

7 Church Street Chesterton Cambridge



Archaeological Evaluation Report



August 2014

Client: Stoneglens Ltd.

OA East Report No: 1649

OASIS No: oxfordar3-187654

NGR: 546183, 259705

7 Church Street, Chesterton, Cambridge

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: August 2014

Report Number: 1649
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HER Event No: ECB 4225
Date of Works: August 2014
Client Name: Stoneglen Ltd.
Client Ref: 17144
Planning Ref: 14/0575/FUL
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Site Code: CAMCHS14
Finance Code: CAMCHS14
Receiving Body: CCC Stores, Landbeach
Accession No: -
Prepared by: Louise Bush
Position: Project Officer
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Checked by: Richard Mortimer
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: August 2014
Signed:

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Summary

On the 14th August 2014 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in the garden of 7 Church Street, Chesterton, Cambridge (TL 4618 5970). The archaeological works were carried out prior to the demolition of the property in order to construct four new dwellings on the site.

Modern services, mature trees and areas of paving across the garden restricted the land available to sample. The two excavated trenches revealed the site to have been heavily quarried during the 17-18th centuries with high levels of lightly abraded 16th to 18th century pottery, glass, brick and animal bone being recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 7 Church Street, Chesterton, Cambridge (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Planning Application 14/0575/FUL), supplemented by a WSI prepared by OA East.
- 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 on a bedrock geology of Gault Formation Mudstone. This is overlain by superficial River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2014).
- 1.2.2 The site is located on roughly flat land at a height of around 7.8m OD. The topography slowly drops away as it moves southward toward the River Cam.

1.3 Archaeological background

Iron Age

- 1.3.1 While residual worked flint and Bronze Age pottery have been found in unstratified contexts (MCB 15544), the earliest datable features recorded in Chesterton are an Iron Age pit and ditch found during excavations of a site on the junction of Union Lane and Scotland Road (MCB 17140), 250 metres north of the Church Street site. A significant amount of residual pottery was also recovered during the excavation.

Roman

- 1.3.2 Roman pottery has been found at two locations along Union Lane, but the associated features were minimal: a pit (MCB 15544), residual pottery (MCB 15564).

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.3 Saxon land division ditches have been identified on the junction of Union Lane and High Street (MCB 15980), and 'narrow-spaced property boundaries at right angles to Union Road', suggest properties along Union Lane from the Late Saxon period (MCB 15544).

Medieval

- 1.3.4 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 (DCB 205) incorporating the Chesterton Tower (DCB 04412), St Andrew's Church (MCB 5558), the site of the original Vicarage (3716) and the Old Manor (03411). All of these lie within 150 metres of the site at 7 Church Street.

- 1.3.5 There is also medieval activity along Union Lane and High Street, including occupation aligned on Union Lane (MCB 15564, 15544). Other medieval activity nearby is centred on gravel extraction (MCB 15236, 15544, 17902).

Post-medieval

- 1.3.6 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, CHER 04871); Chesterton House built in the late 18th century, and extensively replaced in the 19th (CHER 04954); the present Vicarage (CHER 03716); the Old Manor House (17th century: CHER 04966), the Manor House (also 17th century: CHER 03411), and Lovers Walk (19th century: CB 15543).
- 1.3.7 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 Jason Frost of Bloomhall, Chris Senior of DPA Architects and Drew Moore of Stoneglen Ltd. for commissioning and funding the archaeological works.
- 1.4.2 Machine excavation was carried out by Grant Miller JCB hire. Fieldwork was undertaken by the author and the excavation was monitored by Dan McConnell of CHET..

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this trial 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 The Brief required that 35 linear metres of trenching be excavated, giving a 5% sample of the total site area (of 1,400 sqm). Due to the presence of modern services, mature trees and areas of paving across the garden, the proposed trench plan of three trenches (measuring 20m, 10m and 5m in length) could not be adhered to. Instead, two trenches (measuring 18m and 22.5m) were opened, giving a sample of just over 5%.
- 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 visually scanned for finds.
- 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.

3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 Archaeology of a post-medieval date was encountered across the two trenches (Fig. 2). Natural geology, consisting of orange gravels, was seen at depths of between 0.6m (in Trench 2) and 1m (in Trench 1).
- 3.1.2 Topsoil (01) consisted of a dark brown grey sandy silt which contained high levels of post-medieval and modern debris. The subsoil (02) was made up of mid orange brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions.
- 3.1.3 A list of relevant trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 Trenches 1 and 2

- 3.2.1 Both Trenches 1 and 2 revealed evidence for intensive quarrying across the site.
- 3.2.2 The entirety of Trench 1 (Plate 1) bar the south-eastern most end was taken up by quarries (04). The fills (03) consisted of a mix of slumps and backfill all of which contained finds of a 16th to 18th century date. The quarry was excavated to a depth of 0.7m but the base was not seen.
- 3.2.3 Trench 2 (Plate 2) also contained quarrying (04) with similar dumps of fills (03). In this trench the quarrying was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. Again, the base of the quarry was not found.

3.3 Finds Summary

Pottery

- 3.3.1 The archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of thirteen sherds (weighing 0.996kg). This collection was just a sample of the pottery seen on site during machining. The assemblage was recovered from the topsoil (01) and quarry fill 03. The pottery spans the mid 15th to the end of the 18th century, with the largest group (by weight) dating from the mid 16th to 18th century sherds.

Animal bone (by Chris Faine)

- 3.3.2 Twenty fragments of bone (weighing 1.18kg) were collected during the archaeological works, with eleven being identifiable to species. The largest number of fragments were recovered from context 01. This context primarily consisted of juvenile cattle humeri along with a portion of adult femur and vertebra. A single sheep 1st phalanx was also recovered. Context 03 contained a partial adult cattle tibia and femur, along with two sheep 1st phalanges.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works at 7 Church Street, Chesterton, Cambridge have revealed evidence for intensive quarrying across the entire site dating to around the 17th century.
- 4.1.2 Medieval and post-medieval gravel extraction in Chesterton is well attested within the archaeological record. Large medieval quarry pits have been uncovered during evaluation investigations at Scotland Road/Union Lane (MCB 15236). Small-scale late medieval and early post-medieval gravel extraction were also seen on the High Street at the former Sargeant's Garage (CB 15544). Evidence for 18th and 19th century quarrying was found during an evaluation at 132 Scotland Road (CB 15528). Further to this, an evaluation on land to the rear of 25-32 Fallowfield Close (MCB 16498) also revealed extensive gravel quarrying from the late post-medieval period. Quarrying starting in the medieval period and going on through to the late 19th century was recorded during archaeological works at Green End Road (MCB 19557). Quarry pits have also been uncovered on Chesterton High Street (MCB 15911).
- 4.1.3 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1885 shows the site to be in existence, but without a dwelling on it. Therefore the quarrying encountered during the archaeological works would have been completed prior to this date.

APPENDIX A. FINDS ASSEMBLAGES

A.1 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

- A.1.1 The evaluation produced an assemblage of bottle glass, weighing 0.173kg, from two contexts. The glass recovered is domestic in nature.

Context	Weight (kg)	Description	Date
1	0.055	Press moulded, conical, hexagonal ink bottle with a small section of fire-cracked rim surviving, indicating it would have been closed with a cork stopper. In clear slightly blue-green tinted glass.	c. 19th-early 20th century
3	0.118	Shard of body and near complete base from a press moulded bottle in clear, slightly blue-green tinted glass. There is no surviving writing on the body shard, but the base shows the raised numbers 73.	19th-20th century
Total	0.173		

Table 1: Glass

A.2 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- A.2.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of thirteen sherds, weighing 0.996kg. The assemblage spans the mid 15th to the end of the 18th century, although the largest group by weight within this broad date range are the mid 16th-18th century sherds (ten sherds, 0.931kg). The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is moderate at approximately 0.076kg.

Methodology

- A.2.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- A.2.3 Recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types using Cambridgeshire's type series (Spoerry forthcoming). All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Results

- A.2.4 The assemblage is domestic in nature, indicating low levels of pottery deposition from the 16th century onwards. Post-medieval Redwares were recovered from the topsoil (context 01) and from the quarry **04**, context 03, alongside a single sherd of Cistercian-type ware that dates to the 16th century, indicating that the material deposited into the

quarry pits included early post-medieval material alongside the more broadly dated Post-medieval Redwares. The quarries may have been backfilled from the 17th century onwards.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Context Date Range
1	Post-medieval Redware	Jar rim sherd	3	0.233	Mid 16th-18th century
	Post-medieval Redware	Bowl body sherd	3	0.174	
	East Anglian Redware	Jug body sherd	2	0.044	
3	Post-medieval Redware	Bowl rim sherd	2	0.467	Mid 16th-18th century
	Post-medieval Redware	Bowl body sherd	2	0.057	
	Cistercian-type ware	Drinking vessel rim sherd	1	0.021	
Total			13	0.996	

Table 2: Pottery assemblage

A.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

By Carole Fletcher

A.3.1 A small assemblage of clay pipe was recovered during the archaeological works.

Context	Stem Fragments	Bowl Fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
3	1		0.010	Not closely datable
		1	0.012	Dating is uncertain due to the small amount of bowl present but may be post-1700
Total	1	1	0.02	

Table3: Clay tobacco pipe

APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained evidence for quarrying. Natural consisted of orange gravel.				Avg. depth (m)		0.7
				Width (m)		1.5
				Length (m)		18
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Pottery	
3	Fill	-	0.7	Quarry fill	Pottery	
4	Cut	-	-	Quarry	-	-
Trench						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contained evidence for quarrying. Natural consisted of orange gravel.				Avg. depth (m)		0.9
				Width (m)		1.5
				Length (m)		22.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Pottery	
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Fill	-	0.9	Quarry fill	Pottery	
4	Cut	-	-	Quarry	-	-

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Medieval Pottery Research Group 1998 *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic
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- Medieval Pottery Research Group 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording,
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- Wiseman, R. 2014 *Written Scheme of Investigation Archaeological Evaluation: 7
Church Street, Chesterton.* OA East. Unpublished

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-187654		
Project Name	7 Church Street, Chesterton, Cambridge		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	14-08-2014	Finish	14-08-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMCHS14	Planning App. No.	14/0575/FUL
HER No.	ECB 4225	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
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
Quarry pit	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...	Glass	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...	Bone	None

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	South Cambridge	7 Church Street Cambridge CB4 1DT
Parish	Chesterton	
HER	Cambridgeshire HER	
Study Area	0.14 ha	National Grid Reference
		546183, 259705

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	Rob Wiseman
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

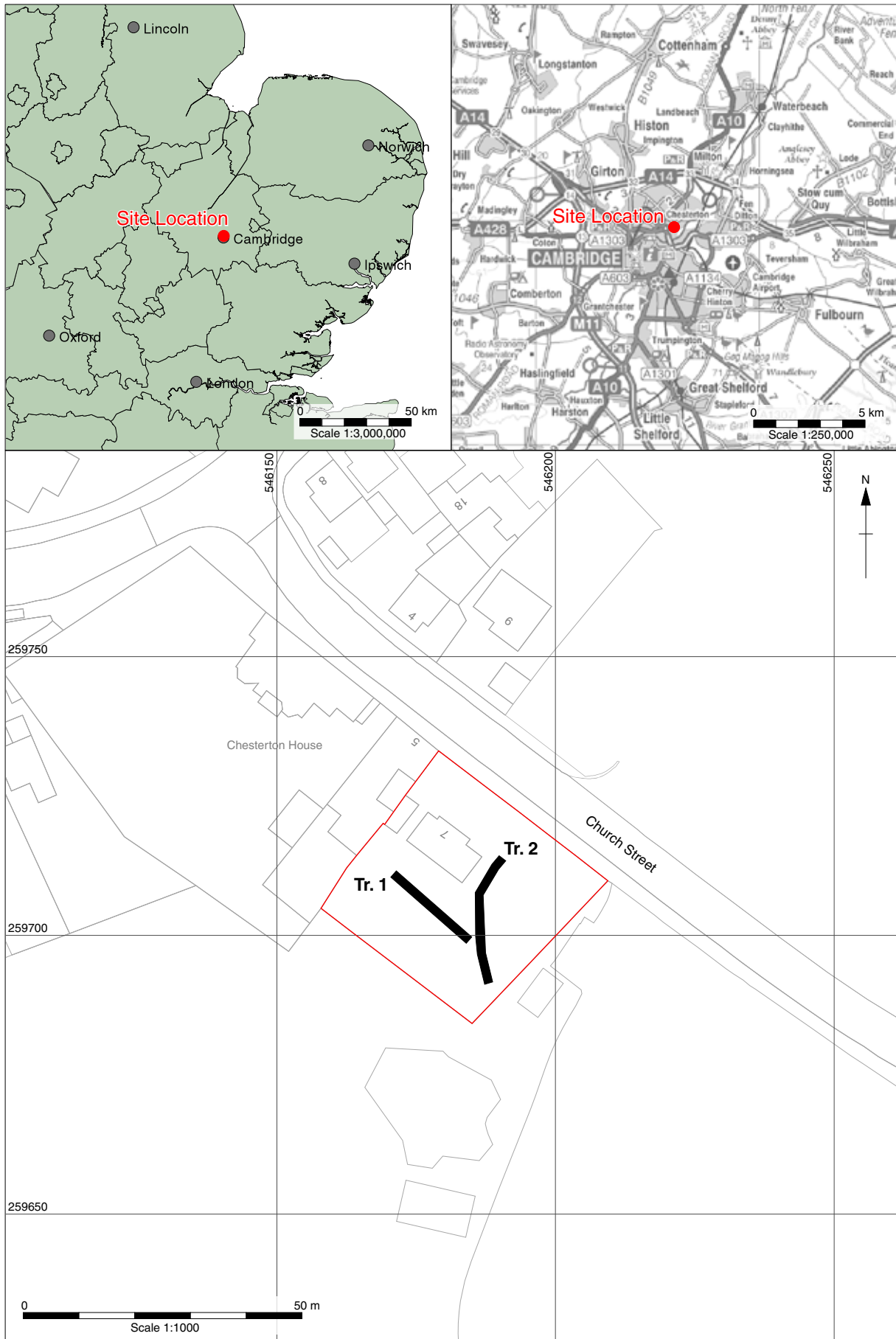
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC county store	OA East	CCC county store
CAMCHS14	CAMCHS14	CAMCHS14

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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"/>
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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"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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<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:



Ordnance Survey. © Crown copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Licence number 0100031673

Figure 1: Site location showing trenches (black) and development area (outlined red)

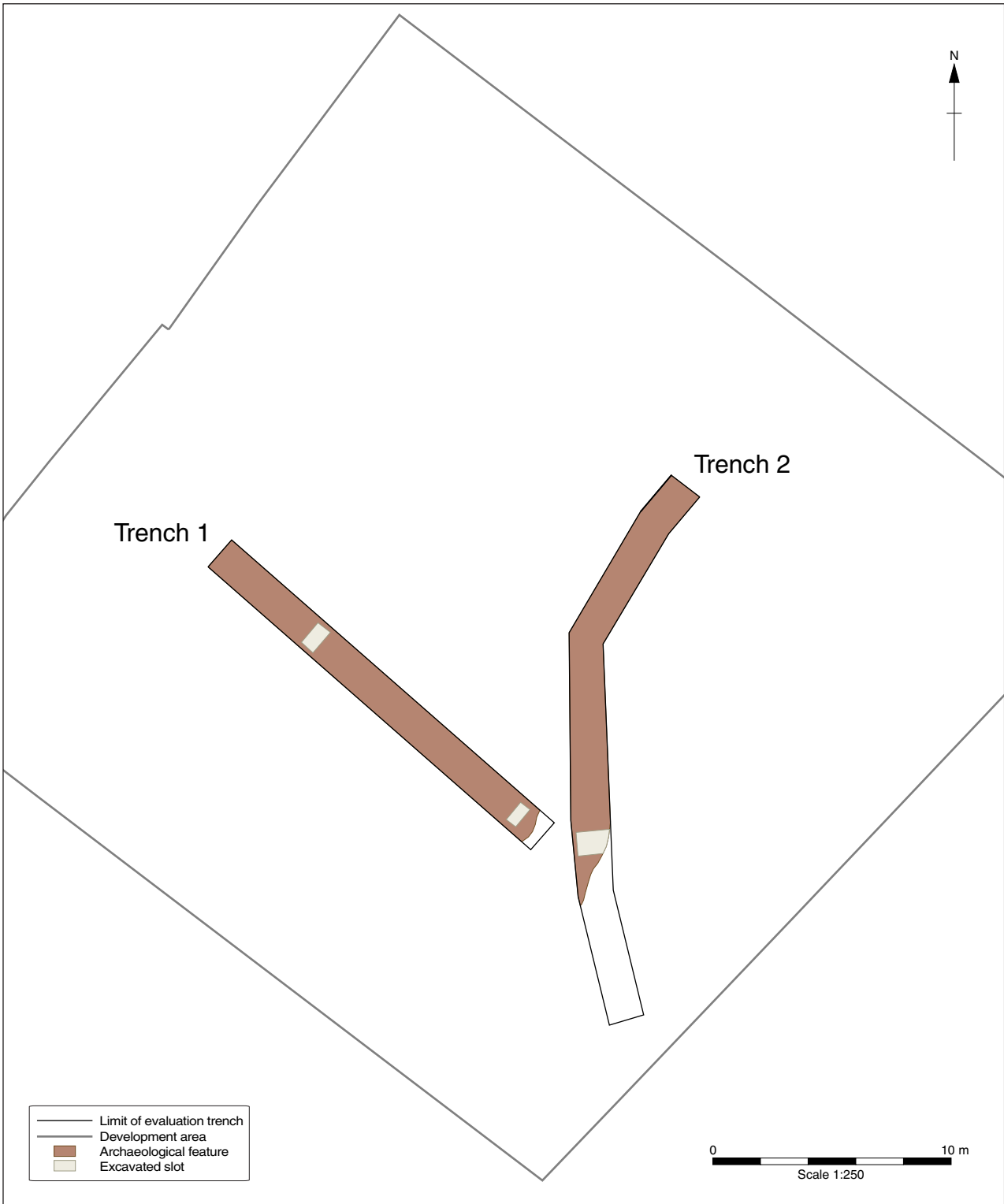


Figure 2: Trench plans



Plate 1: Trench 1 (looking south-east)



Plate 2: Trench 2 (looking north-northeast)



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