

**4 COURT ORCHARD,  
PAINSWICK,  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

**NGR: 386625.209508 (centred)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

October 2014  
Report No. 1009

**Quality Assurance**

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## **4 Court Orchard, Painswick: Archaeological Evaluation**

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#### **4 Court Orchard, Painswick: Archaeological Evaluation**

### **SUMMARY**

Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at 4 Court Orchard, Painswick, Gloucestershire (NGR: 386625.209508 - centred). The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Harley.

The evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of three trenches within the site area.

The archaeological evaluation identified the presence of a single possible ditch at the east of the site. The feature remained unexcavated, but was sealed by the subsoil and was, therefore, likely to be of some antiquity. Its precise function remained uncertain.

No other features, or finds pre-dating the Post-medieval period, were present within the evaluated area and, as such, the site is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

## GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

### CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

### Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

### Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

### NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

### OS

Ordnance Survey.

### Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

### Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

### Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

### Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 on land at 4 Court Orchard, Painswick, Gloucestershire (NGR: 386625.209508 - centred). The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Harley.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2014a) and IfA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (2011).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning permission is being sought to construct residential dwellings within the site (**Planning Reference: S.14/2186/FUL**).
- 2.2 At the time of the fieldwork the site comprised a residential dwelling, which was located at the eastern end of Court Orchard, to the south of the centre of Painswick. It was bounded to the north, west and south by residential development and to the east by the grounds of 'Court House' and 'Castle Hale'. The total site area was approximately 0.3ha.
- 2.3 The underlying geology consists of *Lias Group* and *Inferior Oolite Group* (undifferentiated) - limestone, argillaceous rocks and subordin (BGS – online viewer). The site was located within a topography which was generally undulating and sloped downwards from north to south. It was situated approximately 320m northwest of Painswick Stream.
- 2.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken by Foundations Archaeology (2014). The assessment indicated that there was a generally low to moderate potential for remains dating to the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval periods to be present within the site. It was noted, however, that the site was located at the postulated location of 'Painswick Castle' and, as such, there was a moderate potential for remains relating to a Medieval hall/castle to present within the proposed development area. There was also a limited potential for remains relating to Civil War activity.
- 2.5 In light of the archaeological potential for the site and in accordance with NPPF12, the current evaluation was required in order to inform the planning application.

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### **3 AIMS**

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains. This would allow informed planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
  - ii) to attempt to characterize the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
  - iii) where possible, to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefactual, ecofactual and environmental samples.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 Three evaluation trenches were excavated within the site. The trenches were located in order to provide a representative sample of the site area. Due to on-site constraints, it was necessary to slightly amend the locations and sizes of some of the trenches. All amendments to the trenching methodology were agreed on site with the archaeological representative of Gloucestershire County Council. The final trench locations are shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological remains or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a 360° mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 The north-eastern part of Trench 3 was only partially excavated due to the presence of a service pipe.
- 4.4 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual. A possible ditch (105), which was located at the south-western end of Trench 1, was not excavated due to the presence of deep sections. In order to comply with health and safety constraints, all recording was undertaken from outside of the trenches. Any amendments to the excavation and recording methodology were agreed, on site, with the archaeological representative of Gloucestershire County Council.

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### 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1, along with a finds list in Appendix 2. A summary and discussion of the results is given below:
- 5.2 The site's stratigraphic sequence was relatively uniform across the three trenches. The natural limestone deposits were present at a depth of approximately 2m below Modern ground at the north of the site and up to 1.5m below Modern ground at the south. The natural substrates sloped downwards from a maximum of 130.02m OD at the north to 125.73m OD at the south.
- 5.2.1 The natural was overlaid by a plastic clay subsoil (104)/(206)/(305), which was in turn sealed by a layer of brown clay silt (103)/(205)/(304). Deposit (304) contained a large, unabraded sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century earthen-ware glazed pottery and it was, therefore, uncertain if layers (103), (205) and (304) represented dumped material or colluviation.
- 5.2.2 Layers (103)/(205)/(304) were sealed by a series of soil layers (102)/(202)/(203)/(204)/(302)/(303). An assortment of Post-medieval and Modern artefacts were present within layers (202), (203), (302) and (303) and, as such, it is likely that at least some these layers represented relatively Modern dumping events, possibly associated with the construction of the extant residential dwelling. These deposits were sealed by Modern garden soil (101)/(201)/(301).
- 5.3 **Feature (105)** comprised a northwest-southeast aligned possible ditch. Due to on-site constraints, the feature remained unexcavated; however, it was sealed beneath subsoil (104) and was therefore likely to be of some antiquity.
- 5.4 The finds assemblage consisted of a small amount of Post-medieval pottery and glass, as well as Modern detritus, which was not retained.

### 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified the presence of relatively undisturbed sloping natural deposits situated beneath clay subsoils, which, in turn, were located beneath a series of soil layers and garden soil.
- 6.2 A single possible ditch was present at the east of the site. The feature remained unexcavated, but was sealed by the subsoil and was, therefore, likely to be of some antiquity. Its precise function remained uncertain. No other features, or finds pre-dating the Post-medieval period, were present within the evaluated area and, as such, the site is considered to be of low archaeological potential.
- 6.3 There were no features or deposits within the evaluated area which could be demonstrably related to Painswick Castle or Civil War activity.

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- 6.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with an appropriate museum. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

#### **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Foundations Archaeology. 2014. *Land at 4 Court Orchard, Painswick, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Unpublished report.

Foundations Archaeology. 2014a. *Land at 4 Court Orchard, Painswick, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Recording*. Unpublished.

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#### **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Charles Parry of Gloucestershire County Council, Andrew Case of AC Planning Solutions and Mr and Mrs Harley for their help during the course of the project.



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APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>TRENCH 1; 21m by up to 1.6m. Natural (at average 126.76m OD) = variable yellow, beige pink limestone, clay and sand.</b>		
101	na	na	ne = 0.26 sw = 0.10	Topsoil; dark brown clay silt garden soil.	102	na
102	na	na	ne = 0.25 sw = 0.50	Layer of mixed grey brown clay silt, which contained occasional patches of ash and charcoal, as well as re-deposited limestone.	103	101
103	na	na	ne = 0.23 sw = 0.70	Layer of mid brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestone fragments.	104	102
104	na	8	ne = 0 sw = 0.20	Layer of pink brown plastic clay, which contained occasional limestone fragments. Dissipated at 8m from southwest end of the trench.	105	103
105	0.95	1.1	?	Possible ditch; northwest - southeast aligned linear deposit of tan clay, which appeared to contain occasional charcoal flecks. Not excavated.	natural	104
				<b>TRENCH 2; 7m by 1m. Natural (at average 127.96m OD) = variable beige pink limestone brash.</b>		
201	na	na	0.1	Topsoil; dark brown clay silt garden soil.	202	na
202	na	na	0.3	Layer of grey brown friable clay silt.	203	201
203	na	na	0.2	Layer of beige re-deposited limestone and soil, which contained occasional Modern detritus.	204	202
204	na	na	0.35	Layer of grey brown clay silt.	205	203
205	na	na	0.4	Layer of mid brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestone fragments.	206	204
				Equivalent to layer 103.		
206	na	na	0.15	Layer of pink brown plastic clay. Equivalent to layer 104.	natural	205
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		

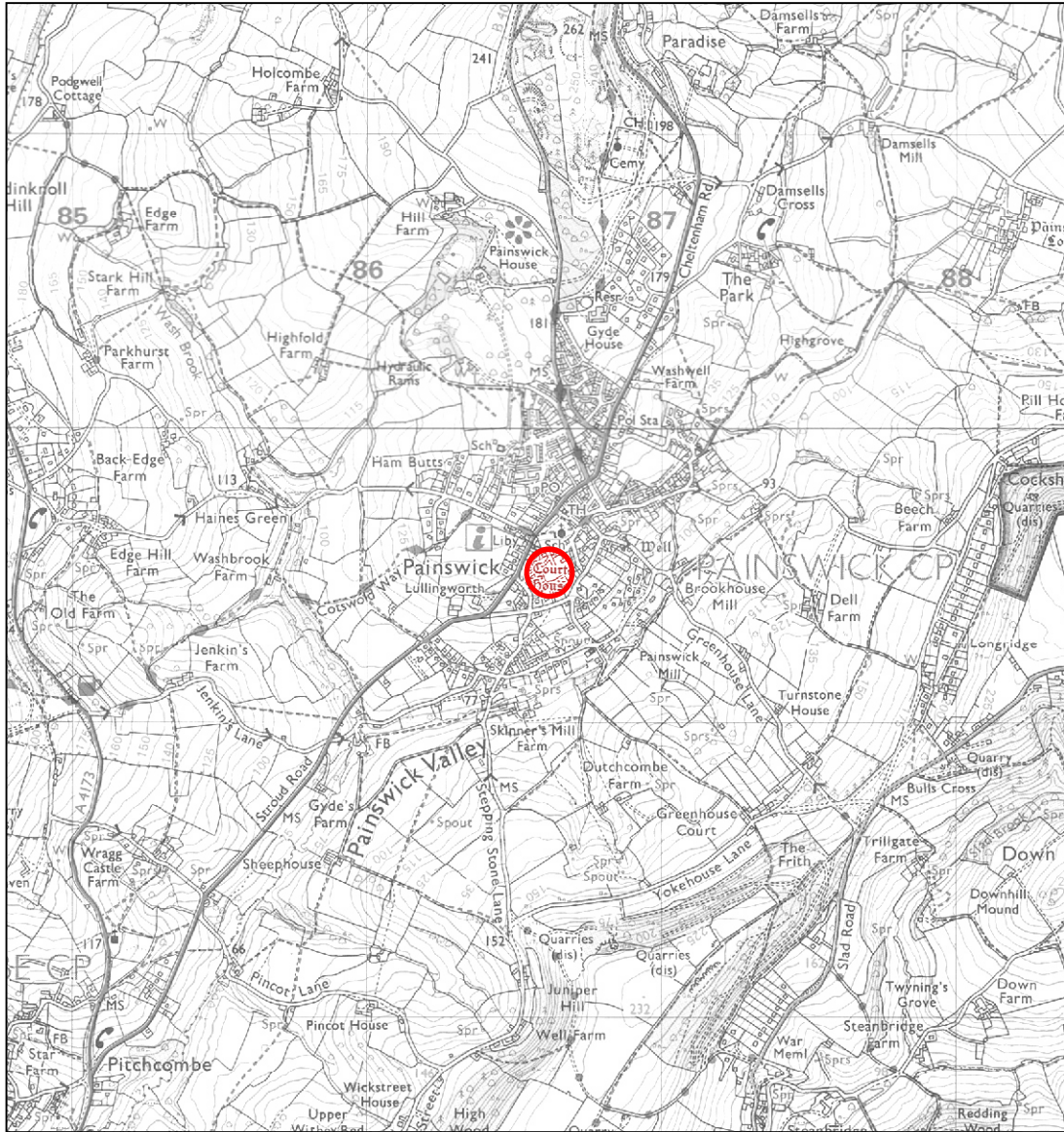
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CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<b>TRENCH 3; 10m by up to 1.6m. Natural (at average 130.02m OD) = variable beige tan clay limestone brash.</b>		
301	na	na	0.15	Topsoil; dark brown clay silt garden soil.	302	na
302	na	na	1	Layer of mixed beige grey brown limestone and soil.	303	301
303	na	na	0.39	Layer of dark brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestone fragments.	304	302
304	na	na	0.4	Layer of mid brown clay silt, which contained frequent limestone fragments.	305	303
				Equivalent to layers 103 and 205.		
305	na	na	0.05	Layer of tan brown clay.	natural	304
				No archaeological features were present within the trench.		

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**APPENDIX 2: The Finds**

<b>CXT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
202	green bottle-glass fragment X 1
302	china-ware pottery sherd X 1
303	medicine bottle X 1
304	earthen-ware glazed pottery sherd (large fragment - unabraded) - 17th - 19th century

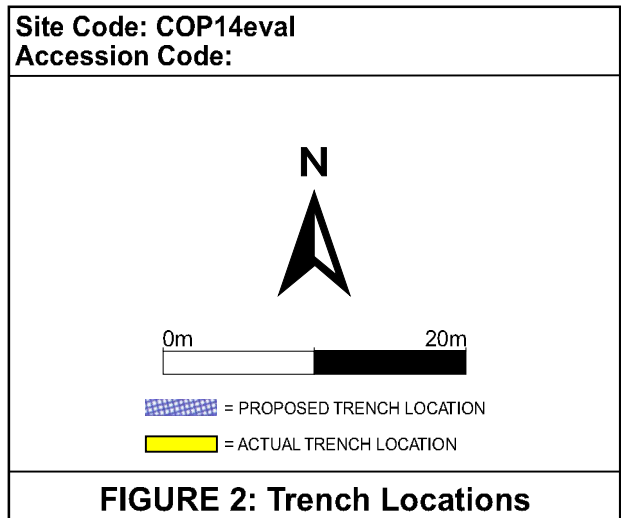
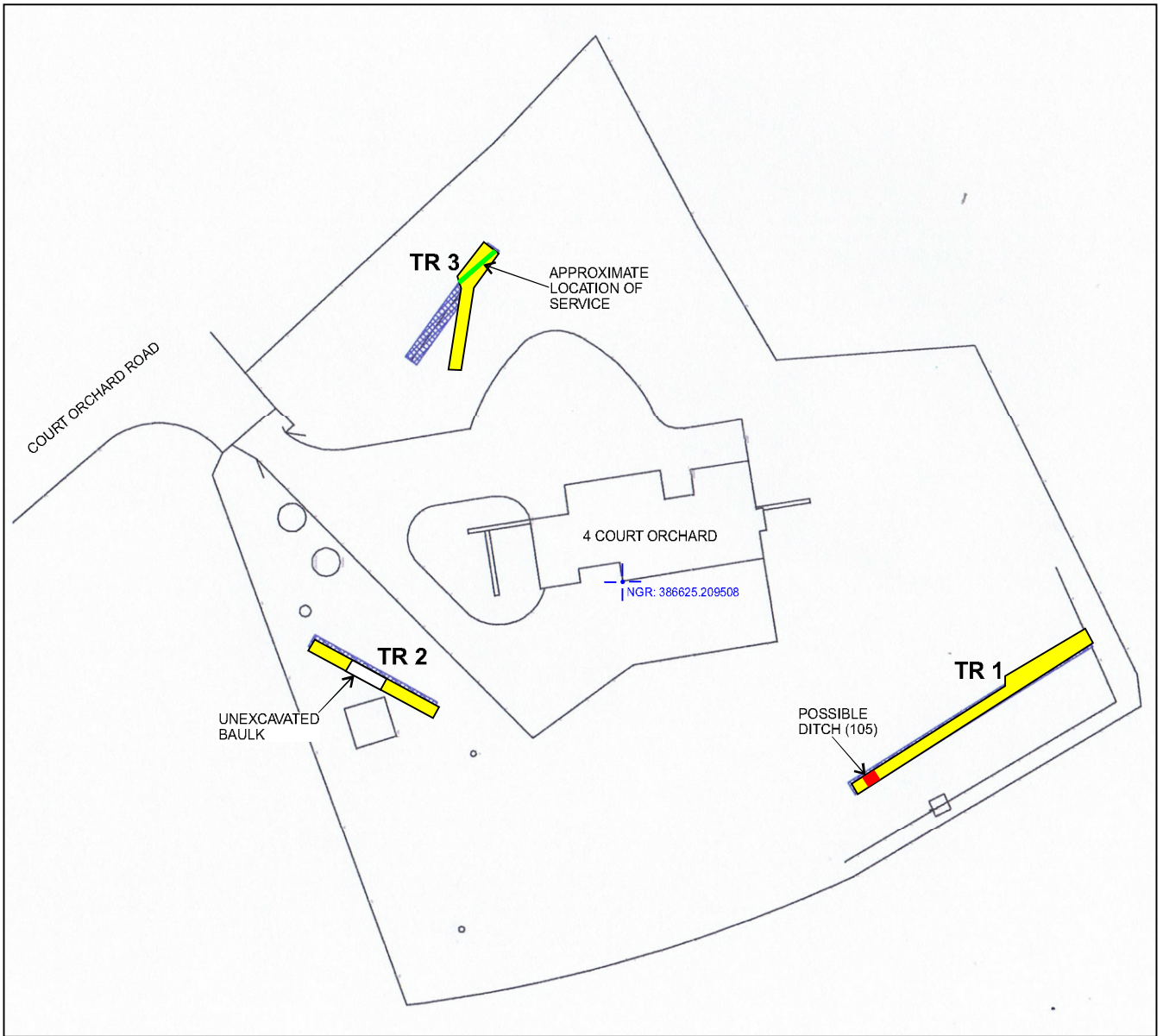


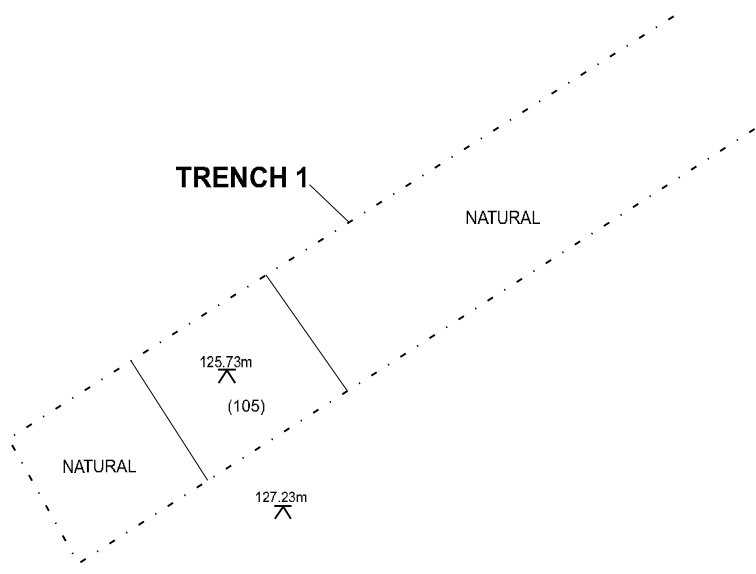
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**Site Code: COP14eval**

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**FIGURE 1: Site Location**





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<p><b>N</b></p>  
<b>FIGURE 3: Trench 1 Plan</b>