

**Brandsby Street  
Crayke  
North Yorkshire  
SE 5662 7054**

**Archaeological Earthwork Survey**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
Non-technical Summary	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Description	4
3. Geology	4
4. Historical Background	5
5. Previous Archaeological Work	7
6. Methodology	7
7. Results	8
8. Conclusion	10
9. Bibliography	12

<b>Figure List</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Site Location. Scale 1:50000.	14
2. Area of Earthwork Survey. Scale 1:2500.	15
3. Extract from the 1856 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map. Scale 1:10560.	16
4. Areas of Archaeological Interest (After Adams, 1990). Scale 1:2500.	17
5. Earthwork Survey Plot. Scale 1:800.	18
6. Development Plan. Scale 1:500.	19

### **Plate List**

1. General View of Site. Facing North-east.	20
2. Modern Disturbance: Concrete Stanchions. Facing South-east.	20
3. Feature 1. Facing West.	21
4. Feature 2. Facing East.	21
5. View from Platform of Feature 3. Facing East.	22
6. View along North-eastern Boundary of Field, Showing Features 4, 5 and 6. Facing South-east.	22
7. Hollow at Eastern Limit of Feature 6. Facing East.	23
8. Corner of Features 7 and 8. Facing West.	23

### **Appendices**

1. Photographic Archive Listing	24
2. Project Team Details	24

**Brandsby Street  
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SE 5662 7054**

**Archaeological Earthwork Survey**

***Non-technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Earthwork Survey was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land at Brandsby Street, Crayke, North Yorkshire, on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The survey was carried out using a Total Station Theodolite in order to record and assess the archaeological potential of the landscape features as part of a staged approach to evaluating the archaeological potential of the site.*

*The Earthwork Survey identified a number of features that included possible building platforms, quarry pits and a hollow-way.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 An Archaeological Earthwork Survey was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land at Brandsby Street, Crayke, North Yorkshire (SE 5662 7054, Figs. 1 and 2) on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The work was undertaken as the first part of a staged approach to evaluate the archaeological significance of the site prior to its proposed residential redevelopment (Panning Ref. No Q/01/034/0139).
- 1.2 All work was funded by Robert Burns Designs Associates.
- 1.3 The project was assigned the MAP site code 05-01-07.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

## **2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site lies in the medieval village of Crayke, on the eastern side of Brandsby Street, at SE 5662 7054. It is bounded to the west by Brandsby Road, to the north and south by residential properties and by open farmland to the east.
- 2.2 The Earthwork Survey covered an area of approximately 0.9 ha (the actual area of proposed development comprising 0.3 ha along the street frontage). The survey area was rectangular in plan, measuring 75m x 40m, and sloped from a height of approximately 91.5m AOD at the Brandsby Street frontage to a height of 88m AOD in the south-east.
- 2.3 The survey area was occupied by several forms of land use. The northern-most corner contained a privately owned landscaped garden, separated from the remainder of the site by a hedge and boundary fence. No earthwork features were visible within the garden, which was not available for survey. To the south-west of the garden, a 35m x 6m rectangular area immediately adjacent to Brandsby Road was in use as a concrete-surfaced car park. This area bounds onto the south-western corner of the survey area, which is defined by a recently-renovated row of terraced houses. The remainder of the site is currently utilised as open pasture (Fig. 2, Pl. 1).

## **3. Geology**

- 3.1 The site stands at the junction of soils of the Stow Association, characterised by a slow permeable clayey soil, with some fine silty and loamy soils over an underlying geology of Jurassic Mudstone and Siltstone; and the Dunkeswick Association, which is characterised by slowly permeable seasonal waterlogged fine loamy over clayey soils, over a geology of till from Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstones and shales (Mackney *et al* 1983).

#### 4. Historical Background

- 4.1 The name 'Crayke' is thought to be derived from the Welsh 'Craig' meaning 'rock'; the settlement being situated on a ridge (Ekwall 1974, 129). The settlement has a recorded history dating back to AD 685. In that year, King Ecgfrith of Northumbria and Archbishop Theodore granted St. Cuthbert the Bishopric of Lindisfarne-

*"They gave to him also the villa which was called Crec, and three miles around that villa, so that he might have a dwelling-place, however many times he might go to York, or return from there. And here the Holy Cuthbert established a community of monks, and ordained an abbot."* (Adams 1990, 32).

Further references have been made over the centuries that appear to confirm the establishment of a monastery at Crayke, but no direct evidence has as yet been found.

- 4.2 A second early reference to the village comes from the 12<sup>th</sup> century ecclesiastical writer Simeon of Durham, who records that the hermit Etha the Anchorite 'died happily at Crayke' in AD 767 (Adams 1990, 33; Hester 2006, 2).

- 4.3 During the conflict between Aella and Osberht for the Northumbrian throne in AD 867, it is thought that the former seized and lived at Crayke, from where he launched an unsuccessful attack on York. After his defeat, the monastery at Crayke was returned to the Community of St. Cuthbert (Adams 1990, 34; Churton 1841).

- 4.4 A further reference to the village is contained in the *Liber Vitae Dunelmensis Ecclesiae*, in which Earl Thured is reported to have held the manor of *Creic* in about AD 990 (Adams 1990, 34; Ekwall 1974, 129).

- 4.5 The Domesday Book of 1086 refers to Crayke in the *Yarlestre Wapentake*, under the lands of the Bishop of Durham:

*“In Creic 6 carucates to the geld, and there could be 4 ploughs. Bishop Æthelwine held this as 1 manor. Now Bishop William has in demesne 1 plough; and 9 villans with 3 ploughs. There is a church and a priest, a little woodland pasture. The whole 2 leagues long and 2 broad. TRE 40s; now 20s.”* (Williams & Martin 2003, 802, 873).

- 4.6 The York Fabric Rolls refer to an indulgence being issued on behalf of the Hospital of St. Mary *“in the meadows of Crak”* in 1228 (Page 1974, 306).
- 4.7 The two most documented structures within the village are the church and the castle. St. Cuthbert’s Church stands towards the west of the village and is thought to date to the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, with 19<sup>th</sup> century alterations (Hester 2006, 3). Crayke Castle is thought to have been a motte and bailey structure that was established in the early post-Conquest period. The present structure is of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, but was ruinous by the time of the English Civil War, after which its destruction was ordered by Parliament (Hester 2006, 4; Raine 1869).
- 4.8 In 1648 the Manor of Crayke was sold to William Allenson, a former Lord Mayor of York, under whose family the castle was repaired, after which the manor was returned to the See of Durham (Hester 2006, 4).
- 4.9 The Diocese Book of 1793 states that there were 90 houses in Crayke, and in 1840 the village was worth £900 a year (Hester 2006, 5 and 7).
- 4.10 In 1844 Crayke officially transferred from the County of Durham to the North Riding of Yorkshire (Hester 2006, 8).
- 4.11 The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Crayke (1856, Fig. 3) shows the survey area as forming the western limit of a large field. The south-western limit of the site appears to be defined as two small enclosures with buildings present, the southernmost of which may be the same building as illustrated as

‘The Hayloft’ on modern maps. Between these two paths ran the line of a footpath, which extended to the south-east.

## **5. Previous Archaeological Work**

- 5.1 The earliest recorded archaeological work in Crayke was undertaken during the construction of a tennis court to the east of Crayke Hall in 1937. Several Romano-British artefacts, a medieval kiln and other early medieval finds were discovered, together with two fragments of a sandstone Anglian cross (Sheppard 1939, Fig. 4).
- 5.2 A series of trenches were opened to the north of the churchyard in 1956, with the intention of finding Romano-British material. The excavations resulted in the discovery of human remains (Hildyard 1959). A further excavation was undertaken on the site in 1983, identifying further burials that were radio-carbon dated to the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. A small quantity of Romano-British material was also discovered.
- 5.3 A series of Watching Briefs were conducted in various locations around Crayke between 1994 and 2003, none of which produced any significant archaeological evidence (AIP 2006).
- 5.4 During the trenching for a gas pipe through the sports field in 2002 the remains of a large stone Romano-British structure were discovered, with further evidence of settlement in the form of roundhouses, a kiln and signs of metalworking (British Archaeology 2002, 6).
- 5.5 Two possible earthwork building platforms and traces of ridge and furrow have been noted in the present survey area (Fig. 4), but no archaeological work has previously been conducted on this site.

## **6. Methodology**

- 6.1 The site was surveyed for any features of potential archaeological interest. A photographic record of the earthwork features was also maintained.

- 6.2 The area was surveyed using a Leica TC600 Total Station Theodolite, the survey being keyed in to the existing site boundaries.
- 6.3 The proposed area of development covered approximately one third of the total area of the plot of land. Accordingly, the remainder of the field outside the development area was also surveyed in order to allow a more informed assessment of the extent and nature of the archaeological features to be made.

## **7. Results (Fig. 5)**

- 7.1 As stated above, a large portion of the surveyed area was found to be disturbed or masked by modern developments. In particular, an extensive area along the southern boundary of the site, which was at first thought to have been pasture, proved on closer inspection to be a partially-buried concrete yard surface. Two rows of circular stanchion bases, some having remnants of timber posts in the centre, were identified at ground level and probably represented the remains of an agricultural building associated with the yard surface (Pl. 2). To the north of this structure were a number of brick footings and concrete surfaces that represented the partially-demolished remains of a building. One fragment of this structure survived to first floor height and was situated within a small copse of bushes and scrub.
- 7.2 Only one earthwork feature (Feature 1) was identified within the actual development area. Feature 1 was defined as a substantial hollow, rectilinear in plan, steeply banked on its western and southern sides (Pl. 3). Its orientation was approximately south-west to north-east, the northern extent leading towards the unsurveyed area of the private garden. The total visible length of the feature was 27m, with a width of 16m. The western limit of the hollow had a steep bank with a depth of approximately 0.95m, whilst the eastern face was only about 0.3m deep.

- 7.3 A small reverse-angled bank was visible on the south slope of Feature 1, with a length of approximately 4.5m and a depth of 0.1m to 0.3m.
- 7.4 Feature 2 and the remaining features (Features 3 to 8) were situated beyond the development area. Feature 2 was defined as a shallow depression of rectilinear shape, measuring 18m from south-west to north-east and 5.5m in width (Pl. 4). The northern part of the feature may have been truncated or damaged by the remains of modern brick buildings situated on the top of its northern bank. Feature 2 was between 0.1m and 0.5m in depth, being slightly steeper on the north-western and north-eastern slopes.
- 7.5 Feature 3 was fairly substantial and was defined as a large triangular platform that covered an area of 26m x 14m. The western limit was defined by a north-east-facing slope or possible terrace with a length of 26.5m and a varying height of 0.3m to 0.6m. The platform was situated at the base of this slope and fell away to the north and south, with heights of up to 0.8m (Pl. 5).
- 7.6 Feature 4 was situated immediately to the north of Feature 3 and was an elongated hollow that extended for a total length of approximately 26m from north-west to south-east (Pl. 6). Part of its southern bank was formed by the northern bank of Feature 3. The deepest point of the feature lay at its eastern end where it had a bank 0.9m in height. The hollow appeared to peter out towards the north-west.
- 7.7 Feature 5 was situated to the east of Feature 4 and consisted of a short bank that ran into the northern boundary hedge (Pl. 6). The feature was approximately 5.5m in length and was orientated south-west to north-east. The bank sloped down towards the south-east, with a depth of approximately 0.5m.
- 7.8 Feature 6 was a very shallow feature that was discerned from an oblique angle, because of its shallow depth of between 0.1m and 0.3m. Feature 6 was situated in the eastern corner of the field and was defined by a slight linear hollow extending from the eastern hedge towards the north-west (Pl. 6). The feature

was approximately 38m long. No traces of any banking could be seen on either side of the hollow.

7.9 Feature 7 was situated in the southern corner of the field, close to an old disused gate in the eastern field boundary (Pl. 8). The feature was a linear hollow, 5.5m in length that followed a similar orientation to Feature 6. The maximum depth of the feature was approximately 0.3m.

7.10 Feature 8 was an 8m long linear bank that was situated in the southern corner of the surveyed field (Pl. 8). It ran parallel to the existing field boundary and had a maximum depth of approximately 0.6m at the western limit. This feature was seen to continue into the field to the south-west, where it became waterlogged before entering a small pond.

## **8. Conclusion**

8.1 The earthwork survey conducted at Brandsby Street, Crayke, located eight features of archaeological interest. The survey was extended beyond the boundary of the proposed development area to allow a more complete picture of the land use of the whole field.

8.2 Approximately 60% of the proposed development area was either under unsuitable current land use, or was too disturbed by recent activity to allow any earthworks to be discerned during the survey.

8.3 The earthworks recorded may be suggestive of possible settlement on the upper slopes of the hill, at the eastern limits of the village, but cannot be tied down to an individual period.

8.4 Feature 1 was the only feature identified within the area of the proposed development. Two probable building platforms have previously been identified at this location (Adams 1990), but the surveyed feature does not appear to fit this interpretation. Feature 1 is roughly rectilinear in shape and

appears to follow the orientation of Brandsby Street, a fact that implies a medieval or later date. However, rather than appearing as a platform or a series of walls, the feature is more representative of a hollow. It is possible that the steepest banks (on the western and southern sides) define the terraced limits of a building platform that lies under the modern concrete surface, the hollow itself representing the quarrying of material to form the platform. Alternatively the hollow itself could represent a structure.

- 8.5 The reverse-angled slope on the southern side of Feature 1 is extremely slight and may represent modern animal disturbance or human activity, rather than having an archaeological origin.
- 8.6 Feature 3, immediately to the south of the development area, appears to be a much more well-defined platform, around which the ground has been banked or terraced to form a flat area on the steep contours of the hillside. To the west, Feature 2 stands again on a flatter plane, utilising an apparently natural terrace in the field. Again defined as a slight hollow, the more regular angles of this feature may represent the remains of a ruined structure. However, given its orientation and proximity to the remains of the brick structure immediately to the north-west, Feature 2 may be of recent date.
- 8.7 Features 4 and 6 appear to form a shallow hollow-way extending for approximately two thirds of the length of the field. The platform formed by Feature 3 appears to respect the line of this feature. Features 4 and 6 are aligned parallel to the site boundary, on a similar alignment to ridge and furrow earthworks recorded in the field immediately to the north. They could thus represent a particularly well-preserved furrow, a hollow way, or a relict boundary between two fields.
- 8.8 Feature 5 may have some relationship with the hollow-way as seen in Feature 4, as the two features appear to respect one another. However, the function of this small bank is unclear. It appears to extend towards the north, but its exact extent beyond the field boundary cannot be determined.

- 8.9 Feature 7 is of probable modern date and represents a small area of hollowing that was probably caused by cattle entering the site via the gate immediately to the south-east of the feature.
- 8.10 Feature 8 follows the alignment of the existing modern field boundary and may represent the alignment of an earlier medieval boundary.
- 8.11 In conclusion, it may be said that the earthwork survey identified a number of anomalies, some of which may be of medieval or earlier origin. Only one of these features (Feature 1) lies within the area of the proposed development (Fig. 6), whilst the remainder are not currently under threat. However, it must be noted that the presence of modern masking features (concrete surfaces, building remains and landscaped gardens) does not preclude the survival of sub-surface archaeological features in areas of the site where no earthwork features are visible.

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### **Map Sources**

Ordnance Survey, 1997, Landranger 100, Scale 1:50,000 (Fig. 1)

Ordnance Survey, 2005, Superplan SE 56220 70545, Scale 1:2,500 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Ordnance Survey, 1856, [www.oldmaps.co.uk](http://www.oldmaps.co.uk), Scale 1:10,560 (Fig. 3)

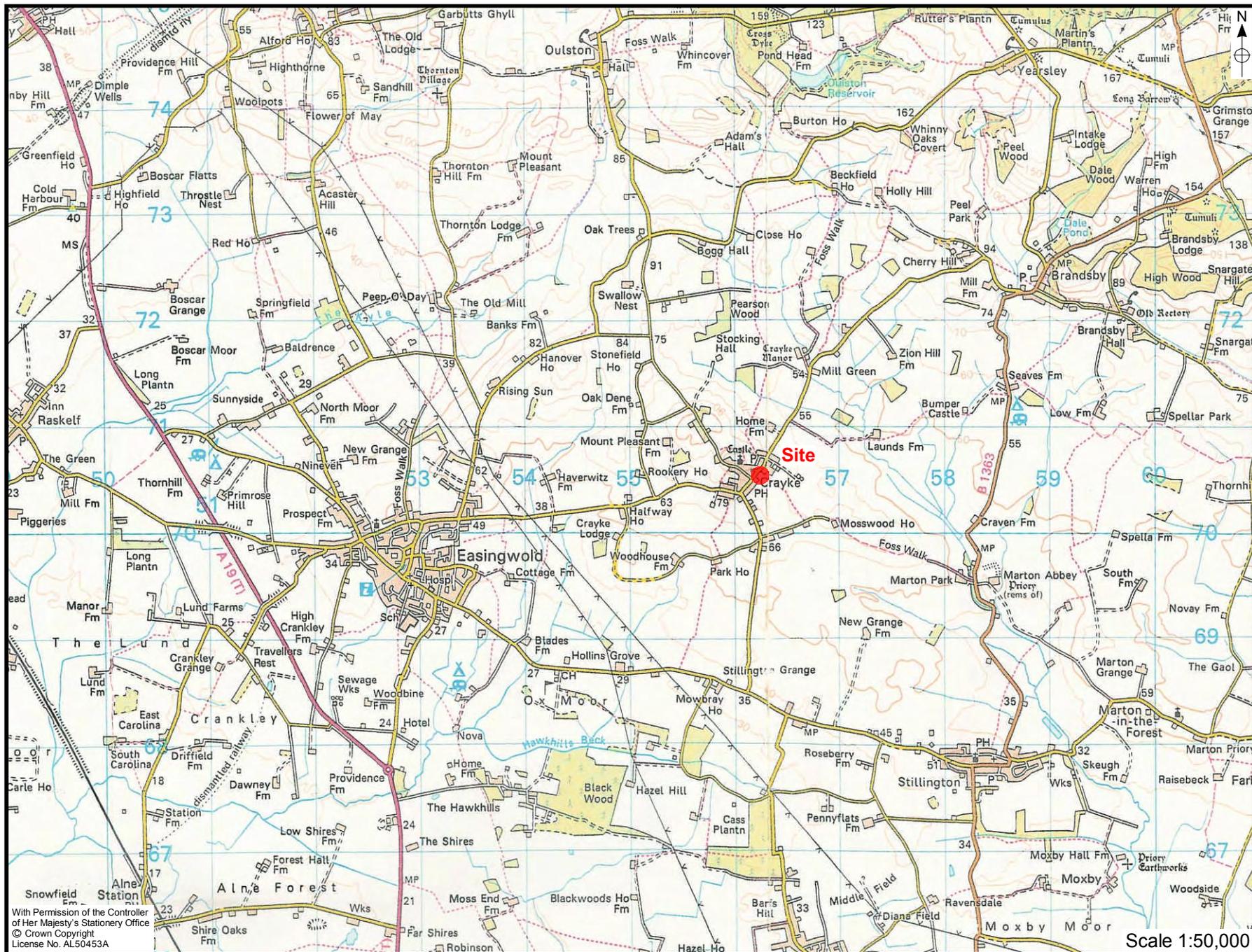
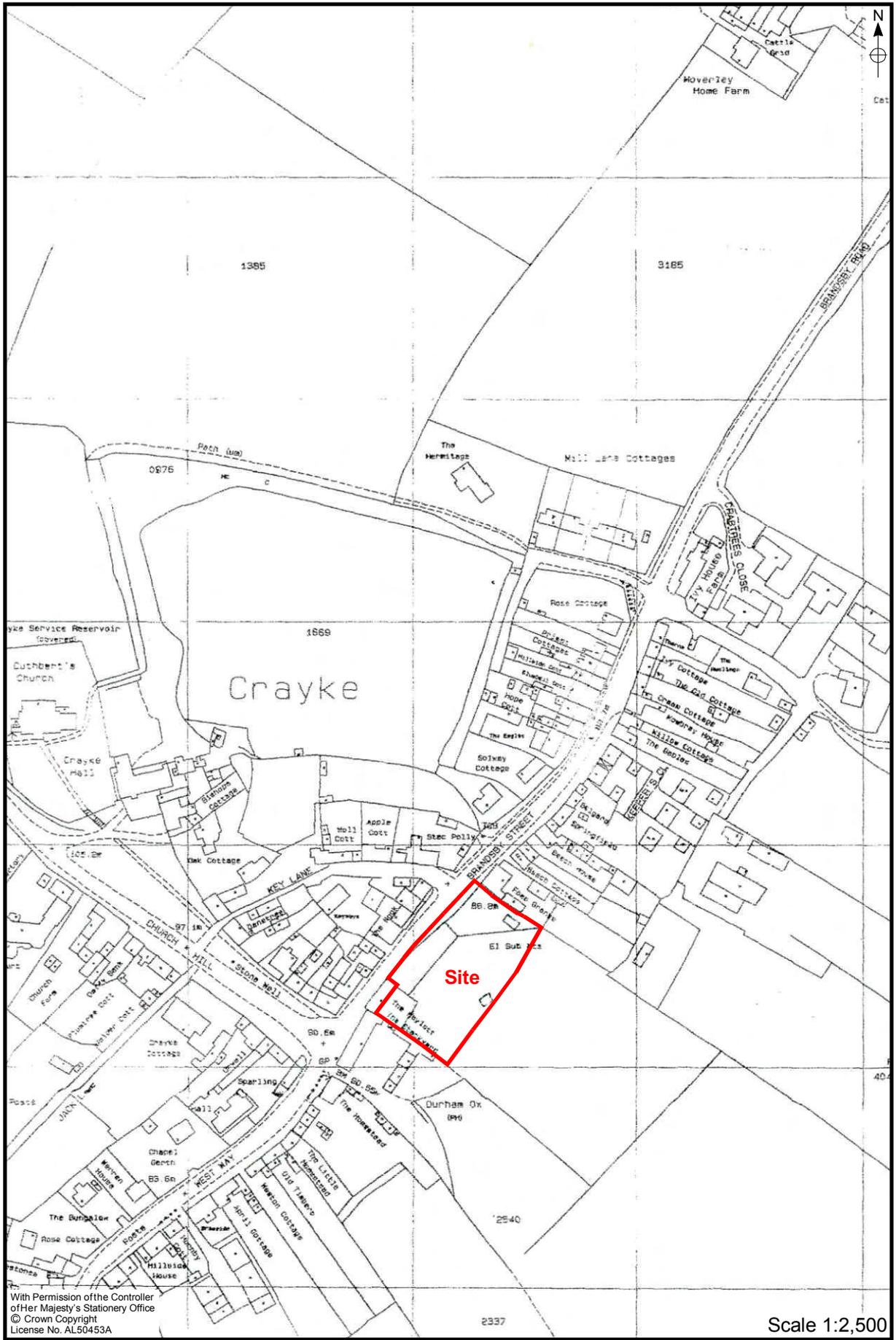


Figure 1. Site Location



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Scale 1:2,500

Figure 2. Area of Earthwork Survey

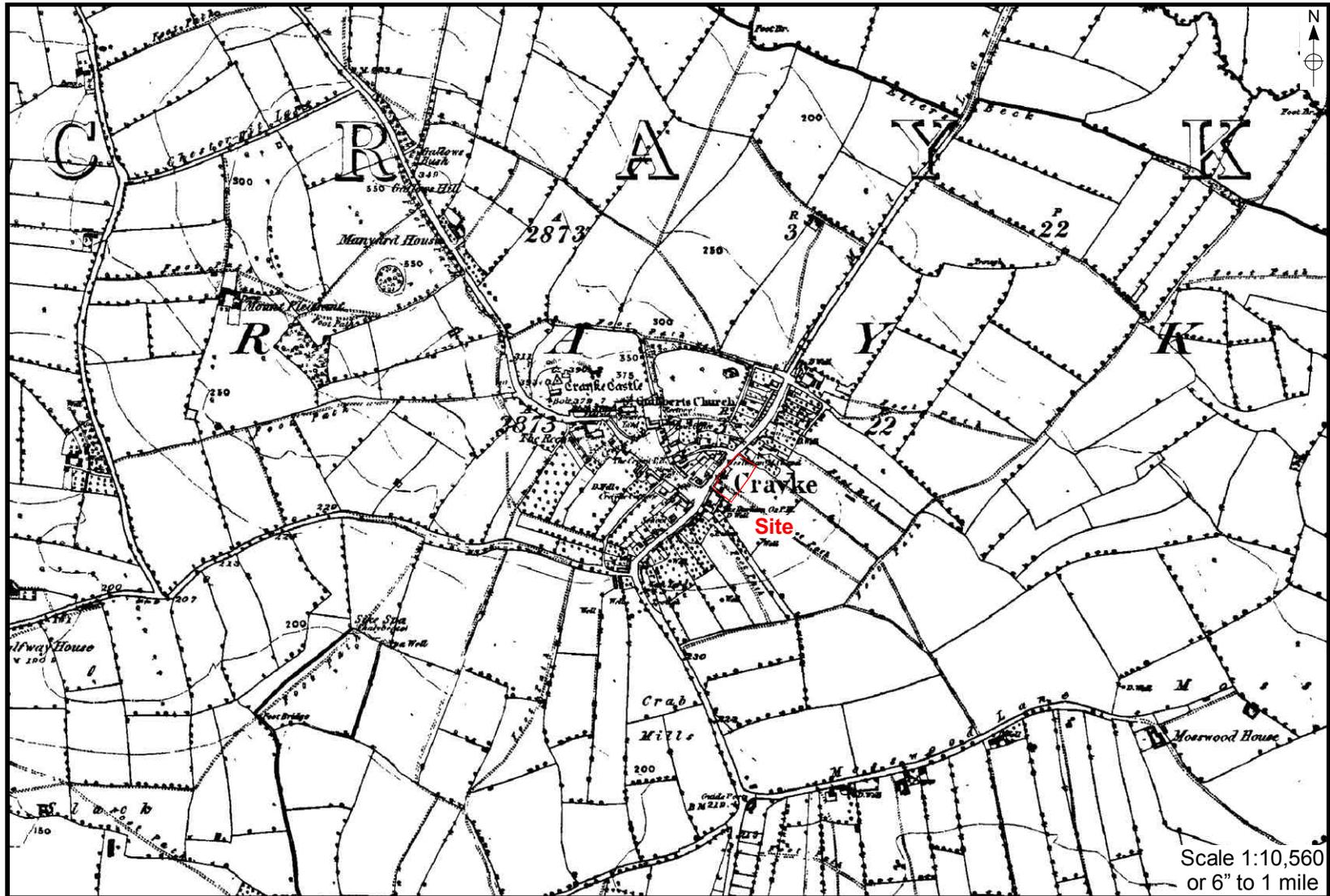


Figure 3. Extract from the 1856 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

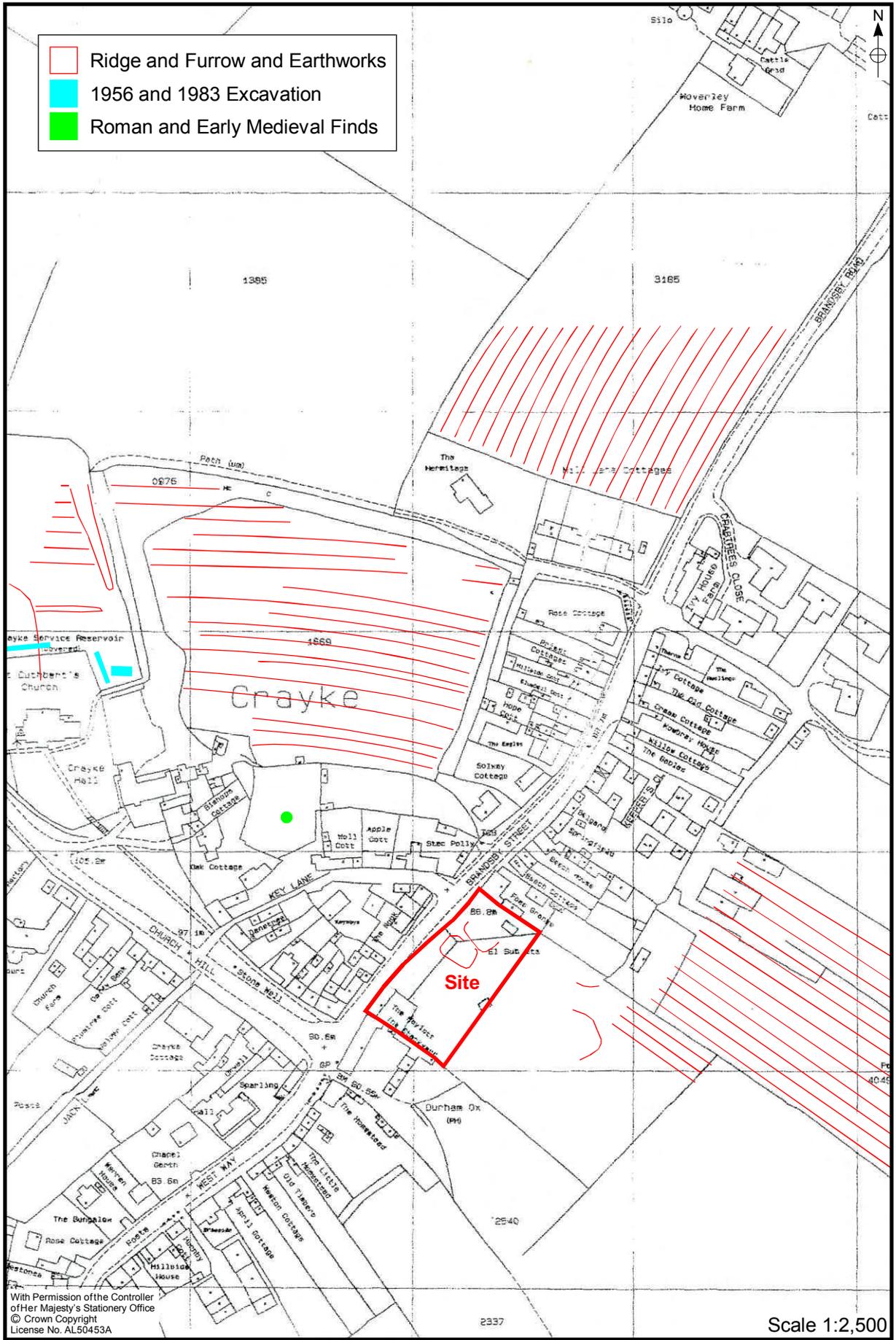
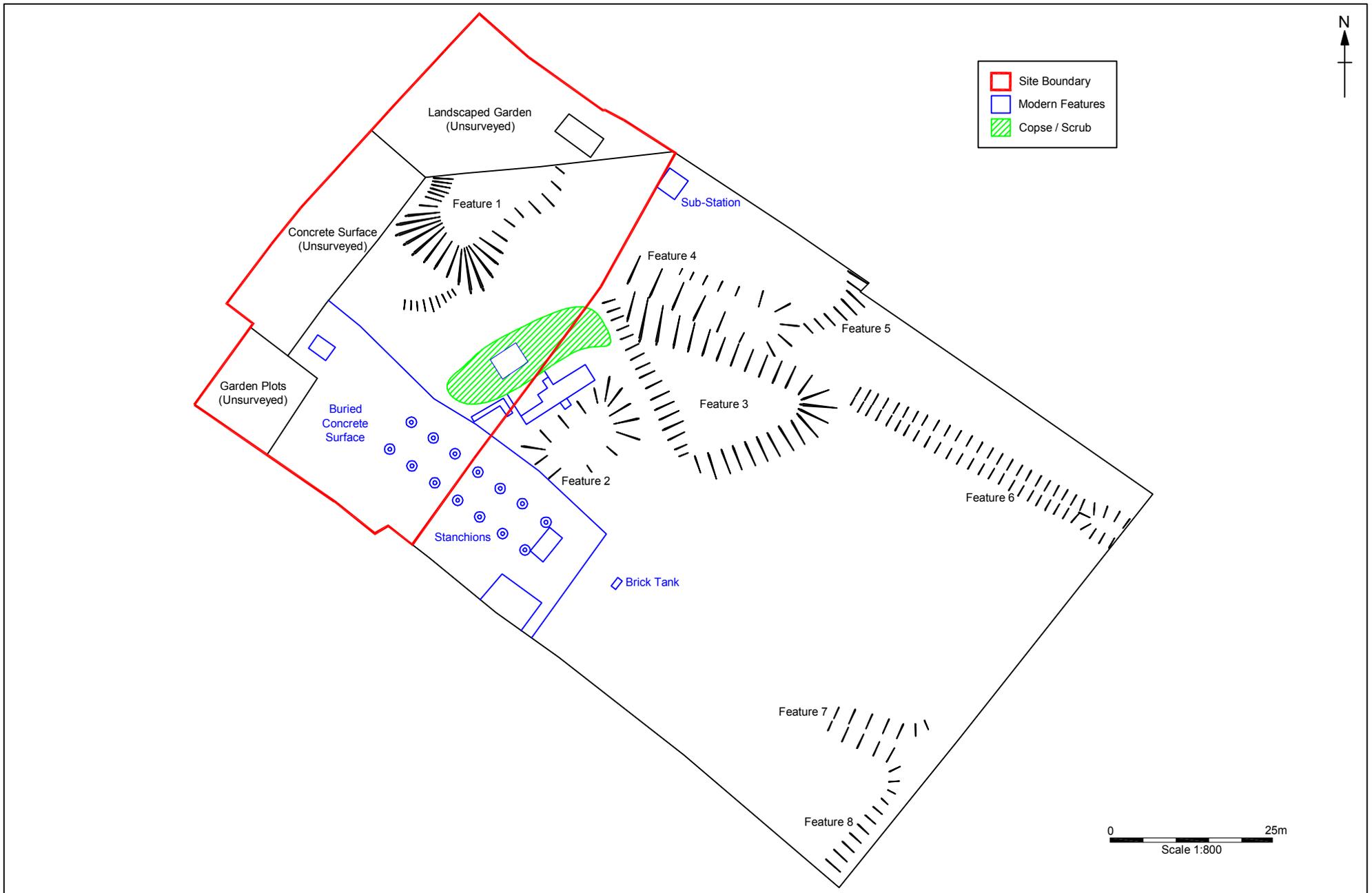


Figure 4. Areas of Archaeological Interest



**Figure 5.** Earthwork Survey Plot





**Plate 1.** General View of Site. Facing North East



**Plate 2.** Modern Disturbance: Concrete Stanchions. Facing South East



**Plate 3.** Feature 1. Facing West



**Plate 4.** Feature 2. Facing East



**Plate 5.** View from Platform of Feature 3. Facing East



**Plate 6.** View down North Eastern Boundary of Field, Showing Features 4, 5 and 6. Facing South East



**Plate 7.** Hollow at Eastern Limit of Feature 6. Facing East



**Plate 8.** Corner of Features 7 and 8. Facing West

## APPENDIX 1

### Photographic Archive Listing

#### Digital Camera

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Feature 1	1x 1m, 1 x 2m	NE
2	Feature 1: Western Bank	1x 1m, 1 x 2m	NE
3	Feature 1	1x 1m, 1 x 2m	W
4	Feature 1	1x 1m, 1 x 2m	W
5	General View of Site	1x 1m, 1 x 2m	SW
6	View Looking Toward Features 4 and 6	N/A	SE
7	View Looking Toward Features 4 and 6	N/A	SE
8	General View of Site	N/A	W
9	Feature 3: Possible Building Platform	N/A	E
10	View of Eastern Corner of Field	N/A	E
11	Feature 6: Hollow at South Eastern End	N/A	E
12	Concrete Surfacing in Western Corner of Area	N/A	NW
13	Brick Structures and Copse	N/A	W
14	Feature 2	1x 1m, 1 x 2m	E
15	Feature 2	N/A	E
16	View of Demolished Brick Structure	N/A	NE
17	Modern Concrete Stanchions	N/A	SE
18	View of Survey Area	N/A	NE
19	Concrete Surfaced Car Park	N/A	N
20	Feature 1	N/A	E
21	View of Survey Area	N/A	SW
22	General View of Site	N/A	S
23	View of Survey Area	N/A	S
24	Feature 6: Hollow at South Eastern End	N/A	SE
25	Brick Tank	N/A	NW
26	Feature 7	N/A	S
27	Features 7 and 8	N/A	SW

## APPENDIX 2

### Project Team Details

#### Fieldwork

Dave Knight

Nigel Cavanagh

#### Post-excavation

Dave Knight *report*

Nigel Cavanagh *editorial*

Dave Knight *CAD and illustrations*