



Manor Farm, Church Lane, Croydon, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

April 2021

Client: Elizabeth Sapsed

Issue No: 3 Final

OA Report No: 2467

NGR: TL 31114 49712

OASIS No: oxfordar3-407602

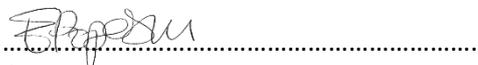


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Manor Farm, Church Lane, Croydon, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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*With a contribution from Carole Fletcher HND BA ACIfA and
illustrations by Sara Alberigi BA*

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Summary

Between the 3rd and 4th of November 2020, Oxford Archaeology East carried out archaeological trial trenching on a plot of land within Manor Farm, Church Lane, Croydon, Cambridgeshire, where a horse-riding arena is to be constructed. Two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2), measuring 10m x 1.8m and one trench (Trench 3) measuring 10m x 3.6m, were investigated. Trench 3 uncovered a single ditch traversing the eastern part of the site on a north-northwest to south-southeast alignment, whose excavation produced a fragment of 18th century roof tile. Trenches 1 and 2 produced no archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology East would like to thank Elizabeth Sapsed for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Leanne Robinson-Zeki who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology East by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Toby Knight, who was supported by Maria Anna Rogers. Survey was carried out by Thomas Houghton. Thanks are also extended to the illustrator and editor for their contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by Elizabeth Sapsed to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Manor Farm, Church Lane, Croydon, Cambridgeshire, where a horse riding arena (30m x 40m in area) is to be constructed (TL 31114 49712, Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. S/3006/19/FL). A Brief was set by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Robinson-Zeki 2020) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Moan 2020) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlined how OA East implemented the specified requirements detailed in the WSI.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The village of Croydon is in South Cambridgeshire, approximately 15km south-west of Cambridge and 8km north of Royston. The site itself is located on the north-western periphery of the village. It is bounded on all sides by fields, trees and buildings relating to Manor Farm.
- 1.2.2 The site is situated on a bedrock geology of West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation - Chalk, with superficial deposits of Oadby Member Diamicton (www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html, accessed 18th November 2020). The site lies at approximately 80m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is taken from the WSI (Moan 2020) with relevant Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) data of a 1km radius centred on the evaluation site shown on Figure 2 (under CCC HET licence number 20-4354).
- 1.3.2 The village of Croydon is dominated by medieval remains. The site lies just outside the deserted medieval settlement of Croydon (CHER 03234, 01221), originally known as Crow's Dene. Cropmarks have been recorded by aerial photography showing the remains of three rectangular enclosures along with related trackways, banks and ditches, terraces and boundaries. Immediately north-west of the site are further cropmarks. These refer to the remains of Manor Farm (CHER 01218, 12056; NMR 368514, not illustrated), a moated manor site with associated ponds, enclosures and trackways. Also situated just south of the site are the earthwork remains of a medieval and post-medieval road, aligned north-west to south-east (MCB25886). Other medieval earthworks in the immediate vicinity of the village include a further moated site (CHER 01220), a deserted settlement (CHER 00933) and a trackway and field boundaries (MCB25887).
- 1.3.3 Croydon and the surrounding area are also encompassed by a very large amount of evidence for ridge and furrow agriculture (identified by both cropmarks and earthworks). The most immediate example being MCB27695, which is located in

several areas at between 100m and 200m distance to the north, east and west. In the wider area are further extensive examples of ridge and furrow (MCB27791).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objective defined in the WSI (Moan 2020) were as follows:

- i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology 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; and
- iv. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – 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 (Moan 2020) a total of two trenches measuring 10m long and 1.8m wide and one trench measuring 10m long by 3.6m wide were excavated across the site, to give a c.5% sample of the 0.12ha development area.

2.2.2 A ditch was identified that was only partially visible during the excavation of Trench 3. Therefore, this trench was widened in an attempt and reveal the ditches full profile.

2.2.3 Trial trenches were excavated using a 14-tonne tracked excavator, under the direct supervision of a suitable qualified and experienced archaeologist. These were excavated to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first.

2.2.4 All archaeological features encountered on the site were excavated. Excavated features were recorded on pro-forma sheets, drawn at appropriate scales and high-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.5 Bucket sampling of 90 litres of soil from each trench was hand sorted, and spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector to aid artefact retrieval. No finds were recovered from either exercise.

2.2.6 Survey of archaeological features and excavated slots was carried out by a Leica 1200 fitted with SmartNET.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the trial trench evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Figure 3 provides an overall plan of the results of the evaluation, including the section of ditch 303.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of clay and chalk was overlain by a clayey subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained mostly dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present only in Trench 3 (Fig. 3).

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 This trench was 10m in length and 1.8m wide, with an average depth of 0.46m. It was in the southern part of the development area on a north-east to south-west alignment. The chalky clay natural was overlain by a clayey subsoil and topsoil. No archaeology was present in this trench (Plate 1).

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 This trench was 10m in length and 1.8m wide, with an average depth of 0.38m. It was in the north-western part of the development area on an east-west alignment. The chalky clay natural was overlain by a clayey subsoil and topsoil. No archaeology was present in this trench (Plate 2).

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Trench 3 was 10m in length and 3.6m in width, with an average depth of 0.3m (Plate 3). It was in the eastern part of the development area on a north-northwest to south-southeast alignment.

3.6.2 Ditch **303** ran on a north-northwest to south-southeast alignment along the length of eastern side of the trench. Even with the subsequent widening of the trench to double its original width, the full breadth of this ditch was not revealed. The ditch was cut through the subsoil, only being sealed by topsoil (Plate 3). It measured at least 3.5m wide at the interface with the topsoil and was 0.87m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 4). The primary fill (304) comprised a 0.3m thick mid brownish grey silty clay, which produced a fragment of post-medieval roof tile. This fill was overlain by a dark brownish grey silty clay (305) that measured 0.12m thick. The

uppermost fill comprised a mid-yellowish brown redeposited natural (306), which measured 0.45m in thickness.

3.7 Finds summary

By Carole Fletcher

- 3.7.1 Ditch **303** produced a single moderately abraded, sub-rectangular fragment of flat roof tile (21g, 14mm thick) in a brick red, quartz-tempered fabric. Upper and lower surfaces survive, the lower being sanded. A small patch of off-white mortar on the upper surface indicates usage. The tile is post-medieval and very probably 18th century or later. The fragment of roofing tile is not significant and may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The results of the trial trenching are considered reliable, with archaeological features and deposits being clearly visible in contrast to the lighter, chalky clay geology. Similarly, any truncation of the underlying geology was also clear.

4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 Based on the single fragment of roof tile, ditch **303** appears to be post-medieval in date. The lack of any other features across the trenches suggests that this parcel of land is situated outside of the medieval settlements which surround it.
- 4.2.2 The cropmarks for Manor Farm (CHER 01218, NMR 368514) which is located just to the north-west of the site are orientated on broadly the same alignment as the ditch identified in Trench 3, as is the medieval/post-medieval road (MCB25886) to the south-west, suggesting that whilst this ditch is unlikely to be contemporary (with the Manor Farm remains at least), there is a clear continuation of orientation in the laying out of land boundaries.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalky clay					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalky clay.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench contained one ditch running NNW-SSE along the length of the trench. This was cut through the chalky clay natural and overlain by redeposited natural layer (306). The ditch was approximately 1.0m wide and 0.54m deep. A small piece of post-med. tile was recovered from (304). No other finds were recovered.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	3.60
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
303	Cut	>3.50	0.87	Ditch	-	-
304	Fill	-	0.30	Mid brownish grey silty clay	Roof tile	18th C
305	Fill	-	0.12	Dark brownish grey silty clay	-	-
306	Fill	-	0.45	Redeposited natural	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Moan, L. 2020 *Manor Farm, Church Lane, Croydon, Cambridgeshire. Written Scheme of Investigation.* OA. Unpublished
- Robinson-Zeki, 2020 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Manor Farm, Church Lane, Croydon.* CHET. Unpublished

APPENDIX C OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-407602		
Project Name	Manor Farm, Church Lane, Croydon		
Start of Fieldwork	3/11/20	End of Fieldwork	4/11/20
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CROMAN20	Planning App. No.	S/3006/19/FL
HER Number	ECB6350	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Manège
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	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Tile	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Manor Farm Church Lane Croydon SG8 0DX
District	South Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Croydon	
HER office	CCC	
Size of Study Area	30m x 40m	
National Grid Ref	TL 31114 49712	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology
Project Brief Originator	Leanne Robinson-Zeki
Project Design Originator	Louise Moan
Project Manager	Louise Moan
Project Supervisor	Toby Knight

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Store	ECB6350
Digital Archive	Oxford Archaeology (East)	CROMAN20
Paper Archive	CCC Store	ECB6350

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 checked="" 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"/>
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

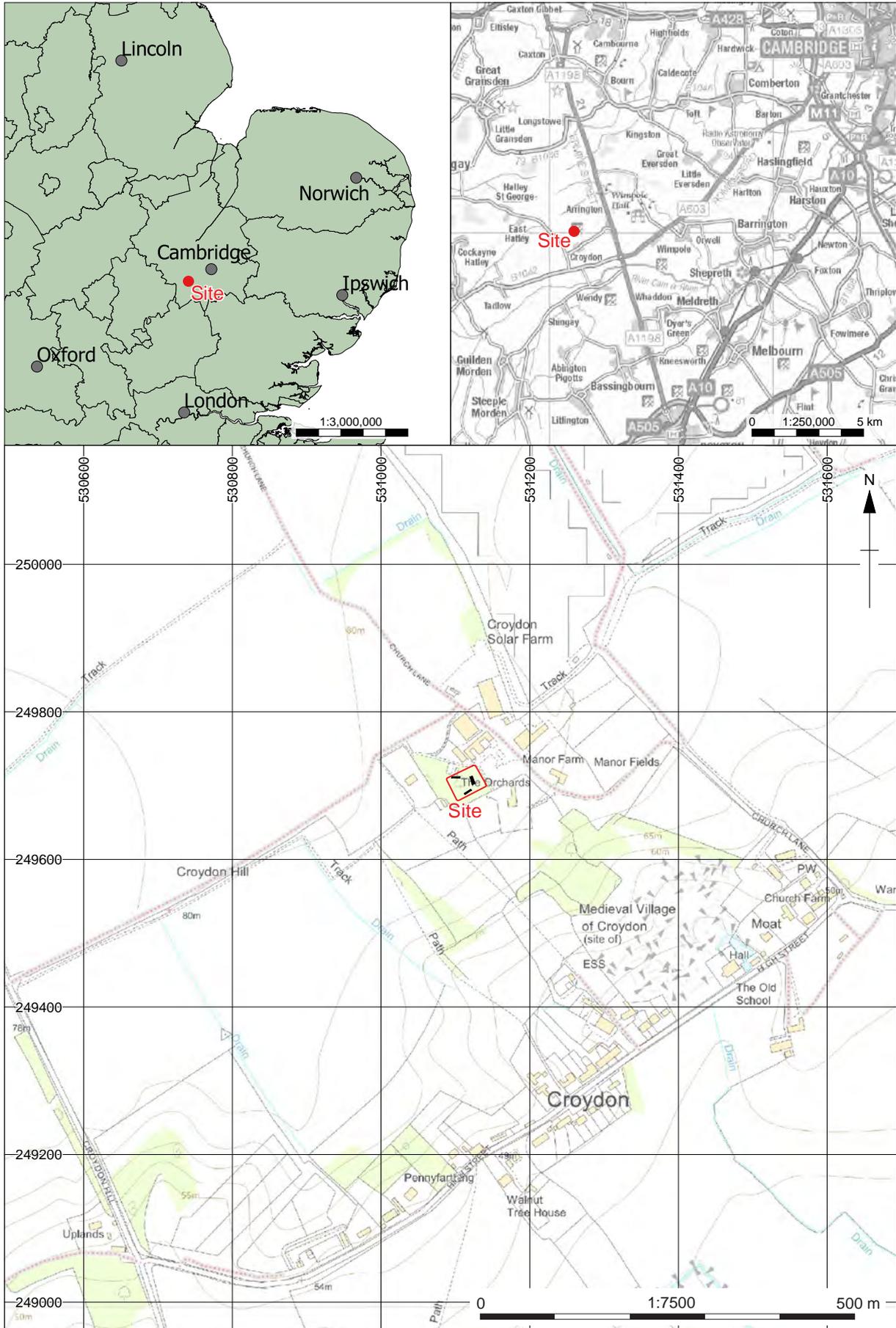
Digital Media

Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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

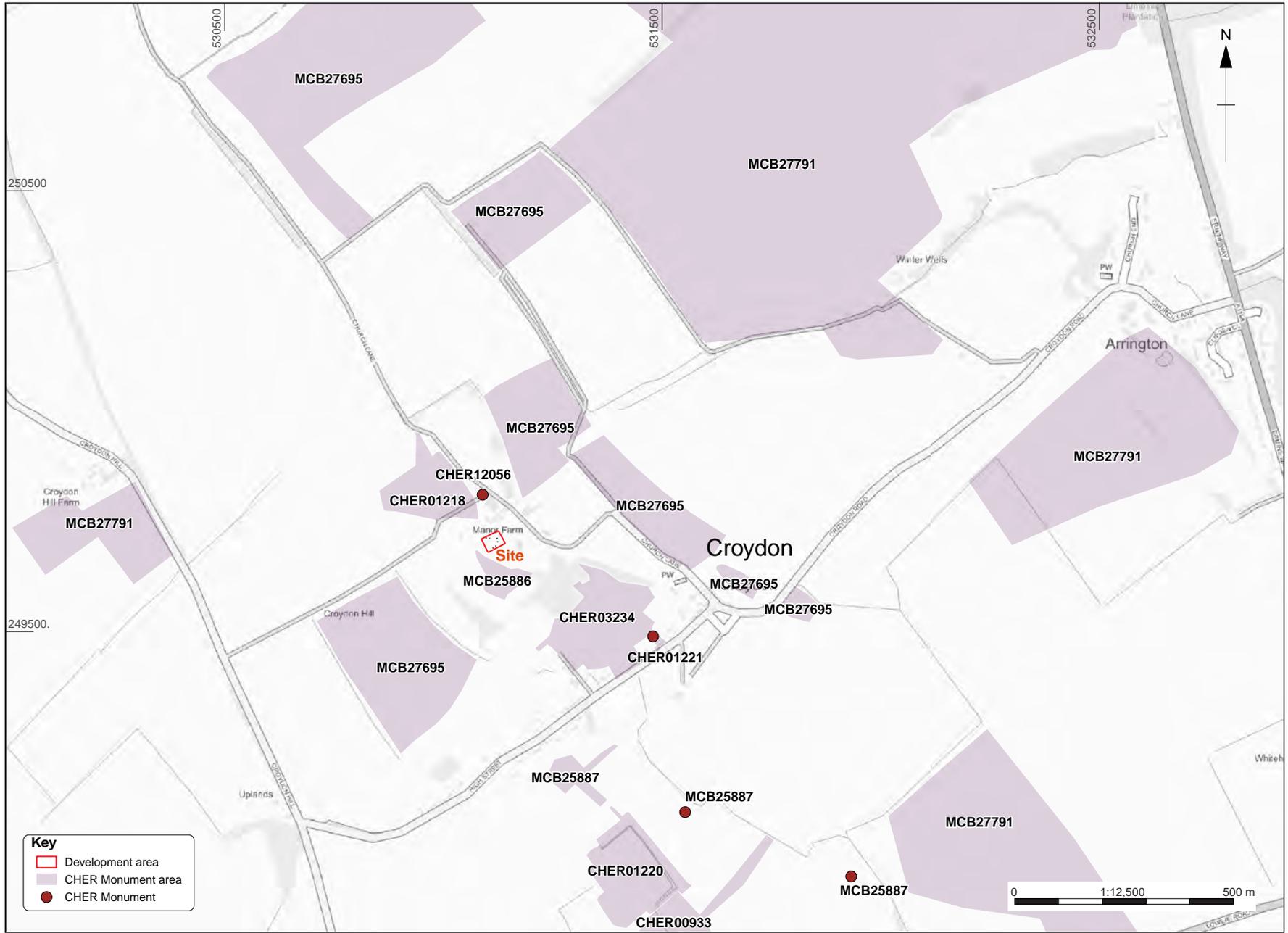


Figure 2: CHER entries mentioned in the text

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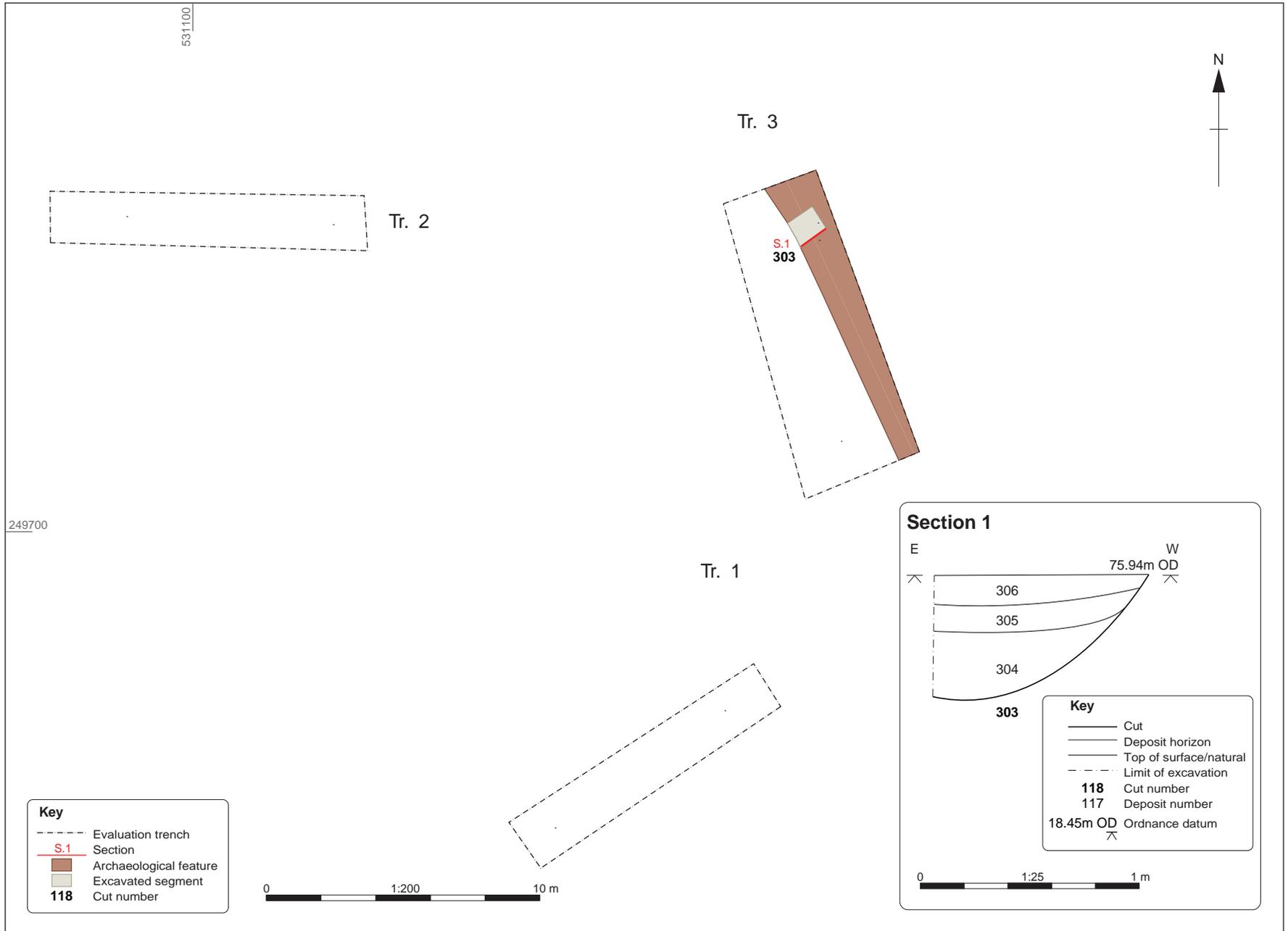


Figure 3: Trench plan and inset of Ditch 303, section 1



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking west



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north



Plate 4: Ditch 303, looking north



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