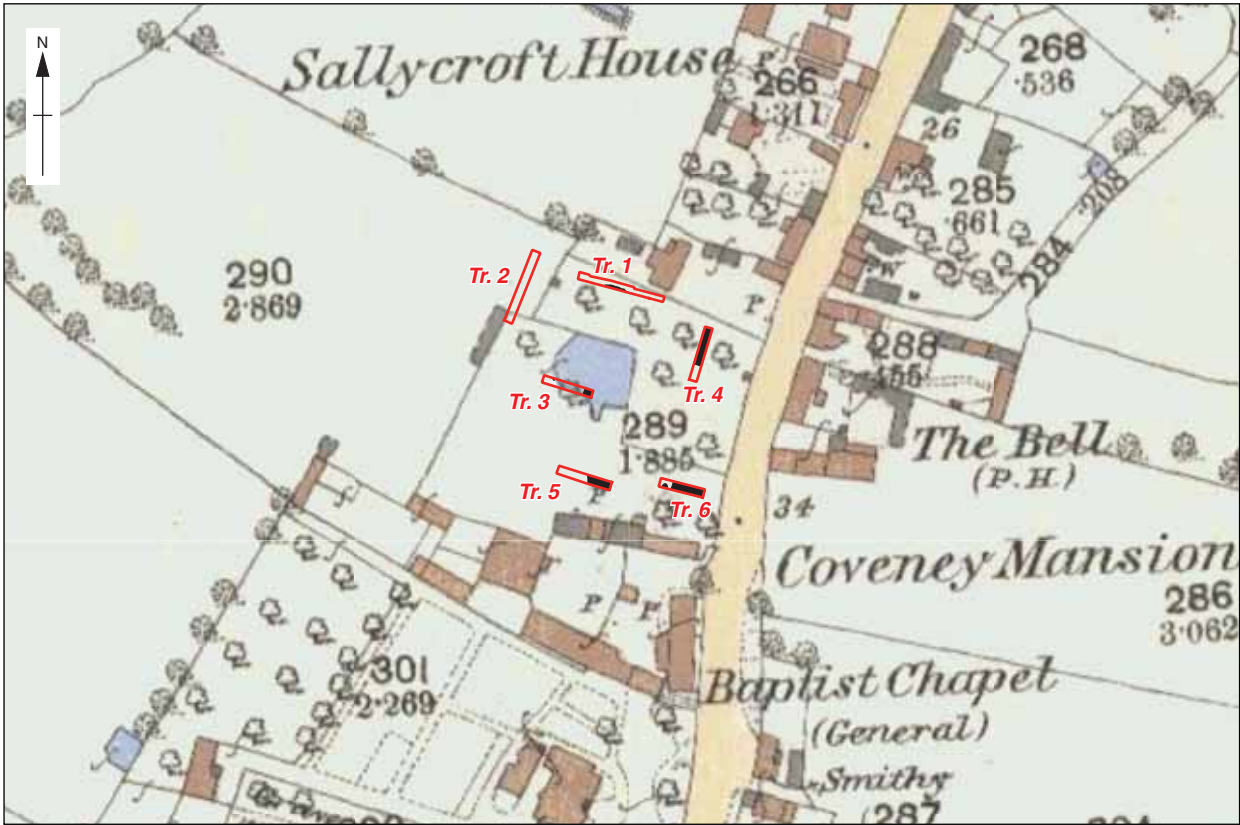


Figure 2: 1st edition OS map, 1885

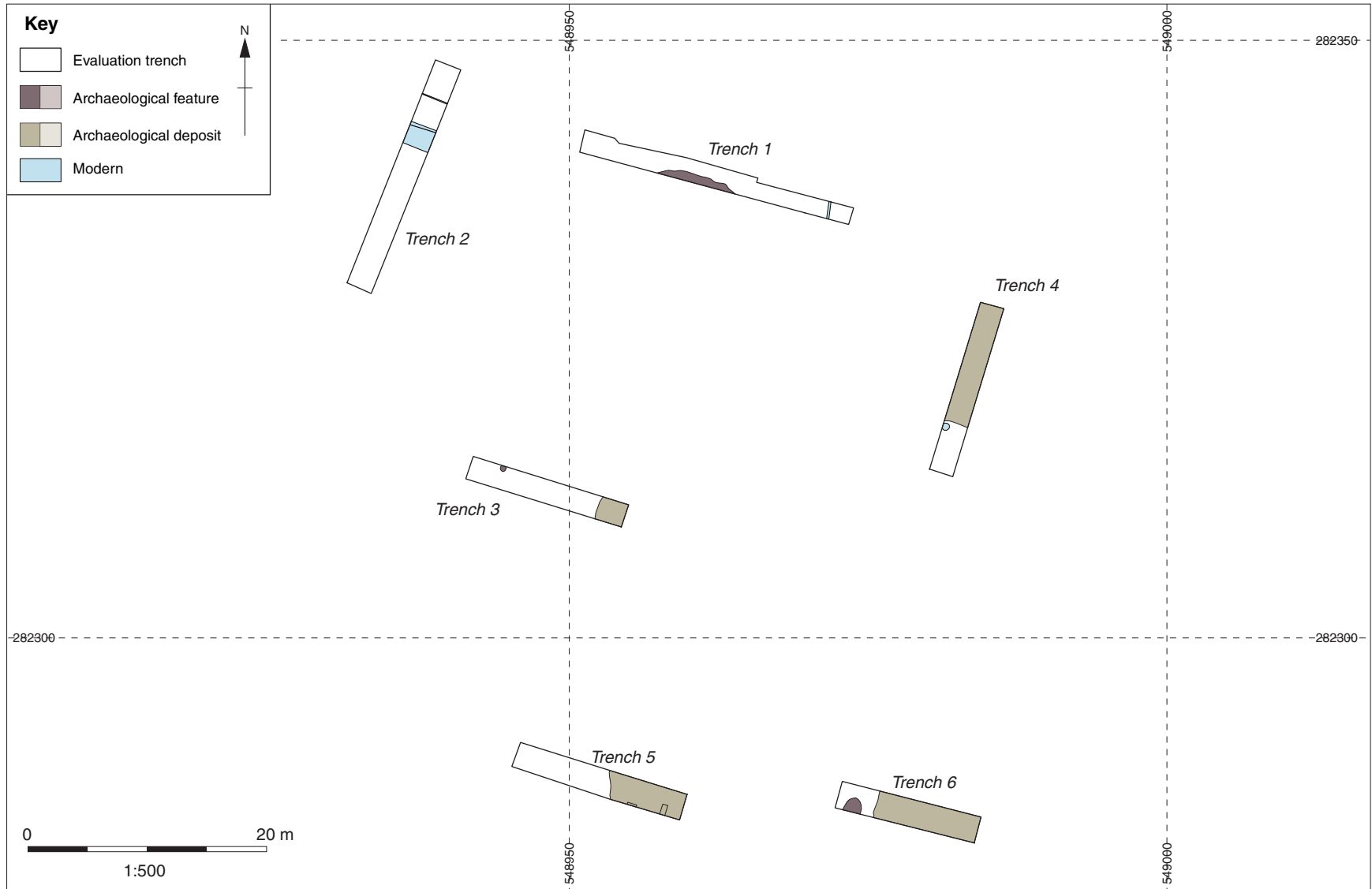


Figure 3: Trench location plan



Figure 4: Plan of Trenches 1, 2 and 3

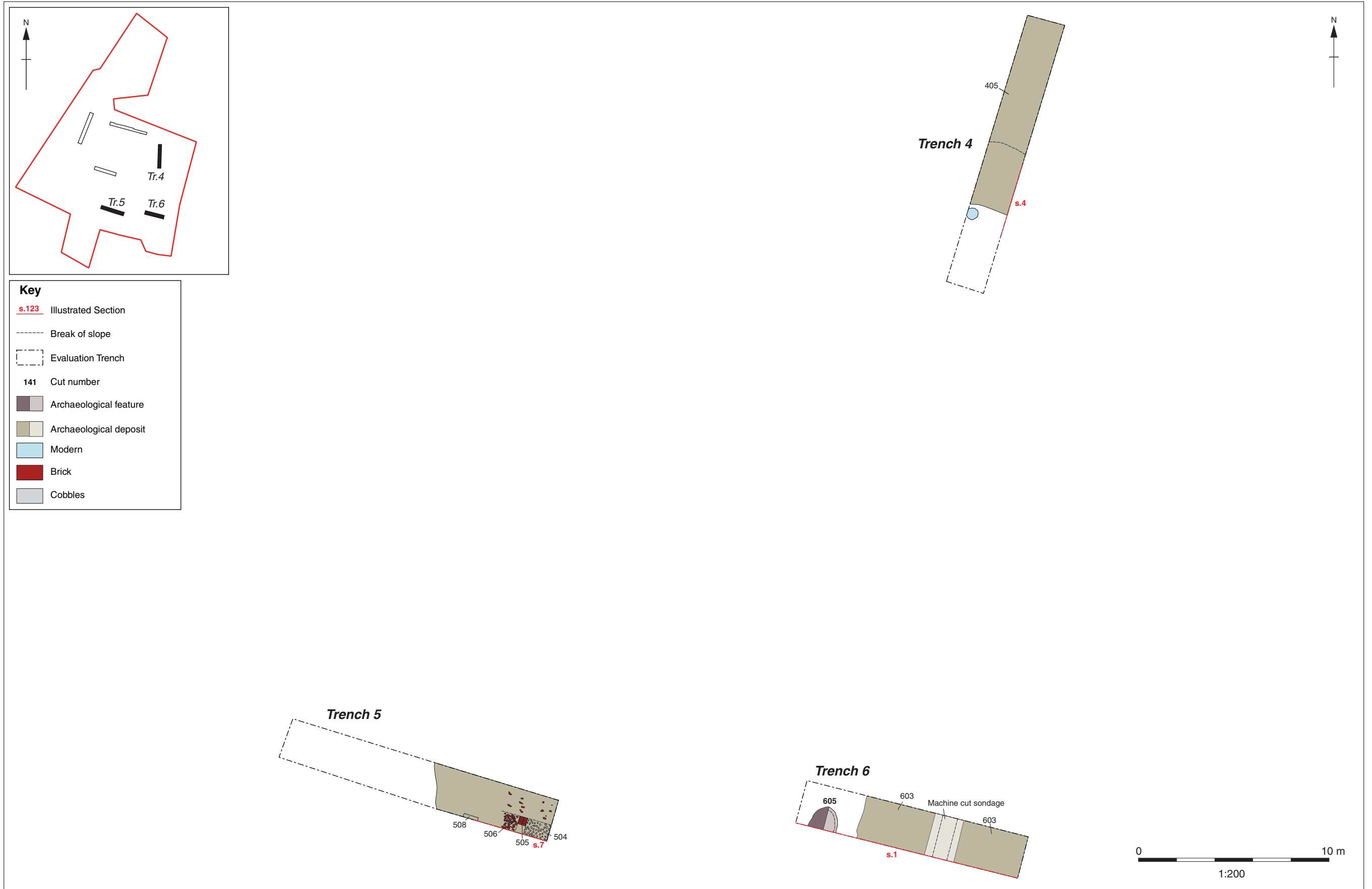


Figure 5: Plan of Trenches 4, 5 and 6

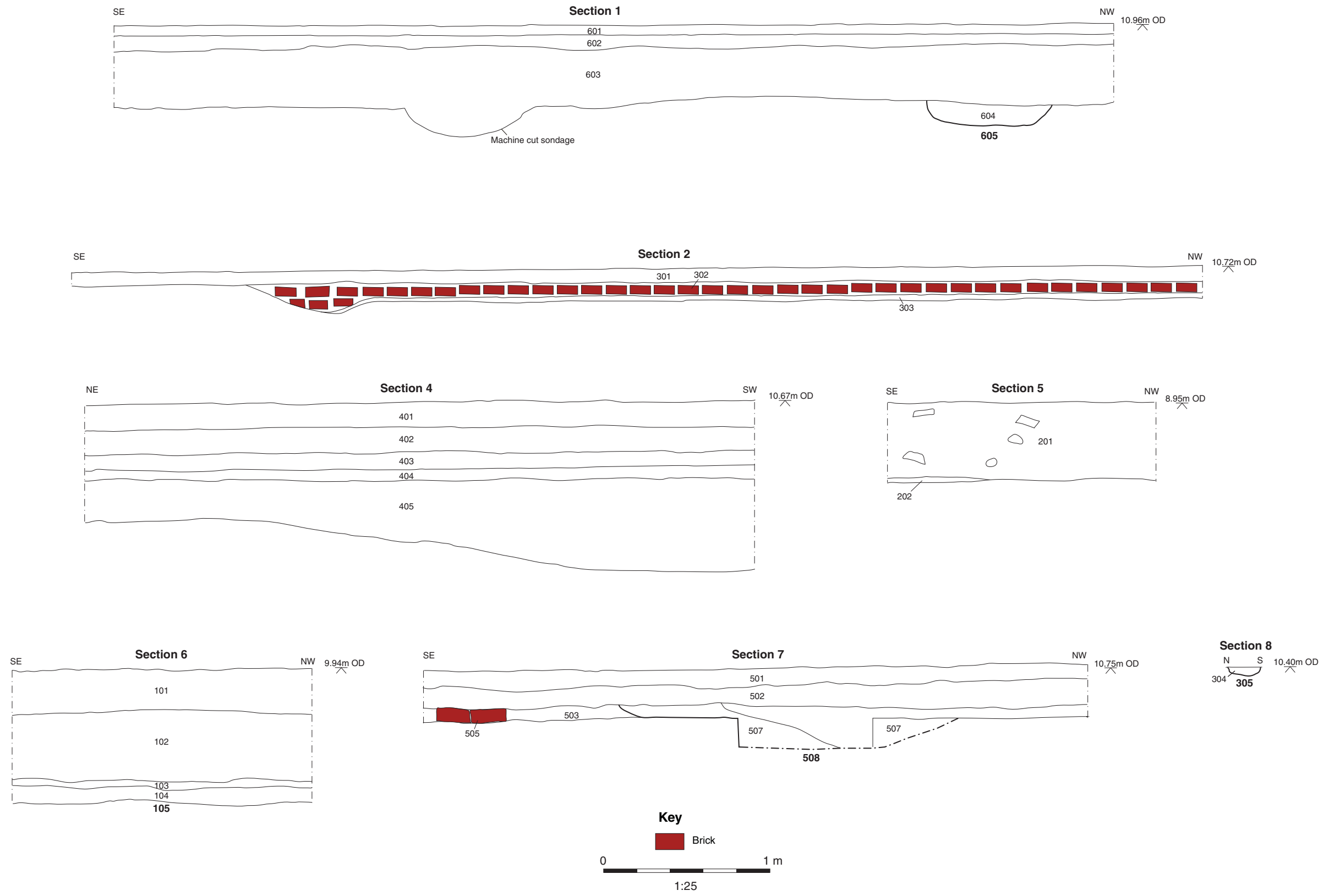


Figure 6: Sections



Plate 1: General view of Trench 1, viewed from the north-west



Plate 2: Trench 1, section above pond **105**, viewed from the north



Plate 3: Trench 2, viewed from the north



Plate 4: Trench 3, viewed from the west showing its position between barns



Plate 5: Trench 3, modern brick sub-layer (302), viewed from the south



Plate 6: Trench 3, modern pit 305, viewed from the west



Plate 7: Trench 4 showing southern edge of pond 105



Plate 8: Section of Trench 4, viewed from the east



Plate 9: Trench 5, viewed from the east



Plate 10: Trench 5, cobbled area 504 and brick foundation 505, viewed from the east



Plate 11: Trench 5, detail of brick foundation **505**, viewed from the south



Plate 12: The location of Trench 6 viewed from the north-east



Plate 13: Trench 6, viewed from the west



Plate 14: Section of Trench 6, viewed from the north



Plate 15: Fruit knife found in Trench 4



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