



8a The Rampart, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

April 2018

Client: CB Groundworks & Construction Ltd

Issue No: 1

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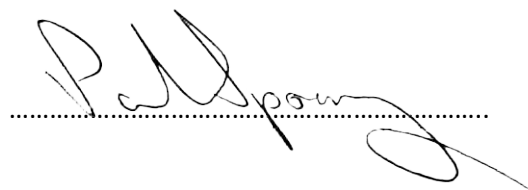


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8a The Rampart, Haddenham, Cambs

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

On 17th April 2018, Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) undertook an evaluation at 8a, The Rampart, Haddenham, prior to redevelopment of the plot for housing. A single trench was opened, totalling 31 square metres and a single sub-circular pit was revealed within the north-western corner of the trench. This pit contained 40g of medieval (12th to 14th century) pottery and 20g of lava quern. Overlying this pit and within the northern limit of the trench was a layer of relict topsoil, that contained two sherds (30g) of medieval pottery. This was in turn overlain by modern hardcore.

Major modern truncation was noted within the southern half of the trench, presumably from the construction of the housing currently situated within the area. Hydrocarbon contamination was evident throughout the trench, with the excavated pit also being affected.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank CB Groundworks & Construction Ltd for commissioning this project and providing the machinery. Thanks to Andy Thomas who produced the brief for works and monitored the project. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology East by Tom Phillips and the fieldwork was directed by the author. Illustrations were compiled by Charlotte Walton and the report was edited by Lawrence Billington.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) was commissioned by CB Groundworks & Construction Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at 8a, The Rampart, Haddenham. A single trench totalling 31 square metres was excavated within the central part of the site to identify if any non-designated heritage assets were located within the development area.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning reference 17/01562/FUL). A brief was set by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA (Blackbourn & Phillips 2018) detailing the methods by which OA proposed to meet the requirements of the brief.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The village of Haddenham lies on a prominent ridge running roughly east to west, with a spur running south-west from the village. Surrounding the high ground lies former fenland. The development area itself is situated near the eastern limit of the modern village, on top of the ridge at approximately 36mOD, with the land sloping down to the north and south. The site is currently in use as a builder's yard, with two existing buildings within the area being previous residential properties. It is bounded on all sides by residential housing.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Gault Formation, with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>; accessed 18/04/18).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is discussed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Blackbourn & Phillips 2018) and a revised version is presented below.

Early Prehistoric (Up to 800BC)

- 1.3.2 Only a small number of features have been identified within Haddenham dating earlier than the Iron Age period. Evidence was found at excavations at 40 West End, 950m north-west of the subject site, where features suggesting small scale, temporary encampments during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods were revealed (MCB 17792). Evidence for Bronze Age activity was seen at an evaluation south of Wilburton Road, 250m south-east of the subject site, which uncovered a pit containing the partial and near complete skeletons of two cows and a dog along with a sherd of probable Bronze Age pottery and a sherd of Beaker vessel (MCB 20847).

- 1.3.3 Approximately 250m to the north of the subject site, at Chewells Lane, an archaeological evaluation revealed a number of postholes, a pit and a buried soil, dated to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age period.
- 1.3.4 Findspots nearby include a Neolithic axe-head, recovered 750m south-west of the site (CHER 02036), and within the same area a Bronze Age spearhead was also recovered (CHER 02040).

Iron Age & Roman

- 1.3.5 A number of Iron Age and Roman settlement as well as findspots have been identified within 1km of the subject site. In general, the Isle of Ely and the fen-edge were well settled locations during the periods, with numerous small farmsteads known within the locality. The nearest evidence to the subject site for this was found 250m to the south-east, south of Wilburton Road (MCB 20847), where an enclosure of Late Iron Age to Roman date was identified in the northern part of a site containing pottery of a contemporary date. Similarly, the evaluation at Chewells Lane, mentioned previously, uncovered a number of Middle Iron Age ditches truncating the earlier buried soil (MCB 23822).
- 1.3.6 Approximately 750m to the north-west of the subject site, at West End (CB 15624), evidence for Roman occupation was revealed in the form of enclosure ditches and pits. Large quantities of Roman pottery were recovered as well as the remains of 14 cattle purposefully buried within a ditch. Within the same location several find spots are also recorded including the recovery of part of a beehive quern thought to be of Iron Age or Roman date (CHER 02044) along with a Roman coin (CHER 05623).
- 1.3.7 Further north of West End (950m north-west of the subject site), more Iron Age to Roman features were revealed during evaluation, with ditches, gullies and pits thought to be Iron Age in date being recorded along with enclosure ditches, pits and postholes dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age. Evidence for Roman settlement within the location was also present with boundary ditches and pits being revealed.

Medieval

- 1.3.8 Haddenham has Anglo-Saxon origins, evidenced by its name, although archaeological evidence for this origin is sparse. The excavation at the Three Kings Pub, 450m north-west of the subject sites revealed a small Early Saxon cemetery, thought to represent a familial unit (CHER 09831). Of the graves revealed, a double burial of a male and female contained a number of grave goods including a spear, knife, shield boss, amber and glass beads, a brooch, tweezers and a spindle whorl. Another nine individuals were uncovered and thought to date to the first half of the sixth century AD.
- 1.3.9 The location of Ovins Cross is located 550m south-west of the site and is Middle Saxon in date (CHER 05721). Two Saxo-Norman timber structures were identified below the medieval remains of Hinton Hall (CHER 05795a), 350m to the north-east, one of which contained two sherds of Ipswich ware pottery.
- 1.3.10 Early Anglo-Saxon evidence was also found during the Chewells Lane evaluation, 450m north of the subject site, where a large pit was excavated, containing some Saxon

pottery and a further trench that contained two large circular loom-weights (MCB 23822).

- 1.3.11 By the time of the Domesday book (1086), Haddenham was a moderate-sized village with 18 households. The village of Linden or Linden End was twice the size, located to the south of Haddenham (and now subsumed into the modern boundaries of Haddenham Village). Hinton Hall, located 450m north-east of the subject site is first mentioned in documentary sources in 1221 (CHER 05795) with many changes to the hall's design taking place in the following centuries. A survey of the surviving earthworks and building was undertaken in 1969 and the current hall is of 19th century date.
- 1.3.12 The village's focal point was The Holy Trinity church (CHER 05697), located 630m north-west of the subject site. The church has 13th century origins with changes to the transepts and chancel arch during the 15th century. A significant restoration of the church was undertaken during the 19th century. West of the church, a large medieval ditch was identified (MCB 18183) that contained a small assemblage of 12th to 14th century pottery and most probably represents an important village boundary during the medieval period.
- 1.3.13 Medieval to post-medieval features were revealed at 7-11 High Street (CB 15289) comprising pits and postholes representing typical back yard and garden activity during the period.

Post-medieval to modern

- 1.3.14 Development of the village through to the early 20th century was concentrated along the High Street, with most of the village's listed buildings being located along it (DCB765, 975, 974, 800, 798, 796, 1342), many dating to the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 1.3.15 The site of a former Pest House is recorded immediately south-east of the subject site (CHER 05660) whilst a large mound is located 80m north of the site (CHER05719). This mound is approximately 23m in diameter and stands 1.8m proud; it is thought to represent the site of a post-medieval windmill. Another mound is recorded 80m west of the site (CHER 05802), with animal bone and medieval pottery being recovered during its excavation.
- 1.3.16 Both these mounds and the Pest House are referenced on the Ordnance Survey First Edition, dated 1888-1913. The subject site is largely undeveloped on this map, although there is a small plot fronting onto The Rampart.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The principal project aim was to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any buried non-designated heritage assets that may be present within the development area, thus aiding in the decision-making process of the District Planning Department on whether further archaeological mitigation is required prior to redevelopment of the site.
- 2.1.2 This evaluation takes place within, and will contribute to, the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this region:
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24);
 - 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).

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Blackbourn & Phillips 2018) stated that two trenches totalling 25m in length were to be excavated, equivalent to a 4% sample of the area. The trenches were to be laid out as ground conditions and/or services dictated.
- 2.2.2 Upon commencement of the evaluation, the methodology had to be altered due to a significant lack of space within the working builders yard. Because of this, a single trench totalling 31 square metres was excavated, relatively centrally within the development area (Figs 1 & 2, Plates 1 & 2). The trench was excavated by a 9 tonne 360°-type excavator with a bladed ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. The trench was excavated to the top of the natural geology or archaeological deposits; whichever was encountered first. Any features found were hand excavated, drawn and photographed and all finds were retained unless identified as being modern in date. Metal detecting was undertaken across the excavated material and 90 litres of soil was taken from the trench's lower horizons and hand sorted to characterise the artefactual remains within the deposits.
- 2.2.3 Environmental samples were taken for flotation processing in order to look for any charred or mineralised ecofacts (plant remains).
- 2.2.4 The trench and any archaeological features or deposits were recorded using a Leica GS08 GPS with Smartnet capabilities.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, including a stratigraphic description of the feature and deposits found within the trench.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 A natural geology of heavy clay was found within the trench, most of which was overlain by modern hardcore or other building material. Within the northern third of the trench, a portion of surviving relict topsoil was identified above the natural geology, which was in turn overlain by a thin layer of modern building rubble.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions within the trench were generally good, although standing water ingressed into the trench within its eastern and northern limit. Furthermore, hydrocarbon contamination was present throughout the trench, having leached through the upper deposits to permeate the natural geology and archaeological deposits. The single archaeological feature was easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 Trench 1

- 3.3.1 The single trench was located quite centrally within the development area, totalling 31 sqm in size (Fig. 2). The southern and western half of the trench consisted of a mid bluish grey clay geology that was mildly contaminated with hydrocarbon (a machine-dug test pit into the geology noted at least 0.4m of the geology was contaminated). This was overlain by approximately 0.35m of modern hardcore and other building material.
- 3.3.2 Within the northern half of the trench, the mid bluish grey clay geology was cut by a small sub-circular pit (1; Fig. 2 S.1, Plate 3) measuring 0.8m long, 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep with a U-shaped profile. The sole fill (2) was a mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal, chalk and quartzite stone inclusions. A total of 40g (7 sherds) of 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered from the pit once 100% excavated, along with 12g of heavily abraded lava quern. Three charred grains were also recovered from the pit: 2 club wheat grains and a barley grain. This pit was sealed by a 0.36m thick layer of relict topsoil (3; Fig. 2, S.2, Plate 4). This layer consisted of a mid grey silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. A total of two rim sherds of a 12th to 14th century pottery vessel was recovered from the deposit, although these sherds may be residual and cannot be seen as secure dating.
- 3.3.3 Bucket sampling of the soils excavated from the trench and metal detecting of the spoil both resulted in negative findings, with no archaeological finds being recovered.

3.4 Finds & environmental summary

- 3.4.1 A total of 70g of 12th to 14th century pottery was recovered from the trench, along with 12g of lava quern, the majority from pit 1. The environmental sample taken from pit 1 contained three charred cereal grains, two of club wheat, a variety grown during the medieval period, and a single grain of barley.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 The results of this evaluation are considered reliable, with archaeological features and deposits being clearly visible in contrast with the clay geology. Similarly, any truncation of the underlying geology was also readily apparent, with the modern deposits situated directly on top of the natural geology, with no relict topsoil noticeable within the southern half of the trench.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The results have plainly demonstrated a limited presence within the development area during the medieval period, with no other archaeological deposits being uncovered. The results can aid in the decision-making process by the Cambridge County Council Historic Environment Team on whether further mitigation is required before the planning condition is satisfied.

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The sole pit and relict topsoil recorded within the trench are evidence for medieval activity within the vicinity of the development area. This single pit may represent pitting associated with backyard activity to a property fronting onto The Rampart during the medieval period; the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map shows a property fronting onto the road, and this pit may relate to an antecedent property located within the same boundaries. The relict topsoil cannot be securely dated by the sherds of medieval pottery recovered from it and could date to any historic period, although it is possible the soil is medieval in origin.
- 4.3.2 It is probable that any further archaeological deposits or features within the development area had been removed by the modern truncation visible within the southern half of the trench, presumably from the construction of the existing buildings within the subject site. Hydrocarbon contamination was also evident throughout the trench, and presumably the site; most likely a result of building work within the site during preceding decades.
- 4.3.3 In conclusion, the single pit revealed within the trench is of limited significance, indicating activity during the 12 to 14th centuries within the vicinity of the development area, most probably representing backyard activity for a property fronting on to The Rampart.

APPENDIX A FINDS REPORTS

A.1 Medieval Pottery

- A.1.1 A total of 40g (seven sherds) of medieval pottery was recovered from the pit (1) and a further 30g (two sherds) from the layer of relict topsoil (3). All sherds had a similar mica-rich clay matrix with rare fine to moderate calcareous inclusions. The seven sherds from the pit were identified as being part of an Ely-ware bowl (Carole Fletcher pers. comm.) and the two rim sherds from the relict topsoil (3) are of the same fabric. The pit assemblage contained three fragments with decoration, in the form of two parallel curvilinear lines, most probably forming a swirl-motif on the outside of the bowl. Ely wares were a coarse style of pottery prevalent within the fen-regions during the 12th to 14th centuries and often used for jars, bowls and cooking pots. As the name suggests, the pottery was made at a number of locations in and around Ely, approximately 9km north-east of the subject site (Spoerry 2016, p. 189).

A.2 Worked Stone

- A.2.1 A total of 12g of heavily abraded lava stone was recovered from fill 2 of pit 1. This extremely abraded assemblage, totalling 5 fragments has no diagnostic forms, although would presumably have related to a quern stone or similar object. Lava stone was regularly used for querns from the Roman period through to the end of the medieval period.

APPENDIX B ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

- B.1.1 Two buckets (20 litres) of fill 2 of feature **1** were processed for artefact and ecofact recovery. Due to the presence of hydrocarbon contaminants, the sample was processed manually by bucket flotation in the open air. The wash-over was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue washed through a 1mm sieve. Pottery was recovered from the residue.
- B.1.2 The flot was scanned under a binocular microscope and the presence of three carbonised grains were noted. Two of the grains had a compact, rounded morphology and have been identified as club wheat (*Triticum aestivum* subspecies *compactum*) which is a wheat variety that was cultivated in the medieval period. A single charred grain of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) is also present.

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blackbourn, K., & Phillips, T., 2018, *8a The Rampart, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire: Written Scheme of Investigation*. OA East unpublished document

Spoerry, P., 2016 *The Production and Distribution of Medieval Pottery in Cambridgeshire*. East Anglian Archaeology 159

APPENDIX D

OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-314880		
Project Name	Evaluation at 8a The Rampart, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire		
Start of Fieldwork	17/04/18	End of Fieldwork	17/04/18
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	HADRAM18	Planning App. No.	17/01562/FUL
HER Number	ECB5382	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Planning Condition
Development Type	Residential Housing
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
Pit	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Relict soil	Uncertain	Lava quern	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) 8a The Rampart Haddenham Cambridgeshire CB6 3ST
District	East Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Haddenham	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	0.1ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 4672 7515	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Tom Phillips

Project Manager
Project Supervisor

Tom Phillips
Pat Moan

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Store	ECB 5382
Digital Archive	OA East	HADRAM18
Paper Archive	CCC Store	ECB 5382

Physical Contents

Present?

Digital files associated with Finds

Paperwork associated with Finds

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

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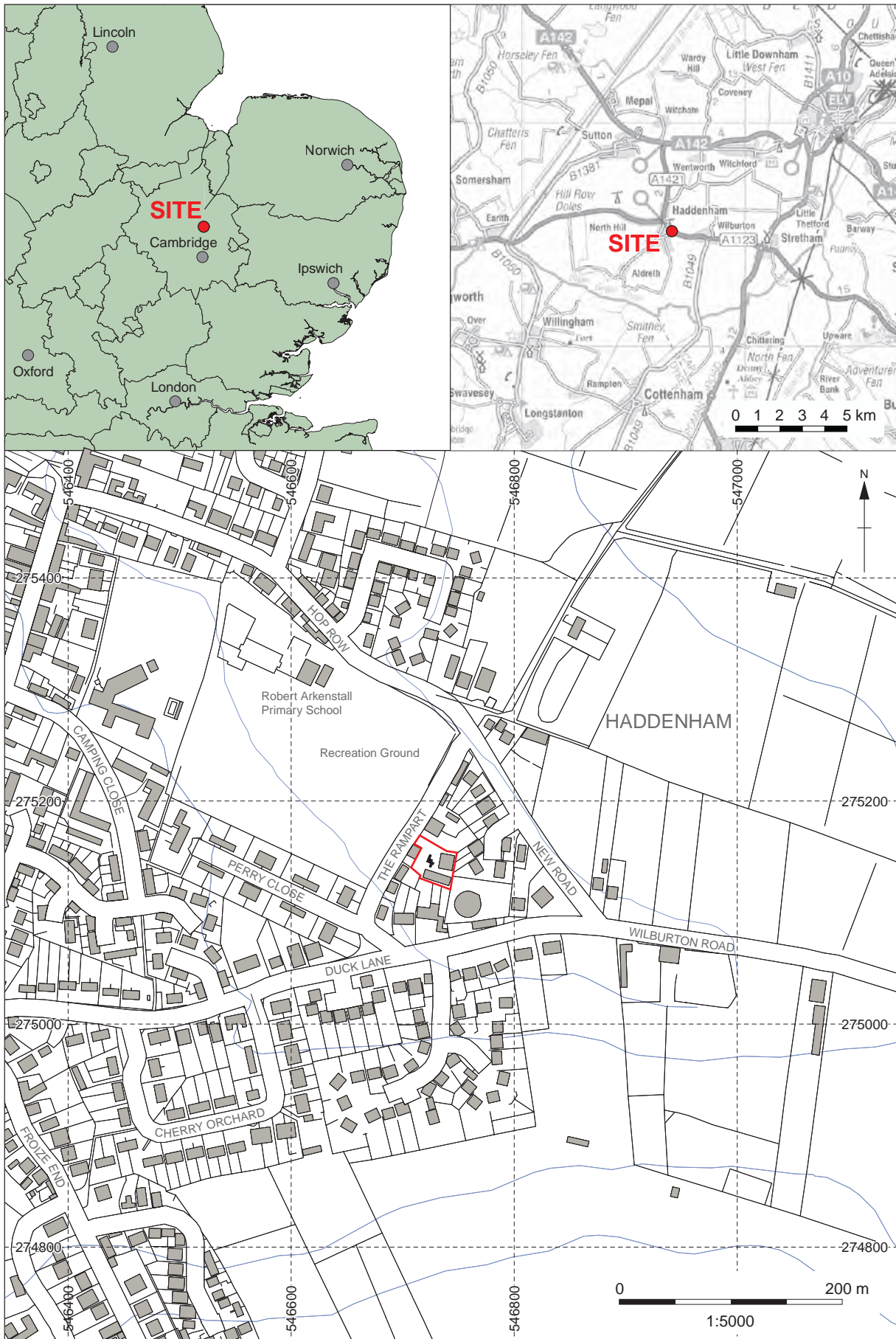
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Digital Media

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



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

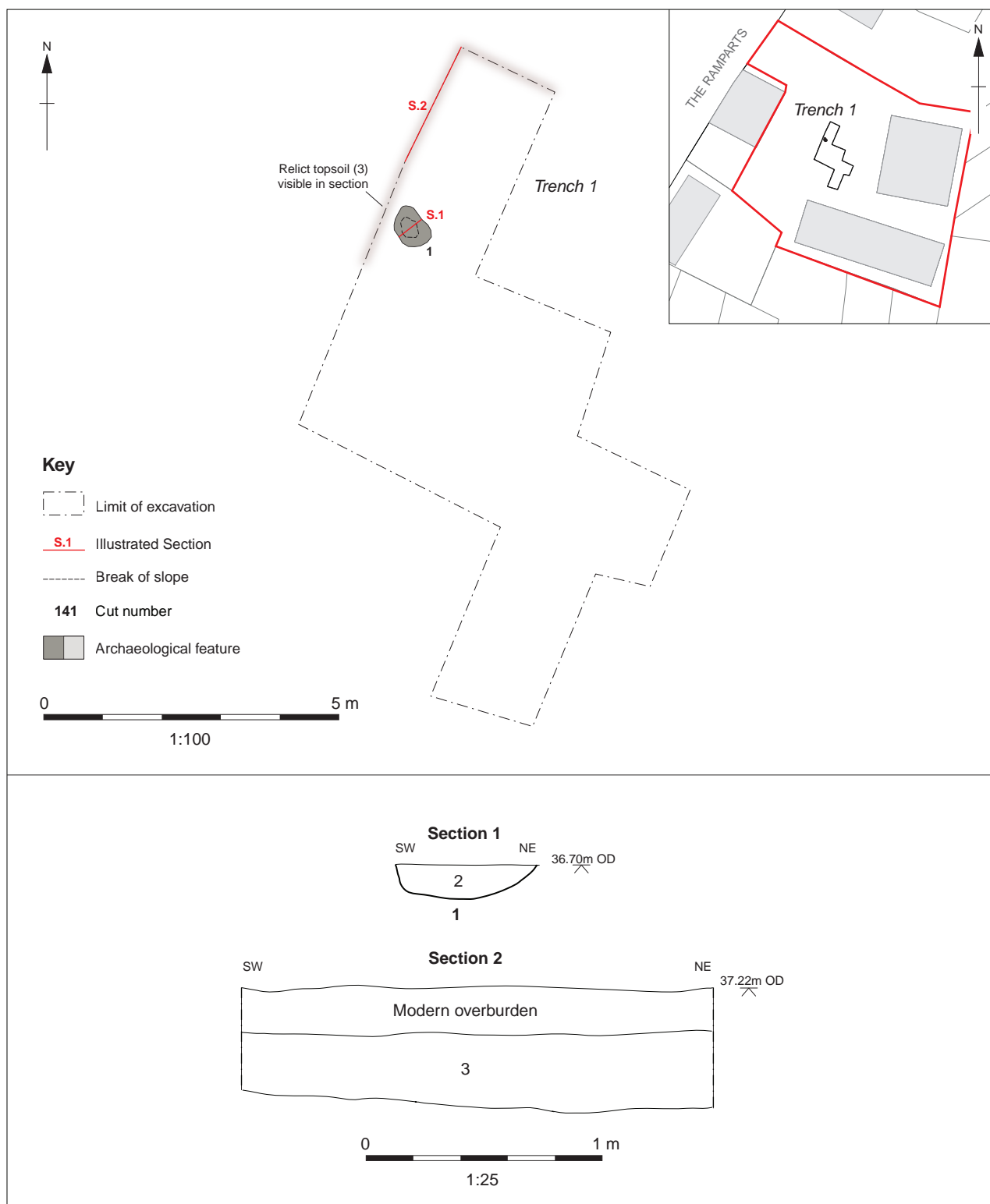


Figure 2: Trench plan with illustrated sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-west



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking east-south-east



Plate 3: Pit 1, looking north-west



Plate 4: Relict topsoil 3, looking north-west, with Pit 1 in foreground



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