



Land West of Claybush Road, Ashwell

Archaeological Evaluation Report

November 2016

Client: Croudace Homes

Issue No: 1 (Final)
OA Report No: 2007
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Land West of Claybush Road, Ashwell

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned by Croudace Homes to evaluate 1.7 hectares of land off of Claybush Road, Ashwell in Hertfordshire. This work took place between the 3rd and the 7th of October 2016.

As a result of the evaluation a prehistoric palaeochannel, two small features relating to the Roman period, a post-medieval field boundary and windmill mound were recorded.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Croudace Homes who commissioned and funded the work. The site work was carried out by James Fairbairn assisted by Nick Cox. Survey work was undertaken by Dave Brown. James Drummond-Murray managed the project and Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council visited and monitored the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land off of Claybush Road, Ashwell in Hertfordshire TL 27356 39711
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council, 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 Hertfordshire County Council, 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 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The underlying solid geology is chalk. No superficial deposits are recorded. Ashwell parish is located along a chalk belt which is part of the Chiltern Hills and runs from the south-west of England in a north-easterly direction to East Anglia. The village is located on a scarp of this chalk belt, on a spring line where the chalk of the hills meets the impermeable clay of the lowlands.
- 1.2.2 The site itself is centred on National Grid Reference TL 27356 39711. It is located on the southern side of the village of Ashwell, to the south of Ashwell Road and to the west of Claybush Road. The Site is bordered by agricultural land to the west and south and the gardens of houses to the north and east.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The full archaeological background is covered in a DBA (Bush 2016) so the following is a summary from that.
- 1.3.2 Ashwell has been a focus for settlement, burial and religious activity from the Bronze Age onwards. It is next to Ashwell Street – an ancient routeway which possibly formed part of the 'Icknield Way'. Ashwell occupies a rich Iron Age and Romano-British landscape.
- 1.3.3 Although Ashwell was important as an Anglo-Saxon borough and later a medieval market town, the site appears to lie outside the main focus of this settlement. It was part of a medieval open field, seemingly remaining under agricultural use until the present day. There is a possibility of post-medieval chalk pits and lime kilns being present as well as ridge and furrow and later field boundaries dating to the time of the 19th century enclosure.
- 1.3.4 The Site lies within Archaeology Alert Area 31 as defined by the North Hertfordshire Local Plan. This is deemed by the district council to be an area of high archaeological

potential and encompasses most the centre of Ashwell village and the fields to the south of Ashwell Street. This is not a statutory designation but a planning tool to help decide development proposals.

- 1.3.5 The site lies immediately to the south of Ashwell Street and c 700m to the north-east of the Arbury Banks Iron Age hillfort (HHER 26, SAM 20759).
- 1.3.6 A neolithic henge was excavated 700m to the north-east of the site in 2015 in a field with cropmarks suggestive of Bronze Age barrows (Greef in prep).
- 1.3.7 Whilst no cropmarks have been recorded in the field under consideration, widespread cropmarks in the surrounding area suggest that the site may lay in an extensive prehistoric landscape.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological 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 seven trenches totalling 350 linear metres be machine excavated on the land adjacent to Claybush Road. The possibility of a prehistoric mound located at the south-west corner of the site meant trench 7 was split into two and renamed trenches 7 and 8.
- 2.2.2 After consultation with the Andy Instone of Hertfordshire District Council. It was decided to open a further trench (9) in the north-west corner of the site to look for evidence of a possible windmill located in that area.
- 2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by David Brown using Leica GS08 GPS equipment.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 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.
- 2.2.7 Environmental bulk samples totaling 80L were taken from three features. These were processed at OA East's dedicated environmental unit at Bourn.
- 2.2.8 Conditions during the archaeological evaluation were dry and overcast.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 The Trenches are discussed in numerical order. Full context information appears in the appendix A.

Trench 1 (Fig.7 and Plates 11 & 12)

- 3.1.2 Trench 1 was located along the northern boundary of the site and was orientated east to west. It measured 50m x 2m and an average depth of 0.5m. The only archaeological feature located in trench 1 was small boundary or enclosure ditch terminal (**104**). (Plate 11 and section 1). The feature had shallow sides and a slightly uneven base. This ditch contained a single silty chalk fill (103), in which was found single sherd of pottery dated to the Roman period.
- 3.1.3 A further intervention (**106**) was hand dug into a slightly darker soil at the western end of the trench (Plate 12). This was done to determine whether the material was a buried soil or the back fill of a feature. This intervention determined that the material was most probably the upper layer of a palaeochannel, this glacial feature was also seen in Trenches 4, 5 and 6.

Trench 2 (Fig.7 and Plate 2)

- 3.1.4 Trench 2 was located toward the eastern boundary of the site and orientated south to north. It measured 50m x 2m and had an average depth of 0.65m. The light brown silty chalk subsoil (102) was sealed by a mid to light grey silty chalk plough soil (101), (section 6).

Trench 3 (Figs 7 and 3. Plates 3, 13 & 14)

- 3.1.5 Trench 3 was located along the north-western boundary of the site. It measured 50m x 2m and had an average depth of 0.75m. Three features were recorded within the trench. A small shallow pit **302**, (Plate 13) had a diameter of 0.90m and a depth of 0.18. The fill (301) was recorded at the western end of the trench. The fill of the feature (301) consisted of a mid brownish grey chalk. It contained no finds.
- 3.1.6 Located at approximately the centre point of the trench, and laying on a north-south orientation, a small shallow boundary ditch **304** was recorded. This had gently sloping sides and a flattish base (Plate 14). The fill of the feature (303) consisted of a silty grey chalky material that contained small pieces of post-medieval building material.
- 3.1.7 A small field boundary can be seen at this spot on a Tithe map of Ashwell dated 1841 (Fig 3). This is thought to equate with feature **304**.
- 3.1.8 A small modern square post hole 306 was recorded 10m from the western end of the trench. This measured 0.20m x 0.20m and had a depth of 0.20m. The fill of the feature (305) consisted of a dark grey silty chalk that contained a small piece of plastic.
- 3.1.9 The features were sealed by a light brown silty chalk subsoil and a light to mid-grey plough soil that had a combined depth of 0.75m.

Trench 4 (Figs.1 and 7. Plates 4 and 15)

- 3.1.10 Trench 4 was located to the south of the evaluation area and was orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 37m x 2m and had a maximum depth of 1.6m. This depth was recorded at the eastern end of the trench in the area occupied by a palaeochannel.
- 3.1.11 Although no archaeological features were recorded within the trench a palaeochannel was noted at the eastern end (Fig. 7). A natural grey silty chalk material was noted and a small intervention **402** (Plate 4 and 15) measuring 1m x 1m x 0.1m was dug into this soil (section 3). This material (401) contained no finds

Trench 5 (Fig 1 and 7. Plates 5 and 16)

- 3.1.12 Trench 5 was located to the southern part of the evaluation area and measured 50m x 2m. It had a maximum depth at its eastern end of 1.70m.
- 3.1.13 The eastern end of the trench contained evidence of the palaeochannel (section 4) which was also seen in Trenches 4 and 6. Into the top of this was noted a small amorphously shaped feature, thought to be rooting or vegetation scarring (**502**) that had no discernible sides or base, The fill (501) of the feature contained no finds.

Trench 6 (Fig 1 and 7. Plates 6, 17 and 18)

- 3.1.14 Trench 6 was located to the south-eastern corner of the evaluation area. It measured 40m x 2m and had a maximum depth of 1m.
- 3.1.15 Evidence of the palaeochannel seen in trenches 4 and 5 was also recorded in trench 6.
- 3.1.16 A small boundary ditch **602** was located central to the trench. This feature was orientated north-west to south east, had shallow sides and a flat bottom (Plate 17). The light grey silty chalk fill (601) contained no finds.
- 3.1.17 The palaeochannel was located to the eastern side of the trench (Fig 7). within the upper layer a band of chalk was noted along with a darker silty soil (603). A small sonadge (**604**) was dug into this material (Plate 18). Again this layer was devoid of finds. A conversation with a former landowner brought to light that in the recent past chalk from construction work in Ashwell village was taken to the field undergoing evaluation and buried in the area of Trench 6. It seems likely that the dark soil and chalk band are remnants of that.
- 3.1.18 Trench 6 was sealed by a mid to light brown subsoil (102) and a light grey silty chalk plough soil (101). These had an average combined depth of 0.90m.

Trench 7 (Fig 1 and 7. Plates 7)

- 3.1.19 Trench 7 was located in the south-west corner of the evaluation area and orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 30m x 2m and had a maximum depth of 0.40m.
- 3.1.20 It was thought that a low mound once existed the vicinity of Trench 7. After removal of topsoil in Trench 7 a spread of redeposited, compressed chalk was noted. This layer had a maximum depth of 0.20m and only differed from the chalk below by being of a

coarser structure. An edge of this redeposited chalk was noted as being 10m from the northern end of the trench (Fig 7).

Trench 8 (Fig 1 and 7. Plate 19)

- 3.1.21 Trench 8 was located to the east of Trench 7 and joined it at 6m from the southern end forming a 'T'. The trench measured 30m x 2m and had an average depth of 0.30m.
- 3.1.22 As with Trench 7 the compressed and redeposited chalk could be seen forming a low mound. The edge of this mound was noted as being 2.5m from the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 7).
- 3.1.23 At the western end of the trench, evidence of a large straight sided beam slot cut (**802**) was recorded (Plate 19). This feature was orientated NNW-SSE and had steep western side with a depth of 0.80m and a flat base (section 5). The western side of the cut (**803**) was amorphous in plan and was considered to be evidence of a robber trench dug to remove the wooden beam. The beam slot had been back filled with a mid grey silty chalk that contained a piece of 19th century clay pipe and ceramic building material of the same date. The backfill also contained frequent small to medium sized pieces of chalk which would have come from the mound material surrounding the beam slot.

Trench 9

- 3.1.24 Trench 9 was excavated after consultation with Andy Instone of Hertfordshire District Council to assess the possibility of another windmill existing in the north-west corner of the site. The trench was orientated north to south and measured 30m x 2m and had an average depth of 0.44m. A mid brown silty chalk subsoil was sealed by a mid to light grey silty chalk plough soil. The trench was devoid of archaeology.

3.2 Finds and environmental summary

- 3.2.1 A very small assemblage of ceramic material was found during the evaluation. Finds were restricted to a single piece of Roman greyware utilitarian pottery in fill 103 of ditch **104**, this type of ceramic would have been locally produced.
- 3.2.2 A single piece of post medieval ceramic building material found in fill 303 of ditch **304**.
- 3.2.3 The back fill (801) of the robber trench **803** produced finds of post medieval ceramic building material and a small fragment of clay pipe stem which is of a type common in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 3.2.4 Three bulk samples were taken from the site: fill 103 of Roman ditch terminus **104** contained a single charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and three fragments of indeterminate cereal grains. A single fragment of pottery post-medieval in date was recovered from the sample residue.
- 3.2.5 Samples taken from palaeochannel layer 503 and sondage **604** were devoid of preserved remains.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 Only peripheral human activity was recorded within the evaluation area at Claybush Road.

Geological features

- 4.1.2 A palaeochannel which is a remnant of an inactive river or stream channel that has been either filled or buried by younger sediment was noted traversing the site running down hill in a south-east to north-west direction.
- 4.1.3 The position of the palaeochannel and the sterile layers suggest that the feature could have been formed by melt waters from the last glacial period which ended about 12,000 years ago.

Roman features

- 4.1.4 Romano-British features were restricted to a small Ditch **104** in Trench 1. and a possible Roman pit **302** in Trench 3. Both of these features are located to the northern end of the evaluation area. It is known the Romano-British pottery has been found within the gardens which are just north of the field boundary. It maybe that any concentrated Roman activity could be located just beyond the evaluation area.

Post-medieval features

- 4.1.5 A small field boundary (**304**) was recorded in Trench 3. This is thought to date to the post-medieval period. A very small amount of ceramic building material dating to the post-medieval period was found within the ditch. A field boundary very close to the ditch can be seen on the 1841 Tithe map of Ashwell (Fig 3). Given the inaccuracy in cartographic documents of this period it is assumed the field boundary and ditch 304 are the same.
- 4.1.6 It had been suggested the that a prehistoric mound may have existed at the south western extremity of the evaluation area. Two trenches 7 and 8 (Fig. 7) were excavated to try and characterise any trace of a mound that existed here. A layer of redeposited chalk was noted within the confines of the trenches. This consisted of a redeposited layer of compressed chalk that formed a low mound that extends to the west and south beyond the hedge line of the present field. Feature **802** excavated in Trench 8 is likely to be the evidence of a robbed beam once part of the super structure of the Mill.
- 4.1.7 Records show that a windmill used to stand within the proposed Site boundary. Belonging to William Kitchener. It was in production from at least 1822 until around 1890. The mill first appears on Bryant's Map of 1822 (Fig. 2) and is last seen on the 1888 OS County Series (not reproduced). Kitchener's mill was a smock mill, meaning the tower at the top of the structure to which the sails were attached could rotate, thus enabling the sails always to face into the wind. Other mills are also recorded close to the site. Located 150m to the north-east was Edward Fordham's post mill (11356), which too was in production approximately between 1822 and 1890.
- 4.1.8 A further mill is known to have been located around 250m east of the Site and is believed to pre-date Kitchener's and Fordham's mills (Thompson 2002, 23). A

cropmark located just 180m east of the Site is also cited as being the remains of another windmill. The cropmark consists of a 15m diameter circular enclosure. However, it is also possible that this cropmark relates to a Bronze Age burial mound.

Significance

- 4.1.9 The archaeological evaluation at Claybush Road, Ashwell has found no evidence of settlement on the site. Peripheral Roman activity is located to the very north of the site while the post-medieval evidence is located to the south. The mound in the south western corner of the site and thought to be of possible prehistoric origin is likely to be a post medieval mound constructed specifically for a windmill. The work carried out at Ashwell does add to that what is already known of this small but interesting village located in the north of Hertfordshire.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	SW-SE
Tench 1 contained a small Roman ditch and a sondage cut to determine the graduation of a natural slope					Avg. depth (m)	0.85
					Width (m)	2.0
					Length (m)	40m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.65	Subsoil	-	-
103	Fill	0.70	0.22	Ditch fill	Pottery	Roman
104	Cut	0.70	0.22	Ditch cut		
105	Fill	0.50		Fill of sondage		
106	Cut	0.50	0.20	Cut of sondage		
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 2 was devoid of archaeology					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
					Width (m)	2.0
					Length (m)	50m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil		
102	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil		
Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 3 contained a small pit, a post medieval field boundary and a modern post hole.					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	2.0
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil		
102	Layer	-	0.55	Subsoil		

301	Fill	0.90	0.18	Pit fill		
302	Cut	0.90	0.18	Cut of pit		
303	Fill	0.50	0.20	Fill of ditch	Ceramic building material	Post medieval
304	Cut	0.50	0.20	Cut of ditch		
305	Fill	0.20	0.20	Fill of post hole		Modern
306	Cut	0.20	0.20	Cut of post hole		

Trench 4

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 4 contained a geological palaeochannel	Avg. depth (m)	1.6
	Width (m)	2.0
	Length (m)	37

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	1.30	Subsoil	-	-
401	Layer	1.0	0.10	Fill of natural feature	-	-
402	Cut	1.0	0.10	Cut of natural feature		

Trench 5

General description	Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 5 contained evidence of a geological palaeochannel	Avg. depth (m)	1.70
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.60	Subsoil	-	-
501	Layer	0.40	0.20	Fill of natural feature	-	-
502	Cut	0.40	0.20	Cut of natural feature		
503	Layer		0.40	Fill of palaeochannel		
504	Layer		0.70	Fill of palaeochannel		
505	Layer		0.70	Fill of palaeochannel		

Trench 6

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench 6 contained a geological palaeochannel and a small linear enclosure ditch.					Avg. depth (m)	1.0
					Width (m)	2.0
					Length (m)	40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
601	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of ditch	-	-
602	Cut	0.6	0.25	Cut of ditch		
603	Layer	2	0.2	Fill of sondage		
604	Cut	2	0.2	Cut of sondage		Modern
Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 7 contained remnants of a post medieval mound					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.2	Re-deposited chalk	-	Post medieval
Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 8 contained remnants of a post medieval mound a trench cut for a beam slot and evidence of a robber trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
					Width (m)	25
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
801	Fill	0.45	0.8	Back fill of robber trench	CBM, Clay pipe-	Post medieval-
802	Cut	0.45	0.80	Cut of beam slot trench		

803	Cut	0.45	1.20	Cut of robber trench		
Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench 9 was devoid of archaeology.					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	0.30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery and CBM

By Carole Fletcher

- B.1.1 A very small assemblage of ceramic material was found during the evaluation. Finds were restricted to a single piece of Roman greyware utilitarian pottery in fill 103 of ditch **104**, this type of ceramic would have been locally produced.
- B.1.2 A single piece of post-medieval ceramic building material found in fill 303 of ditch **304**.
- B.1.3 The back fill (801) of the robber trench **803** produced finds of post medieval ceramic building material and a small fragment of clay pipe stem which is of a type common in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methodology

- C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas at Claybush Road, Ashwell Hertfordshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- C.1.2 The total volume (up to 29 litres) of each bulk sample was then processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred 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. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. 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.1.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:
- # = 1-5, ## = 6-25 specimens
- C.1.4 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal has been scored for abundance:
- + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

- C.1.5 Sample 1, fill 103 of Roman ditch terminus **104** contains a single charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and three fragments of indeterminate cereal grains. A single fragment of pottery was recovered from the sample residue.
- C.1.6 Samples taken from palaeochannel **503** and sondage 604 were devoid of preserved remains.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Trench	% context sampled	Volume processed (L)	Cereals	Charcoal	Pottery
1	103	104	Ditch	1	50	16	#	0	#
2	503		Palaeochannel	5	<10	29	0	0	0
3	603	604	Sondage	6	<50	18	0	0	0

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | | |
|---|------|---|--|
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| Bush, L | 2016 | Land West of No. 1 Claybush Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire. <i>Heritage Impact Statement</i> | OA East Report No. 1939 |
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| Zohary, D., Hopf, M. | 2000 | Domestication of Plants in the Old World – The origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley. 3rd edition. Oxford University Press | |

APPENDIX E HERTFORDSHIRE HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land West of Claybush Road, Ashwell, Hertfordshire SG7 5RA		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Ashwell		Parish: Ashwell
Planning application reference: 17/01797/1		
HER Enquiry reference: N/A		
Nature of application: Residential		
Present land use: Arable		
Size of application area: 1.7ha		Size of area investigated: 1.7ha
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 26780 39253		
Site code (if applicable): XHTCRA16		
Contractor: Oxford Archaeology		
Type of work: Evaluation		
Date of work:	Start: 3/10/16	Finish: 7/10/16
Location of finds & site archive/Curating Museum: North Herts District Council Museum Service / Ashwell Museum		
Related HER Nos: EHT8894		Periods represented: Roman & Post-medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports Bush, L. 2016 <i>Land West of No. 1 Claybush Road, Ashwell Hertfordshire</i> . OA Report No. 1916		
Summary of fieldwork results: As a result of the evaluation a prehistoric palaeochannel, two small features relating to the Roman period, a post-medieval field boundary and windmill mound were recorded.		
Author of summary: L. Moan		Date of summary: 8/6/21

APPENDIX F OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-267652		
Project Name	Land West of Claybush Road, Ashwell		
Start of Fieldwork	3/10/16	End of Fieldwork	7/10/16
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XHTCRA16	Planning App. No.	17/01797/1
HER Number	EHT8156	Related Numbers	Oxfordar3-248275

Prompt	
Development Type	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 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	Roman (43 to 410)	Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Pi	Roman (43 to 410)	CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)		Choose an item.

Project Location

County	Hertfordshire	Address (including Postcode) Land west of 1 Claybush Road Ashwell Herts SG7 5RA
District	North Herts	
Parish	Ashwell	
HER office	North Herts District Council Museum Service	
Size of Study Area	1.7ha	
National Grid Ref	TI 26780 39253	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA
Project Brief Originator	Hertfordshire CC
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Project Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	NHDCMS	EHT8156
Digital Archive	OA East	XHTCRA16
Paper Archive	NHDCMS	EHT8156

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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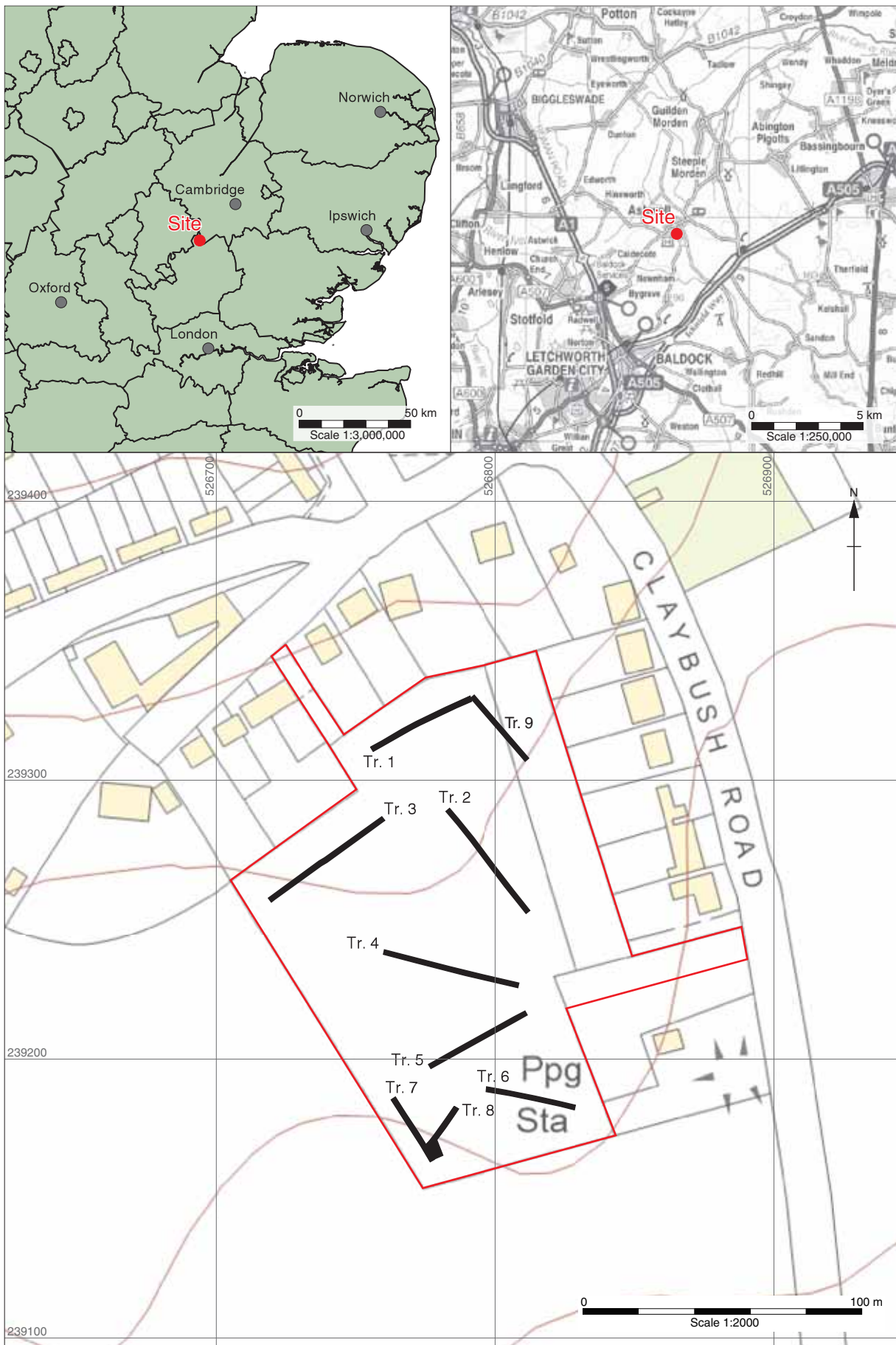
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Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Sections



Survey





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Figure 1: Site location map

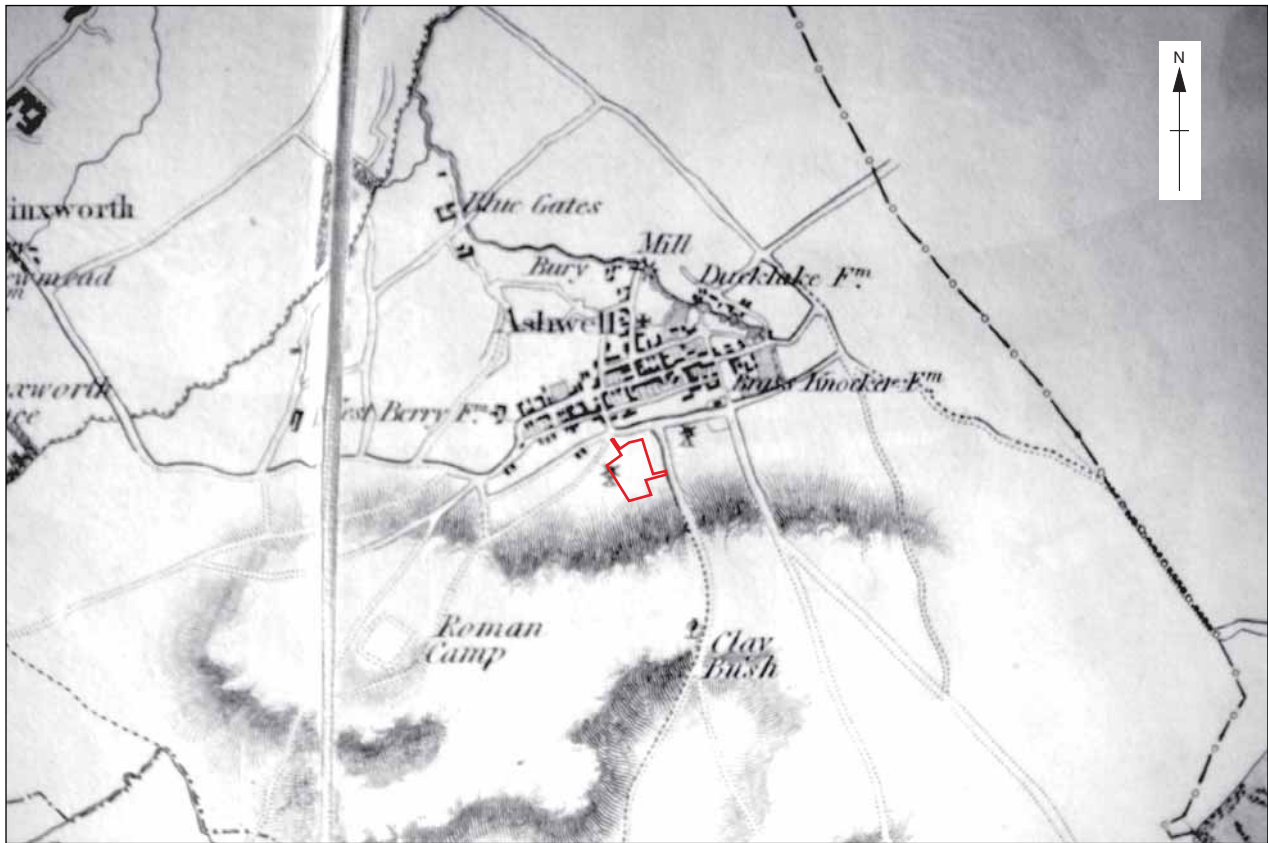


Figure 2: Bryant's Map of Hertfordshire, 1820

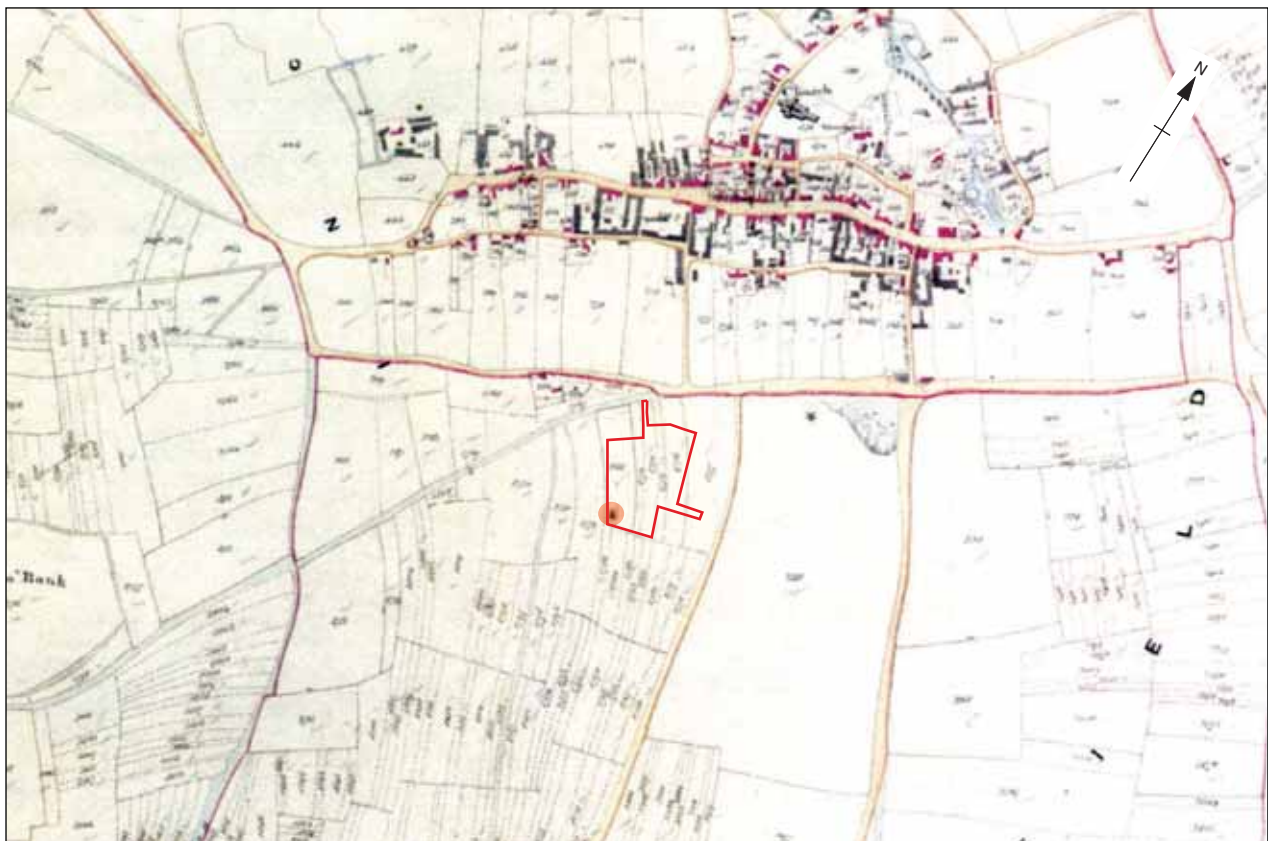


Figure 3: Tithe Map of Ashwell dated 1841 with position of windmill highlighted

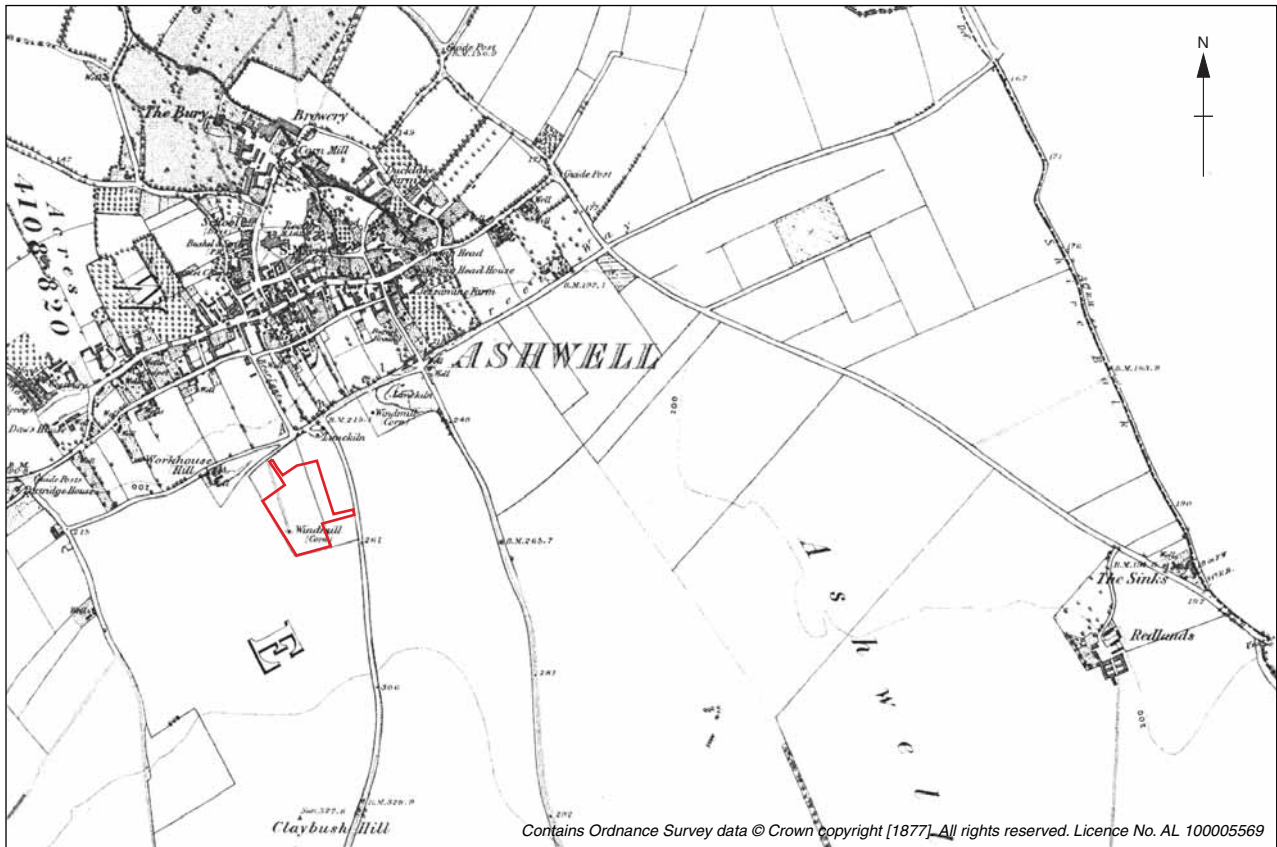


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire IV, 6 inch, 1877

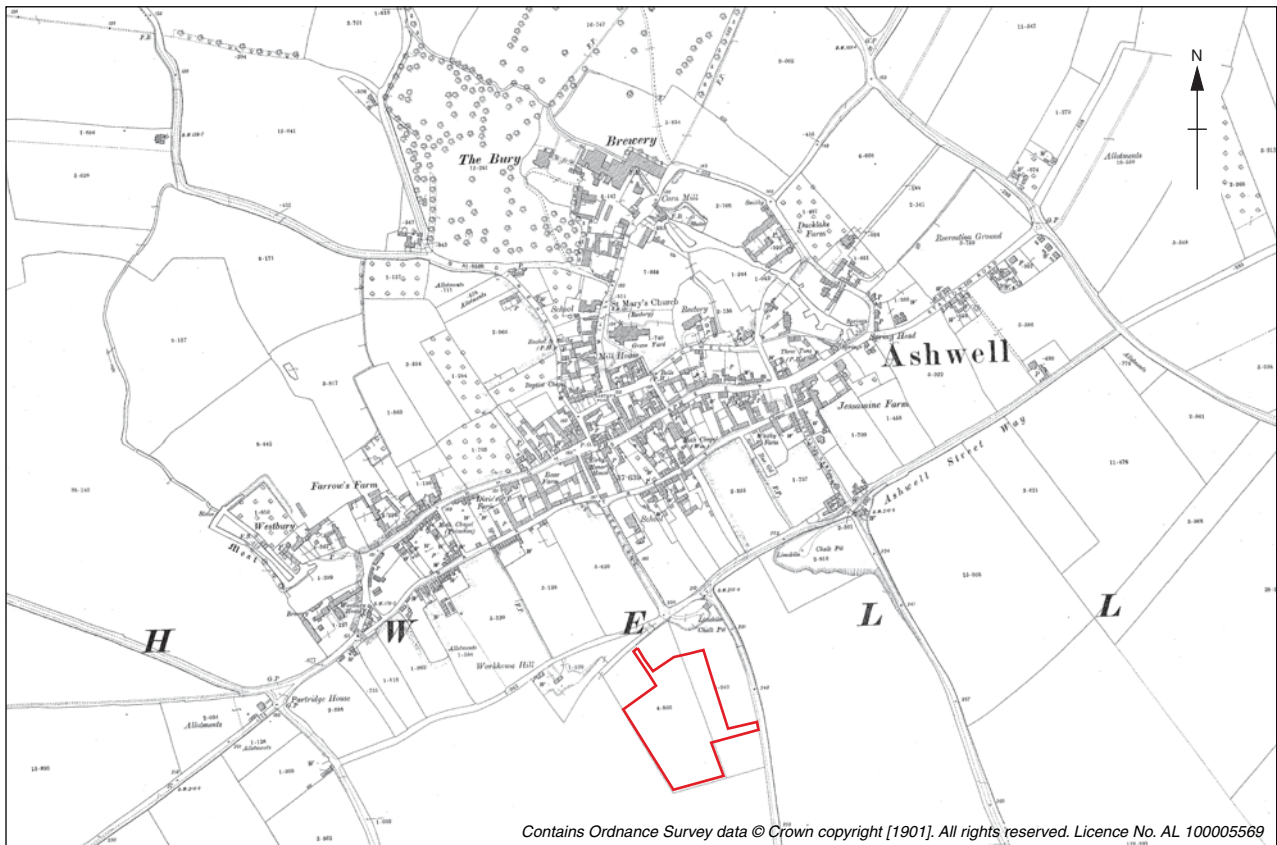


Figure 5: Second edition Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch, 1901

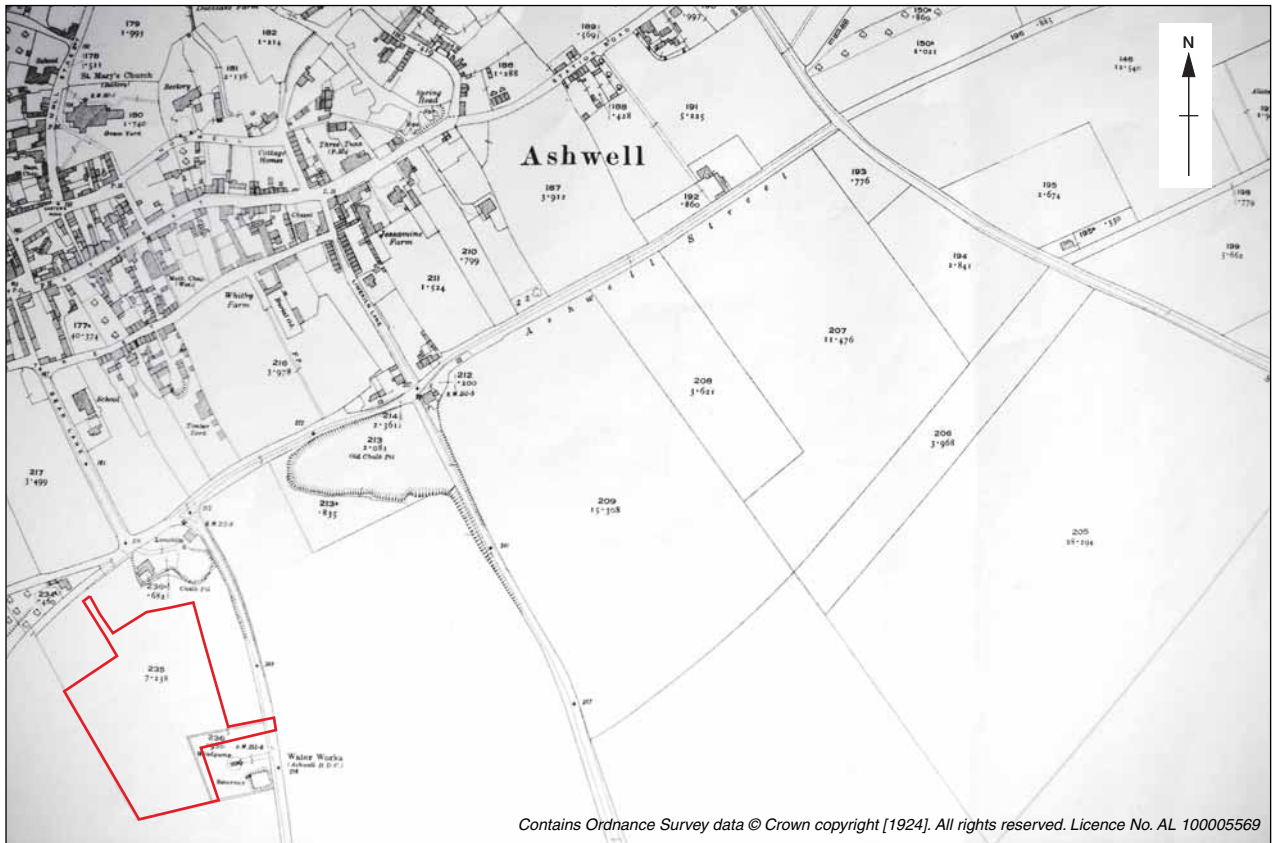


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey map, 25 inch, 1924

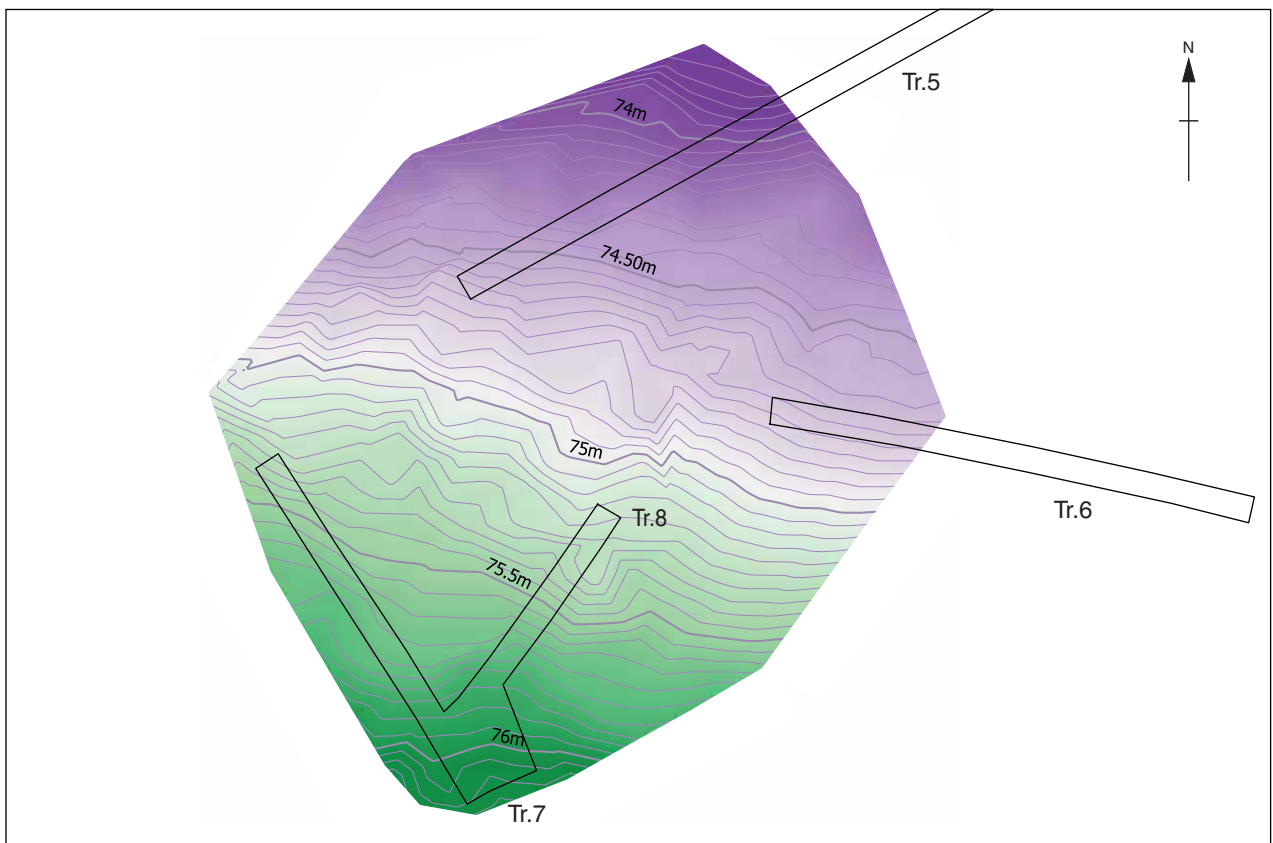


Figure 7: Topographic survey showing Mound (dark green)

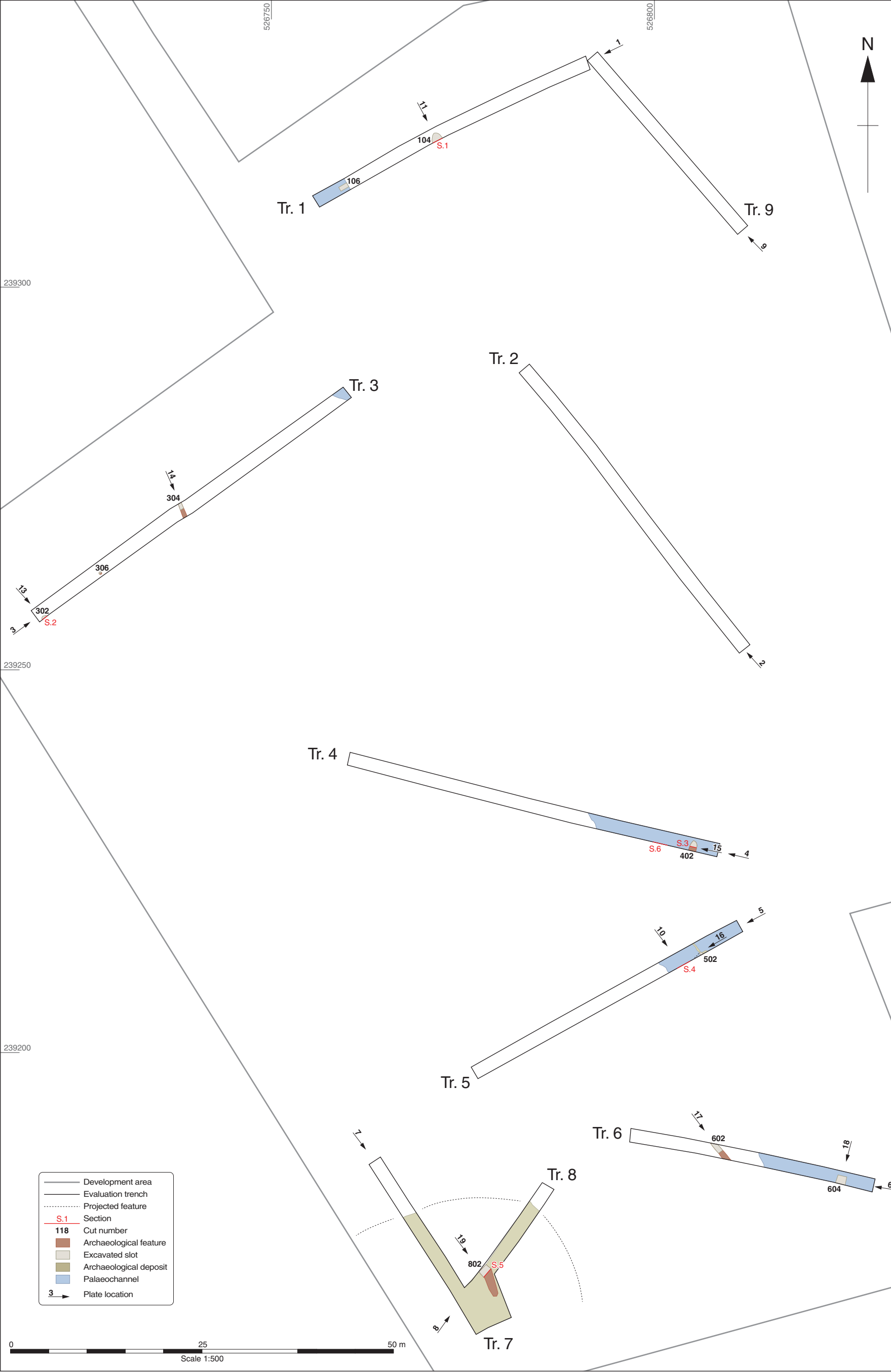


Figure 8: All features plan and plate directions

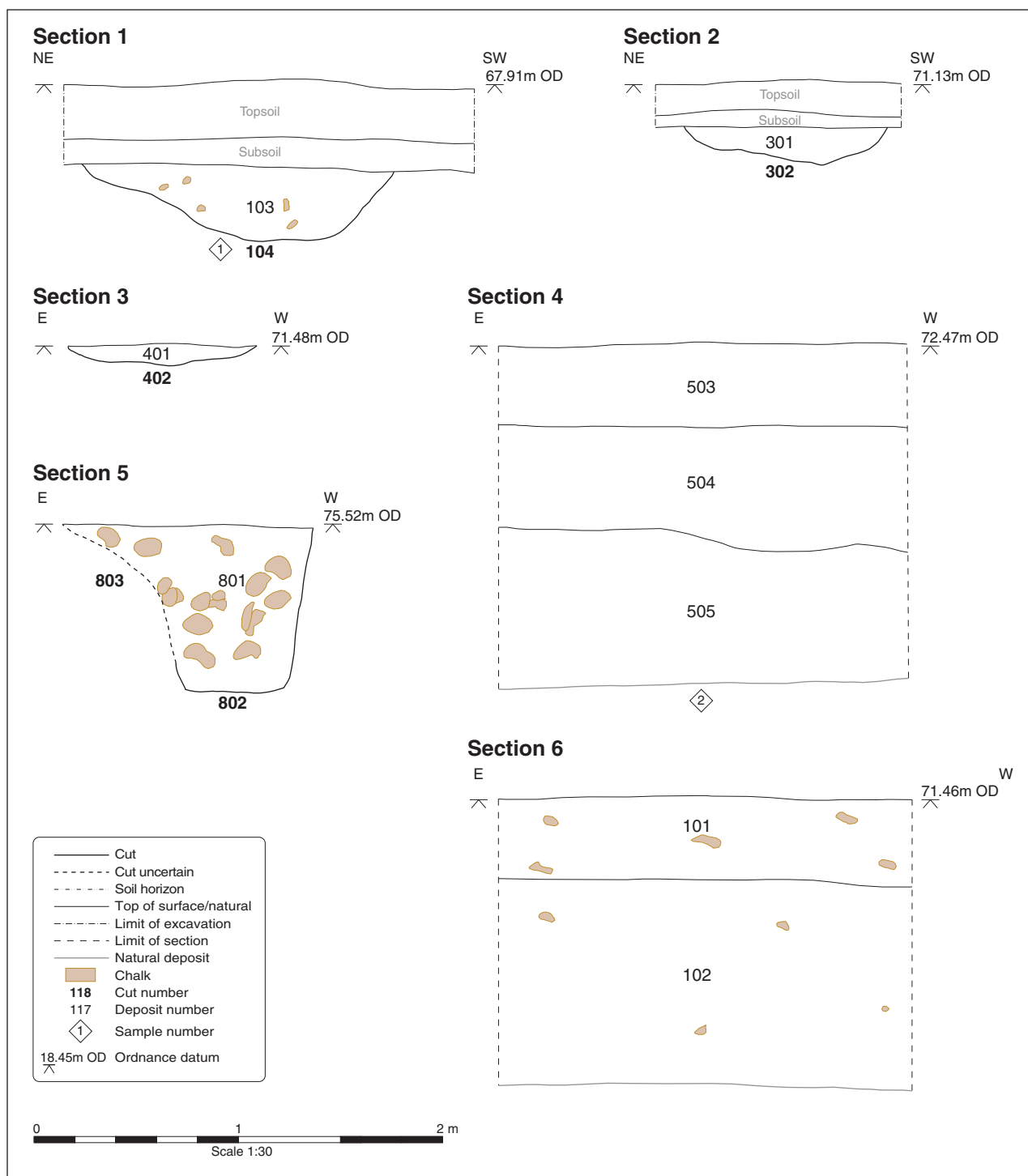


Figure 9: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 viewed from the north-west



Plate 2: Trench 2 viewed from the south-east



Plate 3: Trench 3 viewed from the south-west



Plate 4: Trench 4 viewed from the east



Plate 5: Trench 5 viewed from the north-east



Plate 6: Trench 6 viewed from the east



Plate 7: Trench 7 viewed from the north-west



Plate 8: Trench 8 viewed from the south-west



Plate 9: Trench 9 viewed from the south-east



Plate 10: Paleochannel viewed from north-west



Plate 11: Feature **104** viewed from the north



Plate 12: Feature **106** viewed from the north-east



Plate 13: Feature **302** viewed from the north-west



Plate 14: Feature **304** viewed from the north-west



Plate 15: Feature **402** viewed from the east



Plate 16: Feature **502** viewed from the east



Plate 17: Feature **602** viewed from the north-west



Plate 18: Feature **603** viewed from the north



Plate 19: Feature **802** viewed from the north-west

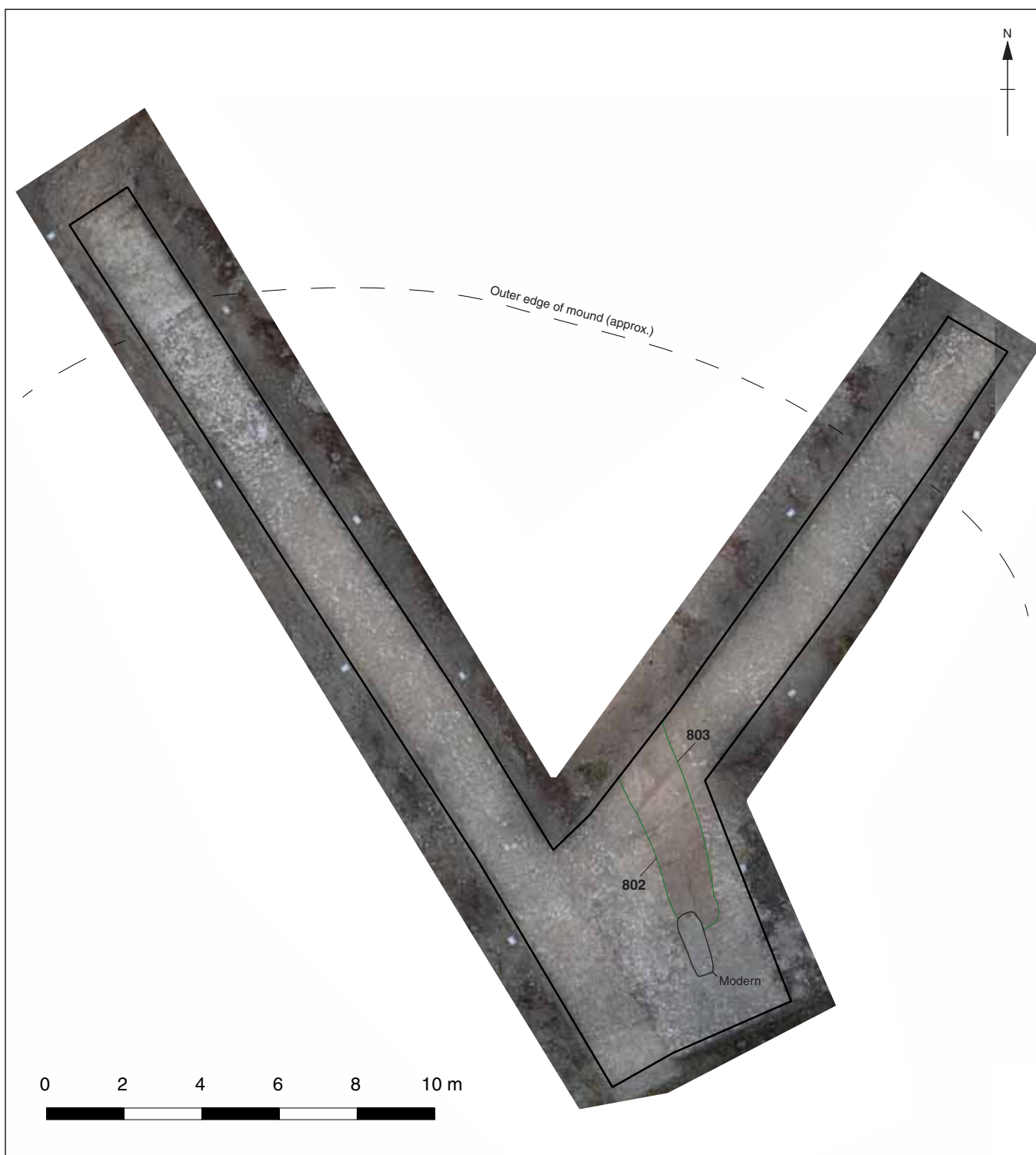


Plate 20: Rectified photo of Mound in Trenches 7 and 8



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