



# Land East of New Road, Mistley, Essex

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## Land East of New Road, Mistley, Essex

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

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## Summary

Between 7th and 11th September 2020 Oxford Archaeology conducted an archaeological investigation by trial trenching on land to the east of New Road, Mistley, Essex (centred TM 1090 3135), ahead of residential development. Twenty 30m long trenches were excavated, nine of which revealed archaeological features, including ditches and discrete pits and postholes. The majority of these features were located along the southern boundary of the proposed development area. Finds were scarce and many of the features remain undated, but two ditches were associated with post-medieval finds and a single sherd of (residual) probable prehistoric pottery was recovered.

## Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Malgorzata Kwiatkowska, who was supported by Lindsey Kemp and Rory Coduri. Survey and digitising were carried out by Valerio Pinna. Thanks are also due to the Oxford Archaeology finds, environmental and archive teams.



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Scope of work**

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CALA Homes (North Home Counties) Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site east of New Road, Mistley, Essex (centred TM 10904 31351, Fig. 1). A total of 20 trenches measuring 30m x 1.8m were excavated within an area of approximately 3ha.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 19/01956/OUT). A brief was set by Teresa O'Connor of Essex Place Services and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition (Moan 2020). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

1.2.1 Mistley is a large village in the Tendring district of north-east Essex. The village lies immediately east of Manningtree on the Stour Estuary. It is located around 12km west of Harwich and 13km north-east of Colchester. The site itself is situated on the southern outskirts of the village. At the time of the fieldwork, it consisted of a single field under arable use, bounded to the north and west by residential houses, by fields to the east and an unnamed road to the south.

1.2.2 The site occupies land at an elevation of around 30m OD with a slight slope down to the north-east. British Geological Survey mapping shows the bedrock geology of the site as Thames Group clay, silt and sand, with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment sub-group sand and gravel (British Geology Survey online viewer).

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

1.3.1 A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment has previously been carried out for the site (Sather 2016), meaning that only summary background details are provided here following the WSI (Moan 2020) with some additions. The location of selected entries from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) are plotted in Fig. 2.

#### **Prehistoric**

1.3.2 A series of cropmarks to the south-west of the site are thought to be of a prehistoric date (EHER 3225). They comprise a series of rectangular enclosures, field system ditches, ring ditches and a north-east to south-west aligned trackway.

#### **Roman**

1.3.3 To the east of the site, aligned north-northeast to south-southwest is the line of the Roman road which extends from Colchester to Manningtree (EHER 3233). A further section of the Roman road, which is orientated north-east to south-west is situated to the south of the site (EHER 2770).

### **Medieval**

- 1.3.4 The site of 'Old Hall' (EHER 3206), a deserted settlement with associated manor and fishpond, is located to the east of the current site. It is also believed that this is the location of Manningtree referred to in the Domesday book.

### **Post-medieval and modern**

- 1.3.5 The site is located to the west of an area of 18th century parkland associated with Mistley Hall (EHER 7477), which was built in 1703. As well as the house itself, other structures on the site include a stable, ha-ha, garden and walled garden. Further estate buildings relating to Mistley Hall are located in the wider area and include the Gate Lodge, to the west of the site (EHER 3364); a late 18th century farm building to the east (EHER 34635) and, to the south-east, Dairy Farm, a purpose built 18th century Model Farm located to the south-east of the site (EHER 15773).

### **Undated**

- 1.3.6 The land to the immediate south of the site contains a series of undated cropmarks (EHER3269), made up of a ring ditch, linear ditches, and trackway.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To 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
- ii. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- iii. To provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
- iv. To provide 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 The proposed archaeological evaluation and analysis was conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines.

2.2.2 All work was conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CIfA 2014).

2.2.3 A total of 20 trenches measuring 30m x 1.8m were excavated. This was equivalent to 4% of the development area.

2.2.4 Service plans were checked before work commenced on site. Before trenching, the footprint of each trench was scanned by a qualified and experienced operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate. All machine excavation took place under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.5 Trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the depth of geological horizons, which corresponded to the upper interface of archaeological features. A toothless ditching bucket with a bucket width of 1.8m was used to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.

2.2.6 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches were not backfilled without the approval of EPS.

2.2.7 There was sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth, and nature of any archaeological deposit. Investigation slots through all linear features were at least 1m in width. Discrete features were half-sectioned.

2.2.8 Surveying was done using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica CS10/GS08 or Leica 1200) fitted with "smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.

2.2.9 All features, layers and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. Each feature was individually documented on context sheets, and hand-drawn in section and plan. Written descriptions were recorded on pro-forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.

## 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. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental reports are presented in Appendices B and C.

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence across the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of silty sand and gravels was overlain by a light yellowish brown subsoil, which in turn was overlain by a mid grey brown topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in nine trenches (Fig. 3). Trenches 1, 2, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were devoid of archaeology and are not discussed further (see App. A).

### 3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the north-western corner of the site. It was aligned north-west to south-east. Due to the presence of features in the northern part of this trench, its width was extended slightly in the vicinity of these features (see Fig. 3). A total of four discrete features were uncovered in this trench (Plate 1).

3.4.2 Postholes **306** and **304** were located in the northern part of the trench. They measured 0.23m and 0.20m in diameter respectively and were up to 0.11m deep with steep sides and concave bases (Fig. 4; Section 303). They were both filled by homogenous light yellowish grey sand deposits and neither contained any finds.

3.4.3 Pit **302** was located south of the postholes. It measured up to 1m in diameter and 0.07m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 4, Section 301). It was filled by a single deposit of light yellowish grey silty sand, which did not contain any finds.

3.4.4 Pit **300** was uncovered in the southern half of the trench. It was somewhat irregular in plan, measured up to 0.90m in diameter and 0.08m in depth, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of light yellowish grey silty sand which was devoid of finds.

### 3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 Trench 4 (Plate 2) was located south-east of Trench 2, laid out on a north-west to south-east alignment. It contained two intercutting features in its north-western end.

3.5.2 Pit **405** measured up to 0.78m in diameter, 0.12m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by single deposit of light greyish brown silty sand, which was truncated by posthole **403**.

3.5.3 Posthole **403** was 0.31m in diameter, 0.25m deep, with steep sides and a V-shaped base. It contained a single deposit of dark greyish brown silty sand.

3.5.4 Neither feature produced any finds.

### 3.6 Trench 5

3.6.1 This trench was located along the southern boundary of the proposed development area. It was aligned east north-east to west south-west and uncovered two pits and a linear ditch.

3.6.2 Ditch **503**, aligned north to south, was 1.56m wide, 0.34m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions. This ditch produced two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM; 41g) and was truncated by pit **505** to the east (Fig. 4, Section 500; Plate 3).

3.6.3 Sub-circular pit **505** was up to 1.60m in diameter, 0.35m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand which contained a single sherd of possibly prehistoric pottery (4g), likely to be residual.

3.6.4 A possible, shallow extraction pit (**507**) was uncovered east of pit **505**. It was irregular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured up to 1.23m in diameter, 0.28m deep and was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand, which was devoid of finds.

### 3.7 Trench 6

3.7.1 Trench 6 was located north of Trench 5. It was aligned north north-west to south south-east and uncovered two features, both located in its southern half.

3.7.2 A sub-circular pit (**602**) was recognised along the western trench boundary. It was 0.70m in diameter and 0.20m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single deposit of light greyish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.7.3 Ditch **600** was excavated towards the southern end of the trench (Plate 4). It was aligned east to west and measured 1.5m wide and 0.22m deep, with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 4, Section 600). It was filled by a single deposit of light grey silty sand with frequent small stone inclusions. This fill contained an unidentifiable copper alloy object, a post-medieval pottery sherd (3g), fired or burnt clay (12g), fragments of flat tile and brick (132g) and four fragments of partially burnt coal (7g).

### 3.8 Trench 8

3.8.1 This trench was located north-east of Trench 6. It contained a modern, machine cut, trial pit (**800**), which was 1.80m long, 0.50m wide with steep sides, a flat base and was filled by a single deposit of mid grey sand. This trench was otherwise devoid of archaeology.

### 3.9 Trench 10

- 3.9.1 Trench 10 was excavated east of Trench 6. It was aligned north-east to south-west and uncovered a single ditch within its southern half.
- 3.9.2 Ditch **1003** was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 1.48m wide, 0.22m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Section 1000, Fig. 4). It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand, which did not contain any finds.

### 3.10 Trench 11

- 3.10.1 Trench 11 was located along the southern boundary of the proposed excavation area, east of Trench 10. This trench uncovered two ditches and a modern trial pit.
- 3.10.2 Modern, machine cut, geotechnical pit **1104** was uncovered in the centre of the trench. It was 3.30m long, 0.90m wide and 0.85m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with mid brown and orange clayey sand deposit which contained decomposing grass.
- 3.10.3 Ditch terminus **1102** was uncovered within the eastern half of this trench. It was aligned north to south, measured 1.10m wide, 0.44m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand, which did not contain any finds. This ditch terminus cut ditch **1100** to the east (Fig. 4, Section 1100; Plate 5).
- 3.10.4 Ditch **1100** was orientated north to south, measured 0.9m wide and 0.21m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid grey silty sand, which did not contain any finds.

### 3.11 Trench 12

- 3.11.1 Trench 12 was excavated north of Trench 11. It was aligned north-east to south-west and contained a single feature, partly exposed at its south-western end.
- 3.11.2 This pit or ditch terminus (**1200**) was 1m wide and 0.16m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of light grey sand, which was devoid of finds.

### 3.12 Trench 18

- 3.12.1 This trench was located within the eastern half of the development area towards its southern boundary. It was aligned from east north-east to west south-west and contained a single gully (Plate 7).
- 3.12.2 Gully **1803** was aligned north-east to south-west. It was 0.34m wide and 0.14m deep, with steep sides and a V-shaped base (Fig. 4, Section 1801). This gully was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand which did not contain any finds.

### 3.13 Finds summary

- 3.13.1 The evaluation produced a very small assemblage of finds, which included a copper alloy artefact, a single, residual prehistoric pottery sherd, a post-medieval sherd, nine fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), a single fragment of fired or burnt clay together and four fragments of burnt coal.

3.13.2 Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area. The recovery of mostly small quantities of charcoal and untransformed elderberry seeds in these samples indicate that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.



## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation of the site has revealed a small range of archaeological features, including ditches, gullies, pits and postholes. In total features were revealed in just under a half of excavated trenches (nine out of 20).
- 4.1.2 Most archaeological features were small and shallow and contained simple, single fills of light and medium brown to grey silty sand. Feature definition was clear within trenches, especially during machining, and weather and ground conditions were good throughout.

### 4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 This evaluation aimed at providing data regarding the nature of archaeological remains within the proposed development area; archaeological features were uncovered in Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 18.
- 4.2.2 The majority of archaeological features identified during this evaluation were located along the southern boundary of the proposed development area, with only Trench 3 located towards the north, which uncovered an area of small, discrete features; these did not produce any finds and remain undated.
- 4.2.3 A least three boundary ditches were recognised during the trenching, all close to the southern edge of the site. The two ditch sections excavated in Trench 6 (**600**) and Trench 10 (**1003**) seem likely to have belonged a single curvilinear feature, lying to the north of a second ditch (**503**) exposed in Trench 5. The third boundary ditch was represented by ditch **1100** (and its probable recut **1102**) in Trench 11, and may correspond to the possible ditch terminus revealed in Trench 12 (**1200**).
- 4.2.4 Only gully **1803**, in Trench 18, appeared to follow the north to south alignment of linear features recognised as cropmarks immediately south of the site (Fig. 2, EHER 3269). Although this feature might mark the northern extent of this cropmark complex it did not provide any dating evidence.
- 4.2.5 The only feature which produced secure dating evidence was ditch **600**, which produced a sherd of post-medieval pottery and a small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM), alongside fragments of fired burnt/clay and coal. CBM of probable post-medieval date was also recovered from ditch **503**, to the south. On this basis it seems likely that most of the boundary ditches relate to post-medieval land-use. Cartographic evidence indicates that the site has lain within a single, undivided field since the early 19th century, but an earlier map of the Manor of Mistley, surveyed in 1778, shows the southern part of the site straddling two fields, and it is possible these features relate to this earlier field pattern (Sather 2016, 10, figs 3 and 4). The presence of a single sherd of possibly prehistoric pottery from pit **505** (Trench 5) indicates earlier activity in the area, but its recovery from a pit cutting boundary ditch **503** indicates that it is a residual find.

## 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The evaluation revealed a relatively low density of archaeological features and very few finds. Features were concentrated in the southern part of the site and included a series of probable post-medieval boundary ditches which may reflect an earlier pattern of field boundaries, but with no evidence for contemporary settlement or other activity. It remains possible that some of the other, undated, ditches in this area may represent the continuation of features known as undated cropmarks to the south of the site (Fig. 2; EHER 3269). The presence of (residual) possible prehistoric pottery may relate to activity associated with the extensive prehistoric crop marks known to the south-west of the site (EHER 3225), although no features could be confidently dated to this period.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.57
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer			0.33	Topsoil		
101	Layer			0.34	Subsoil		
102	Layer				Natural		

Trench 2							
General description					Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.9
					Avg. depth (m)		0.68
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer			0.34	Topsoil		
201	Layer			0.42	Subsoil		
202	Layer				Natural		

Trench 3							
General description					Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained four discrete features.					Length (m)		30
					Width (m)		1.8
					Avg. depth (m)		0.6
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Cut		0.9	0.08	Pit		
301	Fill	300	0.9	0.08	Secondary Fill		
302	Cut		0.75	0.12	Pit		
303	Fill	302	0.75	0.12	Secondary Fill		
304	Cut		0.2	0.06	Posthole		
305	Fill		0.2	0.06	Secondary Fill		
306	Cut		0.23	0.11	Posthole		
307	Fill	306	0.23	0.11	Secondary Fill		
308	Layer			0.30	Topsoil		
309	Layer			0.30	Subsoil		
310	Layer				Natural		

Trench 4							
General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained two discrete features.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.61	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer		30	0.3	Topsoil		
401	Layer		30	0.31	Subsoil		
402	Layer				Natural		
403	Cut		0.31	0.25	Posthole		
404	Fill	403	0.31	0.25	Secondary Fill		
405	Cut		0.78	0.12	Pit		
406	Fill	405	0.78	0.12	Secondary Fill		

Trench 5							
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW	
Trench contained a single linear and two discrete features.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.64	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer		30	0.29	Topsoil		
501	Layer		30	0.35	Subsoil		
502	Layer				Natural		
503	Cut		1.56	0.34	Ditch		
504	Fill	503	1.56	0.34	Secondary Fill		
505	Cut		1.6	0.35	Pit		
506	Fill	505	1.6	0.35	Secondary Fill		
507	Cut		1.23	0.28	Pit		
508	Fill	507	1.23	0.28	Secondary Fill		

Trench 6							
General description					Orientation	N-S	
Trench contained a linear feature and a single pit.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Cut		1.5	0.22	Ditch		
601	Fill	600	1.5	0.22	Secondary Fill		
602	Cut		0.7	0.20	Pit		
603	Fill	602	0.7	0.20	Secondary Fill		

604	Layer			0.20	Topsoil		
605	Layer			0.20	Subsoil		
606	Layer				Natural		

Trench 7							
General description					Orientation	W-E	
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer		30	0.27	Topsoil		
701	Layer		30	0.33	Subsoil		
702	Layer				Natural		

Trench 8							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained a single modern feature - a geotech pit.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Cut		0.50	0.05	Pit		Modern
801	Fill	800	0.50	0.05	Backfill		Modern
802	Layer			0.30	Topsoil		
803	Layer			0.40	Subsoil		
804	Layer				Natural		

Trench 9							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.64	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer		30	0.25	Topsoil		
901	Layer		30	0.39	Subsoil		
902	Layer				Natural		

Trench 10							
General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained a single linear feature.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54	

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1000	Layer		30	0.16	Topsoil		
1001	Layer		30	0.38	Subsoil		
1002	Layer				Natural		
1003	Cut		1.48	0.22	Ditch		
1004	Fill	1003	1.48	0.22	Primary Fill		

### Trench 11

General description					Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained two linear features and a single modern feature.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1100	Cut		0.90	0.21	Ditch		
1101	Fill	1100	0.90	0.21	Secondary Fill		
1102	Cut		1.10	0.44	Ditch		
1103	Fill	1102	1.10	0.44	Secondary Fill		
1104	Cut		0.70	0.85	Geotech pit		Modern
1105	Fill	1104	0.70	0.85	Backfill		Modern
1106	Layer			0.30	Topsoil		
1107	Layer			0.30	Subsoil		
1108	Layer				Natural		

### Trench 12

General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained a single feature.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1200	Cut		1.00	0.16	Ditch		
1201	Fill	1200	1.00	0.16	Secondary Fill		
1202	Layer			0.3	Topsoil		
1203	Layer			0.3	Subsoil		
1204	Layer				Natural		

### Trench 13

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.66

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1300	Layer		30	0.28	Topsoil		
1301	Layer		30	0.38	Subsoil		
1302	Layer				Natural		

**Trench 14**

General description					Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1400	Layer		30	0.22	Topsoil		
1401	Layer		30	0.24	Subsoil		
1402	Layer				Natural		

**Trench 15**

General description					Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1500	Layer			0.27	Topsoil		
1501	Layer			0.27	Subsoil		
1502	Layer				Natural. Gravels		

**Trench 16**

General description					Orientation	ENE-WSE	
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30	
					Width (m)	1.8	
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1600	Layer			0.34	Topsoil		
1601	Layer			0.28	Subsoil		
1602	Layer				Natural		

**Trench 17**

General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	30

						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1700	Layer			0.31	Topsoil		
1701	Layer			0.3	Subsoil		
1702	Layer				Natural		

Trench 18							
General description						Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contained a single gully.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1800	Layer			0.33	Topsoil		
1801	Layer			0.23	Subsoil		
1802	Layer				Natural		
1803	Cut		0.34	0.14	Gully		
1804	Fill	1803	0.34	0.14	Secondary Fill		

Trench 19							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1900	Layer			0.34	Topsoil		
1901	Layer			0.28	Subsoil		
1902	Layer				Natural		

Trench 20							
General description						Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	30
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.58
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
2000	Layer			0.32	Topsoil		
2001	Layer			0.31	Subsoil		
2002	Layer				Natural		



## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Metalwork

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### *Introduction and Methodology*

- B.1.1 The evaluation produced a single copper alloy artefact, recovered from ditch **600** in Trench 6. The functional category used is defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988, Category 18 objects the function or identification of which is unknown or uncertain.

#### *Assemblage*

- B.1.2 *Category 18; objects the function or identification of which is unknown or uncertain:* An object of uncertain function and date was recovered, a narrow strip of copper alloy. The object is incomplete, with recent damage, active corrosion and is in a fragile condition.

An incomplete, slightly twisted, narrow strip of copper alloy, lightly encrusted with dirt and with extensive active corrosion visible on both surfaces. The strip is slightly curved the edges slightly rolled upwards giving it a slightly scooped profile. One end of the strip is broken, the other end is rolled or curved in on itself like hollow wire. There is a recent break almost at the midpoint of the strip, under the microscope this recent damage reveals either fresh metal or gilding in the section, the area visible makes this difficult to ascertain. Maximum length 19mm, maximum width on flatter part of strip 1.6mm, and 0.36mm thick. The ?twisted end is 1.4mm wide and 0.37mm thick.

#### *Discussion*

- B.1.3 The fragment of copper alloy is fragile and difficult to identify, although it is possibly from some form of jewellery. It is even more problematic to date, as it was recovered alongside post-medieval pottery, however, the item could be older or more recent than the object with which it was recovered.

#### *Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.1.4 The metalwork assemblage is fragmentary and, should further work be undertaken, additional objects may be recovered. If further work is undertaken, the metalwork report should be incorporated into any later archive. The copper alloy object should perhaps be retained for further identification; however, it should be noted that its condition is poor and fragile.

### B.2 Pottery

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### *Introduction and Methodology*

- B.2.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage of pottery, two sherds, weighing 0.007kg, from features in Trenches 5 and 6. The condition of the assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded, and the average sherd weight is low.
- B.2.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery*

*Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London.

- B.2.3 Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described post-Roman types using Essex fabric types (Cotter 2000), based on those of Cunningham (1985), where possible and dating is necessarily broad. All sherds have been counted, classified, and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the text of this report. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

### *Assemblage and Discussion*

- B.2.4 Trench 5 produced a single sherd of handmade pottery from pit **505**, the sherd is somewhat abraded (0.004kg) representing a single vessel. The fabric has an oxidised dull red surface and external margin (thickness varies) with a grey-black core and internal surface. The fabric is quartz-tempered with moderate irregular lumps of calcareous material up to 2mm (somewhat discoloured), possibly chalk, and some blackened voids that probably represent burn out organic material. The pottery is very probably prehistoric, possibly Bronze Age.
- B.2.5 Trench 6, ditch **600**, produced a single moderately abraded body sherd (0.003kg) representing a single vessel. The relatively fine post-medieval red earthenware sherd (Fabric 40) is externally and internally black-glazed and is possibly from a drinking vessel.
- B.2.6 All the pottery appears to have been reworked. The single sherd of prehistoric pottery may relate to nearby occupation; however, a single sherd is not reliable dating evidence for the feature. The single sherd of Fabric 40 was recovered alongside fragments of coal and suggests that ditch **600**, or at least its fill, is post-medieval.
- B.2.7 The small size of the assemblage makes conclusions difficult to draw, other than to say that the vessels present are very probably domestic in nature and that the pottery may relate to rubbish deposition or, in the case of the post-medieval pottery, manuring scatters from nearby occupation.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.2.8 This statement acts as a full record if no further work is undertaken. Should further work be undertaken, pottery may be recovered, although only at low levels and this report should be incorporated into any later catalogue with the proviso that the prehistoric pottery should be re-examined. If no further work on the site is undertaken, the post-medieval pottery may be dispersed, the prehistoric pottery may be retained or dispersed.

## B.3 Ceramic Building Material and Fired or Burnt Clay

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction and Methodology*

- B.3.1 A small assemblage of nine fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), and a single fragment of fired or burnt clay, weighing in total 0.188kg, was recovered from ditches in Trenches 5 and 6. No complete examples were recovered, and abrasion varies from moderately abraded to abraded.
- B.3.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded where this was identifiable. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. Fabrics are noted and dating is necessarily broad.
- B.3.3 The Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group *Ceramic Building Material, Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication* (2002) forms the basis for recording, and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. The material was examined visually using a x10 magnifying lens.
- B.3.4 The CBM and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

### *Assemblage*

- B.3.5 The assemblage of CBM is mostly moderately abraded, except for a few abraded fragments. The bulk of the assemblage (by weight) is flat tile fragments, and the thickness of almost all the tiles suggests they are very probably roof tiles, although no peg/nail holes or nibs survive. Most of these fragments are post-medieval, with the remainder of the assemblage being not closely datable.
- B.3.6 Trench 5 produced two fragments of CBM in total, weighing 0.041kg, recovered from ditch **503**. The CBM is all oxidised with slightly dirty surfaces, coloured light red to red with sanded bases. One fragment is slightly thinner with a pale grey core, the other is fully oxidised, and both are very probably post-medieval.
- B.3.7 Trench 6, ditch **600**, produced a single sub-rectangular fragment of fired or burnt clay (0.012kg) in a fine silty fabric that cannot be closely dated, alongside five moderately abraded to abraded fragments of flat tile (0.110kg), a moderately abraded to abraded fragment of brick or tile (0.022kg) and an abraded fragment of undiagnostic CBM (0.003kg). All except one small fragment are completely oxidised, light red to reddish yellow in a mostly silty, quartz-tempered fabric with fine mica. The tile was recovered alongside a fragment of black-glazed post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40).

### *Discussion*

- B.3.8 The fragmentary assemblage of CBM indicates structures with post-medieval tiled roofs somewhere in the vicinity of the site. However, the material has been heavily reworked and very probably redistributed through manuring and later ploughing. The fired or burnt clay may originally have been part of an object, however, it is now too weathered and abraded to be certain of its original function.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

B.3.9 The significance of the assemblage is uncertain, and its fragmentary nature is of limited interest, other than to indicate that, if further work is undertaken, additional CBM is likely to be produced, although only at low levels. Should further work be undertaken, the CBM report should be incorporated into any later archive. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the CBM and fired or burnt clay may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

#### B.3.10 CBM and Fired or Burnt Clay catalogue by Trench

Trench	Context	Cut	CBM Description and Form	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
5	504	503	A rectangular, moderately abraded, fragment of flat tile, upper and lower surfaces survive, the lower being sanded from the mould. The fabric is fully oxidised, light red (2.5YR 6/8), with somewhat dirty surfaces. A quartz-tempered, slightly silty fabric with occasional white quartz and moderate iron-stained quartz, slightly micaceous. Thickness 14mm. Moderately abraded	1	0.023	Post-medieval
			Moderately abraded fragment of flat tile in a red (2.5YR 5/8) fabric (external surfaces and margins) with a pale grey core. Moderately coarse, quartz-tempered, slightly silty fabric with some mica. Upper and lower surfaces survive and one edge. Thickness 11mm	1	0.018	Late medieval-post medieval
6	601	600	Moderately abraded, triangular fragment of flat tile. A partial edge, upper and lower surfaces survive, the lower surface is sanded from the mould. The fabric is fully oxidised, light red (2.5YR 6/8), with somewhat dirty surfaces. A quartz-tempered slightly silty fabric with some mica. Thickness 12-13mm	1	0.036	Post-medieval
			Moderately abraded sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile (although slightly curved). A partial edge, upper and lower surfaces survive, the lower surface is sanded from the mould. The fabric is fully oxidised, light red (2.5YR 6/8), with somewhat dirty surfaces. A coarse quartz-tempered, slightly silty fabric with some mica. Thickness 13-15mm	1	0.034	Post-medieval
			Flake from the surface of a tile with a hard fired, quartz-tempered sanded surface, oxidised light red (2.5YR 6/8) surfaces but with a mid grey core	1	0.005	Post-medieval
			Abraded sub-rectangular fragment of flat tile, partial upper and lower surfaces survive. The fabric is fully oxidised, light red (2.5YR 6/8). A quartz-tempered slightly silty fabric with some mica. Thickness 13mm	1	0.014	Post-medieval
			Abraded fragment of CBM, possibly a brick. The fabric is fully oxidised, light red (2.5YR 6/8), silty fabric with some mica. One partial surviving surface	1	0.022	Not closely datable
			Abraded irregular fragment of flat tile in a red (2.5YR 5/8) fabric. Moderately coarse quartz-tempered, slightly silty fabric with some mica. Partial surviving upper and lower surfaces. Thickness 13-14mm	1	0.021	Post-medieval
			Abraded fragment of CBM. The fabric is fully oxidised, light red (2.5YR 6/8), silty with some mica	1	0.003	Not closely datable
			A small sub-rectangular fragment of fired or burnt clay. The surviving outer surfaces are somewhat weathered, and dirty, being rather brown, and it is unclear if the surfaces are the result of working or weathering. The less weathered and more recently damaged areas, where the outer surface has been removed, are very pale brown (10YR 7/3). Various scratches and grooves represent post-depositional damage	1	0.012	Not closely datable
<b>Total</b>				<b>10</b>	<b>0.188</b>	

Table 1: CBM and Fired or Burnt Clay

## **B.4 Fuel and Fuel residues**

*By Carole Fletcher*

### ***Introduction, Methodology, Assemblage and Discussion***

B.4.1 Four fragments (0.007kg) of unburnt and partially burnt coal were collected by hand during the evaluation. The material was weighed and rapidly recorded, with basic description and weight recorded in the text. The irregular fragments of black bituminous coal were recovered from ditch **600** in Trench 6. The fragments may have come from a domestic or industrial setting, are undiagnostic and not closely datable. However, the material is likely to be contemporary with the post-medieval pottery recovered from the same context.

### ***Retention, dispersal or display***

B.4.2 The fuel is very probably from a domestic fire. Should further work be undertaken, additional material would almost certainly be recovered. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the material may be deselected prior to archive deposition.

## APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Environmental Remains

*By Martha Craven*

#### *Introduction*

C.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at New Road, Mistley, Essex in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 3, 5, 6 and 11.

#### *Methodology*

C.1.2 The total volume (up to 18L) of each of the samples 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 samples 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 flots were 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 OAE's 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

C.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance:

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

C.1.6 Key to tables:

U=untransformed

#### *Results*

C.1.7 The botanical material from this site is very sparse and consists of untransformed and carbonised plant remains.

C.1.8 The majority of the samples contain very small quantities of charcoal with the exception of Sample 4, fill 303 of ditch 302 (**Trench 3**), which contains a moderate

quantity of charcoal (10ml). Four of the samples contain untransformed elderberry seeds (*Sambucus nigra*). These may be contemporary to the sampled deposits as this taxon has a tough outer coating which makes them resistant to decay.

C.1.9 The samples from this site do not contain any molluscs.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Tree/Shrub Macrofossils	Charcoal Volume (ml)	CBM
3	1	305	304	Posthole	2	1	+U	1	0
3	2	307	306	Posthole	2	1	0	<1	0
3	4	303	302	Pit	18	25	+U	10	0
5	3	504	503	Ditch	14	5	+U	<1	0
6	5	601	600	Ditch	16	50	+U	1	0
11	6	1103	1102	Ditch	17	30	0	2	#

Table 2: Environmental samples

### Discussion

C.1.10 The recovery of mostly small quantities of charcoal and untransformed elderberry seeds in these samples indicate that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.

C.1.11 It is difficult to make any inferences regarding the charcoal, without any dating, as it could have come from a number of sources including burning wood for fuel, manuring or modern machinery.

C.1.12 The elderberry seeds present in many of the samples are unlikely to be significant; due to them being present in only small numbers. It is possible that these may have been blown by the wind into these features from nearby elderberry bushes. These seeds may also not be contemporary to the deposit.

C.1.13 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 SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-404889		
Project Name	Land east of New Road, Mistley, Essex		
Start of Fieldwork	07/09/20	End of Fieldwork	11/09/20
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	MINR20	Planning App. No.	19/01956/OUT
HER Number	n/a	Related Numbers	n/a

Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
Development Type	Rural Residential
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 checked="" 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	Uncertain	Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Posthole	Uncertain	Burnt clay	Uncertain
Pit	Uncertain	Cu Alloy object	Uncertain

### Project Location

County	Essex	Address (including Postcode) Land east of New Road Mistley Manningtree CO11 2 AE
District	Tendring	
Parish	Mistley	
HER office	Essex	
Size of Study Area	2.4 ha	
National Grid Ref	TM 10904 31351	

### Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Teresa O'Connor
Project Design Originator	Louise Moan

Project Manager  
Project Supervisor

Louise Moan
Malgorzata Kwiatkowska

## Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service	MINR20
Digital Archive	OA East	XEXNRM20
Paper Archive	Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service	MINR20

## Physical Contents

### Present?

### Digital files associated with Finds

### Paperwork associated with Finds

Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic	
Survey	
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Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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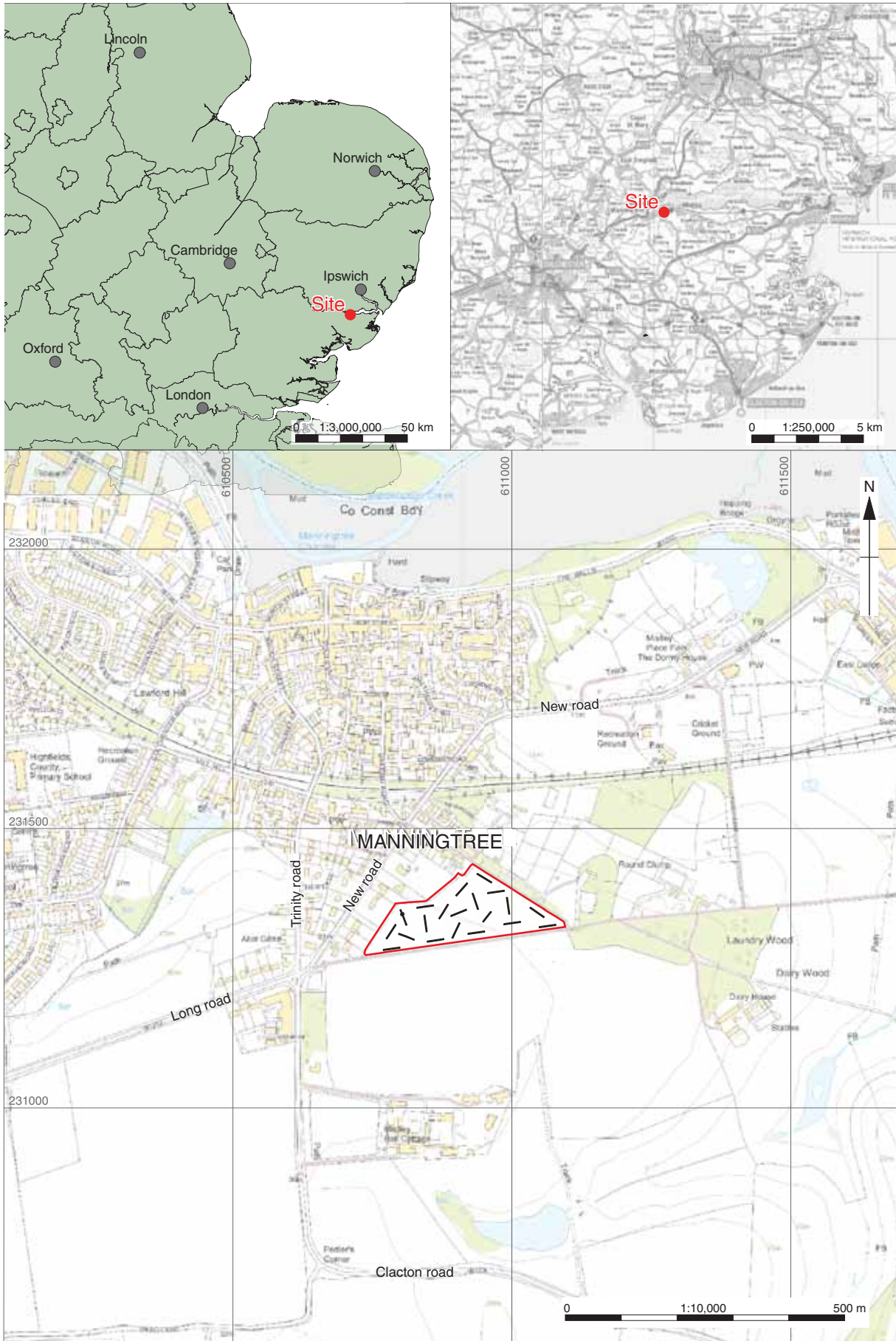
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Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input 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 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 outlined (red)

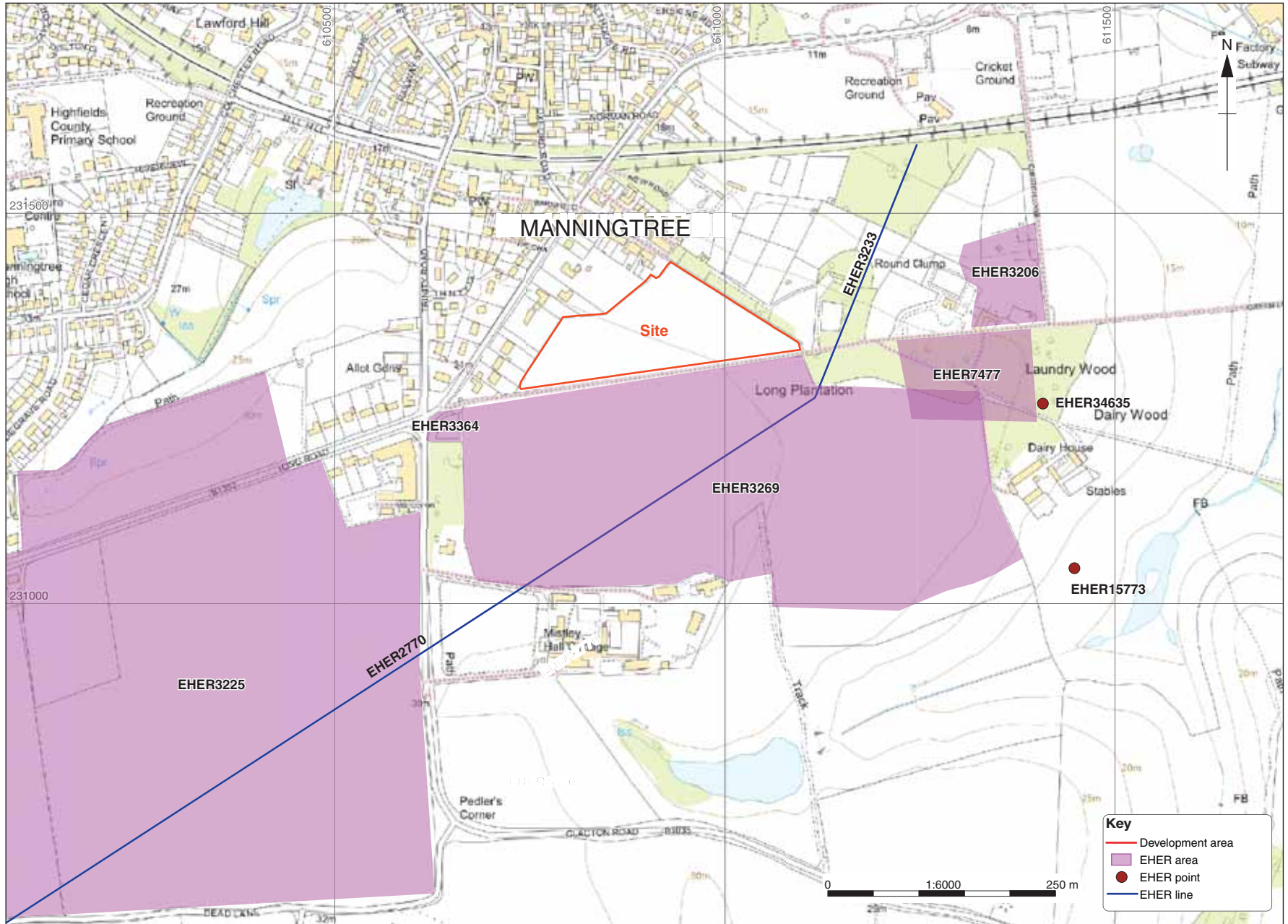


Figure 2: EHER data within the investigated area



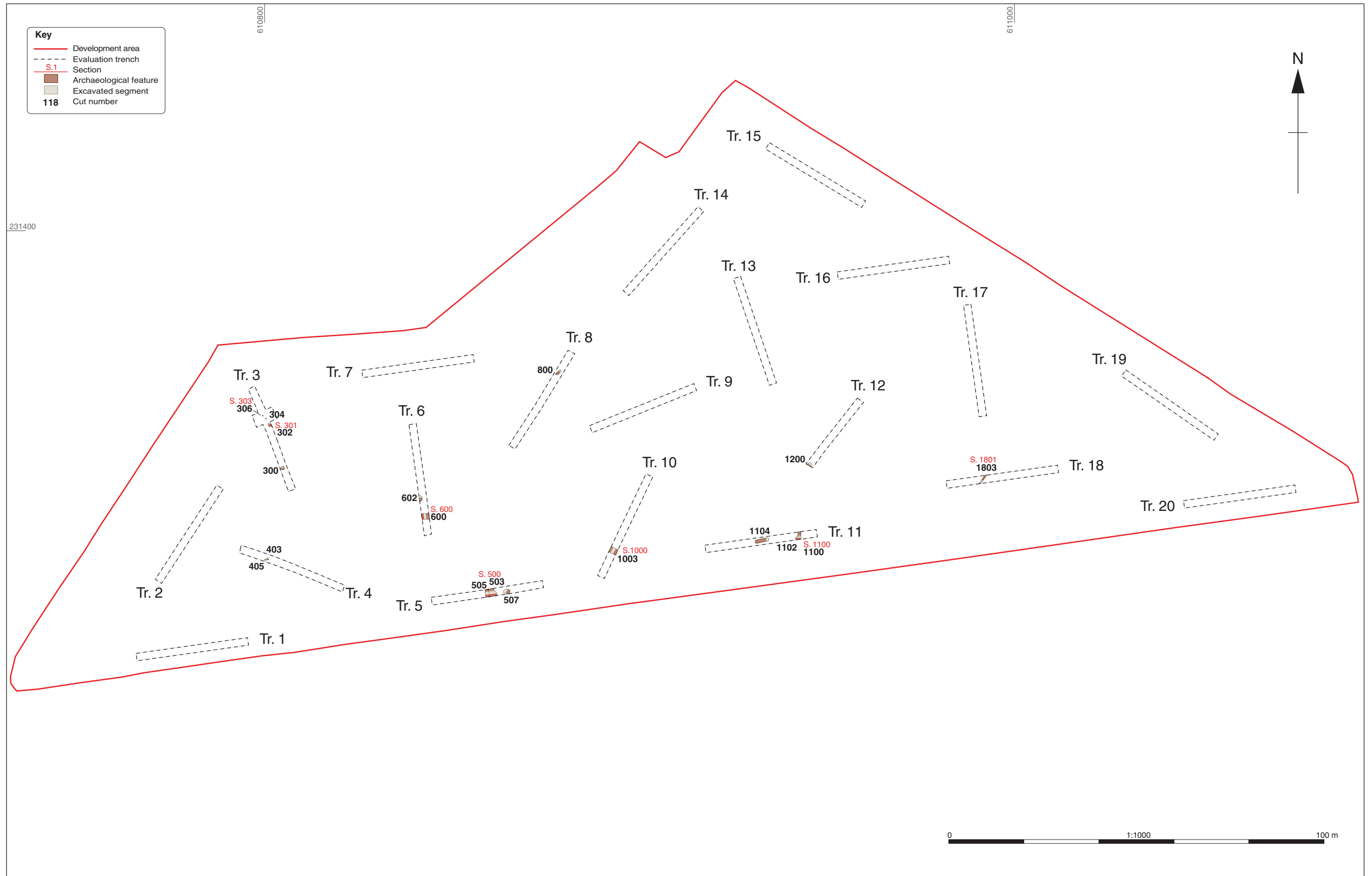


Figure 3: Evaluation plan

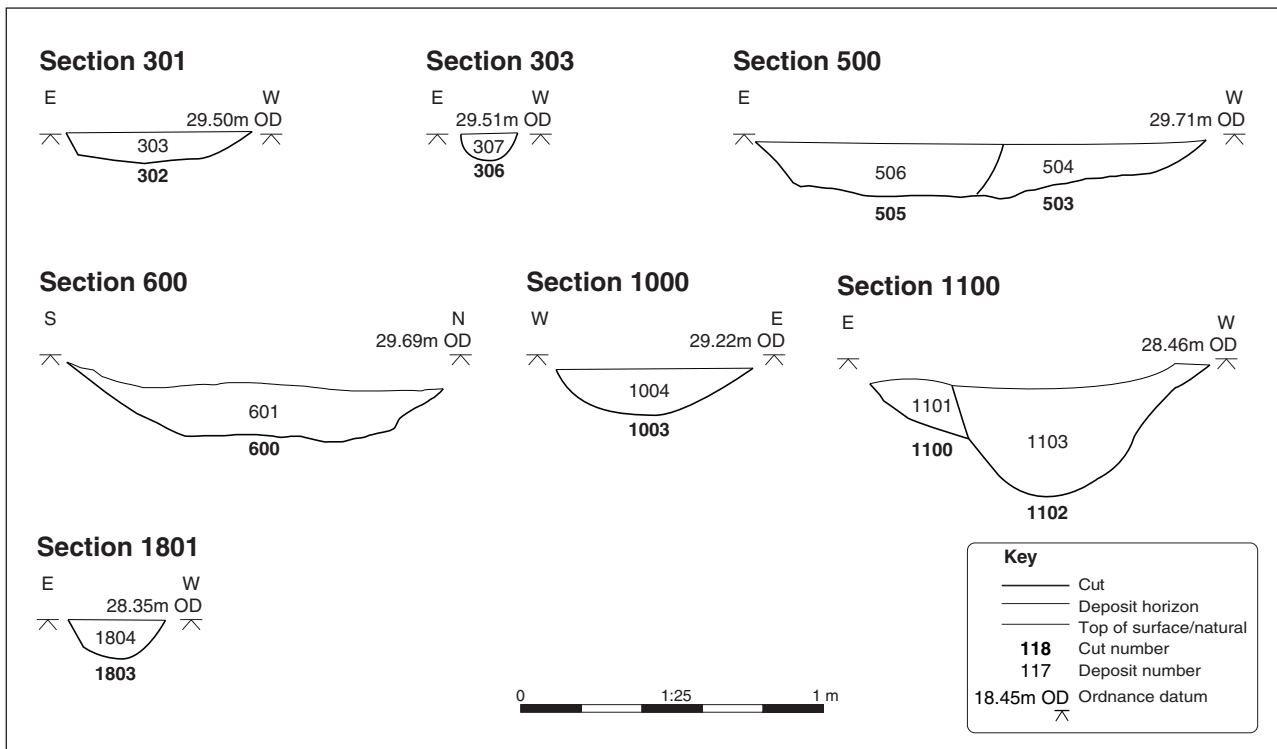


Figure 4: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 3, looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 4, looking north-west



Plate 3: Ditch 503, pit 505, Trench 5, looking south



Plate 4: Ditch 600, Trench 6, looking west





Plate 5: Ditch 1100, cut by ditch terminus 1102, Trench 11, looking south



Plate 6: Trench 16, looking west



Plate 7: Trench 18, looking north-east



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