

Undated ditch at 53 London Road Harston Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



June 2012

Client: Ley Construction

OA East Report No: 1373

OASIS No: oxfordar3-127990

NGR: TL 4346 5148

Undated Ditch at 53 London Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

By Taleyna Fletcher BA, MifA

With Contributions by Rachel Fosberry HNC, AifA

Editor: James Drummond-Murray BA, MifA

Illustrator: Séverine Bézie BA MA

Report Date: June 2012

Report Number: 1373
Site Name: 53 London Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire
HER Event No: ECB 3778
Date of Works: June 2012
Client Name: Ley Construction
Client Ref: 53 London Road, Harston
Planning Ref: S/0479/12/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 4346 5148
Site Code: HARLOH12
Finance Code: HARLOH12
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach

Accession No:

Prepared by: Taleyna Fletcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: June 2012

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: June 2012
Signed:



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Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

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Summary

On 6th June 2012 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an evaluation on land at 53 London Road, Harston in advance of a proposed development of the site which involves demolition of the current buildings to be replaced by two dwellings and associated services.

Two 5m trenches were excavated at the front of the site and three trenches totalling 20m were located in the back garden. All trenches comprised topsoil and sub-soil overlying a natural chalky marl. The creation of a large, presumably modern pond in the back garden had created additional layers of re-deposited natural in Trenches 4 and 5.

One undated north – south orientated ditch was recorded in Trench 4 at the rear of the site. No further archaeological features were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 53 London Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire, centred at TL 4356 5148 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 09/00475/FUM), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development includes the demolition of the current buildings to be replaced by two new dwellings with associated services.
- 1.1.4 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.5 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site geology comprises West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk) at a height of approximately 14.8mOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within an area rich in archaeological features. A search of Cambridgeshires Historic Environment record (CHER) was carried out over a 1km radius of the site (Figure 2). The results are presented below by period.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 1.3.2 Excavations and cropmarks at The Hollicks, Rectory Farm, 1km to the north of the site recorded a complex area of settlement spanning the early Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman periods (05090 and ECB3654).
- 1.3.3 An Iron Age weaving comb and needle (04386) has been reportedly found at Hauxton Mill approximately 650m to the north-west of the site.
- 1.3.4 There have been a number of reported Roman finds including pottery recovered from a ditch (MCB19091) and a coin found close to Hauxton church (MCB19092). Dredging of the River Cam, also near to Hauxton Church recovered several sherds of Horningsea pottery (MCB17144).

Saxon

- 1.3.5 A burial ground containing coins of Ethelred I and Alfred the Great has been recorded at Moor Barn to the south-east of the site (05032a) and a Saxon pin (04387) and pottery have been found near Hauxton Mill approximately 650m to the northwest of the site.

Medieval and Post-medieval

- 1.3.6 There is a milestone (MCB138314) with Listed Building status (LB1331080) located on the grass verge outside of number 60 London Road.

Modern

- 1.3.7 An evaluation at Hauxton Primary School approximately 500m to the northeast of the site in 2004 revealed a waterlogged deposit containing 19th/20th century bottles (ECB1715).
- 1.3.8 There are a number of modern buildings of historical interest within 1km of the site in Harston including a 19th century Baptist Chapel (MCB17163).

Undated

- 1.3.9 An archaeological evaluation was carried out at 15 London Road, approximately 270m to the north-west of the site (ECB2837 / MCB17873). This investigation recorded a small number of archaeological features which were considered to be contemporary but were undated.

Listed Buildings

- 1.3.10 There are several Listed Buildings with medieval and post-medieval origins along Hauxton and Harston High Streets including the 12th-15th century St Edmunds Church (CB14881).

Cropmarks and Earthworks

- 1.3.11 Aerial photographic surveys have identified a number of features and sites of potential archaeological remains within 1km of the site. A trackway, enclosure and linear feature have been plotted approximately 1km to the west of the site (09647), parallel ditches have been identified approximately 500m to the north-west (09646), a double parallel track and three sided feature have been noted 500m to the south (09627), another site of enclosures and a ring ditch have been recorded 500m to the east (09637) and a possible enclosure has been plotted 250m to the south-east of the site (08942) on land off London Road.
- 1.3.12 Other possible sites which require further investigation/confirmation have also been plotted 550m to the northeast (09633) and 1km to the southeast (09632). A recent field boundary has been identified through cropmarks 1km to the east (09631)

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Steve Hartley of Ley Construction for commissioning the work and also staff at Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) for providing the data for the background research. The site was directed and surveyed by the author and assisted by Pat Moan. The graphics were compiled by Severine Bezie and the project was managed by James Drummond-Murray.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.2 The site survey was carried out by the author using a Leica TCR700 Total Station. The survey was tied into the Ordnance Survey grid using the existing buildings.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 One sample was taken for environmental analysis from the only archaeological feature encountered (Appendix A).
- 2.2.6 Conditions on site were good with almost constant sunshine and no rain.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 There were five trenches excavated during this evaluation; two in the front garden and three in the back garden (Figure 3). A total of 30m of trenches were investigated in total providing a 5% sample of the development area.
- 3.1.2 The trenches are summarised below. Trench 3 was the only one which contained surviving archaeological remains.

3.2 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the front garden area of the site (Figure 3). It was orientated approximately north-east to south-west and measured approximately 5.85m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.50m deep. This trench contained 0.30m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying a natural, undisturbed chalky marl (Plate 1). There were no surviving archaeological features in this trench.

Trench 2

- 3.2.2 Trench 2 was located in the front garden area of the site (Figure 3). It was orientated approximately north-west to south-east and measured approximately 5.60m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.65m deep. This trench contained 0.25m of topsoil and 0.40m of subsoil overlying a natural, undisturbed chalky marl (Plate 2). There were no surviving archaeological features in this trench.

Trench 3

- 3.2.3 Trench 3 was located in the rear garden area of the site (Figure 3). It was orientated approximately north-east to south-west and measured approximately 5.90m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.56m deep. This trench contained 0.40m of topsoil and 0.16m of subsoil overlying a natural, undisturbed chalky marl. Several water pipes leading to the pond were encountered (Plate 3), however there were no surviving archaeological features in this trench.

Trench 4

- 3.2.4 Trench 4 was located in the rear garden area of the site (Figure 3). It was orientated approximately north-west to south-east and measured approximately 5.75m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.65m deep. This trench contained 0.30m of topsoil, 0.20m of re-deposited natural and 0.15m of subsoil overlying a natural, undisturbed chalky marl. The layer of re-deposited natural (Plate 4) is thought to have derived from landscaping following the excavation of the large pond at the rear of the garden (Plate 5).
- 3.2.5 This trench contained a single ditch. Ditch **01** measured 1.10m wide and was orientated approximately north-south, continuing beyond the trench edges (Figure 3). It had moderate sloping edges and a concave base, measuring 0.50m in depth and containing a single fill (Plate 6). The ditch fill (02) was a firm, light brownish grey sandy clay with rare flint inclusions. No dating evidence was retrieved from this deposit. A 10l sample was taken for environmental analysis which was devoid of any plant remains other than sparse charcoal. Occasional mollusc shells were noted. The sample taken does not contain anything that could assist with interpretation of this deposit (Appendix A).

Trench 5

- 3.2.6 Trench 5 was located in the rear garden area of the site (Figure 3). It was orientated approximately north-west to south-east and measured approximately 10.13m in length, 1.5m wide and 0.73m deep. This trench contained 0.30m of topsoil, 0.23m of re-deposited natural (from the excavation of the pond) and 0.20m of subsoil overlying a natural, undisturbed chalky marl. There were no surviving archaeological features in this trench.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 No finds were recovered from either the ditch nor the soil layers removed during machining.

3.4 Environmental Summary

- 3.4.1 A single sample was collected for environmental analysis. This was devoid of any plant remains other than sparse charcoal. Occasional mollusc shells were noted. The sample taken does not contain anything that could assist with interpretation of this deposit.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The results of the trenching did not reveal any substantial archaeological remains, however it has identified the survival of an undated ditch within the development area.
- 4.1.2 The recorded ditch is on a north-south orientation which does not correspond with the the layout of London Road or the current house plots. Consultation of the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map dated 1886 (www.old-maps.co.uk) confirms that this is not a recent ditch as the existing boundaries at that time are broadly as they appear today – on a north-est to south-orientation.
- 4.1.3 It is not possible to say with any certainty if this ditch is associated with the undated features recorded in the investigations at 15 London Road less than 300m to the north-west of this site (ECB2837 / MCB17873) or the cropmarks of an enclosure 250m to the south-east (08942) however, it confirms a continued survival and presence of remains within this part of Harston.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 This investigation has been successful in identifying the presence / absence of archaeological remains within the development area and has met all the aims and objectives set out in the Brief and Specification.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

A.1 Environmental sample

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- A.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from fill 2 of undated ditch **01** during the evaluation phase at 53 London Rd, Harston .
- A.1.2 The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

- A.1.3 The total volume (eight litres) of the selected sample was processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. No artefacts are present in the dried residue. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table x. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997).

Results

- A.1.4 The sample was devoid of any plant remains other than sparse charcoal. Occasional mollusc shells were noted.

Conclusion

- A.1.5 The sample taken does not contain anything that could assist with interpretation of this deposit.

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|---------------------|------|---|
| Drummond-Murray, J. | 2012 | Specification for Archaeological Evaluation : 53 London Road, Harston |
| McConnell, D. | 2012 | Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: 53 London Road, Harston |

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-127990		
Project Name	Evaluation at 53 London Road, Harston, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	06-06-2012	Finish	06-06-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	HARLOH12	Planning App. No.	S/0479/12/FUL
HER No.	ECB 3778	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<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 checked="" 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 Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Uncertain		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambridgeshire	53 London Road Harston Cambridgeshire CB22 7QJ	
Parish	Harston		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	1.3ha	National Grid Reference	TL 4346 5148

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher

Project Archives

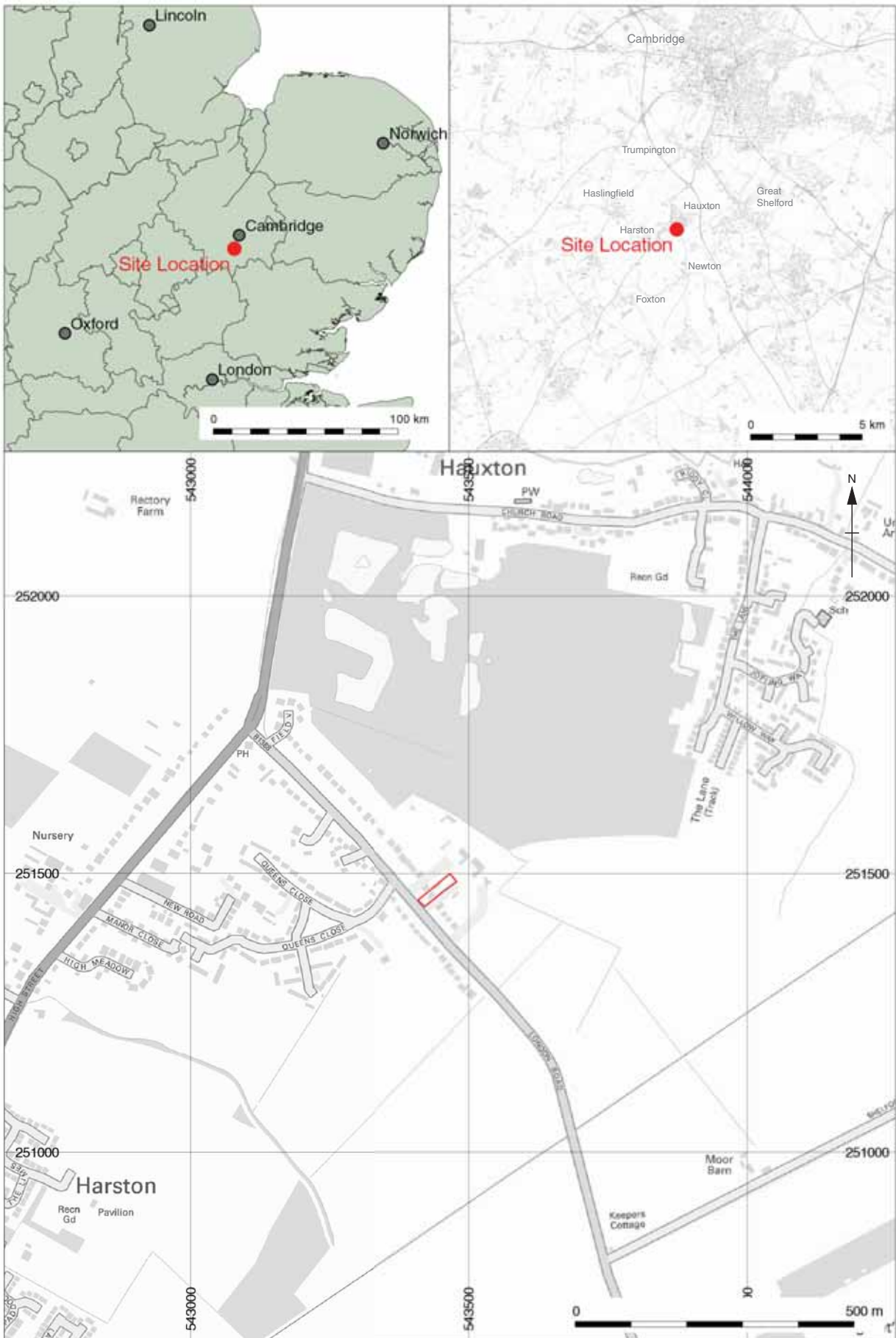
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores, Landbech	OAE Offices, Bar Hill	CCC Stores, Landbech
HARLOH12	HARLOH12	HARLOH12

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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 Bones	<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"/>
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Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

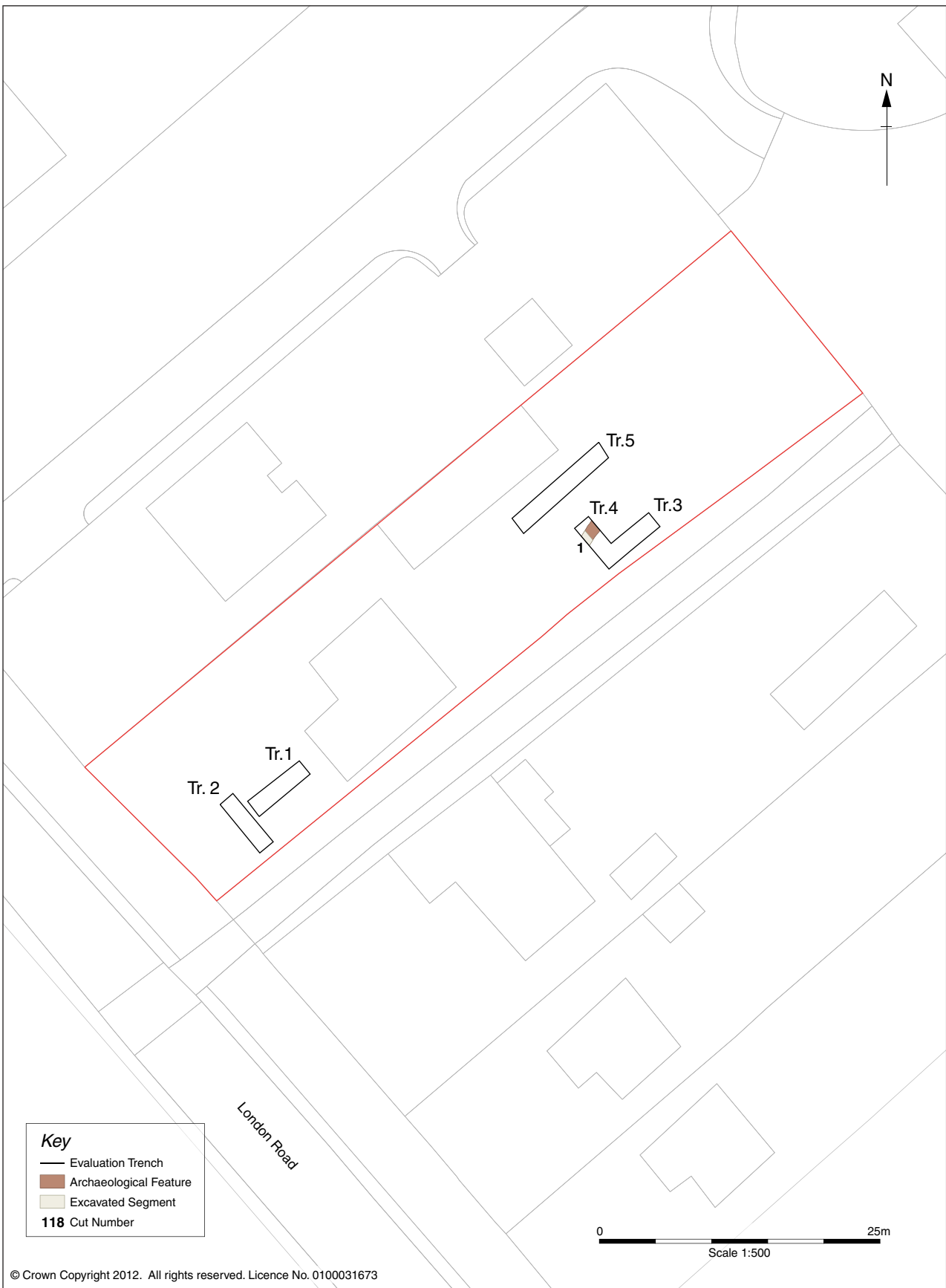


Figure 3: Trench plans



Plate 1: Trench 1, taken from north-east



Plate 2: Trench 2, taken from north-west



Plate 3: Trench 3, taken from north-east



Plate 4: North-west facing section, Trench 5



Plate 5: Large pond at rear of the garden



Plate 6: Ditch 01, Trench 4, taken from north-east



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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