Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to More's Meadow, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to More's Meadow, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 16th and 18th of September and the 2nd and 6th of November 2020 Oxford Archaeology East undertook a trial trench evaluation in two phases on three plots of land adjacent to More's Meadow, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (TL 45972 53066). The work was carried out in advance of a proposed residential development.

A geophysical survey was carried out prior to the trial trenching by Magnitude Survey. The trial trenches targeted geophysical anomalies and blank areas.

A total of fourteen trial trenches were excavated during the evaluation. Two of the trenches were blank, whilst the remaining twelve exposed a total of twenty-six ditches of various sizes and on various alignments.

These made up a probable field system consisting of boundary ditches and drainage ditches. There was no proven correlation with the results obtained from the geophysical survey. The results from environmental sampling support the premise that this was wet ground during the lifetime of the ditches, and there were no signs of a settlement within the bounds of the evaluation area. No dating evidence was recovered, other than a single fragment of post-medieval or early modern CBM from the top of one ditch which was believed to be residual. The lack of artefacts and the absence of any of the ditches on historic mapping may point to the ditches having a prehistoric origin, given that the site lies within a locality that is rich with field systems dating from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Parochial Charities for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Andy Thomas who monitored the work on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Kathryn Blackbourn (Phase 1) and Rona Booth (Phase 2), who were supported by Lexi Dawson and Tom Collie. Survey and digitising were carried out by Valerio Pinna and Tom Houghton. Thanks are also extended to the various specialists, illustrator and editor for their contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Parochial Charities to undertake a trial trench evaluation at land adjacent to More's Meadow, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (TL 45972 53066, Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. S/4279/19/FL). A brief (Thomas 2020) was set by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (Moan 2020) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Great Shelford is located around 2km south of Cambridge and the site itself is situated towards the north-west edge of the village. The site is bounded to the north-east and south-east by Hobsons Brook and to the north-west by arable fields. The remainder of the site is bounded by residential housing.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology consists of West Melbury marly chalk formation, overlain by superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The site sits at approximately 17m OD.

1.2.3 The site is made up of three plots, the plot to the north-west was laid to grassland until recently and has now been converted into allotments. The central plot is grassland with young trees and the south-eastern plot is a long-lived allotment garden with mature trees.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following is a summary of known archaeological remains currently recorded in the vicinity of the site based on records held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Pertinent data is shown on Fig. 1.

Neolithic and Bronze Age

1.3.2 A series of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the current site. Around 700m to the south-west is the Scheduled Monument of an Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure (DCB9755, NHLE 1452825). This example has three arcs of interrupted ditches across the western and northern arcs of the enclosure. All three circuits extend towards a single line of segmented ditches which forms a straight north-eastern side. The eastern and southern arcs are not visible. There are further cropmarks surrounding the causewayed enclosure which are believed to be evidence for contemporary and later (Iron Age and Roman) activity.

1.3.3 An evaluation undertaken at Granham's Farm, around 600m to the north-east (ECB1197) of the site, identified a series of silt filled hollows, pits, and a pit/shaft dating from the Neolithic period, along with a Bronze Age flint scatter and posthole building (CB15541).

1.3.4 Closer to the site, a findspot of Neolithic worked flints have been recovered (CHER 04881), just 70m to the east. A further flint scatter comprising 30 blades, 16 flakes, eight cores, one scraper and three pot-boiler rocks (CHER 04880A) have also been recovered from land just 150m to the north of the site. A Bronze Age flint arrowhead (CHER 04744) has also been recovered from within the site itself.

1.3.5 Other smaller flint scatters, which include a number of axeheads, have been recovered from further afield, including CHER 04886, 04892, 04893). A very substantial flint scatter (MCB24763) of over 300 worked flints ranging from the Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age has also been recovered during fieldwalking (ECB5374) around 1km to the north of the current site.

Iron Age and Roman

1.3.6 Around 175m directly to the north of the current site is an area of cropmarks (CHER 04461), some of which is a Scheduled Monument (DCB356, NHLE 1006891). The cropmarks have been interpreted as an Iron Age and Roman settlement, comprising enclosure ditches, trackways and a possible villa. Fieldwalking the area has recovered assemblages of Roman pottery, oyster shell and animal bone. Further undated cropmarks to the east and south-east could also be associated with this settlement (CHER 04463, MCB26794).

1.3.7 Further cropmarks (CHER 08337) around 200m to the south-west of the current site could also be of Iron Age or Roman origins. The cropmarks are made up of linear ditches and a possible trackway, which appears to cut over the top of the Neolithic causewayed enclosure (see above). A further cropmark (CHER 08347) of a square enclosure located around 300m to the west of the site could also date from this period.

1.3.8 During trial trenching at Granham's Farm (ECB1197), 150m to the east of the site, a series of ditches were identified as forming a Roman field system.

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.9 A small amount of Anglo-Saxon archaeology has been recorded in the vicinity of the site, including a ditch containing Early-Middle Saxon pottery (MCB20044) around 300m to the east. Small quantities of Late Saxon pottery have also been recovered from test pitting around the village (MCB18299, MCB19756).

Medieval

1.3.10 Granham's Manor and Farm (CHER 01002) is situated around 280m to the east of the site. It consists primarily of the remains of a rectangular moated site with associated fishpond and enclosure. Just to the west of this is the location of the former Granham's Manor chapel (CHER 01002B), which dated from the 13th century. A settlement associated with the manor has also been identified to the south (CB15542).

Geophysical survey

1.3.11 A geophysical survey was undertaken on the site ahead of the trial trenching (Fig. 2; Magnitude Survey 2020). Only the north-western and central plots were surveyed, the south-eastern plot was not accessible due to the extant allotments.

1.3.12 The geophysical survey detected archaeological activity in the form of two potential ring ditches, and three partial enclosures. A possibly associated boundary ditch was also identified between the two possible ring ditches, and multiple discrete anomalies interpreted as possible pits have also been detected. Anomalies related to historical agricultural use have been identified and interpreted as a formerly mapped footpath, former unmapped footpaths or field divisions and drainage features.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. to ground truth geophysical results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered
ii. 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
iii. to provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
iv. to provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
v. to provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of investigation (Moan 2020), approved by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team prior to the commencement of works, and with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (2014a) *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*.

2.2.2 A total of 14 trenches were excavated across the site in two phases (Fig. 2). The first phase of evaluation was conducted in the north-west part of the site (Plot 1) and comprised the excavation of Trenches 1 to 5. These consisted of one trench measuring 50m in length and four trenches measuring 25m in length. The second phase of evaluation (Plots 2 and 3) encompassed Trenches 6 to 14 and comprised seven trenches measuring 50m in length and two trenches measuring 25m in length.

2.2.3 Excavation was undertaken using a 14 tonne 360 type machine using a 1.8m wide ditching bucket. All machine excavation was monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OAE pro-forma sheets and plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales. Site photos were taken of all features using a DSLR camera.

2.2.5 Site survey was conducted using a Leica GS08 GPS system

2.2.6 Bulk samples were taken from a range of features within the excavated areas and processed at OA East's processing facility at Bourn.

2.2.7 Bucket sampling was conducted at each trench resulting in 90 litres of soil being checked for artefacts and all spoil heaps were metal detected.

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. Information regarding the artefactual evidence is presented as a note in Appendix B The environmental report is presented in Appendix C.

3.1.2 An overall trench plan, overlain on the geophysical survey results, is provided as Fig. 2. More detailed of plans of the trenches and their associated features are included as Fig. 3 (Trenches 1-6) and Fig. 4 (Trenches 7-14) A selection of section drawings is provided in Fig. 5 and selected photographs are reproduced in Plates 1-10.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was relatively uniform. The natural geology of clayey chalk marl (102) was overlain by topsoil (100) in all the trenches, with the exception of Trenches 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 where the natural geology was also overlain by a light orange brown subsoil (101).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout during the excavation of the Phase 1 trenches. Heavy rain showers, combined with the highwater table, during the excavation of the Phase 2 trenches was less conducive to the excavation of the features, especially on the southern side of the evaluation area. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology within the area of the Phase 1 trenches, but were less visible in the area of the Phase 2 trenches owing to the low lying winter sun and the presence of geological and natural features.

3.2.3 Where there was any doubt concerning their origin, geological and natural features were test-excavated to be sure of their non-archaeological nature.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 During Phase 1 of the evaluation, ditches were identified in all five trenches excavated (Trenches 1-5). Although trenches were positioned across geophysical anomalies, only the anomaly targeted by Trench 3 was an archaeological feature. The other anomalies in this area appear to be geological rather than archaeological and the smaller archaeological features identified were not picked up by the geophysical survey.

3.3.2 A similar situation was noted during Phase 2 of the evaluation, with seven of the nine excavated trenches revealing archaeological features, but with no features corresponding to plotted geophysical anomalies.

3.3.3 Across the site, finds were very scarce and unless otherwise noted none of the features/deposits detailed below produced any finds.

3.4 Plot 1 (Trenches 1 to 5)

3.4.1 Trenches 1 to 5 were excavated during the first phase of evaluation, all five trenches contained ditches. Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 measured 25m in length and Trench 4 measured 50m.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

3.4.2 At the most northern part of the site was Trench 1 (Plate 1) which was laid out on a north-east to south-west orientation and revealed a single ditch (**103**). This feature was on a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 0.9m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloped sides and a concave base (Fig 5, Section 1). Its single fill (104) consisted of a light brown grey silty clay.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

3.4.3 Immediately south-east of Trench 1 was Trench 2, which exposed a contained a single gully. Gully **200** was on a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 0.3m wide and 0.04m deep with gently sloped sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill (201) consisted of a light grey brown silty clay.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

3.4.4 Trench 3 was laid out on a north to south alignment, to the south of Trench 2, and contained three ditches. Ditch **300** was located at the northern end of the trench and corresponded with a curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey (see Fig. 2). This ditch measured 1.4m wide and 0.24m deep with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill (301) consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay.

3.4.5 To the south, ditch **302** was on a north-west to south-east alignment and measured 0.52m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill (303) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay. A bulk sample of this deposit produced a small amount of charcoal (Appendix C). Running at a right angle from this (on a north-east to south-west alignment) was ditch **304**, which measured 0.5m wide and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Plate 2, Fig. 5, Section 5). Its single fill (305) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

3.4.6 Trench 4 was located along the north east boundary of the site, on a north-west to south-east alignment, and revealed a single ditch and several tree throws.

3.4.7 Ditch **400** was located towards the northern end of the trench and was on a north-east to south-west alignment, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep with gently sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (401) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay.

3.4.8 A total of four tree throws were excavated within the trench, only two of which were fully recorded. Tree throw **402** measured 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep and had irregular sides and an undulating irregular base. Its single fill (403) consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay. Tree throw **404** measured 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep, with a similarly

irregular profile, and contained a single fill (404) which consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

3.4.9 Trench 5 (Plate 3) was laid out on a north-east to south-west orientation and contained two ditches. Ditch **500** was on a north-east to south-west alignment and was exposed from the south-west end of the trench for a length of some 15m before terminating. This ditch measured 0.4m wide and 0.17m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (501) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay. At the north-east end of the trench was ditch **502** (Plate 4), which was on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and measured 1.04m wide and 0.5m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill (503) consisted of a mottled orange grey brown silty clay.

3.5 Plots 2 and 3 (Trenches 6 to 14)

3.5.1 Trenches 6 to 14 were excavated during phase 2 of the evaluation. The trenches were 50m long, except for trenches 7 and 10 which measured 25m. Two trenches (9 and 10) were devoid of archaeology. The remainder of the trenches contained between one and four ditches.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

3.5.2 Trench 6 was aligned from north-east to south-west and was situated just south of Trench 5, in the northern-most part of Plot 2. It contained three ditches.

3.5.3 Ditch **600** was aligned north-west to south-east and was situated at the northern end of the trench. It measured 0.85m wide and 0.4m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. Its single fill (601) of mid greyish brown silty clay produced the sole piece of artefactual evidence from the evaluation; a small fragment (0.040kg) of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM). This it was recovered from near the top of the deposit and may be intrusive.

3.5.4 Ditch **602** was aligned north to south and was located to the south-west of ditch **600**. It measured 1.15m wide and 0.42m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Plate 5). Its sole fill (603) consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay.

3.5.5 Ditch **604** was aligned north-east-east to south-west-west and was situated at the southernmost end of the trench. It measured 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its sole fill (605) also consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay. The water table was particularly high at this end of Trench 6 which, combined with heavy rain, resulted in ditch **604** completely filling with water over the course of a few hours.

Trench 7 (Fig. 4)

3.5.6 Trench 7 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and was located on the edge of the site to the east of Trench 6. It contained two parallel ditches, aligned north-west to south-east, both situated in the central part of the trench.

3.5.7 Ditch **700** (Fig. 5, Section 11) was the northernmost of the two ditches. It measured 0.74m wide and 0.3m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The ditch contained two fills; the lower fill (701) consisted of a mid-greyish brown silty clay, whilst the upper fill (702) was a dark greyish brown silty clay.

3.5.8 Ditch **703** lay just south of ditch **700**. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.56 m deep and also had steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, Section 12). The lower fill (704) consisted of a mid blue grey silty clay, whilst the upper fill (705) consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay.

Trench 8 (Fig. 4)

3.5.9 Trench 8 formed one arm of a T-shaped trench with Trench 9. It was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and contained two narrow ditches.

3.5.10 Ditch **800** was aligned north-west to south-east and lay at the northernmost end of the trench. It measured 0.5m in width and was 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The sole fill (801) consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay.

3.5.11 Ditch **802** which lay at the southern-most end of the trench was also aligned north-west to south-east. It measured 0.5m in width but was slightly shallower with a depth of 0.08m. Similarly, it had gently sloping sides and a concave base with its single fill (803) also consisting of a mid greyish brown silty clay.

Trench 9 (Fig. 4)

3.5.12 Trench 9 formed one arm of the T-shaped trench along with Trench 8. Aligned north-east to south-west, it was targeted on several geophysical anomalies that were suspected to be a series of pits, but the trench was devoid of archaeological features and only heavily rooted natural and geological features were seen.

Trench 10 (Fig. 4)

3.5.13 Trench 10 (Plate 6), aligned north-west to south-east and located on the eastern edge of the site, was also devoid of archaeological features, although in this instance not all the natural features present were picked up during the geophysical survey.

Trench 11 (Fig. 4)

3.5.14 Trench 11 was located on the southern boundary of Plot 2. It was aligned north-east to south-west and contained two ditches and a ditch terminus.

3.5.15 The ditch terminus (**1100**), exposed at the northern-most end of the trench, was aligned north-west to south-east. It measured 0.78m wide and was 0.28m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1101) of light grey sandy clay.

3.5.16 Ditch **1102** was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and lay just south-west of ditch terminus **1100**. It measured 0.6m wide and 0.29m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its sole fill (1102) also consisted of a light grey sandy clay.

3.5.17 Ditch **1104** was located to the south toward the centre of the trench on the same alignment as ditch **1102**. It measured 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its sole fill (1105) was again a light grey sandy clay.

Trench 12 (Fig. 4)

3.5.18 Trench 12 was located in Plot 3, the site of a long-established allotment garden. It lay parallel to Trench 11 and was orientated north-east to south-west. It contained three ditches and a probable ditch terminus. Two of the features (**1200** and **1208**) at the southern end of the trench rapidly filled with water as they were being excavated.

3.5.19 Ditch **1200** was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and was located toward the southern end of the trench. It measured 1.74m wide and 0.56m deep with steep sides and an irregular base (Fig. 5, Section 15). The ditch contained two fills, the lower fill (1201) consisted of a mid-blueish grey silty clay, which was heavily rooted. The upper fill (1202), a mid greyish brown clayey silt, was rooted to a lesser extent.

3.5.20 Ditch **1203** (Plate 7) was aligned north to south and was located to the north of ditch **1200**. It measured 0.76m wide and was 0.26m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained two fills, the lower of which (1204) consisted of a light brownish grey silty clay, whilst the upper fill (1205) consisted of a light grey sandy clay.

3.5.21 To the north of ditch 1203, a third linear ditch, aligned north-west to south-east, was exposed (**1206**). This feature measured 0.82m wide and 0.28 m deep and had moderately steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 8). It was filled by a single deposit of mid grey sandy clay (1207).

3.5.22 The stratigraphically latest feature in this trench was a possible ditch terminus **1208** (Plate 9), exposed against the south-eastern edge of the trench, where it appeared to be cut partly through the fill of ditch **1200**. It seemed to be aligned north-west to south-east, although only 0.6m of the feature was visible in the trench. It was steep sided, and the base was not discernible. Its sole fill (1209) consisted of a mid brownish grey clayey silt.

Trench 13 (Fig. 4)

3.5.23 Trench 13 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. It contained two parallel ditches at the north-western end, both running on a north-east to south-west alignment.

3.5.24 Ditch **1300** was 0.29m wide and just 0.10m deep, with steep sides and a V-shaped base. Its sole fill (1301) consisted of a light greyish brown clayey silt.

3.5.25 Ditch **1302** (Fig. 5, Section 20), located to the south-east of ditch **1300**, was 0.50m wide and 0.26m deep with steep sides and a concave base. The sole fill consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional smears of charcoal.

Trench 14 (Fig. 4)

3.5.26 Trench 14 (Plate 10) was aligned north-east-east to south-west-west. It contained two narrow ditches.

3.5.27 Ditch **1400** was aligned north-west to south-east and was located in the centre of the trench. It measured 0.62m wide and 0.10m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its sole fill consisted of a mid greyish brown clayey silt.

3.5.28 Ditch **1402** was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and was situated at the north-eastern end of the trench. It measured just 0.20m wide and 0.18m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. Its sole fill (1403) consisted of a light brownish grey clayey silt.

3.6 Environmental summary

3.6.1 Fourteen bulk samples were taken during the evaluation. These contained moderate to frequent relatively well-preserved molluscs, but the preservation of plant remains was very poor and consisted only of a very small quantity of charcoal from Sample 2, fill 303 of ditch **302** (Trench 3).

3.6.2 Most of the samples contain small to moderate quantities of charophyte (stonewort) oogonia and ostracods. These are indicative of a wet environment.

3.7 Finds summary

3.7.1 No finds were recovered from features within Plot 1 of the evaluation. Bucket sampling did identify very modern blue and white pottery which was not retained. No metal finds were recovered during metal detecting.

3.7.2 During the evaluation of Plots 2 and 3, a single piece of post-medieval or early modern ceramic building material (0.040 kg) was recovered from the top of ditch **600** within Trench 6. Bucket sampling recovered no other finds from the area of Plot 2 and only allotment garden related finds and modern rubbish, which were not retained, from Plot 3.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The results of the evaluation can be considered reliable despite the flooding of some of the features within Trenches 6 and 12.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The objectives laid out in section 4.2.2 were met during the evaluation.

4.2.2 The geophysical survey (Fig. 2) indicated that several anomalies were likely to be archaeological features. Whilst this was true in the case of ditch **300**, this premise did not hold across the site and there was generally a very poor correlation between the results of the survey and the archaeological features exposed by the trenching, whilst archaeological features were revealed in areas not registering geophysical anomalies.

4.2.3 Twenty-six archaeological features were shown to be present. Of these, twenty-four were ditches of various dimensions and two (**1100** and **1208**) were probable ditch termini, although this was not confirmed as these features were only partly exposed against the edges of Trenches 11 and 12 respectively.

4.2.4 Sufficient data was gathered to construct a mitigation strategy if required. There were no masking deposits and sufficient coverage was provided to indicate the potential character, condition, and purpose of the archaeological deposits.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The ditches and potential ditch termini appear to form part of field systems consisting of drainage ditches and field divisions. Those within the area of Plot 3 in Trenches 13 and 14 may relate to cultivation of the allotments.

4.3.2 The ditches are orientated on various alignments. Fifteen ditches run north-west to south-east or north-north-west to south-south-east, whilst eight run in north-east to south-west or north-north-east to south-south-west. A further two are orientated north-south and one runs north-east-east to south-west-west. However, there was no discernible pattern to the orientation of the ditches when correlated with their dimensions.

4.3.3 Other than the small fragment of CBM, no datable material was obtained from the ditches and therefore, the period of their inception remains unclear. With the significant number of field systems in this area of south Cambridgeshire, which date from the Bronze Age through to the Roman period, a prehistoric origin seems plausible. However, it cannot be discounted that these may be medieval or later ditches given that Granham's Manor and Farm, and the historic heart of Great Shelford lie just a few hundred metres away.

4.3.4 The presence of charophyte oogonia and ostracods from many of the bulk samples taken of the dicth fills are indicative of aquatic environments from, supporting the theory that at least some of the ditches were dug for drainage. It is likely that the ground was periodically wet, especially on the southern side, where the ground is still liable to flooding today.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The site has limited significance in that it is represents the presence of one or more field systems consisting of potential boundary, field division and drainage ditches. The lack of artefacts, and limited environmental evidence suggests the absence of a settlement directly on site. This is supported by the environmental analysis which suggests that this was wet ground and not suitable for the establishment of a settlement.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single ditch with a north-west to south-east orientation, overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
103	Cut	-	0.90	0.10	Ditch	-	-
104	Fill	103	0.90	0.10	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 2							
General description						Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single shallow gully which was overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay. Modern disturbance was identified at the eastern end of the trench						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
200	Cut	-	0.3	0.04	Ditch	-	-
201	Fill	200	0.3	0.04	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 3							
General description						Orientation	N-S
Trench contained three ditches on various alignments, overlain by subsoil and topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
300	Cut	-	1.40	0.24	Ditch	-	-
301	Fill	300	1.40	0.24	Secondary Fill	-	-
302	Cut	-	0.52	0.14	Ditch	-	-
303	Fill	302	0.52	0.14	Secondary Fill	-	-
304	Cut	-	0.50	0.22	Ditch	-	-

305	Fill	304	0.50	0.22	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 4

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single ditch and several tree throws, overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.53

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
400	Cut	-	0.90	0.28	Ditch	-	-
401	Fill	400	0.90	0.28	Secondary Fill	-	-
402	Cut	-	0.40	0.20	Tree Throw	-	-
403	Fill	402	0.40	0.20	Secondary Fill	-	-
404	Cut	-	0.45	0.15	Tree Throw	-	-
405	Fill	404	0.45	0.15	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 5

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 5 contained two ditches overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.	Length (m)	25
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.32

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
500	Cut	-	0.40	0.17	Ditch	-	-
501	Fill	500	0.40	0.17	Secondary Fill	-	-
502	Cut	-	1.04	0.50	Ditch	-	-
503	Fill	502	1.04	0.50	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 6

General description	Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 6 contained three ditches overlain by subsoil and topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.49

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-

102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
600	Cut	-	0.84	0.40	Ditch	-	-
601	Fill	600		0.40	Secondary Fill	CBM	Post-med
602	Cut	-	1.15	0.42	Ditch	-	-
603	Fill	602		0.42	Secondary Fill	-	-
604	Cut		1.20	0.40	Ditch	-	-
605	Fill	604		0.40	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 7

General description	Orientation	NWW-SEE
Trench 7 contained two ditches overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.	Length (m)	25
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.38

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
700	Cut	-	0.75	0.30	Ditch	-	-
701	Fill	700		0.12	Primary Fill	-	-
702	Fill	700		0.18	Secondary Fill	-	-
703	Cut		1.40	0.56	Ditch	-	-
704	Fill	703		0.15	Primary Fill	-	-
705	Fill	703		0.48	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench8

General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench 8 contained two ditches overlain by subsoil and topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.	Length (m)	25
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.34

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
800	Cut	-	0.5	0.10	Ditch	-	-
801	Fill	800	-	0.17	Secondary Fill	-	-
802	Cut	-	0.5	0.08	Ditch	-	-
803	Fill	502	-	0.08	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 9

General description						Orientation	NEE-SWW
Trench 9 was devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 10							
General description						Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 10 was devoid of archaeology.						Length (m)	25
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 11							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench11 contained two ditches and a possible ditch terminus overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1100	Cut	-	0.78	0.28	Ditch Terminus	-	-
1101	Fill	1100	-	0.28	Primary Fill	-	-
1102	Cut	-	0.60	0.29	Ditch	-	-
1103	Fill	1102	-	0.29	Primary Fill	-	-
1104	Cut	-	0.70	0.40	Ditch	-	-
1105	Fill	1104	-	0.40	Primary Fill	-	-
Trench 12							
General description						Orientation	NE-SW
Trench12 contained three ditches and a possible ditch terminus overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.						Length (m)	50
						Width (m)	1.8
						Avg. depth (m)	0.40

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1200	Cut	-	1.74	0.56	Ditch	-	-
1201	Fill	1200	-	0.	Primary Fill	-	-
1202	Fill	1200	-		Secondary Fill	-	-
1203	Cut	-	0.76	0.26	Ditch	-	-
1204	Fill	1203	-		Primary Fill	-	-
1205	Fill	1203	-		Secondary Fill	-	-
1206	Cut	-	0.82	0.28	Ditch		
1207	Fill	1206	-	0.28	Secondary Fill		
1208	Cut	-	1.20	0.40	Ditch Terminus		
1209	Fill	1208	-	0.40	Secondary Fill		

Trench 13

General description	Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench 13 contained two ditches overlain by subsoil and topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.33

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1300	Cut	-	0.29	0.10	Ditch	-	-
1301	Fill	1300	-	0.10	Secondary Fill	-	-
1302	Cut	-	0.50	0.26	Ditch	-	-
1303	Fill	1302	-	0.26	Secondary Fill	-	-

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	
Trench 14 contained two narrow ditches overlain by topsoil. The natural geology consisted of a chalky clay.	Length (m)	50
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.37

Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
1400	Cut	-	0.62	0.10	Ditch	-	-
1401	Fill	1400	-	0.10	Secondary Fill	-	-
1402	Cut	-	0.20	0.18	Ditch	-	-
1403	Fill	1402	-	0.18	Secondary Fill	-	-

APPENDIX B ARTEFACT REPORT

By Carole Fletcher

B.1.1 Ditch **600** produced a single, moderately abraded to abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 0.040kg, in a dull red, quartz-tempered fabric. A partial surface survives, but no complete dimensions could be established. The fragment is very probably from a brick. The CBM is post-medieval and very probably 18th century or later. The fragment of CCBM is not significant and may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 Fourteen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area adjacent to More's Meadow, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The sample were taken from a series of ditches that are as yet undated.

C.1.2 The total volume (up to 16L) of the samples were 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 residues were 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 Stace (1997). Plant remains have been identified to species where possible.

Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items that cannot be easily quantified such as molluscs and ostracods have been scored for abundance

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

Results

C.1.5 Preservation of plant remains is very poor and consists only of a very small quantity of charcoal in Sample 2, fill 303 of ditch **302** (Trench 3).

C.1.6 The majority of the samples contain small to moderate quantities of charophyte (stonewort) oogonia and ostracods.

C.1.7 The samples from this site contain moderate to frequent relatively well-preserved molluscs.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume Processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Charophyte Oogonia	Ostracods	Molluscs	Charcoal
3	1	301	300	Ditch	8	5	++	++	+++	0
3	2	303	302	Ditch	8		0	0	+++	<1
4	3	401	400	Ditch	8	5	++	++	+++	0
5	4	503	502	Ditch	16	5	++	+	+++	0
6	5	601	600	Ditch	16	20	+	0	+++	0
6	6	605	604	Ditch	16	10	0	+	+++	0
7	7	702	700	Ditch	16	5	+	0	+++	0
8	8	803	802	Ditch	16	10	+	0	+++	0
11	12	1103	1102	Ditch	16	5	++	0	++	0
11	13	1105	1104	Ditch	16	10	++	+	+++	0
12	9	1201	1200	Ditch	14	5	+	++	+++	0
12	10	1207	1206	Ditch	14	5	0	0	++	0
13	11	1303	1302	Ditch	16	5	+	+	++	0
14	14	1401	1400	Ditch	7	5	0	+	++	0

Table 1: Environmental samples

Discussion

C.1.8 The recovery of only a very small quantity of charcoal suggests that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site.

C.1.9 The presence of ostracods in the sampled deposits is indicative of these features containing water; at least periodically. Ostracods are a type of bivalve crustacean which are known to inhabit a wide range of aquatic environments (Jones, 2011, p.25). The wet environment is further indicated by the existence of snails that are ecologically tolerant of damp ground within the mollusc assemblage (Rona Booth, pers. comm.). It is likely that the water in the features was clean as this is the favoured environment of charophytes which were recovered from several the deposits (Whittaker et al., 2013, p. 284).

C.1.10 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

Site name:	Land adjacent to More's Meadow, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire
Site code:	GSHMMD20
Grid Reference	TL 45972 53066
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	16/9/20 – 16/11/20
Area of Site	24,750 sqm
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OAE (15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambs, CB23 8SQ), and will be deposited with CCC in due course, under the following accession number: ECB6286.
Summary of Results:	Twenty-six ditches and ditch termini were revealed in 12 of 14 trial trenches. These appear to make up one or more field systems comprising boundary, field division and drainage ditches.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-408952
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation, Land adjacent to More's Meadow, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire

Start of Fieldwork	16/9/20	End of Fieldwork	6/11/20
Previous Work	no	Future Work	no

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GSHMMD20	Planning App. No.	S/4279/19/FL
HER Number	ECB 6286	Related Numbers	

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	Between deposition of an application and determination

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
Ditch	Uncertain

Object	Period
Ceramic building material	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	South Cambridgeshire
Parish	Great Shelford
HER office	Cambridge
Size of Study Area	24,750 sqm
National Grid Ref	TL 45972 53066

Address (including Postcode)

Land adjacent to More's Meadow
Great Shelford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 5UT

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team
Project Design Originator	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Manager	Louise Moan
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Blackbourn and Rona Booth

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	n/a	n/a
Digital Archive	OA East	GSHMMD20
Paper Archive	CCC stores	ECB 6286

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	☒

Further Comments

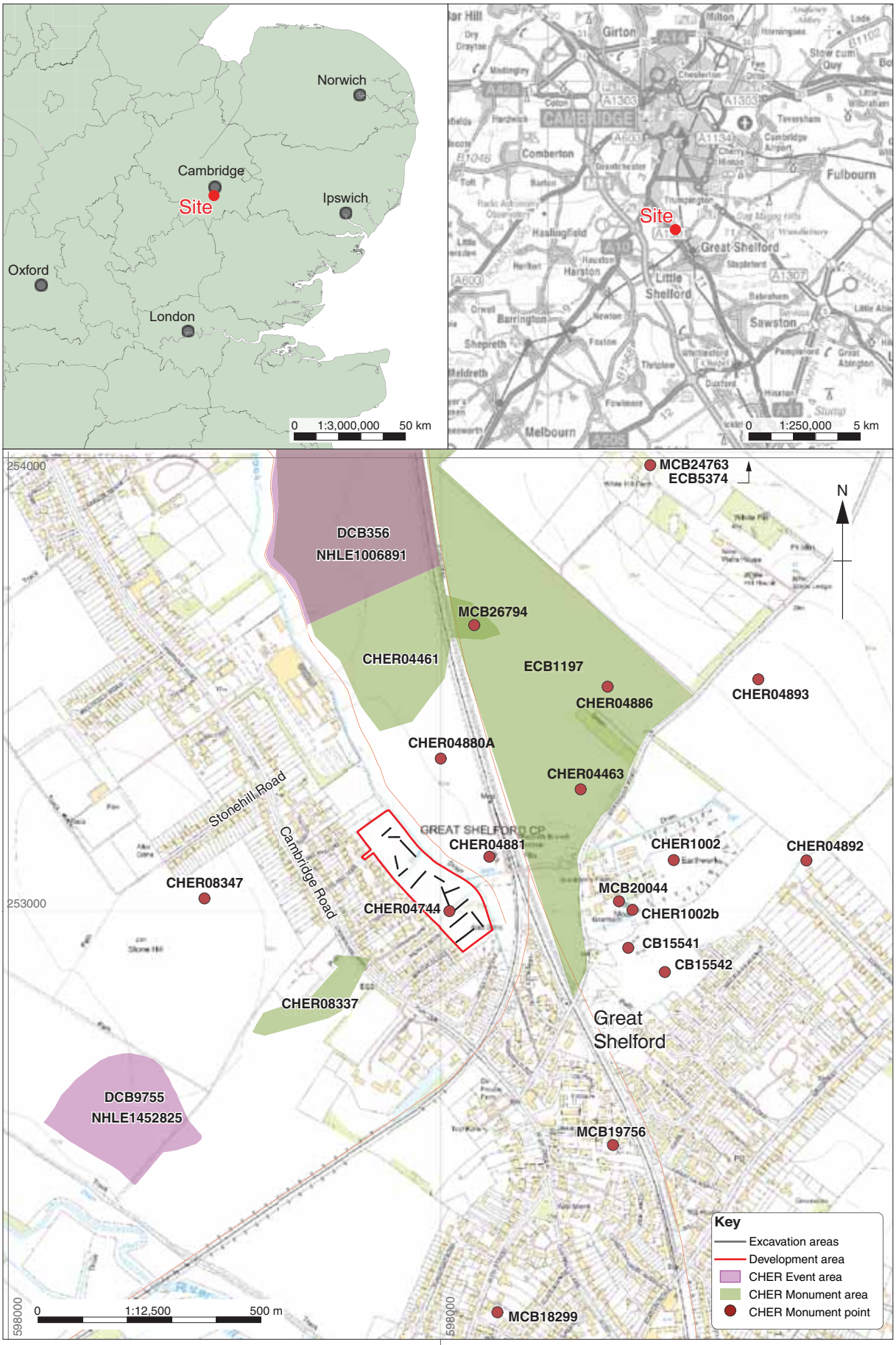

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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area outlined (red) and CHER entries mentioned in the text.

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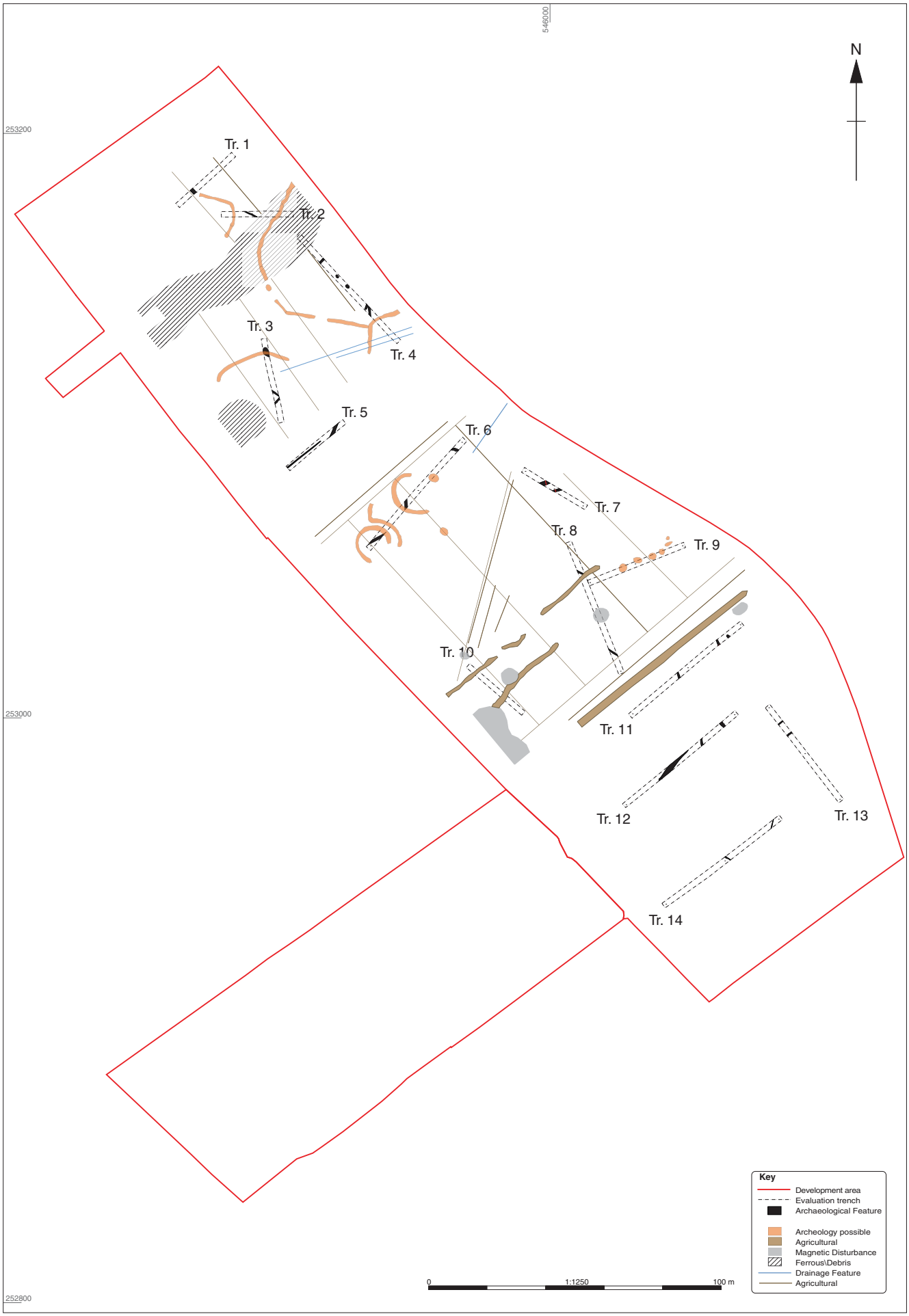

Figure 2: Trench plan overlaid geophysical survey (Magnitude Survey, 2020: Figure 5)

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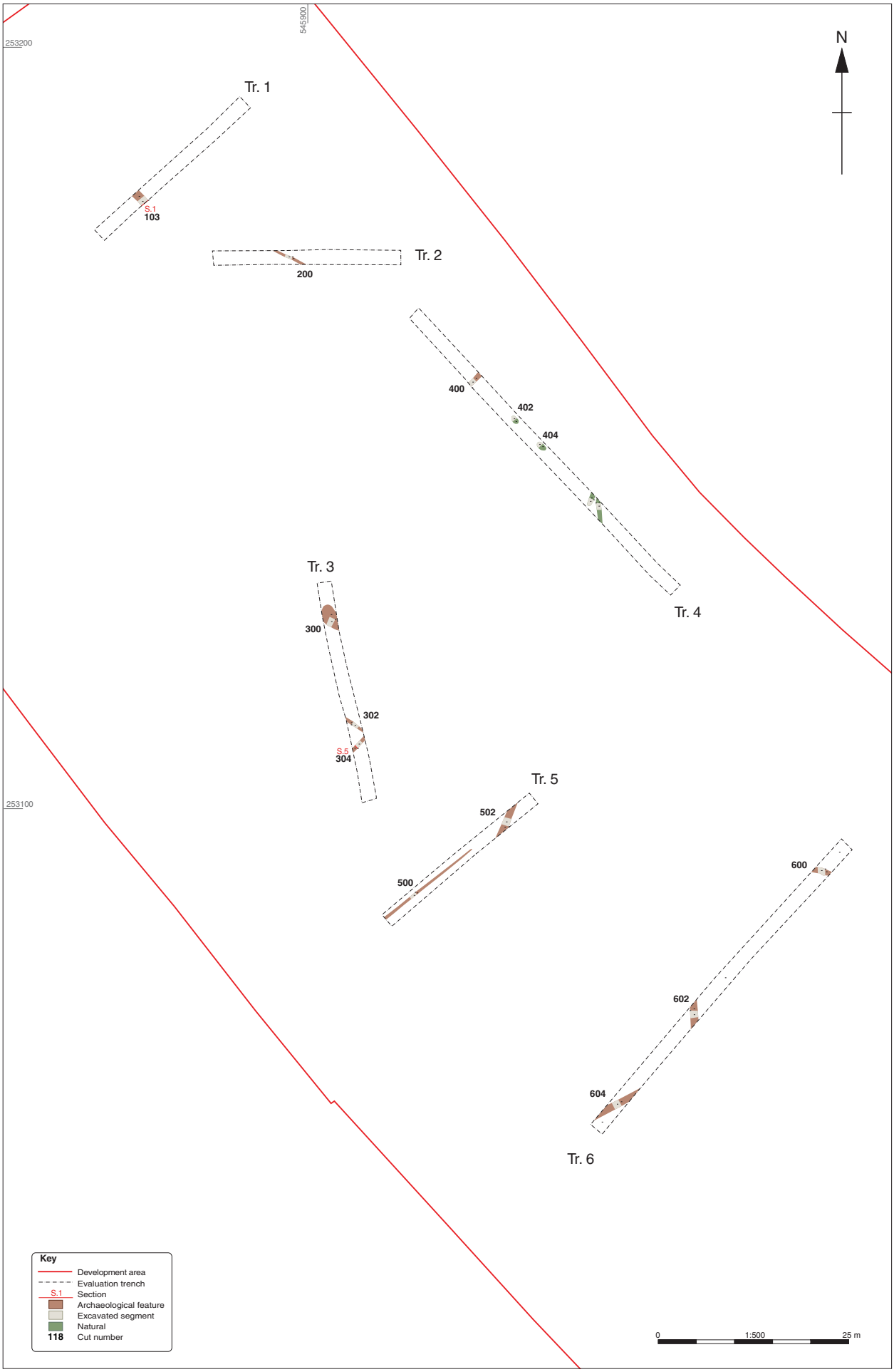

Figure 3: Trench plan north: *trenches 1-6*

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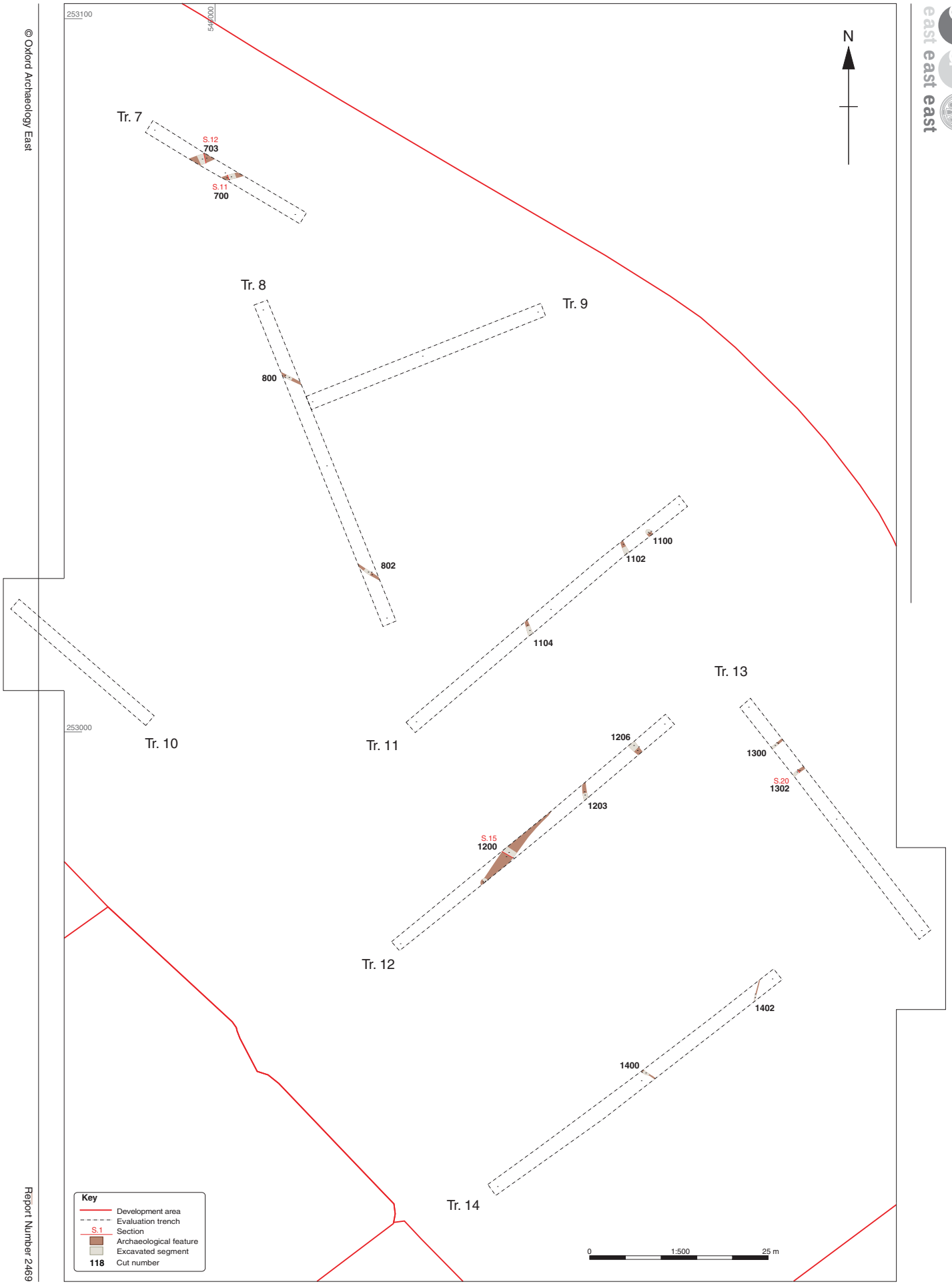

Figure 4 : Trench plan south: *trenches 7-14*

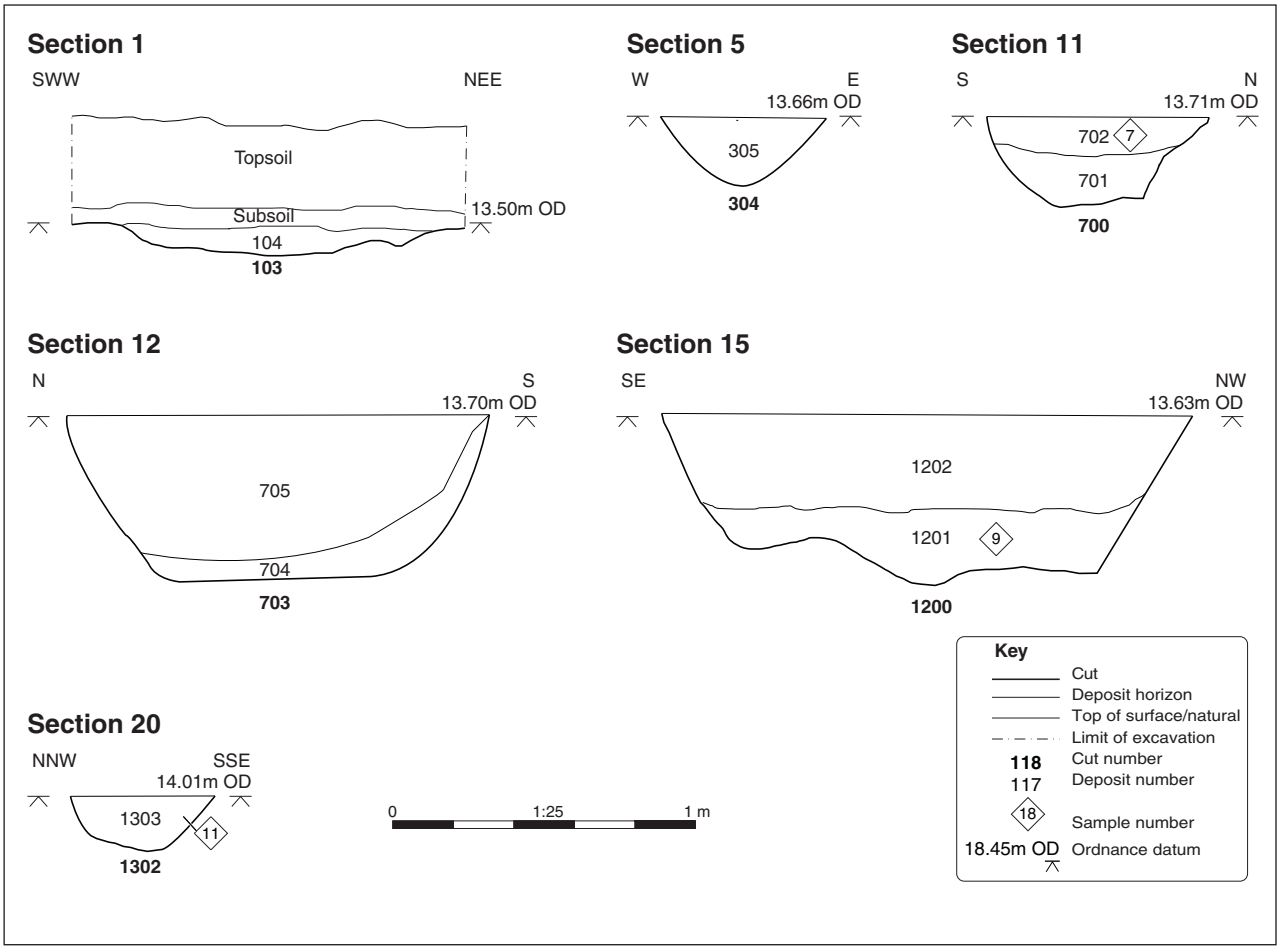

Figure 5: Selected sections

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-east

Plate 2: Ditch **304** in Trench 3, looking south-west

Plate 3: Trench 5, looking south-west

Plate 4: Ditch **502** in Trench 5, looking south-south-west

Plate 5: Ditch **602** in Trench 6, looking north-west

Plate 6: Trench 10, looking south-east

Plate 7: Ditch **1203** in Trench 12, looking south

Plate 8: Ditch **1206** in Trench 12, looking north-west

Plate 9: Possible ditch terminus **1208** in Trench 12, looking south-east

Plate 10: Trench 14, looking north-east

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