

# Plot 100, Alwalton Hill, Peterborough



## Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report



September 2017

**Client: CgMS Consulting on  
behalf of Roxhill  
Developments Ltd**

OA East Report No: 2134  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-295208  
NGR: TL 1538 9432

**Plot 100, Alwalton Hill, Peterborough**

*Archaeological Investigation and Recording*

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*Report Date: September 2017*

**Report Number:** 2134  
**Site Name:** Plot 100, Alwaton Hill, Peterborough  
**HER Event No:** N/A  
**Date of Works:** March 2017  
**Client Name:** CgMS Consulting on behalf of Roxhill Developments Ltd  
**Client Ref:** N/A  
**Planning Ref:** 09/01369/OUT  
**Grid Ref:** TL 1538 9432  
**Site Code:** PET HOF 17  
**Finance Code:** PET HOF 17  
**Receiving Body:** Peterborough City HER  
**Accession No:** N/A  
**Prepared by:** Nicholas Cox  
**Position:** Supervisor  
**Date:** April 2017  
**Checked by:** James Drummond-Murray  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** April 2017  
**Signed:**



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## Summary

*Between 27th March and 29th March 2017, OA East carried out a programme of archaeological investigation and recording within the development area of Plot 100, Great Haddon, Peterborough. The investigation was carried out during stripping of topsoil and subsoil. The development was 4.83 hectares in area (TL 1538 9432). Previous investigations to the west (OAE 2014) found Iron Age remains and a geophysical survey (Stratascan 2016) indicated the presence of further remains to the south and south-west of the development area. A watching brief on the plot to the south found no archaeological features (OAE 2016).*

*The investigation revealed no archaeological features at all but a single Roman coin was recovered from the subsoil.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 A programme of archaeological investigation and recording was conducted within development Plot 100, east of Alwalton Hill, Fletton Parkway, Peterborough. The plot had a total area of 4.83 hectares (TL 1538 9432; Fig. 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 The investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City HER (2016), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2016).
- 1.1.3 The site archive is currently held by OA East. It will be deposited with Peterborough Museum in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 Great Haddon (the Site) is located approximately 1km to the south-west of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The Site lies within arable fields bisected by a track in an area of high ground (c. 22mOD), located within gently a rolling landscape.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site comprises Oxford Clay formation, overlain by river terrace deposits (British geological survey).  
(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

The following information is drawn from *Iron Age Remains at Great Haddon* (Stocks-Morgan 2015) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (Drummond-Murray 2016) updated to incorporate the House of Fraser plot watching brief (Cox 2016).

- 1.3.1 A full Historic Environment Record (HER) search was completed in a 1km radius of the site. A summary of the results is given below. A brief description of Iron Age sites within a larger radius of the Site is also provided, as these are the primary archaeological remains identified in the area.

#### ***HER Search***

- 1.3.2 Two separate findspots, both of which comprise coins and pottery fragments, have been recorded c.100m to the east, while within 0.25km and to the north of the Site a small assemblage of post-medieval tile, pottery and an iron stud were found.
- 1.3.3 To the south-east of the site a multi-period settlement site (CHER10384; Ingham 2008) occupied from the Iron Age through to the early medieval period has been identified by geophysics and subsequent excavations. Further Anglo-Saxon finds were recorded at Haddon Lodge, to the south-west (CHER09748A).
- 1.3.4 Medieval ridge and furrow has been recorded to the west of the A1 (CHER08752), while more recent evidence includes a World War II bombing decoy to the east in Alwalton (MCB15176).

#### ***Middle Iron Age Sites in the Vicinity***

- 1.3.5 Identified Middle Iron Age sites along the Nene Valley include Orton Longueville, Werrington, Yaxley and Fengate; specifically Vicarage Farm and Cats Water.
- 1.3.6 The remains of a farmstead and associated occupation features were encountered at Orton Longueville, 2.4km to the north-east (Mackreth 2001). Werrington, 10km to the north, comprised a square enclosure, approximately 70m by 70m which contained a

roundhouse and large penannular ditch (Mackreth 1988). The settlement at Broadway, Yaxley, located 3km to the south-east, consisted of a smaller square enclosure which contained a roundhouse and a possible metal-working area, with an outlying field system (Phillips 2014).

- 1.3.7 The site at Cats Water revealed remains of a significant farmstead, while at Vicarage Farm a smaller settlement mainly comprising ditches and pits was recorded (Pryor 1984).

#### ***Latest Iron Age / Early Roman in the Vicinity***

- 1.3.8 All of these Middle Iron Age sites had later settlements within a 0.5km radius of them, suggesting a level of settlement shift. Perhaps significantly, in relation to the current site, is the presence of a large multi-phased settlement located 0.5km to the west in Haddon (Hinman 2003; Fig. 1). This site was composed of several structures and enclosures which continued in use for the majority of the Roman period.

- 1.3.9 The site was subject to geophysical survey which showed Iron Age occupation to the south (Richardson 2016) but little was evident within the area of Plot 100 itself.

#### ***Previous Work***

- 1.3.10 A similar watching brief was carried out during the stripping of the House of Fraser plot directly to the south of Plot 100. This found no evidence of human activity apart from a modern field drain system (Cox 2016).

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank CgMs, which commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks are also extended to Winvic, who undertook the excavation works and allowed sufficient time for archaeological recording. Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City Historic Environment Record monitored the site and provided advice on the project. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray, and the fieldwork was undertaken by the author and David Browne.

## **2 AIM AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims**

- 2.1.1 The general aim of the investigation was to preserve by record any archaeological evidence revealed within areas of the scheme where topsoil was removed. More specific project aims were to:
- establish, as far as reasonably possible, the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the drill pits
  - establish the impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits
  - recover palaeo-environmental remains that could be used to determine local environment conditions
  - recover artefacts to help develop a typological series within the region

## 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The WSI required the continuous observation of topsoil and subsoil stripping of development area, followed by the investigation and recording of any archaeological features revealed.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 No site survey was required.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces, and features were scanned with a metal detector. A single coin of Roman date was recovered.
- 2.2.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of general views of the site.
- 2.2.6 Due to the lack of archaeological features no environmental samples were taken.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were mostly dry.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Summary

- 3.1.1 The scheme consisted of an area of 48,300 sq.m, covering an extension of an access road leading off the existing roundabout and the construction plot itself to the north. This was 294m north to south and 265m east to west at its widest points (Fig.2).
- 3.1.2 No archaeological features were found within the area of stripping.

#### 3.2 Finds Summary

- 3.2.1 A single coin of Roman date was recovered from the subsoil during the stripping.

PETHOF17: Cua Coin SF1 (1)

*Copper Alloy:* Recovered from topsoil layer (1) a single Roman Radiate coin was identified and recorded. Heavily corroded and abraded the coin is sub-circular in shape and broken along the lower left edge. Due to the condition it is impossible to identify with certainty as to which specific emperor the coin depicts. As such a broad date of c. AD260-296 can be suggested.

*Further Work:* No further work is suggested.

*Conservation:* the coin is well packed and stable; and require no cleaning or conservation.

*Catalogue:*

SF 1:Obverse, head facing right, radiate crown. Date: c. AD260-296 (Mid to Late C3)Topsoil Layer (1) Wgt. 2.3 gramme

#### 3.3 Environmental Summary

- 3.3.1 As no archaeological features were found no environmental samples were taken.

### 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The investigation produced no evidence of archaeological activity within the building plot.
- 4.1.2 Evidence from other sources indicates that there is extensive activity in the surrounding area with the multiple phase iron age settlement to the north-west (Stocks-Morgan 2015) and two areas of activity to the south and south-west apparent on geophysics (Richardson 2016).
- 4.1.3 This would imply that the investigation area likely lies in an area of agricultural land between several separate settlements.



## APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cox, N., 2016, *House of Fraser Plot, Great Haddon, Archaeological Investigation and Recording*. OA East Report 1975

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Richardson, T., 2016, *Great Haddon, Peterborough, Geophysical Survey Report*, Stratascan

Stocks-Morgan, H., 2015, *Iron Age Settlement Remains at Great Haddon, Peterborough: Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design*. OA East Report 1732

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## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-295208			
Project Name	Plot 100, Alwalton Hill, Peterborough			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	27-03-2017	Finish	29-03-2017
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PETHOF17	Planning App. No.	09/01369/OUT
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Urban Commercial

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input checked="" 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
None	Select period...	Coin	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Peterborough	New Road off Fletton Parkway Peterborough PE7 3AG	
Parish	Orton Waterville		
HER	Peterborough City		
Study Area	48300 sq.m	National Grid Reference	TL 1538 9432

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Peterborough City HER
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Nicholas Cox

## Project Archives

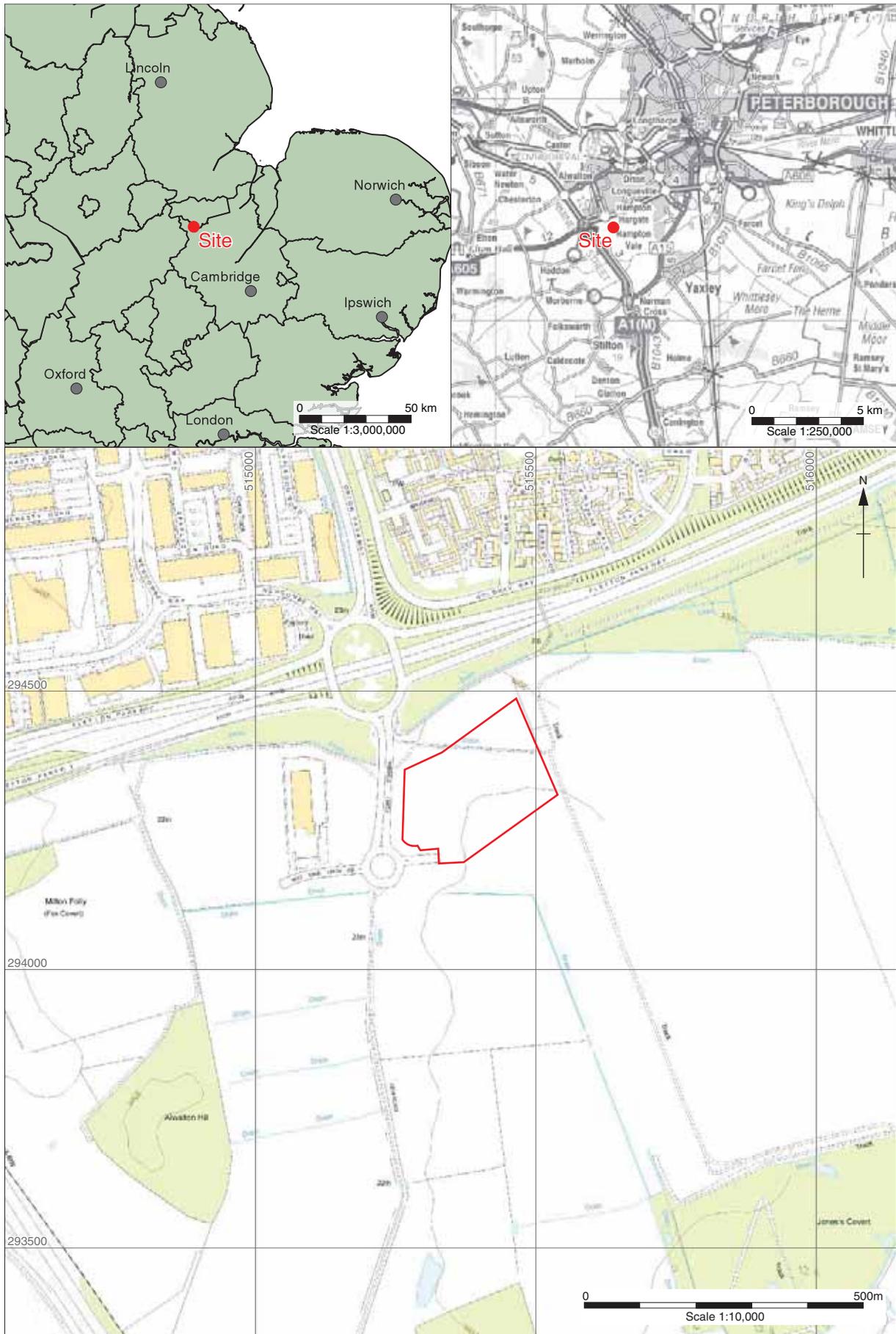
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Peterborough Museum	OA East	Peterborough Museum
PETHOF17	PETHOF17	PETHOF17

## Archive Contents/Media

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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"/>
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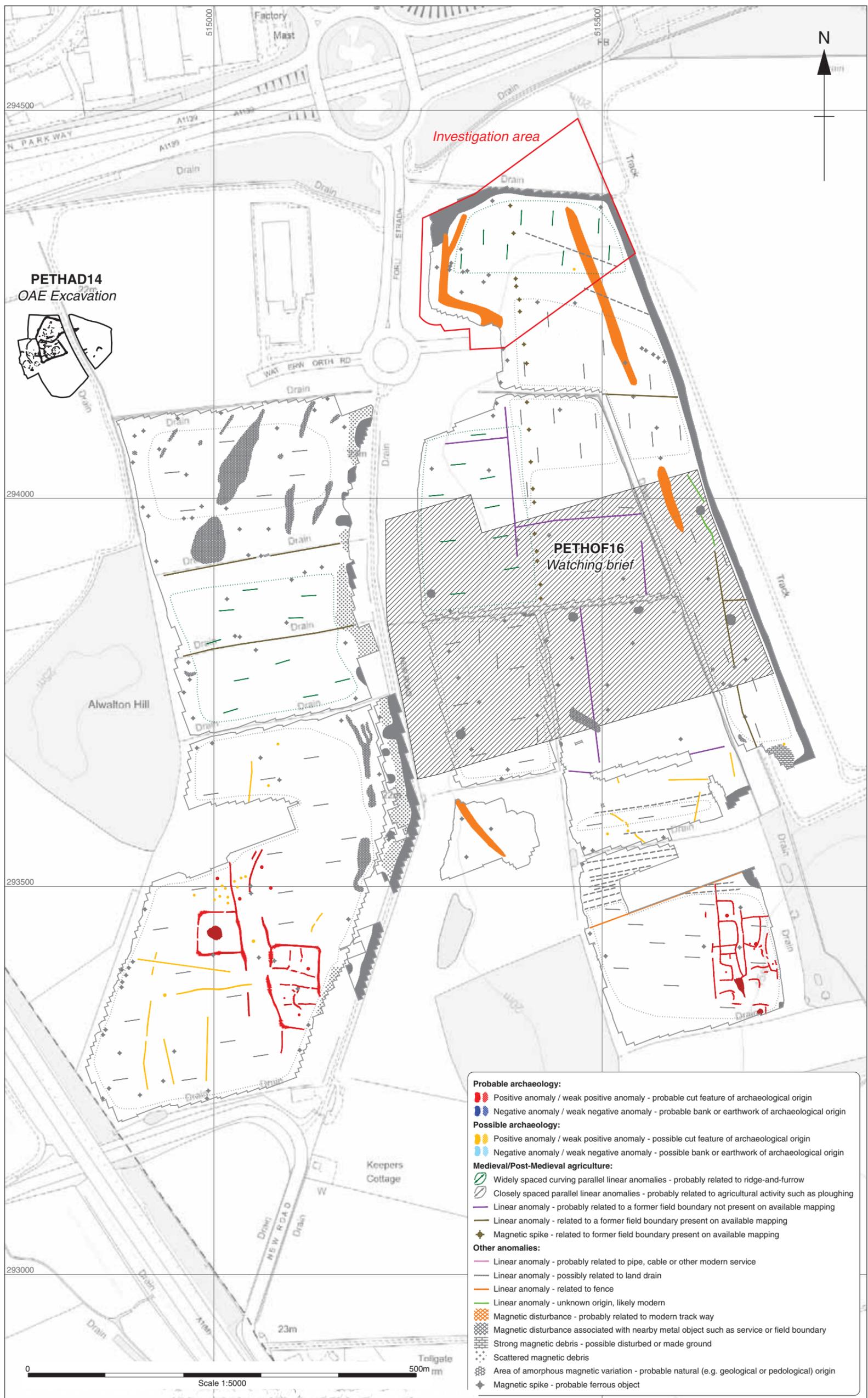
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Plan of investigation area



Plate 1: General site view from south-west, looking east



Plate 2: General site view, from south-west, looking north-east



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