



The Grange, Broadway, Bourn

Archaeological Evaluation Report

June 2017

Client: R Taylor and Sons

Issue No: 1
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The Grange, Broadway, Bourn

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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With contributions from Ted Levermore BA and illustrations
by Séverine Béize BA MA

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Summary

On 30th May 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) conducted an archaeological evaluation at The Grange, Broadway, Bourn (centered TL 3369 5854). A single 14m long evaluation trench was excavated. This revealed four north-east to south-west aligned ditches, and a tree-throw. The location of the ditches corresponds to a field track boundary depicted on the Ordnance Survey first edition map of the area. One ditch yielded 47g of ceramic building material dating from between the 16th century and 18th century.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Anthony Taylor of R. Taylor and Sons for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Gemma Stewart who monitored the work and provided advice on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Dr. Matthew Brudenell. The fieldwork was directed by Adele Lord. Survey and digitizing was carried out by the author and Marcus Dylewski. Thanks is also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell, and prepared the archive under the management of Kat Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by R. Taylor and Sons to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed new agricultural grain store (TL 3369 5854).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (S/0465/17/FL) in accordance with a Brief issued by Gemma Stewart of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Stewart 2017), and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation produced by OA (Blackbourn 2017). This document outlines how OA implemented the Local Planning Authority's requirements in line with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies in the parish of Bourn, Cambridgeshire, to the east of Broadway on the western fringes of Bourn Airfield (Fig. 1; TL 3369 5854). The rectangular development plot is 370m² in area, and is situated to the east of existing farm buildings at The Grange (Fig. 2).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development has been used as arable farmland since the closure of Bourn airfield. Prior to this the area had been used as grazing for cattle, and has for a number of years been left as pasture.
- 1.2.3 The Solid Geology of the area is mapped as Woburn Sands. The Superficial Geology comprises Diamicton of the Oadby member (British Geological Survey, online, May 2017).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Blackbourn, 2017) alongside data from the County Council Historic Environment Record (CHER; Fig. 1)

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 An evaluation to the west of the proposed development area has revealed a small assemblage of flint (MCB 19280). Prehistoric settlements have been identified to the north (MCB 21979) and north-east (MCB 21978). Geophysical Survey has also identified a number of features comprising of a sub-rectangular enclosure with smaller adjoining enclosures and several linear ditches.

Iron age and Roman

- 1.3.3 A large number of features and finds have been uncovered in the vicinity dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods. Roman inhumations were recovered 550m north-east of the development area (CHER 03274) including a stone coffin. 600m south-west a number of Roman finds were recovered (MCB 15961) including a coin, metal working debris, a fragment of a statue, Roman pottery and tile.
- 1.3.4 Roman ditches were observed 600m to the north-west (MCB 15434, 15435). Extensive excavation in this area also revealed a Romano-British sub-rectangular enclosure with

internal structures (MCB 15447) yielding pottery, roof tile, animal bone and human remains. Further features dating to the 2nd to 4th centuries comprised ditches, pits and gullies containing pottery, animal bone and an iron nails (MCB 15448).

- 1.3.5 A Middle Iron Age ditched enclosure with structures (MCB 15772) was excavated 850m to north-west. The enclosure was remodelled in the Late Iron Age and the structures were replaced. Pits containing animal bone and pottery were abundant and a single kiln or oven was also constructed. Surrounding the enclosure was a field system which was reorganised in the Roman period.
- 1.3.6 A number of rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures and ditches of a probable Iron Age or Roman date have been identified 650m south of the development area (MCB 20901, 20903, 20904, 21086 21974, 21975).

Saxon and Medieval

- 1.3.7 Evidence of Saxon occupation has been uncovered in the vicinity of the development area with features identified to the north-west comprising ditches containing Saxon pottery (MCB 15434, 15435). Geophysical survey and aerial photographs have identified an area of medieval ridge and furrow alongside a possible trackway (CHER 09562) approximately 300m east of the development area.

Post-medieval and Modern

- 1.3.8 The Grange is located 180m west of the site, comprising barns, sheds and outbuildings some of which have 17th century origins (CHER 03381). Bourn Airfield is located directly to the east of the development area (MCB 15128). Constructed in 1940 it was used extensively during the second world war. A number of military camps (MCB 20974, 21306) and other associated structures (MCB 20887, 21973) surround the area.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. Establish the presence or absence of any archeological remains on the site, characterize where they are found (location, depth, and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- ii. Provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- iii. Provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- iv. Provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 One 14m by 1.6m trench was excavated, providing a c.6% sample of the 370m² proposed development area.

2.2.2 Machine Excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked JCB excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. A bucket-sampling exercise was also undertaken whereby 90 litres of spoil from each soil horizon at the trench ends was hand sorted to characterise the artefact content.

2.2.4 All archaeological features were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits

2.2.5 Site conditions were good, with bright sunshine for the majority of the duration and the occasional overcast spell.

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 archaeological deposits. The full details of the trench, with dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 Along the whole trench the natural geology of chalky clay was overlain by a mid-orangey grey silty clay subsoil (0.08-0.09m in depth) that was in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (0.28-0.26m in depth).

3.2.2 Ground conditions for the duration of the investigations were generally good and trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features where present were relatively easily identifiable against the natural underlying geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 There were a number of features identified along the length of the trench (Fig. 3)

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Plate 1) was located in the centre of the proposed development area and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench exposed five archaeological features, all of which were sealed by the subsoil.

3.4.2 Ditch 4 (Fig. 4, Section 1; Plate 2) was the northern most feature in Trench 1. The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east and had moderately sloping sides, a flat base and a sub-square terminus in plan. This feature was more than 1.5m long, 1.05m wide and 0.2m in depth. It was filled by a single deposit of dark orangey brown silty clay (5), from which no finds were recovered.

3.4.3 Ditches 10 and 12 (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 3) were located c. 2m south of ditch 4, and were also aligned north-west to south-east. Ditch 12 was the earlier of the two features, and was truncated on its northern edge by ditch 10. This surviving section of the ditch was 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep, displaying gently sloping sides. It was filled with a dark orangey brown silty clay (13), but yielded no finds.

3.4.4 Ditch 10 (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 3) truncated ditch 12. It measured 1.3m wide and 0.22m deep. The ditch had gently sloping side and a concave base, and was filled by a dark orangey brown silty clay (11). A single fragment (47g) of post-medieval ceramic building material was recovered from the upper fill of the ditch, dating from the 16th-18th century.

3.4.5 Tree throw 6 (Fig 4, Section 3; Plate 4) was located at the southern end of the trench and was truncated by ditch 8 to the south. The feature was irregular in plan, displaying moderately sloping sides and a flat but undulating base. The single fill comprised a mid brown orange silty clay (7), from which no finds were recovered.

3.4.6 Ditch 8 (Fig 4, Section 3; Plate 4) was located at the far southern end of Trench 1, and was only partially exposed. The ditch was aligned north-west to south-east and had

moderately steep sloping sides and a flat base. The exposed section was 0.61m wide and 0.24m deep and was filled with dark orangey brown silty clay (9). The ditch appeared to truncate tree-throw **6**. No finds were recovered from the ditch.

3.5 Finds summary

- 3.5.1 A single piece of ceramic building material was recovered from ditch **10**. This weighed 47g, had a sandy fabric and was highly abraded. It dates to the early post-medieval period c.16th-18th century (Levermore, pers com.).
- 3.5.2 No finds were recovered from the bucket-sampling exercise.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Archaeological features, distinguished by their mid brown and grey colours, were visible within the evaluated trench area. The topsoil and subsoil layers were clearly set apart from the natural geology, characterised by its bright orange colour and frequency of chalky inclusions. Both the archaeological features and the natural deposits were free-draining with no standing water hindering the archaeological investigations
- 4.1.2 For the reasons stated above the results of the evaluation are believed to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The aim of the investigation was to establish the character, date, and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed area of development, as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Blackbourn, 2017).
- 4.2.2 The trial trench exposed a small selection of archaeological features, comprising four parallel ditches and a tree throw. The topsoil and subsoil were both intact, ensuring that features were reasonably well preserved.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The four ditches exposed in Trench 1 (**4**, **8**, **10** and **12**) displayed similar characteristics. All were aligned north-west to south-east, and all were relatively shallow with similar orangey brown silt clay fills. Not all were contemporary, however, as ditch **10** truncated ditch **12**, the latter yielding the only find from the evaluation – a single fragment of ceramic building material dating from the 16th to 18th century.
- 4.3.2 Overall the shared alignment and close spacing of the ditches suggests that they are iterations of the same field boundary. Indeed, the location of the features corresponds to a boundary depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1886 first edition map of the area (Fig. 5). Tree throw **6** may even be part of a former hedge line along this boundary.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The site lies on land that had long been used for agricultural purposes prior to being requisitioned for the building of the airfield in 1940. Once decommissioned the surrounding land was once again sold off for agricultural purposes. The evaluation revealed a series of ditches likely to relate to a field boundary extant before the construction of the airfield.
- 4.4.2 The artefactual and environmental potential of the site is believed to be low with only one fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) recovered, and no faunal remains recovered. Given the low significance of the CBM fragments it is not recommended that it is retained and deposited as part of the project archive.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NNE-SSW |
| Trench contained 4 ditches and a tree throw. It consists of a layer of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology of chalky clay. | | | | | Length (m) | 14 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 1.6 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.35 |
| Context No. | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.27 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 2 | Layer | - | 0.08 | Subsoil | - | - |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |
| 4 | Cut | 1.05 | 0.2 | Cut of ditch 4 | - | - |
| 5 | Fill | 1.05 | 0.2 | Fill of ditch 4 | - | - |
| 6 | Cut | 0.8 | 0.2 | Cut of Tree throw 6 | - | - |
| 7 | Fill | 0.8 | 0.2 | Fill of tree throw 6 | - | - |
| 8 | Cut | 0.61 | 0.24 | Cut of ditch 8 | - | - |
| 9 | Fill | 0.61 | 0.24 | Fill of ditch 8 | - | - |
| 10 | Cut | 1.3 | 0.22 | Cut of ditch 10 | - | - |
| 11 | Fill | 1.3 | 0.22 | Fill of ditch 10 | CBM | Post medieval |
| 12 | Cut | 0.7 | 0.16 | Cut of ditch 12 | - | - |
| 13 | Fill | 0.7 | 0.16 | Fill of ditch 12 | - | - |

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blackbourn, K; 2017, Written Scheme of archaeological investigation The Grange, Broadway, Bourn. OA East (Unpublished)

Stewart, G; 2017; Design brief for archaeological evaluation, The Grange, Broadway, Bourn; Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Unpublished)

Electronic Sources:

British Geological Survey online map viewer,

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 31/05/2017)

APPENDIX C OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| OASIS Number | Oxfordar3-286382 | | |
| Project Name | The Grange, Broadway, Bourn | | |
| Start of Fieldwork | 30/05/2017 | End of Fieldwork | 30/05/2017 |
| Previous Work | No | Future Work | No |

Project Reference Codes

| | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------------|--------------|
| Site Code | BOUGRA17 | Planning App. No. | S/0465/17/FL |
| HER Number | ECB5124 | Related Numbers | |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Prompt | Direction From Local Planning Authority |
| Development Type | Rural Commercial |
| Place in Planning Process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

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 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 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 | Period | Object | Period |
|----------|------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Ditch | Post Medieval (1540 to 1901) | CBM | Post Medieval (1540 to 1901) |

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| County | Cambridgeshire | Address (including Postcode) Broadway, Bourn Cambridgeshire CB23 2TA |
| District | South Cambridgeshire | |
| Parish | Bourn | |
| HER office | Cambridgeshire | |
| Size of Study Area | 19m ² | |
| National Grid Ref | TL 3369 5854 | |

Project Originators

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Organisation | Oxford Archaeology East |
| Project Brief Originator | Gemma Stewart |
| Project Design Originator | Kathryn Blackbourn |
| Project Manager | Dr Matt Brudenell |

Project Supervisor

Adele Lord

Project Archives

Physical Archive (Finds)

Digital Archive

Paper Archive

| Location | ID |
|------------|----------|
| | |
| OA East | BOUGRA17 |
| CCC stores | ECB 5124 |

Physical Contents

Present?

Digital files associated with Finds

Paperwork associated with Finds

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 Remains | <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 type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

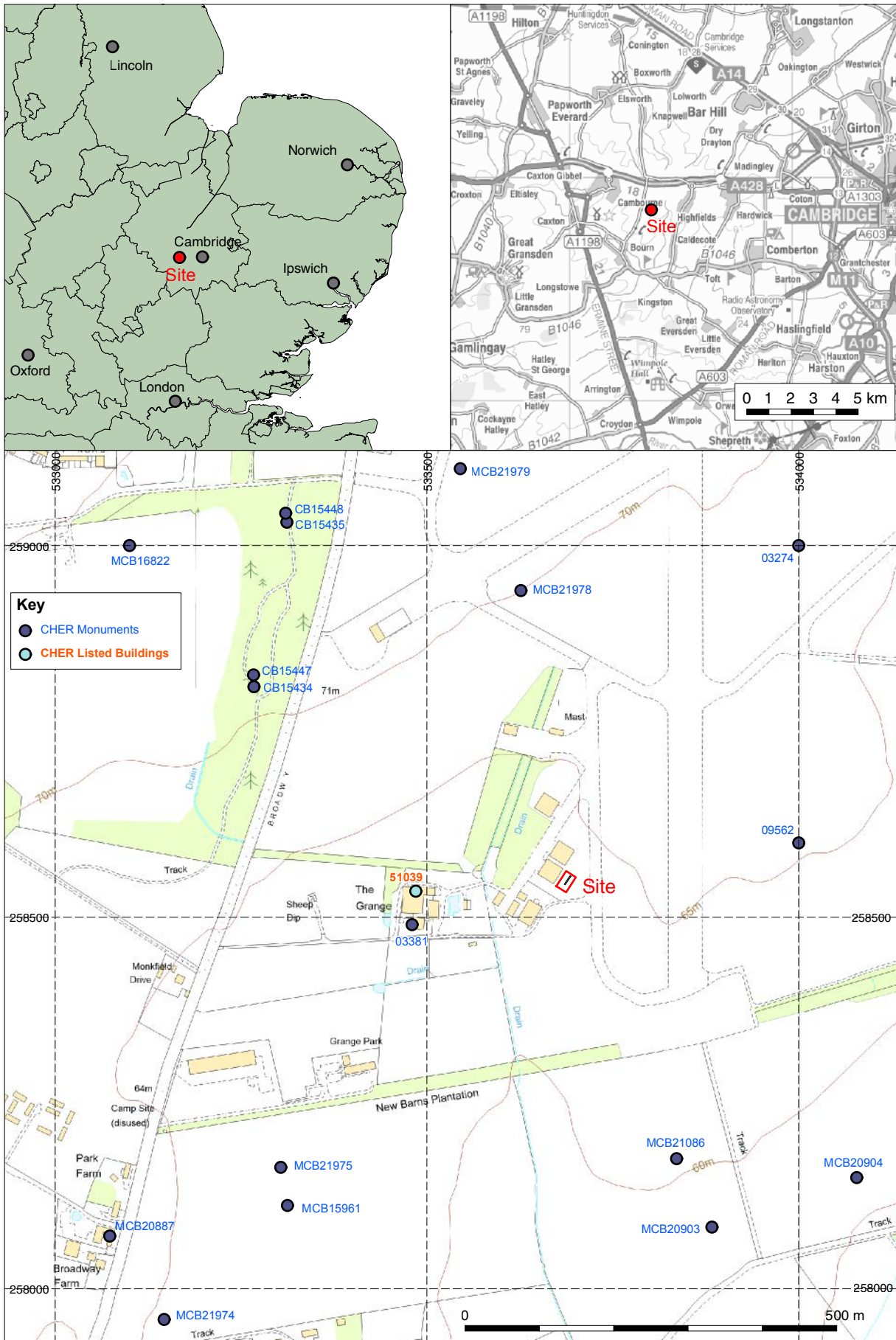
Digital Media

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Database | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GIS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Geophysics | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Images (Digital photos) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Illustrations (Figures/Plates) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Moving Image | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Spreadsheets | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Text | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Virtual Reality | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Paper Media

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aerial Photos | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Context Sheets | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Correspondence | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Diary | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drawing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Manuscript | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Map | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Matrices | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Microfiche | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Miscellaneous | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Research/Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Photos (negatives/prints/slides) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Report | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Sections | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Further Comments



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

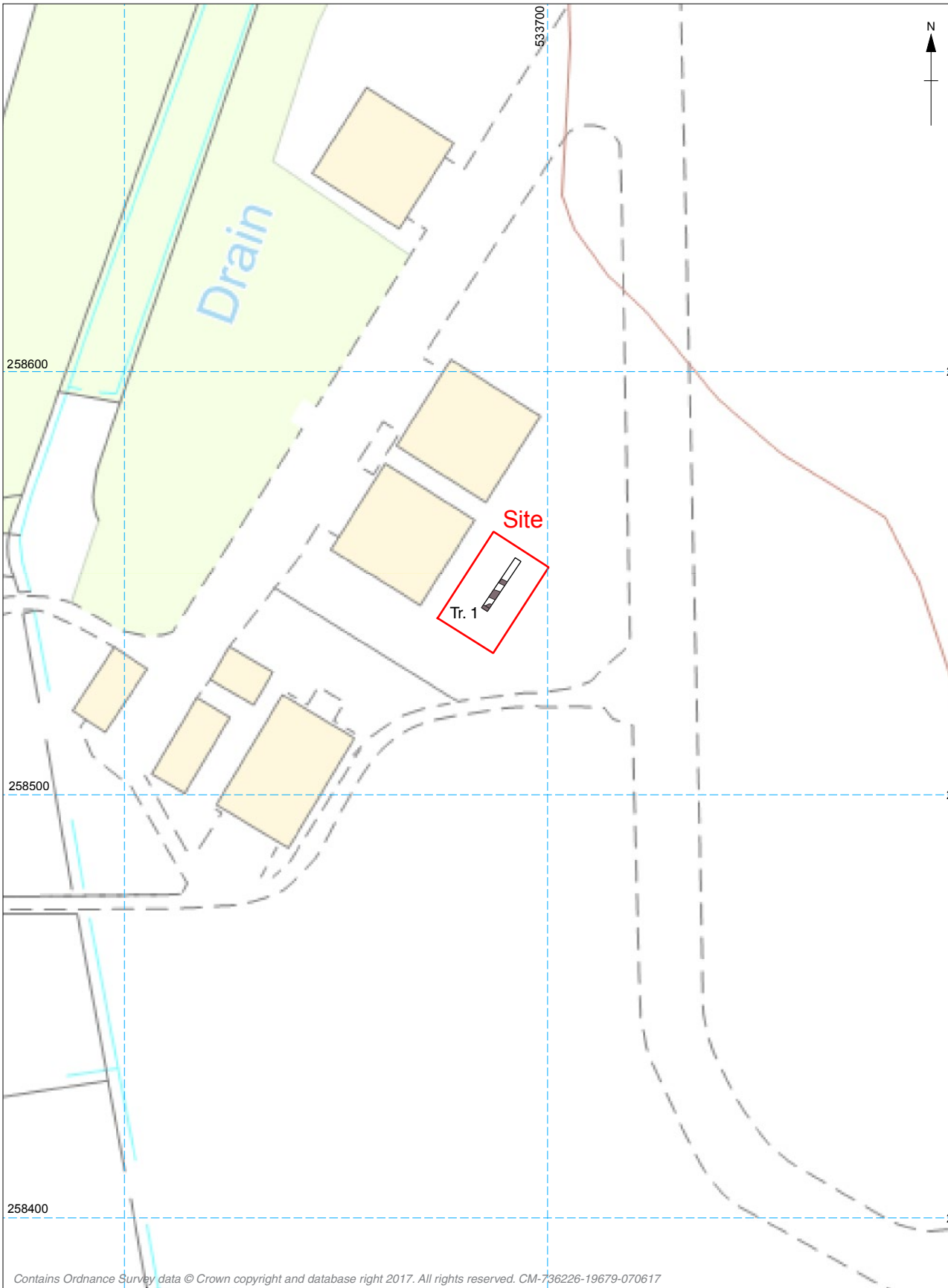


Figure 2: Detail of site showing archaeological trench (black) in development area (red)

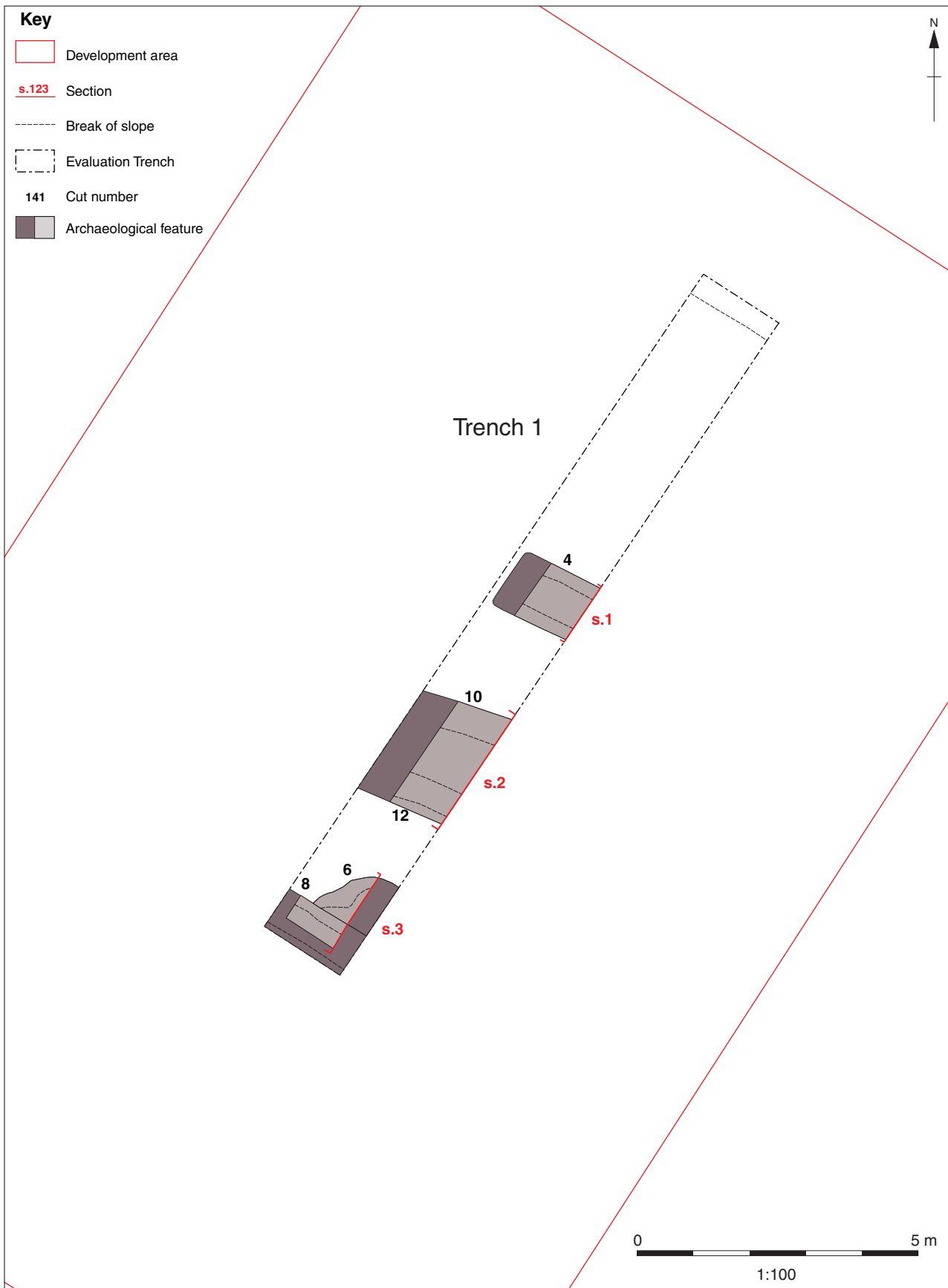


Figure 3: Trench plan showing all features

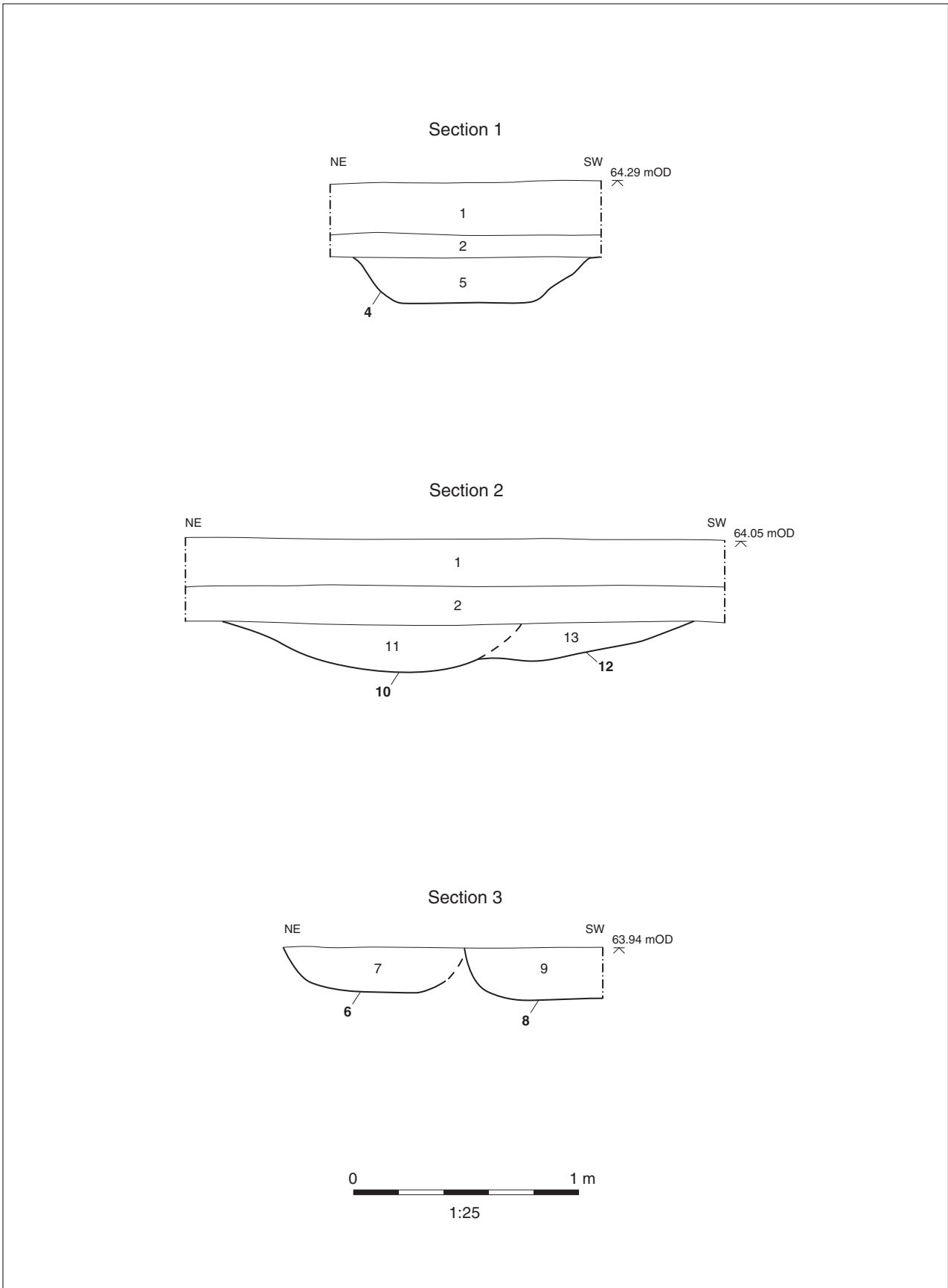


Figure 4: Selected sections

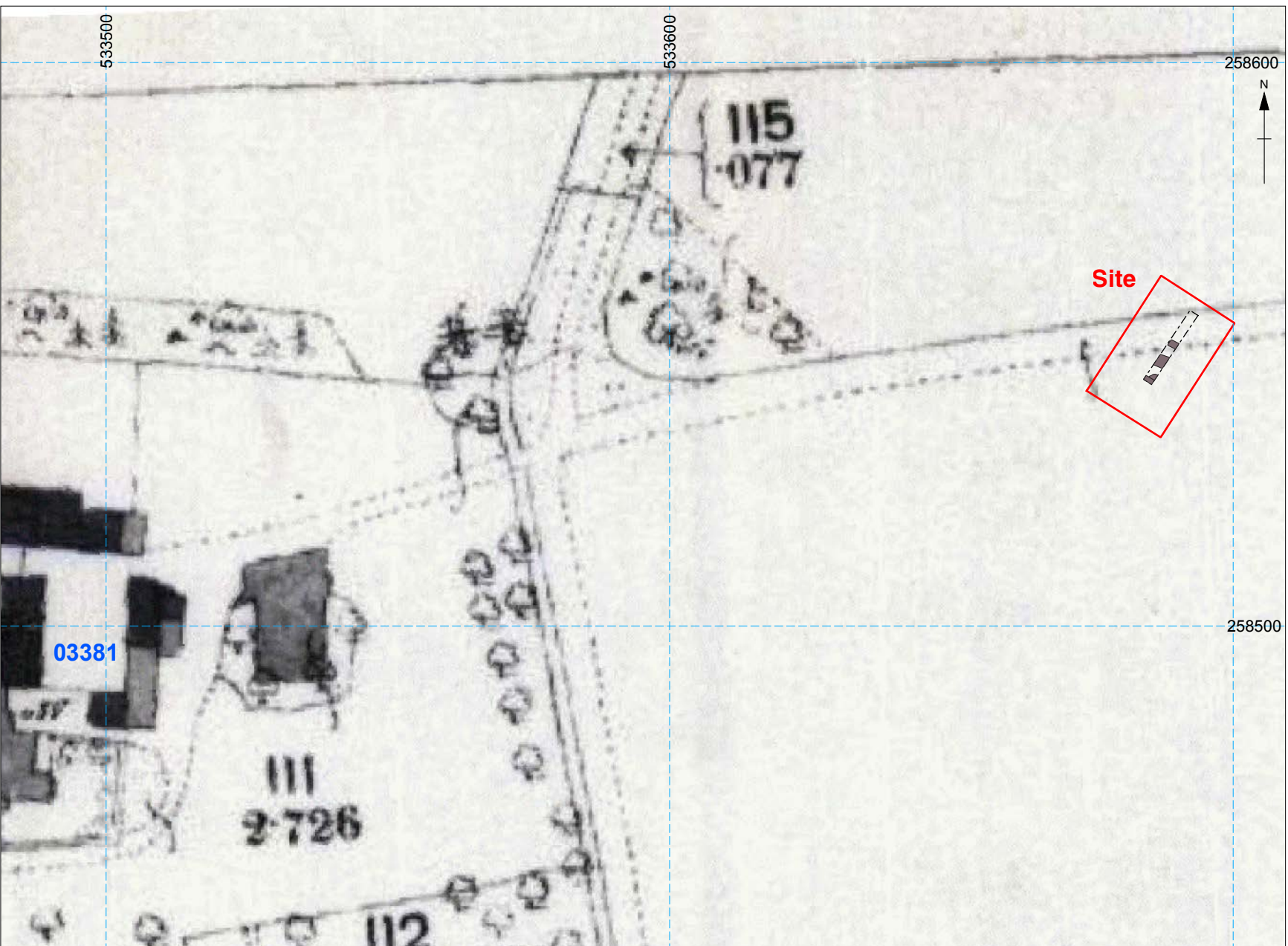


Figure 5: Trench location in relation to the Ordnance Survey first edition map of 1886.



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from the North East



Plate 2: Ditch 4, Trench 1, view from North West



Plate 3: Ditch **10** and ditch **12**, Trench 1, view from North West



Plate 4: Ditch **8** and Tree throw **6**, Trench 1, view from North West



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