



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT

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EVENWOOD GATE,
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EVENWOOD GATE, CO. DURHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Summary

This document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land at Evenwood Lane, Evenwood Gate, Co. Durham, centred at NGR 16197 24280. The evaluation was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates on behalf of Martin Fenwick in support of a planning application for the development of seven residential properties (planning application ref: DM/15/00210/OUT).

A single cross-shaped trial trench was excavated in a position that had been agreed with Durham County Council through the WSI. The trench was positioned to target the foundations of the proposed properties.

No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench and evidence for disturbance and loss of former soil horizons was visible. It is not felt that any further archaeological mitigation is required.

Acknowledgements

Northern Archaeological Associates would like to thank the following for all of their help during the archaeological evaluation: Martin Fenwick, the Client, for commissioning and Lee McFarlane, Senior Archaeology Officer at Durham County Council Archaeology Section.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) was commissioned by Martin Fenwick to undertake a programme of pre-determination archaeological evaluation comprising two 2m x 20m trial trenches, to be excavated on land at Evenwood Lane, Evenwood Gate, Co. Durham, (hereafter 'the Site') centred at NGR 16197 24280 (planning application ref: DM/15/00210/OUT) (**Fig.1**). This document presents the results of that evaluation, which was carried out in April 2015.
- 1.2 A desk-based assessment (ASUD 2012) had identified the potential for remains of archaeological interest to be present within the proposed development site. In accordance with NPPF paragraph 128, Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCC) recommended that a programme of evaluation needed to be undertaken prior to determination, in order to enable an informed decision on the application.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the Site, and if present, the extent, condition, character and date of any such remains. The results of the work are detailed below and will be used by DCC to determine whether it is reasonable to require further archaeological mitigation as a condition of planning approval.
- 1.4 Paragraph 141 within the National Planning Policy Framework states that local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The Planning Policy Statement 5 Practice Guide, which is still current, states that a written scheme of investigation is the tool to control the standards of any investigation, analysis, reporting and archiving (English Heritage 2010).
- 1.5 The WSI was submitted to and approved by Lee McFarlane Senior Archaeology Officer at Durham County Council (DCC), and all archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with relevant standards, guidance and best practice published by English Heritage (1991, 2006) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The Site is situated on the northern outskirts of Evenwood Gate, on land to the west of Evenwood Lane and to the north of the former Brown Jug Public house and the recently constructed Five Arches bungalow (**Fig. 1**). The application area currently comprises scrub, mature trees and extensive spreads of modern

dumping situated on gently sloping land, approximately 156m aOD at the western boundary, decreasing in elevation to 154m aOD in the east.

- 2.2 The solid geology of the proposed development site is sandstone, mudstone and siltstone Limestone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Till (BGS 2015).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Site has previously been subject to a desk-based assessment (ASUD 2012) and the account below summarises the historic baseline summary from this document.

Prehistoric to Romano-British

- 3.2 There are no known prehistoric or Romano-British archaeological sites within the development boundary, however, evidence of activity for both periods has been found locally and within the wider area.
- 3.3 The earliest evidence for occupation was recorded within the settlement of Evenwood, approximately 1.4km to the north of the Site, with the discovery of Mesolithic flint. However, it is unknown as to whether this find represents evidence for in situ archaeological activity.
- 3.4 Multiple putative 'prehistoric' enclosure cropmarks have been identified within the surrounding area through analysis of aerial photography. Whilst these features have not undergone archaeological investigations, they are believed to represent recognised settlement typologies of later prehistoric occupation.
- 3.5 For the Roman period there is very limited known evidence of activity within the wider landscape. The probable route of a Roman road, extending between Binchester to the north of the Site and Bowes Fort to the south, has been identified. However, no settlements associated with the road have been identified within the surrounding area.

Medieval

- 3.6 The Site itself was situated in an area known to be well occupied throughout the medieval period. First appearing in written records in 1050 as Efnewda, the village of Evenwood to the north of the Site, is believed to have been occupied from the early medieval period onwards, with a 14th century bloomery, fulling mill and watermill uncovered within the settlement. Two medieval moated manor houses are situated within the wider landscape, with the current A688, approximately 57m to the south-east of the Site, believed to be a major routeway between Bowes and Newcastle during this period.

- 3.7 It is believed that the proposed development would have lain within the former open field system surrounding Evenwood and the nearby manor houses, with evidence for former ridge and furrow cultivation, presumably of medieval date visible on aerial photography to the north-east of the Site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 3.8 Speed's 1630 map of the Bishopric of Durham shows little post-medieval development within the immediate vicinity of the Site, with no settlements shown near Evenwood to the north. However, other contemporary sources do depict Evenwood (as West Evenwood), with later 18th century sources showing Evenwood as a sizeable settlement set within a substantive road network. The settlement continued to expand throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 3.9 No settlement is recorded to the south of the Site until the early 19th century, with the turnpiking of the A668 and expanding local coal industry leading to a gradual increase in dwellings along the roadside, including the now derelict Brown Jug public house, believed during this period to be a farm house with associated outbuildings. It is probable that the Site was associated with this farm during this period. However, by the early 20th century the farm appears to have been converted into a public house, and the Site divided into allotment gardens.
- 3.10 The mid 20th century appears to have seen the clearance of these allotment plots, and the establishment of the Site's contemporary character.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The development proposals comprise the construction of new housing and DDC considered that the foundations for these and any associated service trenches would have an adverse impact on any potential archaeological remains if present within the Site.
- 4.2 The main aim of the evaluation was therefore to determine whether there was any evidence for the potential of unrecorded sub-surface archaeological remains within the development area. If remains were present, the trial trenching aimed to confirm their location, extent, nature, date and importance in order that an informed assessment of the impact could be undertaken and a suitable mitigation strategy agreed.
- 4.3 The objectives of the evaluation were:
- to establish the presence, nature, extent, preservation and significance of any archaeological remains within the site boundary
 - to provide a detailed record of any such archaeological remains

- to recover and assess any associated structural, artefactual and environmental evidence
- to determine whether any area within the footprint of the proposed scheme requires archaeological mitigation in advance of construction, or monitoring during construction works;
- to prepare an illustrated report on the results of the evaluation to be submitted in support of the client's planning application so as to enable an informed planning decision by the Local Planning Authority; and
- to deposit a copy of the report with the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Durham County Council Archaeology Section and to complete an online OASIS form on the results of the work.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the methodology detailed within a Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2015). It comprised the excavation of two archaeological trial trenches measuring 20m x 2m, and was originally designed to form a single 'T' shaped trench, targeting the foundations of the proposed residential properties within the development area. Works were limited to an evaluation of the east part of the Site due to the level of tree and vegetation cover within the western part.
- 5.2 The trench location had been agreed in advance of excavation during consultations with Durham County Council, however, once on Site, the full extent of disturbance, tree cover, standing wooden structures (**Plate 1**) and dumping led to adjustments in the trench layout, shifting from a 'T' shape to 'X' within the same location (**Fig. 2**).
- 5.3 The excavated trench area comprised 80m², with each 'branch' of the trench measuring approximately 10m in length and 2m in width. The location of the trench was surveyed using a Topcon GRS-1 GPS. Information was transferred to AutoCAD 2012 software and reproduced for incorporation within this report (**Fig. 2 & 3**).
- 5.4 The trench was stripped using a JCB excavator with a toothless bucket, under archaeological supervision. The machine removed topsoil and subsoils down to natural subsoil. Topsoil was stored by the edge of each trench and the trench was backfilled upon the conclusion of the fieldwork.
- 5.5 The extent of disturbance and those areas inaccessible to archaeological investigation were photographed pre-excitation (**Plate 2**). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified, with the trench cleaned by hand excavation, using suitably qualified staff.



Plate 1: Location of southern extent of trench, with the standing structure present in background



Plate 2: Southern extent of the Site, showing scale of modern dumping and vegetation growth

6.0 EVALUATION RESULTS

- 6.1 The trench was situated within the north-east of the Site and was orientated approximately north-east to south-west. Mid-greyish brown topsoil (1001) was present throughout the trench, varying in thickness from 0.37m in the north-east of the Site, decreasing to 0.25m in the south-west. This overlay a yellowish, grey-brown sandy silt subsoil (1002) varying in depth from 0.05 - 0.09m, which in turn overlay natural orangey yellow silty, sandy clay (1003) (Plate 3).
- 6.2 No archaeological features or deposits were present within the trench (Plates 4, 5, 6 & 7). Patches of soil visible within the machined trench observed in the north-west and south-east of the trench were initially treated as potential archaeological features. However, upon investigation, they turned out to have a maximum depth of 0.06m and determined to be remnants of modern plough scaring or possible vehicle tracks (Plate 5). These plough scars were photographed and included within the trench plan, though were not recorded further.



Plate 3: Representative section in the north-eastern branch of the trench



Plate 4: North-eastern extent of trench, showing the absence of archaeological features



Plate 5: North-western extent of trench, showing plough scarring with putative vehicle tracks to the right of the photograph



Plate 6: South-eastern extent of trench, showing the absence of archaeological features



Plate 7: South-western extent of trench, showing the absence of archaeological features

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 It is considered that the aims of the evaluation were achieved. No archaeological features or deposits were identified, with the shallow topsoil and subsoil deposits suggestive of the removal of material from the Site, possibly following the abandonment of the 1960s allotment plots. The gently sloping topography of the Site, rising in elevation east-west, may indicate more limited soil clearance within the western extent of the Site.
- 7.2 Whilst this means that the ground conditions within the western part of the Site might be more conducive to a better potential for survival of archaeological deposits, the scale of vegetation, tree cover and modern disturbance is likely to have resulted in the total or partial loss of any potential remains in this area.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 Based on the combined results of the desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation, it is considered that there is no good evidence to indicate that significant archaeological interests would be impacted upon by the proposed development (NPPF paragraph 128) and that it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required.
- 8.2 It is concluded that sufficient information has been submitted to enable an informed planning decision and that the proposal fully accords with national development plan policy with respect to heritage protection. The works have demonstrated that there is no reason in terms of impacts on archaeological interests why permission should not be granted (NPPF paragraph 128).

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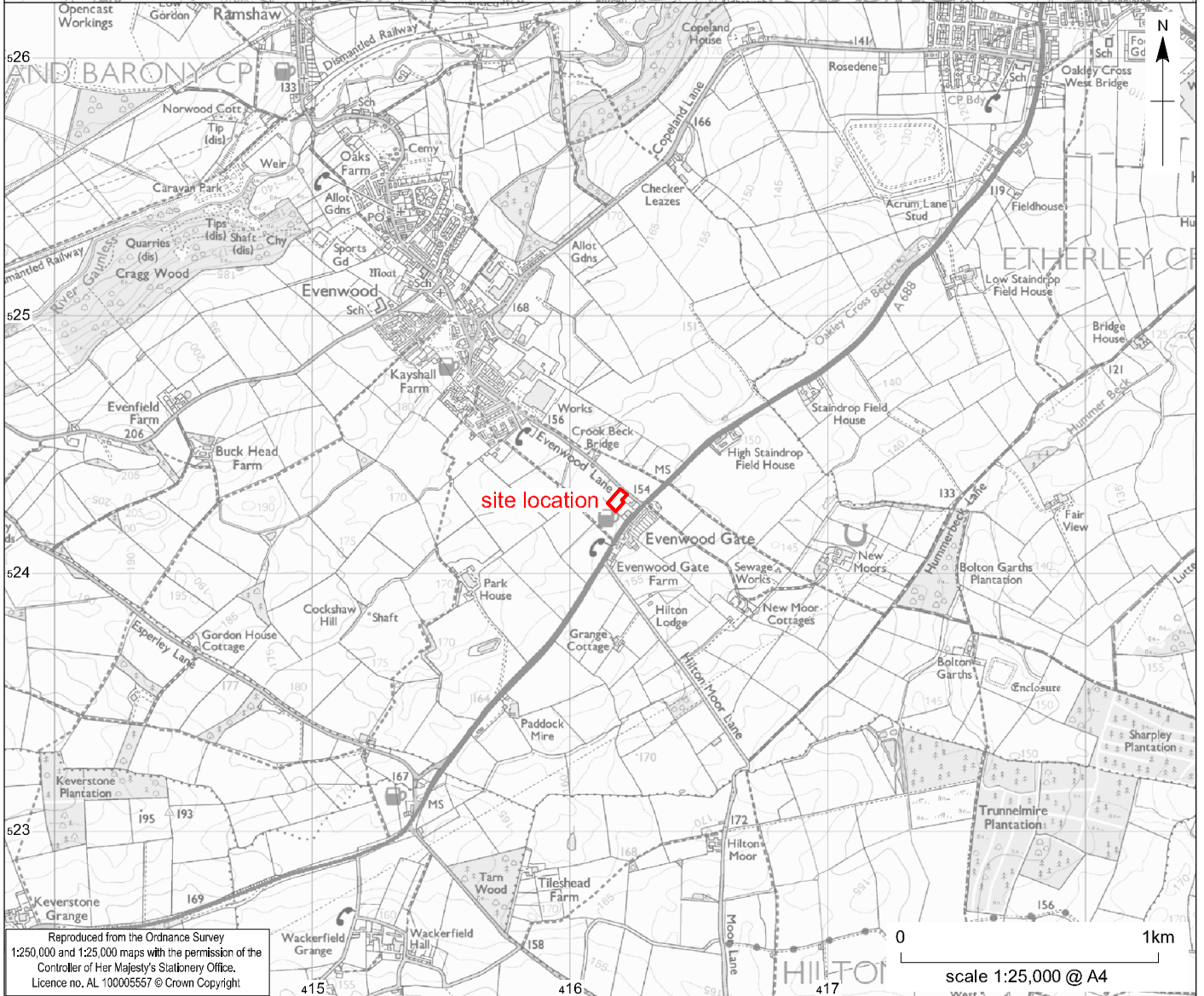
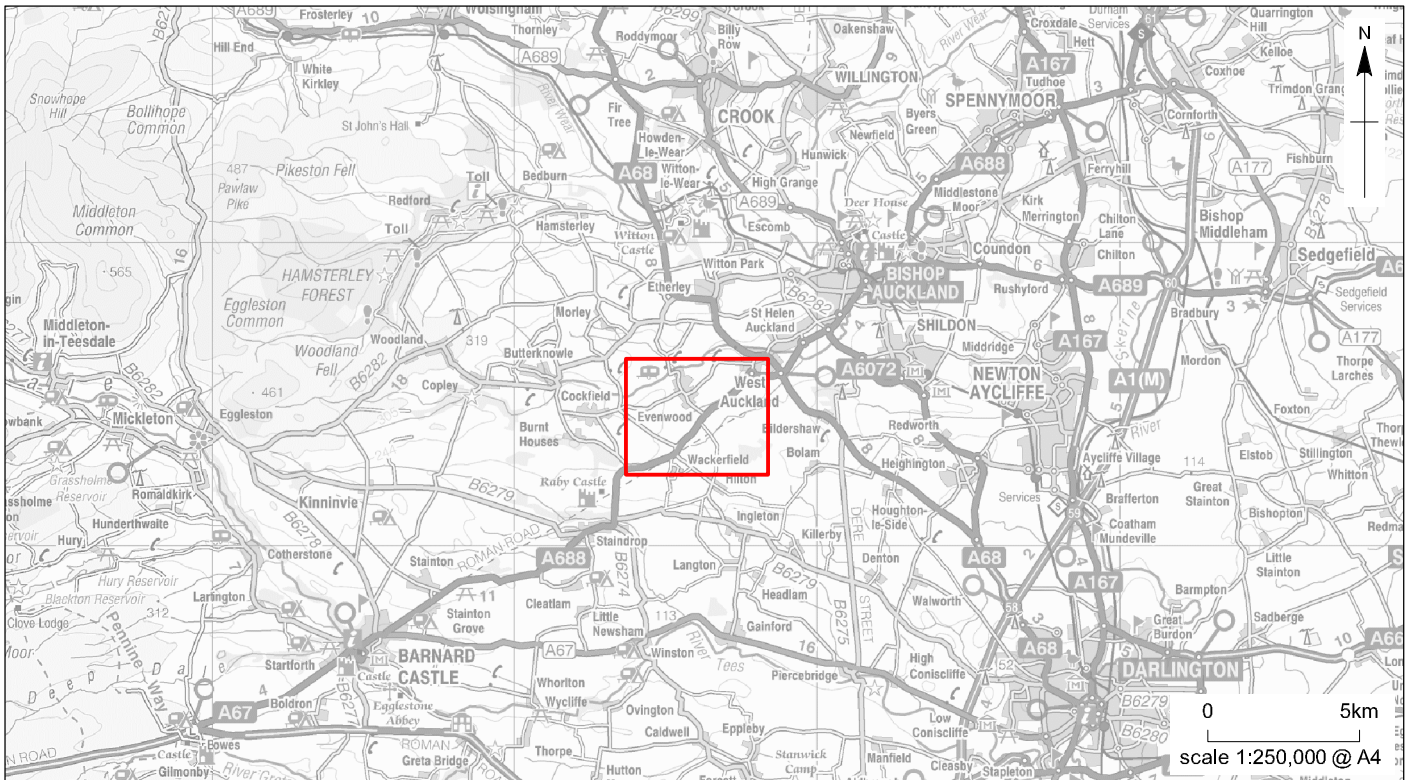
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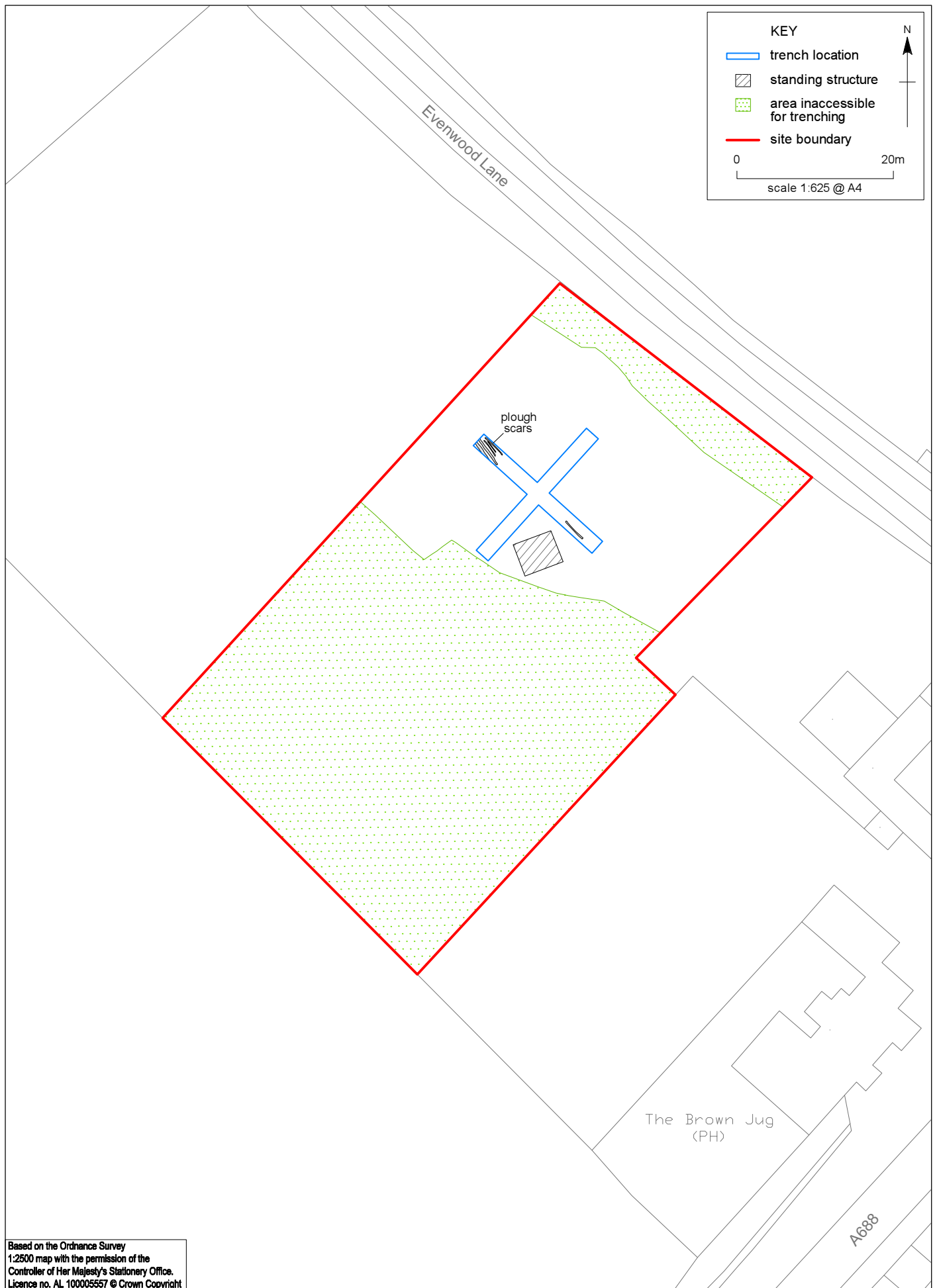
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT CATALOGUE

Context	Interpretative Description	Trench	Notes
1001	Topsoil	1	Friable mid-greyish brown sandy silt, with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions
1002	Subsoil	1	Firm yellowish-grey brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions
1003	Natural subsoil	1	Firm orangey-yellow patchy silty sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions



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Evenwood Gate: evaluation results

Figure 3