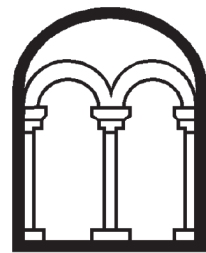


LAND WEST OF SANDY LANE
LONG CRENDON
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

Albion
archaeology



**LAND WEST OF SANDY LANE
LONG CRENDON
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION

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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. This document should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council).

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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Rectory Homes Ltd and monitored on behalf of the LPA by Phil Markham, Buckinghamshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ernie Rizzo (Archaeological Supervisor). This report has been prepared by Ernie Rizzo with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician), who produced the figures. The project was managed by Tori Guy (Assistant Archaeological Manager) and Jeremy Oetgen (Archaeological Manager). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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1.0	27/01/2021	n/a
1.1	01/02/2021	Amendment to Figure 2, as requested by BCSAO

Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this document:

BCAS	Buckinghamshire Council Archaeology Service
BCSAO	Buckinghamshire Council Senior Archaeology Officer
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
HER	Historic Environment Record (of Buckinghamshire Council)
LPA	Local Planning Authority
PDA	Permitted development area
WSI	Written scheme of investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Buckinghamshire Council granted planning permission (19/01305/APP) for the erection of five detached dwellings with access from Sandy Lane, including parking and garaging, landscaping and all enabling and ancillary works at Land west of Sandy Lane, Long Crendon. A planning condition required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (WSI).

The initial stage of work required by Buckinghamshire Council's Senior Archaeology Officer was an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a WSI and undertake an evaluation, comprising six trial trenches, between 18th and 20th January 2021. This report presents the results of the trenching.

Apart from two medieval or post-medieval furrows, no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were revealed during the excavation of the trenches. Furthermore, there were no residual finds in the overburden. On such a small site, the absence of archaeological features is unsurprising; previous investigations recorded in the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) indicate the generally dispersed nature of archaeological remains around Long Crendon.

Although currently under pasture, the depth of the overburden suggests that the field has been ploughed in the past, and this might also have contributed to the poor survival of any shallow archaeological features.

Remains of ridge and furrow field systems were identified broadly aligned NE-SW; they were medieval or post-medieval in date and probably spanned the whole of the site. These are of no more than local importance and have been thoroughly recorded by the trial trenching. Further investigation would not contribute to relevant archaeological research frameworks.

A copy of this report will be submitted to the HER. The project archive will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum (accession no. AYBCM:2020.61). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-409747) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Project Background*

Buckinghamshire Council granted planning permission (19/01305/APP) for the erection of five detached dwellings with access from Sandy Lane, including parking and garaging, landscaping and all enabling and ancillary works at Land west of Sandy Lane, Long Crendon.

Because of the archaeological potential of the site, the then Buckinghamshire County Council Senior Archaeology Officer advised that an archaeological condition should be attached to the permission. Condition no. 3 states that:

No development shall take place, until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (which may take place over a number of phases) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority. The development shall only be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason: To record or safeguard any archaeological evidence that may be present at the site and to comply with policies LC3 and LC9 of the Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan; policy GP53 of the Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (Adopted) January 2004; policy BE1 of the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan; and the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

The first stage of the programme of archaeological work comprised evaluation of the site by trial trenching. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the evaluation, for which a written scheme of investigation (WSI), was prepared (Albion Archaeology 2020). This report presents the results of the archaeological field evaluation.

Any subsequent phases of archaeological investigations or mitigation works required by the LPA will be the subject of a separate WSI.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

The village of Long Crendon lies in the Aylesbury Vale, at the south end of the Chilton Ridge. Thame and the Buckinghamshire/Oxfordshire border are situated c.3km and c.2km to the south, respectively. The permitted development area (PDA) is situated at the south-west edge of the village, on the west side of Sandy Lane (Figure 1).

The PDA forms part of a large pasture field on the south-west slopes of the Chilton Ridge, centred on NGR SP 68867 08534. It is bounded by Sandy Lane to the east and individual residential properties to the north and south. Agricultural land defined by well-established hedgerows lies to the west. The highest point of the PDA is the north-east corner—c.82m OD. The ground surface of the site slopes down gently towards the south-west corner, beyond which is a minor tributary of the River Thame.



The underlying geology comprises bands of sedimentary bedrock of the Jurassic Kimmeridge Clay Formation Siltstone, Sandstone and Mudstone. No superficial deposits are recorded for the PDA itself but there are Head deposits close by and sand was noted during a site walkover undertaken in 2019.¹

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 Desk-based assessment

The planning application was accompanied by a desk-based heritage assessment (Albion Archaeology 2019), which set out in detail the archaeological background to the site. The report concluded that the PDA had relatively low archaeological potential but noted that desk-based assessments cannot be used as a predictive tool for the precise location and characterisation of sub-surface archaeological deposits.

At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Long Crendon or ‘Crendon’ was a settlement of 72 households, with 20 taxable geld units, comprising land for 25 ploughs, 10 lords land, meadow for 10 ploughs, 1 mill and woodland to support 100 pigs².

During the medieval period the PDA formed part of Long Crendon’s open-field system and traces of former ridge and furrow have been recorded by the Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) on the PDA and surrounding field. It is currently unknown whether the PDA contains any evidence for earlier (i.e. prehistoric, Roman, or Anglo-Saxon) settlement.

The landscape around Long Crendon consists of a combination of fields created during 18th- and 19th-century parliamentary enclosure and those pre-dating the Enclosure Act. Fields on either side of Sandy Lane were created prior to 18th-century enclosure and are irregular in layout. The PDA pertains to pre-enclosure fields known as ‘Big’ and ‘Little’ Ridding(s), the same name as the farm situated just north of the PDA. The larger, more regular fields to the west of the PDA were fields created because of parliamentary enclosure.

1.3.2 Historic Environment Record (HER)

Data from a 500m-radius search of the HER (the “study area”) was obtained for the desk-based heritage statement; key records are summarised below.

Evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area is confined to the find-spot of Bronze Age metalwork (HER 0101300), which has been approximately located c.100m to the east of the PDA.

There is no evidence for Roman settlement activity within the study area, but the postulated route of the Viatores Roman road 173A-D (between Ermine Street and Dorchester-on-Thames) (HER 0203500) passes the PDA c.90m to the south. A find-spot of Roman metalwork has also been recorded (HER 0101301) and has been approximately located c.100m to the east of the PDA.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 02.12.2020]

² <http://opendomesday.org/place/SP6909/long-crendon/> [accessed 02.12.2020]



An archaeological investigation at Wainrights on the east side of Long Crendon, c.840m east of the PDA, revealed evidence for several phases of occupation (TVAS 2018). This included features of early/middle Anglo-Saxon date (HER 0795400000) and a series of north–south aligned ditches that probably spanned the late Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Roman periods (HER 0789500000).

1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on any below-ground archaeological remains present within the PDA. This information assists in determining the potential archaeological impact of the permitted development and in formulating the need, design and extent of any mitigation works that might be required.

The general purpose of the evaluation was to recover information on the:

- Location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the PDA;
- Integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that might be present within the PDA.
- Nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

The relevant research framework for the region was the *Solent Thames Research Framework*. This covers the historic counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and is a vital tool for the assessment of any heritage asset within their local, regional and national historic environment setting.

The PDA's location within an area of medieval field systems outlying the medieval core of Long Crendon suggested that themes regarding the medieval landscape and land-use (Munby 2014, 256) might have been of relevance.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

The methodological approach to the project is summarised below. A full methodology was provided in the WSI (Albion Archaeology 2020).

2.2 Standards

The standards and requirements set out in the following documents were adhered to throughout the project:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Albion Archaeology 	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork</i> (3rd ed, 2017).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological Archives Forum 	<i>Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> (2nd ed. 2011)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCAS 	<i>Generic brief for archaeological evaluation (trial trenching)</i> <i>Generic Brief for an Archaeological Geophysical Survey (Magnetometer and Resistivity)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buckinghamshire County Museum 	<i>Procedures for Notifying and Transferring Archaeological Archives</i> (rev 2013)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 	<i>Charter and by-law</i> (2014); <i>Code of conduct</i> (2019) <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> (2020) <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> (2020) <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological geophysical survey</i> (2020)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic England [formerly English Heritage] 	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> (2015) <i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.</i> 2nd ed. (2011)

2.3 Archaeological Field Evaluation

2.3.1 Trial trenching

The trial trenching took place between 18th and 21st January 2021 and comprised six trenches measuring 10m or 15m in length and 1.8m in width. The trenches were placed across the PDA (Figure 2), representing a c.4% sample of the c.0.29ha site. Trenches were positioned to provide an even coverage of the site, targeting all areas of potential archaeological impact while avoiding an extant tree on the Sandy Lane frontage.

The trenches were set out by dGPS survey and tied into the national grid. A possible underground service was detected using a cable avoidance tool during the setting out of Trench 1, so the north end of the trench was moved c.2m to the west.



During machining of Trench 3, an undetected plastic water main was encountered. The pipe was damaged, but repaired before significant flooding of the trench occurred.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. The spoil from each trench was scanned for artefacts. Investigation and recording was carried out by an experienced Albion Archaeology Supervisor.

All archaeological features or deposits in the trenches were cleaned and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro forma sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 100 for Trench 1, 200 for Trench 2 etc. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate.

Monitoring correspondence with the BCSAO was conducted on the 18th January 2021.



3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Introduction

All archaeological deposits and features found within the trial trenches are summarised below and shown on Figures 1 and 2. A representative selection of site photographs are presented in Figures 3 and 4. Where site recording numbers have been used they are distinguished by different bracket styles to indicate feature number = [***] and fill number = (***). Context numbers reflect the trench number, e.g. [305] is a feature within Trench 3 and, therefore, the trench number is only given where necessary.

Details of all observed deposits and archaeological features are provided in Appendix 1.

The results are discussed below in chronological order.

3.2 Overburden and Geological Deposits

The combined thickness of overburden across the site ranged from 0.5–0.66m. The overburden was similar in all trenches and comprised dark brown silt topsoil that was 0.21–0.35m thick and mid-brown sandy clay subsoil that was 0.26–0.48m thick. This deep soil profile suggests that the pasture had been under the plough in the past, which would have led to some degree of truncation of any archaeological deposits.

The undisturbed geological stratum was consistent across the PDA and comprised a light grey-brown sandy clay deposit with frequent chalk flecks and patches of red, sandier areas containing ironstone, limestone and patches of light grey clay.

3.3 Medieval or Post-medieval Ridge and Furrow

Remains of ridge and furrow field systems were identified in Trenches 2 and 4 on a north-east to south-west alignment (Figure 2). Furrow [203] was 0.9m wide and 0.03m deep; furrow [403] was 0.95m wide and 0.09m deep. They both had a mid-orange-brown silt clay fill and no finds were identified. Furrows did not survive within any other trenches, most likely due to truncation by modern ploughing.

3.4 Modern Waterpipe

A modern black plastic waterpipe was identified within Trenches 2 and 3 (Figure 2); it lay at the base of the subsoil and no service trench was discernible. On a south-east to north-west alignment, it served as the main waterpipe to Redding's Farm to the north of the PDA. During machine excavation of Trench 3 it was damaged, but subsequently repaired, and did not hinder the archaeological evaluation of the PDA. It was also identified, but not damaged, in Trench 2, on the same alignment.

3.5 Conclusions

Apart from two medieval or post-medieval furrows, no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were revealed during the excavation of the trenches.

Furthermore, there were no residual finds in the overburden, which might have



indicated the presence of archaeological remains within the PDA or its immediate landscape. On such a small site, the absence of archaeological features is unsurprising; previous investigations recorded in the HER (TVAS 2018) indicate the generally dispersed nature of archaeological remains around Long Crendon.

Although currently under pasture, the depth of the overburden suggests that the field has been ploughed in the past, and this might also have contributed to the poor survival of any shallow archaeological features.

The two furrows identified were on the same alignment as extant furrows in a field to the north of the PDA, suggesting they are part of the same array. There were also extant furrows to the west of the PDA on a perpendicular alignment. These are of no more than local importance and have been thoroughly recorded during the field evaluation. Further investigation would not contribute to relevant archaeological research frameworks.

3.6 Archiving and Reporting

On approval by the BCSAO, a copy of this report will be submitted to the HER. The project archive will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum (accession no. AYBCM:2020.61). Details of the project and its findings will be submitted to the OASIS database (reference no.: albionar1-409747) in accordance with the guidelines issued by Historic England and the Archaeology Data Service.



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5. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench: 1

Max Dimensions: Length: 15.60 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.64 m. Max: 0.66 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 468888/208552

OS Grid Ref.: 468879/208540

Reason: Assess Archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silt occasional small stones 0.12m at thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
101	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones 0.47m at thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Natural	Firm grey brown clay moderate flecks manganese staining, moderate small-large stones Natural stratum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 2

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.25 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.56 m. Max: 0.58 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 468875/208551

OS Grid Ref.: 468866/208553

Reason: Assess Archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silt occasional small stones 0.15m at thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
201	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay frequent small-medium stones 0.36m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay moderate medium-large stones Natural stratum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: irregular base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.9m, max depth 0.03m, min length 1.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Fill	Firm mid orange brown silty clay occasional small stones 0.03m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 3

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.70 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.62 m. Max: 0.64 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 468866/208540

OS Grid Ref.: 468876/208538

Reason: Assess Archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
300	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silt occasional small stones 0.1m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
301	Subsoil	Firm mid grey brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones 0.48m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Natural	Firm mid grey brown clay moderate medium-large stones Natural stratum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Trench: 4

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.95 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.5 m. Max: 0.53 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 468877/208523

OS Grid Ref.: 468868/208529

Reason: Assess Archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
400	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silt occasional small stones 0.15m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
401	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small-medium stones 0.26m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Natural	Firm light orange brown clay occasional flecks manganese staining, moderate medium-large stones Natural stratum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Furrow	Linear NNE-SSW sides: asymmetrical base: flat dimensions: max breadth 0.95m, max depth 0.09m, min length 1.8m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
404	Fill	Firm mid brown silty clay moderate small stones 0.09m thick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 5

Max Dimensions: Length: 10.80 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.52 m. Max: 0.54 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 468860/208511

OS Grid Ref.: 468870/208512

Reason: Assess Archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
500	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silt occasional small stones 0.12m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
501	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay 0.35m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Natural	Firm light grey brown clay occasional medium stones Natural stratum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Trench: 6

Max Dimensions: Length: 11.15 m. Width: 1.80 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.54 m. Max: 0.6 m.

Co-ordinates: OS Grid Ref.: 468879/208516

OS Grid Ref.: 468880/208506

Reason: Assess Archaeological potential

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
600	Topsoil	Friable dark brown silt occasional small stones 0.12m at thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
601	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay occasional small stones 0.39m at the thickest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
602	Natural	Firm light orange brown chalky clay frequent medium-large chalk Natural stratum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

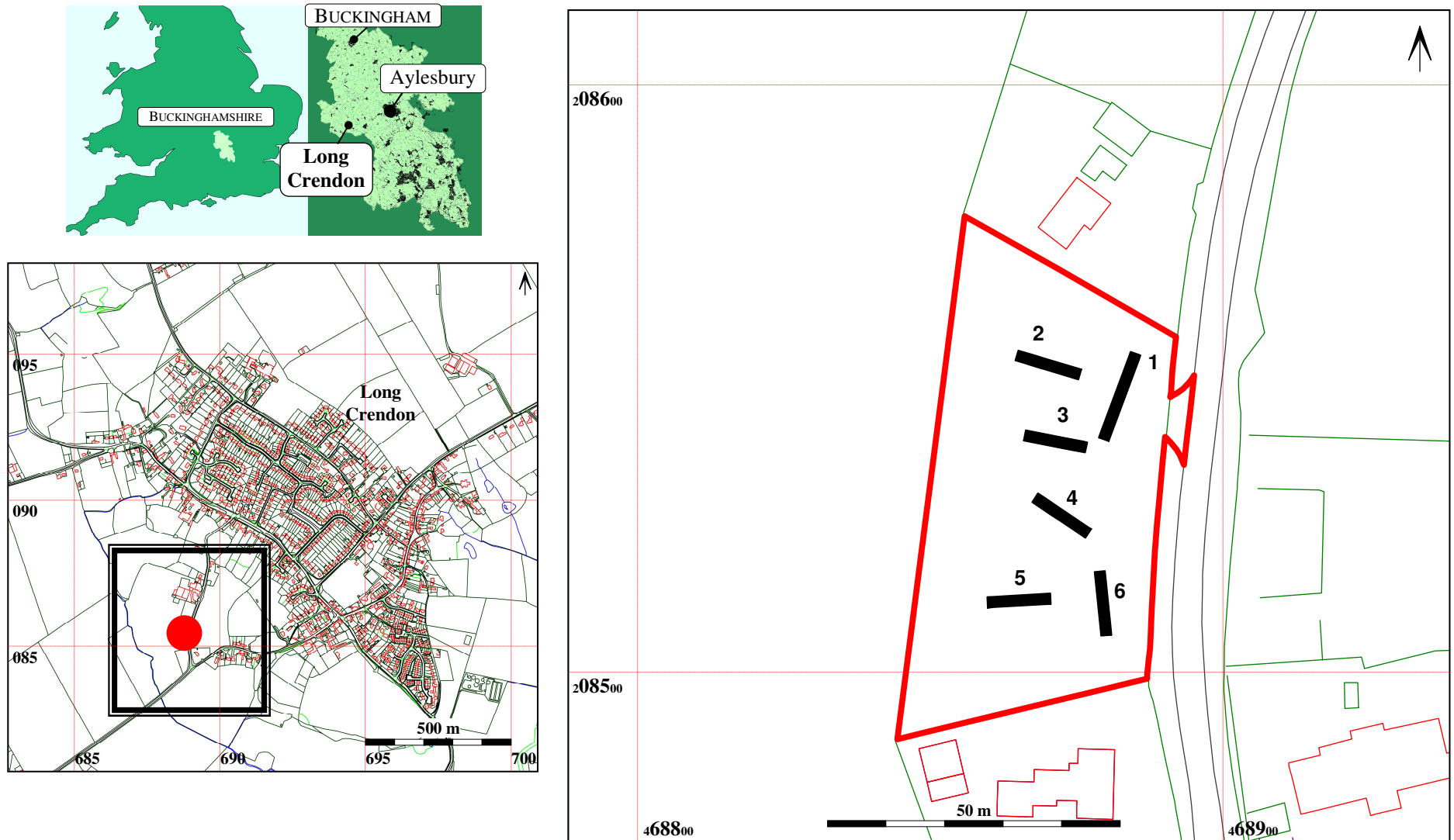


Figure 1: Site location plan

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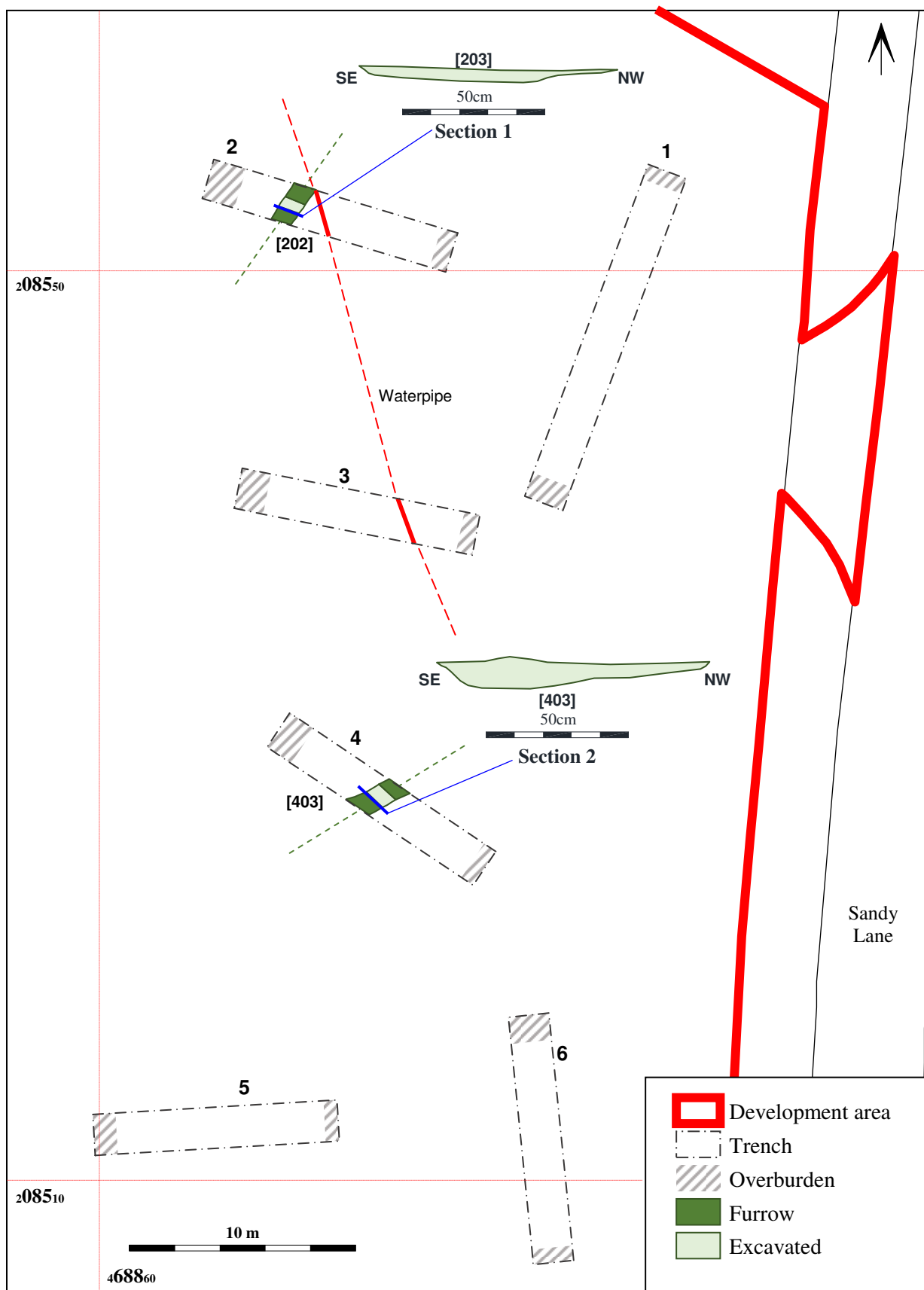


Figure 2: All-features plan and sections

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Trench 1: Trench shot looking NW, 1m scale



Trench 3: Trench shot looking SE, 1m scale



Trench 5: Trench shot looking ENE, 1m scale



Trench 6: Trench shot looking WNW, 1m scale

Figure 3: Trenches 1, 3, 5 and 6 photographs (no archaeological features)



Trench 2: Trench shot looking ENE, 1m scale



Trench 2: Furrow [203] facing NE, 1m scale



Trench 4: Trench shot looking NNE, 1m scale



Trench 4: Furrow [403] facing NE, 1m scale

Figure 4: Trenches 2 and 4 photographs, including archaeological features

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