

Archaeological Evaluation at Plantation Stud Exning, Suffolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



December 2014

Client: Plantation Stud

OA East Report No: 1710

OASIS No: oxfordar3- 195168

NGR: TL 634 667 and TL 640 664

Archaeological Evaluation at Plantation Stud, Exning, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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Site Name: Plantation Stud
HER Event No: ESF22525
Date of Works: November 2014
Client Name: Plantation Stud
Client Ref: James Midwood
Planning Ref: TBC
Grid Ref: TL 634 667 and TL 640 664
Site Code: EXG 106 and EXG 107
Finance Code: XSFSPS14
Receiving Body: Suffolk County Stores

Accession No:

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Summary

OA East undertook an Archaeological Evaluation at Plantation Stud, Exning, Suffolk. Four trenches were excavated across two areas, three 30m in length and one 20m in length. No archaeology was observed in these trenches.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Plantation stud, Exning, Suffolk.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council (SCC; Planning Application TBC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by SCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 Area 1 lies on or close to the divide between the Zig Zag Chalk and the Tottenhoe Stone formations which are possibly overlain by terrace gravels at the edge of the Snail Valley. Area 2 lies just to the east of the Melbourn Rock on the Holywell Nodular Chalk formation (British Geological Survey).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

(from Mortimer 2014 *specification for Archaeological evaluation*)

The proposed developments could affect areas of archaeological potential, as defined by information held by the County Historic Environment Record (HER). The land around Plantation Stud is rich in archaeological remains, with four cropmarked enclosures recorded within 250m of Area 1 (EXG 015-018). This potential monument complex includes three possible Bronze Age ring-ditches and an oval enclosure which may be a Neolithic long barrow. Area 2 lies mainly in the floodplain, opposite another major multi-period cropmark complex on the other side of the River Snail (EXG 033), where adjacent excavations have revealed Prehistoric and Roman remains (EXG 074 and 083). There is potential for buried land surfaces and waterlogged deposits to be preserved in this area.

A predetermination trench evaluation on the south side of the A14 at Hatchfield Farm (NKT 027) in July 2008, did not produce much in the way of significant archaeological remains, though some Neolithic flint scatters were recorded.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank the client James Midwood on behalf of Plantation Stud for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Matthew Brudenell for overseeing the work and to Richard Mortimer for managing the project. Grant Miller provided the plant.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that five 30m trenches be excavated. Two in Area 1 and three in Area 2, however, the development area has contracted at Area 1 and only a single trench was excavated there.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Four trenches were excavated in total across two areas.

3.2 Area 1 EXG106 (Trench 1)

3.2.1 The brief required that two 30m trenches were to be excavated in Area 1, however only one trench 20m in length could be excavated due to restrictions of available space within the development area. The development area has also contracted since the brief was written. This trench contained no clear topsoil or subsoil and comprised mainly of modern make-up layers reaching a depth of c. 1m overlying a 0.20m of dirty, contaminated, remnant subsoil. There were modern fence posts, dumping of waste material, redeposited chalk layers and concrete surfaces, all modern. No significant archaeology was present

3.3 Area 2 EXG107 (Trenches 1,2 and 3)

3.3.1 Three trenches were excavated in Area 2, all 30m in length. Trench 1 lay at the south end of site and had an east-west orientation. The topsoil measured 0.3m in depth and the subsoil varied from 0.4m deep to 0.7m deep. No archaeological finds or features were present in this trench.

3.3.2 Trench 2 had a south-west/north-east orientation. The topsoil here measured 0.3m deep and the subsoil varied in depth from 0.2m to 0.65m. No archaeological finds or features were present.

3.3.3 Trench 3 was orientated north-west/south-east at the northern end of site. The topsoil in this trench measured 0.20m deep. There was very little subsoil present at the north-west end of the trench, measuring at just 0.04m. However at the south-east end of the trench the subsoil measures 0.55m in depth. A natural periglacial feature was noted cutting the natural chalk across the centre of the trench at the point where the natural changed from a solid chalk to a gravelly sand. No archaeological finds or features were present.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion and Conclusions

- 4.1.1 No archaeological finds, deposits or features were recorded on either of the sites at Plantation Stud. Area 1 was heavily disturbed by modern material down to a depth of 1m. Area 2 comprised of virgin ground with the natural located at varying depths across the three trenches infilling a number of natural, probably periglacial hollows.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

EXG107 Trench 1 (Area 2)						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural of a mix of sand and flinty gravel with outcrops of chalk					Avg. depth (m)	0.85
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.4-0.7	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
EXG107 Trench 2 (Area 2)						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural of a mix of sand and flint gravel with outcrops of chalk					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.2-0.65	Subsoil	-	-
3	layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
EXG 107 Trench 3 (Area 2)						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural of a mix of sand and flint gravel with outcrops of chalk					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
					Width (m)	1.6
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.24-0.57	Subsoil	-	-
3	layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

EXG106 Trench 1 (Area 1)

General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of significant archaeology. Consists of modern make-up layers, concrete surfaces, manure dump and redeposited chalk natural				Avg. depth (m)	1.2	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	20	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
		-			-	-
		-			-	-
		-			-	-

APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3- 195168			
Project Name	Evaluation at Plantation Stud, Exning, Suffolk			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	26-11-2014	Finish	27-11-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	EXG106/107	Planning App. No.	TBC
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Development Type	Farm Infrastructure

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Forest Heath	Plantation Stud Plantation Stud House Short Rd
Parish	Exning	
HER	Suffolk	
Study Area	1800sq.m	National Grid Reference TL 634 667/TL 640 664

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Matthew Brudenell SCC
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer OAE
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer OAE
Supervisor	Kathryn Nicholls

Project Archives

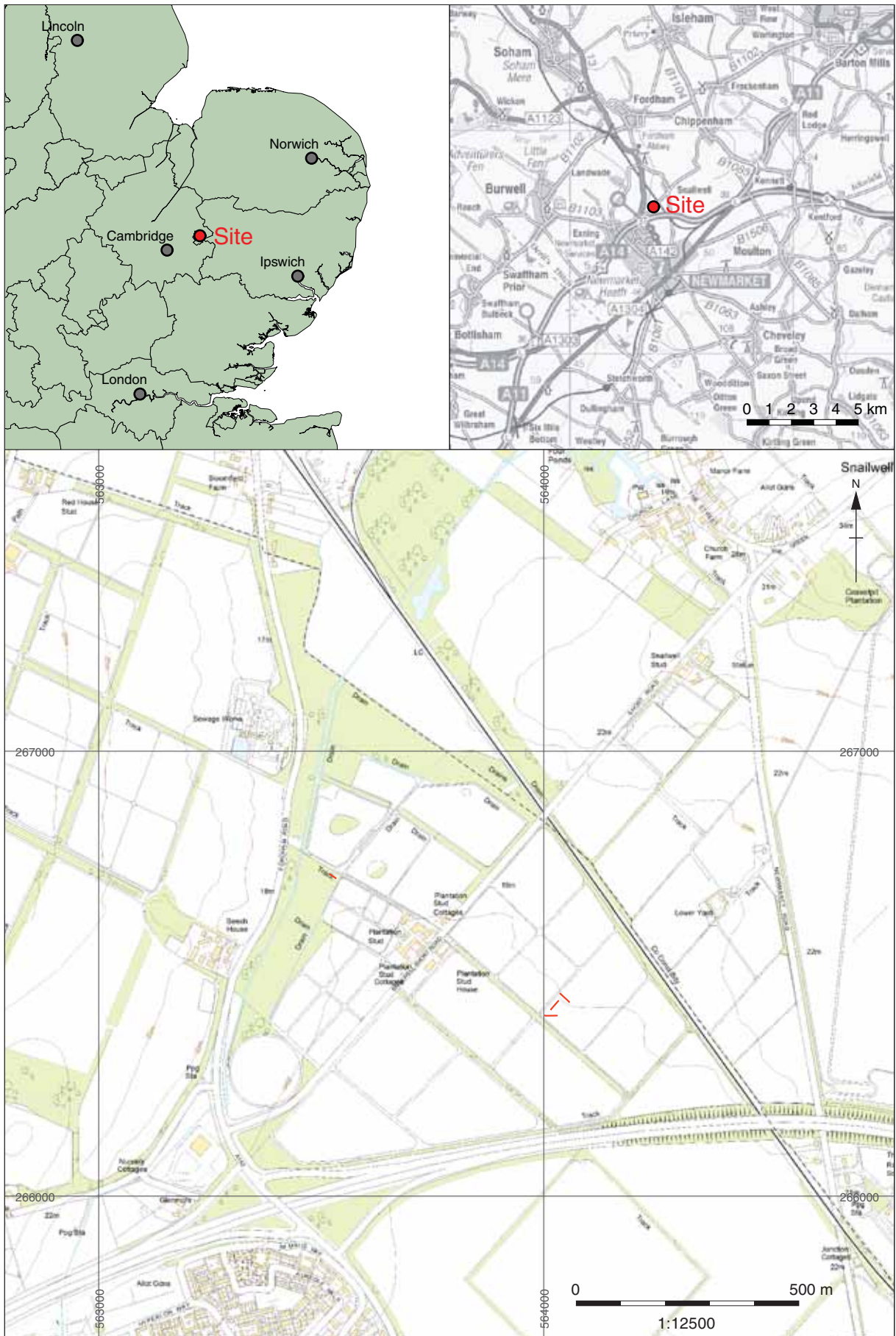
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Suffolk County Stores	Suffolk County Stores	Suffolk County Stores
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (red)

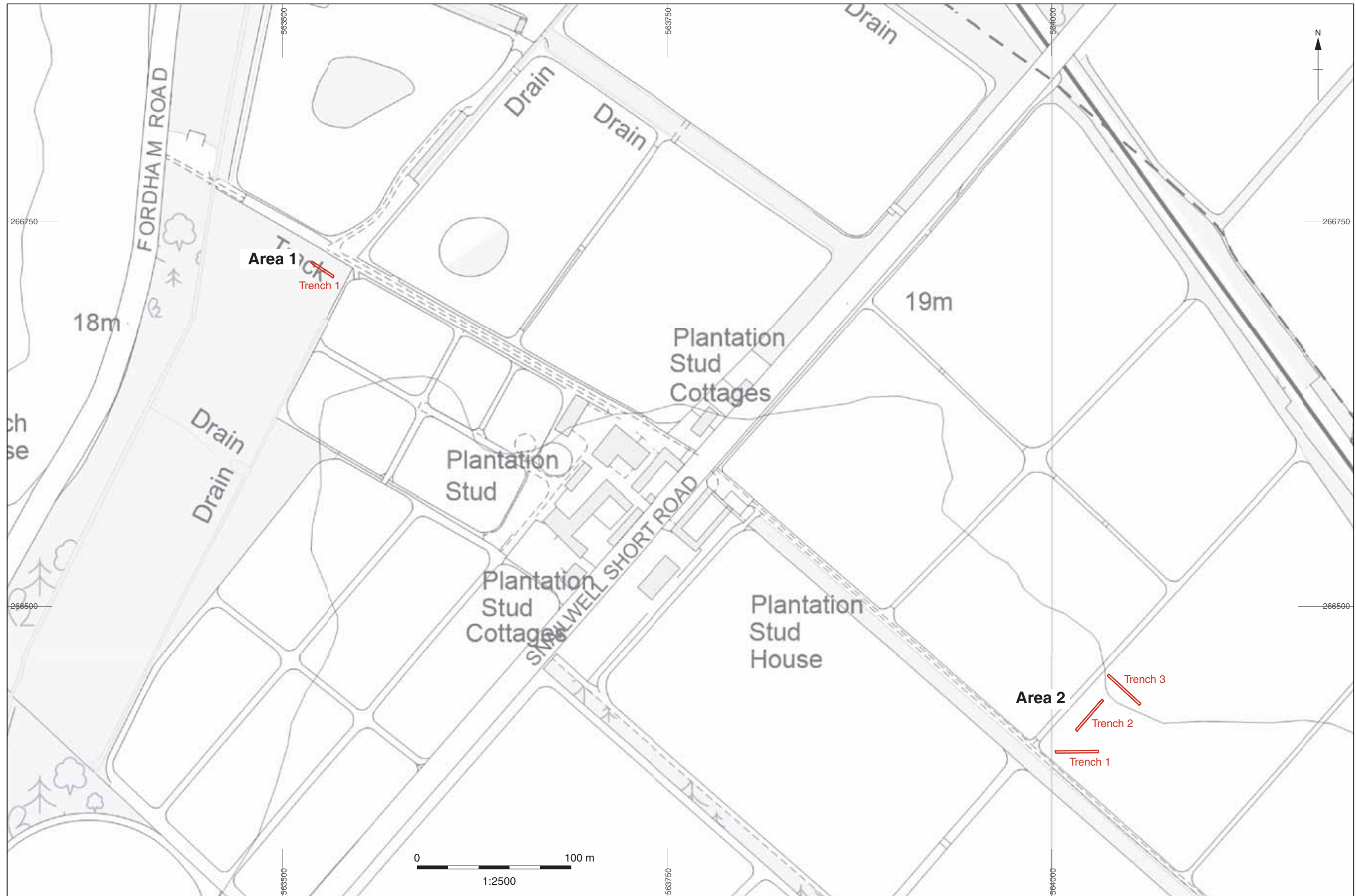


Figure 2: Trench location plan showing archaeological trenches (red)

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Plate 1: EXG106 Tr1 looking west - made ground and modern chalk and concrete surfaces in section



Plate 2: EXG107 Tr2 looking NE



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