

**CROSS KEYS INN,
WANBOROUGH,
WILTSHIRE.**

NGR: 420530/183850 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

February 2017
Report No. 1178



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Trench 2 Looking Northwest

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Quality Assurance

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Author: Nick Wells MA ACIfA

Date: 3rd February 2017

Approved: R. King BA MCIfA

QA Checked: D. King BA MCIfA

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SUMMARY

On the 12th January 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook an evaluation on a single plot of land to the rear of the Cross Keys Inn, Wanborough, Wiltshire (NGR: 420530/183850 - centred). The project was commissioned by Wadworth & Co. Ltd.

The works comprised the excavation and recording of two 15m long evaluation trenches within the footprint of the proposed development of a single-storey accommodation block.

No archaeological features were found in either trench, although traces of alluvial deposits within a natural depression were found in Trench 1. No anthropogenic material dated to earlier than the late 20th century was found in any of the deposits encountered.

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 on the 12th January 2017 on a single plot of land to the rear of the Cross Keys Inn, Wanborough, Wiltshire (NGR: 420530/183850 - centred). The project was commissioned by Wadworth & Co. Ltd.
- 1.2 The project was conducted in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (rev. 2014) and complies with the principles of *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). It also conforms to the standards laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) compiled by Foundations Archaeology (2016) and approved by the County Archaeologist for the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A pre application is in place for the construction of a single-storey accommodation block to the rear of Cross Keys Inn, Wanborough.
- 2.2 The development area is located to the rear of the Cross Keys Inn, approximately 700m to the northwest of Wanborough in the floodplain of the River Cole (Figure 1). Land use is rough grassland, forming the back end of the beer garden for the inn. Ground level is at approximately 99.25m aOD.
- 2.3 The underlying solid geology comprises mudstone of the *Gault Formation* with no superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2016).
- 2.4 The study area is within an area of known archaeological potential. A Mesolithic scraper (MWI20131) had previously been found within the grounds of Cross Keys Inn. A Mesolithic pit (MWI20130), which contained microliths, was identified during an investigation by Cotswold Archaeological Trust in 2002. A possible Prehistoric curvilinear enclosure (MWI73202) has been identified by aerial photography approximately 300m to the south of the study area. A possible long barrow (MWI73199) has also been identified on aerial photographs just under 500m to the southeast of the site, however, this is now thought to represent surface quarrying, as much of the field contained mounds and pits.
- 2.5 Just under 200m to the northeast of the site is the location of the Roman road Ermin Street, which linked Gloucester (*Glevum*) to Silchester (*Calleva*) via Cirencester (*Corinium*), but despite this proximity, no archaeological evidence

of Roman activity has previously been identified close to the site. However, finds spots of coins, pottery and tile have been uncovered to the southeast, close to Callas Hill Farm and evidence of a Roman building was identified by Cotswold Archaeological Trust in 2002, near Fox Bridge, approximately 800m to the northwest of the site. Medieval ridge and furrow has been identified by aerial photography to the north and south of the site, along with possible evidence of Medieval settlement (MWI19387) approximately 350m to the southeast of the site.

- 2.6 The site therefore contains the potential for evidence of Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval activity. Due to the archaeological potential of this site the County Archaeologist for the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service requested archaeological mitigation in the form of an archaeological evaluation in the footprint of the development to characterise the archaeology and to allow for a more detailed mitigation strategy to be agreed. To satisfy this, Foundations Archaeology issued a Written Scheme of Investigation (2016) outlining a programme of archaeological evaluation for comment and approval. This was accepted and forms the basis of the current works.

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 reasonable 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 characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;
 - iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

v) To define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A total of two 15 metre trenches were excavated within the accommodation footprint, as shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden were 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 mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the project is presented in Appendix 1. Geological deposits, which comprised of orange clays, were found at approximately 98.60m aOD in Trench 1 and 99.03m aOD in Trench 2. Neither trench contained any archaeological features. A representative photograph of the trench sections are shown in Figure 3.
- 5.2 **Trench 1** was excavated down onto natural clays (**103**) to a depth of 0.7m below Modern ground level. This was sealed by a grey clay deposit (**102**), which was 0.20m thick along the majority of the trench, but was upto 0.30m deep within a slight depression 5m from the northeastern end of the trench. This deposit may be alluvial. This possible alluvium was in turn sealed by a probable made ground surface (**101**), upto 0.25m thick, which contained rare Modern brick fragments. This was then sealed by a 0.25m thick topsoil (**100**). Cut through (**101**) was a series of regularly spaced concrete post footings, which were present along the length of the trench. The natural deposits within this trench showed disturbance in the form of bioturbation.
 - 5.2.1 No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.3 **Trench 2** was excavated down onto natural clays (**202**) to a depth of 0.5m below Modern ground level. This was sealed by a 0.25m thick subsoil (**201**), which in turn sealed a 0.25m thick topsoil (**200**).

- 5.3.1 No archaeological finds or features were present within this trench.
- 5.4 No artefactual evidence, which predated the late 20th century was found within any of the evaluated areas.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Trench 2 contained the standard sequence of topsoil/subsoil/natural deposits. However, Trench 1, showed some degree of modification with a possible made ground deposit **(101)**, which sealed probable remnant alluvium **(102)**.
- 6.2 No archaeological finds or features were present within either of the evaluation trenches.

7 ARCHIVING, STORAGE & PUBLICATION

- 7.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with the Wiltshire County Museum Service. Copies of the report in paper and digital format will be supplied to the Wiltshire County Museum Service and an additional copy will be deposited with the site archive.
- 7.2 A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal within 12 months from completion of fieldwork. An OASIS record will also be completed and submitted on completion of the project.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*. Reading.

Foundations Archaeology. 2016. *Cross Keys Inn, Wanborough: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

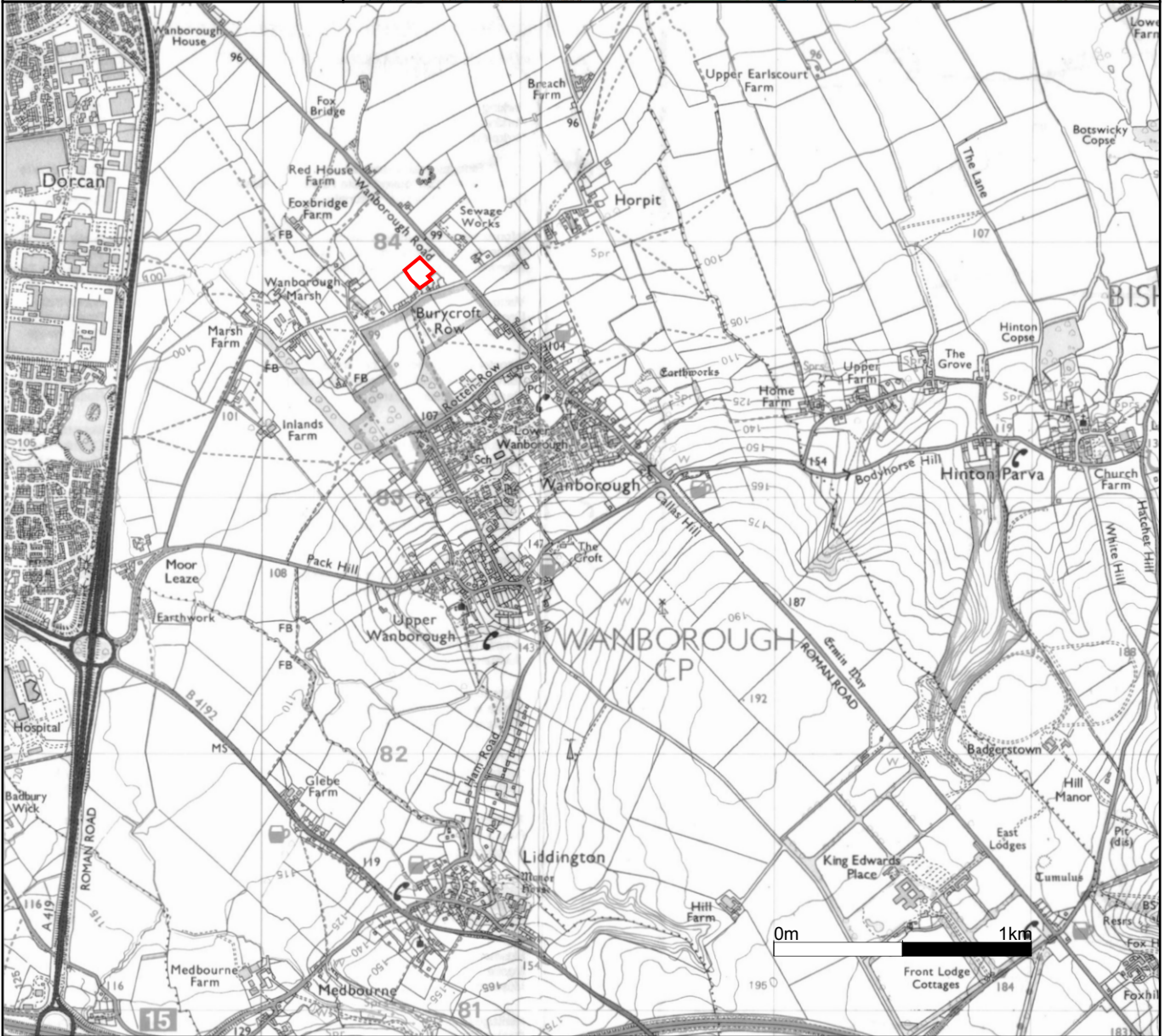
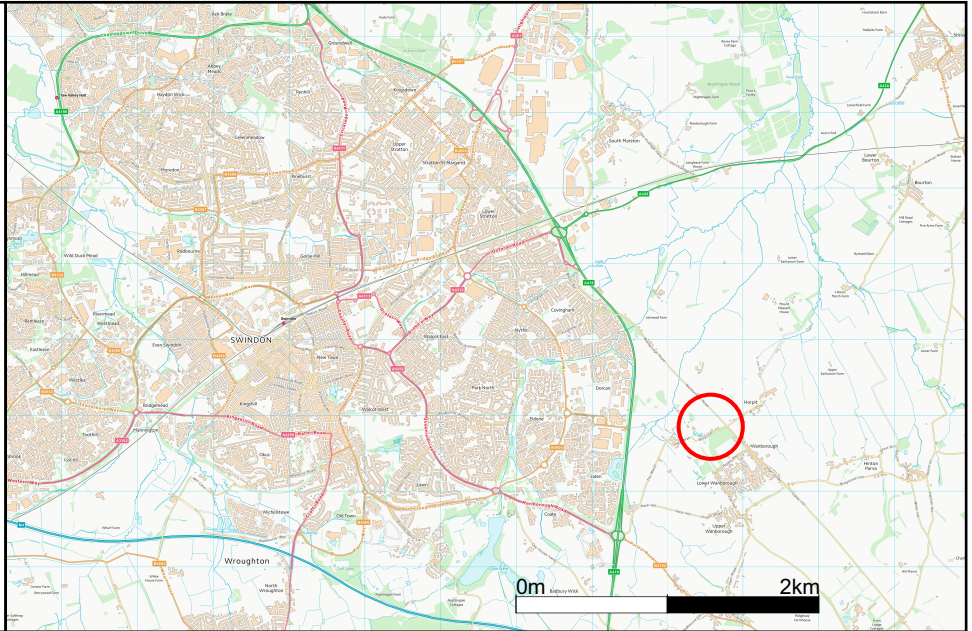
Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of the Wiltshire County Archaeology Service and Dolman Building Surveyors (on behalf of Wadworth & Co Ltd.) for their help during the course of the project.

Cross Keys Inn, Wanborough, Wiltshire: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

TRENCH 1: 15m by 1.6m, aligned northeast-southwest Ground level; 99.30m aOD (northeast), 99.11m aOD (southwest)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
100	Trench	Trench	0.25	Dark greyish brown sticky silty clay with rare small to medium rounded and subrounded stone. TOPSOIL.	101	-
101	Trench	Trench	0.25	Reddish brown friable silty clay with rare small to medium rounded and subrounded stone. Contained rare Modern brick fragments. Generally 0.25m deep, but became thinner (0.10m) to the southwest 3m from the southwest end. MADE GROUND?	102	100
102	Trench	Trench	0.20	Grey sticky clay with rare small to medium rounded and subrounded stone fragments. Very rare charcoal flecks. Slightly thicker (0.30m) in a 3m wide shallow depression 5m from the northeastern end. ALLUVIAL DEPOSIT?	103	101
103	n/a	n/a	n/a	Orange clays. NATURAL.	n/a	102
No archaeological features. Along the line of trench were regularly spaced concrete post footings cut through (101).						

TRENCH 2: 15m by 1.6m, aligned northwest-southeast Ground level; 99.25m aOD (northwest), 99.01m aOD (southeast)						
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/ LATER THAN	CUT BY/ EARLIER THAN
200	Trench	Trench	0.25	Dark greyish brown sticky silty clay with rare small to medium rounded and subrounded stone. TOPSOIL.	201	-
201	Trench	Trench	0.25	Brownish grey sticky clay silt with occasional small to medium rounded and subrounded stone fragments. SUBSOIL	202	200
202	n/a	n/a	n/a	Orange clays. NATURAL.	n/a	201
No archaeological features.						



 Site Outline

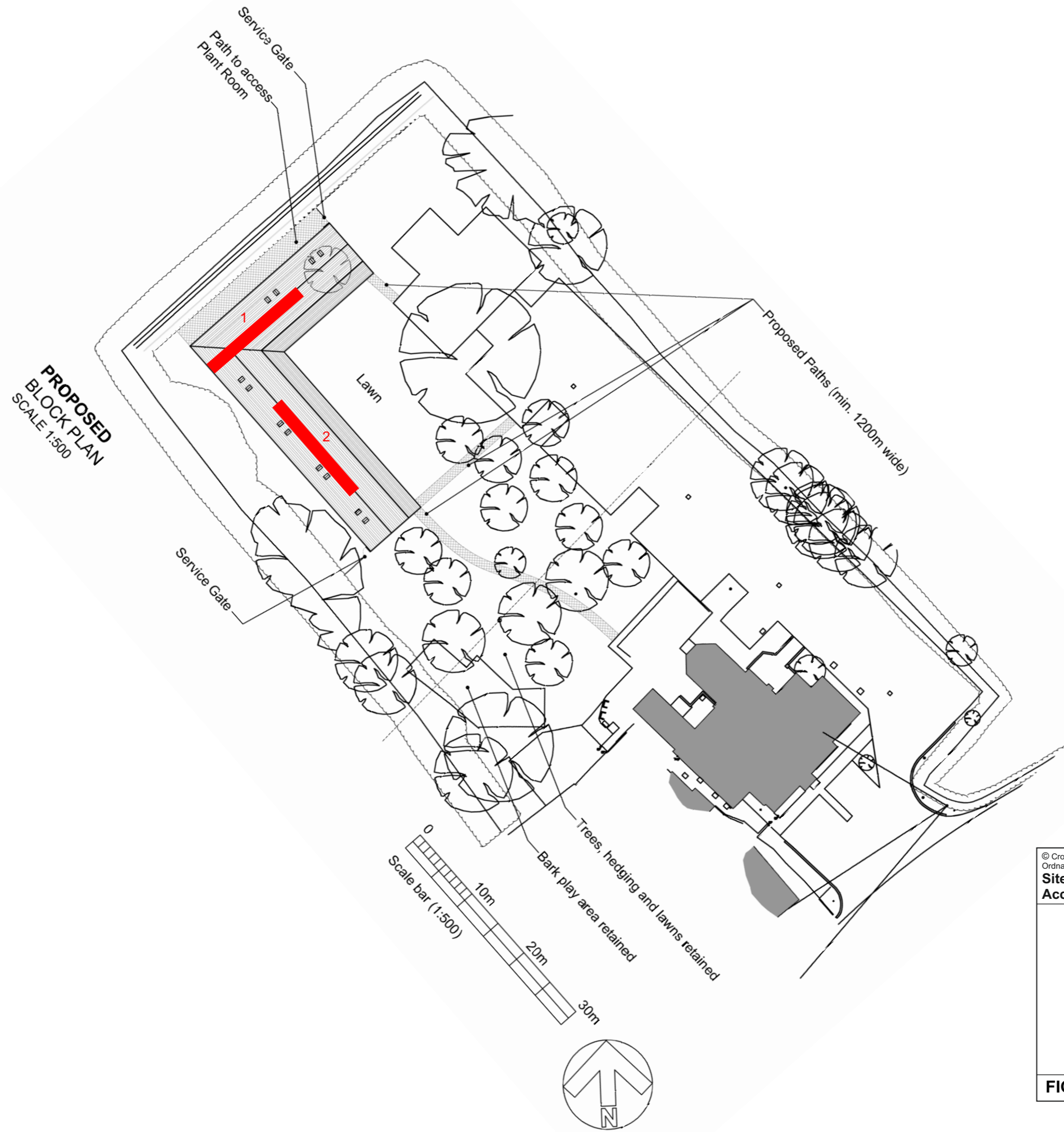


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Site Code: CKW16

Accession Code:

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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Site Code: CKW16
Accession Code:

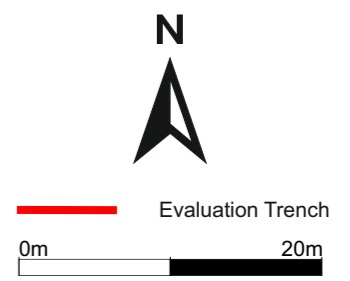
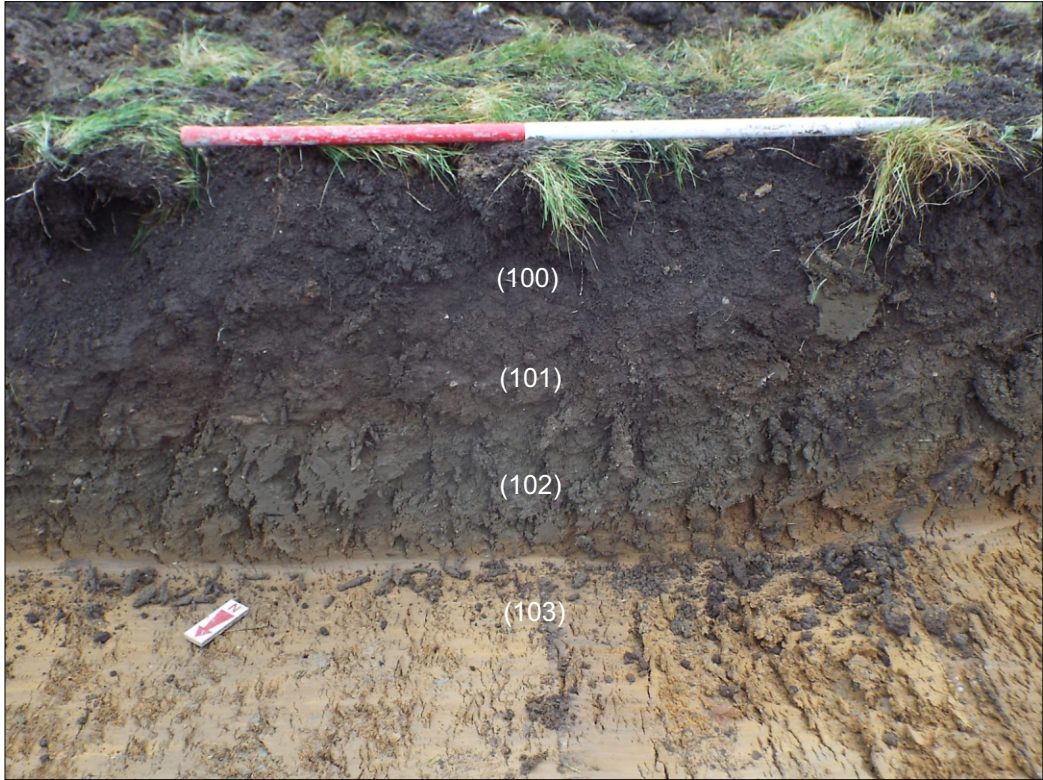


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations



99.21m aOD
^

NORTHWEST FACING SECTION TRENCH 1



99.28m aOD
^

SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION TRENCH 2

Site Code: CKW16 Accession Code:
FIGURE 3: Sections