

# An Archaeological Evaluation St Leonard's Hospital Sudbury



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2016

**Client: CgMs on behalf of  
PJ Livesey**

OA East Report No: 1907  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-245724  
NGR: TL 8777 4138

## **An Archaeological Evaluation at St Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury**


*Archaeological Evaluation*

*By Stuart Ladd BA MA PCIfA*

*Editor: Rachel Clarke BA MCIfA*

*Illustrator: Stuart Ladd BA MA PCIfA*

*Report Date: March 2016*

**Report Number:** 1907  
**Site Name:** St Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury  
**HER Event No:** ESF23697  
**Date of Works:** March 2016  
**Client Name:** CgMs on behalf of PJ Livesey  
**Client Ref:** 19335  
**Planning Ref:** B/14/00585/FUL  
**Grid Ref:** TL 8777 4138  
**Site Code:** SUY154  
**Finance Code:** XSFS LH16  
**Receiving Body:** Suffolk County Stores  
**Accession No:** SUY154  
**Prepared by:** Stuart Ladd  
**Position:** Fieldwork Supervisor  
**Date:** 22/3/16  
**Checked by:** Stephen Macaulay  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** 22/3/16  
**Signed:** 

**Disclaimer**

*This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.*

**Oxford Archaeology East,**

15 Trafalgar Way,  
Bar Hill,  
Cambridge,  
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500  
f: 01223 850599  
e: [oeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:oeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2016  
Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

## Table of Contents

<b>Summary.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	7
1.2 Geology and topography.....	7
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	7
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	7
<b>2 Aims and Methodology.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Aims.....	8
2.2 Methodology.....	8
<b>3 Results.....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	9
3.2 Trench 1.....	9
3.3 Trench 2.....	9
3.4 Trench 3.....	9
3.5 Trench 4.....	10
3.6 Trench 5.....	10
3.7 Finds Summary.....	10
3.8 Environmental Summary.....	10
<b>4 Discussion and Conclusions.....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1 Discussion.....	11
4.2 Recommendations.....	11
<b>Appendix A. Bibliography.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Appendix B. OASIS Report Form.....</b>	<b>13</b>

### List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location, showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)  
Fig. 2 Trench layout

### List of Plates

- Pl. 1 Trench 1, view north-northeast  
Pl. 2 Trench 2, view northeast  
Pl. 3 Trench 3, view north-northeast  
Pl. 4 Trench 4, view north-northeast  
Pl. 5 Trench 5, view east

## **Summary**

*On 17th and 18th March 2016 Oxford Archaeology East opened five small evaluation trenches around St Leonard's Hospital, Newton Road, Sudbury (TL 8777 4138). Although truncation outside the immediate footprint of the hospital buildings was less severe than expected, the presence of modern services restricted the area available to excavate. No archaeological features were present.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at St Leonard's Hospital, Newton Road, to the east of the centre of Sudbury (Fig. 1; TL 8777 4138).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dr Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council (SCC; Planning Application B/14/00585/FUL), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation by Sarah Jago of CgMs.
- 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 SCC, 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 proposed development area (PDA) covers 0.48ha c.500m to the north of the River Stour east of the centre of Sudbury town at an elevation between 39 and 45m OD (Fig. 1). Its northern limits are on a moderate slope close to the hill crest while its southern portion is relatively flat, potentially from landscaping during construction of the hospital in the 19th century.
- 1.2.2 The site geology is recorded as Lowestoft Formation Sand and Gravel and Diamicton (BGS 2016). Trenches revealed clayey silts/sands across much of the site with sands and gravels to the south, on the lower ground.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment (Craven 2012) listed the HER entries within 500m, concluding there was a low to moderate potential for prehistoric to medieval archaeology, although there were no records within the immediate locality of the site.

### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Evaluation and recording was undertaken by Ted Levermore and supervised by Stuart Ladd. Stephen Macaulay managed the project. The work was commissioned by William Bedford of CgMs on behalf of PJ Livesey. Abby Antrobus of Suffolk CC monitored the project, although no site visit during the works was required.



## 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 an 8-tonne rubber-tracked JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and mechanical breaker.
- 2.2.2 All trenches were CAT-scanned prior to excavation. This identified a number of probably live electrical services across the north of the site, connecting hospital buildings to Burroughs Piece Road. Consequently, Trenches 1 and 3 were moved slightly from the trench plan supplied in the WSI and covered a slightly reduced area.
- 2.2.3 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. Only obviously modern metal and non-metal finds were recovered and these were not retained.
- 2.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were to be 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 dry throughout, varying between hot and sunny and cold and cloudy.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Trench descriptions are provided in order of trench number. Deposits are described from earliest to latest. No archaeological features were present. Soils were present in Trenches 2, 4 and 5.
- 3.1.2 Trenches 1 and 3 were located in the north of the site in and around a tarmac-surfaced car park. Trench 2 was positioned on a grass-covered area east of the car park. Trench 4 lay to the south of the hospital buildings in a tarmac-surfaced car park. Trench 5 lay further south on an area of grass. These locations are shown on Figure 2.

### 3.2 Trench 1

#### ***8.3m x 2.6m***

- 3.2.1 Due to probable live electrical services, this trench was positioned slightly to the south of the original plan, perpendicular to Burroughs Piece Road.
- 3.2.2 Natural geology of fine clayey sand was encountered at a depth of up to 0.4m. A number of irregular glacial features filled by very firm mid-brown clayey silt were visible (Plate 1), apparently oriented down the natural slope. These were excavated by hand to confirm their nature and were typically 0.2m deep although this varied.
- 3.2.3 The area may have been truncated as there were no soils present. Two layers (0.2m thick) of modern block paving lay immediately upon the natural sand across the trench. A further 0.2m of tarmac made up the surface.
- 3.2.4 No archaeological features were found.

### 3.3 Trench 2

#### ***7.1m x 2.2-3.1m***

- 3.3.1 In order to work around the concrete barriers securing the northern site access, Trench 2 was positioned diagonally across a grassy area in the northeast of the site, between a concrete surface, the tarmac-surfaced car park and a concrete shed.
- 3.3.2 Natural clayey silts were encountered at a depth of 0.65-0.8m. A thin linear streak of darker silt, angled down the natural slope (i.e. to the southwest) proved to be a variation in the natural.
- 3.3.3 Subsoil (0.3m thick) survived, with 0.4-0.5m of topsoil and turf overlying it. The topsoil thickness varied, probably due to dumping of material during the period when the hospital was in use. Only modern brick/tile and asphalt were found within the topsoil.
- 3.3.4 No archaeological features were found.

### 3.4 Trench 3

#### ***6m x 2.6m***

- 3.4.1 It was not possible to position Trench 3 aligned east-west across the car park in the north of the site, as per the original trench plan, due to the probable presence of buried services. Instead a small trench was excavated 5m east of Trench 1.
- 3.4.2 Natural clayey sand with similar irregular glacial features to Trench 1 were found at a depth of c.0.3m. No soil was present. Two layers of block paving and a layer of tarmac lay directly upon the natural sand.

3.4.3 No archaeological features were found.

### **3.5 Trench 4**

#### ***9.6 x 2.2m***

3.5.1 This trench was broken out of tarmac within a car park on the south side of the hospital, aligned north-south, parallel with the western boundary.

3.5.2 Depth varied from 0.4m at the northern end to 0.6m at the southern end as the tarmac surface had been levelled relative to the natural geology of clayey silt and flint gravel.

3.5.3 A heavily compressed band of soil survived to a thickness of up to 0.35m across the southern half of the trench. At the northern end of the trench this was truncated to 0.2m thick.

3.5.4 Overlying the soil was a layer 0.21-0.25m thick comprising imported sands and gravels. This was a make up for the tarmac surface which was 0.1m thick.

3.5.5 No archaeological features were found.

### **3.6 Trench 5**

#### ***10.8m x 1.8m***

3.6.1 This trench was positioned on a grassy area between the car park and the site's southern boundary.

3.6.2 Natural sands and gravels were encountered at a depth of 0.75m, although this was slightly over cut by the machine to a total depth of 0.9m.

3.6.3 Overlying the gravel was a layer of clayey sand perhaps 0.15m thick with no clear lower horizon to the gravels. This may represent some colluvium or a continuation of the natural deposits seen in the other trenches at higher elevations.

3.6.4 Subsoil survived with a thickness of 0.3-0.35m. Topsoil and turf 0.25-0.3m thick overlay the subsoil.

3.6.5 No archaeological features were found.

### **3.7 Finds Summary**

3.7.1 Only modern artefacts were found. These were not retained.

### **3.8 Environmental Summary**

3.8.1 No environmental samples were taken.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 It was thought that modern development and landscaping may have truncated any archaeological features on site. The evaluation showed that although landscaping had taken place on the site, this is unlikely to have reduced levels significantly within the areas investigated.
- 4.1.2 Soil had evidently been stripped from Trenches 1 and 3 prior to laying of the block paved surface, but the surface slope and the levels within Trench 2 (which was on grass with surviving soils) suggests little underlying natural sand was removed.
- 4.1.3 Trench 4 showed a small amount of truncation due to levelling for the southern car park. A steep bank to the north between the car park and the hospital buildings was evidently built up ground. At Trench 5, a good covering of subsoil and topsoil preserved the natural gravels.
- 4.1.4 Despite the apparently limited truncation within the evaluation trenches, no archaeological features (or finds) were discovered. The site's distance from Sudbury's medieval core and any water sources and its underlying moderate natural slope may explain this.
- 4.1.5 The trenches in the north of the site were positioned between detected services and standing buildings. The below-ground impact of these is probably greater than that seen in the trenches.

### 4.2 Recommendations

- 4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the Consultant (CgMS) and the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service.

## APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS	2016	Geology of Britain Viewer, <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a> [accessed 21/03/2016]
Craven, J.A.	2012	<i>St Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury: Desk-Based Assessment</i> SCCAS Report No. 2012/104
Jago, S.	2015	<i>Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation: St Leonard's Hospital, Newton Road, Sudbury, Suffolk</i> , CgMs Report WB/SJ/21715

## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-245724		
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation at St Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	17-03-2016	Finish	18-03-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	SUY154	Planning App. No.	B/14/00585/FUL
HER No.	ESF23697	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
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...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Sudbury	St Leonard's Hospital, Newton Road Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2RL	
Parish	Sudbury		
HER	Suffolk		
Study Area	0.48ha	National Grid Reference	TL 8777 4138

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Abby Antrobus (SCC)
Project Design Originator	Sarah Jago/William Bedford (CgMs)
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay (OA East)
Supervisor	Stuart Ladd (OA East)

### Project Archives

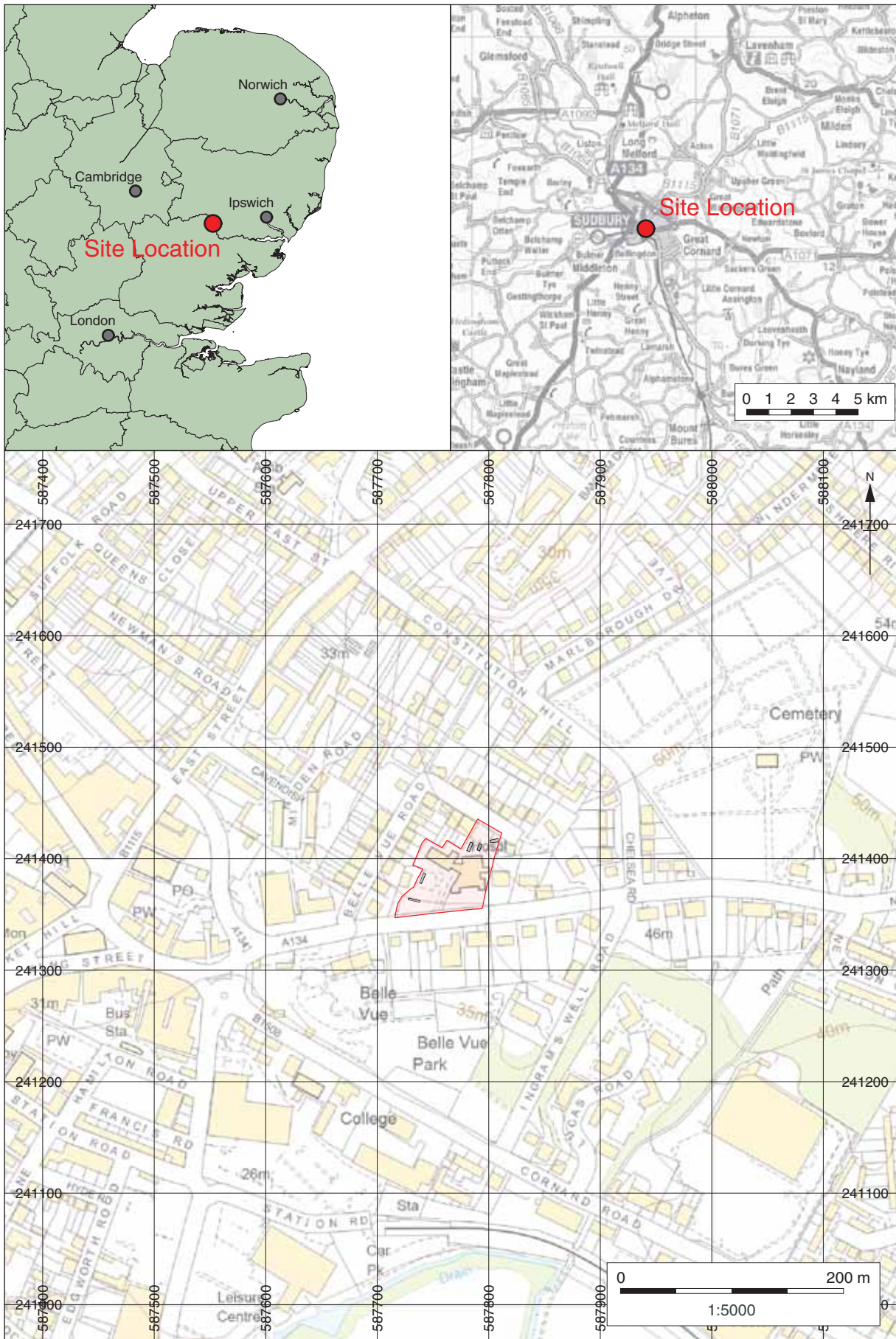
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Suffolk County Stores	OA East	Suffolk County Stores
SUY154	SUY154	SUY154

### 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"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016. All rights reserved. License number AL 10001998

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



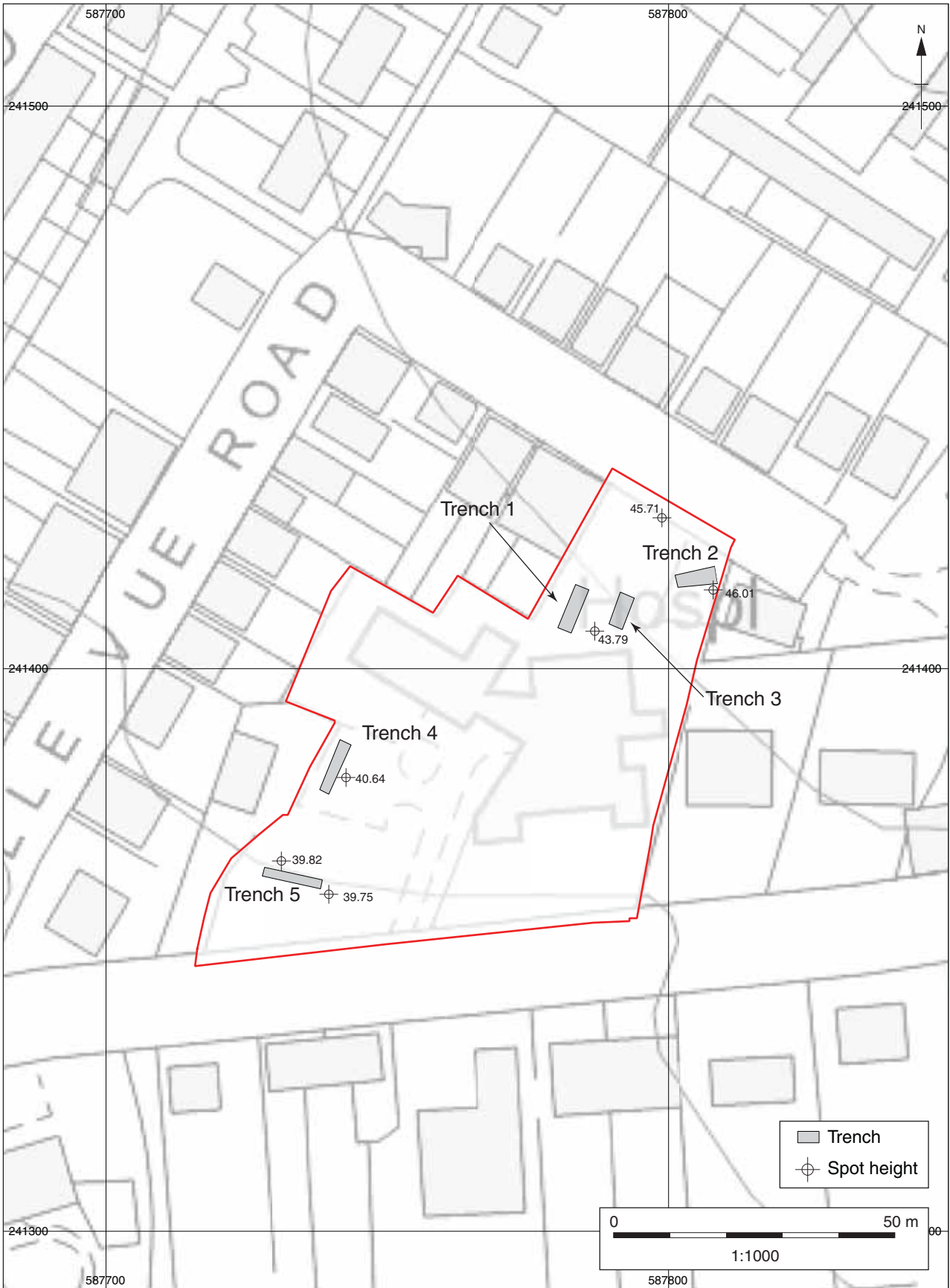


Figure 2: Trench layout



Plate 1: Trench 1, view north-northeast



Plate 2: Trench 2, view northeast



Plate 3: Trench 3, view north-northeast



Plate 4: Trench 4, view north-northeast



Plate 5: Trench 5, view 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@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto:info@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1QD

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

### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIFA  
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a  
Private Limited Company, N<sup>o</sup>: 1618597  
and a Registered Charity, N<sup>o</sup>: 285627*