

Evaluation at No. 149 Histon Road, Cambridge



Archaeological Evaluation Report



June 2015

Client: DPA Architects

OA East Report No: 1784

OASIS No: oxfordar3-213502

NGR: TL 4416 5999

Evaluation at No. 149 Histon Road, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation

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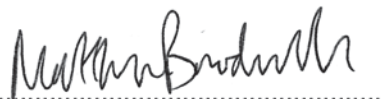
Report Date: June 2015

Report Number: 1784
Site Name: 149 Histon Road, Cambridge
HER Event No: CHER ECB 4466
Date of Works: June 2015
Client Name: DPA Architects
Client Ref: NA
Planning Ref: 14/1254/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 4416 5999
Site Code: CAMHIS15
Finance Code: CAMHIS15
Receiving Body: CCC Stores

Accession No:

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Date: June 2015

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Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: June 2015
Signed:



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Summary

In June 2015 an archaeological evaluation was carried out at No.149 Histon Road, Cambridge. A single 20m-long trench was excavated across the southern half of the proposed development area. No archaeological features were recorded within the extent of the trench and only two residual prehistoric finds were recovered from the subsoil. The lack of archaeological evidence suggests that the site lies outside the known areas of settlement recorded in the Historic Environment Record.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) on land at No. 149 Histon Road, Cambridge (TL 4416 5999; Fig. 1) in advance of a small residential development.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 14/1254/FUL; Thomas 2015), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Brudenell 2015).
- 1.1.3 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 *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). 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.
- 1.1.4 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 is located off Histon Road, approximately 1.6km north-west of Cambridge City centre. The underlying bedrock geology is Gault clay, overlain locally with surface deposits of River Terrace sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1981). The current site surface is level, resting at c.19m AOD.
- 1.2.2 The site occupies an area 0.11ha in extent, with the proposed development area being 900m². It is surrounded by residential buildings to the north and west, and commercial premises to the east and south. The site is currently occupied by a dilapidated bungalow, garden and prefabricated detached shed. Trees surround the perimeter of the site to the south and west.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site is located in the hinterland of the Roman town of Cambridge and information held by the County Historic Environment Record (HER) shows a high level of archaeology within the surrounding landscape from the prehistoric through to the medieval period.
- 1.3.2 To the south, at No. 56 Histon Road, a Neolithic chert axe was recovered and to the east on Stretten Avenue, another Neolithic axe was recovered along with two arrowheads (CHER no. 01513, 01900). Bronze Age pits and ditches are recorded within the landscape, though not within the immediate vicinity of the site, being mainly recorded south of the line of Huntingdon Road (CHER no. ECB2825, ECB3045, ECB3145).
- 1.3.3 Unsurprisingly, given the proximity to the Roman town of Cambridge, there is a considerable amount of evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity in the area. To the west, at No. 138 Huntingdon Road, evidence for a Middle/Late Iron Age enclosure was found (CHER no. 11970), while to the north-west (by Christ's College playing field) evidence for a Late Iron Age/Roman settlement has been found (CHER no.

MCB17974). Along with these sites there has been a fair amount of Iron Age and Roman material recorded as findspots within the area (e.g. CHER no. 05191, 04420, 04609, 05026, 05027, 05081, 05083 and 05085).

- 1.3.4 At No. 59 Histon Road to the south of the site a medieval ditch was identified running perpendicular to the line of Histon Road (CHER no. 19901), while medieval pottery has also been recorded as findspots to the north-west of the site (CHER no. 05191).
- 1.3.5 The only archaeological work in the immediate vicinity of the site was an evaluation carried out by Cambridge Archaeological Unit in May 2012 at No. 82 Richmond Road (CHER no. MCB20070; Hutton 2012). A single pit of post-medieval date was recorded, with the only other feature on the site proving to be modern.
- 1.3.6 According to the Ordnance Survey maps of 1886 (Fig. 2) and 1888, the site appears to have formerly lain within or adjacent to an orchard. The bungalow present on the site at this time is believed to have been constructed in the 1960s.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank DPA Architects for commissioning and funding the work. Further thanks go to Andy Thomas for providing consultation on the archaeological works. Site work was undertaken by the author and Mary Andrews. The project was managed by Matthew Brudenell.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological 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 The Brief required that a single 20m long by 1.6m wide trench be excavated across the southern half of the proposed building footprint. The position of the trench (Plate 1) was partly constrained by the trees on the southern and eastern sides of the premises.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 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 colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.5 Site conditions were overcast and damp from rain the night before.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The single trench will be described below (Fig. 3) along with a summary of the residual finds recovered from the subsoil. A complete series of topsoil and subsoil depths can be found in Appendix A. No environmental samples were taken.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 The trench was devoid of any archaeological features. The natural was a yellow/brown clay with occasional patches of gravel. This was overlain by a yellow/brown silty clay (2) which varied from 0.23m to 0.34m in thickness, sealed by topsoil (1) up to 0.42m thick. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery and a worked piece of flint were recovered from the subsoil during machining.

3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 The two finds recovered from the subsoil are described individually below:

3.3.2 A single small sherd of abraded handmade Middle Iron Age-type pottery (5g) was recovered from the subsoil (2). The sherd is in a dense quartz-sand fabric typical for the period, and can be dated c.350-50 BC (Matthew Brudenell pers. comm.).

3.3.3 A cortical flake with three flake scars on the dorsal surface was also recovered from the subsoil and is of Neolithic date (Richard Mortimer pers. comm.).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The evaluation at No. 149 Histon Road revealed no archaeological features and only two residual prehistoric finds were recovered from the subsoil. These attest to a low level of prehistoric background activity in the vicinity, but do not indicate sustained occupation. The lack of features suggests the site lies outside areas of known settlement and field systems in the surrounding landscape.

4.2 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTION

Trench 1					
General description				Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.66
				Width (m)	1.60
				Length (m)	20.00
Soil depths					
Distance along trench from NW end	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m
Topsoil depth (m)	0.42	0.42	0.30	0.28	0.36
Subsoil depth (m)	0.26	0.23	0.27	0.34	0.23

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1981 Cambridge. England and Wales Sheet 188, Solid and Drift Edition. Southampton

Brudenell, M 2015. Written Scheme of Investigation, 149 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire

Hutton, J 2012. 82 Richmond Road, Cambridge; An Archaeological Evaluation. Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Report No. 1085

Thomas, A 2015. Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, 149 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. CCC; Planning Application 14/1254/FUL

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-213502		
Project Name	Evaluation at 149 Histon Road, Cambridge		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	02-06-2015	Finish	02-06-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMHIS15	Planning App. No.	14/1254/FUL
HER No.	ECB 4466	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Urban 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 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
	Select period...	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
	Select period...	flint	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District		149 Histon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB4 3PR
Parish	Cambridge city	
HER	Cambridge	
Study Area	0.11 ha	National Grid Reference
		TL 4416 5999

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Manager	Matt Brundenell
Supervisor	Andy Greef

Project Archives

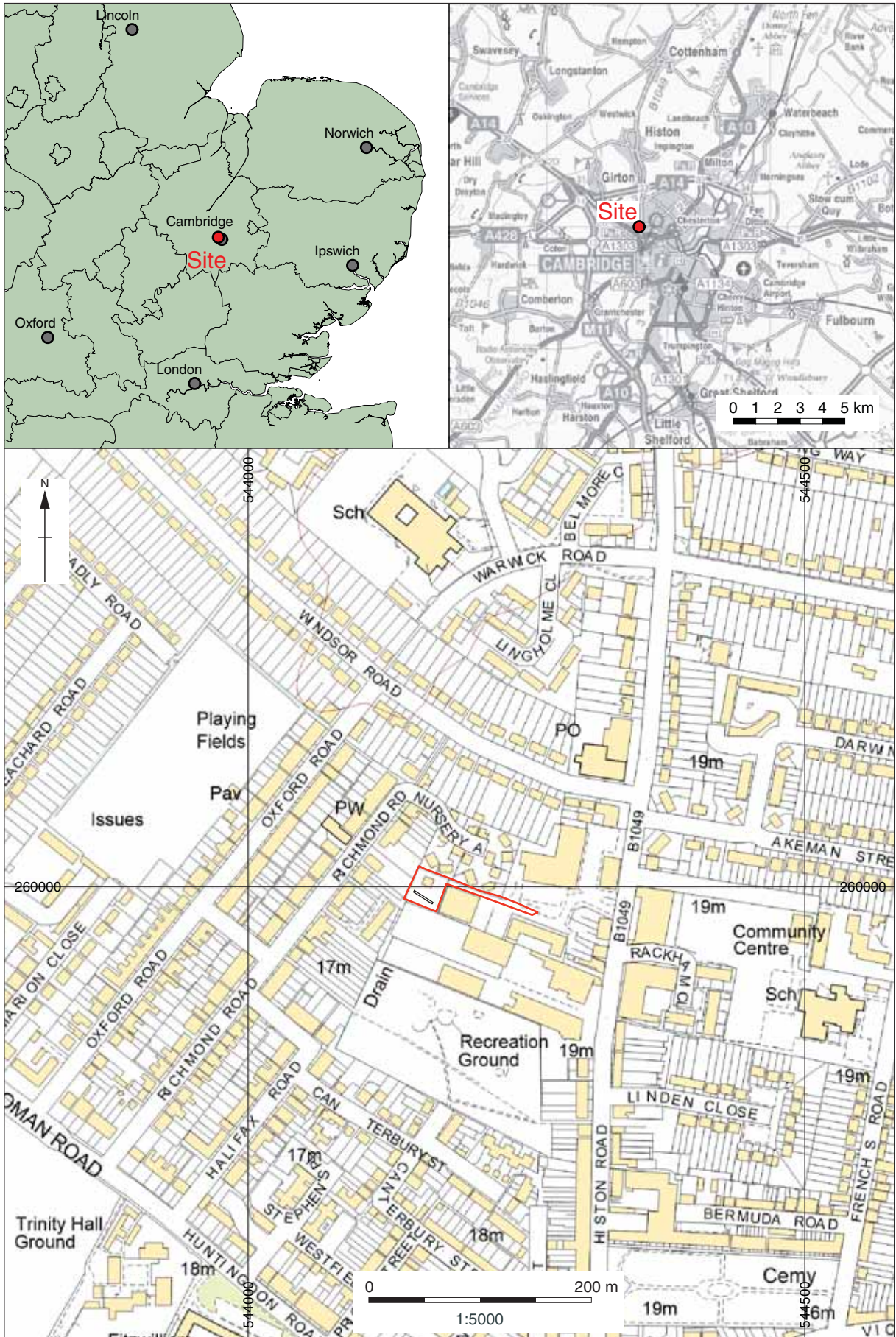
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County store	Oxford Archaeology East	Cambs County Store
CAMHIS15	CAMHIS15	CAMHIS15

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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 Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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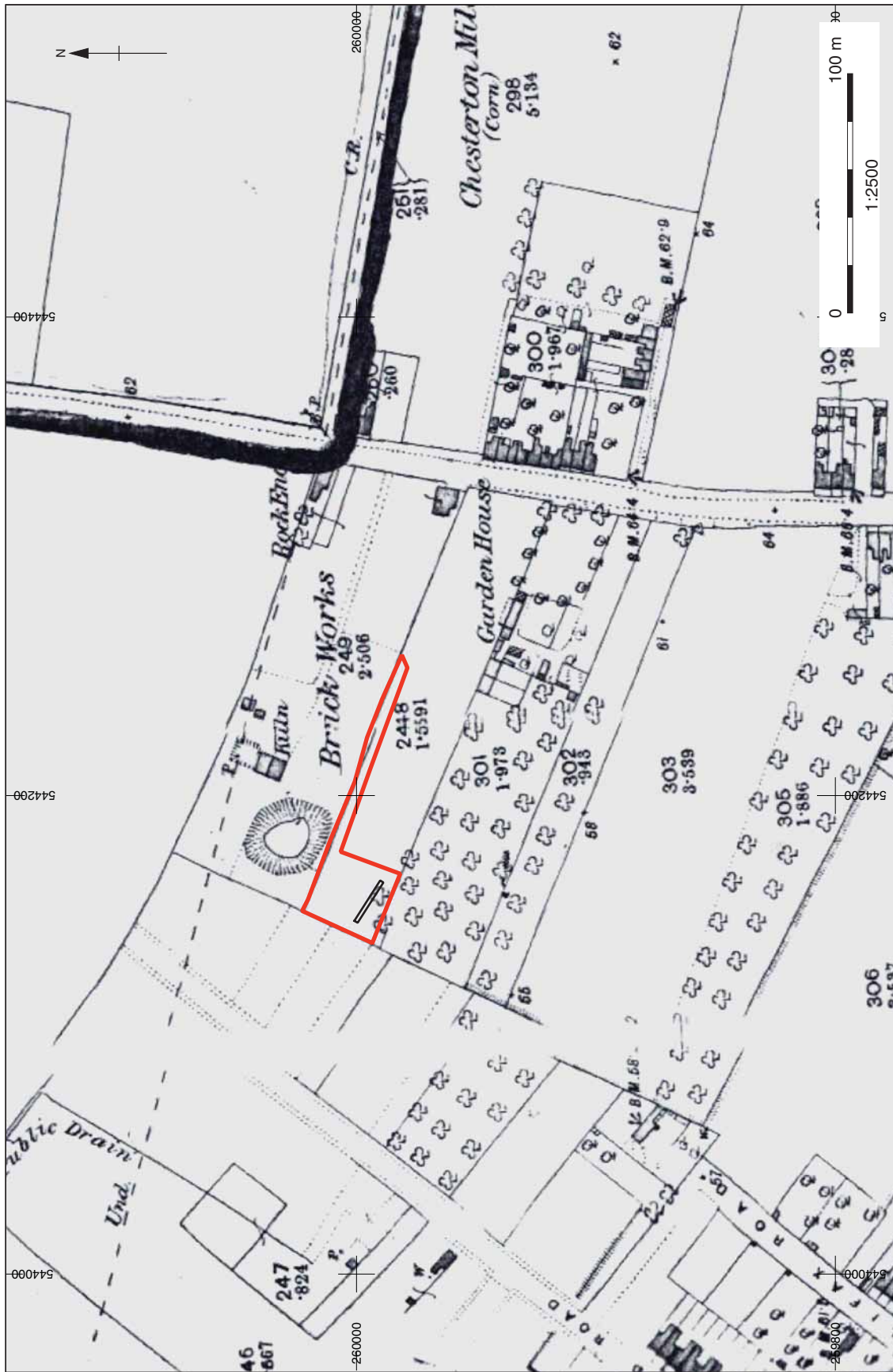
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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trench (black) in development area (red)



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 Figure 2: 1886 OS map with trench and development area shown

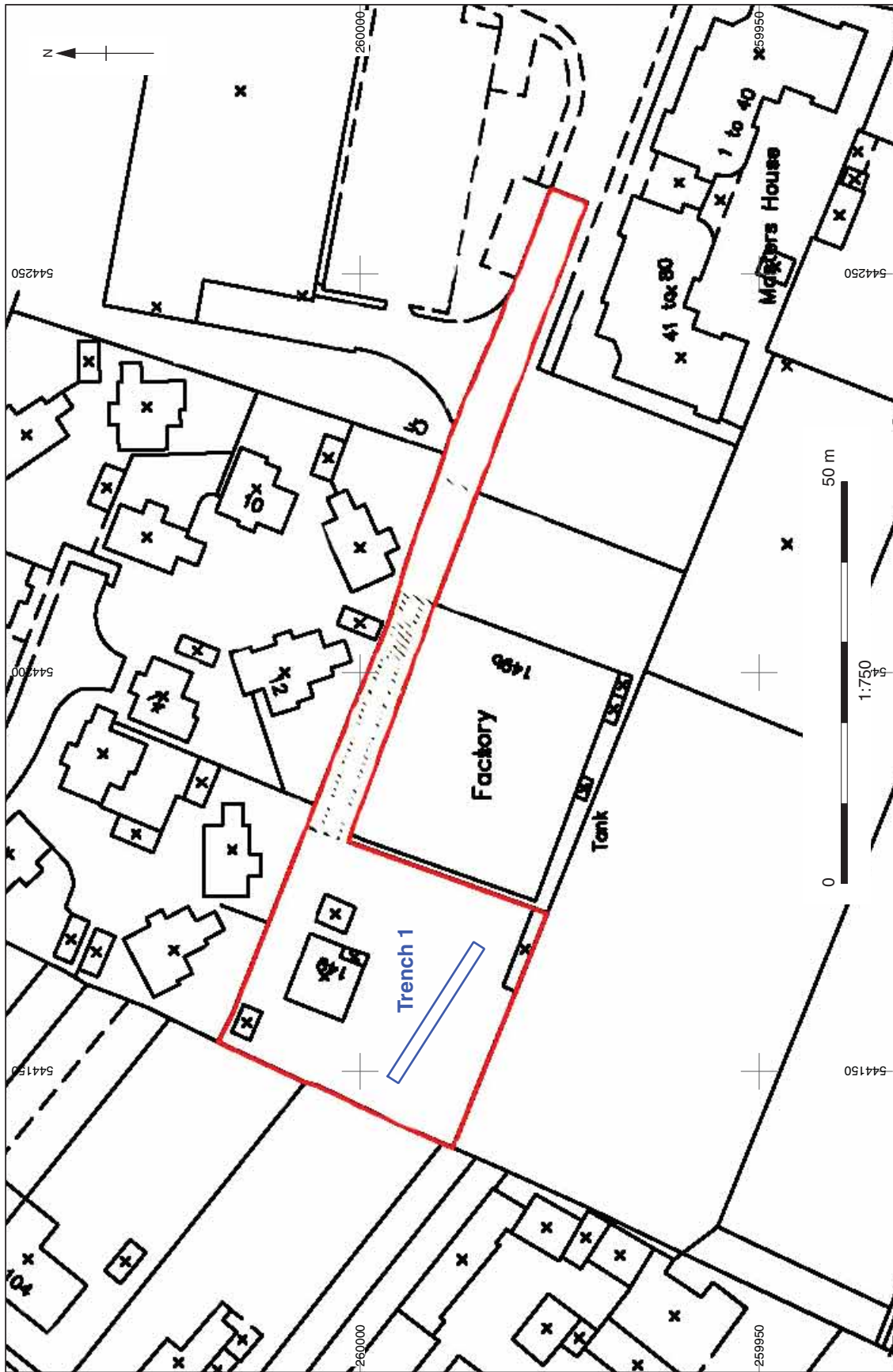


Figure 3: Trench plan/location (data supplied by the client)



Plate 1: Trench 1 (looking south-east)



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