



Cayton Park, Hurley, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

June 2020

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Cayton Park, Hurley, Berkshire
Archaeological Evaluation Interim Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by Roscco Property to carry out an archaeological evaluation, comprising five trenches, within the footprint of a proposed lake.

The evaluation was conducted over the course of two days: 15th – 16th May 2020. The evaluation did not identify any deposits or features of archaeological interest.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Roscco Property for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Matt Saywood who monitored the work on behalf of Berkshire Archaeology.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd. The fieldwork was directed by Lee Sparks. Survey and digitising was carried out by Conan Parsons and Mathew Bradley. Thanks, are also extended to the team of OA staff that prepared the archive under the supervision of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Rossco Property to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed lake and associated drainage.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 19/01753/FULL). The Local Planning Authority did not set a brief for the work, although discussions with Matt Saywood of Berkshire Archaeology established the scope of work required and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA (OA 2020) detailing the Local Authority's requirements. This document outlines how OA implemented those requirements.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies and the relevant guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014)

1.2 Location, topography, and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies towards the southern limit of Hurley Parish to the west of the hamlet of Warren Row, Berkshire (SU 80685 80544).
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of the private gardens and woodland within the Cayton Park Estate. The site is bounded to the north by Warren Row Road and to the South by Hatch Gate Lane. The site is surrounded by a combination of agricultural land and private estates (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as London Clay Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS Online).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 There has been limited previous archaeological investigation undertaken in the vicinity of the site and as such there is little known regarding the archaeological and historical background the area. In response to the planning application, Matt Saywood of Berkshire Archaeological identified the following archaeological assets as being within the vicinity of the site. Further information has been provided where available.
- 1.3.2 Prehistoric remains have been identified in the area, including the recovery of two worked flints during fieldwork approximately 900m to the west of the proposed lake. In addition, two possible burnt mounds have been identified 850m to the west and 1.2km to the south-west.
- 1.3.3 No evidence of Iron Age or Roman activity has been recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. However, excavations in the 1930s at Knowl Hill, approximately 1.7km to the south-east, identified the remains of a stone-built building of Romano-British origin. Interpretation of the structure suggests it is the remains of a barn, however, the possibility that is a domestic dwelling, and a simple villa cannot be ruled out (Seaby et al 1934).

- 1.3.4 The remains of a medieval settlement were recorded during the installation of a gas main between Nuffield and Ascot in the early 1980s, approximately 450m to the north of the site.
- 1.3.5 Cayton Park was designed by William Flockhart in the early 20th century (c. 1902). Originally referred to as Parkwood, the estate comprised a new house, farm buildings, a stable block, entrance lodge and estate cottages (Dictionary of Scottish Architects). Over the course of the 20th century the main house was significantly altered to the extent that it was excluded when the stables and farm buildings were awarded Grade II status by Historic England in 1987. Later referred to as Juddmonte House the property was demolished in 2017 (planning ref: 17/03414/FUL) and the present house constructed.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 General aims

2.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation were to record the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features, and to report on the findings to inform the planning process.

2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims and objectives of the evaluation were:

- i. To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains.
- iii. To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- iv. To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- v. To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- vi. To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- vii. To determine the potential of the site to provide paleoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- viii. To determine the implications of any remains with reference to the economy, status, utility and social activity of or at the site.
- ix. To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.
- x. To disseminate the results of the evaluation through the production of a fieldwork report.

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 Five evaluation trenches measuring 15m by 1.6m were excavated within the footprint of the proposed lake, equating to a 4% sample of the proposed development area (Figure 2). All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in the WSI.

2.3.2 The trenches were excavated using an 8t tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Excavation continued in spits of no more than 0.2m until the top of undisturbed natural geology was exposed. Spoil was stored adjacent to the trench edges.

2.3.3 The exposed surface was sufficiently clean to establish the absence of archaeological remains. All deposits were issued unique context numbers and recorded using OA proforma sheets in line with industry best practice.

2.3.4 Digital photographs were taken on the trenches and works in general.

2.3.5 Upon completion and in agreement with the Local Planning Archaeologist, the trenches were backfilled with the arisings in reverse order of excavation. As the

fieldwork was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic, monitoring of the fieldwork by the Planning Archaeologist was done remotely using digital photographs.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits are tabulated in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was uniform. The natural geology of London Clay Formation was overlain by a layer of disturbed geology. The topsoil had been impacted by the contractors prior to the start of the evaluation in the locations of Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 which created this disturbed geological horizon (Plate 1). Topsoil was recorded in Trench 3 as directly overlying the natural geology.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 The evaluation did not record any archaeological deposits or features (Plates 2-6).

3.4 Finds and environmental summary

3.4.1 No artefacts were recovered or noted. No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in clear, dry conditions using a 360° excavator fitted with a bladed bucket. The geological horizon was clearly established, and any potential archaeological features would have been easily defined.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 Despite previous construction impacts the evaluation achieved the aims outlined in Section 2. Although the topsoil had been significantly impacted across area, the impact into the underlying geology was more limited. If present, archaeological features would have been identified at this point. Their absence is a reflection of the lack of archaeological activity in the area. This interpretation is supported by the lack of artefactual evidence from the site.

4.2.2 As such, the results of the trial trench evaluation suggest the area is devoid of archaeological remains.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench did not contain any archaeology.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.13
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.1	Disturbed soil horizon	-	-
101	Layer	-		Geology. Yellow brown clay	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench did not contain any archaeology.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.15
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.1	Disturbed soil horizon	-	-
201	Layer	-		Geology. Yellow brown clay	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench did not contain any archaeology.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.17
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-		Geology. Yellow brown clay	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench did not contain any archaeology					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.13
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.1	Disturbed soil horizon	-	-
401	Layer	-		Geology. Yellow brown clay	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench did not contain any archaeology					Length (m)	15

					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.13
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.1	Disturbed soil horizon	-	-
501	Layer	-		Geology. Yellow brown clay	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX C

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Cayton Park, Hurley, Berkshire
Site code:	HUCP20
Grid Reference	SU 80685 80544
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	2 days 14th-15th May 2020
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, and will be deposited with TBC in due course, under the following accession number: TBC.
Summary of Results:	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of a lake at Clayton Park, Hurley, Berkshire. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

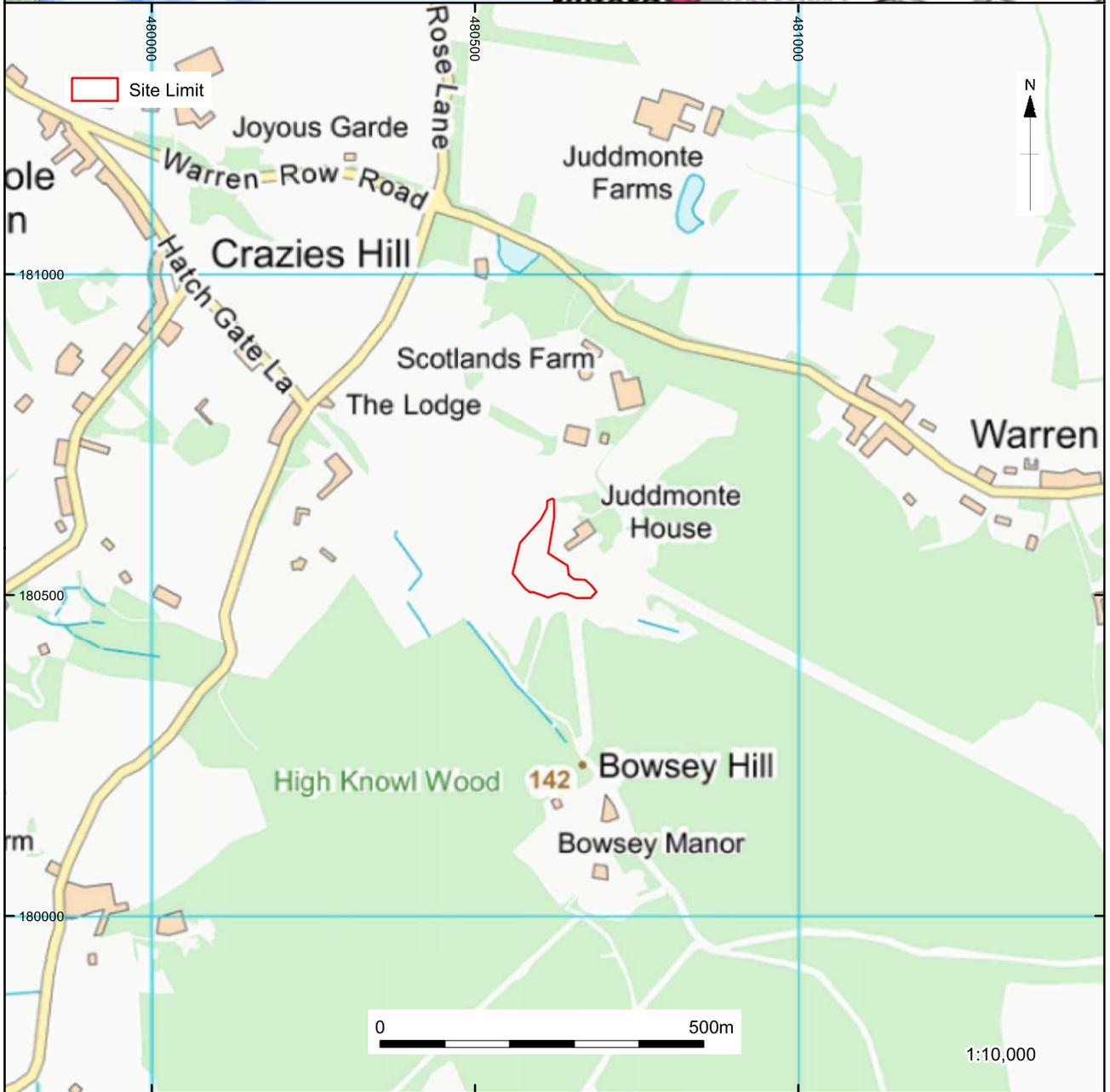
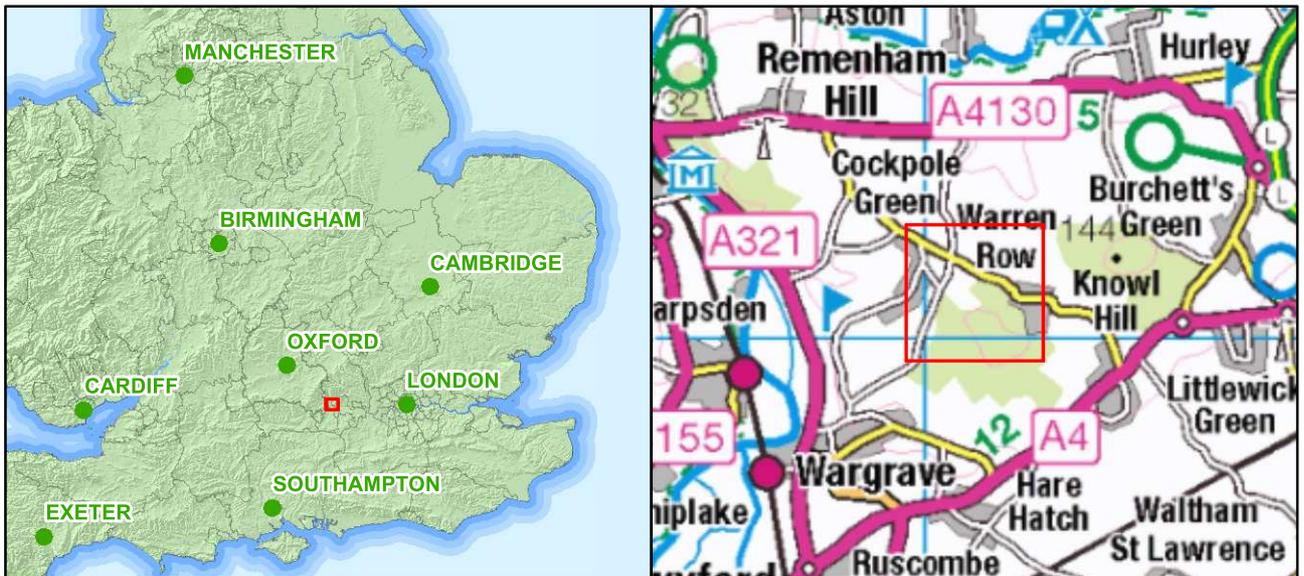
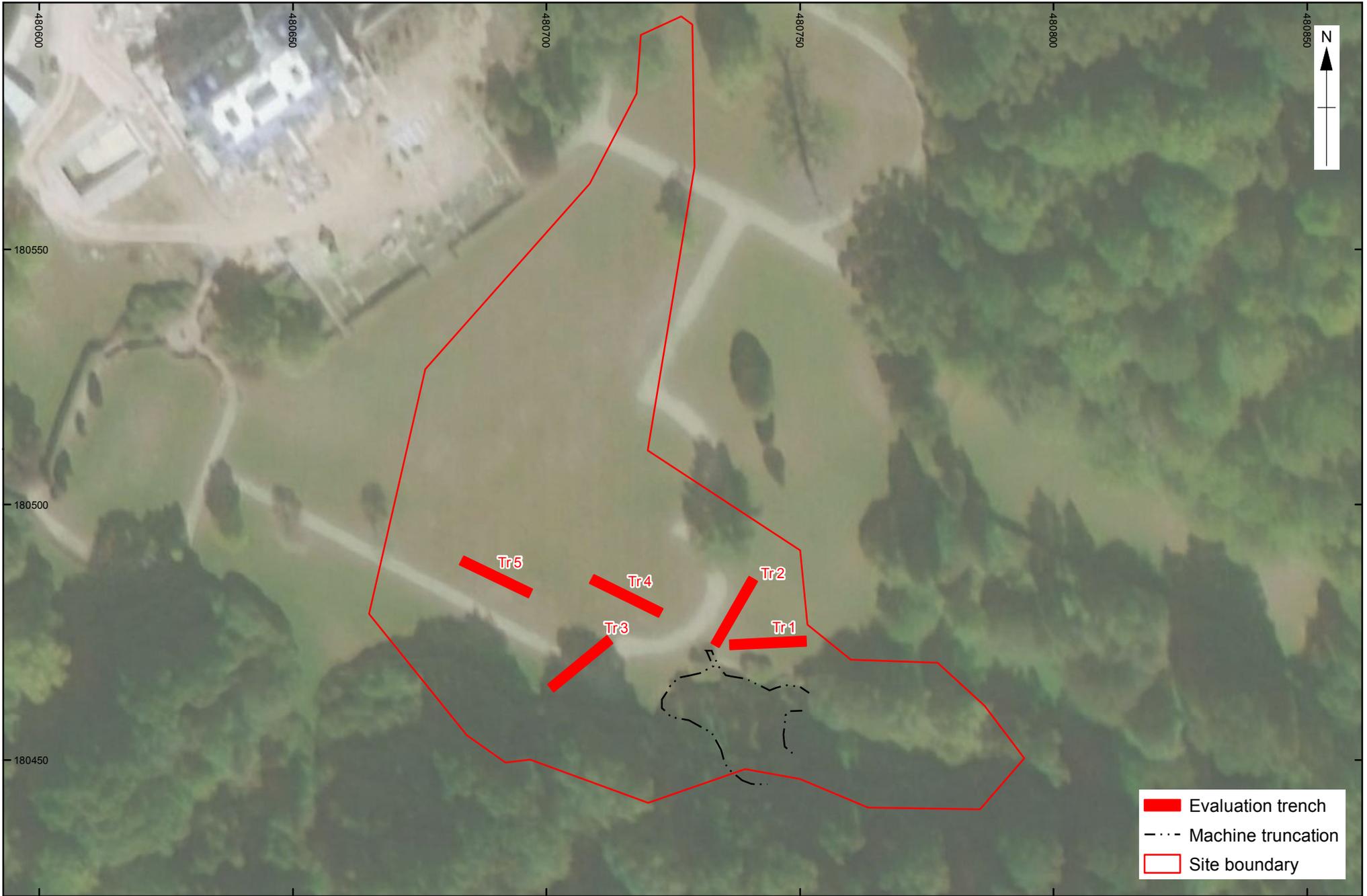


Figure 1: Site location

X:\h\Hurley_Cayton_Park\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects - DRM_v2\Figures\HUCPEV_Figure2_2020-05-26.mxd*mat.brady\26/05/2020



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

0 1:1,000 @ A4 100 m

- █ Evaluation trench
- - - Machine truncation
- ▭ Site boundary

Figure 2: Trench location



Plate 1: General shot of site



Plate 2: Trench 1



Plate 3: Trench 2



Plate 4: Trench 3



Plate 5: Trench 4



Plate 6: Trench 5



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