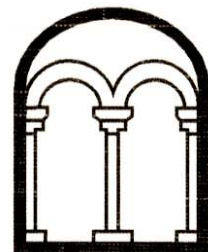


**CONSERVATIVE CLUB CAR PARK
WEEDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
INVESTIGATION**

Albion
archaeology



**FORMER CONSERVATIVE CLUB CAR PARK
WEEDON
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE
INVESTIGATION**

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Compiled by	Approved by
Mark Phillips	Drew Shotliff

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Produced for:
Mr Timothy Chard and Mr Fergus McClure



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Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete an assessment as possible, within the terms of the specification. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The project was commissioned by Mr Timothy Chard and was monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Liz Mordue (Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Phillips (Project Officer), who also prepared this report. The illustrations are by Joan Lightning (CAD Technician). All Albion projects are under the overall management of Drew Shotliff (Operations Manager).

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Version History

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<i>1.1</i>	<i>04/12/2014</i>	<i>Client's comments</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>03/12/2014</i>	<i>n/a</i>

Key Terms

Throughout this document the following terms or abbreviations are used:

DA	Development Area
AAA	Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission (DA/2014/0431) was granted by Daventry District Council for the construction of three dwellings, alterations to land levels, access provision, detached garage building, landscaping and associated works at the former Conservative Club car park, New Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire (grid ref. SP 6300 5915). The development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area and a condition requiring archaeological investigation was attached to the planning permission. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works.

Archaeological monitoring took place on 10th November 2014. An area measuring 15m by 4m was stripped under archaeological supervision within the footprint for the new houses. This showed a 300mm layer of topsoil above undisturbed geological clay. The stripped area lay within a previously undisturbed garden area at the west end of the site.

Examination of the other areas affected by the development showed negligible potential for archaeological survival. The natural slope of the site had been terraced away to form the car park, resulting in the removal of more than 3m of soil at the western edge of the terrace. The site of the new garage building towards the east end of the development was formerly the location of an electricity substation. Substantial foundations and ducting below the substation would have removed any potential archaeological remains that might once have existed there. Following consultation with the Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor it was agreed that no further archaeological monitoring would be required during the development works.

The project archive will be retained by Albion Archaeology until deposition at the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC) when this opens.

A digital copy of the site archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-192733).



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Planning Background*

Planning permission (DA/2014/0431) was granted by Daventry District Council for the construction of three dwellings, alterations to land levels, access provision, detached garage building, landscaping and associated works at the former Conservative Club car park, New Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire.

As the proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

A brief was issued by the Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA) requiring a mitigation programme of archaeological strip, map and sample investigation, concentrating on the areas of new construction (NCC 2010).

In response to the brief Albion Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which detailed the methods and resources for the archaeological works (Albion 2014).

This report presents the results of the archaeological strip, map and sample investigation.

1.2 *Site Location, Topography and Geology*

Weedon is situated c. 9km to the west of Northampton at the crossing of the A45 and A5 trunk roads (Figure 1). The Grand Union Canal and West Coast Main Line railway line run through the village while the River Nene runs to its east.

New Street enters Weedon from the south and the development area (DA) lies on the western side of the street at the junction with South Street. The former Conservative Club car park is surrounded by residential properties and their gardens. A footpath runs along the northern edge of the DA.

The topography of the site sloped considerably from west to east. Height above OD was 90.41m in the west and 83.88m at the level of New Street in the east. The DA is centred on grid reference SP 6300 5915.

The underlying geology consists of Whitby Mudstone Formation Bedrock with no superficial deposits recorded¹. As a tributary to the River Nene lies to the north of Lower Weedon superficial deposits are likely to consist of river terrace gravels.

Prior to redevelopment the DA had been used as a garden and car park. The western third of the site was part of a garden attached to a house to the south of the DA. This part of the site was under grass and a few trees. The eastern two-thirds was a car park where the natural slope of the land had been terraced to form a level area with steeply battered edges along its south and west sides. The north-east corner of the DA formerly contained an electricity substation which had been

¹ Contains British Geological Survey materials © NERC [2014]



replaced by a smaller unit located closer to the road frontage. Other modern impacts on the site included a large drain or sewer which runs just inside the southern boundary.

1.3 **Archaeological Background**

Weedon lies just to the west of the A5, which follows the line of the Roman Watling Street, a major routeway running from London to Wroxeter (Shropshire). In the 19th century a number of burials were discovered to the south of the DA close to the Roman Road. At the time these were interpreted as 17th-century plague burials but it is also possible that they are Roman in date (EH 1981).

Weedon is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a fairly large estate consisting of 23 households and valued at 4 geld units. There was land for 8.5 ploughlands, 17 acres of meadow, 12 acres of woodland and one mill¹. It is likely that medieval Weedon was a polyfocal village, consisting of up to three smaller hamlets: Upper Weedon and Lower Weedon on the southern side of the River Nene, and Weedon on the northern side. The church of St Peter and Paul, which has 12th-century origins is located to the west of Lower Weedon.

An evaluation at the rear of 46 Church Street to the north-east of the DA revealed ditches, pits and postholes of Roman, Saxon and medieval date (Blinkhorn 1994). Closer to the DA, at Land to the Rear of New Street an evaluation revealed medieval activity in the form of boundary ditches and a deep rubbish pit or well, which produced pottery of *c.* AD 1100–1400 (Murray 1997). The DA, therefore, lies in an area that was most likely close to a medieval, and possibly earlier, focus of settlement.

Aerial photographs show ridge and furrow earthworks in the fields to the south and east of New Street; they are remains of the medieval agricultural system.

In the 12th century Roger de Thebovill gave a moiety of the manor of Weedon to the abbey of St Mary of Bec-Helloin in the diocese of Rouen in France. Later the whole of Weedon was acquired by the abbot and monks of Bec-Hellouin, and hence the village became distinguished as Weedon-Beck (Serjeantson and Adkins 1906). A small cell of the abbey, housing a prior and two monks, was established in Weedon but its precise location is not known (NCC 2010).

Weedon, on the northern side of the River Nene, is largely characterised by its Napoleonic barracks and ammunitions depot. The first phase of this was established in 1804–16 in the form of four functionally separate sites — the Storehouse Enclosure, the Magazine Compound, the Barracks (demolished) and housing (known as the Pavilion) for the Depot's principal officials (demolished).

The latter groups were built on high ground to the north, close to the Daventry-London road, and were clearly designed to both complement and enhance the effect of the storehouse and magazine groups set on lower ground to the south, especially as viewed from Weedon Bec. What survives comprises a unique planned military-industrial complex, complete with its own defensible transport

¹ <http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SP6359/weedon-beck/>



system and defensible perimeter walls. All of its components are Grade II* listed buildings.

1.4 Project Objectives

The general objectives of the work were to determine and understand the nature, function and character of the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

Specific research objectives were identified in the WSI. Due to the location of the site these objectives were focussed on understanding the origin and development of medieval settlement in Northamptonshire (Knight et al. 2012 Objectives 7.2.1 and 7.2.2). However, no data relevant to these or other potential research objectives was recovered and the results of the investigation are detailed in full in this report.

1.5 Methodology

The methodology for the archaeological works is set out in full in the WSI (Albion 2014).

The development consisted of a row of three houses towards the rear of the plot with a detached block of garages in the front. To utilise the topography of the site the ground floor of the houses are terraced into the slope and their first floors are level with the higher ground to the west. The detached garage block in the eastern half of the site is located on the site of the former electricity substation.

Archaeological monitoring took place on 10th November 2014. Groundworks for the new house plots involved cutting back the higher ground in the west of the site in order to extend the existing lower terrace by a few metres. In the area to be reduced, the topsoil and part of the underlying geological horizon were removed under archaeological supervision using a mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket. The stripped area measured approximately 15m by 4m.

No archaeological deposits were identified in the stripped area. Examination of the site levels and extent of modern disturbance indicated little potential for finding archaeological deposits within the other areas affected by construction works (see Section 3). After consulting the Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor it was agreed that no further archaeological monitoring would be required during the development works.



2. RESULTS

The results are summarised below and are illustrated in Figure 2 and Images 1–4. The soil descriptions below refer to observations made in the area that was stripped under archaeological observation in the western part of the development area.

2.1 *Geological Deposits*

The geological deposits consisted of mid yellow, slightly silty clay with occasional small, rounded stones.

2.2 *Topsoil*

The topsoil layer was 300mm thick; it comprised mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional small stones. The deposit contained occasional flecks of charcoal and fragments of coal as well as a few sherds of modern transfer printed pottery and bottle glass (not collected).

2.3 *Modern Truncation and Intrusions*

No archaeological features or any modern disturbance was noted in the area that was stripped under archaeological observation in the western part of the site.

Across the remainder of the area modern activities had had a significant impact. The construction of the car park involved the removal of up to 3.3m of material, with the impact being greatest at the western end of the car park.

A drain access cover marked the line of a substantial drain or sewer that ran just inside the southern edge of the development area.

In the eastern part of the development area the construction of the car park would have had a lower impact, requiring the removal of less soil to form the terrace at this end. This part of the site had also been subject to other modern disturbance caused by the construction of the electricity substation and a large rubble-filled soak-away close to the southern edge of the site.



3. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

An area of approximately 15m by 4m in the western part of the site was stripped under archaeological supervision. This had previously formed part of a garden and had not been subject to damaging modern development. No archaeological features were identified. The soil profile consisted of 300mm of topsoil directly above undisturbed geological clay. The lack of any subsoil or build-up deposits in this part of the site is unsurprising given its elevated position above a natural slope.

The remaining part of the site was located within the former Conservative Club car park. At its western end more than 3m of ground had been removed during the construction of the car park terrace, effectively removing any potential for archaeological deposits. The impact can be assumed to gradually lessen towards the road frontage where the car park surface lay closer to the natural slope of the ground. However construction of an electricity substation and a large soak-away in this part of the site had resulted in significant potentially damaging impacts.

Following consultation with the Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor it was agreed that no further archaeological monitoring was required during the development works.

The project archive will be retained by Albion Archaeology until deposition at the Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC) when this opens.

A digital copy of the site archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service. This report will be uploaded onto the Archaeology Data Service's OASIS website (OASIS ID no. albionar1-192733).



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5. APPENDIX 2: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: *albionar1-192733*

Project details

Project name	Former Conservative Club car park, Weedon
Short description of the project	Planning permission was granted by Daventry District Council for the construction of three dwellings, alterations to land levels, access provision, detached garage building, landscaping and associated works at the former Conservative Club car park, New Street, Weedon, Northamptonshire. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the archaeological works. An area measuring 15m by 4m was stripped under archaeological supervision within the footprint for the new houses. This showed a 300mm layer of topsoil above undisturbed geological clay. The stripped area lay within a previously undisturbed garden area at the west end of the site. Examination of the other areas affected by the development showed negligible potential for archaeological survival. The natural slope of the site had been terraced away to form the car park, resulting in the removal of more than 3m of soil at the western edge of the terrace. The site of the new garage building towards the east end of the development was formerly the location of an electricity substation. Substantial foundations and ducting below the substation would have removed any potential archaeological remains that might once have existed there. Following consultation with the Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor it was agreed that no further archaeological monitoring would be required during the development works.
Project dates	Start: 10-11-2014 End: 10-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CCW2510 - Contracting Unit No. DA/2014/0431 - Planning Application No. ENN107740 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE
Significant Finds	NONE
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DAVENTRY WEEDON BEC Former Conservative Club car park, Weedon
Study area	60.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 462997 259150
Height OD / Depth	Min: 83.88m Max: 90.41m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology



Project director/manager Mark Phillips

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient ADS
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre
 Paper Contents "other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence",'Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material",
 "Photograph", "Report"
 Paper Archive notes The project archive will be retained by Albion Archaeology until deposition at the
 Northamptonshire Archaeological Resource Centre (NARC) when this opens.

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Former Conservative Club Car Park, Weedon, Northamptonshire - Archaeological Strip,
 Map and Sample Investigation
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6. FIGURES AND IMAGES

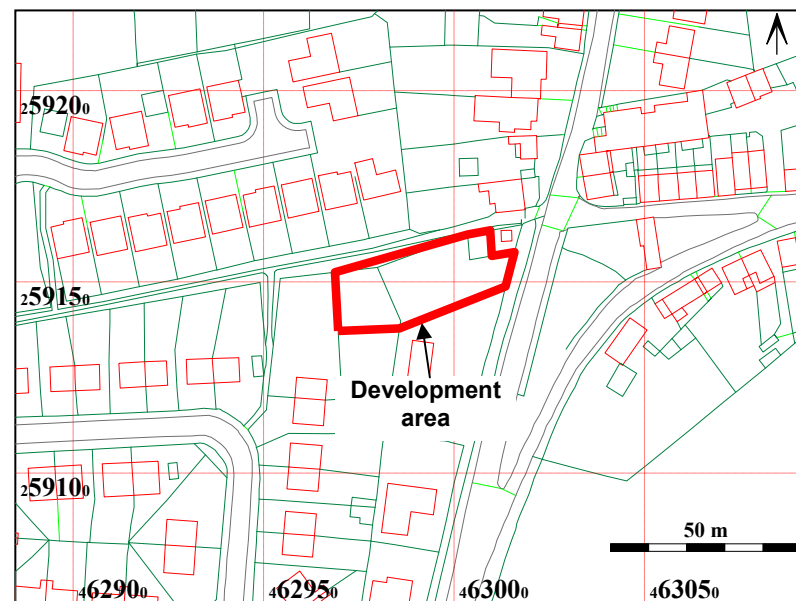
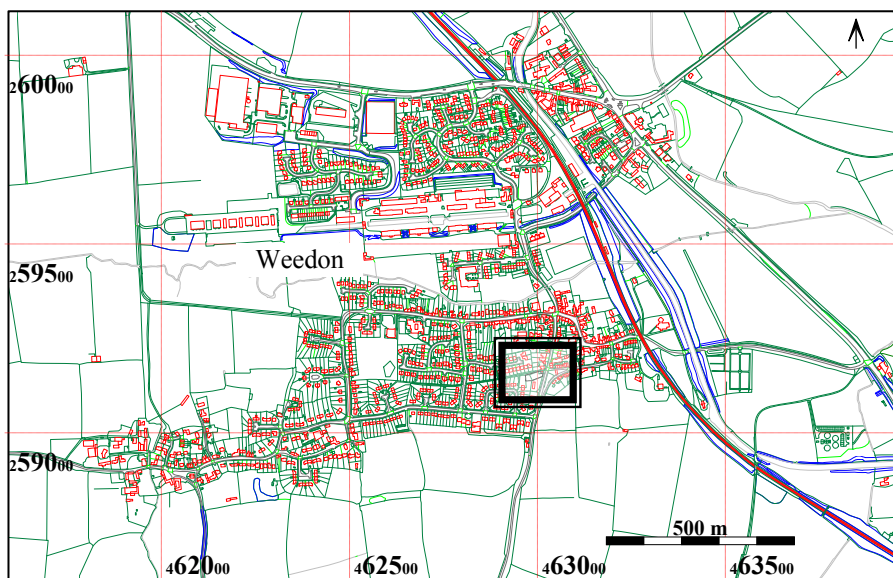
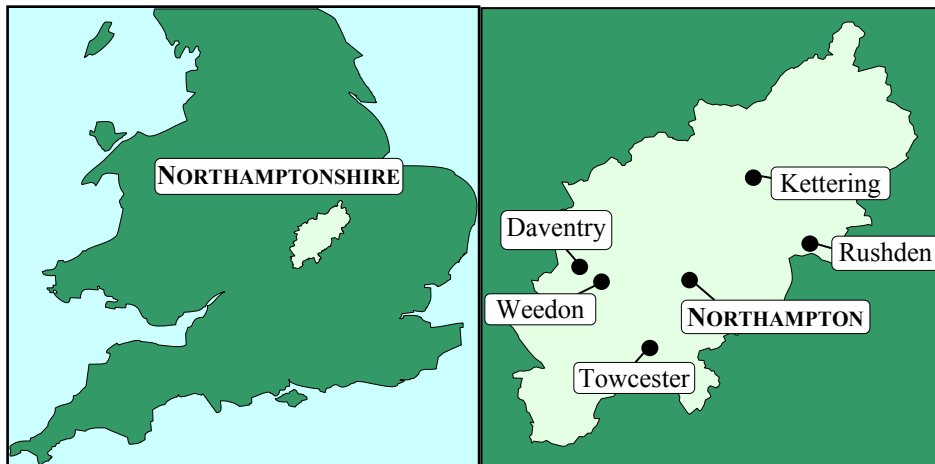


Figure 1: Site location

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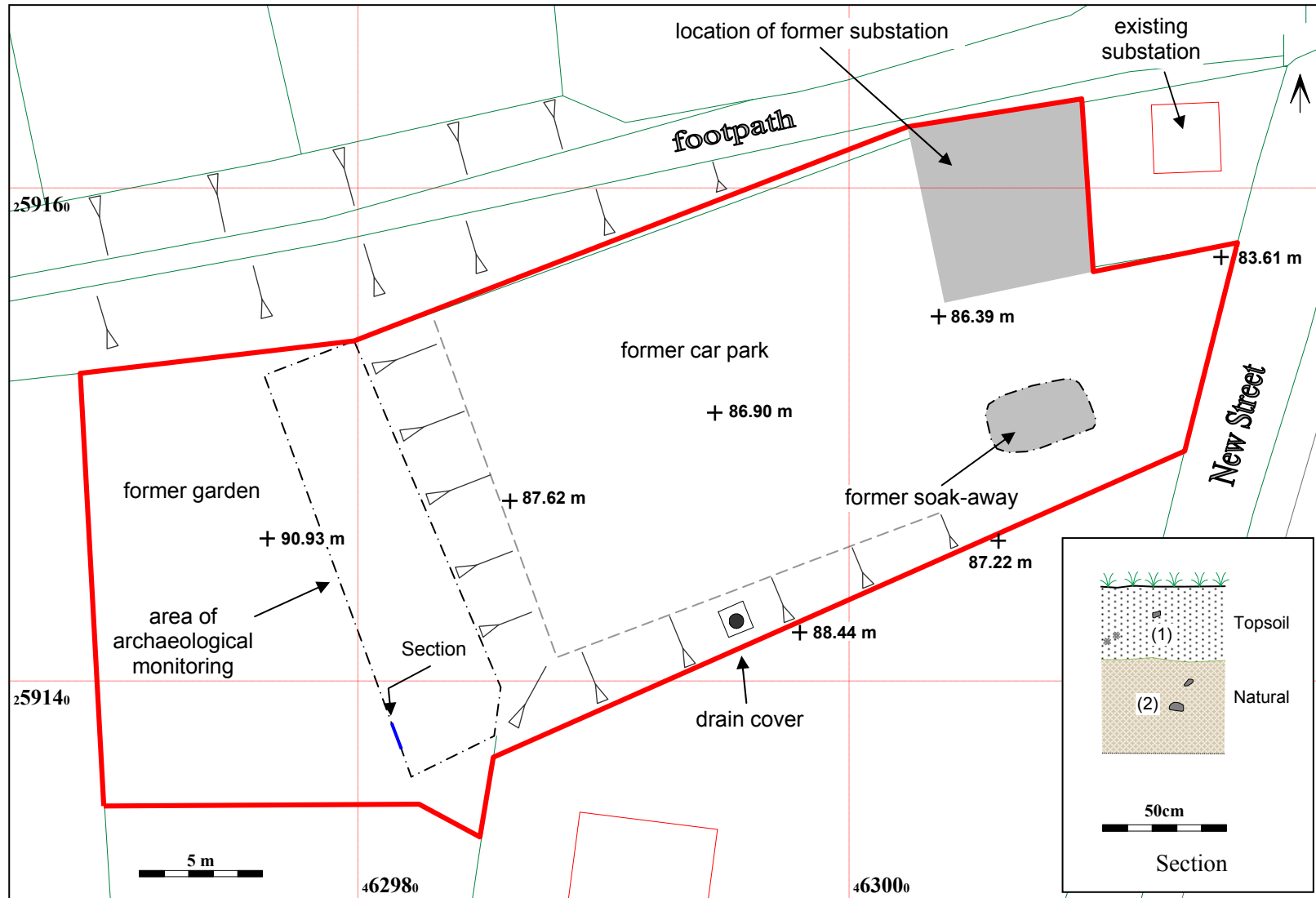


Figure 2: Site plan

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Image 1: General view of development area looking east



Image 2: General view of development area looking west



Image 3: Area subject to archaeological monitoring

(View looking north showing garden area to left and terraced slope to right)



Image 4: Soil profile in western edge of stripped area

(Shows topsoil and subsoil above geological deposit)



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