

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## **Land adjacent to 6 VICARAGE CLOSE Melbourn, Cambs**

HN664

### *Archaeological Evaluation Report*



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land adjacent to  
6 VICARAGE CLOSE  
Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

HN664

*Archaeological Evaluation Report*

*Prepared on behalf of Andrew Taylor, Esq*

by

Alison Hudson, BEd

Report no. 410

*June 2007*

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*The cover photograph shows a view of the site, looking south.*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by David Kaye and Alison Hudson. The report text and illustrations were prepared by Alison Hudson, and the report was edited by Chris Turner.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Andrew Taylor Esq, and the staff of the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA) section, Cambridgeshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Land adjacent to 6 Vicarage Close Melbourn, Cambridgeshire		
<b>County:</b>	Cambridgeshire	<b>District:</b>	South Cambridgeshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Melbourn	<b>Parish:</b>	Melbourn
<b>Planning reference:</b>	S/1285/03/F	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 38310 44921
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Andrew Taylor, Esq. Ashley House, 6 Vicarage Close, Melbourn		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	New Dwelling	<b>Former land use:</b>	Garden
<b>Site Status:</b>	None	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPG16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c. 200m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	10m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN 664	<b>Other reference:</b>	ECB2630
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc...</b>	Evaluation	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	Cambridgeshire CC Heritage Services
<b>Start of work</b>	17/04/07	<b>Finish of work</b>	17/04/07
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Post med/ Modern
<b>Oasis UID:</b>	heritage1- 26929	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	n/a		

**Synopsis:** In order to meet the requirements of the planning consent for the development of a new dwelling on land adjacent to 6 Vicarage Close Melbourn, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to carry out an archaeological evaluation.

A single trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. The stratigraphy consisted of a layer of made ground containing modern building debris and a moderate amount of root activity, beneath which was a layer of sedimentary deposit. Ground water was observed in the trench at this level.

The identified stratigraphy on the site and the presence of ground water at the sedimentary layer is indicative of a possible shallow infilled garden pond. This may relate to the time when the site formed part of the gardens of the original vicarage of All Saints Church which lies 100m to the north-west. The modern nature of the backfill indicates the pond went out of use during the second half of the twentieth century.

# 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared on the instruction of *Andrew Taylor Esq*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site located on land adjacent to 6 Vicarage Close, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire.

**1.2** The investigation has been a requirement of the planning consent for the development (ref. SCDC S/1285/03/F), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The work was defined in a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by the *Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice* (CAPCA) section of Cambridgeshire County Council (ref. KG 11/01/2006), acting as archaeological advisers to the local planning authority, South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC). A full specification for the work undertaken is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design* dated March 2007.

**1.3** The present evaluation was prompted by the presence of defined archaeological activity in the area, ranging from at least the Bronze Age period onwards. A bronze Age hoard of metal work (NMR 368492) was discovered at Meldreth c.700m to the north-west of the study area. A rectangular enclosure associated with Romano-British finds (NMR 368418) is located c. 1.1km east-north-east of the site. Further evidence of activity of the period includes a 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD Romano-British cremation cemetery (NMR 368476) located c. 1km to the east-north-east, and a probable late Saxon settlement site (NMR 368421), located c. 1km north-north-west of the study area.

**1.4** The thirteenth century All Saints Church (SMR 03315) is located approximately 100m north-east of the site. Three medieval moats, Lordship farm (MCB 2555), The Moats (MCB 1587), and Sheene Farm (MCB 1614), are also close to the area. In addition to this, sherds of medieval pottery (MCB 15383) have been found in the vicinity

**1.5** The study area is situated in the historic core of the village of Melbourn, centred on NGR TL 38310 44921. The site is bounded by residential dwellings to the north, east and south, and Vicarage Close to the west. The development proposes the construction of a detached dwelling with associated driveway and services (Figure 1).

**1.6** The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), if they were discovered.

**1.7** The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further, if any, mitigation measures may be required to allow the development to proceed.

## 2. Fieldwork

### *SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY*

**2.1** The site is currently waste ground adjacent to 6 Vicarage Close, having previously formed part of the garden. It is located on a gentle southerly slope about 300m east of the river Mel, at approximately 22mAOD.

**2.2** Geological test pits undertaken in 2005 appear to suggest that the area where the new dwelling is to be built consists of a relatively shallow infilled pond, typical of the kind that would be expected in a garden.

**2.3** The natural geology of the area is recorded as river terrace and chalky drift of the Milton association (SSEW 1983). This is characterised on the present site as very light greenish grey (GLEY 1 B/1) chalk. The underlying geology of the area is Middle Chalk.

### *METHODOLOGY*

**2.4** All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and both IFA and ALGAO standards.

**2.5** The trench was located from known points using fibreglass tape measures. It was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building under close archaeological supervision using a tracked 360° mini digger fitted with a 1m toothless bucket. The trench measured 5m x 2m and was orientated north-east, south-west. (Figure 2).

**2.6** The trench was machined to the first significant archaeological horizon. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

**2.7** All potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation. All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:20.

**RESULTS****Stratigraphy**

**2.8** The vegetation and topsoil had been stripped from the area prior to excavation. The stratigraphy observed within the trench consisted of between 0.92m and 1.30m of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) made ground including construction debris and a considerable amount of root activity. The subsoil consisted of a dark greenish grey (GLEY 1 3/10Y) sedimentary deposit, beneath which was the natural geology.

**Trench 1**

<b>Length (m):</b>	5	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.6	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW		
<b>Level at North East End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	22.30	<b>Level at South West End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	22.37
			<b>Base</b>	20.82				<b>Base</b>	20.81
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>						
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>				
Made ground	Layer	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silt with building rubble, CBM, and roots	-	-	1.30 (max)				
Subsoil	Layer	Dark greenish grey (GLEY 1 3/10Y) sedimentary deposit with tree bark	-	-	0.22 (max)				
Natural	Layer	Very light greenish grey (GLEY 1 B/1) chalk	-	-	-				

**2.9** Trench 1 was located across the footprint of the proposed new building and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench measured 5m x 2m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.6m. Large sections of decaying tree bark were observed in the sedimentary deposit.

**2.10** No significant archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts were observed in this trench (Figure 3).

**FINDS ASSESSMENT**

**2.11** The spoil from the excavation was inspected and artefacts including modern brick, concrete, and modern building debris were observed across the extent of the site. These artefacts were not considered to be of archaeological significance and were not collected.

### 3. Discussion

**3.1** The excavation of the single trial trench across the footprint of the proposed new building demonstrated the presence of a considerable depth of made ground containing modern construction debris. Beneath this was a sedimentary deposit containing large sections of decaying tree bark. Ground water was observed in the trench at this level. No cut features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were identified.

**3.2** The identified stratigraphy within the trench, together with the geotechnical data appears to suggest the area was once a shallow pond that has since been infilled. The pond extends beyond the limits of the evaluation trench, indicating it was over 5m in width. The lack of other cut features or artefacts suggests that this pond is a garden feature.

**3.3** Cartographic evidence shows that, at least until the middle of the twentieth century, the land formed part of the gardens of the original vicarage to All Saints Church which lies approximately 100m to the north east (Figure 4).

#### *Conclusion*

**3.4** The identified stratigraphy on the site and the presence of ground water at the sedimentary layer is indicative of a possible shallow infilled garden pond and surrounding foliage. This may relate to when the site formed part of the gardens of the original vicarage of All Saints Church. The modern nature of the backfill indicates the pond went out of use during the second half of the twentieth century.

**3.5** No archaeological remains were recorded in the trench, either stratified or unstratified. On this basis, the risk that development of the site might affect archaeological remains of any significance should be considered to be *Low*.

#### *Confidence Rating*

**3.6** In the course of the fieldwork, weather and ground conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

## 4. Bibliography

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Saunders G, 2007, *Land adjacent to 6 Vicarage Close Melbourn, Cambridgeshire - Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation*. Heritage Network.

## 5. Illustrations

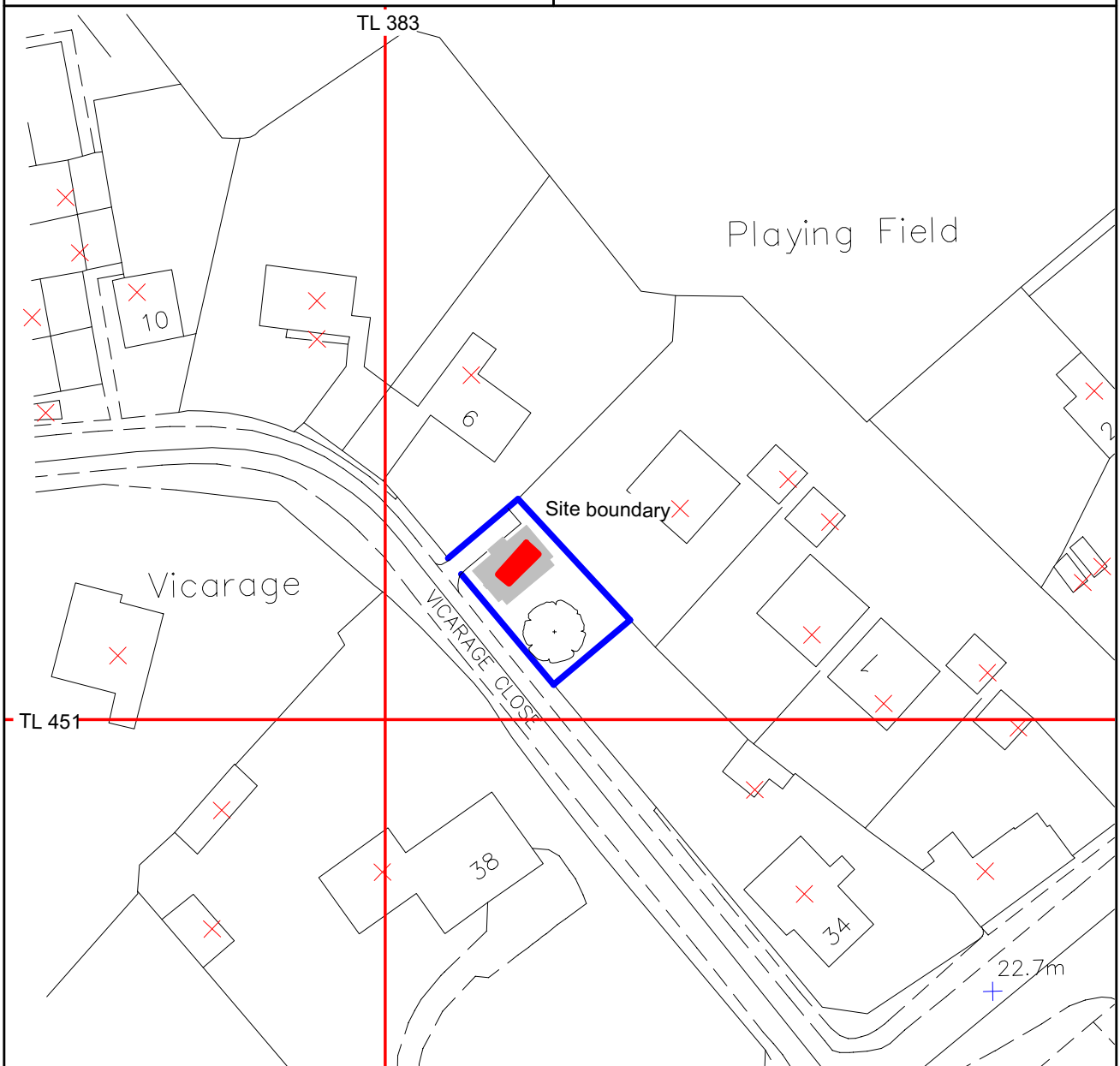
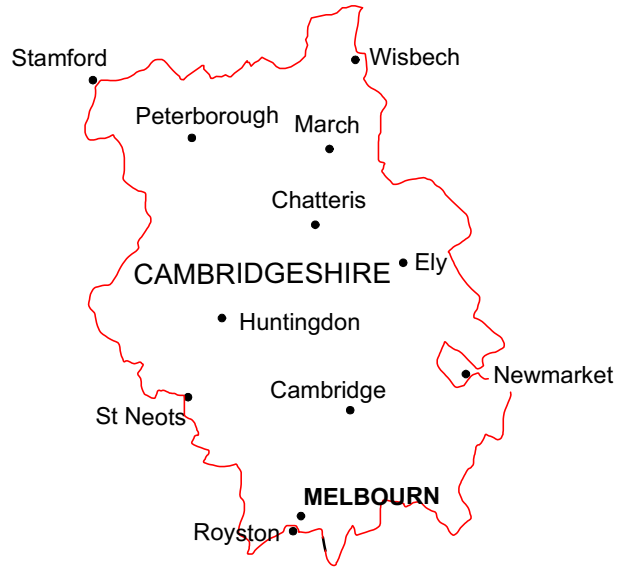
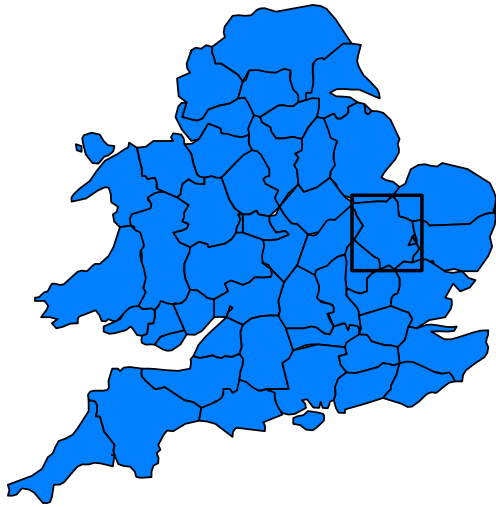
Figure 1 .....	Site location
Figure 2 .....	Trench location
Figure 3 .....	Profile of Trench 1
Figure 4 .....	Ordnance Survey, 1 <sup>st</sup> edition, 1887
Plate 1 .....	Trench 1, looking south-west
Plate 2 .....	Trench 1 section facing north-west



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Melbourn, Cambs

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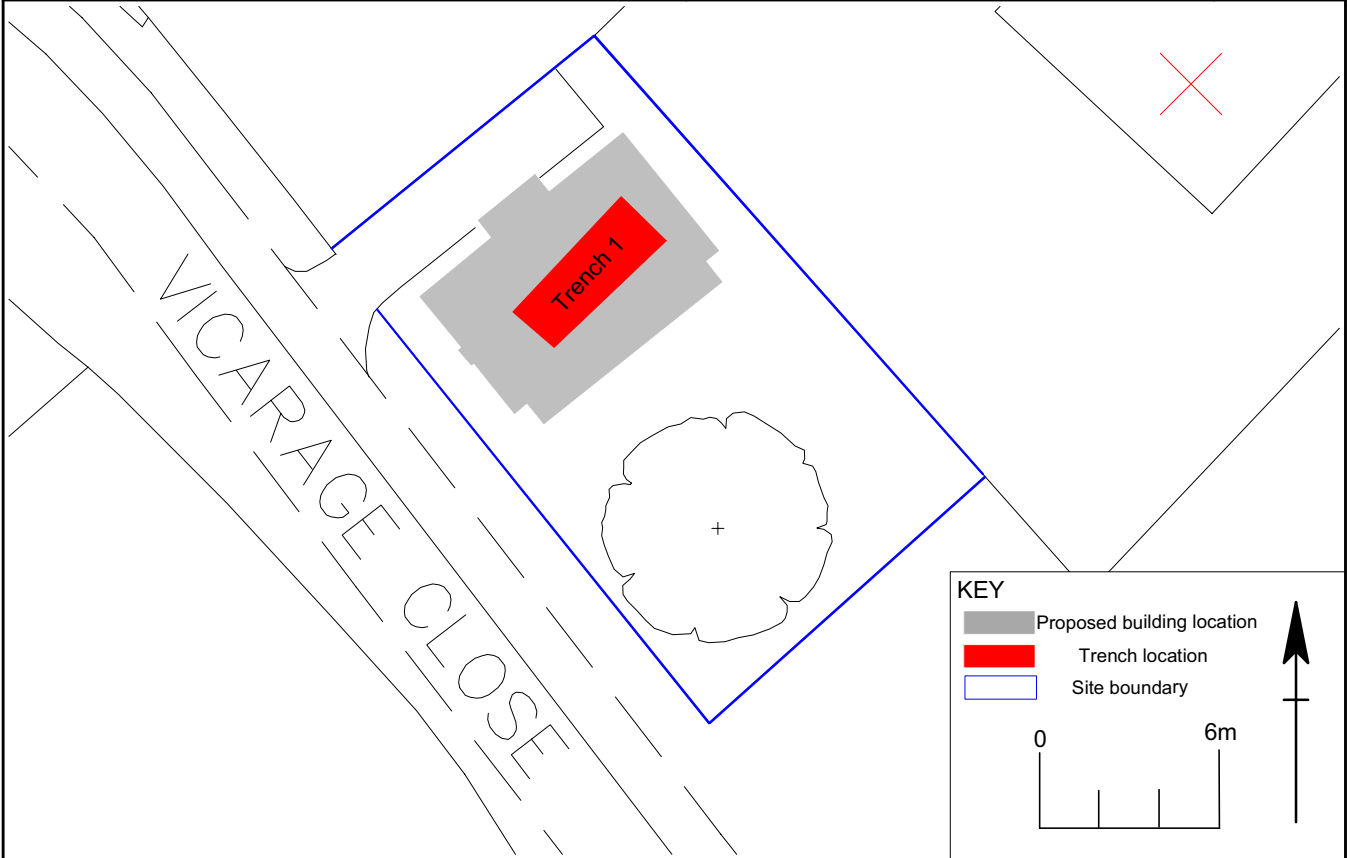


Site Location

Scale 1:750

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Licence no.AL100014861

Figure 1



**KEY**

- Proposed building location
- Trench location
- Site boundary

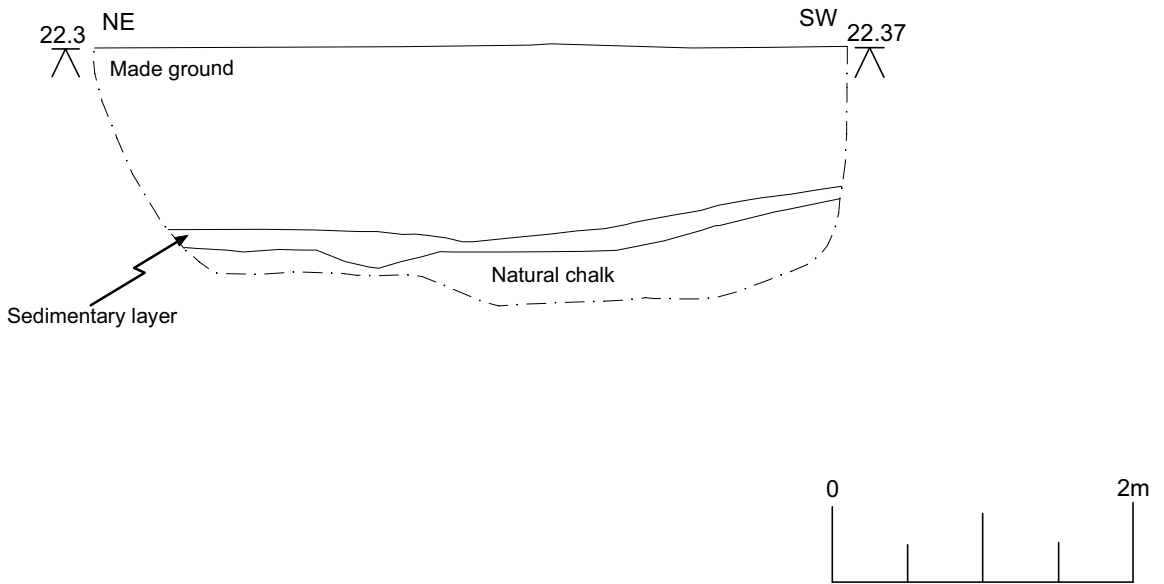
0 6m

A north arrow pointing upwards and a scale bar showing 0 to 6 meters.

Trench location relative to proposed development

1:250

Figure 2



Profile of Trench 1

1:50

Figure 3

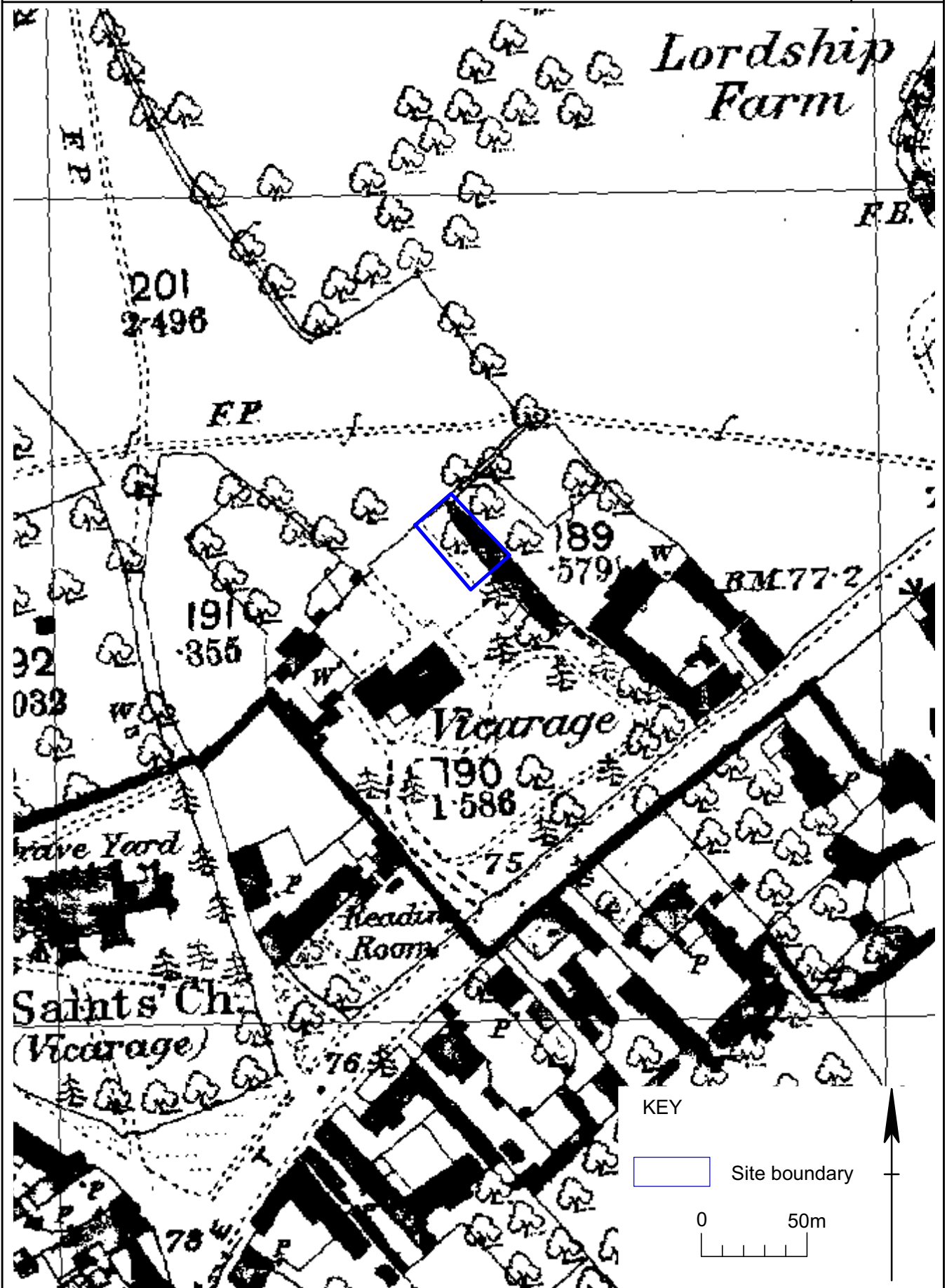




Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south-west



Plate 2: Trench 1 north-west facing section showing sedimentary deposit.