

Field 15
South of Cranford Road
Land East of Kettering



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



February 2014

Client: CgMs Consulting

OA East Report No: 1595

OASIS No: oxfordar3-172517

NGR: SP 8981 7655

Field 15, South of Canford Road, Land East of Kettering

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: February 2014

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Site Name: Field 15, South of Cranford Road, Land East of Kettering
HER Event No:
Date of Works: February 2014
Client Name: CgMs Consulting
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Date: February 2014
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Summary

Between 19th and 21st February 2014, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an evaluation on land off Cranford Road, Kettering, Northamptonshire. This was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a housing development and associated services, which is part of the larger East Kettering Development.

The evaluation revealed a very shallow ditch, possibly of Roman date, along with a second undated ditch. In addition, a post-medieval pit (possibly a quarry), three tree throws and several furrows, evidencing medieval ploughing, were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land off Cranford Road (Field 15), East Kettering (SP 8981 7655, Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This evaluation is part of a larger scheme, covering a total area of c.350ha. The current site (designated Field 15) is the final field to be evaluated within 'Phase A', comprising the western side of the proposed development area (PDA). The rest of Phase A was evaluated in 2012 (Gilmour 2012), with an open area excavation conducted on part of this in 2013 (Gilmour 2013). A geophysical survey had previously been conducted (Butler 2011) and a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential had also been carried out (Chadwick and Dicks 2005).
- 1.1.3 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Lesley-Ann Mather of Northamptonshire County Council, supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting.
- 1.1.4 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.5 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 The underlying geology of the site is Jurassic limestone, with Whitby mudstones overlying this in places. Glacial till deposits have been deposited on top of these in some areas (Chadwick and Dicks 2005).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full archaeological background has previously been presented in a desk based assessment of the site (Chadwick and Dicks 2005) and is not repeated here.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank CgMs Consulting who commissioned the work and particularly Paul Chadwick. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and directed by the author, with the assistance of Nick Cox and Adele Lord. The survey was carried out by Dave Brown. The mechanical excavators were supplied by Anthill plant hire.
- 1.4.2 The co-operation and assistance of landowner and graziers is also acknowledged.

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.
- 2.1.2 In particular this was to be achieved by assessing the results of the geophysical survey (Butler 2011) and aerial photographic survey, which were previously carried out on the site, by testing both known features and blank areas.
- 2.1.3 In addition, the impact of medieval ploughing was to be assessed and the potential for significant environmental deposits was to be investigated.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of 11 trenches, each 50m long was excavated across the field.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 20 ton tracked 360° excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Lecia 1200 GPS, with Smartnet.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were generally good, although surface water did hamper excavation in the eastern part of the field.
- 2.2.7 No features or deposits that were suitable for environmental sampling were present.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results are presented by trench, with detailed trench descriptions given in Appendix A and a context inventory is given in Appendix B.

3.2 Trench 234 and 235

- 3.2.1 No archaeological features were present in Trenches 234 or 235 and no finds were recovered from them.

3.3 Trench 236

- 3.3.1 A single ditch (**2004**) was recorded on a north-east to south-west alignment within Trench 236. This ditch was very shallow, with a depth of 0.03m. It was 0.80m wide, with gently sloping sides and flat base. A single deposit (**2005**) filled this feature, comprising a mid greyish brown, silty clay. A single sherd (47g) of mid 2nd century AD pottery was recovered from this fill.
- 3.3.2 A single furrow passed through the trench on an east to west orientation, this was not excavated.
- 3.3.3 A large modern feature was also noted towards the southern end of the trench. This was still visible as a depression in the surface of the grass field and was also shown clearly on the geophysical survey of this field (Butler 2011). Fragments of clinker, coal, iron and brick were present on the surface of the feature.

3.4 Trench 237

- 3.4.1 Ditch **2002** crossed Trench 237 on an east to west orientation. It was 0.68m wide and 0.25m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from the single deposit, a mid greyish brown, silty clay, which filled this feature (**2003**).
- 3.4.2 Feature **2001** almost certainly represents a tree throw, it was located at the eastern end of the trench and continued outside of it to the north and east. Feature **2001** was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. It was up to 0.13m deep and had a diameter greater than 0.50m. The deposit which filled this feature (**2000**) was a mid reddish brown, silty clay.
- 3.4.3 A single furrow, on an east-south-east to west-north-west orientation, was recorded crossing this trench, which was not excavated.
- 3.4.4 One sherd (8g) of pottery, dating from between 1100 and 1400AD, was retrieved from the subsoil of this trench during machining.

3.5 Trench 238

- 3.5.1 A single furrow (**2008**), on an east to west orientation, crossed Trench 238. It was 1.22m wide and 0.10m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Deposit **2009** filled this feature; a mid reddish brown, silty clay, which contained no finds.

3.6 Trench 239

- 3.6.1 Tree throw **2007** was the only feature recorded within Trench 239. It was sub-circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Feature **2007** was 1.20m long and

0.90m wide, with a depth of 0.28m. It was filled by a single deposit (2006), which was a mid brownish red, clayey silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.7 Trenches 240, 241 and 242

3.7.1 None of these trenches contained any archaeological features and no finds were recovered from them.

3.8 Trench 243

3.8.1 A single large pit (**2012**) was excavated within Trench 143. This pit was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum visible diameter of 2.20m and depth of 0.80m. It had moderately sloping sides, with a concave base and was filled by two deposits. The basal fill (2013) was a mid yellowish brown, silty clay, which contained nine sherds (39g) of pottery, dating from between 1450 and 1550 AD, along with a small quantity of animal bone. The upper fill (2014) was a mid reddish brown, silty clay. A total of five sherds (51g) of pottery was recovered from this upper fill. This pottery was of mixed medieval and post-medieval date, with the largest and least abraded fragment dating to between 1550 and 1700AD.

3.9 Trench 244

3.9.1 A single probable tree throw (**2010**) was present within Trench 244. This feature was sub-circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled by deposit 201, which was a mid reddish brown, silty clay. Feature **2010** had a diameter of 0.90m and was 0.22m deep.

3.10 Finds Summary

3.10.1 The small finds assemblage for the site is summarised below, with a report presented in Appendix C.

Pottery

3.10.2 Sixteen sherds of pottery, weighing 0.145kg, were recovered from the evaluation. The assemblage spans the early-mid 2nd century AD to the beginning of the 18th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.009kg.

Ceramic building material and fired clay

3.10.3 The excavation generated only a small assemblage of ceramic building material (0.089kg) recovered from quarry pit **2012**, in Trench 243.

3.11 Environmental Summary

3.11.1 The only ecofacts recovered from the evaluation comprise two fragments of animal bone. These were both recovered from context 2013 and are fragments of cervical vertebrae from a sheep or goat (Chris Faine pers. comm).

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Possible Roman ditch

4.1.1 The very shallow ditch **2004**, excavated in Trench 236, contained a small quantity of Roman pottery. This ditch possibly represents part of a heavily truncated Roman field boundary. Roman activity has been identified in the wider area, for example c.700m to the north-east, in Areas 7 and 8 (Gilmour 2012).

4.2 Post-medieval pit

4.2.1 The large pit (**2012**), identified in trench 243, contained a mixture of medieval and post-medieval material. Given how abraded the medieval material is, it is almost certainly residual. The function of this pit is uncertain, although it may represent a quarry. Similar pits, dug in similar geology were encountered in Field 18 during the earlier evaluation (Gilmour 2012, 21) and were also interpreted as quarry pits. However, the stone which occurs here is weathered and only occurs in fragments up to 250mm across and would be of limited use.

4.3 Ridge and furrow cultivation

4.3.1 In common with the results of the evaluation of surrounding fields (Gilmour 2012) and as indicated by the geophysical survey (Butler 2011), traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were present in some of the trenches. The furrows were all aligned almost east to west, parallel with Cranford Road and following the alignment of the current field boundaries.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 This evaluation has shown that very little significant archaeologically-visible activity took place within this field.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Field No.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	Max. Subsoil Depth (m)	Geology
234	15	0.30	0.14	White silty clay
235	15	0.29	0.25	White silty clay
336	15	0.20	0.20	Orange clay
237	15	0.31	0.13	Orange clay, with grey clay patches
238	15	0.25	0.24	Orange clay
239	15	0.32	0.18	Orange clay
240	15	0.30	0.23	Orange clay, with limestone patches
241	15	0.20	0.28	Weathered cornbrash in orange clay
242	15	0.22	0.20	Weathered cornbrash in orange clay
243	15	0.20	0.14	Weathered cornbrash in orange clay
244	15	0.23	0.21	Weathered cornbrash in orange clay

APPENDIX B. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Category	Trench	Field	Area	Feature Type
2000	2001	fill	237	15	-	Tree throw
2001	2001	cut	237	15	-	Tree throw
2002	2003	fill	237	15	-	ditch
2003	2003	cut	237	15	-	ditch
2004	2004	cut	236	15	-	ditch
2005	2004	fill	236	15	-	Ditch
2006	2007	fill	239	15	-	Tree throw
2007	2007	cut	239	15	-	Tree throw
2008	2008	cut	238	15	-	Furrow
2009	2008	fill	238	15	-	Furrow
2010	2010	cut	244	15	-	Tree throw
2011	2010	fill	244	15	-	Tree throw
2012	2012	cut	243	15	-	Pit
2013	2012	fill	243	15	-	Pit
2014	2012	fill	243	15	-	Pit
2015		- Finds unit	237	15	-	subsoil

APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Pottery

by Carole Fletcher, Roman Pottery Identified by Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

- C.1.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 16 sherds, weighing 0.145kg. The assemblage spans the early-mid 2nd century AD to the beginning of the 18th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.009kg.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- C.1.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types using where possible the Northamptonshire fabric codes (Blinkhorn unpublished). All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.
- C.1.4 Ditch **2004** in Trench 236 produced an abraded and sooted sherd from a Roman (early-mid 2nd century AD) Sandy Oxidised ware jar, no other pottery was recovered from this trench.
- C.1.5 From the subsoil (context 2015) in Trench 237 a single abraded sherd was recovered and tentatively identified as Shelly Coarseware dating from the 12th-end of the 14th century.
- C.1.6 The quarry pit **2012** produced the largest number of sherds recovered from the evaluation (14 sherds, weighing 0.090kg). The pottery recovered includes two abraded sherds of St Neots ware and unabraded sherds of Late Medieval Oxidised Sandy ware alongside an unabraded rim sherd from a Midland Blackware jar. The date for the quarry fills is mid 16th century or later.
- C.1.7 The assemblage is domestic in nature, indicating low levels of pottery deposition from the mid-2nd century onwards. The Late Saxon and medieval pottery represents rubbish deposition or manuring relating to occupation in the vicinity of the site. The later medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from the quarry represents rubbish deposition, most likely related to the deliberate infilling of the feature.

Context	Fabric Code	Fabric Name	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Date Range
2005		Sandy Oxidised ware	Jar-base sherd	1	0.047	early-mid 2nd century AD
2013	401	Late Medieval Oxidised Sandy ware	Jar-body sherd	9	0.039	1450-1550
2014	411	Midland Blackware	Jar-rim	1	0.025	1550-1700
			Body sherd	1	0.003	
	401	Late Medieval Oxidised Sandy ware	Body sherd	1	0.003	1450-1550
	200	St Neots ware	Body sherd	2	0.020	1000-1200
2015	330	Shelly coarseware	Body sherd	1	0.008	1100-1400
Total				16	0.145	

Table 1: The pottery assemblage

C.2 Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

by Carole Fletcher

C.2.1 The excavation generated a small assemblage of ceramic building material (0.089kg) recovered from quarry pit **2012**, in Trench 243. The abraded fragment of tile is a quartz-tempered dull red fabric with a mid grey core, approximately 13mm thick (no other dimensions are measurable), and is likely to be medieval. The remaining assemblage consists of a fragment of brick or tile not closely datable but most likely post-medieval, and an undiagnostic fragment of ceramic building material which may have come from a brick but is not closely datable.

Context	Form	No. Fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
2014	Roof tile	1	0.009	Medieval
	Brick or tile	1	0.031	Post-medieval
	Undiagnostic	1	0.049	Not closely datable
Total		3	0.089	

Table 2: Ceramic Building Material and Fired Clay

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Butler, A. 2011: *Archaeological Geophysical Survey on Land East of Kettering 2010-2011*. Northamptonshire Archaeology report 11/08.

Chadwick, P and Dicks, S. 2005: *Land East of Kettering, Northamptonshire; Cultural Heritage Desk based Assessment*. CgMs unpublished report.

Gilmour, N. 2012: *Land East of Kettering, Phase A*. Oxford Archaeology East report no. 1048

Gilmour, N. 2013. *Iron Age Activity on Land East of Kettering, plots R7 and R8*. Oxford Archaeology East report no. 1530.

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-172517			
Project Name	Field 15, land east of Kettering, archaeological evaluation			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	19-02-2014	Finish	21-02-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes		Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNNEKE14	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Housing Estate

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 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 checked="" 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
pit	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Roman 43 to 410
furrow	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
	Select period...	pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	Northamptonshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Kettering	land off Canford road Kettering Northamptonshire	
Parish	Kettering		
HER	Northamptonshire		
Study Area	10.9ha	National Grid Reference	SP 8981 7655

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Lesly -Anne Mather
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Northamptonshire county store	OA East office, Bar Hill	Northamptonshire County store
XNNEKE12	XNNEKE12	XNNEKE12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" 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 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:

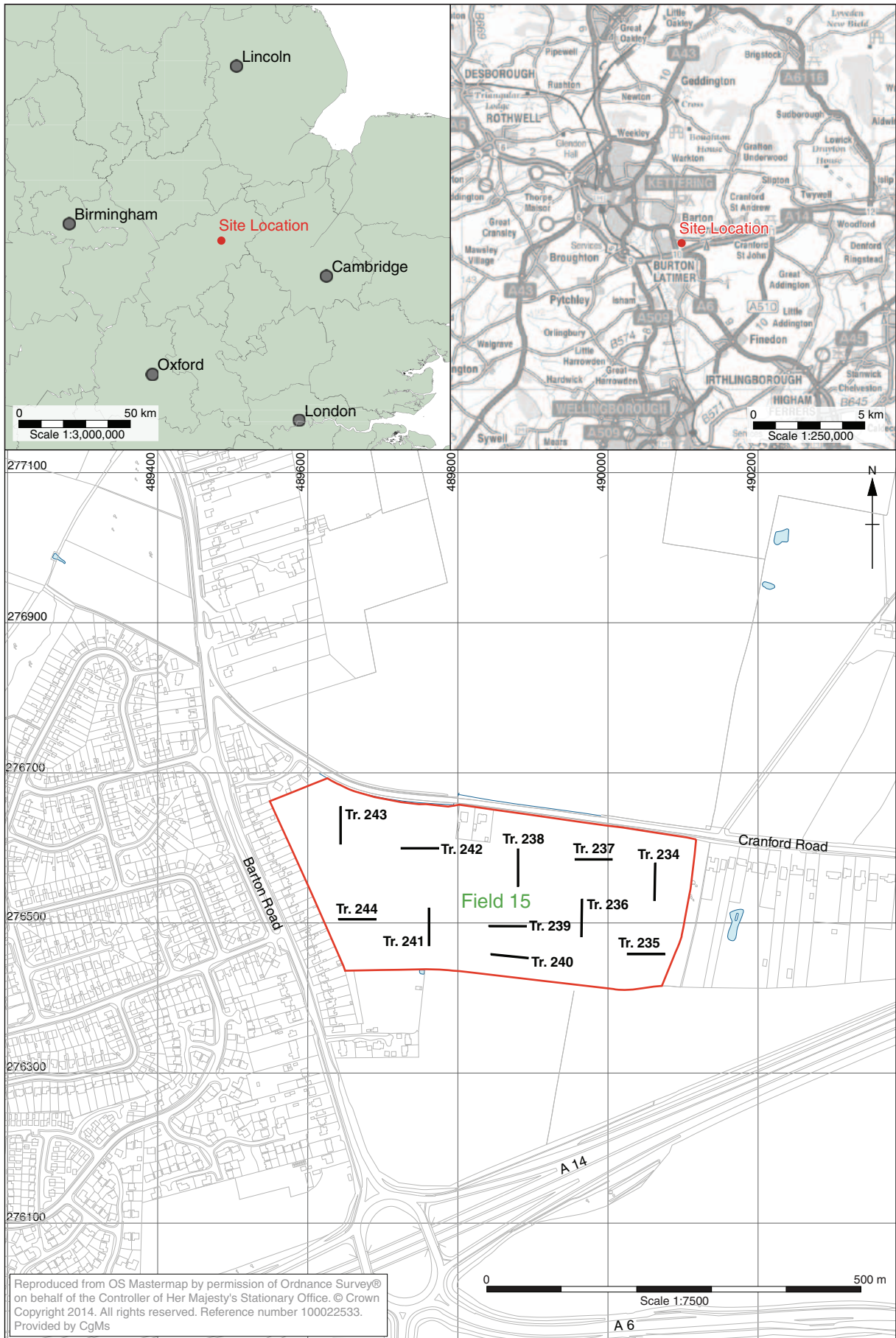


Figure 1: Site location map

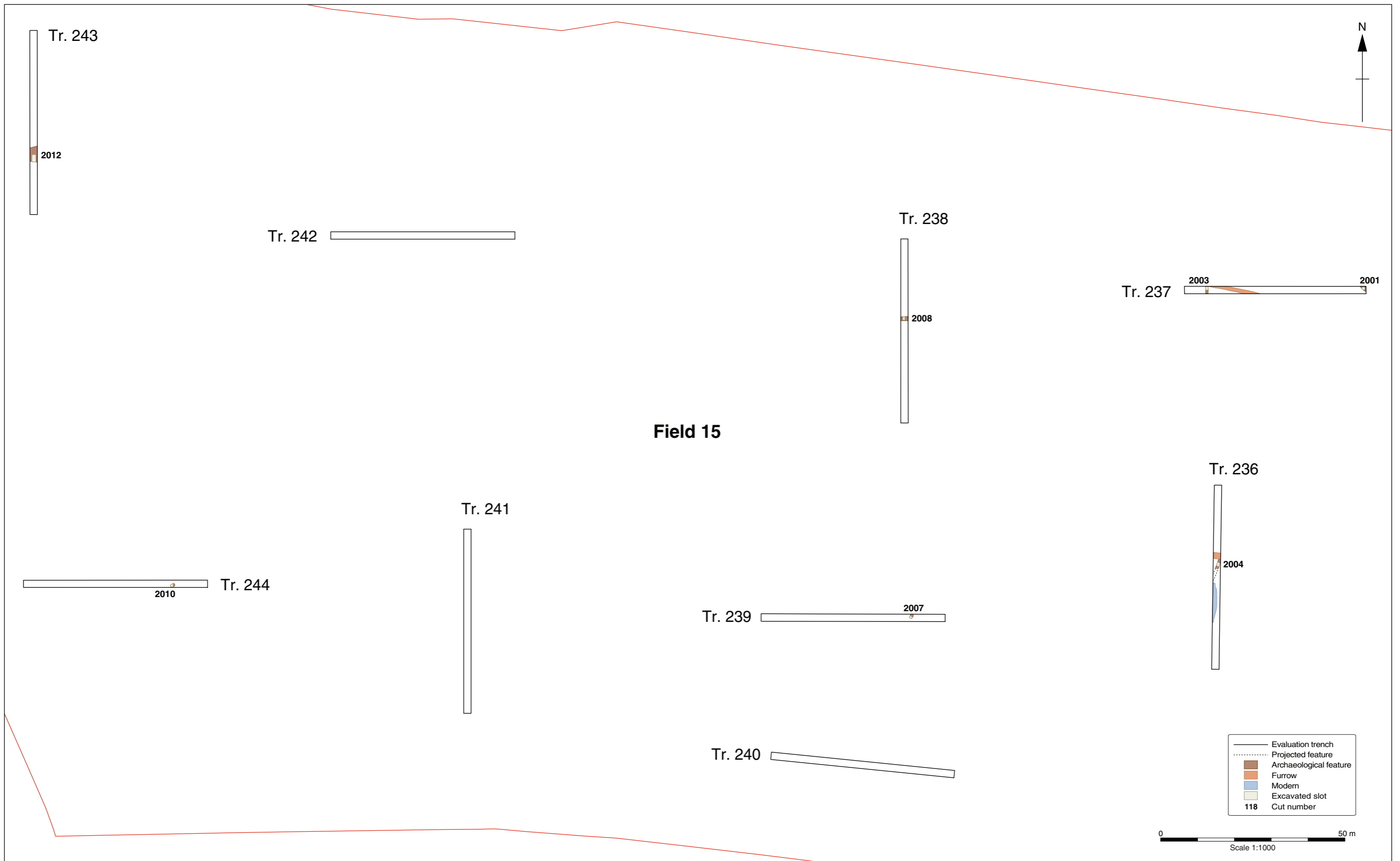


Figure 2: Trench plan showing excavated features

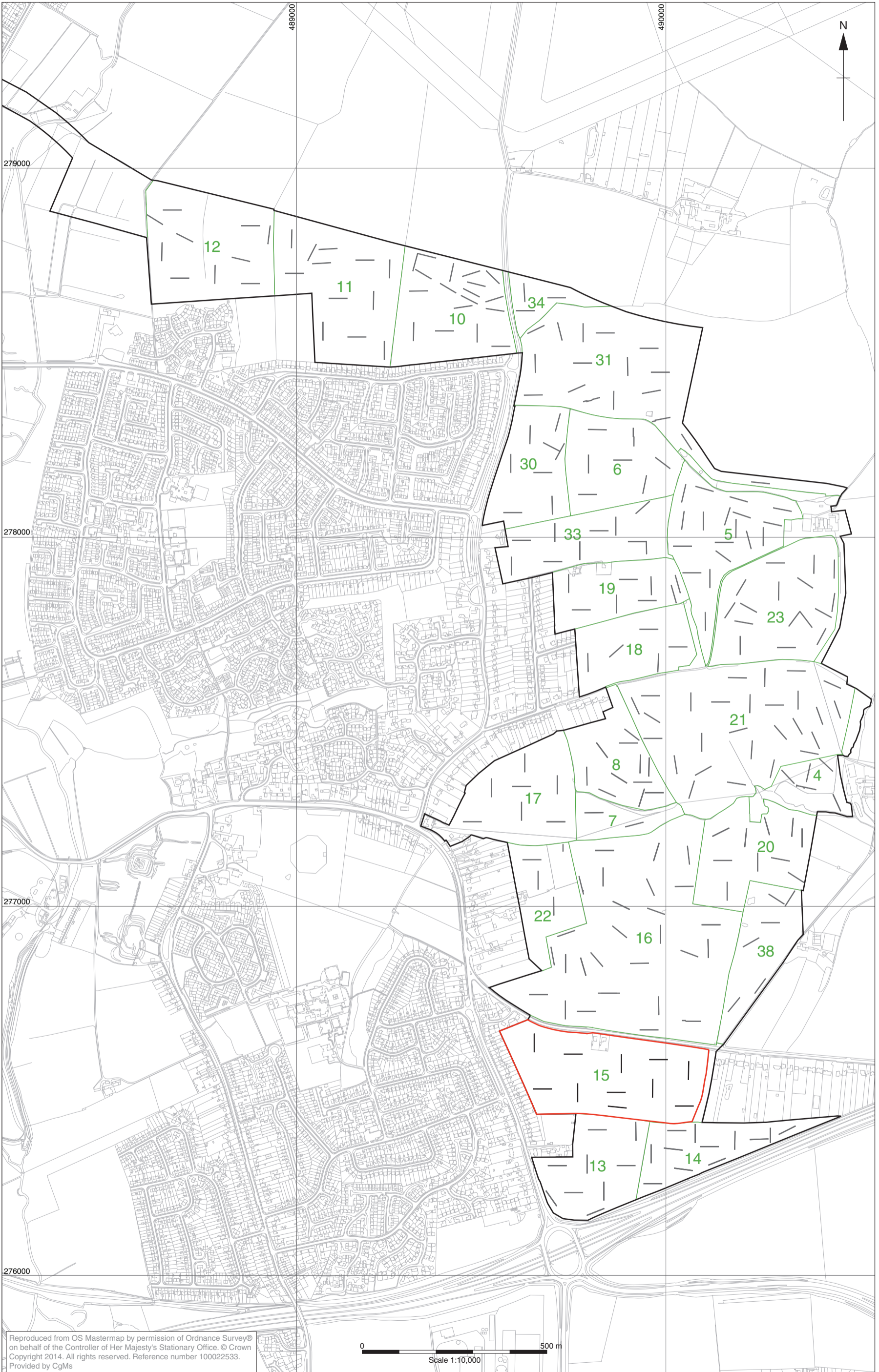


Figure 3: Field 15 in relation to the rest of the East Kettering evaluation



Plate 1: Field 15 from the north-east



Plate 2: Trench 243 from the South



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