Land off Lower Road, Milton Malsor, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Prepared by:	Ed Cole (Fieldwork Supervisor)
Checked by:	Pat Moan (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by:	Lawrence Billington (PX Project Officer)
Approved for Issue by:	Liz Popescu (Head of Post-excavation and Publication)
Signature:	

OA South
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East
15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SQ

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD
t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com
Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

Director and Chief Executive
Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
Private Limited Company, No: 1618597
Registered Charity, No: 285627
Registered Office: Oxford Archaeology Ltd
Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Land off Lower Road, Milton Malsor, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Ed Cole BSc PCIfA

With contributions from Martha Craven BA and Pat Moan BA ACIfA, and illustrations by Sara Alberigi

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Summary

Between the 1st and 7th of September 2020, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) undertook a trial trench evaluation on an approximately 4ha parcel of land east of Lower Road, Milton Malsor, Northamptonshire. This work was undertaken to aid in identifying the preservation and extent of any non-designated heritage assets within an area proposed for residential development, and followed on from an earlier programme of geophysical survey.

Archaeological features were present in 10 of the 15 trenches excavated across the site, but most of these were furrows, previously identified during the geophysical survey and forming part part of the medieval ridge and furrow field system on the outskirts of the historic core of Milton Malsor. These furrows were identified on two different alignments and followed the topography of the field.

Two of the trenches revealed gullies which, although not associated with any finds or dating evidence, are thought to possibly represent elements of a field system pre-dating the ridge and furrow.

The results of the evaluation suggest that very little human activity took place within the development area prior to the medieval period, at which time it formed part of an open field system.

Acknowledgements

OA East would like to thank Hollins Strategic Land for commissioning this project, and to Liz Mordue who monitored the work on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council.

The project was managed for OA East by Pat Moan. The fieldwork was directed by the author, who was supported by Rose Britton and Edward Worsley. Survey and digitising was carried out by Thomas Houghton and figures prepared by Sara Alberigi. Thanks are also due to David Beecroft Ltd. for providing the machine excavator and to the OA East environmental team for processing the soil sample and to Kat Hamilton for supervising the preparation of the archive.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by Hollins Strategic Land to undertake a trial trench evaluation ahead of a proposed development of 62 new residential properties and associated landscaping and infrastructure on land off Lower Road, Milton Malsor, Northamptonshire (SP 7370 5588; Fig. 1). A total of 16 trenches, each 50m long and 1.8m wide, were excavated in a grid pattern equating to sample of just over 3% of the c. 4ha proposed development area. The trenching followed on from a geophysical survey undertaken in January 2020 by SUMO Geophysics Ltd (SUMO Survey 2020).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. S/2020/0599/MAO) and to inform the Planning Authority of any non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development area and aid in developing a mitigation strategy for any remains present. A brief was set by Northamptonshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor, Liz Mordue, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process (Moan 2020).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The subject site (Fig. 1, Plate 1) lies to the north and east of Lower Road on the northern edge of the village of Milton Malsor. To the north of the site is farmland and running along the eastern boundary of the site is the modern railway line to Northampton.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development covers approximately 4ha and currently consists of arable farmland situated on a gentle slope, sitting at 80mOD in the north-east to 70mOD in the south-west. The nearest watercourse is 1km north-west of the site; Wootton brook.

1.2.3 British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping indicates that there are two types of solid geology within the study site. The BGS records the solid geology on the western part of the site as Marlstone Rock Formation limestone. The rest of the study site consists of mudstone of the Whitby Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Oadby Member diamicton (British Geological Survey Geology of Britain viewer: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html, accessed 07/09/20).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been fully discussed in a desk-based assessment (RPS 2020), and a summary is provided here. The location of selected Historic Environment Record (HER) mentioned in the text are plotted in Fig. 2.

1.3.2 Evidence for Bronze Age activity or earlier is sparse in the vicinity of the study site. The earliest evidence for human activity within the study area consists of a small Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint assemblage, recovered 870m south of the site

(MNN168303). The only evidence of Bronze Age settlement within the study area was found during a 2018 excavation c.1km south-east of the study site. This identified an isolated ditch overlain by a charcoal rich deposit containing waterlogged wood which was radiocarbon dated to 1416-1264 cal. BC (ENN109047).

1.3.3 Evidence for Iron Age activity is more abundant within the study area, with five records relating to possible Iron Age settlement sites, the nearest of which is located *c.*640m north of the study site (MNN164472). The HER also records the site of probable Iron Age pits c.665m north of the site (MNN168362) and a probable Iron Age communication route *c.*755m north-west of the study site (MNN168359).

1.3.4 The area around the site contains important evidence for Roman settlement and industry. There is a total of 14 records relating to Roman period occupation settlement sites, the nearest of which is located c.595 south-west of the study site (MNN171402).

1.3.5 The HER contains a record for a possible prehistoric, Roman and/or early medieval period settlement c.190m south of the study site (MNN6129). Finds recovered in 1964-66 during sand quarrying from inside this site include Early-Middle Saxon pottery, loomweights and slag alongside several pits or hearths and burnt pebbles (MNN24552). A possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery is located 585m south-west of the site (MNN10587).

1.3.6 There are 21 HER records for medieval activity within the study area. The remains of ridge and furrow is recorded in an area extending across the site itself (MNN133006; SUMO Survey 2020; see below). These are not upstanding earthworks, having been ploughed away. A medieval moated manor house is recorded in the HER, 280m south of the site (MNN105169) with evidence for an associated fishpond (MNN24554). Milton Malsor also contains a 13th century church which probably had earlier origins (MNN105193).

1.3.7 The London and North Western Railway (Northampton to Roade) line is recorded directly east of the site (MNN1356773). Other records of post-medieval and modern date relate to the built heritage within Milton Malsor.

Previous work

1.3.8 A geophysical survey carried out in January 2020 (SUMO Survey 2020) revealed the east-west ridge and furrow pattern in the field (previously in the HER). This and evidence for post-medieval boundary ditches on the western side of the site were the only archaeological features recorded within the study site itself.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The overall project aims and objectives were to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. In particular, the scheme of works aimed to:

- Ground truth the results of the geophysical survey, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered.
- Establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- Provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- Provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- Set the results with their local, regional and national context.
- 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.

2.1.2 The evaluation took place within the context of the Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

- Cooper, N.J. (2006). *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda.* Leicester Archaeology Monograph No. 13.
- Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C. (2012). *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands.* Nottingham Archaeological Monographs 6.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 16 trenches measuring 50m long were excavated using a 22-tonne tracked 360°-type excavator with a 2m wide bladed ditching bucket. The total area excavated was equivalent to just over 3% of the development area. Under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist, the trenches were excavated to a depth where natural geology or archaeological deposits were encountered.

2.2.2 Archaeological features were hand excavated, drawn and photographed, with 1m wide interventions excavated in linear features. All features were plotted using a survey-grade differential GPS connected to Leica smartnet providing an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.

2.2.3 Each trench was individually photographed from each end and measurements and sketch plans showing the archaeological deposits and modern interventions were recorded on trench sheets.

2.2.4 All archaeological deposits and topsoil were scanned with a metal detector. Artefacts found in archaeological deposits during hand digging were collected and taken back to the main office to be washed and quantified. An environmental sample was taken for flotation processing in order to recover any small artefacts, charred or mineralised ecofacts (plant remains) and to assess their preservation quality.

2.2.5 The trenches were all backfilled after the approval of the Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Council.

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 that contained archaeological remains. Any trenches devoid of archaeological features are not described here but the full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. A full plan of the trenches and associated archaeological features is provided in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 shows the trench plan overlaid on the results of the previous geophysical survey. Selected sections are illustrated in Fig. 5.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between all the trenches was uniform. The natural geology of clay with occasional patches of limestone (particularly common in Trench 1) was overlain by a thick layer (c. 0.3m) of subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil of varying depths.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology which was a distinctive bright orangey and blueish colour (Plates 2 and 3).

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in two thirds of trenches, with five (Trenches 1, 3, 12, 14 and 16) being devoid of archaeological features or only containing modern land drains. Most other trenches contained up to four furrows, mostly aligned east to west, and closely corresponding to the anomalies displayed in the geophysical survey results (Fig. 4). Many furrows have been truncated by the modern field drains (e.g. Plate 4; Fig. 5, section 1000), which seem to have been purposely placed in the same alignment as the medieval field system, following the topography of the east to west sloping field. Undated gullies on a different alignment to the furrows were identified in Trenches 4 and 13, and possibly relate to an earlier field system, the extent of which is unknown and not visible in the geophysics. Metal detector scans of all excavated deposits and topsoil resulted only in the recovery of objects clearly of modern date, which were thus discarded.

3.4 Trench 2

3.4.1 Trench 2 was located at the western side of the development area and exposed a single furrow (**203**) on a north-east to south-west alignment. This measured 1.05m wide and 0.08m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. The sole fill (204) was a light yellowish-brown silty clay that contained no finds.

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 Trench 4 (Plate 2) was situated in the north-west corner of the field. This trench contained three of the four undated gullies found on the site. They were spaced fairly evenly along the trench. Similarly to the situation in Trench 13 (see below), no furrows

were exposed in this trench, and it was thus not possible to observe or investigate the stratigraphic relationship between these features and the remains of the ridge and furrow.

3.5.2 Gullies **405** and **407** were on precisely the same north-east to south-west alignment. The northernmost of the two features (**407**) was 0.50m wide and 0.19m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 5, section 407). Its sole fill (408) was a pale mid-yellowish-brown silty clay with no finds present. Gully **405** was 0.60m wide and 0.13m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 5, section 405). Its only fill (406) was also a mid-yellowish-brown silty clay with no finds.

3.5.3 To the south, gully **403** (Plate 3) was on a similar east to west alignment to the medieval ridge and furrow pattern, yet it had a distinctive U-shaped profile, measuring 0.50m wide and 0.17m deep, distinct from the broader and shallower cuts of the furrows. Its fill (404) was again, a pale mid-yellowish-brown silty clay which produced no finds.

3.6 Trench 5

3.6.1 Just to the east of Trench 4, Trench 5 contained a single furrow (**503**) that ran in a north-east to south-west alignment; differing from the east to west alignment of the medieval ridge and furrow pattern observed in other trenches and on the geophysics. This furrow measured 1m wide and 0.10m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its fill was a light-yellowish-brown silty clay (504).

3.7 Trench 6

3.7.1 South of Trench 5, this trench contained four furrows evenly spaced along the trench and all running in the east to west alignment of the ridge and furrow pattern displayed in the geophysics (Fig. 4). One of these features, in the southern part of the trench, was excavated (**603**), and had a wide and flat U-shaped profile measuring 0.72m wide and 0.07m deep. It was filled by a light-yellowish-brown silty clay (604) which produced a single sherd (14g) of abraded medieval pottery.

3.8 Trench 7

3.8.1 To the east, Trench 7 revealed a single furrow (**703**) at its western end. Also running on an east to west alignment, it measured 0.52m wide and 0.06m deep, with a wide U-shaped profile. Its sole fill (704) consisted a light-yellowish-brown silty clay.

3.9 Trench 8

3.9.1 Just to the north, this trench contained another four, evenly spaced furrows on an east to west alignment. The southernmost of these features was excavated (**803**) and measured 0.50m wide and 0.14m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its fill (804) was mid-orangey-brown silty clay containing one small fragment (3g) of ceramic building material (CBM).

3.10 Trench 9

3.10.1 To the east, Trench 9 revealed three furrows aligned east to west. One of these features was excavated (**903**); it measured 0.6m wide and 0.10m deep, with a flat base

and wide U-shaped profile. It was filled by a single deposit of mid-greyish-brown silty clay (904).

3.11 Trench 10

3.11.1 Four further furrows on an east to west alignment were exposed in Trench 10 (Plate 4), just to the south of Trench 9. One of these was excavated (furrow **1000**; Fig. 5, section 1000; Plate 5), and measured 1.60m wide and 0.19m deep, with a wide U-shaped profile. Its fill (1001) was a light-greyish-brown silty clay with no finds.

3.12 Trench 11

3.12.1 Further to the south, a single east to west aligned furrow was revealed in Trench 11. This feature (**1103**) measured 0.70m in width and 0.12m in depth, with a wide U-shaped profile and was filled by a mid-orangey-brown silty clay (1104).

3.13 Trench 13

3.13.1 Trench 13 was located in the south-east corner of the development area, and a single undated gully was revealed towards its eastern end (**1300**; Fig. 5, section 1300; Plate 6). Similar in form to gullies **405** and **407** in Trench 4, this gully ran on a north-east to south-west alignment, which differed from the orientation of the ridge and furrow. The gully measured 0.80m wide and 0.14m deep with a gentle U-shaped profile and was truncated by a modern land drain running east-west across the trench. Its fill (1301) was a mid-greyish-brown silty clay with no finds. No furrows were recorded within this trench.

3.14 Trench 15

3.14.1 Towards the north-east corner of the field, Trench 15 revealed a furrow (**1500**) running on an east to west alignment. It measured 0.50m in width and 0.06m in depth with a wide U-shaped profile. Its fill (1501) was a light-greyish-brown silty clay with no finds.

3.15 Finds and Environmental summary

3.15.1 A single fragment of abraded ceramic building material was recovered from furrow **803** in Trench 8 (App. B.1) and a single sherd (14g) of abraded medieval pottery, probably dating to the 11th or 12th century, was recovered from furrow **603** in Trench 6 (App. B.2).

3.15.2 An environmental sample taken from the fill of gully **403** in Trench 4 was devoid of preserved remains aside from a very small quantity (<1ml) of charcoal (App. C.1).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation can be considered reliable; weather/ground conditions were good and the horizon between the geology and subsoil was clear in all trenches, whilst the generally mid-brownish fills of the furrows and gullies could be easily made out against the blueish and orangey clay geology. Many of the furrows shown in the geophysical survey results must have been shallow features preserved only in the subsoil, as not all of them were revealed cutting the natural geology. This will have minimized the effects of the furrows masking or truncating earlier archaeological features and deposits.

4.2 Evaluation results

4.2.1 The evaluation was largely successful in terms of ground truthing the geophysical survey results (Fig. 4). The evaluation confirmed the presence of the distinctive east to west aligned medieval ridge and furrow pattern, whilst confirming the expectation that few other archaeological remains exist in the development area; only the gullies identified in Trenches 4 and 13 were not identified by the geophysics. However, the trenching did not reveal the post-medieval field boundaries that the geophysics had suggested survived in the western part of the site (see Fig. 4, intersected by Trenches 1 and 2). These, like many of the furrows, may have been shallow features, cut entirely into the subsoil.

4.2.2 The series of gullies identified in Trenches 4 and 13 (**403**, **405**, **407** and **1300**) were clearly differentiated from the furrows in terms of their morphology and alignment. These features may relate to an earlier field system, but their full extent and date remains unclear.

4.3 Interpretation and conclusion

4.3.1 The results of the geophysical survey and evaluation suggest that activity in the development area has been agricultural throughout history, with no evidence for settlement activity.

4.3.2 It is possible that the gullies excavated in Trenches 4 and 13 formed part of a prehistoric field system (Plate 3 and 6; Fig. 5), an interpretation consistent with their shallow depth, pale fills and lack of associated finds. The fact that these gullies were not identified by in the geophysical survey also provided an indication that they pre-date the medieval ridge and furrow.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench devoid of archaeology with one modern land drain. Consists of topsoil and a thick layer of subsoil overlying natural geology of clay and limestone brash.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.80
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.60	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained one furrow (excavated). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
203	Cut	1.05	0.08	Furrow	-	-
204	Fill	1.05	0.08	Furrow	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench devoid of archaeology with two modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained three gullies (all excavated) and three modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.70
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-

402	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
403	Cut	0.50	0.17	Gully	-	-
404	Fill	0.50	0.17	Gully	-	-
405	Cut	0.60	0.13	Gully	-	-
406	Fill	0.60	0.13	Gully	-	-
407	Cut	0.50	0.19	Gully	-	-
408	Fill	0.50	0.19	Gully	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench contained one furrow (excavated) and four modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
500	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
503	Cut	1.00	0.10	Furrow	-	-
504	Fill	1.00	0.10	Furrow	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained four furrows (one excavated). Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
600	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
603	Cut	0.72	0.07	Furrow	-	-
604	Fill	0.72	0.07	Furrow	pottery	medieval

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench contained one furrow (excavated) and one modern land drain. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
700	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
703	Cut	0.52	0.06	Furrow	-	-
704	Fill	0.52	0.06	Furrow	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained four furrows (one excavated) and five modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
800	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
801	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
802	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
803	Cut	0.50	0.14	Furrow	-	-
804	Fill	0.50	0.14	Furrow	1 piece of CBM	medieval

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench contained three furrows (one excavated) and four modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
900	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
901	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
903	Cut	0.60	0.10	Furrow	-	-
904	Fill	0.60	0.10	Furrow	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained four furrows (one excavated) and three modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1000	Cut	1.60	0.19	Furrow	-	-
1001	Fill	1.60	0.19	Furrow	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1003	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
1004	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Trench contained four furrows (one excavated) and two modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1101	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1103	Cut	0.70	0.13	Furrow	-	-
1104	Fill	0.70	0.13	Furrow	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology with seven modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1201	Layer	-	0.40	Subsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	WSW-ENE
Trench contained one gully (excavated) and four modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Cut	0.80	0.14	Gully	-	-
1301	Fill	0.80	0.14	Gully	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1303	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
1304	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology with eight modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	WSW-ENE
					Length (m)	50

Trench contained one furrow (excavated) and four modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Width (m)**	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Cut	0.50	0.06	Furrow	-	-
1501	Fill	0.50	0.06	Furrow	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1503	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
1504	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology with six modern land drains. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	50
					Width (m)	2.20
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Pat Moan BA ACIfA

B.1.1 A single sherd of pottery weighing 14g was recovered from the fill (604) of furrow **603**. The sherd is abraded but survives well enough to identify as part of a shoulder of a handmade vessel, potentially a jar. The handmade style and grog temper of the sherd would indicate an early medieval date (11th to 12th century). The highly abraded nature of the sherd and its recovery from a furrow suggests it derives from manuring practices within the medieval open fields.

B.2 Ceramic Building Material

By Pat Moan BA ACIfA

B.2.1 A single non-diagnostic fragment of ceramic building material was recovered from fill (804) of furrow **803**. The fragment weighs 3g and is of a sandy fabric. It is likely to date to the post-medieval period.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 One bulk sample was taken from the fill of gully **403**, Trench 4 in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (8 litres) of the sample was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the sample was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (2010) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

Results

C.1.5 Sample 1, fill 404 of ditch **403** (Trench 4), contains a very small quantity of charcoal (less than 1ml). The sample is devoid of any other plant remains or molluscs. `

C.1.6 The sample does not contain any artefacts.

Trench /area no.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut no.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Charcoal volume (ml)
4	1	404	403	Ditch	8	5	<1

Table 1: Environmental samples from Lower Road

Discussion

C.1.7 The recovery of only a very small quantity of charcoal from Sample 1 suggests that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. It is however difficult to speculate on a site's preservation based only on a single sample.

C.1.8 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-403106
Project Name	Land off Lower Road, Milton Malsor

Start of Fieldwork	01/09/20	End of Fieldwork	04/09/20
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENN109953	Planning App. No.	S/2020/0599/MAO
HER Number	ENN109953	Related Numbers	XNNLMM20

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐ Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐ Grab-sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochonological Survey	☒ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☒ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period
Gully	Uncertain
Ridge and Furrow	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
	Choose an item.

Object	Period
Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Northamptonshire
District	South Northamptonshire
Parish	Milton Malsor
HER office	Northamptonshire
Size of Study Area	4ha
National Grid Ref	SP 73707 55884

Address (including Postcode)

Lower Rd
Milton Malsor
Northamptonshire
NN7 3AW

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Liz Mordue

Project Design Originator	Pat Moan
Project Manager	Pat Moan
Project Supervisor	Edmund Cole

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	NARC	ENN109953
Digital Archive	OA East Office	ENN109953
Paper Archive	NARC	ENN109953

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		Paper Media	
Database	☐	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☒	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☒
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☒	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
		Plans	☐
		Report	☒
		Sections	☒
		Survey	☐

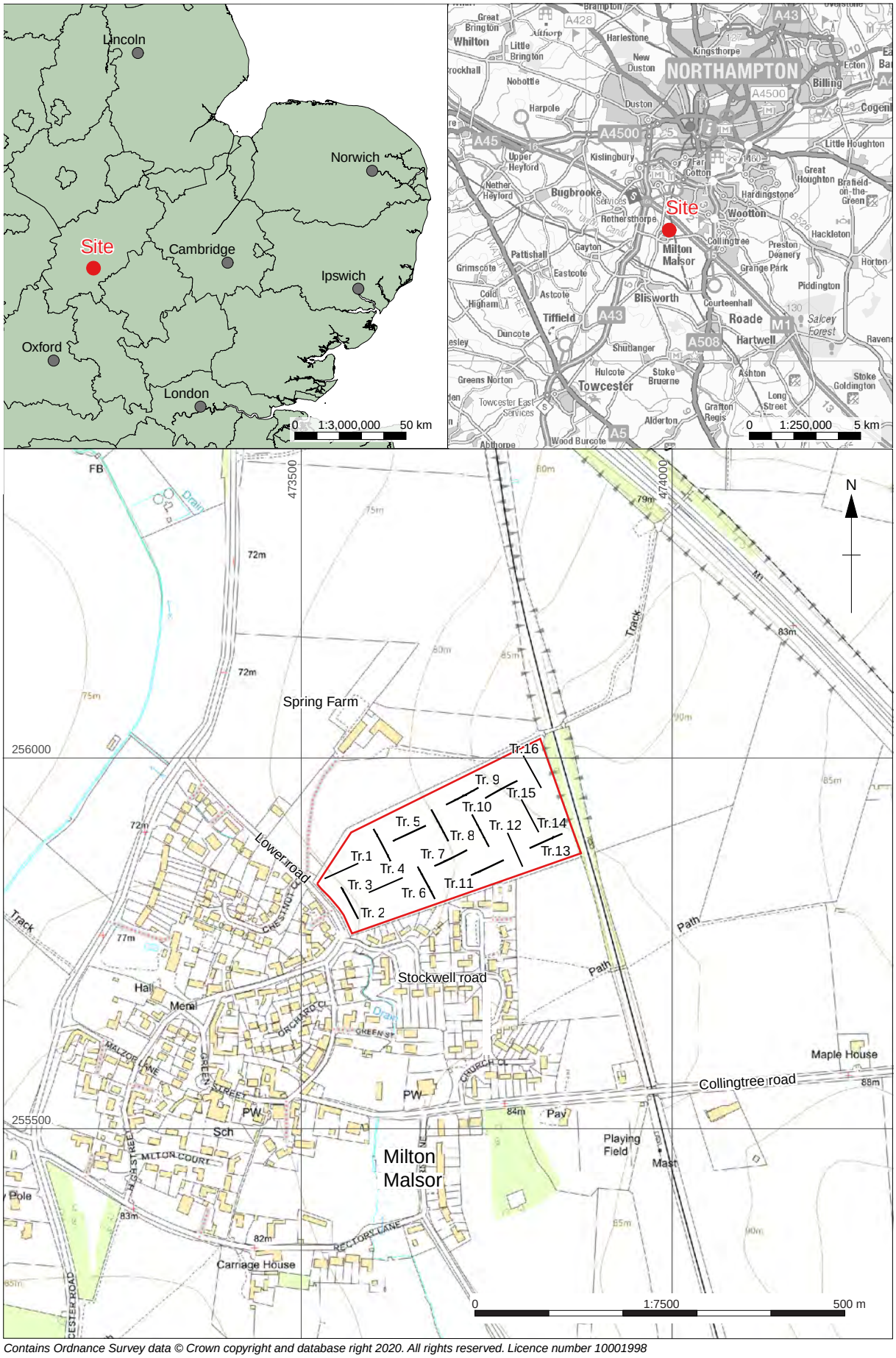

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area outlined (red)

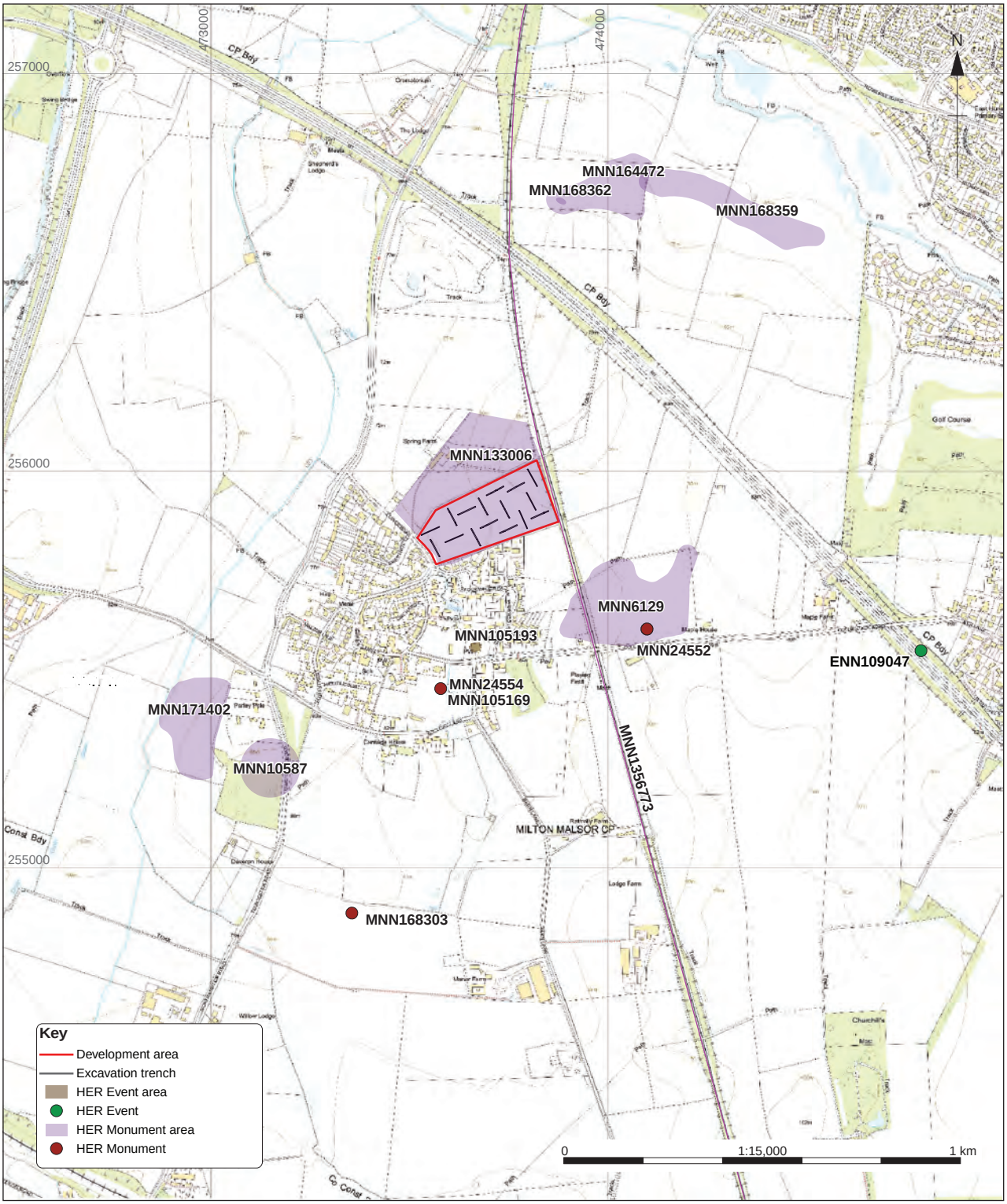

Figure 2: HER entries mentioned in the text.

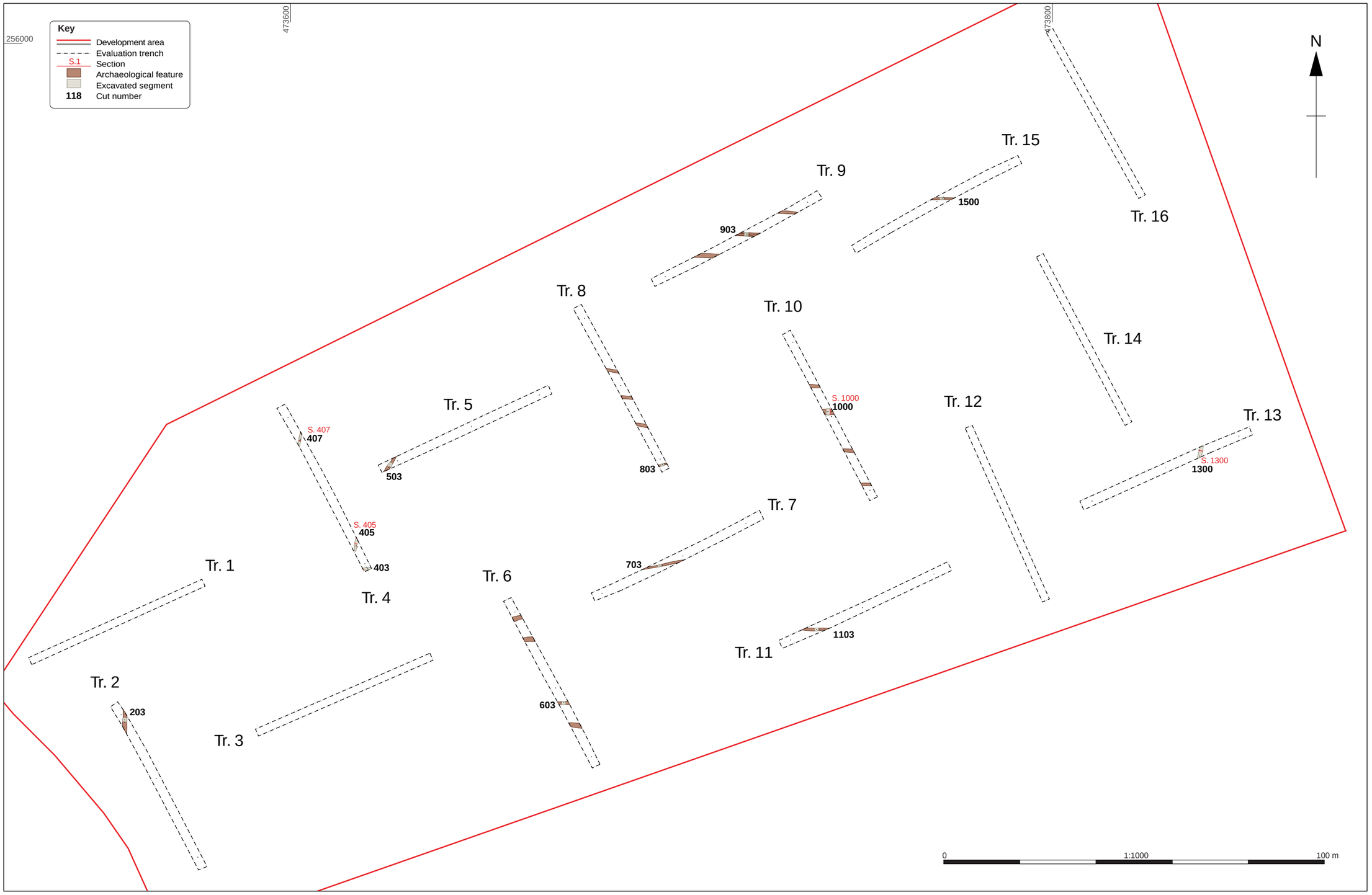

Figure 3: Trench plan

Figure 4: Trench plan overlain of geophysical survey results

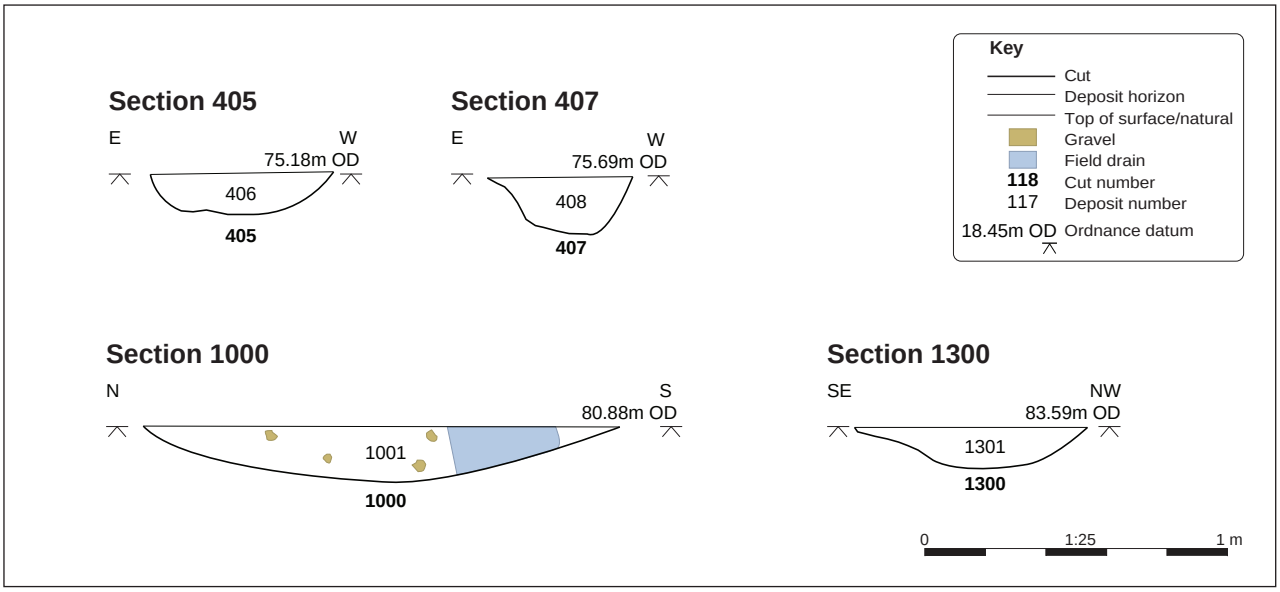

Figure 5: Selected sections

Plate 1: View of the site with Milton Malsor in the backgound. Taken from the north-east

Plate 2: Trench 4 from the south

Plate 3: Gully **403** with bulk section of Trench 4 from the east

Plate 4: Trench 10 from the south

Plate 5: Furrow **1000** in Trench 10 from the west

Plate 6: Gully **1300** in Trench 13 from the north-east

oxfordarchaeology

Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com