

**PLOT A HADDENHAM BUSINESS PARK,
HADDENHAM,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.**

NGR: SP 737 092 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

March 2017
Report No. 1181



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

On 7th and 8th February 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on Plot A, Haddenham Business Park, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 737 092 - centred). The project was commissioned by Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage on behalf of Graegill Properties.

The works comprised the excavation and recording of eight 30 metre evaluation trenches within the proposed development area to satisfy the requirements of a Planning Condition.

The evaluation has identified that the site had undergone some degree of Modern modification across the whole area. This was in the form of made ground deposits, which were present within all of the evaluation trenches. The depth of this deposit varied considerably across the area. It is most likely that this deposition occurred post-war and was related to commercial buildings south of the site.

Although there was evidence for Modern activity across the whole of the study area, buried top and/or subsoils were identified within all of the evaluation trenches. No significant archaeological features were recorded in any of the trenches nor were any finds present. This absence of archaeological activity accords with the results of evaluation to the west of the site and no further archaeological investigation is warranted given the 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 On 7th and 8th February 2017 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on Plot A, Haddenham Business Park, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire (NGR: SP 737 092 - centred). The project was commissioned by Ben Stephenson of BSA Heritage on behalf of Graegill Properties.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2017) and the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The code of conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) was adhered to throughout.
- 1.4 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The trial trenching was required as Condition 16 of outline Planning Permission **14/03289/ AOP**, with detailed Permission **16/01434/ADP** for the development a new production facility and offices on site. Adjacent areas have previously been evaluated and there is also an outstanding programme of archaeological mitigation work to be completed further to the south, which is covered by the same Condition.
- 2.2 The study area lies directly to the east of the current Aylesbury and Thame Airfield. The airfield was established in the 1930s and was used for the training of glider and air transport auxiliary pilots during World War II. Aerial photography from 1945 shows aircraft parked within Plot A. To the north, east and south of the site are agricultural fields and to the southwest lies Haddenham Business Park.
- 2.3 The underlying geology is recorded as *Portland Stone Formation - Limestone*, and *Purbeck Group - Limestone and [subequal/subordinate] Argillaceous Rocks* with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS – on line viewer).
- 2.4 Archaeological Background
 - 2.4.1 Just over 650m north from the northern extent of the site is a round barrow known as Round Hill. Other evidence in the surrounding area that can be attributed with certainty to the Prehistoric period is restricted to findspots. Evidence of Roman activity is also confined to findspots. Cropmarks in the north west of the airfield suggest enclosures and other linear features, which may be of Prehistoric or Roman date, but these have not been tested. It has also been suggested that a relict late Prehistoric field system still influences the surviving landscape in this area (Heritage Network 2014).

- 2.4.2 The place name of Haddenham is most likely derived from the personal Anglo-Saxon name of *Hoeda* and *Ham* for homestead or village. The first historic mention of the village is in the Domesday Book, where it is listed as *Nedreham* rather than *Hedreham*. This is thought to be an error. The current church of St Mary's is 13th century in date. However, the site itself and its environs are likely to have formed part of the open fields surrounding the settlement and the earliest maps confirm that the land was agricultural before its 20th century military use (Heritage Network 2014).
- 2.4.3 The area west and southwest of the site have previously been subject to archaeological evaluation, which consisted of non-intrusive geophysical survey and trial trenching, completed by Heritage Network in 2014. The geophysics did not identify any clearly significant archaeological remains. A number of linear features were thought likely to reflect past field boundaries, tracks or ploughed out ridge and furrow. Also identified were three areas with higher potential, although none lay close to the site.
- 2.4.4 A total of 38 trial trenches were excavated to the south west of the site to test the results of the geophysical survey. Those closest to and west of the site contained nothing of significance. The natural ground in this area lay at between 0.25 and 0.5m from the Modern ground level.
- 2.4.5 A small number of linear features and evidence of Post-medieval quarrying came to light elsewhere within the area investigated. Despite a very low level of artefact recovery, which consisted of abraded pottery sherds, a small number of ditches were ascribed a late Prehistoric date. These lay approximately 300m southwest of the site itself.
- 2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for related evidence of later Prehistoric remains, but limited potential for earlier or later activity. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

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.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A total of eight 30m x 1.8m trench were excavated within the proposed development area, as shown in Figure 2. Scope existed for minor relocation of the trenches should ground conditions require, however, the presence of a medium pressure gas main and other services had to be respected by the layout. No relocation due to ground conditions proved necessary and all trenches were excavated in their proposed locations.

4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB type 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.

5.2 The study area sloped slightly downwards from north to south, with the natural substrates of orange brown clays on weathered limestone, present at a height of 86.14m AOD in Trench 1 to the north and at 84.78m AOD in Trench 7 to the south. In all of the trenches, the natural substrates were sealed by buried soils, these were in turn sealed by deposits of made ground, which contained Modern material throughout. The made ground deposits in all the trenches were themselves sealed by topsoil.

5.3 Modern cut features were present within Trenches 6 and 7, with an *in-situ* concrete feature present in Trench 2. The features in Trenches 6 and 7 cut through the Modern made ground deposits, while the concrete feature in Trench 2 was sealed by made ground (201).

5.4 No archaeological finds, pre-Modern features or deposits were present within any of the trenches.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The evaluation has identified that the site had undergone some degree of Modern modification across its whole area. This was in the form of made ground deposits, which were present within all of the evaluation trenches. The depth of this deposit varied considerably across the site. Although it is possible that this landscaping was to produce a suitable level surface for aircraft, it is more likely that it reflects the deposition of surplus soil from the post-war Haddenham Business Park to the south.
- 6.2 Although there was evidence for Modern activity across the whole of the study area, buried top and/or subsoils were identified within all of the evaluation trenches, down to natural, undisturbed deposits. No pre-Modern archaeological evidence was present within any of the evaluated areas and the likelihood of significant archaeological deposits is considered low.
- 6.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Buckinghamshire County 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

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Plot A Haddenham Business Park, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

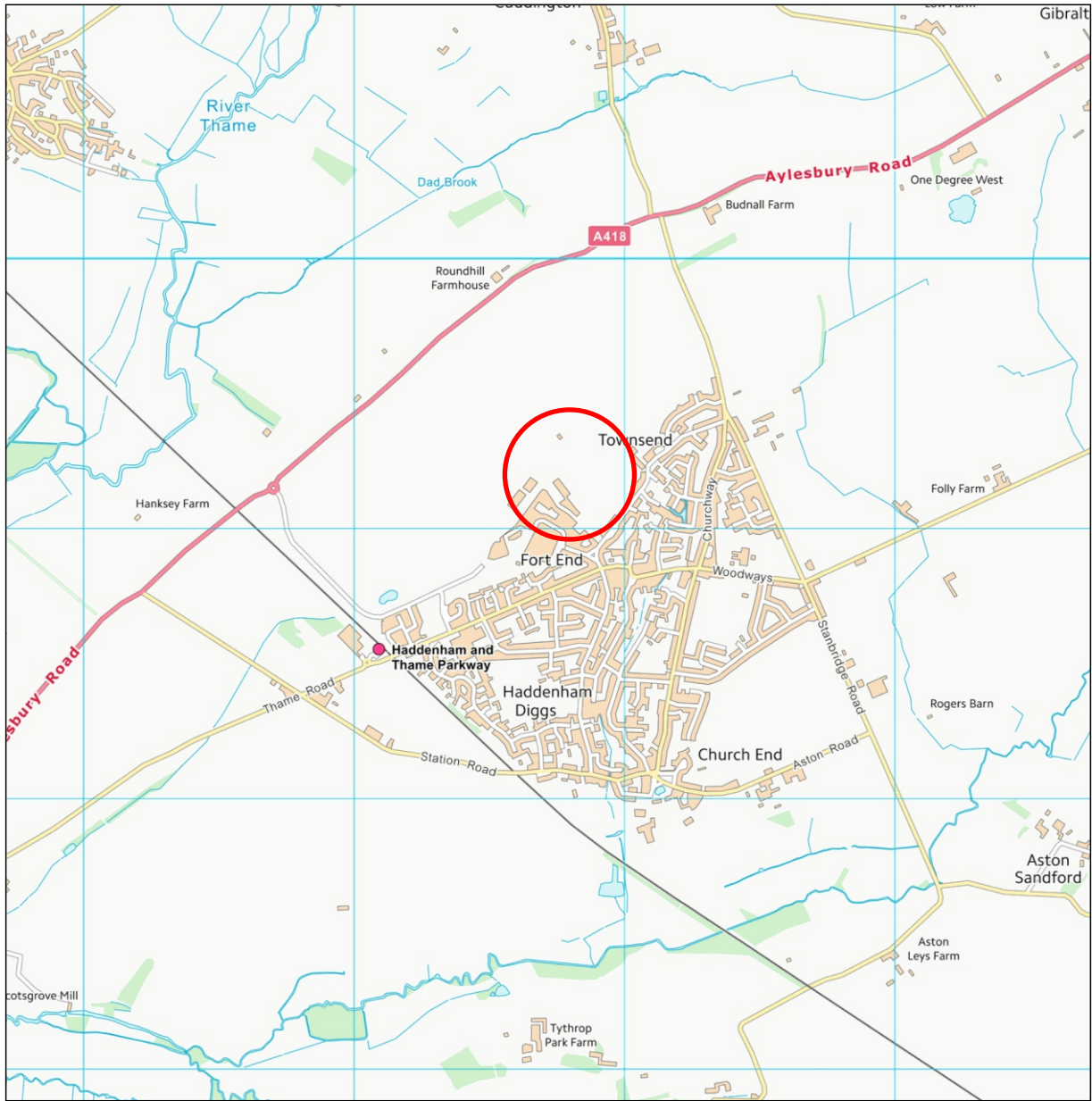
CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 1: 30m by 1.8m. NE-SW aligned. Natural (86.14m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.	n/a	103
100	30+	1.8+	0.17	Topsoil: dark grey brown silty clay, with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments.	101	n/a
101	30+	1.8+	0.1-0.45	Made ground/dumped deposit?: mid brown firm to friable silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments. Becomes thinner (0.10m thick) at northeast end of trench.	102, 104	101
102	30+	1.8+	0.1	Buried topsoil?: Dark grey brown firm silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, as well as occasional charcoal flecks.	103	101, 104
103	30+	1.8+	0.1	Buried subsoil?: Mid brown firm silty clay with rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with rare charcoal flecks.	Natural	102
104	9+	1.8+	Upto 0.1	Discrete layer of dumped ash and Modern metal fragments. Only present at southwestern end of trench.	102	101
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		
				Trench 2: 30m by 1.8m. NE-SW aligned. Natural (86.06m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.		
200	30+	1.8+	0.1	Topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay occasional rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with Modern brick and concrete rubble inclusions. Root disturbed.	201	n/a
201	30+	1.8+	0.47-0.8	Made ground: mixed clays, with limestone, Modern brick and concrete inclusions. Over concrete slab at northeastern end of trench was only 0.47m thick.	202	200
202	30+	1.8+	0.1	Buried subsoil?: Mid brown firm silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments.	Natural	201
				Concrete slab present 0.45m from northeastern end of trench, on an east southeast-west northwest alignment. The slab sealed (202), was in turn sealed by (201) and was present for a width of 2.8m. Left <i>in situ</i> .		
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		
				Trench 3: 30m by 1.8m. NW-SE aligned. Natural (85.83m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.		
300	30+	1.8+	0.1	Topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay occasional rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with Modern brick and concrete rubble inclusions.	301	n/a
301	30+	1.8+	0.8-1	Made ground: mixed clays, with limestone, Modern brick and concrete inclusions.	302	300
302	30+	1.8+	0.15	Buried topsoil?: Dark grey brown firm clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, as well as occasional charcoal flecks.	Natural	301
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		

Plot A Haddenham Business Park, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 4: 30m by 1.8m. ENE-WSW aligned. Natural (85.72m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.		
400	30+	1.8+	0.1	Topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay occasional rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with Modern brick and concrete rubble inclusions. Root disturbed.	401	n/a
401	30+	1.8+	0.6-0.74	Made ground: mixed clays, with frequent patches of limestone, Modern brick and concrete inclusions. Thins to the western end of the trench.	402	400
402	30+	1.8+	0.2	Buried topsoil?: Dark grey brown firm clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, as well as occasional charcoal flecks.	403	401
403	30+	1.8+	0.05	Buried subsoil?: Mid brown firm silty clay with rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with rare charcoal flecks. Interface very diffuse.	Natural	402
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		
				Trench 5: 30m by 1.8m. NE-SW aligned. Natural (85.65m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.		
500	30+	1.8+	0.15	Topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay occasional rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with Modern brick and concrete rubble inclusions. Root disturbed.	501	n/a
501	30+	1.8+	0.3-0.43	Made ground: mixed crushed limestone and Modern brick fragments in a mixed clay matrix. Thins towards the northeast end of the trench.	502	500
502	30+	1.8+	0.54	Made ground: pale brown firm to sticky silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments. Contained frequent Modern artefacts and patches of crushed limestone.	503	501
503	30+	1.8+	0.2	Buried topsoil?: dark brown sticky clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments. Contained rare CBM fragments and charcoal flecks.	Natural	502
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		
				Trench 6: 30m by 1.8m. NW-SE aligned. Natural (85.02m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.		
600	30+	1.8+	0.1	Topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay occasional rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with Modern brick and concrete rubble inclusions. Root disturbed.	601	n/a
601	18+	1.8+	0.4	Made ground: mixed crushed limestone and Modern brick fragments in a mixed clay matrix. Not present for northeastern 12m of trench.	602	600
602	30+	1.8+	0.4	Made ground: pale brown firm to sticky silty clay with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments. Contained frequent Modern artefacts and patches of crushed limestone.	603	601
603	30+	1.8+	0.2	Buried topsoil?: dark brown sticky clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments. Contained rare CBM fragments and charcoal flecks.	Natural	602
				Modern sub-rectangular feature, which cut through (602) was present 8 metres from southwestern end of trench. This feature was investigated but not recorded.		
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		

Plot A Haddenham Business Park, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	LATER THAN	EARLIER THAN
				Trench 7: 30m by 1.8m. NNE-SSW aligned. Natural (84.78m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.		
700	30+	1.8+	0.1	Topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay occasional rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with Modern brick and concrete rubble inclusions. Root disturbed.	701	n/a
701	30+	1.8+	0.1-1.2	Made ground: interleaved deposits of limestone fragments, re-deposited clays and a brown firm clay silt. Contained Modern debris. Layer thinned to 0.1m thick at southern end of trench.	702	700
702	30+	1.8+	0.2	Buried subsoil?: mid brown firm to sticky clay silt with frequent small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments.	Natural	701
				A 1m by 0.65m Modern sub-rectangular cut feature, which contained ash only and cut through (702), was present 7m from the northeastern end of the trench. This feature was investigated, but not recorded.		
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		
				Trench 8: 30m by 1.8m. N-S aligned. Natural (85.34m AOD) = orange brown clays on weathered limestone.		
800	30+	1.8+	0.1	Topsoil: Dark brown friable silty clay occasional rare small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments, along with Modern brick and concrete rubble inclusions. Root disturbed.	801	n/a
801	30+	1.8+	1	Made ground: Interleaved deposit of redeposited natural, crushed limestone and mid brown silty clay. Contained Modern debris.	802	800
802	30+	1.8+	0.15	Buried subsoil?: mid brown firm sticky clay silt with occasional small and medium sub-rounded and sub-angular limestone fragments. Contained frequent charcoal flecks.	Natural	801
				No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.		



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Site Code: HBH17
Accession Code:

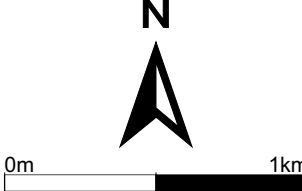


FIGURE 1: Site Location

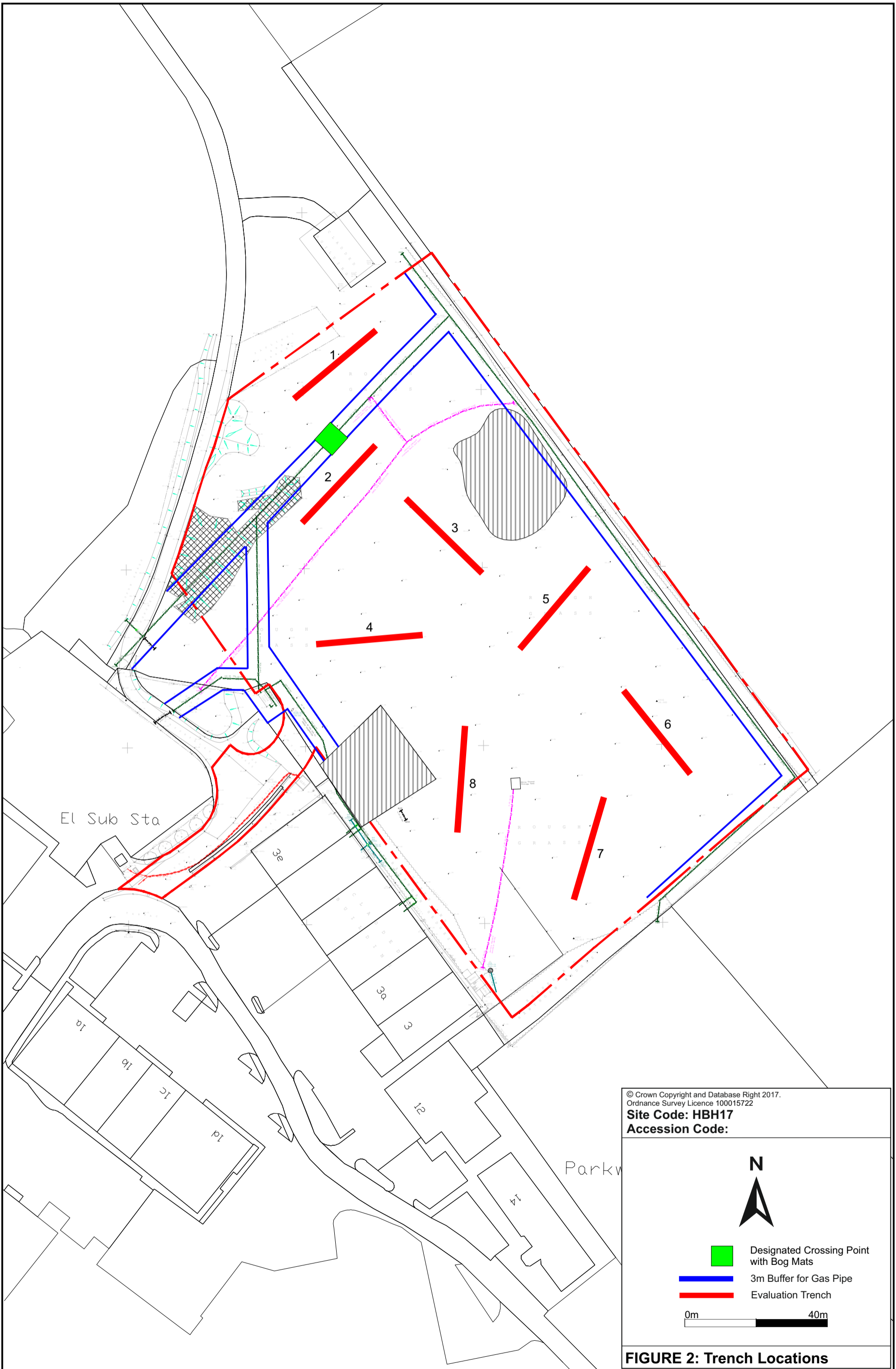


FIGURE 2: Trench Locations