

**HARFORD FARM
Forest Green Road
Holyport**

County of Berkshire

Evaluation report

January 2014



**HARFORD FARM
Forest Green Road
Holyport
Berkshire
SL6 2NN**

Site Code BR-HAF13
NGR 489300 175833
OASIS reference molas1-167225

Planning reference: APP/T0355/A/13/2194090
Condition Number 9

Report on an archaeological evaluation

Sign-off History:

Issue No.	Date:	Prepared by:	Checked/ Approved by:	Reason for Issue:
1	02.01.2014	S. Ritchie	D. Seeley	1st issue

© MOLA

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED tel 0207 410 2200

email generalenquiries@mola.org.uk

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MOLA at Harford Farm, Forest Green Road, Holyport, Berkshire, SL6 2NN. The report was commissioned from MOLA by Ethos Construction on behalf of the client Quada (Holyport) Ltd.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (2013) 6 evaluation trenches were excavated on the site between 16th-18th December 2013. No archaeological evidence was observed during the evaluation and MOLA considers no further archaeological investigation to be the appropriate mitigation for this redevelopment site.

Contents

1 Introduction..... 4

2 Topographical and historical background..... 5

3 Evaluation methodology 6

4 Results of the evaluation 6

5 Archaeological potential 9

6 Proposed development impact and conclusions 9

7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form..... 10

List of Illustrations

Fig 1: Site location 13

Fig 2: Areas of evaluation 14

Fig 3: Trench 1, facing north 15

Fig 4: Trench 2, facing north 15

Fig 5: Trench 3, facing west 16

Fig 6: Trench 4, facing east 16

Fig 7: Trench 5, facing west 17

Fig 8 Trench 6, facing east 17

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 The evaluation took place at Harford Farm, Forest Green Road, Holyport, Berkshire, SL6 2NN ('the site'). The NGR is 489300 175381. The site code is BR-HAF13 (see Fig 1). Work was carried out during the 16th December – 18th December 2013.
- 1.1.2 A written *Risk Management Report* was previously prepared, which covered the whole area of the site (Risk Management Ltd, 2012). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential.

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 The Legislative and Planning framework in which the evaluation took place was fully set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* which formed the project design for the evaluation (see Section 2, MOLA, 2013).
- 1.2.2 The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to the Planning Consent given by Berkshire Local Authority (Consent reference APP/T0355/A/13/2194090; Condition number 9).

1.3 Scope of the evaluation

- 1.3.1 Evaluation is defined by English Heritage as intended to provide information about the archaeological resource in order to contribute to the:
- 1.3.1.1 - *formulation of an appropriate response or mitigation strategy to planning applications or other proposals which may adversely affect such archaeological remains, or enhance them; and/or*
- 1.3.1.2 - *formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigations within a programme of research*
- 1.3.2 An archaeological evaluation is a limited fieldwork exercise designed to test the conclusions of preliminary desk based work. It is not the same as full excavation.
- 1.3.3 The evaluation was carried out within the terms of the relevant Standard for evaluation specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2009).
- 1.3.4 All work has been undertaken within the research priorities established in the Solent Thames Research Framework for Berkshire (Draft).
- 1.3.5 All work was undertaken within research aims and objectives established in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the evaluation (Section 2, MOLA 2013).

2 Topographical and historical background

- 2.1.1 A detailed description of the geology was provided in the earlier *Risk Management Report* (Risk Management Ltd, 2012).
- 2.1.2 A brief resume of the site historical and archaeological background is provided here:
- 2.1.3 The earliest evidence of human activity in the vicinity of the site is the form of a Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age flint scatter consisting of over 200 flints that was recorded on a site in 1995 at the Junction 8/9 of the M4 Motorway.
- 2.1.4 There is some evidence that the site was close to a settlement during the Roman period. A Roman urn containing a cremation was found c 27m yards from the proposed line of a Roman Road in 1816. Fragments of Iron Age and Roman pottery have been found at Mount Skippets Copse which is to the north of Harford Farm; this could indicate that there is Late Iron Age/Roman settlement activity in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.1.5 The site would have been within close to rural settlement during the medieval period. The village of Holyport is adjacent to the Saxon road which linked Reading and Old Windsor and the name Horipord (Holyport) was first recorded in a document dated 1220. The village of Holyport may have acted as the central administrative and market centre of the Domesday Hundred of Bray.

3 Evaluation methodology

3.1 Field methodology

- 3.1.1 A total of 6 evaluation trenches ranging from 8m x 2m to 14m x 2m were excavated within the footprint of the proposed buildings.
- 3.1.2 The topsoil was removed by contractors under MOLA supervision. The trenches were excavated by the contractors using a 14 tonne tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2 metre wide flat bladed ditching bucket. The machine excavation was monitored by a MOLA supervisor.
- 3.1.3 Archaeological excavation was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA, 2013).

3.2 Recording methodology

- 3.2.1 A written and drawn record of all archaeological deposits encountered was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MOLA, 2013).

3.3 Site archive

Number of trench record sheets	6
Number of overall location plans	1
Number of photographs	21
Number of Plan sheets	8

4 Results of the evaluation

For trench locations see Fig 2.

4.1 Trench 1

Location	West of existing barn
Dimensions	10m x 2m x 0.30m
Modern ground level	N: 45.19m OD, S: 45.74m OD
Base of modern turf	N: 45.09m OD, S: 45.64m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	none
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N: 45.09m OD, S: 45.64m OD
Level of base of trench	N: 44.92m OD, S: 45.40m OD

- 4.1.1 Naturally deposited weathered London Clay was observed at 45.64m OD, sloping northwards to 45.09m OD. Cut into the natural clay was an east-west aligned land drain filled with compacted gravel. Overlying this was 0.10m thick layer of turf (Fig 3).
- 4.1.2 No archaeological deposits or features were observed in Trench 1.

4.2 Trench 2

Location	West of existing barn
Dimensions	14m x 2m x 0.40m
Modern ground level	N: 45.56mOD, S: 45.99m OD
Base of modern turf	N: 45.46mOD, S: 45.89m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	N: 45.46mOD, S: 45.89m OD
Level of base of trench	N: 45.24mOD, S: 45.79m OD

4.2.1 Naturally deposited weathered London Clay was observed at 45.89m OD, sloping down northwards to 45.46m OD. Cut into the natural clay was an east-west aligned land drain filled with compacted gravel. Overlying this was 0.10m thick layer of turf (Fig 4).

4.2.2 No archaeological deposits or features were observed in Trench 2.

4.3 Trench 3

Location	North of the existing pool
Dimensions	14m x 2m x 0.40m
Modern ground level	E: 46.76m OD, W: 46.05m OD
Base of modern turf	E: 46.56m OD, W: 45.85m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	E: 46.56m OD, W: 45.85m OD
Level of base of trench	E: 46.35m OD, W: 45.85m OD

4.3.1 Naturally deposited weathered London Clay was observed at 46.56m OD, sloping down westwards to 45.85m OD. Cut into the natural clay were three modern rectangular tree pits, the trees having been removed during the trench clearance. Overlying this was 0.20m thick layer of turf (Fig 5).

4.3.2 No archaeological deposits or features were observed in Trench 3.

4.4 Trench 4

Location	NE corner of the existing barn
Dimensions	8.70m x 2m x 0.40m
Modern ground level	46.68m OD
Base of modern tarmac	46.58m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	46.28m OD
Level of base of trench	46.19m OD

4.4.1 Naturally deposited London Clay was observed at 46.28m OD within the western half of the trench. Cut into the natural clay to the east was modern linear cut filled with black waterlogged clay with wood and other organic inclusions. A frogged brick dates the feature to the 20th century. Overlying this was 0.30m of a levelling deposit consisting of crushed concrete and ceramic building material (CBM). Sealing this was a 0.10m thick surface layer of tarmac (Fig 6).

4.4.2 No archaeological deposits or features were observed in Trench 4.

4.5 Trench 5

Location	SE corner of existing barn
Dimensions	8.50m x 2m x 0.30m
Modern ground level	E: 47.02m OD, W: 46.75m OD
Base of modern turf	E: 46.92m OD, W: 46.65m OD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	E: 46.92m OD, W: 46.65m OD
Level of base of trench	46.75m OD

4.5.1 Naturally deposited London Clay was observed at 46.92m OD, sloping down westwards to 46.65m OD. Cut into the natural clay was a north-south aligned land drain filled with compacted gravel. Overlying this was 0.10m of turf (Fig 7).

4.5.2 No archaeological deposits or features were observed in Trench 5.

4.6 Trench 6

Location	By the stables
Dimensions	10m x 2m x 1.26m
Modern ground level	46.64m OD
Base of modern slab	46.58mOD
Depth of archaeological stratigraphy above natural (if any)	None
Level of base of lowest features or deposits observed	N/A
Top of surviving natural observed at	45.64mOD
Level of base of trench	45.34m OD

4.6.1 Naturally deposited weathered London Clay was observed at 45.64m OD. Overlying the natural clay was a 0.60m deep layer of dark brown-black silty clay with occasional metal, pottery, CBM and plastic inclusions. This layer was sealed by a 0.20m thick levelling layer consisting of crushed concrete and CBM, and a further 0.20m thick band of tarmac. The trench was sealed with a 0.06m deep concrete slab (Fig 8).

4.6.2 No archaeological deposits or features were observed in Trench 6.

5 Archaeological potential

5.1 Answering original research aims

5.1.1 The evaluation has established that the topography of the site is natural and not man made. Modern disturbance appeared to be limited to the footprint of the existing buildings, and no archaeological remains were observed within the investigation areas.

5.2 General discussion of potential

5.2.1 The evaluation has shown that the potential for survival of ancient cut features and ground surfaces (horizontal archaeological stratification above natural ground) on the site is low, with no archaeological deposits, features or cultural material being observed during the evaluation.

5.3 Significance

5.3.1 No archaeology was observed during the evaluation, meaning the site is only significant in as much as it provides negative evidence for this area.

5.4 Assessment of the evaluation

5.4.1 In the case of this site the number and special distribution of the trenches have adequately investigated the archaeological potential of the land within the footprint of the proposed buildings.

5.4.2 The evaluation trenches investigated the sequence down to the natural deposits and produced no archaeological findings.

6 Proposed development impact and conclusions

6.1.1 Taking into account the results in all the trenches it appears that significant archaeological deposits are not present on this site.

6.1.2 The proposed redevelopment at the site involves the demolition of the existing buildings and the creation of a new house with associated outbuildings, as well as the redevelopment of associated equestrian facilities.

6.1.3 In the light of the results of the evaluation MOLA considers that no further archaeological mitigation is required on the site.

6.1.4 The decision on the appropriate archaeological mitigation to the deposits revealed rests with the Local Planning Authority.

7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-167225

Project details

Project name	Harford Farm, Forest Green Road, Holyport, Berkshire, SL6 2NN
Short description of the project	6 evaluation trenches were excavated on the site. Natural London Clay was observed at varying levels between 46.92m OD and 45.09m OD. No archaeological evidence was observed during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 16-12-2013 End: 18-12-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BR-HAF13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD BRAY Harford Farm, Forest Green Road, Holyport
Postcode	SL6 2NN
Study area	20000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 89314 75381 51 0 51 28 11 N 000 42 50 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.09m Max: 46.92m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	MOLA
Project design originator	Heather Knight
Project director/manager	Derek Seeley
Project supervisor	Sarah Ritchie
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Quada (Holyport) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Harford Farm, Forest Green Road, Holyport, Berkshire, SL6 2NN - Report on archaeological evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Ritchie, S.

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher MOLA

Place of issue or publication London

Entered by S. Ritchie (sritchie@mola.org.uk)

Entered on 19 December 2013

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Roland Smith Berkshire Archaeological advisor; Niten Mistry of Ethos Construction Ltd and Geoff Smith of Studio Henley Architects Ltd for their assistance throughout the project.

Bibliography

Berkshire Archaeology General Standards for Fieldwork Projects 2011

DCLG [Dept. of Communities and Local Government] 2010, *Planning Policy Statement 5, Planning for the Historic Environment*

DCLG [Department of Communities and Local Government], 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*

English Heritage Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2009 *Archaeological Guidance Papers 1-5*

Institute for Archaeologists, (IFA), 2008 *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and guidance: field evaluation*

Institute for Archaeologists (IFA), supplement 2008, *By-Laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute for Archaeologists: Standards and guidance – the collection, documentation conservation and research of archaeological materials*

MOLA, 2013, *HARFORD FARM, Forest Green Road, Holyport, Berkshire, SL6 2NN - Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation*. Unpub report

Museum of London, 1994 *Archaeological Site Manual 3rd edition*

Museum of London, 2002 *A research framework for London archaeology 2002*

Risk Management Limited, 2012 *Harford Farm, Holyport, Maidenhead, Berks*. Unpub report

Solent Thames Research Framework for Berkshire (Draft)

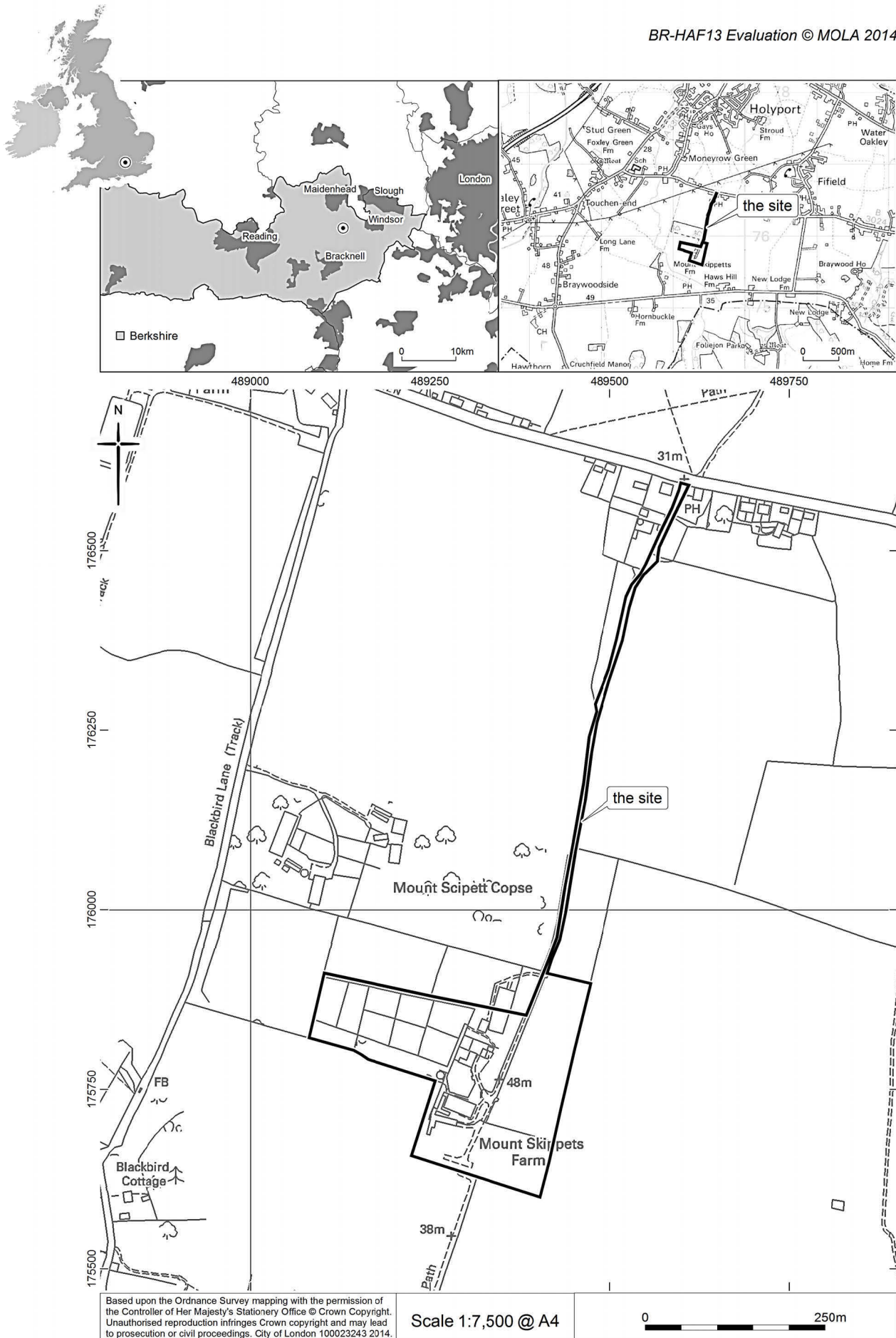


Fig 1 Site location

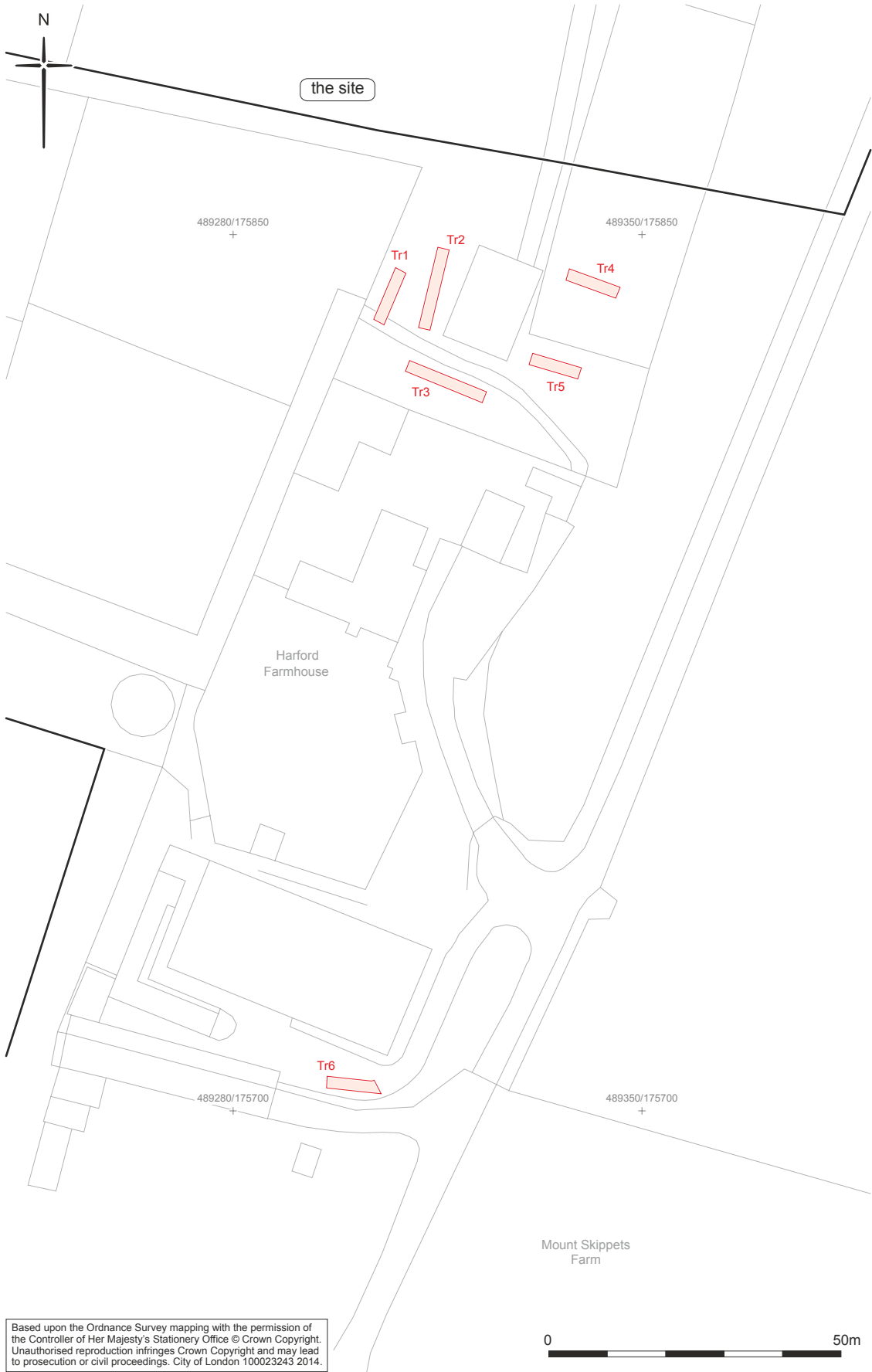


Fig 2 Areas of Evaluation



Fig 3: Trench 1, facing north



Fig 4: Trench 2, facing north



Fig 5: Trench 3, facing west



Fig 6: Trench 4, facing east



Fig 7: Trench 5, facing west



Fig 8 Trench 6, facing east