



making sense of heritage

Land off Harold's Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 107400.01
January 2015



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**Land off Harold's Lane,
Enderby, Leicestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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* I= Internal Draft; E= External Draft; F= Final

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Land off Harold's Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of a development for residential housing on land off Harold's Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire. The evaluation area covered approximately 1ha and comprised a building, gravel hard standing and scrub wasteland centred on NGR: SP 453542, 299737 (**Figure 1**).

A total of six 25m trenches were proposed across the evaluation area to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to inform any mitigation strategy prior to the impact of the development. **Trench 1** was re-aligned and shortened slightly (23m) to fit within the site boundary and avoid on-site obstacles. **Trench 6** was re-aligned to avoid on-site obstacles and was halted mid-way due to asbestos contamination.

No significant archaeological features were uncovered. Evidence of recent agricultural activity in the form of a stone based soak-away land drain was uncovered in **Trench 2**. **Trench 4** uncovered a later gravel surface, probably associated with the former plant nursery, which had been truncated by substantial modern disturbance. A number of cast iron pipes and a modern service were uncovered in **Trenches 4 and 6**.

The results from the evaluation indicate that the development is highly unlikely to impact on any significant archaeological remains.

The project archive has been compiled in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI CgMs 2014) and is fully cross-referenced and indexed. It is currently held by Wessex Archaeology under the project code **107400** and will be transferred to Leicestershire County Council Museums under accession number **X.A7.2015**.



Land off Harold's Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. and are grateful in this regard. The Fieldwork was directed by Neil Dransfield with the assistance of Callum Bruce. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Teresa Hawken, the Leicestershire County Council (Local Planning Authority - LPA), Planning Officer, for her involvement in the project.

The report was compiled by Neil Dransfield with contributions by Lorraine Mephum (finds). The illustrations were prepared by Alix Sperr.



Land off Harold's Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development on land off Harold's Lane, Enderby, Leicestershire, centred on NGR: SP 453542, 299737 (hereafter the 'Site'). The Site comprises an upstanding building, gravel hard standing (associated with a former plant nursery) and sparse scrub over. (**Figure 1, Plate 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site had been subject to a Desk Based Assessment (DBA – ULAS 2012) which included an overview of the archaeological potential and built heritage of the Site.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) set out the strategy and methodology by which Wessex Archaeology (CgMs 2014) performed the archaeological evaluation. All works undertaken conformed to the standards and guidelines for archaeology projects in Leicestershire as well as current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE') (English Heritage 2006), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for archaeological evaluation (CIfA 2015a). The WSI was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Senior Planning Officer for Leicestershire (Teresa Hawkens) and was approved prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site lies at around 107m aOD and comprises a parcel of land at the northern tip of Enderby village off the junction of Mill Lane (B582) and Harold's Lane. The Site measures 1ha and is bounded to the north and east by Harold's Lane and by the B582 (Mill Hill) to the south. A Public Right of Way (PROW) bounds the Site to the west (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology comprises an igneous bedrock of the South Leicestershire Diorite Complex, overlain by the Thrussington Member Diamicton - moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters in ice age conditions (BGS) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section summarises the Site's historical and archaeological background as presented in the WSI (CgMs 2014).



2.2 Prehistoric/Roman

- 2.2.1 No known archaeological features relating to these periods are known within the Site's limits.

2.3 Medieval

- 2.3.1 The Site lies within the Conservation Area of the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Enderby village.
- 2.3.2 A medieval penny (MLE6625) was recovered from the within the Site's boundary with medieval and post-medieval remains uncovered close-by, to the south-west.

2.4 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.4.1 The Site appears to have been in agricultural use until the late 20th century when the land was used a garden centre and nursery. The northern part of the Site may have undergone greater disturbance due to buildings associated with the nursery that were located here.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The aims of the project were within the general parameters defined by the regional framework agenda (Cooper 2006, Knight *et al* 2012);
- *to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
 - *to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological encountered;*
 - *to assess the impact of the previous land use on the Site;*
 - *to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for additional archaeological mitigation;*
 - *to make available the results of the work and produce a Site archive for museum and local HER deposition.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of six trenches measuring 25m by 2m (**Figure 1**).
- 3.2.2 **Trench 1** had to be re-aligned slightly at the southern end to fit within the Site's boundary and was shortened by 2m to avoid on-Site obstructions. **Trench 6** was also re-aligned slightly at the northern end to avoid on-Site obstructions and was halted on health and safety grounds after 12.65m due to asbestos contamination in the centre of the trench.

3.3 Machine excavation

- 3.3.1 Topsoil, subsoil and gravel overburden were removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a

suitably experienced archaeologist. The material was removed in a series of level spits down to the archaeological horizon at the upper level of the natural geology.

3.4 Hand excavation

- 3.4.1 Natural features were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity.
- 3.4.2 Archaeological features were to be hand excavated but the complete excavation of obviously modern features (land drains, modern services, disturbance) was not regarded as necessary.

3.5 Recording

- 3.5.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within 'blank' trenches).
- 3.5.2 All trenches were located in relation to the OS grid, and sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10 or 1:20 as necessary. All trenches were planned using GPS survey equipment.
- 3.5.3 Photographs were taken of all trenches and natural and archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of digital images to a resolution of at least 10 megapixel.

3.6 Specialist strategies

Artefacts

- 3.6.1 All finds were treated in accordance with relevant industry guidance (UKIC 2001; MGC 1991; English Heritage 2005, 2006), and the requirements of Leicestershire County Council.
- 3.6.2 All artefacts were recorded by context, with summary listing of artefacts by category to provide simple quantification. Artefacts were analysed and reported by specialists.

Environmental

- 3.6.3 No environmental samples were taken as no archaeological features were uncovered during the evaluation.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A total of six trenches were excavated across the Site (**Figure 1, Plate 1**). All trenches were archaeologically sterile with **Trenches 2, 4 and 6** identifying 20th century features and structures. **Figure 1** shows the location of all trenches and details the 20th century features recorded.
- 4.1.2 Two trenches had to be re-aligned slightly. The southern end of **Trench 1** was moved to the west to fit within the Site's boundary and the northern end of **Trench 6** was re-aligned to avoid on-site obstructions.

4.1.3 The excavation of **Trench 6** was halted halfway from the northern end due to asbestos contamination uncovered during excavation (**Plate 6**). The contaminated area was photographed, surveyed and reported to the Client.

4.1.4 The archaeological layers, features and stratigraphy were recorded in all the excavated trenches, and were recorded by context. Features of note are described by trench below. A full trench context listing is provided in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 General summary

Natural geology

4.2.1 The underlying natural geology consisted mainly of a light greyish yellow sandy clay with a common frequency (20%) of fairly well sorted medium to large sized sub rounded pebbles probably formed in a low to medium energy fluvial environment. A slight grey and orange mottling was detected in many of the trenches indicating a later gleyed formation under fluctuating wet and dry conditions. The character of the natural clay varied at the northern end (**Trench 6**), where the colour had a greyer hue, indicating leaching of the sandy clay material.

Subsoil

4.2.2 A light greyish brown, remnant plough soil (**Plate 4**), silty clay was observed in several trenches (**Appendix 1**). The deposit was observed as a 0.2m thick layer occupying the diffuse horizon between the underlying natural and the topsoil. Occasional rounded pebble inclusions from the natural strata below indicated that the area had probably been subjected to ploughing in the Site's recent history.

Topsoil

4.2.3 The topsoil (**Plate 4**) was predominantly a *0.25m thick, fairly homogeneous dark greyish brown loam* typically present to a depth of 0.25m below ground level (bgl). The deposit was absent in **Trench 6** where ground reduction had taken place to facilitate gravel hard standing. Very little difference was noted in the character of the layer across the site and modern artefact recovery was very low.

4.3 Archaeological summary

4.3.1 No significant archaeological features were uncovered in any of the trenches and **Trenches 1, 3 and 5** were totally blank (**Figure 1, Plates 2 and 3**).

4.3.2 **Trench 2** uncovered evidence of a recent geological test pit at the northern end which was evident in the upper land surface. A stone based land drain was uncovered running to the south-east from this test pit (**Figure 1**).

4.3.3 **Trench 4** uncovered a modern grey gravel surface **404** which extended along the trench (**Figure 1, Plate 5**). The surface was truncated to the south-eastern side by a 0.1m deep modern cut **403**, the fill of which **405** contained modern bricks and pottery. The surface and cut were machined away and no archaeological remains were uncovered below.

4.3.4 The northern end of **Trench 6** uncovered two cast iron pipes in the natural surface and a larger brick filled cut of a more modern service (**Figure 1**). A deposit of asbestos in the overburden halted excavation of this trench c. 12.65m from its northern end (**Plate 6**).



5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery

- 5.1.1 The only finds recovered from the Site comprised five sherds of pottery (73g), all from subsoil layer **102** in **Trench 1**. Of these five sherds, one is medieval (coarseware fabric, date range 13th/14th century), and the remainder are post-medieval (one glazed redware, four refined whitewares).
- 5.1.2 Given the very small quantity of artefacts recovered, their nature (commonly occurring types) and provenance (chronologically mixed group from subsoil), retention for long-term curation is not considered to be necessary.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 A total of six 25m trenches were excavated across the Site. The evaluation uncovered no significant archaeological remains.
- 6.1.2 The inclusion of medium to large sized sub rounded stones in the underlying natural clays suggests that the deposit originated in a low to moderate energy fluctuating fluvial environment. The slight gleying observed in the deposit indicated that the deposit had more recently been subjected to periodic flood and drying episodes.
- 6.1.3 The nature of the subsoil across Site and evidence of a stone based land drain uncovered in **Trench 2** confirm that the Site had been subjected to agricultural activity at some time in the recent past. The small assemblage of pottery across Site was modern (19th/20th century) and was generally noted and discarded on-Site. In **Trench 1**, a sherd of medieval pottery, dated to the 13th/14th century, was recovered from a layer containing modern pottery. This isolated piece of medieval pottery confirms the lack of settlement activity within the development boundary and supports the historic evidence suggesting the Site lay outside the medieval/ post-medieval core of Enderby Village (CgMs 2014).
- 6.1.4 The northern half of the Site revealed more modern disturbance. A number of cast iron pipes uncovered in **Trenches 4** and **6** are associated with modern buildings and services across the Site. The gravel surface in **Trench 4** was probably associated with the fairly recent plant nursery, as were the other gravel hard standings in this part of the Site.

6.2 Conclusions

- 6.2.1 No significant archaeological remains were uncovered during the evaluation. Evidence of post-medieval agriculture in the form of a stone based land drain confirms the results of the DBA. The sherd of medieval pottery mixed with later material confirms mixing of the sub and topsoil by ploughing. No archaeological features were uncovered to provide a focus for the pottery.
- 6.2.2 Evidence of the later plant nursery was uncovered in the northern half of the Site. The evidence consisted of compacted gravel surfaces and cast iron pipes associated with 20th century structures. The disturbance from these features was shallow and was not of sufficient depth to truncate any archaeological remains should they have been present. Where these surfaces were removed, no archaeological features were identified.

- 6.2.3 The results from the evaluation indicate that the development is highly unlikely to impact on any significant archaeological remains.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Museums. The museums association has agreed in principle to accept the project archive, under the accession number **X.A7.2015**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Preparation of archive

- 7.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Leicestershire Museum Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993, 1995; ClfA 2015b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:
- *one file of paper records;*
 - *the digital archive will comprise a CDROM containing a PDF/A copy of the evaluation report, digital photographs and OASIS form.*

7.3 Security copy

In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



8 REFERENCES

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9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Trench context tables

Trench 1		Dimensions: 23 x 1.8m Max depth: 1.48m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey loam	0–0.25
102	Subsoil – Light brownish grey silty clay containing a small assemblage of pottery from a potentially wide date range	0.25-0.48
103	Natural – Very light pinkish brown sandy clay with slight orange gleyed mottling and common large rounded pebbles	0.48+

Trench 2		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.47m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey loam. Truncated by a modern geological test pit	0-0.24
202	Subsoil – Light greyish brown silty clay with occasional small rounded pebbles	0.24-0.47
203	Natural – Pale yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional large rounded pebbles. Truncated by a modern stone based land drain	0.47+

Trench 3		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.43m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil – Dark brownish grey loam	0-0.24
302	Subsoil – Light greyish brown silty clay with rare small rounded pebbles	0.24-0.43
303	Natural – Pale yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional large rounded pebbles	0.43+

Trench 4		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.42m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil – Dark grey silty sand with common gravel inclusions	0-0.23
402	Subsoil – Pale yellowish grey with occasional small rounded pebble inclusions	0.23-0.32
403	Modern Disturbance Cut – NE-SW aligned linear cut running along the entire SE edge of the trench. The cut was 0.1m deep filled by modern material and obviously truncated gravel surface 404	0.32-0.42
404	Gravel Surface – Small rounded pale grey gravel which were compacted to form a surface. The layer was 0.1m thick and machined away to reveal no archaeological remains	0.32-0.42
405	Modern Fill – Topsoil-like fill that contained modern brick and pottery	0.32-0.42
406	Natural – Light grey sandy clay with common large rounded pebbles	0.32-0.42+



Trench 5		Dimensions: 25 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.49m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil – Very dark grey loam with roots and rare stone inclusions	0-0.26
502	Subsoil – Dark grey silty clay with occasional modern brick and rarer small stone inclusions	0.26-0.49
503	Natural – Pale grey andy clay with streaks of orange gleying. Occasional large rounded pebble inclusions	0.49+

Trench 6		Dimensions: 12.7 x 1.8m Max depth: 0.55m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
601	Gravel Surface – Dark grey stone chip surface	0-0.15/20
602	Rubble Levelling Layer – Modern brick rubble mixed with gravel	0.15/20-0.45
603	Buried Soil – Modern buried soil with oily odour containing brick and concrete rubble with modern plastics	0.45-0.55
604	Natural – Yellowish grey sandy clay with sub-rounded weathered fragments of stone. Some yellow and orange patches indicated a gleyed formation	0.55+



9.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-199348

Project details

Project name	Harold's Lane, Enderby
Short description of the project	A total of six 25m trenches were proposed across the Site to determine the archaeological potential of the Site and to inform any mitigation strategy prior to the impact of the development. The trenching amounted to a 2.7% coverage of the total area. The results of the evaluation revealed that the Site was covered by a 0.25m thick, fairly homogeneous dark greyish brown loam topsoil overlying a 0.2m thick light greyish brown silty clay subsoil. Soil colouration and stone inclusions in the subsoil indicated that material from the underlying natural had been brought into the deposit, probably by the action of recent ploughing. The north-eastern quarter of the Site was covered by a stone chipped surface forming hard standing, possibly associated with the former plant nursery. The underlying geology consisted, predominantly, of a light greyish yellow/greyish brown sandy clay which contained a common abundance of medium to large sub rounded sand/limestone cobbles. The natural deposition is suggestive of an alluvial deposit. Some grey/orange mottling to the upper surface of the natural soil matrix indicated a gleyed (waterlogged/dried) depositional history. No significant archaeological features were uncovered. Evidence of recent agricultural activity in the form of a stone based soak-away land drain was uncovered in Trench 2. Trench 4 uncovered a later gravel surface, probably associated with the former plant nursery, which had been truncated by substantial modern disturbance. A number of cast iron pipes and a modern service were uncovered in Trenches 4 and 6.
Project dates	Start: 05-01-2015 End: 06-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	107400 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE BLABY ENDERBY Harold's Lane
Postcode	LE19 4AF
Study area	1.00 Hectares



Site coordinates SP 453618 299958 51.9661563454 -1.3396669445 51 57 58 N 001 20 22 W
Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	CgMS Consulting Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Swales
Project supervisor	Neil Dransfield
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	A forthcoming report
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Date	2015
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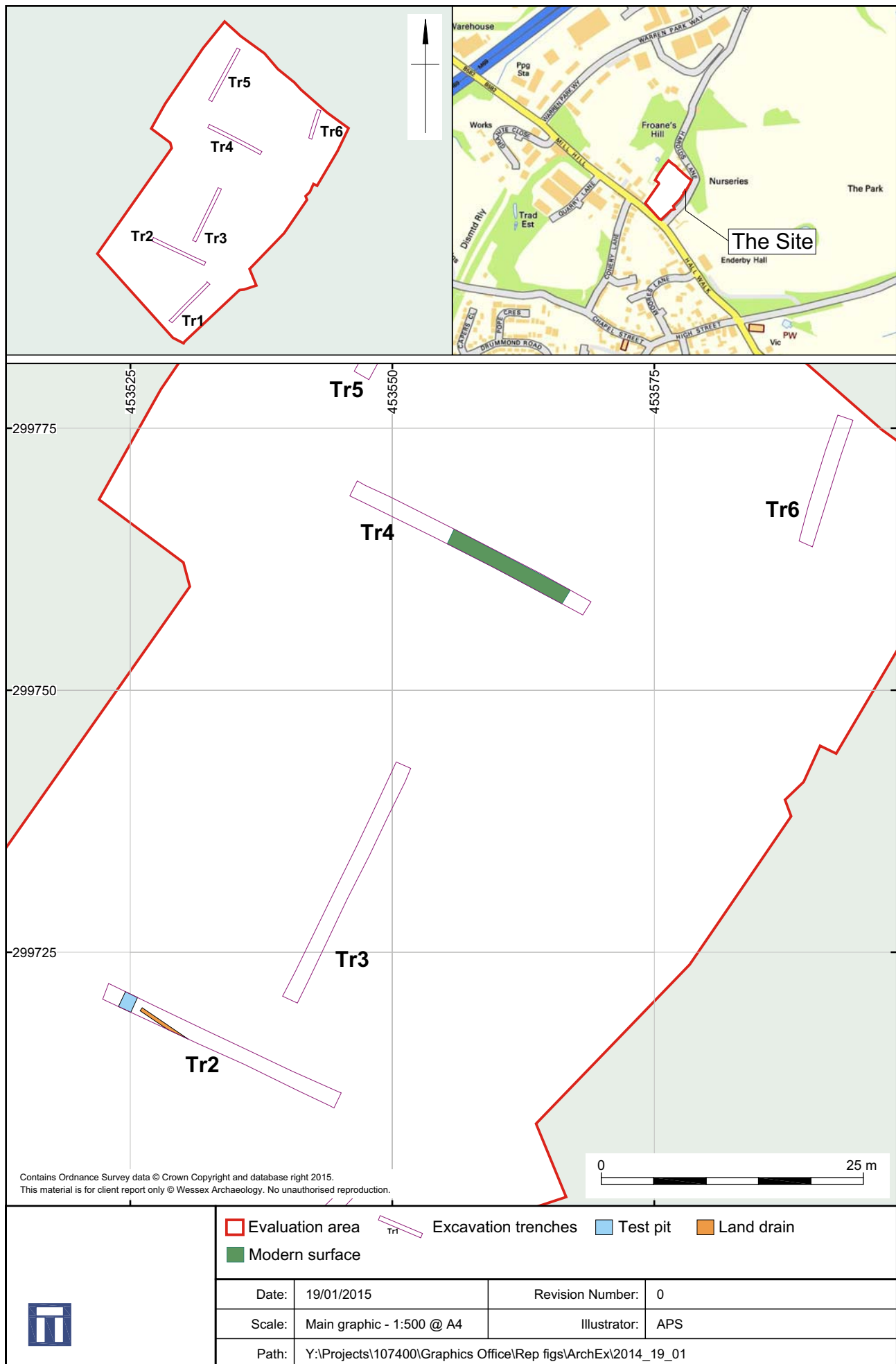




Plate 1: General view of Site



Plate 2: General shot of **Trench 1**


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Plate 3. General shot of **Trench 3**



Plate 4. Representative section. **Trench 3**



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Plate 5: General shot of **Trench 4**



Plate 6: View of abandoned **Trench 6**

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