

Report



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: R&M Works Thames Valley (Avebury and Stonehenge WHS)

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Date: August 2018

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Contents

List of Plates.....	2
Summary	3
Acknowledgements	4
1 Introduction.....	5
<i>Project Background.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>The Site, Location and Geology.....</i>	<i>6</i>
2 Objectives.....	6
<i>Aims and Scope</i>	<i>6</i>
3 Copyright.....	7
4 Archaeological and Historical Context	7
<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>7</i>
5 Methodology	9
<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Post-Excavation Analysis.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Archives and Deposition.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>ADAS Project Team</i>	<i>9</i>
6 Results.....	10
7 Discussion and Conclusions	10
8 References	11
<i>Online Resources.....</i>	<i>11</i>
Appendix A: Context Descriptions.....	xiii
Appendix B: The Finds	xiv
Appendix C: Oasis Report Form.....	xv
Plates.....	xviii

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location of the Groundworks

Figure 2: Recorded Heritage Assets in the Study Area

Figure 3: Location of Trench 1

List of Plates

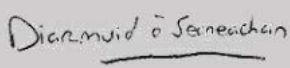


Plate 1: General view of Trench 1 taken from the main road looking east towards Overton Hill.

Plate 2: View of Trench 1 during excavation, looking north.

Plate 3: View of Trench 1 post-excavation, looking north.

Quality Assurance

ADAS Contract Code	ADAS Project Code	Document Number	Accession Code	Site Code	NGR	Planning Ref.	OASIS Reference No.
1050052	69105-20	69105-20-03 (00)	TBC	TVA18	SU 11618 67773	N/A	Adasuklt1-320008

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

On 11th July 2018 ADAS carried out archaeological monitoring and recording for Kier Integrated Services and Clancy Docwra (KCD) of groundworks for repair and maintenance to an existing clean water main in an open agricultural field north of East Kennet near Avebury, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 11618, 67773) as shown on Figures 1-3.

Since the site is located on National Trust land within the Avebury and Stonehenge World Heritage it was considered that the groundworks had the potential to impact of significant buried archaeological remains.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed during the archaeological monitoring. The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring of Trench 1 may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the groundworks and due to the impact of previous development, specifically the construction and installation of the existing water main.

These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Kier Integrated Services and Clancy Docwra (KCD) on behalf of Thames Water, and thanks are due in this regard. Fieldwork was carried out by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The final report and supporting illustrations were prepared by Diarmuid O Seaneachain and checked by Andrew Brown. The archive was compiled by Andrew Brown.

1 Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1.1 On 11th July 2018 ADAS carried out archaeological monitoring and recording for Kier Integrated Services and Clancy Docwra (KCD) of groundworks for repair and maintenance to an existing clean water main in an open agricultural field north of East Kennet near Avebury, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 11618, 67773) as shown on Figures 1-3.
- 1.1.2 Clancy Docwra and Kier Integrated Services are part of a joint venture (referred to as KCD) contracted by Thames Water, under the branding of Infrastructure Alliance, to deliver a framework of repair and maintenance works throughout the Thames Valley Region to which Thames Water operates in.
- 1.1.3 The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of the statutory undertaker Thames Water, and therefore were not subject to a planning application.
- 1.1.4 The site lies approximately 206 m to the south-west of a Bowl Barrow 50 m south of The Sanctuary on Overton Hill (List Entry: 1007489) and 270 m to the south-west of The Sanctuary (List Entry: 1014563) Scheduled Monuments, but within the Stonehenge, Avebury and associated Sites World Heritage Site (List Entry: 1000097).
- 1.1.5 Consultation with Mrs Melanie-Pomeroy-Kellinger, the local authority Archaeologist for Wiltshire Archaeological Service; Mrs Melanie Barge, the Inspector of Scheduled Monuments for Historic England; and Dr Nicola Snashall, the National Trust Archaeologist for Wiltshire, indicated that the development had the potential to impact upon unknown buried archaeological remains within the development area associated with the Avebury, Stonehenge and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (List Entry: 1000097). It was recommended that archaeological monitoring should be carried out during the groundworks in order to identify any unknown archaeological remains.
- 1.1.6 Mrs Melanie Barge, the Inspector of Monuments for Historic England, confirmed via email in June 2018 that since the proposed works would take place outside a Scheduled Area, Scheduled Monument Consent was not required.
- 1.1.7 Dr Nicola Snashall requested that because the site is located on National Trust land within the Avebury and Stonehenge World Heritage Site a Ministry of Justice burial licence was required to be completed prior to commence of works. This requirement is National Trust policy for any invasive archaeological works carried out on their land.
- 1.1.8 ADAS obtained a burial licence and prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to carry out the required archaeological works and record any archaeological remains during the monitoring of the groundworks (ADAS 2018).

- 1.1.9 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and the RSK Technical Manual (RSK 2018).

The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The proposed development involved groundworks for repair and maintenance works to a clean water main in an open field near Avebury, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 11664 67777).
- 1.2.2 The development area is located within an open agricultural field north of East Kennet and south of the A4 in Wiltshire and is located within the Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site.
- 1.2.3 The underlying geology on the development area is recorded as chalk of the New Pit Chalk Formation. This sedimentary bedrock was laid down approximately 90-94 million years ago. Superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium deposits formed up to 2 million years ago are recorded (BGS 2018).
- 1.2.4 The nearest useful borehole data (SU16NW14- Manor Farm- W. Overton) recorded 0.70 m of topsoil overlying upper chalk (BGS 2018).

2 Objectives

Aims and Scope

- 2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:
- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
 - *To carry out archaeological monitoring and recording to ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard.*
 - *The specific aim of the project was to identify and record any unknown buried archaeological remains or artefacts that may be associated with The Sanctuary and Seven Barrows Scheduled Monuments.*
 - *To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains identified.*
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of the regional frameworks set out in the Stonehenge and Avebury Research Framework (Leivers and Powell 2016), the South

West Archaeological Research Framework (Grove and Croft 2012) and in accordance with the objectives stated in the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Management Plan (Simmonds and Thomas 2015).

2.1.3 The results will be reported as appropriate.

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

4.1.1 An online search of the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record was conducted (ADAS 2018) which assessed the historic environment potential of a 500 m Study Area around the proposed works (Wiltshire 2018). The results of this assessment are outlined below. All designated heritage assets are referred to in the text by their Historic England and/or HER reference numbers. Recorded previous archaeological investigations within the 500 m Study Area are referenced by their HER Excavation Index number.

Summary of Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1.2 The groundworks were located within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (HE No. 1000097; National Trust Number: 117020*0/MNA138326). Stonehenge and Avebury are among the most famous groups of megaliths in the world. The two sanctuaries consist of circles of menhirs (standing stones) arranged in a pattern whose astronomical significance is still being explored. These holy places and the nearby Neolithic sites are an incomparable testimony to Prehistoric times (National Heritage List 2018; National Trust 2018).
- 4.1.3 The works were located approximately 206 m to the south-west of the Bowl Barrow 50 m south of The Sanctuary Scheduled Monument (1007489). This the closest Scheduled Monument to the groundworks and is part of Overton Hill Barrow Cemetery (1008459 and 1008464).
- 4.1.4 The Sanctuary Scheduled Monument (1014563) is located 279 m to the north-east of the works.

- 4.1.5 Historic England records twelve Grade II Listed Buildings of either Medieval or Post-medieval date in the Study Area. All of these designated heritage assets are located at least 286 m to the south-east of the groundworks in the village of East Kennet.
- 4.1.6 A further nine barrows (MWI14457-9, MWI14504, MWI14506-9 and MWI14505) and six ring ditches (MWI13451, MWI14487, MWI14696, MWI13432, MWI14545 and MWI14473) of likely Prehistoric date are also recorded within the Study Area within 180 m of the Site.
- 4.1.7 A findspot of an arrowhead (MWI14302) and seven undated linear features have been recorded in the Study Area within 300 m of the development site that are likely to be associated with the Prehistoric period.
- 4.1.8 An isolated find of Roman pottery has been previously recorded 480 m to the north-west of the development area (MWI14362).
- 4.1.9 The Early Medieval period is represented by a shrunken settlement centred on a location 350 m to the south of the development site at East Kennett (MWI14378). Pottery from this period has been recovered in the area (MWI14388).
- 4.1.10 The Medieval period is represented by findspots for an iron key (MWI14405) and pottery (MWI14408), ridge and furrow (MWI73074) and some additional earthworks (MWI14407) within the Study Area.
- 4.1.11 Due to the potential for buried remains associated with the Prehistoric period and nearby Scheduled Monuments archaeological monitoring was recommended following discussions with the local authority archaeologist.

Summary of Previous Archaeological Events

- 4.1.12 An online search of previous archaeological investigations did not reveal any previous investigations within the Study Area (Know Your Place 2018; Wiltshire 2018).

Historic Mapping and Aerial Photography Analysis

- 4.1.13 Online Parish Tithe Map data showed that the field where the repair works were located is within the Parish of East Kennet (The Genealogist 2018; Know Your Place 2018).
- 4.1.14 Historic map analysis of the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Wiltshire County Series map of 1887 to the 1:10,000 OS Plan of 1982-1983 indicates that the field where the groundworks were carried out and the surrounding landscape has not experienced significant changes to the field boundary pattern and land use during this period. (Old Maps 2018; NLS 2018). It is not clear when the existing water main was constructed.
- 4.1.15 Modern satellite imagery and historical aerial photographs from the 1940s to 2017 indicates that there have been no significant changes to the land use of the landscape around The Sanctuary. No previously unrecorded cropmarks are visible on available satellite photos within the field where the groundworks took place (Google Earth 2018; Getmapping 2018).

5 Methodology

Introduction

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS 2018). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to carry out the repair and maintenance works.
- 5.1.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2014*.

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

- 5.1.3 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. No archaeologically significant deposits were disturbed by the groundworks, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

Post-Excavation Analysis

- 5.1.4 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no post-excavation analysis was required.

Archives and Deposition

- 5.1.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with an approved local museum.
- 5.1.6 A paper or digital archive will be deposited with the Alexander Keiller Museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number which will be issued upon deposition. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID reference adasuklt1-320008 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion.

ADAS Project Team

- 5.1.7 Fieldwork was undertaken by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The report was written by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The illustrations were prepared by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The archive was

compiled and prepared for deposition by Andrew Brown. The project was managed for ADAS by Andrew Brown.

6 Results

- 6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendix A.
- 6.1.2 The monitoring was carried out over a single day in dry conditions. The water escaping from the burst existing water main had caused localised flooding in the surrounding field. The material excavated from Trench 1 was saturated by the water prior to the water main being turned off. However, it was clear that this material mainly comprised the backfill of the existing water main (Figure 2; Plates 1-3).

Trench 1

- 6.1.3 Trench 1 measured approximately 1.9 m by 2.1 m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3 m. Topsoil (1000) comprised grey brown sand silt with frequent flint inclusions and was approximately 0.2 m thick. This overlay a subsoil (1001) composed of orange-brown sandy silt and gravels with frequent chalk and flint inclusions. The subsoil was 0.2 m thick and sealed a natural substrate composed of grey brown sand and gravels (1002) at the base of the trench. The subsoil was cut by the existing modern water main service (1003) within the trench, and the fill of the water main comprised the water pipe and backfill of re-deposited subsoil and natural gravels (1004).
- 6.1.4 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed during the archaeological monitoring. The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring of Trench 1 may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the groundworks and due to the impact of previous development, specifically the construction and installation of the existing water main.
- 7.1.2 These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

8 References

ADAS 2018 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Monitoring and Recording; R&M Works Thames Valley (Avebury and Stonehenge WHS 69105-20-02 (01))* Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation.

CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief*.

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Leivers, M. & Powell, A.B 2016 *A Research Framework for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site. Research Agenda and Strategy*. Wessex Archaeology Monograph 39. P31.

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Online Resources

(BGS 2018) British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> [accessed May 2018].

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Google Maps 2018. Available at: <https://www.google.co.uk> [accessed August 2018].

Heritage Gateway 2018 Available at: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx> [accessed August 2018].

Know your Place 2018. Available at: <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=glos#> [accessed May 2018].

National Heritage List 2018. Available at: <http://list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1003328> [accessed August 2018].

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(Old Maps 2018) Oldmaps.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/564500/30350.html> [accessed August 2018].

(RSK 2017) RSK Technical Procedure Manual 2018. Available at: http://he_wss/root/ba/Archaeology/RSK%20Archaeology%20Document%20Examples/Forms/AllItems.aspx [accessed August 2018].

Wiltshire 2018 Online Mapping of Historic environment features in Wiltshire. Available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshireandswindonhistoricensevironmentrecord/wshermmap.htm> [accessed August 2018]

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
1000	Layer	Topsoil: grey-brown sandy silt with frequent flint inclusions	N/A	N/A	0.2 m
1001	Layer	Subsoil: orange-brown sandy silt and gravels with frequent chalk and flint inclusions	N/A	N/A	0.2 m
1002	Layer	Natural substrate: Grey-brown sandy and gravels	N/A	N/A	0.2 m
1003	Cut	Cut of existing water main	➤ 1.9m	➤ 1 m	1.3 m
1004	Fill	Backfill	➤ 1.9 m	1 m	1.3 m

Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: adasuklt1-320008

Project details

Project name	R and M Works Avebury
Short description of the project	In July 2018 ADAS carried out archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks for repair and maintenance to an existing clean water main in an open agricultural field north of East Kennet near Avebury, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 11618, 67773). Since the site is located on National Trust land within the Avebury and Stonehenge World Heritage it was considered that the groundworks had the potential to impact of significant buried archaeological remains. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed during the archaeological monitoring. The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring of Trench 1 may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the groundworks and due to the impact of previous development, specifically the construction and installation of the existing water main.
Project dates	Start: 11-07-2018 End: 11-07-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TVA18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	World Heritage Site
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	SCHEDULED MONUMENT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE KENNET EAST KENNETT R and M Works Avebury
Postcode	SN18 1QG

Study area	3 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 11618 67773 51.408367872323 -1.832943058501 51 24 30 N 001 49 58 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 142m Max: 142m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	RSK ADAS Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	RSK ADAS Ltd
Project director/manager	Andrew Brown
Project supervisor	Diarmuid O Seaneachain
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Thames Water

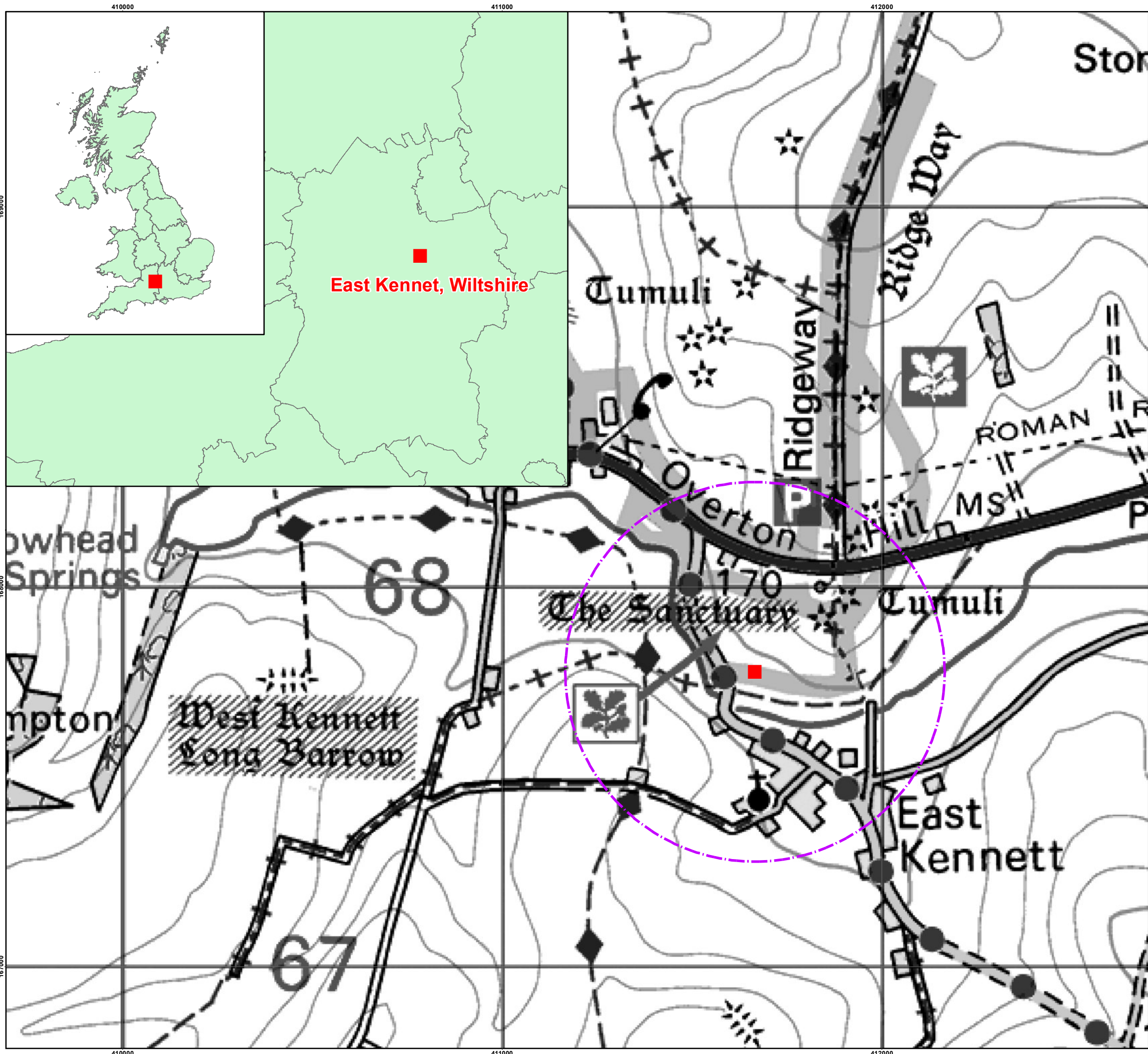
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Alexander Keiller Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Alexander Keiller Museum
Paper Contents	"none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Report","Survey "

Entered by Andrew Brown (andrew.brown@adas.co.uk)

Entered on 30 August 2018



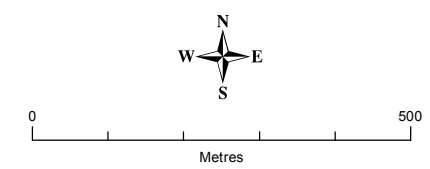
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Figure 1: Location of the Groundworks

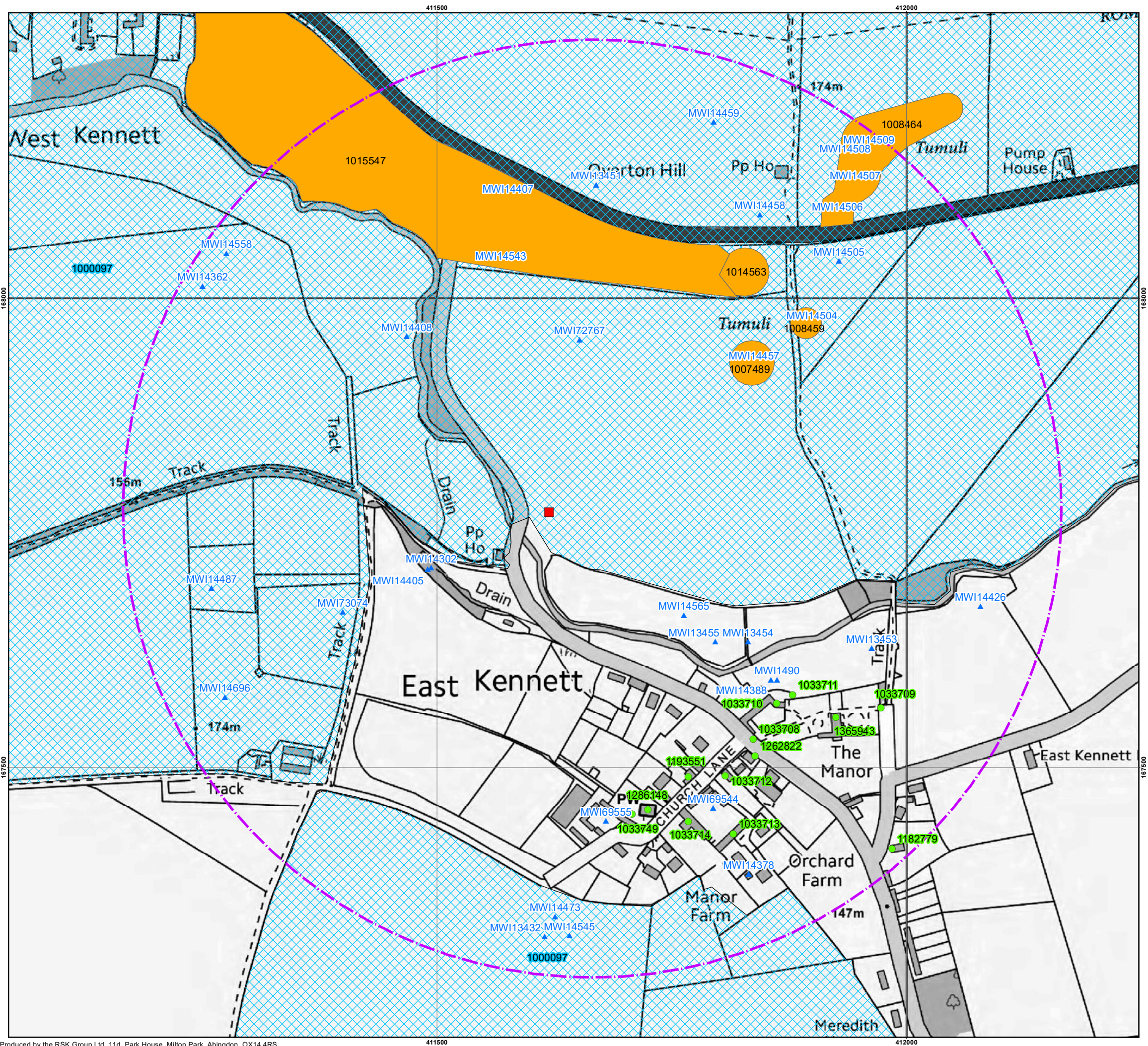
- Site Location
- Study Area

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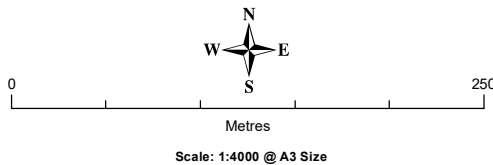
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Figure 2: Recorded Heritage Assets in the Study Area

- Site Location
- Study Area
- World Heritage Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Grade II Listed Building
- ▲ HER Heritage Asset Point

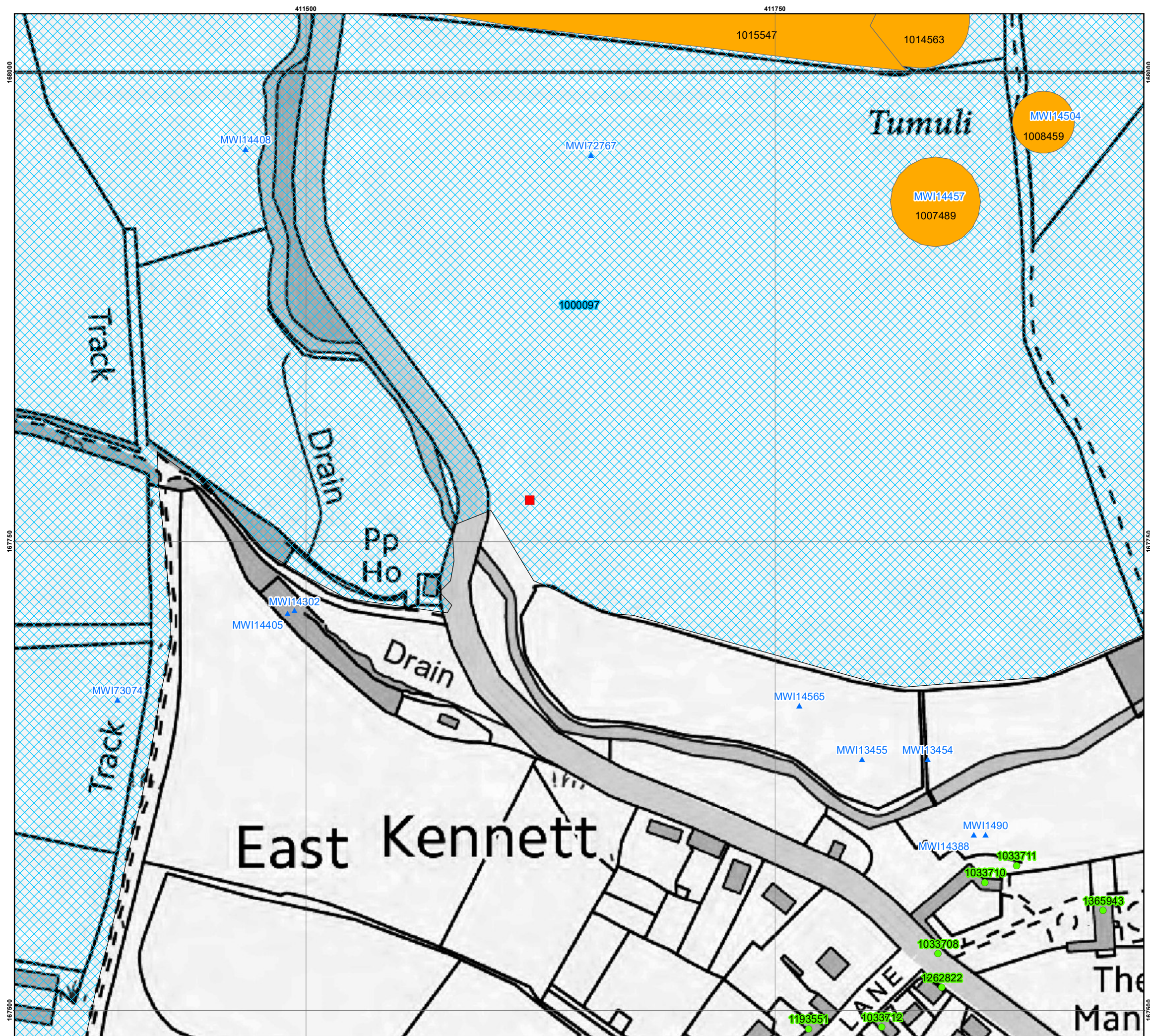
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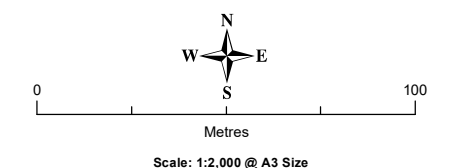
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Figure 3: Location Trench 1

- Trench 1
- Scheduled Monument
- World Heritage Site
- Grade II Listed Building
- ▲ HER Heritage Asset Point

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Plates



Plate 1: General view of Trench 1 taken from the main road looking east towards Overton Hill.



Plate 2: View of Trench 1 during excavation, looking north.



Plate 3: View of Trench 1 post-excavation, looking north.