

**DE MONTFORT COURT, PALMERSTON
ROAD,
WOODSTON, PETERBOROUGH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**DE MONTFORT COURT, PALMERSTON ROAD,
WOODSTON, PETERBOROUGH**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Laszlo Lichtenstein (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 18707 97600	Report No. 4447
District: Peterborough	Site Code: AS 1636
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No. 5503
Signed:	Date: 31 October 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>De Montfort Court, Palmerston Road, Woodston, , Peterborough.</i>		
<p><i>In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at De Montfort Court, Palmerston Road, Woodston, Peterborough (NGR TL 18707 97600). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership on behalf of Cross Keys Homes Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 12 new affordable dwellings for rent, following demolition of the existing buildings of De Montfort Court (Planning Ref. 13/00935/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in an area of known archaeological importance. Prehistoric archaeology has been found in the general area including human remains, and burials possibly dating to the Anglo-Saxon period are known.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation recorded a 19th century brick industrial feature thought possibly to be a chimney, and numerous modern features and services. The latter largely related to the De Montfort Court building.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>October 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>5406</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1636</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Vacant plot</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential development.</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>19th century brick foundation, modern features and services</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Peterborough</i>	<i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Peterborough Historic Environment Record (PHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.29ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 18707 97600</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.10 m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service</i>		
Project supervisor/(PO)	<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein</i>		
Funded by	<i>Cross Keys Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>De Montfort Court, Palmerston Road, Woodston, Peterborough. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
Authors	<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein</i>		
Report no.	<i>4447</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2013</i>		

DE MONTFORT COURT, PALMERSTON ROAD, WOODSTON, PETERBOROUGH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at De Montfort Court, Palmerston Road, Woodston, Peterborough (NGR TL 18707 97600). The evaluation was commissioned in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 12 new affordable dwellings for rent, following demolition of the existing buildings of De Montfort Court (Planning Ref. 13/00935/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

The site is located in an area of known archaeological importance. Prehistoric archaeology has been found in the general area including human remains, and burials possibly dating to the Anglo-Saxon period are known.

In the event the evaluation recorded a 19th century brick industrial feature thought possibly to be a chimney, and numerous modern features and services. The latter largely related to the De Montfort court building.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at De Montfort Court, Palmerston Road, Woodston, Peterborough (NGR TL 18707 97600). The evaluation was commissioned by The Design Partnership on behalf of Cross Keys Homes Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 12 new affordable dwellings for rent, following demolition of the existing buildings of De Montfort Court (Planning Ref. 13/00935/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

1.2 A watching brief is required during the subsequent construction.

1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a brief issued by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS) (dated 27 September 2013), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 30 September 2013) and approved by PCC AS. The archaeological evaluation adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology*

in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.4 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development areas;
- Provide information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;
- Inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
- Mitigate potential threats;
- Inform proposals for further investigations (namely, targeted area excavations) with the ongoing programme of research;
- Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains; and
- Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

Planning policy context

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage

asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 Woodston forms part of south Peterborough with the site located 1.3 km south-west of the cathedral. The site comprises a group of buildings named De Montfort Court located on the western side of Palmerston Road and 200m south of the church of St Augustine of Canterbury. They had been subject to recent demolition in advance of the evaluation taking place.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The site is situated 580m south of the River Nene at approximately 10m AOD. It encompasses an area of some 0.29ha and lies on a geology of Oxford Clay overlain by superficial glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 Palaeolithic finds have been made in the local gravel deposits, and an archaeological evaluation carried out some 200m north-west of the site identified two prehistoric pits, one of which was of Neolithic date. The Roman town of *Durobrivae* was located at Water Newton and was surrounded by a rich rural landscape dotted with Roman villas.

3.2.2 An early to middle Anglo-Saxon settlement was located in the vicinity of the site. Seven *grubenhauser* plus pits and ditches have been excavated, along with an associated mixed cremation and inhumation cemetery. Grave goods recovered include brooches, shield bosses, spear heads, and knives dating mainly between mid 5th and 6th centuries. However, a male inhumation was found in allotments accompanied by a 7th century brass 'Coptic' bowl; the burial is of broadly similar date to the founding of Peterborough Abbey in the mid to late 7th century.

3.2.3 The Domesday Book records a church at Woodston, and the Grade I listed Church of St Augustine of Canterbury contains some Anglo-Saxon masonry containing a pre-Conquest window. The chancel was constructed around the 14th century, but the whole church was almost completely rebuilt in 1844. An archaeological evaluation carried out at The Walnuts, on the Oundle Road some 200m north-west of the site identified remains of medieval occupation including buildings, pits, gullies, drains and a possible pond.

3.2.4 The Walnuts excavation also identified evidence of post-medieval settlement including buildings, pits, and a quarry and a well. A linear feature of uncertain date and function was identified on land at St Augustine's School. The old village of Woodston was located about one mile from Peterborough, set on a main road is known to have been a stopping place for merchants.

3.2.5 In the 18th century Grade II listed Woodston Rectory was built near the church. The village of Woodston was still separated from Peterborough by fields in the 19th century. No archaeological remains are recorded from the site, but the 1st edition OS map of 1886 shows that the site was occupied by a row of terraced properties fronting Palmerston Road. De Montfort Court was built in the 1980s.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The brief required some 50m of trial trenching at 2m width, to comprise a c.5% sample of the site. The trench plan appended to the brief allowed for one trench of 40m x 2m and one trench of 20m x 2m, in the areas of least previous ground disturbance. The trenches were moved slightly because of practical constraints.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs.2 & 6)

North-west end 0.00 = 9.93m AOD		
0.00 – 1.10m	L1000	Made ground. Mid greyish brown, friable, silty sand with frequent demolition debris. It contained 20 th century CBM, plastic, metal fragments and glass fragments.
1.10m+	L1002	Natural. Light brownish yellow, friable, sand with moderately well sorted gravel.

South-east end 0.00 = 9.82m AOD		
0.00 – 1.05m	L1000	Made ground. As above.
1.05m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Modern features and a 19th century brick industrial feature, thought possibly to be a chimney base, were present in Trench 1.

The brick industrial feature (2.57m x 1.00m+ x 0.70m+) (F1002) was located in the north-western part of the trench and was recorded as a half circle in plan. It consisted of a concrete foundation (L1009) topped with light yellowish red bricks (M1004) bonded with a light grey cement mortar (M1003), mortar lining (M1005) and the basal fill (L1006). The wall/foundation was present below (F1007) and was likely of 19th century origin.

F1007 was cut in the centre of F1002 and was likely of 20th century origin. It had vertical sides and concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a light yellow brown, loose, silty sand. It contained modern (20th century) bricks, wall plaster, glass and CBM.

Trench 2 (Fig.2 & 3)

West end 0.00= 9.86m AOD		
0.00 – 1.15m	L1000	Made Ground. As above Tr.1.
1.15m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

East end 0.00= 9.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.78m	L1000	Made Ground. As above Tr.1.
0.78m +	L1001	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Modern gullies and pits were present in Trench 2.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the evaluation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The site was commonly overlain by modern made ground. The topsoil and overburden had been removed as part of the demolition programme. The modern made ground was 0.78 – 1.15m thick and

consisted of numerous layers containing CBM fragments and modern debris.

7.2 Below Made Ground L1000, the natural, L1001, was a light brownish yellow, friable, sand with moderate well sorted gravel (0.78 – 1.15m below the current ground level).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site is located in an area of known archaeological importance. Prehistoric archaeology has been found in the general area including human remains, and burials possibly dating to the Anglo-Saxon period are known.

8.2 In the event the evaluation recorded a 19th century brick industrial feature thought possibly to be a chimney, and numerous modern features and services. The latter largely related to the De Montfort court building.

8.3 The semi-circular structure discovered in Trench 1 is formed of handmade un-frogged bricks (9" x 4¼" x 2½") comprising a yellowish red fabric bonded with a light grey cement, its internal face given a mortar lining. Its semi-circular form is a single brick course in width. It is likely that the structure may have had some industrial use possibly dating to the early to mid 19th century though this interpretation is limited to the visible remains more of which may survive. Cartographic evidence from the later 19th century (Figs. 3 - 5) show gravel pits in the vicinity of De Montfort Court which may be related though at this time the site is occupied by terraced houses (Demontford Terraces) set back from Palmerston Road. The Fletton brick industry which was synonymous with Peterborough at the beginning of the 20th century is unlikely to have impacted on this area which has remained residential from the mid 19th century. Further exposure of this feature and its surroundings may shed light on its true extent and original function which could not be ascertained during this investigation.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency, and prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in Wass (2003). In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the client Cross Keys Homes Ltd for funding the project, and the Design Partnership for commissioning the evaluation, in particular Mr Tony Welland and Mr Ben Mitchell.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Rebecca Casa-Hatton of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

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WEB SITE
Heritage Gateway

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View across the site



2
Trial trench 1, facing north-west



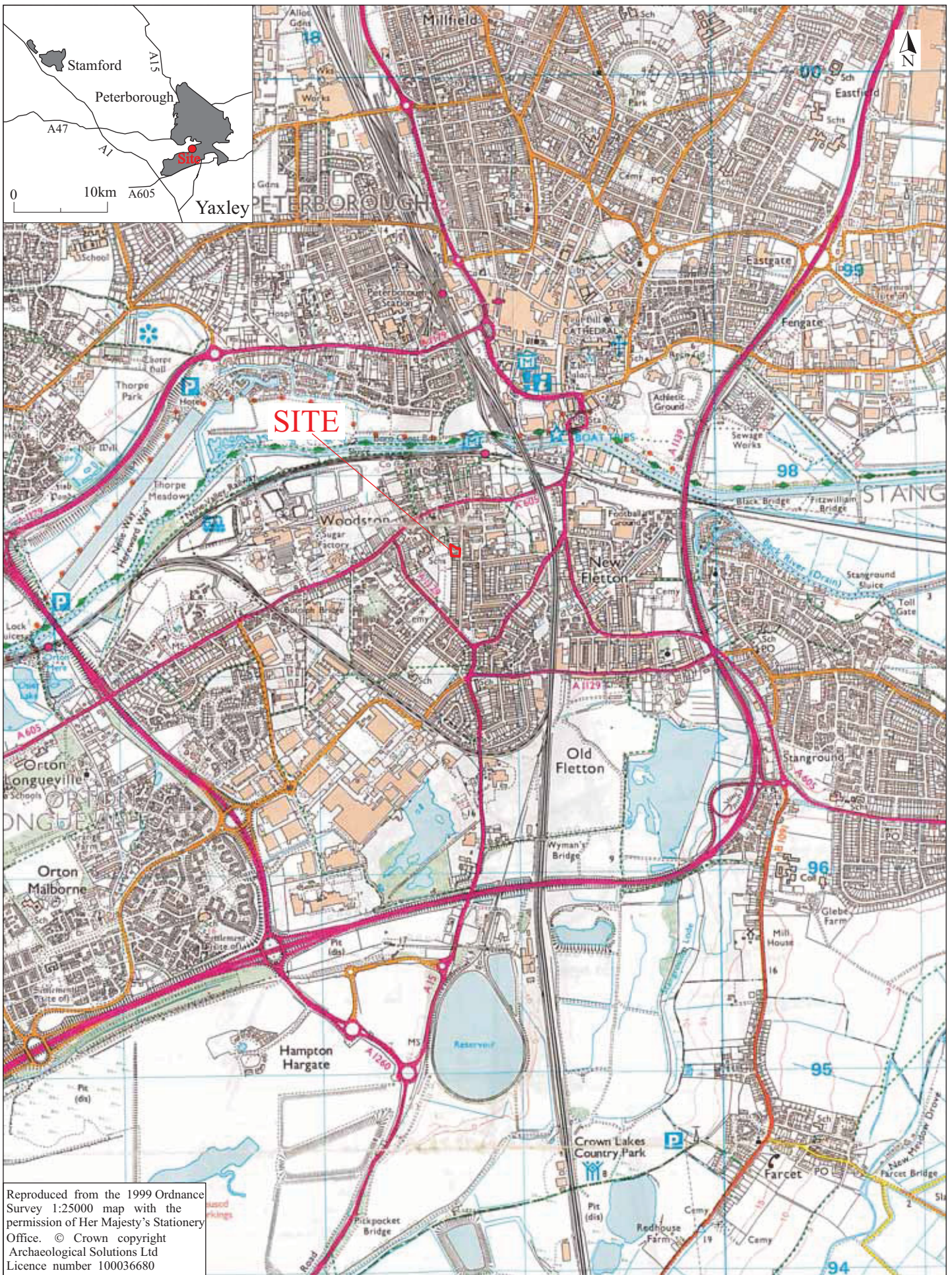
3
Trial trench 2, facing east



4
1002 and 1007, facing north

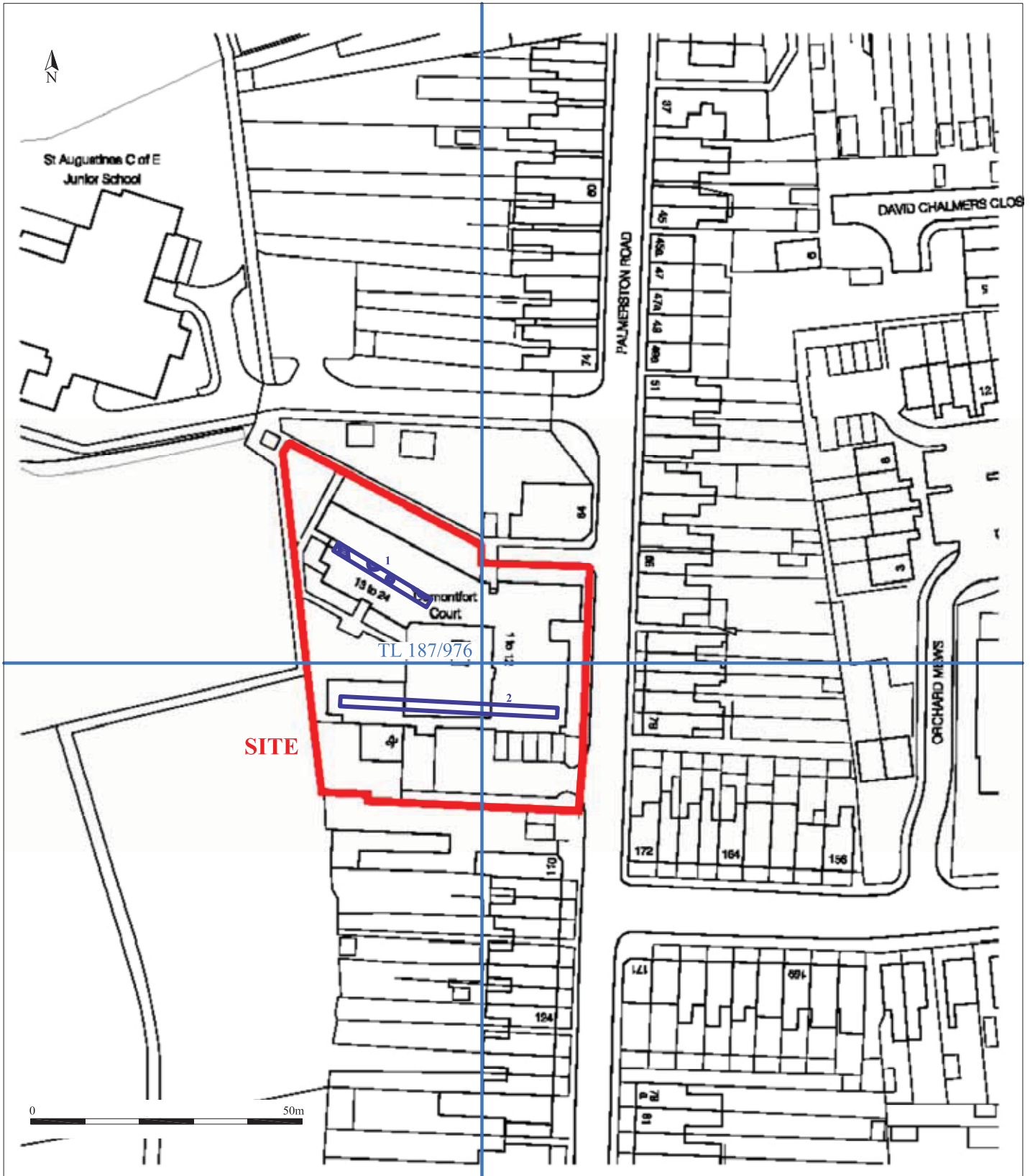


5
1002 and 1007, facing south-east

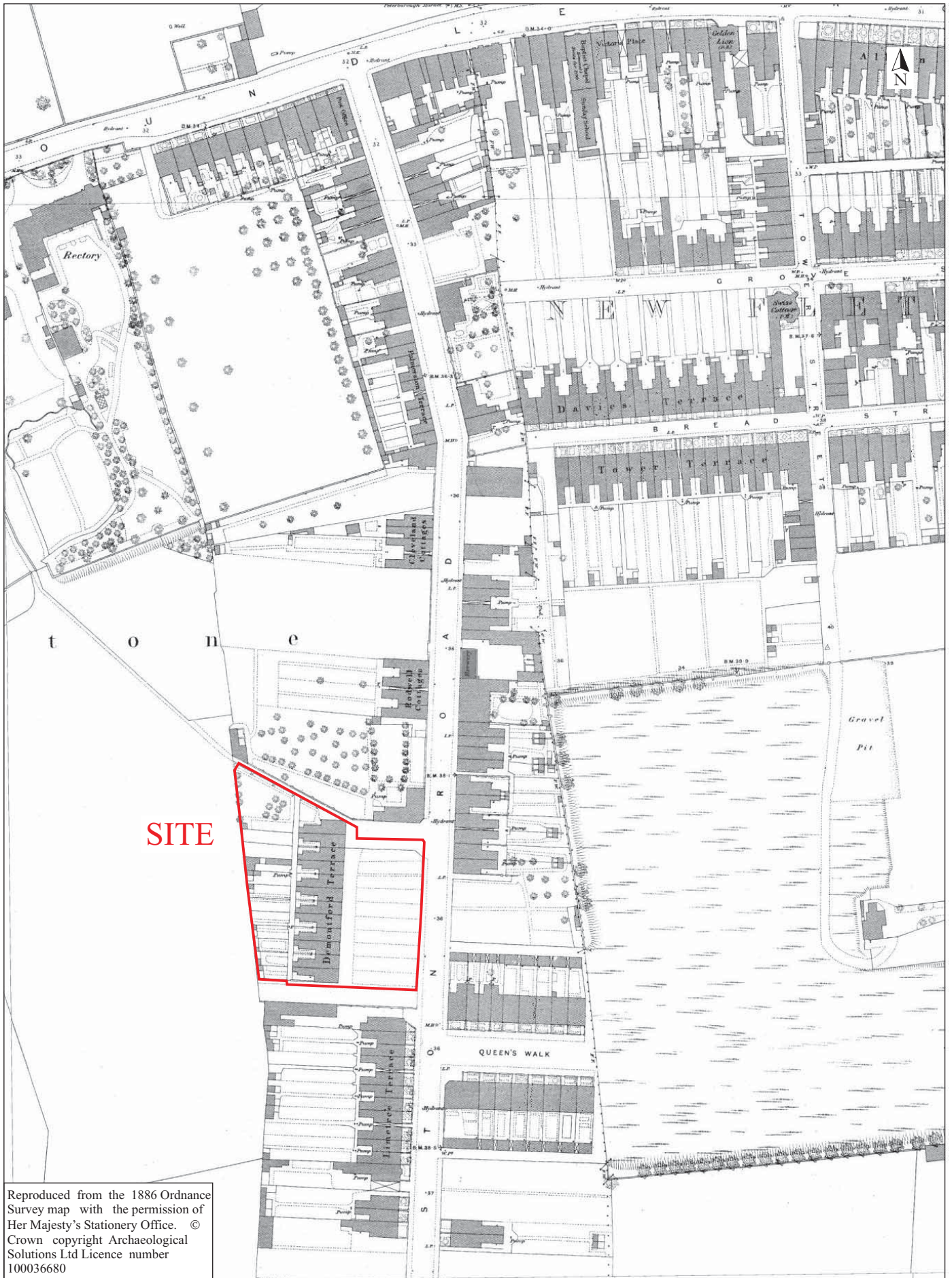


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

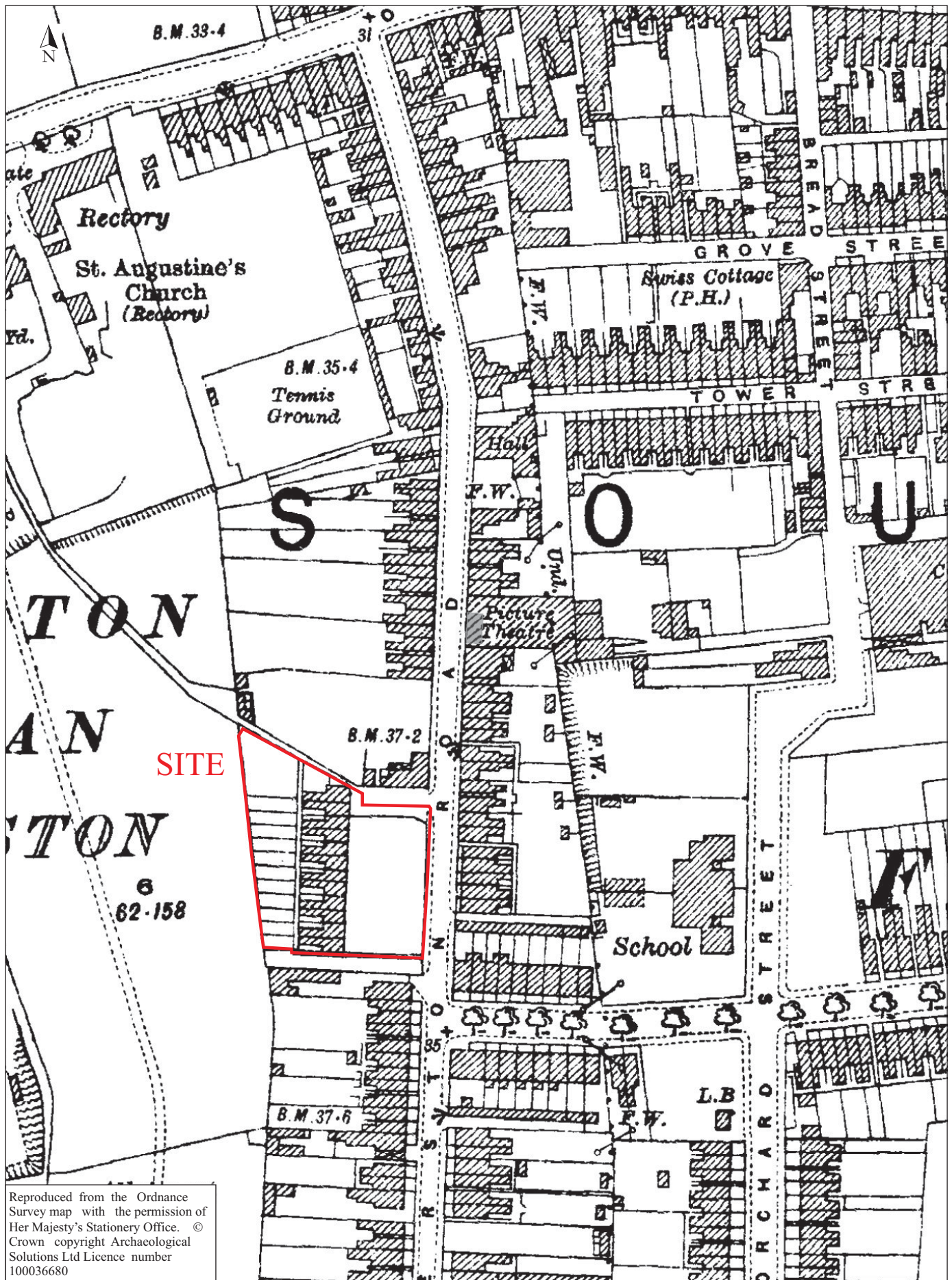


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



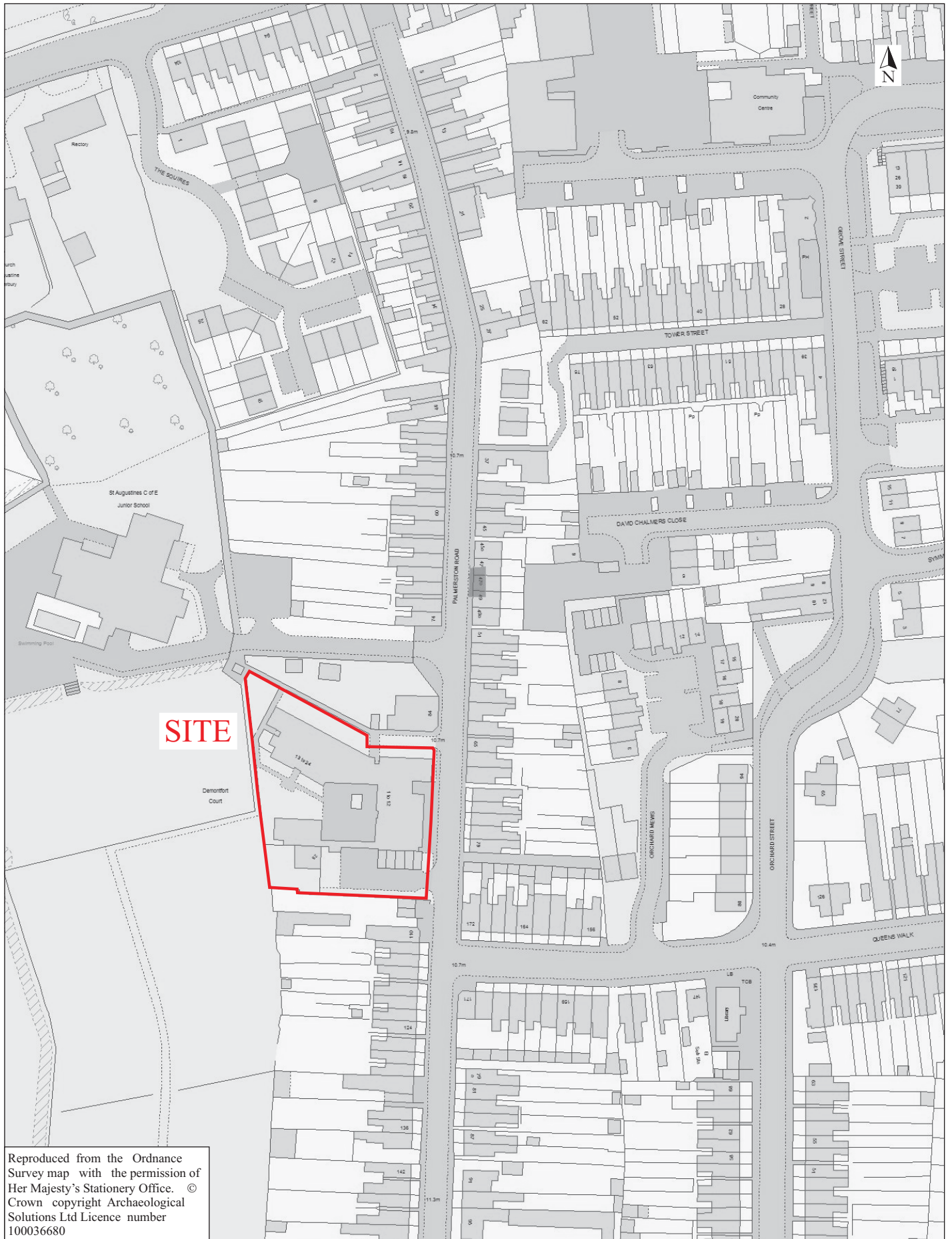
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Fig. 3 OS map, 1886
 Not to scale



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 Fig. 4 OS map, Peterborough
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Fig. 5 OS map, Peterborough
 Not to scale

Trench I

