



# Land south of 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Cambridgeshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

September 2017

**Client: Allan Lean**

Issue No: 1

OA Report No: 2129

OASIS Reference No: oxfordar3-293621

NGR: TL 49992 86384







Client Name: Allan Lean  
Document Title: Land south of 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Cambridgeshire  
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Date: September 2017  
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## Land south of 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Cambridgeshire

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Written by Louise Bush BA MA MCIfA*

*With illustrations by Katie Hutton BA*

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## Summary

On the 21st August 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land opposite 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Cambridgeshire. A total of two trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed dwellings. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

## Acknowledgements

OA East would like to thank Allan Lean for commissioning this project and to Graham and Brenda Stapleton for providing access to the site. Machine excavation was undertaken by Lattenbury Services. The fieldwork was carried out by the author and the site survey by Gareth Rees.

The project was managed by Tom Phillips, while Gemma Stewart monitored the trenching on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET).

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA East was commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land opposite 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Cambridgeshire (TL 49992 86384), ahead of the construction of two residential detached dwellings, with associated driveways and gardens (Figs 1 & 2).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 16/01115/FUL). A Brief was set by Gemma Stewart of CHET and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Bush 2017).

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the eastern side of the village of Pymoor, in East Cambridgeshire, around 3.5km north-west of Little Downham and 6.5km west of Littleport. The development site (of 0.13ha), which sits on flat land at 3m OD, is currently pasture land and bounded to the east, west and south by fields. To the north is Pymoor Lane.
- 1.2.2 The site has a bedrock geology of Kimmeridge Clay Formation mudstone, with superficial deposits of Oadby Member diamicton (British Geological Survey online map viewer).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following provides a summary of the archaeological background for the area surrounding the site, based on information provided by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

#### *Bronze Age*

- 1.3.2 Aerial photographs have recorded a 35m diameter ring ditch (CHER 07133), around 500m south-east of the site. A second ring ditch (CHER 07132), measuring 25m in diameter, is recorded a further 250m to the east. The findspot of an Early Bronze Age rapier (CHER 07130) has also been recorded on land 550m south of the site.

#### *Romano-British*

- 1.3.3 The cropmark of a probable temple, comprising a double-ditched square enclosure with internal ring ditch structures (CHER 04518) is located c.950m south-east of the site.

#### *Post-medieval and modern*

- 1.3.4 A number of buildings are recorded in the vicinity of the site and are shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885: around 280m to the west is the site of a blacksmith's workshop (MCB 23325), Denmark Farm (MCB 23326) is around 370m to the north-west, the Knife and Steele beer house (MCB 23324) located c.290m to the west, a corn mill (MCB 23323) c.33m to the south-west, the Mission School Room (MCB 23328), around 625m to the north-west and Mount Pleasant Farm (MCB 23327) c.680m to the south-west.

- 1.3.5 Other extant buildings in the locality include a derelict windmill (CHER 07132), which is situated c.116m to the east of the site and a Methodist chapel (CB 14904) c.330m south-west.

## **2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims**

- 2.1.1 The project sought to establish the character, date, state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The scheme of works detailed below aimed to:
- i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains
  - ii. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
  - iii. provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
  - iv. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

### **2.2 Methodology**

- 2.2.1 A total of two trenches, measuring 20 x 1.6m each were excavated across the proposed development area. This amounted to a 5% sample of the 0.13ha site.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The survey was carried out with a Leica GS08 GPS.
- 2.2.4 Bucket sampling (of 40 litres), along with metal detecting was undertaken on the topsoil across both trenches.
- 2.2.5 Trenches were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Digital photographs were taken of all trenches.



### 3 RESULTS

- 3.1.1 A natural geology of blue orange clay was overlain by a mid grey silty clay topsoil (01), measuring 0.3m in thickness, across both trenches. The topsoil was highly compacted and devoid of any modern debris.
- 3.1.2 The bucket sampling did not identify any unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.3 No archaeological features were identified in either trench.

### 4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 Although Pymoor is located on a Fen islet, it would appear that the site itself has not been occupied or utilised prior to the post-medieval period when extensive north-south aligned fields were laid out. The field the site is located in is under pasture, and the lack of post-medieval or modern debris in the topsoil would indicate that it has been for an extensive period of time.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	1.6
					Depth (m)	0.3
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## APPENDIX B      BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |                           |      |  |
|---------------------------|------|--|
| British Geological Survey | n.d. | <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i> . Available:<br><a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a><br>Accessed 22/8/17 |
| Bush, L.                  | 2017 | <i>Land to the South of 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor: Written Scheme of Investigation</i> . OA East. Unpublished   |
| Stewart, G.               | 2017 | <i>Land to the South of 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Downham: Brief for Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CHET. Unpublished   |

## APPENDIX C

## OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-293621		
Project Name	Land to the south of 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor		
Start of Fieldwork	21-08-17	End of Fieldwork	21-08-17
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	DOWPYM17	Planning App. No.	16/01115/FUL
HER Number	ECB 5198	Related Numbers	-

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Residential
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
n/a	Choose an item.	n/a	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) 25 Pymoor Lane, Pymoor, Ely CB6 1EE
District	East Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Downham	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	1,330 sqm	
National Grid Ref	TL 49992 86384	

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart
Project Design Originator	Louise Bush



Project Manager  
Project Supervisor

Tom Phillips  
Louise Bush

## Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC store	ECB 5198
Digital Archive	OA East	DOWPYM17
Paper Archive	CCC store	ECB 5198

### Physical Contents

#### Present?

#### Digital files associated with Finds

#### Paperwork associated with Finds

Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

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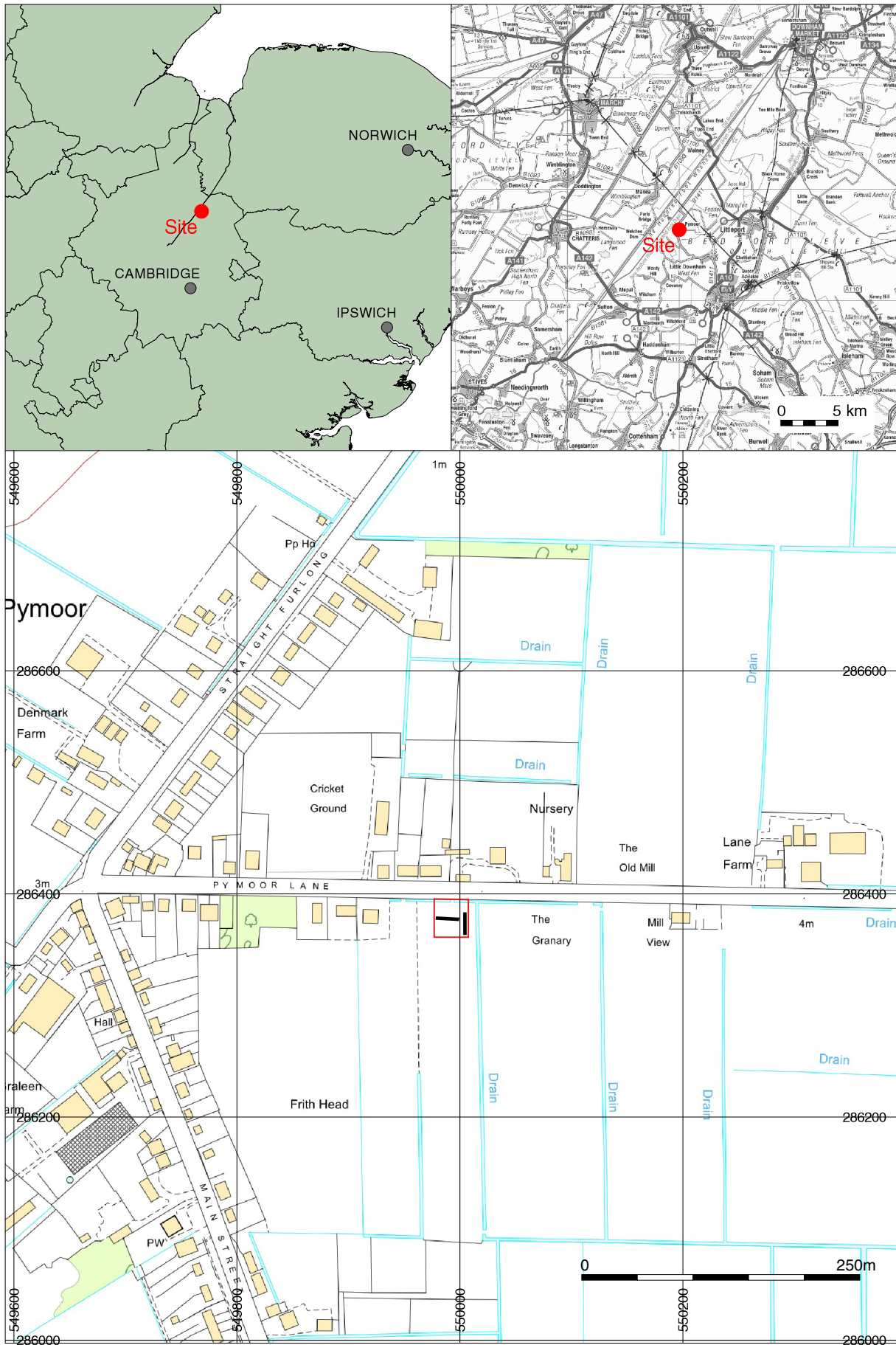
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Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Paper Media

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

## Further Comments



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

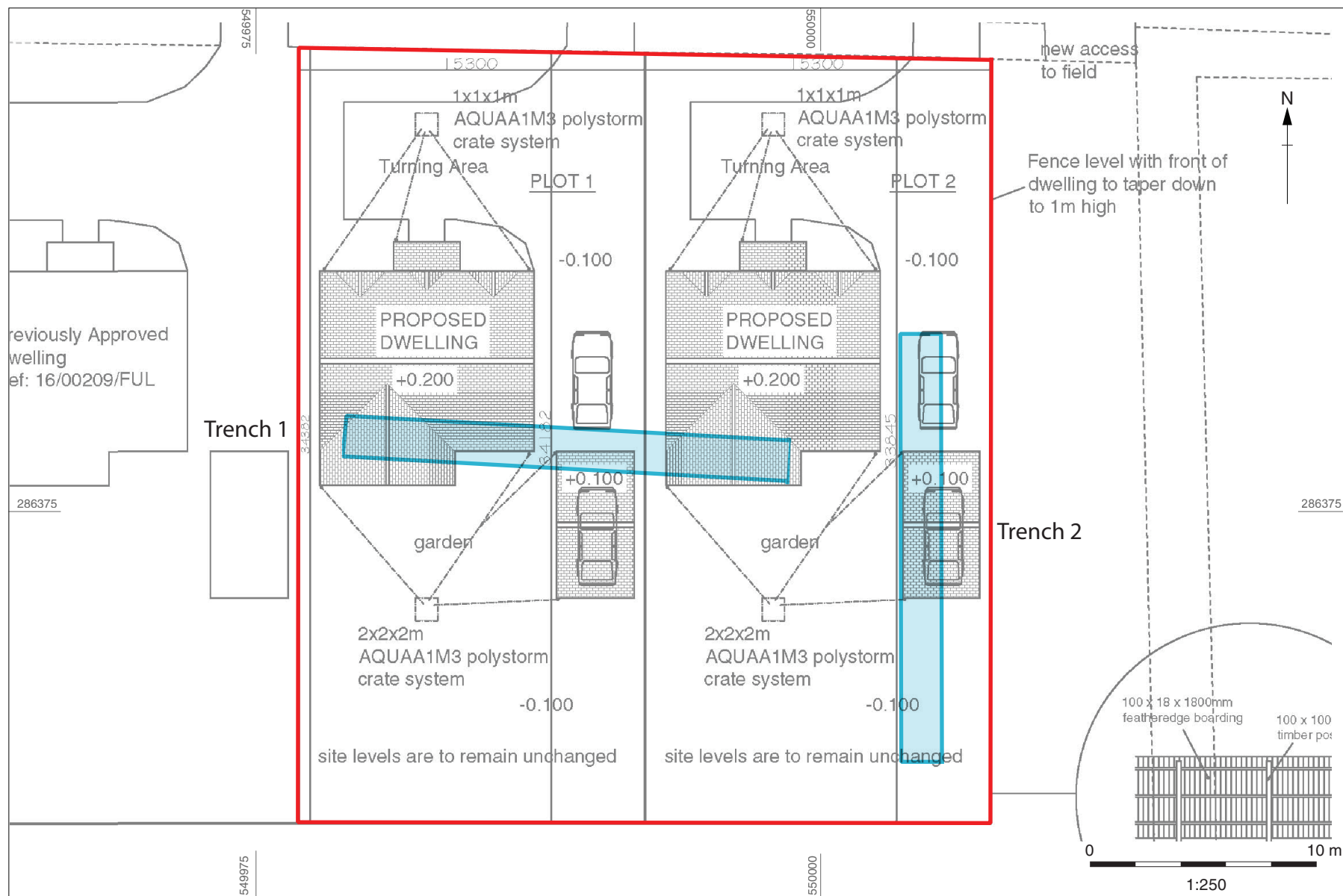


Figure 2: Trenches (blue) overlain on proposed development plot (red)





Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking west



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