



36 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

January 2023

Client: CB Groundworks and Construction Ltd

Issue No: 1

OA Report No: 2631

NGR: TL 4598 7561



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36 West End, Haddenham, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

On 15th December 2022 Oxford Archaeology East undertook a four-trench archaeological evaluation at 36 West End, Haddenham (TL 4598 7561). This work was commissioned by CB Groundworks and Construction Ltd. as a condition of planning consent required by Cambridgeshire County Council, attached to planning applications 19/01751/ FUL and 22/00152/FUL.

Archaeological remains were identified in two of the trenches, comprising a ditch and two pits, although no finds were recovered to provide a date for the features. It is likely, however, that these features relate to Iron Age – Romano-British activity encountered in more extensive archaeological works immediately to the west of site (ECB 2767 and ECB 3031).

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank CB Groundworks and Construction Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Lewis Busby, who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) .

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Chris Thatcher. The fieldwork was directed by Emily Wright, who was supported by Paddy Lambert and Elodie Powell. Survey and digitising were carried out by Elodie Powell. Kat Hamilton prepared the site archive.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CB Groundworks and Construction Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of four new proposed dwellings and associated works (TL 4598 7561; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent (planning ref. 19/01751/FUL and 22/00152/FUL). A brief was set by Lewis Busby of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by OA. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the west of the historic core of Haddenham, located on a prominent ridge of land running east to west, with a further spur running south-west from the village. This ridge is flanked to the north-west and south-west by much lower land, situated at between 1-2m OD, which would have been fenland prior to its drainage in the post-medieval and modern periods.

1.2.2 At the time of the fieldwork the area of proposed development consisted largely of open ground to the rear of a disused one-storey property. The area contained mixed scrub vegetation and small trees, with some areas of concrete hard standing, small brick-built structures with shallow foundations, and one corrugated iron hut.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay Formation - Mudstone. The sedimentary bedrock formed between 157.3 and 152.1 million years ago during the Jurassic period (<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The site itself lies within a landscape of archaeological and historical interest and had potential to reveal significant prehistoric to Anglo-Saxon remains. This section has been assembled using information obtained through a 1km radius search of the Cambridge Historic Environment Record as well as other readily accessible sources (see Fig. 2).

Early prehistoric (up to 350 BC)

1.3.2 Very few features or findspots are located within Haddenham which pre-date the Iron Age period. Evidence was found at excavations at 40 West End, adjacent to the west of the site, where features suggesting small scale, temporary encampments during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods were revealed (MCB 17792).

1.3.3 Approximately 600m to the east 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 (ECB 5108).

- 1.3.4 Findspots nearby include a Neolithic axe-head (CHER 02036), and within the same area a Bronze Age spearhead was also recovered (CHER 02040).

Iron Age and Romano-British (350 BC – AD 410)

- 1.3.5 A number of Iron Age and Roman settlements, as well as findspots, have been identified within the vicinity of the subject site. An evaluation (ECB 2767) and an excavation (ECB 3031) directly to the west of the site at 40 West End revealed Iron Age to Roman features, including enclosure ditches, pits and postholes dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age (MCB 18421). Evidence for Roman settlement at the same location was also present with boundary ditches and pits being revealed.
- 1.3.6 To the north of the site, a Late Iron Age – Roman farmstead centred around a group of enclosures has been excavated (MCB 27081/ECB 5381), while 70m to the east of the site, Roman occupation was revealed in the form of enclosure ditches and pits (CB 15624/ECB 1939). At the latter site, large quantities of Roman pottery were recovered as well as the remains of 14 cattle deliberately buried in a ditch. Within the vicinity of the site 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 activity was identified

Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

- 1.3.8 Haddenham has Anglo-Saxon origins, evidenced by its name, although archaeological evidence for the early settlement is sparse. Excavation at the Three Kings Pub, 400m east-south-east of the subject site, 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 6th century AD.
- 1.3.9 Early Anglo-Saxon evidence was also found during the Chewells Lane evaluation, east of the site, where a large pit contained Anglo-Saxon pottery and a further trench contained two large circular loom-weights (ECB 5108).

Medieval to post-medieval

- 1.3.10 The village's focal point was The Holy Trinity church (CHER 05697), located 400m east 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. North 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.
- 1.3.11 Medieval to post-medieval features comprising pits and postholes were revealed at 7-11 High Street (CB 15289), 400m south-east of the subject site, representing typical back yard and garden activity during the period.

1.3.12 Medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded 30m to the south of the site (CHER 09867), and post-medieval ditches and finds were reported from excavations at 40 West End, adjacent to the west of the site (MCB 18422).

Post-medieval to Modern

1.3.13 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 (DCB 765, 975, 974, 800, 798, 796, 1342), many dating to the 17th and 18th centuries.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of this evaluation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they were found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- To provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- To set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions.
- To 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.

2.1.2 The site-specific research objectives of this evaluation were:

- To establish the presence or absence of palaeosoils and old land surface soils and deposits.
- To establish the presence or absence of palaeochannels.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014), local and national planning policies, and the WSI (Francisco Benet 2022).

2.2.2 The area was prepared for trenching by the client, with some vegetation stripped and construction waste and rubble removed using their own machine. A total of four trenches measuring approximately 10m x 2m were excavated by the client's machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.3 The location and length of these trenches was only slightly affected by the existence of areas of concrete hard standing, the remaining foundations of brick structures, and more substantial vegetation. Each trench location was scanned with a CAT scanner prior to excavation to check for live services or constraints, and none were encountered.

2.2.4 Spoil was stored alongside the trenches, without – at the client's request – the separation of topsoil and subsoil.

- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand and recorded using Oxford Archaeology East's pro-forma sheets. Sections were recorded at the appropriate scale, and digital photographs were taken of all features and all trenches. Trench and feature locations were recorded using survey-grade differential GPS connected to Leica Smartnet.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of Trenches 2 and 4, the only trenches that contained archaeological remains. Trenches 1 and 3 were devoid of archaeology and will not be discussed further. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural clay geology was overlain by a mid-grey silty clay subsoil, between 0.2-0.25m thick. In turn this was overlain by a heterogenous dark blackish brown made ground, between 0.25-0.4m thick, comprising a mixture of topsoil and horticultural waste, construction rubble, and general waste.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good. The site remained dry throughout due to the frozen conditions. Where present, archaeological features were somewhat diffuse but sufficiently clear to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in the two trenches along the eastern edge of the site, Trench 2 to the north and Trench 4 to the south (Fig. 3).

3.3.2 Various features of possible archaeological interest were investigated across Trenches 1 and 4, but these were found to be disturbance from rooting activity. Modern field drains were also discovered in Trenches 1 and 3.

3.4 Trench 2

3.4.1 Trench 2 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site, on a north to south alignment. This trench contained a single archaeological feature – one ditch – from which no finds were recovered.

3.4.2 Ditch **200** was recorded towards the southern end of the trench (Plate 1). The ditch was linear in plan, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 0.72m wide and 0.44m deep, and had steep sloping sides and a concave base, forming a V-shaped profile. It contained a single, light yellowish grey clay fill (201).

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 Trench 4 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site, on an east to west alignment. This trench contained two pits; no finds were recovered.

3.5.2 Pit **400** was recorded in the north-eastern corner of this trench (Plate 2). It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.4m wide and 0.34m deep, with gentle-sloping sides and an irregular base, forming a wide U-shaped profile. It contained a single mid greyish brown silty clay fill (401).

3.5.3 Pit **402** was recorded in the centre of the trench, along its southern edge (Plate 3). This pit was also sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.82m wide and 0.34m deep, with gently sloping sides, an irregular base and a wide U-shaped profile, similar to pit **400**. It also contained a single mid greyish brown silty clay fill (403).

3.5.4 Without any finds evidence, the similar shapes and dimensions of these pits and the similar nature of their fills, might suggest contemporaneity.

3.6 Finds and environmental summary

3.6.1 No finds were recovered during the evaluation and no environmental samples were collected.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The archaeological features were somewhat diffuse, but sufficiently clear to identify against the underlying natural geology. While some bright, raking sunlight in the afternoon created less than ideal conditions for site photography, the freezing temperatures meant that groundwater was not an issue during the work, increasing the reliability of the results.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The current investigation has established the presence of archaeological remains on the site. It has not been possible, however, to establish the date or purpose of the recorded features, due to the lack of finds and the spatial confines of the evaluation itself.

4.2.2 It has also been proven that archaeological remains do survive below the existing made ground and subsoils. While some disturbance is noted from vegetation rooting and shallow brick or concrete foundations, the natural geology does not appear to have been truncated by modern activity, aside from the occasional field drain. All archaeological features extended beyond the limits of the trenches.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 While there is no dating evidence available from the current investigation, it is probable that these remains are related to extensive Iron Age and Roman activity that surrounds the current site, the closest found during an evaluation (ECB 2767; Bishop 2007) and an excavation (ECB 3031; McNicol 2008) immediately adjacent to the west at 40 West End (Fig. 2). This previous work revealed prehistoric (MCB 17792), Roman (MCB 18421), and post-medieval (MCB 18422) remains.

4.3.2 Of the eight evaluation trenches excavated by Birmingham Archaeology in 2007, only the two along the eastern boundary of 40 West End – the boundary shared with this site – contained archaeological features, including ditches, gullies and a pit, all dating to the Early-Middle Iron Age.

4.3.3 While the 2008 excavations recorded some evidence of small-scale Mesolithic and Neolithic activity, the majority of the boundary and enclosure ditches, pits, and postholes dated to the Early-Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Post-medieval ploughing or drainage ditches were also discovered.

4.3.4 The closest archaeological evidence documented to the north and east of the site builds on the picture provided by 40 West End. An evaluation (ECB 5381) and excavation (ECB 5490) on land 30m to the north recorded a Late Iron Age-Roman enclosed farmstead and associated features (MCB 27081; Moan 2018; Martinez-Pascual 2019). In addition, an evaluation (ECB 334) and excavation (ECB 1939) on West End/High Street, 70m to the east of the current site, also discovered Late Iron Age-Roman remains (CB 15624), including pits, enclosure ditches, and the mass burial of 14 cattle and horses (Grassam 2005).

4.3.5 In light of the above contextual evidence – the relatively diffuse nature of ditch **200** and pits **400** and **402**, and the lack of material culture recovered on this site – it is probable that these features are Iron Age-Roman in date. The homogeneity, light colour and silty composition of the fills of these features also suggest that they have accumulated gradually, through natural silting and weathering processes, indicating their abandonment and disuse.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 In terms of archaeological significance, it is difficult to argue that the evaluation has contributed much further to our existing knowledge of the local archaeology and the immediate cultural landscape. However, these results do expand on the findings documented from more intensive archaeological investigations at 40 West End.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1		
General description	Orientation	E-W
NW trench; no archaeological remains Topsoil/made ground: c.0.25m Subsoil: c.0.25m	Length (m)	10
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.6

Trench 2							
General description				Orientation		N-S	
NE trench; contains undated ditch feature Topsoil/made ground: c.0.3m Subsoil: c.0.2m				Length (m)		10	
				Width (m)		2	
				Avg. depth (m)		0.6	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Cut		0.72	0.44	Ditch		
201	Fill	200	0.72	0.44	Secondary Fill		

Trench 3		
General description	Orientation	N-S
SW trench; no archaeological remains Topsoil/made ground: c.0.3m Subsoil: c.0.25m	Length (m)	10
	Width (m)	2
	Avg. depth (m)	0.65

Trench 4							
General description				Orientation		E-W	
SE trench; contains 2 undated pit features Topsoil/made ground: c.0.4m Subsoil: c.0.2m				Length (m)		10	
				Width (m)		2	
				Avg. depth (m)		0.6	
Context No.	Type	Fill Of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Cut		1.4	0.34	Pit		
401	Fill	400	1.4	0.34	Secondary Fill		
402	Cut		0.82	0.34	Pit		
403	Fill	402	0.82	0.34	Secondary Fill		

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX C OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-512462		
Project Name	36 West End, Haddenham		
Start of Fieldwork	15 th December 2022	End of Fieldwork	15 th December 2022
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	HADWET22	Planning App. No.	19/01751/FUL
HER Number	ECB 7017	Related Numbers	22/00152/FUL

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Residential development and associated works
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
Ditch	Uncertain	None	None
Pit	Uncertain		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) 36 West End, Haddenham, ELY CB6 3TE
District	East Cambs	
Parish	Haddenham	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	c.0.16ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 4598 7561	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Lewis Busby
Project Design Originator	Chris Thatcher

Project Manager	Chris Thatcher
Project Supervisor	Emily Wright

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	n/a	n/a
Digital Archive	OA East	HADWET22
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 7017

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
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 Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<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"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

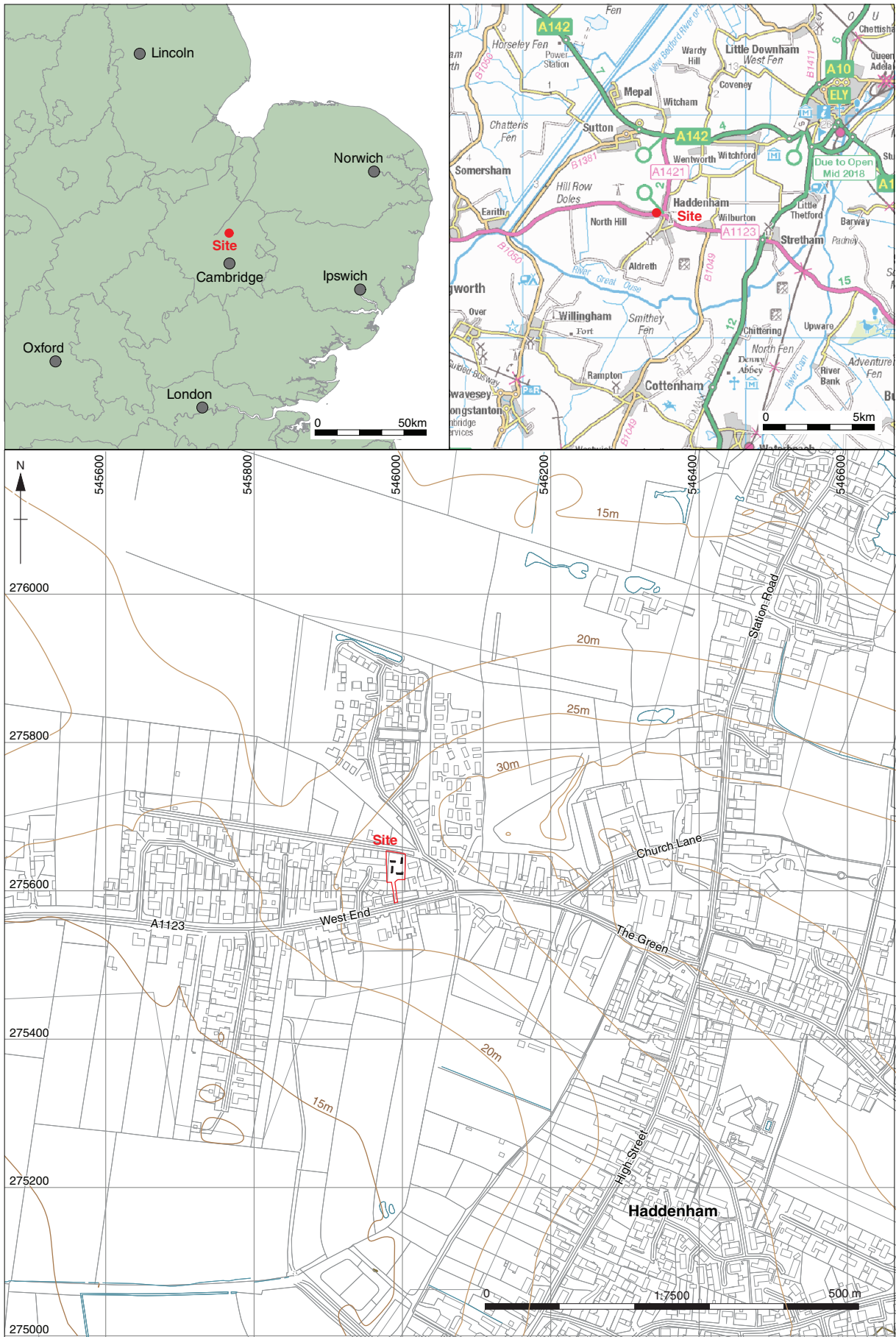
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GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<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"/>

Further Comments

Remains are most likely Iron Age to Roman in date, but no available dating evidence to confirm.



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

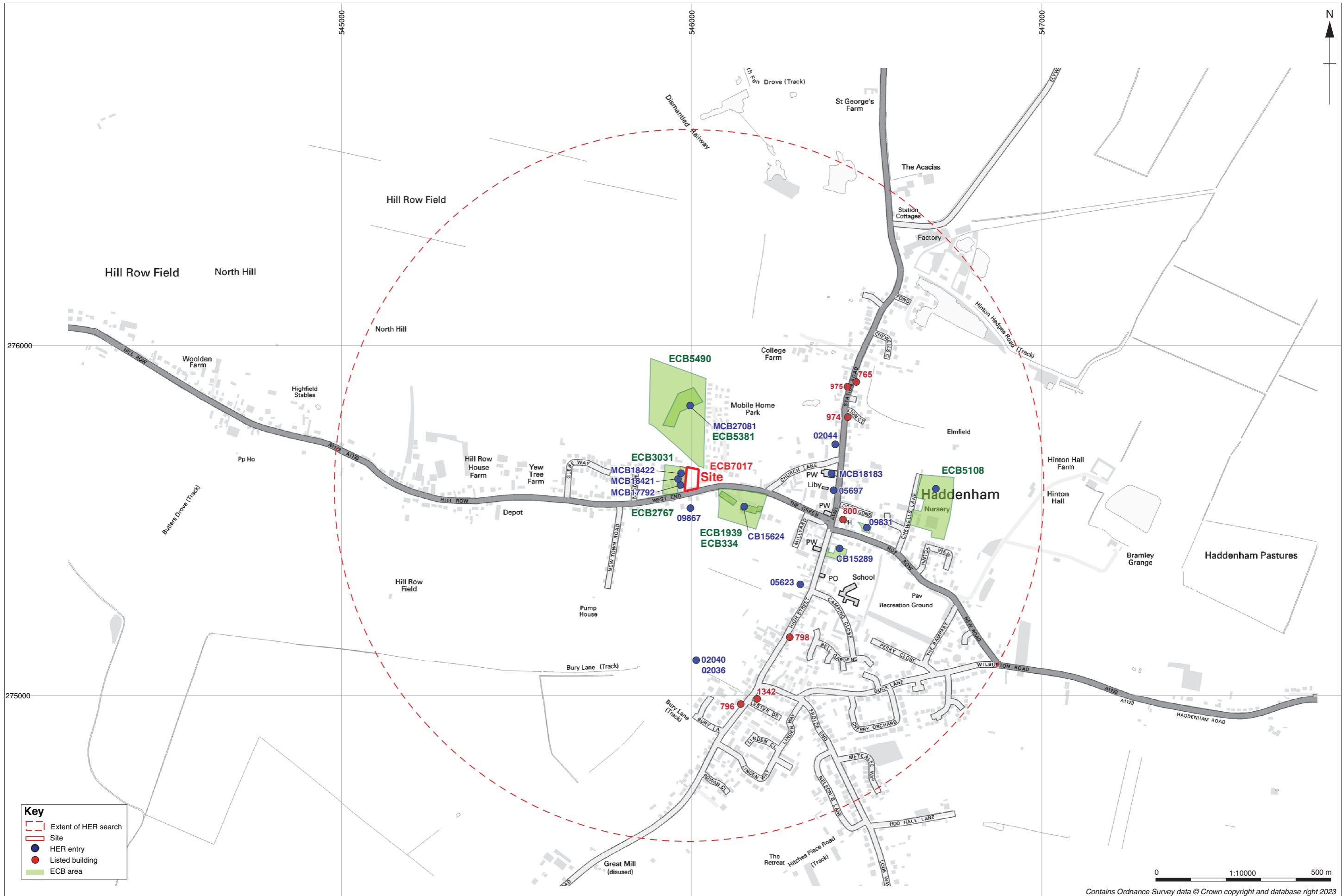


Figure 2: Map showing selected CHER entries in the vicinity of the site.

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Figure 3: Plan of evaluation trenches



Plate 1: Ditch 200, showing the north-east facing section



Plate 2: Pit 400, showing the west-facing section



Plate 3: Pit 402, showing the east-facing section



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