

Land to the rear of
60-64 Chesterton Road
Cambridge



**Archaeological
Evaluation Report**



December 2014

Client: HTS Estates Limited

OA East Report No: 1708

OASIS No: oxfordar3-196723

NGR: 545430, 259482

Land to the rear of 60-64 Chesterton Road, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: December 2014

Report Number: 1708
Site Name: Land to rear of 60-64 Chesterton Road, Cambridge
HER Event No: ECB4309
Date of Works: November 2014
Client Name: HTS Estates Limited
Client Ref: -
Planning Ref: 13/1366/FUL
Grid Ref: TL 4542 5949
Site Code: CAMCHR14
Finance Code: CAMCHR14
Receiving Body: CCC Store
Accession No: -
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Position: Project Officer
Date: November 2014
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Summary

On the 26th November 2014 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological trench evaluation on land to the rear of 60-64 Chesterton Road, Cambridge (NGR 545431, 259481) ahead of the construction of a mews style development containing eleven flats, car and cycle parking, an area of green space and associated underground services.

Two trenches were excavated in total. The archaeological works revealed only post-medieval and modern remains. A Victorian well of brick construction was encountered at the northernmost end of Trench 1. Two pits containing post-medieval debris were also identified.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land to the rear of 60-64 Chesterton Road, Cambridge (Fig. 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 13/1366/FUL), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Morgan 2014).
- 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

- 1.2.1 The site is located on a bedrock geology of Gault Formation mudstone with superficial river deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2014). It sits at a height of 7.8m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A search of the Historic Environment Record was undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council and provided as an Acrobat pdf document. A summary of the main sites and finds is listed here.

Iron Age

- 1.3.2 While residual worked flint and Bronze Age pottery have been found in unstratified contexts (MCB15544), the earliest datable features recorded in Chesterton are an Iron Age pit and ditch found in excavations of a single site on the junction of Union Lane and Scotland Road (MCB17140), 1km east of the site. A significant amount of residual pottery was also recovered during excavation.

Roman

- 1.3.3 A possible Roman drain has been found immediately to the north of the site (04547). There was a high potential for this drain to continue into the subject site.

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.4 Saxon land division ditches have been identified on the junction of Union Lane and High Street (MCB15980), and 'narrow-spaced property boundaries at right angles to Union Road', suggest properties along Union Lane from the Late Saxon period (MCB15544).

Medieval

- 1.3.5 During the Middle Ages, evidence for settlement in Chesterton expands significantly, organised around the land bounded by High Street and Church lane. Church Lane is

recorded from 1327, and St Andrew's Church is documented from 1224. Significant features in this area are the Chesterton Abbey (DCB205) incorporating the Chesterton Tower (DCB04412), St Andrew's Church (MCB5558), the site of the original Vicarage (3716) and the Old Manor (03411).

- 1.3.6 There is also medieval activity along Union Lane and High Street, including occupation aligned on Union Lane (MCB15564, 15544). Other medieval activity nearby is centred on gravel extraction (MCB15236, 15544, 17902). A medieval gully was uncovered to the south-west of the site (CB15640). There is potential for this gully or other related features to continue into the subject site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 1.3.7 Post-medieval pits quarry pits have been found to the north of the site (MCB17864). Evidence for medieval and post-medieval occupation has been uncovered to the south-west (MCB5495) and it is likely that these deposits extend into the site in question.
- 1.3.8 There are few medieval structures still standing in Chesterton: most have been replaced by post-medieval development. Notable buildings near to the site include Chesterton Hall (built c.1630, CHER04871); Chesterton House built in the late 18th century, and extensively replaced in the 19th (CHER04954); the present Vicarage (CHER03716); the Old Manor House (17th century: CHER04966), the Manor House (also 17th century: CHER03411), and Lovers Walk (19th century: CB15543).
- 1.3.9 The land of the Recreation Ground was acquired from St Andrew's Church by the council in 1888. This has prevented development on the west side of Church Street during the time of Chesterton's rapid expansion.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to extend thanks to Bremner Partnerships LLP for commissioning the archaeological works on behalf of their client HTS Estates. Thanks also go to Andy Thomas of CCC HET for providing the Brief, HER data and advice.
- 1.4.2 Fieldwork and survey was carried out by the author. Machine excavation was undertaken by Lattenbury Services.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological trench 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 In accordance with the Brief and Specification two trenches 7m in length were excavated across the site, giving an 8% sample of the site.
- 2.2.2 The location of the trenches was adjusted on site to take account of below ground obstructions.
- 2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with an 8 tonne tracked excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.4 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 GPS.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 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 digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

3 RESULTS

Introduction

- 3.1.1 Limited archaeology was revealed across the development area and was all of a post-medieval and modern date (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of three deposits over the geology, which was encountered between 0.75m and 0.96m below modern ground level. The earliest deposit consisted of a mid orange brown silty clay (03) which varied in thickness from 0.2m (in Trench 1) to 0.32m (in Trench 2). Above this was a dark grey brown silty clay (02) 0.3m in thickness. This layer contained a moderate level of modern debris including pieces of concrete and post-medieval ceramic drain.
- 3.1.3 The latest deposit (01) consisted of modern make-up between 0.15m (Trench 2) and 0.46m (Trench 1) in thickness. This layer contained a varied mix of post-medieval and modern finds including bricks, concrete lumps, lead piping and white glazed china.
- 3.1.4 Full details of trench descriptions can be found in Appendix A.

Trench 1

- 3.1.5 Trench 1 was located towards the northern end of the development area (Plate 1). A pit extended beyond the southern end of the trench. The pit was at least 1.3m long and 1.2m wide and cut through deposits 01 and 02, it was therefore clearly recent in date.
- 3.1.6 Located in the north-western corner of the trench was a brick built well of a likely Victoria date. The well was a void and still contained water which sat about 2m below the base of the trench.

Trench 2

- 3.1.7 Trench 2 was located across the southern side of the development area (Plate 2). The only feature was identified toward the eastern end where a modern pit 1.1m in length and 0.7m wide was located. It was filled with brick fragments, iron and copper wiring along with modern glass, tile and slate.

Finds summary

- 3.1.8 A large fragment from a highly embellished bowl, adorned with green rosettes and beading was collected from the modern make-up later (01). This stoneware bowl is of Victorian date (Carole Fletcher pers. Comm.).

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works on the land behind 60-64 Chesterton Road, Cambridge has revealed evidence of Victorian and modern domestic activity on the site. The presence of solid geology sealed beneath two soil deposits, the lower of which (03) looked to be completely undisturbed by modern intrusions, highlights the fact that any possible archaeology within the development area is unlikely to have been truncated away by post-medieval or modern activity.
- 4.1.2 The discovery of the a well and a large fragment of Victorian stoneware on the site confirms that this area has been occupied constantly since at least the 1800s as documented on maps (such as the 1886 1:500 Town Plan of Cambridge).

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained a post-medieval pit and a brick well. Natural geology consisted of orange silts gravels.				Avg. depth (m)		0.96
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		9.4
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.46	Modern make-up	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench contained a post-medieval pit. Natural geology consisted of orange silts and gravels.				Avg. depth (m)		0.75
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		5.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Modern make-up	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- British Geological Survey <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 24 November 2014
- McConnell, D. 2014 *Brief for archaeological evaluation: Land to the rear of 60-64 Chesterton Road, Cambridge*. CCC HET. Unpublished
- Morgan, S. 2014 *Written scheme of investigation: Land to rear of 60-64 Chesterton Road, Cambridge*. OA East. Unpublished

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>
Project Name	<input type="text"/>
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text"/>
Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>
Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text"/>
Development Type	<input type="text"/>

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 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
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

Project Archives

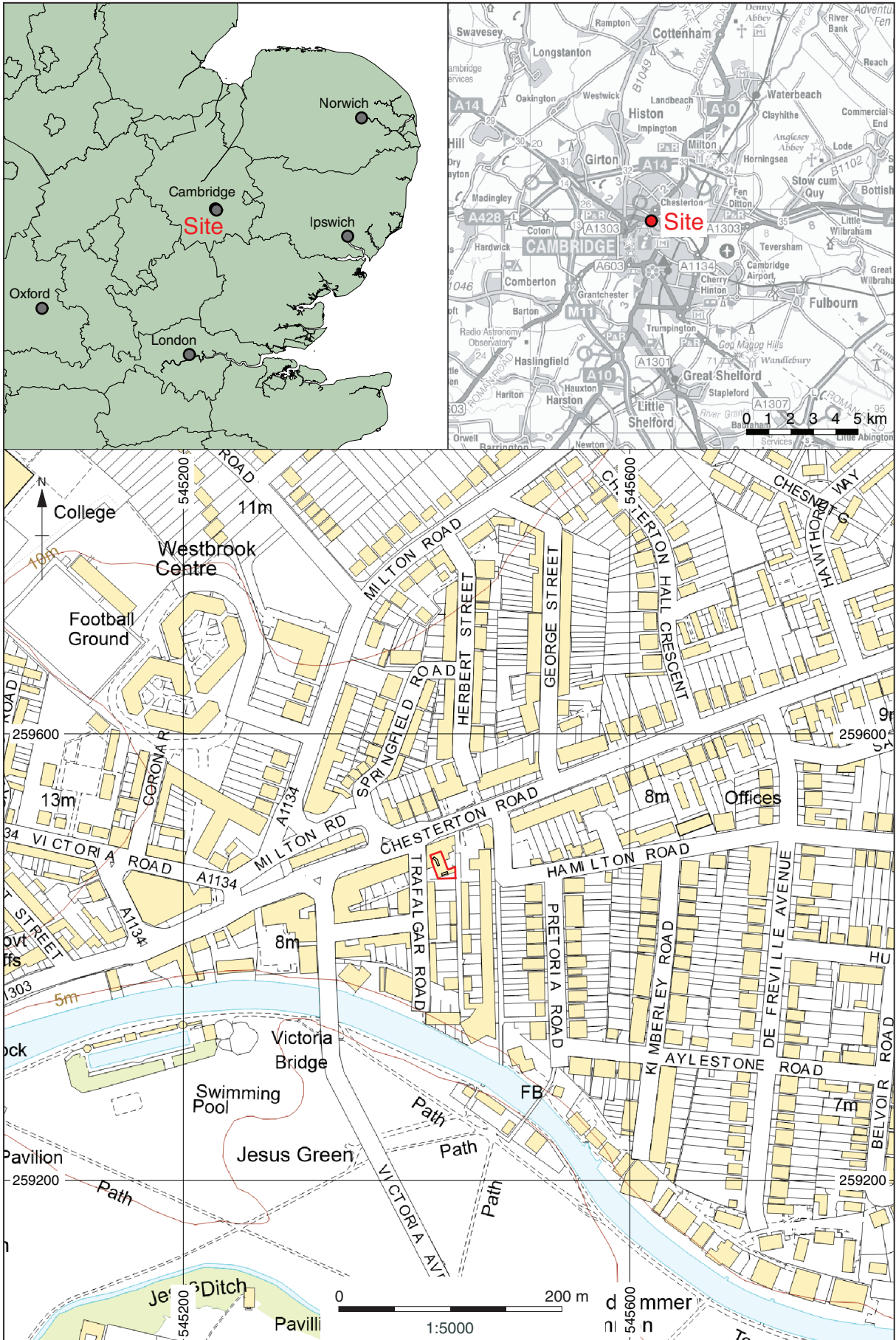
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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

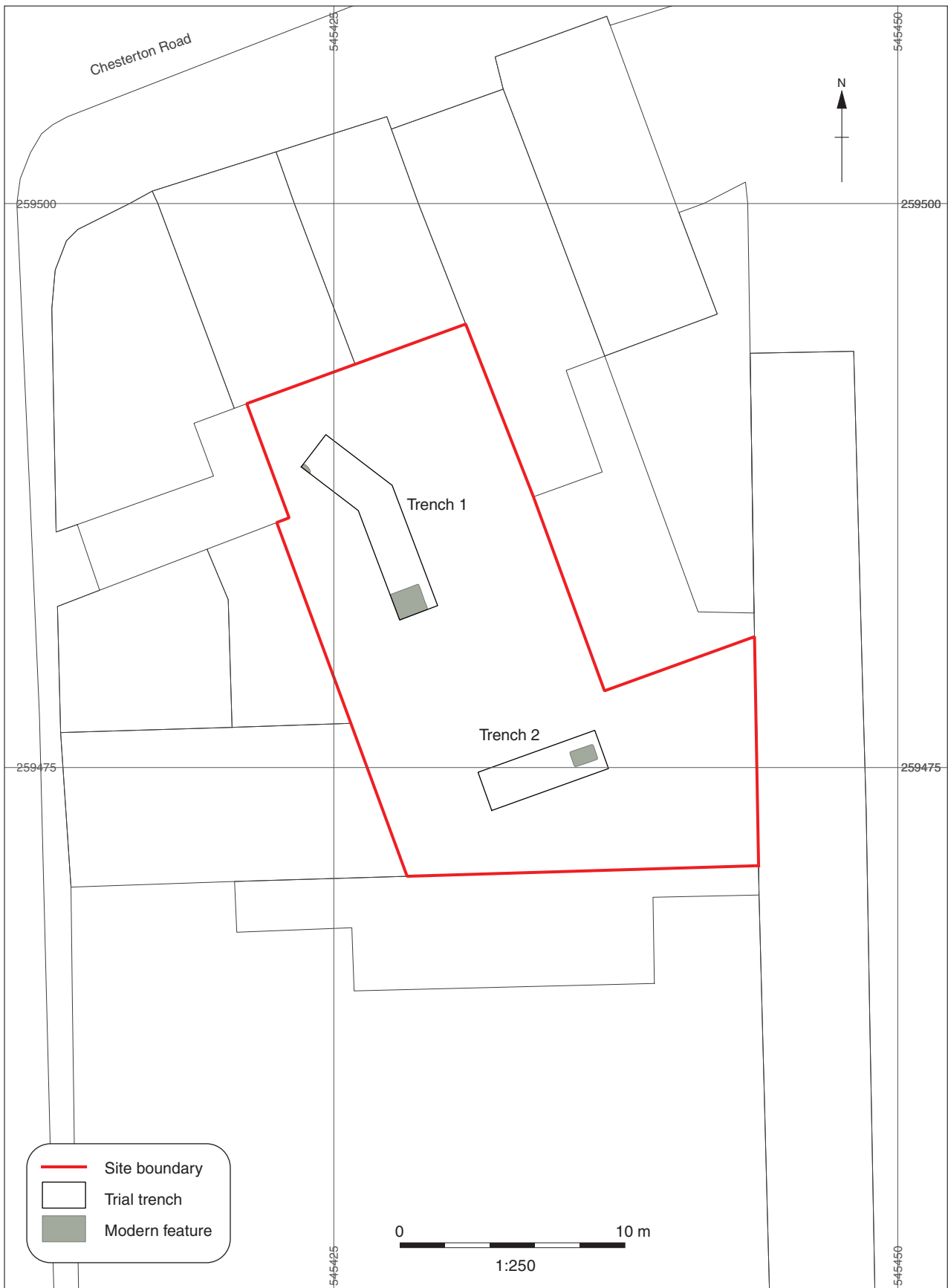


Figure 2: Trench plan



Plate 1: Trench 1 (looking north-northwest)



Plate 2: Trench 2 (looking east-northeast)



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