



Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

September 2019

Client: Mr. and Mrs. Crouchman

Issue No: 1

OA Report No: 2371

NGR: TL 6851 6144

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Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 10th and 11th of September 2019, OA East undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land known as Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley, Cambridgeshire (TL 6851 6144). A total of five trenches were excavated within the 0.4ha development area. No archaeological features were uncovered and no finds collected.

Acknowledgements

OA East would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Crouchman for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Andy Thomas who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council .

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was directed by Thomas Lucking. Survey and digitising was carried out by Isobelle Ward. Thanks are also extended to Katherine Hamilton, who prepared the archive.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Crouchman to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley, Cambridgeshire.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 18/01556/OUT). A brief was set by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (Thomas 2019) and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA East detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (Gilmour 2019).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The village of Cheveley lies on the very eastern edge of Cambridgeshire, just over 1km from the county boundary with Suffolk, and approximately 4km southeast of Newmarket.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of 0.4ha of pasture land, sited within the village and lying approximately 85m OD.

1.2.3 The natural geology consists of chalk of the (undifferentiated) Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation which is overlain by superficial deposits of Diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) search was conducted on a 1km wide area around the development area, which is summarised below. It is noted that very little archaeological work has taken place within this study area.

1.4 Prehistoric

1.4.1 Ring-ditches and a possible henge have been recorded from aerial photographs (CHER 09022). These are located c.700m to the south-west of the development area.

1.5 Roman

1.5.1 A possible Roman road, and a single bronze coin were located c.650m to the north of the proposed development area (CHER 08429).

1.6 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

1.6.1 Cheveley castle is located c.605m to the West of the development area (CHER 10763). This castle was almost certainly constructed in 1341 by Sir John de Pulteney. In addition, the parish church of St Mary and the Holy Host (CHER 10341) is located c.600m south of the current development area. Parts of this church date from the 13th century, with much of it being of 14th and 15th century date.

1.7 Post-medieval

- 1.7.1 A Post-medieval brick kiln is depicted on a map of 1775 (CHER 07485). This was located c. 350m to the north-east of the current development area.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 This evaluation sought to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The scheme of works aimed to:

- i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they were found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeological and environmental remains;
- ii. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
- iii. provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits;
- iv. provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 In accordance with the WSI (Gilmour 2019) a total of five trenches measuring 20m x 1.6m were excavated, representing a 5% sample of the development area. Trench 4 was shifted c. 2m north of its original location to allow the access into the field to remain open.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.6m-wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 Topsoil and subsoil was stripped to the horizon with the natural geology. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS GS08 with SmartNET technology.

2.2.5 Spoil and exposed surfaces were scanned with a metal detector.

2.2.6 Trench locations were recorded at appropriate scales and high resolution digital photographs were taken of all trenches.

2.2.7 Bucket samples of 90 litres of excavated soil were taken from each trench, in order to characterise artefactual remains in the topsoil and other soil horizons above the archaeological level.

1 RESULTS

1.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 1.1.1 No archaeological features were encountered during the excavation, and no artefacts were collected.
- 1.1.2 A catalogue of each trench is given in Appendix A.

1.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 1.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of silty clay with occasional flint nodules was overlain by a thin band of mid-brownish grey silty clay subsoil, between 0.05m and 0.09 thick, which in turn was overlain by a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, between 0.31m and 0.37m thick. Plates 1 and 2 show the geology encountered in the trenches.
- 1.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout.

1.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 1.3.1 No archaeological features were present in any of trenches.

1.4 Finds summary

- 1.4.1 No finds of any periods were collected from any context during this evaluation.

2 DISCUSSION

2.1 Reliability of field investigation

2.1.1 No archaeological features were exposed during this investigation, but the clear contrast of the natural geology against the overlying layers suggests that if any features were present they would have been visible within the exposed area. For this reason, the results of this evaluation are considered to have a good level of reliability.

2.2 Evaluation objectives and results

2.2.1 This evaluation sought to establish the character, date, state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area (Section 2.1 above). No features were encountered or artefacts recovered from any of the trial trenches.

2.3 Interpretation

2.3.1 The lack of archaeological features revealed during this investigation suggests limited historic occupation in the area. Plough-scarring was visible cutting into the natural geology in all of the trenches, which would correlate with the area being under historic arable cultivation rather than occupation.

2.3.2 The lack of remains may be partly due to the site having been subject to continual truncation by the plough, as part of an historical agricultural regime, with plough scarring visible cutting the natural geology in all of the trenches.

2.3.3 The place-name of Cheveley is suggestive of the area being relatively wooded in the Anglo-Saxon period (Wareham and Wright 2002), with the adjacent place-names of Ashley, Silverley and Woodditton supporting the idea that the parish once formed part of a larger wooded area of land. If the site was within this historic woodland, then this may provide a partial explanation of why no pre-medieval archaeology was detected.

2.3.4 The Victoria County History entry for the parish of Cheveley (Wareham and Wright 2002) mapped the site as being within the former open fields to the north of the village. This may explain the lack of medieval and post-medieval archaeology.

2.4 Significance

2.4.1 This evaluation has demonstrated that there are no significant archaeological remains present on the site.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with flints.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with flints.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay with flints.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gilmour, N, 2019. *Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley, Written Scheme of Investigation*, Oxford Archaeology East (Unpublished)

Thomas, A, 2019. *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley*, Cambridgeshire County Council (Unpublished)

Wareham, A. F. and Wright, A. P. M., 2002, "Cheveley" in *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 10, Cheveley, Flendish, Staine and Staploe Hundreds (North-Eastern Cambridgeshire)*, Victoria County History, London: pp. 40-46

Electronic Sources

British Geological Survey (BGS). 2019. Website:
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, accessed 12 September 2019

APPENDIX C

SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-366792		
Project Name	Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley		
Start of Fieldwork	10 September 2019	End of Fieldwork	11 September 2019
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB 5955	Planning App. No.	18/01556/OUT
HER Number	ECB 5955	Related Numbers	-
Prompt	NPPF		
Development Type	Residential		
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded		

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 checked="" 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
-	Choose an item.	-	Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Freshwinds, 47 High Street, Cheveley, Newmarket, CB8 9DQ
District	East Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Cheveley	
HER office	CCC HET	
Size of Study Area	0.4 hectares	
National Grid Ref	TL 6851 6144	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	CCC HET
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	Nick Gilmour
Project Supervisor	Thomas Lucking

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC HET	ECB 5595
Digital Archive	OA East	ECB 5595
Paper Archive	CCC HET	ECB 5595

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
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 Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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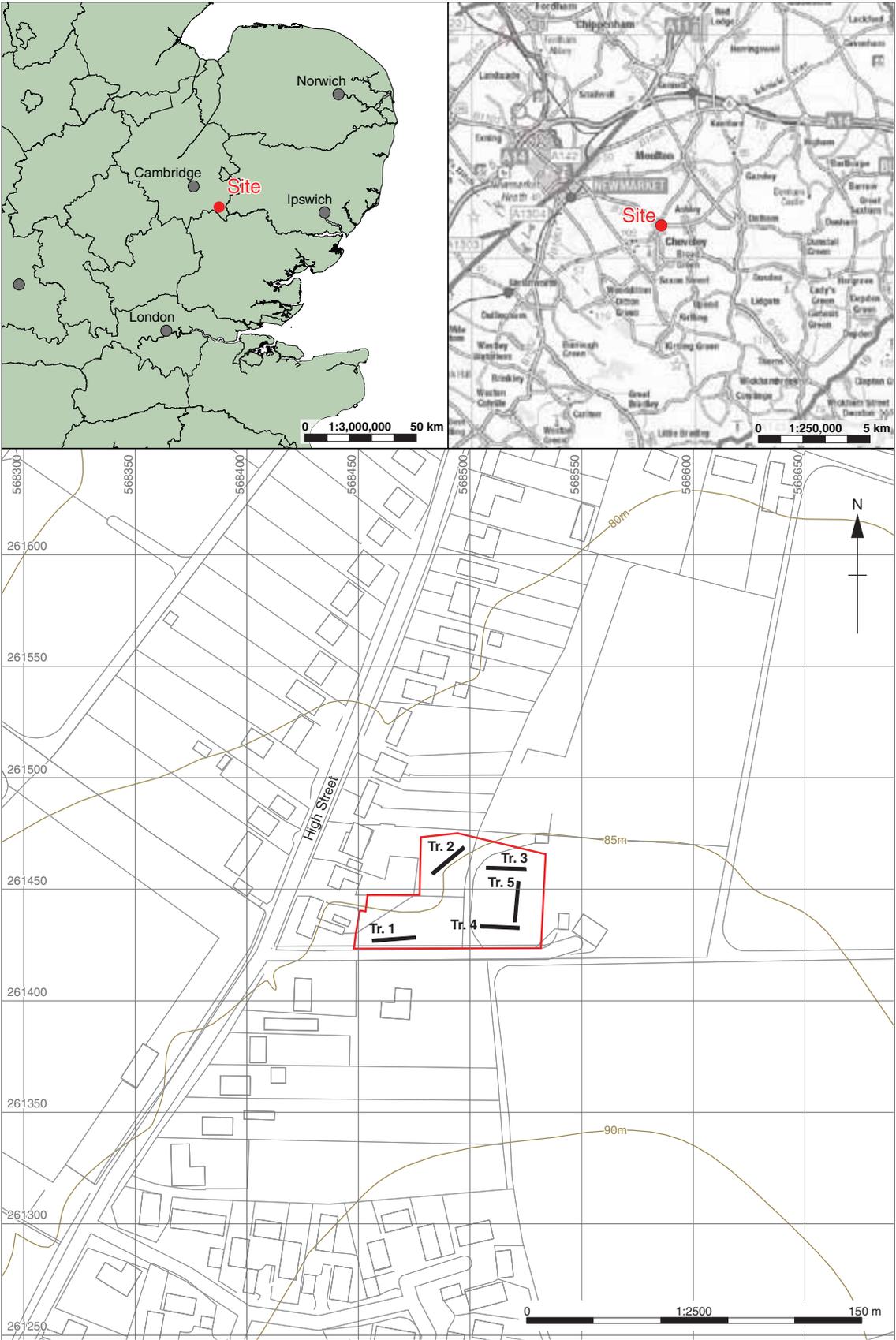
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Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

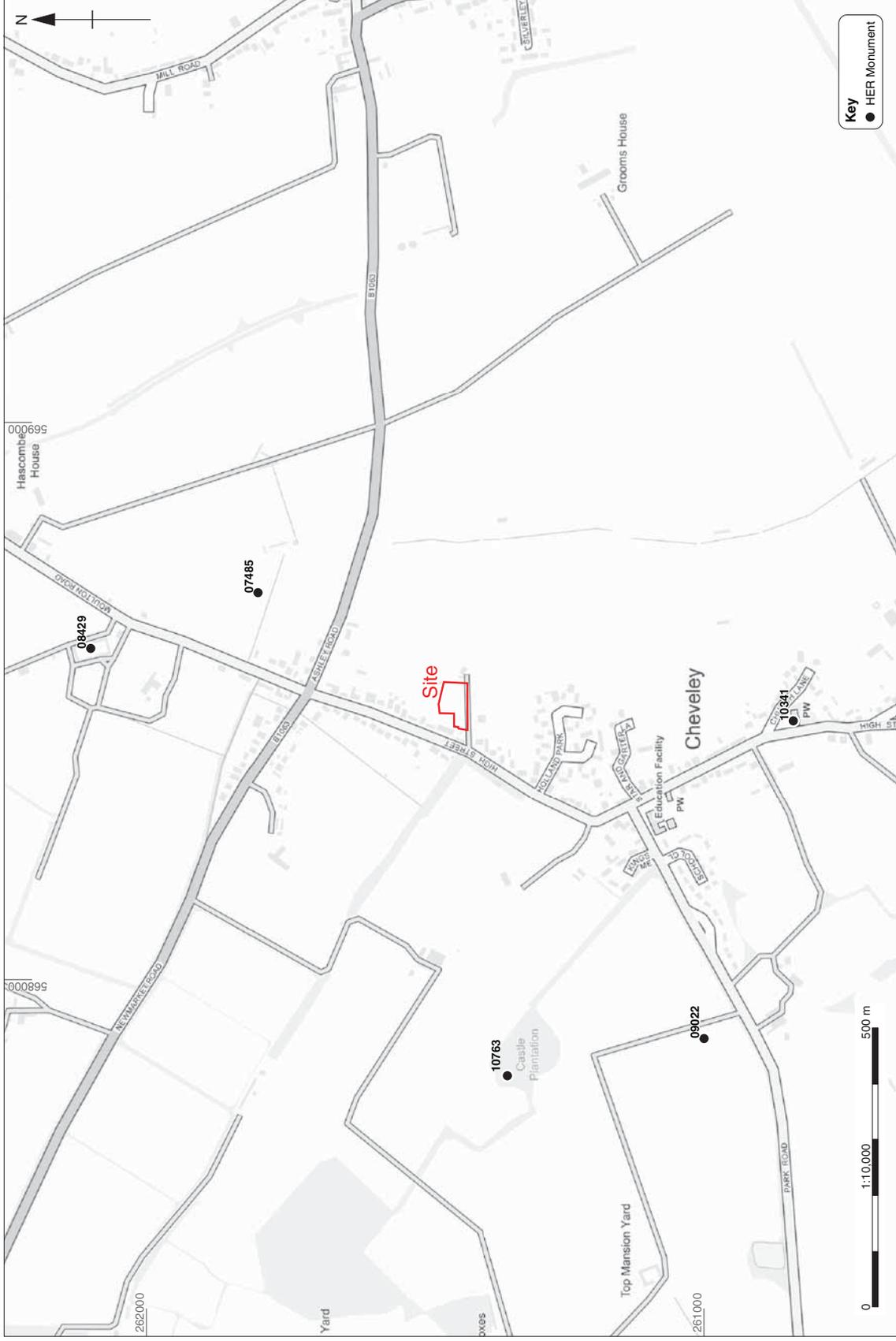


Figure 2: Site in relation to CHER events and monuments.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 5, looking north



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