

**LAND AT 13 CHURCH LANE  
COVINGTON  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD  
EVALUATION**

Project: CLC 1598  
CHER event no. ECB 3325

Document: 2010/13  
Version 1.0

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
David Ingham	Joe Abrams	Drew Shotliff

26th February 2010

Produced for:  
Mr J. Williams



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## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

*Albion Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the project by Andrew Chisem (Architect) on behalf of Mr J. Williams, and is grateful to Simon Williams for his assistance during fieldwork. The project was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec and Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office (CAPCA).*

*The project was managed for Albion by Joe Abrams (Project Manager). David Ingham (Project Officer) conducted the fieldwork and prepared this report, which includes contributions from Joan Lighting (CAD Technician) and Jackie Wells (Finds Officer). The report was approved by Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager), who is responsible for the overall management of all Albion projects.*

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## Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>26/2/10</i>	<i>n/a</i>

## Structure of the Report

*Section 1 is an introduction to the project, the methodology for which is described in Section 2. The results and significance of the fieldwork are presented in Section 3; Section 4 is a bibliography. Section 5 contains an appendix, which comprises an OASIS record form.*

## Key Terms

The following terms or abbreviations are used throughout this report:

<i>ALGAO</i>	Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers
<i>CAPCA</i>	Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office
<i>CCC</i>	Cambridgeshire County Council
<i>CHER</i>	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record
<i>IfA</i>	Institute for Archaeologists



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*This document has been prepared by Albion Archaeology on behalf of Mr J. Williams. It reports on an archaeological field evaluation undertaken in February 2010, which was occasioned by the forthcoming construction of a house at land north of Dukes Cottages, 13 Church Lane, Covington, Cambridgeshire. The development area is c. 300m<sup>2</sup> in size, and is located on flat ground at (NGR) TL 0545 7086.*

*The village of Covington dates back to the Saxon period. The manor was recorded at Domesday as being held by Roger de Ivri (Page 1936, 38–41), but part of it had passed to the Bayeaux family by the 13th century. Its associated moated site lies c. 200m south-west of the development area (CHER MCB4138), near some surviving earthworks (CHER MCB18621) that probably represent medieval field boundaries. Aerial photographic evidence shows a further moated site 100m north-east of the development area (CHER MCB415), as well as undated enclosures c. 500m to the north-west (CHER MCB11892) and south-east (CHER MCB18622), and extensive areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation further north.*

*Because of the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition was placed on the planning consent requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. A design brief issued by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice office stated that further information on the archaeological impact of the work was required.*

*The archaeological potential of the development area was evaluated by two 5m-long trenches, sampling 5% of the area. The only archaeological feature revealed was a furrow, which was not considered by CAPCA to be of sufficient archaeological significance to trigger further archaeological mitigation of the development.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 *Project Background*

Huntingdonshire District Council has granted planning permission (Ref: 0900946FUL) for Mr J. Williams to construct a dwelling at land north of Dukes Cottages, 13 Church Lane, Covington, Cambridgeshire (TL 0545 7086; Fig. 1).

Because of the archaeological potential of the development area, a condition was placed on the planning consent requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological work. The Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors, CAPCA, issued a Design Brief (CAPCA 2009) outlining the requirements of an evaluation, which would determine whether any further archaeological work was required.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned by Andrew Chisem (Architect), on behalf of Mr J. Williams, to carry out the evaluation in line with a Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2009) that was approved in advance by the CAPCA. The results of the evaluation are presented in this report.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

The development area, centred on TL 05452 70861, covers an area of *c.* 300m<sup>2</sup> at the northern end of Church Lane, Covington (Fig. 1). The village is located *c.* 5km north-west of Kimbolton, close to where the county boundaries of Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire meet.

The development area is relatively flat, lying at *c.* 78m OD, and previously comprised a garden and garage. The underlying geology consists of Oxford Clay Mudstone overlain by Oadby Member clays.

### 1.3 *Archaeological and Historical Background*

The village of Covington dates back to the Saxon period. The manor was recorded at Domesday as being held by Roger de Ivri (Page 1936, 38–41), but part of it had passed to the Bayeaux family by the 13th century. Its associated moated site lies *c.* 200m south-west of the development area (CHER MCB4138), near some surviving earthworks (CHER MCB18621) that probably represent medieval field boundaries. Aerial photographic evidence shows a further moated site 100m north-east of the development area (CHER MCB415), as well as undated enclosures *c.* 500m to the north-west (CHER MCB11892) and south-east (CHER MCB18622), and extensive areas of ridge-and-furrow cultivation further north.

There are several listed buildings within the village, including 17th-century Covington Hall (CHER 399099), which lies 100m south of the development area.

### 1.4 *Project Objectives*

The general aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological remains within the development area, and to determine the need for a programme of archaeological mitigation. Specific objectives relating to medieval settlements were also identified (Albion Archaeology 2009).



## 2. METHODOLOGY

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Two 5m-long trenches covering an area of 15m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2) were opened on 18th February 2010. This was done using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, operated by an experienced driver acting under close archaeological supervision.

Overburden was removed down to the top of the archaeological deposits, which were encountered at the same level as the undisturbed geological deposits. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts. Any potential archaeological features were noted, cleaned, excavated by hand, and recorded using Albion Archaeology's *pro forma* sheets. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. All deposits were recorded using a unique number sequence.

A full methodology is provided in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2009).

The project adhered throughout to the standards prescribed in the following documents:

- IfA *Code of Conduct  
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field  
Evaluation*
- Albion Archaeology *Procedures Manual: Volume 1 Fieldwork* (2nd edition, 2001)
- ALGAO (east) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*
- CCC *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the  
Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store  
(HER 2004/1)*
- CAPCA *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*
- English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition*

The trenches were inspected by the CAPCA prior to their backfilling.



### 3. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

#### 3.1 Results

The only archaeological feature revealed by the evaluation was a furrow, sealed beneath a relatively deep accumulation of overburden. Four pieces of animal bone (237g) were recovered from its fill: three undiagnostic rib and long bone fragments; and a partial sheep/goat mandible. The furrow also contained two abraded, sand-tempered pieces of flat roof tile (84g), which are likely to be late medieval or early post-medieval in date. The finds were not retained.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Depth of overburden</i>	<i>OS grid ref.</i>
1	5.1	1.55m	0.8m	TL 05448 / 70857 TL 05452 / 70855
2	4.6	1.55m	0.8m	TL 05449 / 70861 TL 05451 / 70866

**Table 1:** Trench summary

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey silt, 0.5m thick
101	Subsoil	Firm mid-brown-grey clayey silt, 0.3m thick
102	Natural	Firm light orange-grey chalky clay

**Table 2:** Trench 1 — context summary

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
200	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey clayey silt, 0.5m thick
201	Subsoil	Firm mid-brown-grey clayey silt, 0.3m thick
202	Natural	Firm light orange-grey chalky clay
203	Furrow	Linear, WNW–ESE. Sides: shallow. Base: flat. Width: 3.7m. Depth: 0.15m
204	Fill	Firm mid-orange-brown clayey-silt

**Table 3:** Trench 2 — context summary

#### 3.2 Significance of Results

Evaluation of the development area at Church Lane, Covington has revealed archaeological remains relating to medieval or post-medieval agricultural practices. The relatively large finds assemblage recovered from the furrow may indicate that it was close to the edge of contemporary settlement, the likelihood of which is supported by the furrow's location only 100m north of the church (Fig. 1). These remains are of low archaeological significance, and are not deemed by the CAPCA to warrant archaeological mitigation.



## 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology 2001: *Procedures Manual Volume 1: Fieldwork*, 2nd edition

Albion Archaeology 2009: *Land at 13 Church Lane, Covington, Cambridgeshire. Project Design for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

ALGAO (east) 2002: *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, EAA Occasional Paper 14

CAPCA 2009: *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Land at 13 Church lane, Covington, Cambridgeshire*

CCC 2004: *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store*

English Heritage 1991: *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition (London)

IfA 2008a: *Code of Conduct*

IfA 2008b: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

Page, W. 1936: *A History of the County of Huntingdon: Volume 3*





## 5. APPENDIX: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

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# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: albionar1-69774**

### Project details

Project name: Land at 13 Church Lane, Covington, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation

Short description of the project:

Mr J. Williams was granted planning permission to construct a residential dwelling at 13 Church Lane, Covington, on condition that a programme of archaeological work was undertaken prior to the development. Mr Williams therefore commissioned Albion Archaeology to undertake a trial-trench evaluation of the development site. Two 5m-long trenches were excavated, which revealed only a furrow. The low archaeological significance of the remains revealed by the evaluation meant that no subsequent mitigation was recommended.

Project dates Start: 18-02-2010 End: 18-02-2010

Previous/future work: No / No

Any associated project reference codes: CLC1598 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project: Field evaluation

Site status: None

Current land use: Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type: FURROW Post-Medieval

Significant Finds: ANIMAL BONE Post-Medieval

Significant Finds: TILE Post-Medieval

Methods & techniques: Sample Trenches'

Development type: rural residential

Prompt: planning condition

Position in the planning process: After full determination (as a condition)

### Project location

Country: England

Site location: Cambridgeshire Huntingdonshire Covington Land at 13 Church Lane, Covington

Postcode: PE28 0RT

Study area: 300.00 square metres

Site coordinates: TL 05452 70861 52.3253052094 -0.452492979399 52 19 31 N 000 27 08 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 77.00m Max: 77.00m

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### Project creators

Name of organisation: Albion Archaeology

Project brief originator: Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator: Albion Archaeology

Project director/manager: Joe Abrams

Type of sponsor/funding body: Developer

Name of sponsor/fundingbody: Mr J. Williams

### Project archives

Physical archive exists? No

Digital archive recipient: Cambridgeshire County Store

Digital archive ID: ECB 3325

Digital contents: stratigraphic

Digital media available: 'GIS', 'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'

Paper archive recipient: Cambridgeshire County Store

Paper archive ID: ECB 3325

Paper Contents: sratigraphic

Paper media available: 'Contextsheet', 'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type: grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title: Land at 13 Church Lane, Covington, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Field Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s): Ingham, D.



Other bibliographic details: Report number 10-13, Date 2010

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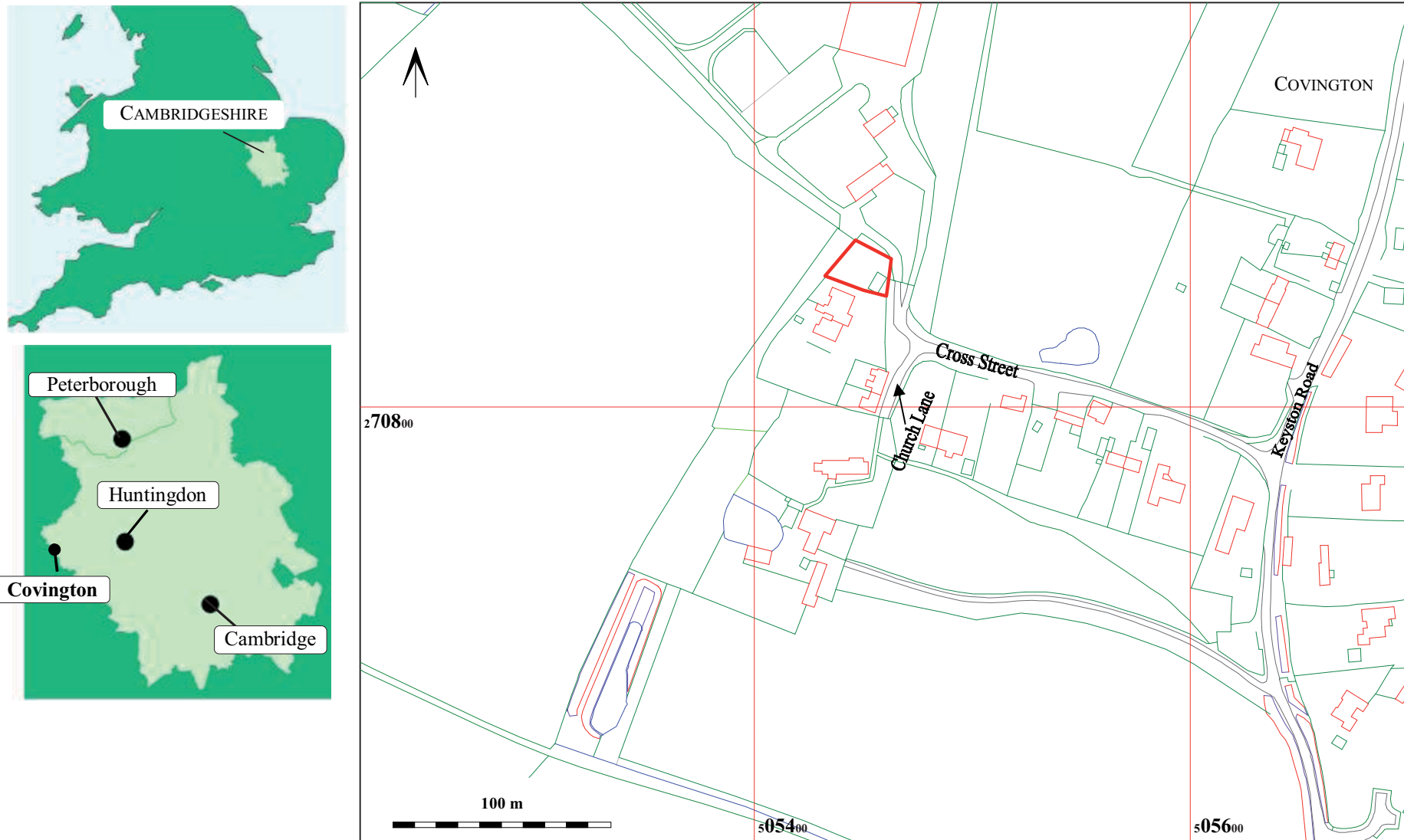
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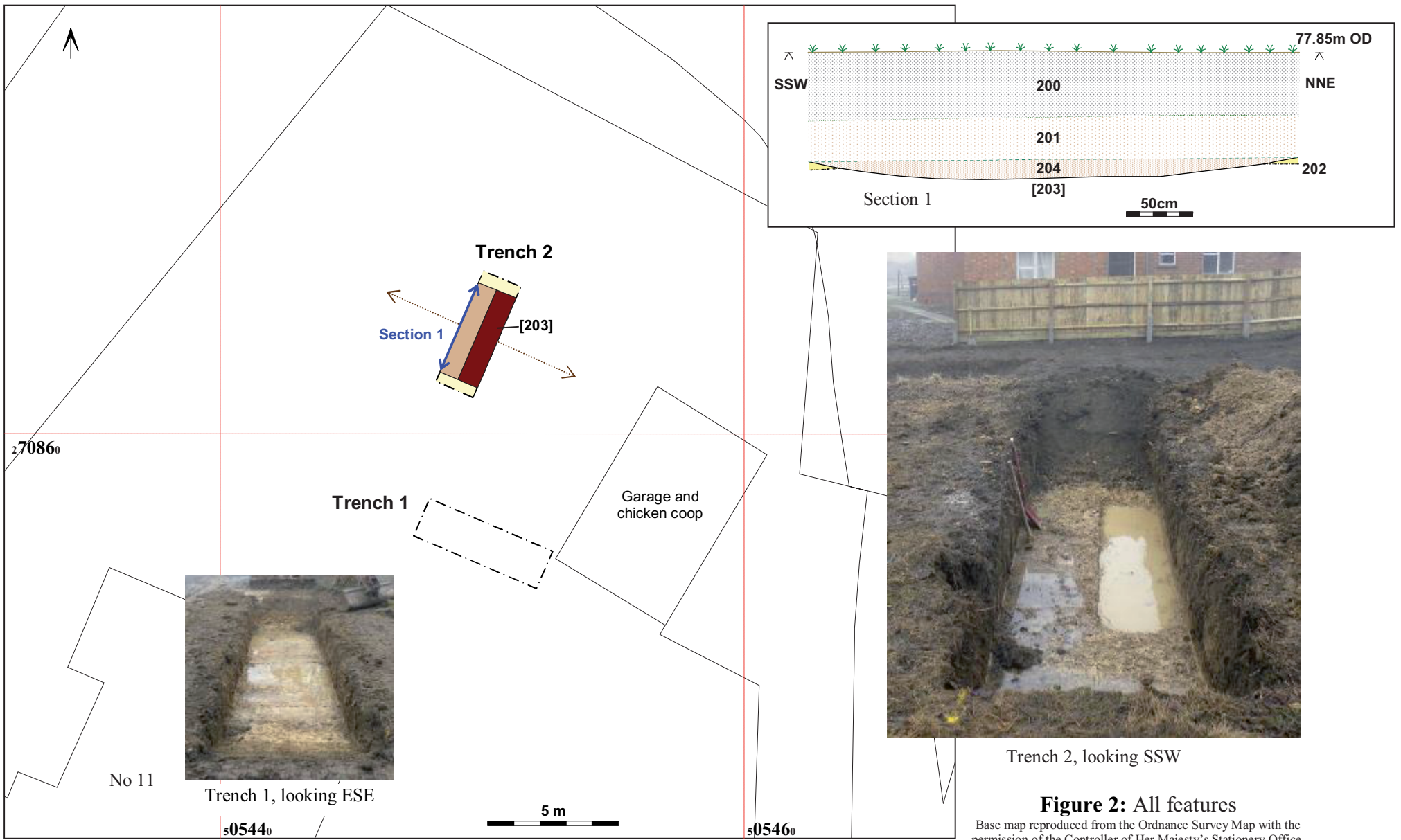
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**Figure 1: Site location plan**

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Trench 2, looking SSW

**Figure 2: All features**

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