



Kings College School Sports Hall, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation Report

March 2017

Client: Savills

Issue No: v1

OA Reference No: 2060

NGR: TL 4405 5583

oxfordarchaeology



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Client Name: Savills
Client Ref No.: N/A
Document Title: Kings College School Sports Hall, Cambridge
Document Type: Evaluation Report
Report No.: 2060
Grid Reference: TL4405 5583
Planning Reference: 15/1309/FUL

Site Code: CAMKCS17
Invoice Code: CAMKCS17
Receiving Body: CCC
CHER Event No.: ECB4949

OA Document File Location: X:\ActiveProjects_UseKT\Cambridgeshire\CAMKCS17_Kings College School\Project Reports
OA Graphics File Location: X:\ActiveProjects_Use_KT\Cambridgeshire\CAMKCS17_Kings College School\Project Data\Graphics\Acrobat

Issue No: V1
Date: March 2017
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Kings College School Sports Hall, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Chris Thatcher BA

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Summary

Between the 13th and 14th February 2017, Oxford Archaeology East undertook a trial trench evaluation at Kings College School, Cambridge (TL4405 5583). This evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of three trenches.

No archaeological features or remains were uncovered by the evaluation.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Savills for commissioning this project. Thanks is also extended to Gemma Stewart who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) for their advice and guidance and the staff of Kings College School for their assistance on site.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by James Drummond Murray. The fieldwork was directed by Chris Thatcher. Digitizing was carried out by Severine Bezie.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Savills to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Kings College School.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 15/1309/FUL) to inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief was set by Gemma Stewart of CCC HET and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The area of proposed development lies within the school grounds and is currently used as a netball court.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as river terrace gravels overlying the Gault formation.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The following background is drawn from the CHER records provided with the Brief (Stewart 2017).

1.3.2 An evaluation at Selwyn College (ECB1026; Regan 2003) revealed a possible Roman boundary ditch and post-medieval quarrying. Evidence for prehistoric and Roman settlement was uncovered during an excavation at Burrell's Field (ECB987; Gdaniec 1992).

1.3.3 The site lies in area of known Anglo-Saxon burials west of the Bin Brook at Newnham (HER05033) and at Kings College Garden Hostel (MCB 15897). These relate to a settlement uncovered during excavations at the Institute of Criminology (ECB1993; Armour *et al* 2003) (CB15349). To the west of the site, an evaluation and excavation (ECB1589/1590; Dodwell *et al* 2004) uncovered a Saxon burial ground with 21 individuals.

1.3.4 An evaluation at the school, to the south of the current site (ECB 1099; Macaualy 2002) revealed an undated re-cut ditch. An evaluation (ECB1585; Gibson 1996) at the University Library, to the north, revealed an undated ditch and some medieval and post-med pottery.

1.3.5 Observations at St Johns College Playing Fields (ECB1302; Evans 1991) produced residual artefacts from the Bronze Age to post-medieval period but no evidence for the Anglo-Saxon cemetery whilst an evaluation on the fields (ECB3063; Cessford 2013) uncovered Roman ditches and quarrying. An evaluation at 5 West Road (ECB1066; Mackay 2002) uncovered ditches with residual Saxon pottery, at 7 West Road (ECB3250; Collins 2009) a late medieval/post-medieval field boundary and evidence for Victorian quarrying were recorded. Evidence for Victorian quarrying was uncovered at 9 West Road (ECB1066; Patten 2002).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The evaluation will seek to establish the character, date, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

2.1.2 In the event that archaeological remains are present, the evaluation will provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.1.3 This evaluation took place within, and sought contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);
- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8)
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24)

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of three trenches were excavated (2 x 10m & 1 x 15m). These were located to avoid known services/obstructions, and maximise coverage of the site. The trench locations were CAT scanned to check for the presence of live services, prior to excavation.

2.2.2 In the event, concrete slab was uncovered immediately beneath the tarmac at the western end of Trench 2 and the southern end of Trench 3.

2.2.3 The trenches were excavated by a JCB type mechanical excavator under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. A 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket was used. The tarmac sealing the site was first cut with a circular saw to a width of 2.40m for each trench. This allowed the machine to excavate to the full 2m width of the trench with a 0.20m clearance either side of the trench edge in order to maintain clean edges for the re-instatement of the trenches.

2.2.4 The trenches were cleaned by trowel in order to clarify soil horizons and deposits and metal detected after cleaning. Trench spoil was scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts. No metal finds were recovered.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The evaluation uncovered no archaeological remains. A description of each trench is presented below that includes full details, dimensions and depths of all deposits.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of mixed gravels with occasional patches of sand was overlain by a friable, dark reddish brown sandy silt subsoil, which in turn was overlain by dark grey brown sandy silt topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Any archaeological features, had they been present, would have been easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 Trench 1

3.3.1 Trench 1 was aligned north to south and located along the western edge of the netball court (Plate 1). Underlying the tarmac surface was a layer of made ground that was approximately 0.15m thick and comprised hardcore, brick rubble and sand. This was presumably a levelling layer sealing sterile top (0.40m thick) and subsoil (0.25m thick) as described in Section 3.2.

3.3.2 A cable was uncovered at the eastern end of the trench and so it was not excavated to its full depth here to avoid any disturbance.

3.3.3 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

3.4 Trench 2

3.4.1 Trench 2 was located in the southern part of the development site, aligned east to west (Plate 2). Immediately beneath the tarmac surface, a concrete slab extended from the western edge of the trench for 9m. To the east were modern brick built foundations running north to south. These were approximately 0.50 in width and spaced 3m apart. These structural remnants precluded full excavation of the trench.

3.4.2 Between the modern disturbance it was possible to excavate the trench down to the natural deposits. The sequence in this trench comprised a layer of hardcore, brick rubble and sand made ground that was approximately 0.20m thick. This sealed sterile top and subsoil deposits as described in Section 3.2.

3.4.3 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

3.5 Trench 3

3.5.1 Trench 3 lay on the eastern side of the development site and was aligned north to south (Plate 3). As with Trench 2, a concrete slab was uncovered immediately beneath the tarmac surface, extending from its southern trench edge for 10m. The northern edge of the slab was delineated by a line of modern bricks. These were cleaned and investigated by hand and revealed that the bricks were set on a concrete slab that, based upon the make up of the concrete appeared to be contemporary with another concrete foundation immediately to the

north. The northern part of the trench contained little modern disturbance and it was possible here to excavate the trench to its full depth.

3.5.2 A number of darker patches of material were identified at the full depth of the trench and these were investigated in order to ascertain whether or not they were in fact archaeological features but in the event it was apparent, based upon their uneven, irregular, shallow profiles, that they were most likely to be geological anomalies.

3.5.3 The sequence in this trench comprised a layer of hardcore, brick rubble and sand made ground that was approximately 0.20m thick. This sealed sterile top and subsoil deposits as described in Section 3.2.

3.5.4 No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in this trench.

3.6 Finds summary

3.6.1 No finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The presence of modern structural remains in the form of concrete slab and foundations did preclude the full excavation of all but one of the trenches. These were associated with the squash court known to have stood on the site prior to its use as a netball court. This activity had quite clearly led to truncation on the site that in places extended to almost one metre below the current ground level.

4.2.6 Where it was possible to excavate the trenches to their full depth there was absolutely no evidence of any archaeological activity. Furthermore, the topsoil and subsoil layers contained no artefactual evidence and it is therefore suggested the negative results of these works are reliable.

4.2 Significance

4.2.7 The evaluation recorded no archaeological features or deposits.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of tarmac (0.10m), made ground, topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.90
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.15	Made ground	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of tarmac (0.10m), made ground, topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. Modern foundations and concrete slab recorded within trench.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.05
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.20	Made ground		
201	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.50	Subsoil	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of tarmac (0.10m), made ground, topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand. Modern foundations and concrete slab recorded within trench.					Length (m)	10
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.20	Made Ground	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural		

APPENDIX B OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-278895		
Project Name	Kings College School, Cambridge		
Start of Fieldwork	13-02-2017	End of Fieldwork	14-02-2017
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMKCS17	Planning App. No.	15/1309/FUL
HER Number	ECB4949	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Public Building
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
none	None	none	None
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Kings College School, Cambridge, CB3 9DN
District	Cambridge	
Parish	Cambridge	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	2100 square metres	
National Grid Ref	TL4405 5833	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archeology East
Project Brief Originator	CHET
Project Design Originator	Oxford Archaeology East

Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Project Supervisor	Chris Thatcher

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	n/a	n/a
Digital Archive	OA East	CAMKCS17
Paper Archive	CCC stores	ECB4949

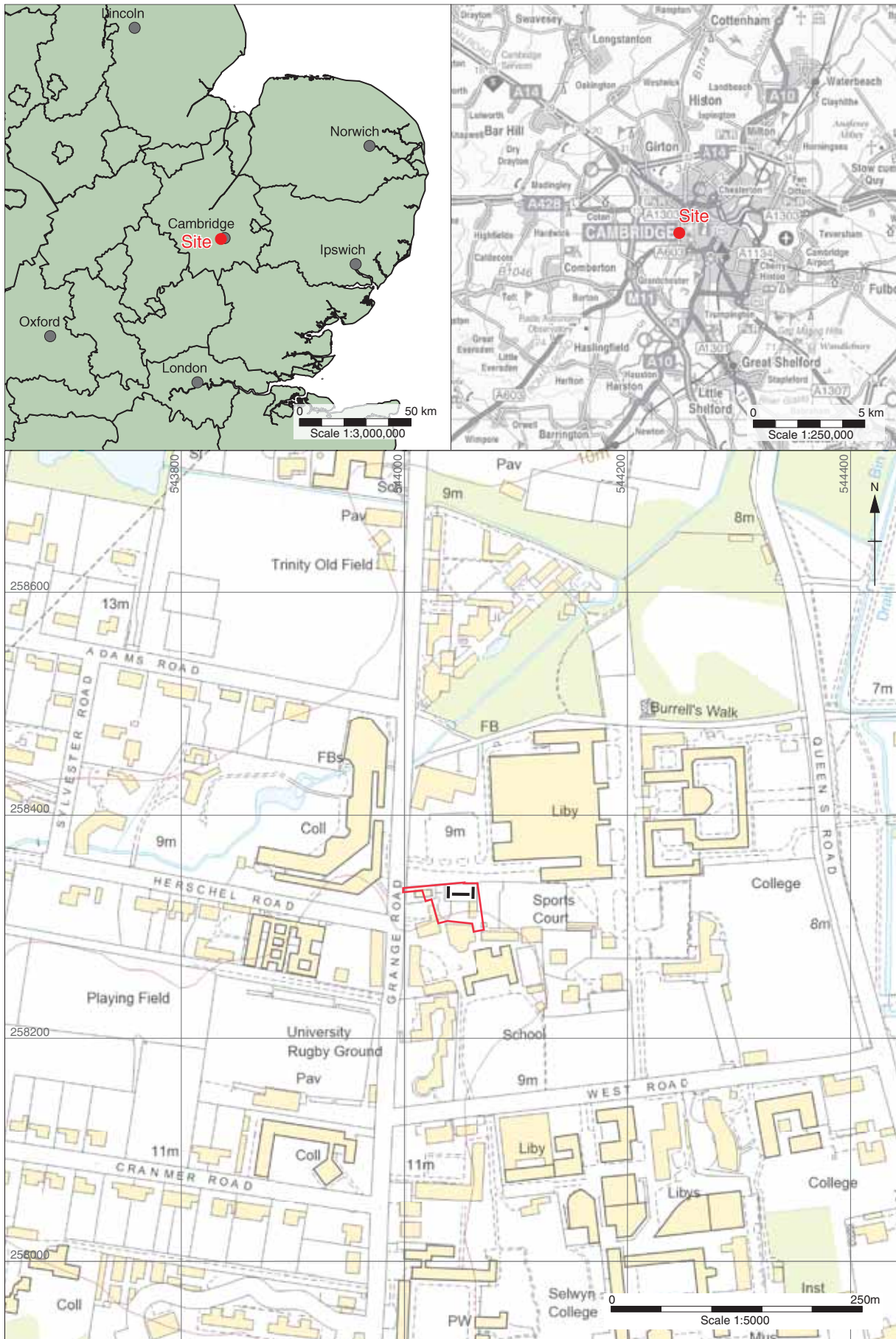
Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

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



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Figure 1: Site location map

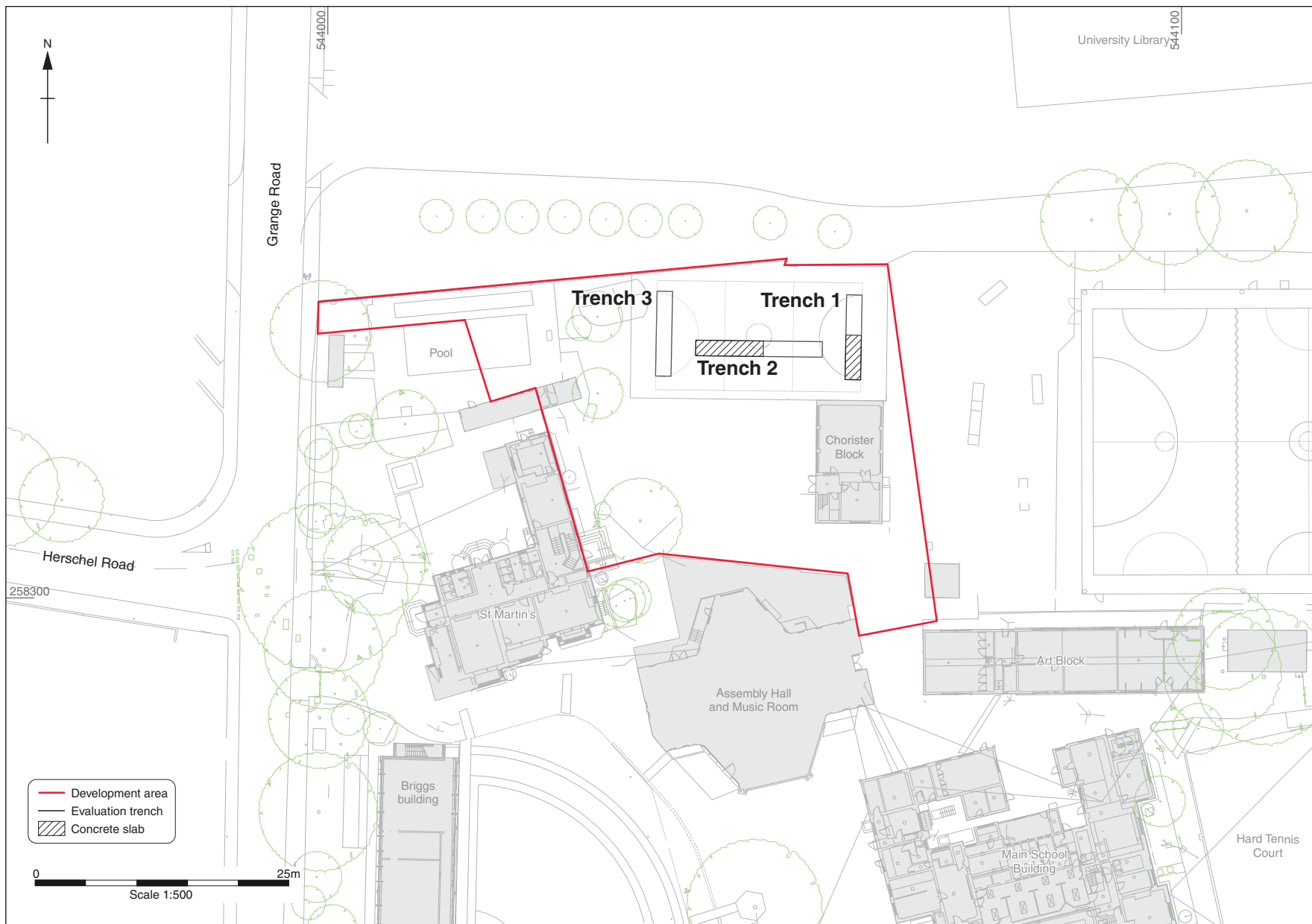


Figure 2: Trench plans



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north



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