

**140–142 PAMPISFORD ROAD
London CR8**

London Borough of Croydon

Pre-determination archaeological evaluation report

October 2017



140-142 Pampisford Road
London CR8

Pre-determination Evaluation Report

NGR 531695 1262480

Sign-off history

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Executive summary

Aventier has commissioned MOLA to undertake a pre-determination archaeological evaluation at the site of 140–142 Pampisford Road, London, CR8. This report presents the results the evaluation. The report was requested by the local planning authority in order to supply sufficient information for an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated in light of the proposed development.

The evaluation comprised hand excavation of five trenches in the gardens of two adjacent properties. No archaeological finds or features were found. Natural chalk was between 0.30m and 0.60m below the ground level. The results of the field evaluation have helped to refine the initial assessment of the archaeological potential of the site; there is probably a low potential for Saxon remains or burials on the site.

The development proposals comprise construction of a block of flats with communal garden and parking space on the east of the site. The proposed foundations are assumed to be standard strip or pad foundations.

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

- 1.1.1 Aventier has commissioned MOLA to conduct a pre-determination archaeological evaluation at 140–142 Pampisford Road, London, CR8, hereafter called ‘the site’. The site is bounded by Pampisford Road to the west, Edgehill Road to the north, with a house and garden to the south and a driveway to the east. The Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid Reference for the centre of site is 531695 162480. The site code is PIF17.
- 1.1.2 A desk-top Historic Environment Assessment (HEA) was prepared by MOLA in August 2017 (MOLA 2017a) and provides in depth detail on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial interpretation of its archaeological potential. The results of the evaluation have provided further information of the archaeological potential within the site. The evaluation has taken place at the pre-planning stage, and the report will be submitted as part of the planning application, to enable the local planning authority to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy in light of the proposed development.

1.2 Designated heritage assets

- 1.2.1 The site does not contain any nationally designated (protected) heritage assets, such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings or registered parks and gardens. However, it does contain a locally listed building, 142 Pampisford Road [White Lodge], adopted by Croydon Council as a building of local special architectural or historic interest.
- 1.2.1 The site is within an Archaeological Priority Zone, covering Russell Hill (<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/clpsouth.pdf> [accessed 07/08/2017]) as defined by the London Borough of Croydon. The current APZs remain in force until the new APAs are adopted as part of the new framework of the local plan. The Archaeological Priority Zone and subsequently the APA are characterised as such due to the fact that human remains have been found at various times and at various sites within the zone/area since the mid-19th century indicating that the Russell Hill was once an extensive cemetery. The area is sometimes referred to as an Anglo-Saxon cemetery even though only a few of the burials have provided dating evidence. Finds and features dating to the prehistoric period have also been recovered from sites of the area. The presence of human remains makes the area sensitive to even small scale ground works (HE 2016, 45).

1.3 Aims and objectives

- 1.3.1 The purpose of pre-determination archaeological evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) is to ‘determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices’ (CifA 2014). The results of the evaluation will inform the local planning authority of the site’s potential for archaeological remains, enabling them to determine the planning application and, where appropriate, to formulate an appropriate mitigation.
- 1.3.2 The following research aims and objectives were established in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation (Section 3, MOLA 2017b):
- Identify the presence/absence of any potential archaeological remains within the site, which could comprise:
 - evidence of prehistoric remains such as stone tools and pottery, potentially with associated features relating to settlement or other activity;
 - evidence of Roman activity;
 - any human remains, especially Saxon burials;
 - clarify the extent of any modern disturbance, i.e. from landscaping;
 - establish the depth of the natural deposits.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Topography and geology

- 2.1.1 A description of the topology and underlying geology is detailed in the Historic Environment Assessment (MOLA 2017a). Ground levels on the site may be artificial, reflecting land use for residential purposes. No topographical survey or levels are available for the site, other than benchmark heights from street level. British Geological Survey levels for geology are from nearby boreholes.
- 2.1.2 In summary:
- Ground level lies at 99.1–100.8 on Edgehill Road along the north side of the site
 - Underlying natural Chalk is predicted to lie beneath topsoil at 0.5–1.0mbgl.

2.2 Predicted archaeological potential

Prehistoric period (800,000 BC–AD43)

- 2.2.1 The site lies 800m northwest of Russell Hill, an area which would have been a favourable location for early activity. Despite the site being situated on Russell Hill slope, overlooking a valley and possibly a watercourse, there is very little evidence for Palaeolithic (early prehistoric) activity. Later prehistoric remains found near the site include an arrowhead, a round scraper and two flakes, found 265m northeast of the site. On Pampisford Road itself a Mesolithic flint flake axe and a group of other prehistoric stone artefacts, including a Neolithic round scraper, were found 640m northeast of the site. A Neolithic polished axe was found 430m northwest of the site. Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery were found 535m northeast of the site. These finds suggest hunting and / or resource gathering and likely occupation occurred in the vicinity of the site, possibly intermittently, from the Mesolithic period onwards. The recorded remains are noticeably concentrated in an area 535–770m northeast of the site.

Roman period (AD 43–410)

- 2.2.2 No settlement remains or Roman activity have been found in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, the site is located 160m west of the projected line of the London to Brighton / Portslade Roman road (Margary 1967, 62). Research suggests the possibility of another Roman road on what is now Purley Way, Croydon, 590m northwest of the site. Later excavation at Purley Way did not find any evidence of that suspected Roman Road. Two areas, located 1.4km south and southeast of the site, revealed Roman activity of ritual or funerary character.

Early medieval/Saxon period (AD 410–1066)

- 2.2.3 The nearest known main Saxon settlement was founded in Croydon, 3.km to the north-northeast of the site possibly from the 9th-10th century (Mills 2001, 61).
- 2.2.4 A large number of Saxon burials are known in the area. An area 30m south-west of the site on Pampisford Road, is the recorded location of a cemetery containing 'about 20 graves with no weapons or goods', thought to be Saxon in date (Ref. GLHER MLO12400). Burials of men, women and children were present, with their heads orientated to west, suggesting a Christian burial date range. The record then states that one knife was found in one of the graves, contradicting the original description of no weapons or grave goods. However, the exact location of this cemetery is not certain. A number of graves were found 630m west-southwest of the site, possibly also Saxon in date. A further 18–60 skeletons, of suspected early medieval date, were found with weapons, 280m west of the site. These burial areas could potentially have been associated with a settlement or church site in Purley, and may either be part of one large cemetery or comprise a group of smaller cemeteries (HE 2016, 45). Two graves of unknown date were found 475m west of the site. Otherwise there is little evidence for Saxon activity in the area, which is unusual given the large number of burials.

Late medieval period (AD1066–1485)

- 2.2.5 Eight lesser manorial estates comprised the manor estate of Croydon which was owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury. There is little information about the extent of the estates but it is likely that the site was within the grounds of Haling Manor, 1.7km northeast of the site. (VCH Surrey iv, 217–228).
- 2.2.6 By the time of Domesday Book (AD 1086) the manor (estate) of Croydon belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Croydon developed as the centre of the area and had become one of the largest market towns in Surrey by the late 13th century (VCH Surrey 4, 205–217). No heritage assets dating to this period have been identified in the area around the site.
- 2.2.7 Throughout this period the site was located 2.6km northwest of the main settlement at Sanderstead, and was probably within fields or woodland.

Post-medieval period (AD1485–present)

- 2.2.8 Rocque's map of Surrey of 1762 shows the settlement at Sanderstead, 2.6km southeast of the site. Purley Farm and House are shown 500m southeast of the site.
- 2.2.9 The Ordnance Survey map of 1869 shows the site as a field with paths and field boundaries in the southeast corner, indicated by dashed lines. These lines later become the present-day Pampisford Road and Edgehill Road. The Ordnance Survey map of 1912–13 still shows the site as an open field.
- 2.2.10 By 1933 mapping shows that the Edgehill Road and Pampisford Road have been established. Residential development has taken place in the area and the site has been divided into two roughly equal plots, both with a house occupying the western part and a small outhouse or shed in the southeast corner of each plot.
- 2.2.11 The Ordnance Survey map of 1955 shows only minor structural changes to the houses within the site. Two small outbuildings have been constructed close to the houses, one in the northern plot and one in the southern plot. While the outbuilding or shed in the eastern part of the northern plot has not changed, the one in the southern plot has been extended and possibly converted into a garage. There are no changes in the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale maps of 1956, 1967 or 1987–91, apart from the subdivision of the shed or garage on the eastern edge of the southern plot.

3 The evaluation

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 All archaeological excavation and recording during the evaluation was carried out in accordance with the preceding Written Scheme of Investigation (MOLA, 2017b).
- 3.1.2 The evaluation involved the excavation and recording of five trenches. All the trenches were excavated by hand by staff from MOLA. The trenches were located by off-setting from adjacent buildings/walls; the trenches were then plotted onto the OS grid.
- 3.1.3 The site has produced: one trench location plan; five trench sheets; and 18 digital photographs. No finds were retained from the site. The site records can be found under the site code PIF17 in the Museum of London Archaeological Archive.

3.2 Results

- 3.2.1 For trench locations see Fig 2.

Evaluation Trench 1

Location	Garden of 142 Pampisford Road
Dimensions	2.0m by 2.0m by 0.40 deep
Modern ground level	100.76m OD
Base of modern fill	100.66m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	100.33 m OD
Natural observed	100.45-100.49m OD

- 3.2.2 Beneath the turf there was a 0.15m to 0.20m thick deposit of mixed silt and chalk fragments that overlaid the natural chalk. No archaeological features were found. There was no disturbance noted.



Photo Trench 1 looking north

Evaluation Trench 2

Location	Garden of 142 Pampisford Road
Dimensions	2.0m by 2.0m by 0.40m deep
Modern ground level	100.74m OD
Base of modern fill	100.64m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	100.37m OD
Natural observed	100.37-100.40m OD

- 3.2.3 Beneath the turf there was a 0.25m to 0.30m thick deposit of mixed silt and chalk fragments that overlaid the natural chalk. No archaeological features were found. There was no disturbance noted.



Photo Trench 2 looking north

Evaluation Trench 3

Location	Garden of 142 Pampisford Road
Dimensions	2.0m by 2.0m by 0.40-0.50m deep
Modern ground level	100.86m OD
Base of modern fill	100.76m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	100.24m OD
Natural observed	100.24-100.31m OD

- 3.2.4 Beneath the turf there was a 0.30m to 0.40m thick deposit of mixed silt and chalk fragments that overlaid the natural chalk. No archaeological features were found. There was a slight disturbance in the south-west corner of the trench comprising modern brick and concrete fragments.



Photo Trench 3 looking south

Evaluation Trench 4

Location	Garden of 140 Pampisford Road
Dimensions	2.0m by 2.0m by 0.45m deep
Modern ground level	100.43m OD
Base of modern fill	100.33m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	99.97m OD
Natural observed	99.97-100.06m OD

- 3.2.5 Beneath the turf there was a 0.15m thick deposit of mixed silt and chalk fragments; this was above a further 0.20m thick deposit of broken chalk that overlaid the natural chalk. No archaeological features were found. There was no disturbance noted.



Photo Trench 4 looking west

Evaluation Trench 5

Location	Garden of 140 Pampisford Road
Dimensions	2.0m by 2.0m by 0.55m deep
Modern ground level	100.46m OD
Base of modern fill	100.26m OD
Depth of archaeological deposits seen	N/A
Level of base of deposits observed and/or base of trench	99.80m OD
Natural observed	99.80-99.84m OD

3.2.6 Beneath the turf there was a 0.30m thick deposit of broken chalk that overlaid the natural chalk. No archaeological features were found. There was no disturbance noted.



Photo Trench 5 looking east (note the vertical sided cut in the section is modern)

3.3 Significance of the results

- 3.3.1 No archaeological features were found in the evaluation trenches.
- 3.3.2 Currently there are no remains on site which may be required by the local planning authority to be preserved *in situ*.

3.4 Assessment of the evaluation

- 3.4.1 GLAAS guidelines (English Heritage, 1998) require an assessment of the success of the evaluation 'in order to illustrate what level of confidence can be placed on the information which will provide the basis of the mitigation strategy'. In the case of this site there is a high level of confidence in the results to accurately reflect the level of survival on the site. It would appear, based on the results of the evaluation trenches, there is a low risk of Saxon burials being encountered. Though it should be noted Saxon cemeteries can be small and burials scattered.

4 Proposed development impact and recommendations

- 4.1.1 The development proposals comprise construction of a block of flats with communal garden and parking space on the east of the site. The proposed foundations are assumed to be standard strip or pad foundations.
- 4.1.2 Any development would have an impact on any archaeological remains on the site, though currently no remains have been identified.
- 4.1.3 The GLHER data mentions that around 20 Saxon burials of men women and children were found at Pampisford Road, 30m south west of the site, however the exact location is not certain. Other burials have been found in the area located 630m west-south west and 280m west of the site (MOLA 2017a, section 4.2).
- 4.1.4 Based on the results of the evaluation the site probably has a low potential to contain Saxon remains.

5 Planning framework

- 5.1.1 Current planning legislation and policies are detailed in the Historic Environment Assessment (MOLA 2017a, section 9).

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7 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

OASIS ID: molas1-296314

Project details

Project name	140-142 Pampisford Road, London, CR8
Short description of the project	A pre-determination evaluation comprising hand excavation of five trenches in the gardens of two adjacent properties. No archaeological finds or features were found. Natural chalk was between 0.30m and 0.60m below the ground level.
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2017 End: 08-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PIF17 – Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON PURLEY 140-142 Pampisford Road
Postcode	CR8
Study area	1800 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 31695 62480 51.345607775029 -0.108850076627 51 20 44 N 000 06 31 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 99.97m Max: 100.49m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
Project brief originator	Client
Project design originator	MOLA
Project director/manager	Paul Riggott

Project supervisor Tony Mackinder

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Aventier

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Digital Archive recipient Museum of London Archaeological Archive

Digital Archive ID PIF17

Digital Media available "Text","Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Museum of Farnham

Paper Archive ID PIF17

Paper Media available "Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

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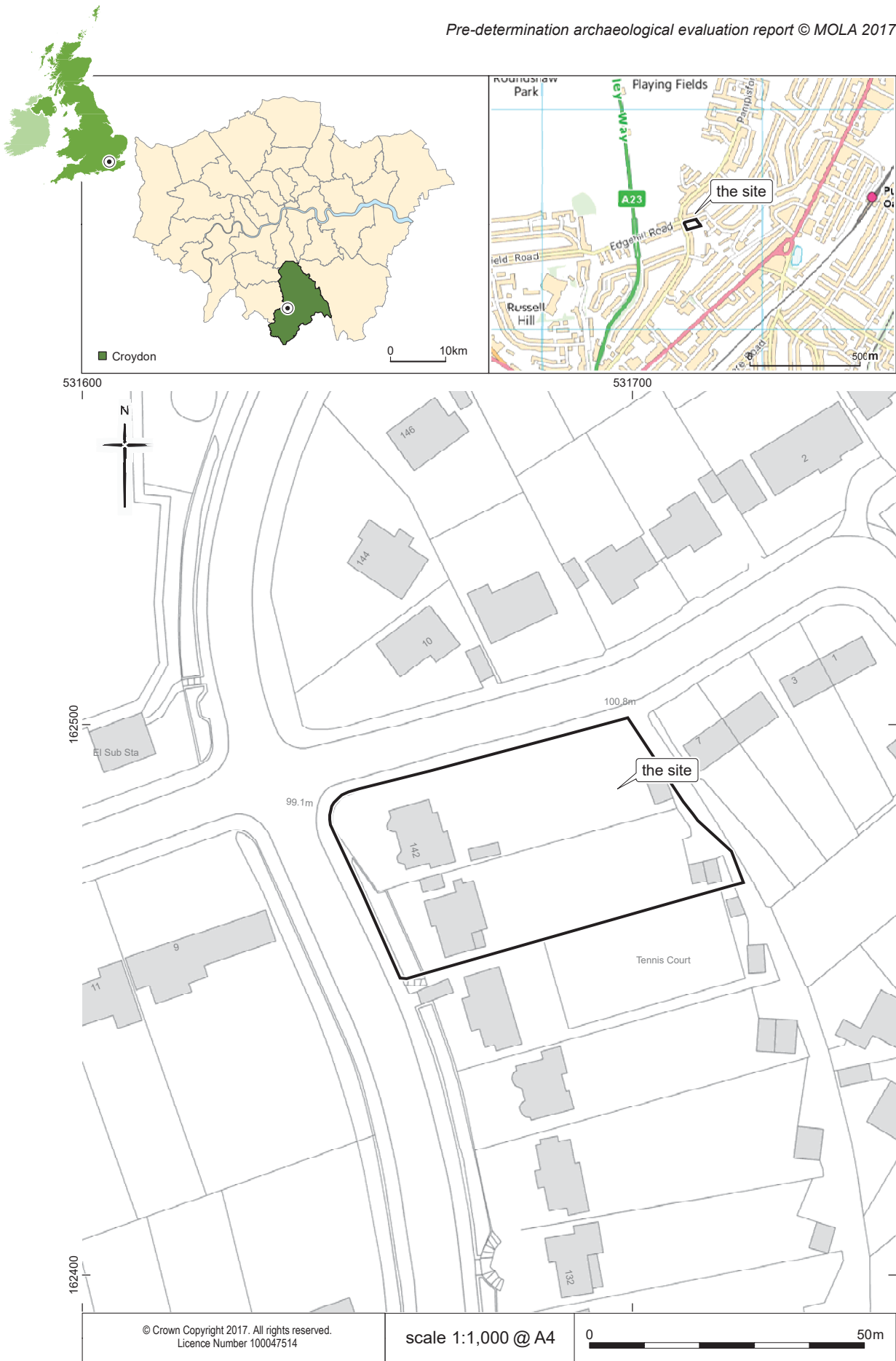


Fig 1 Site location

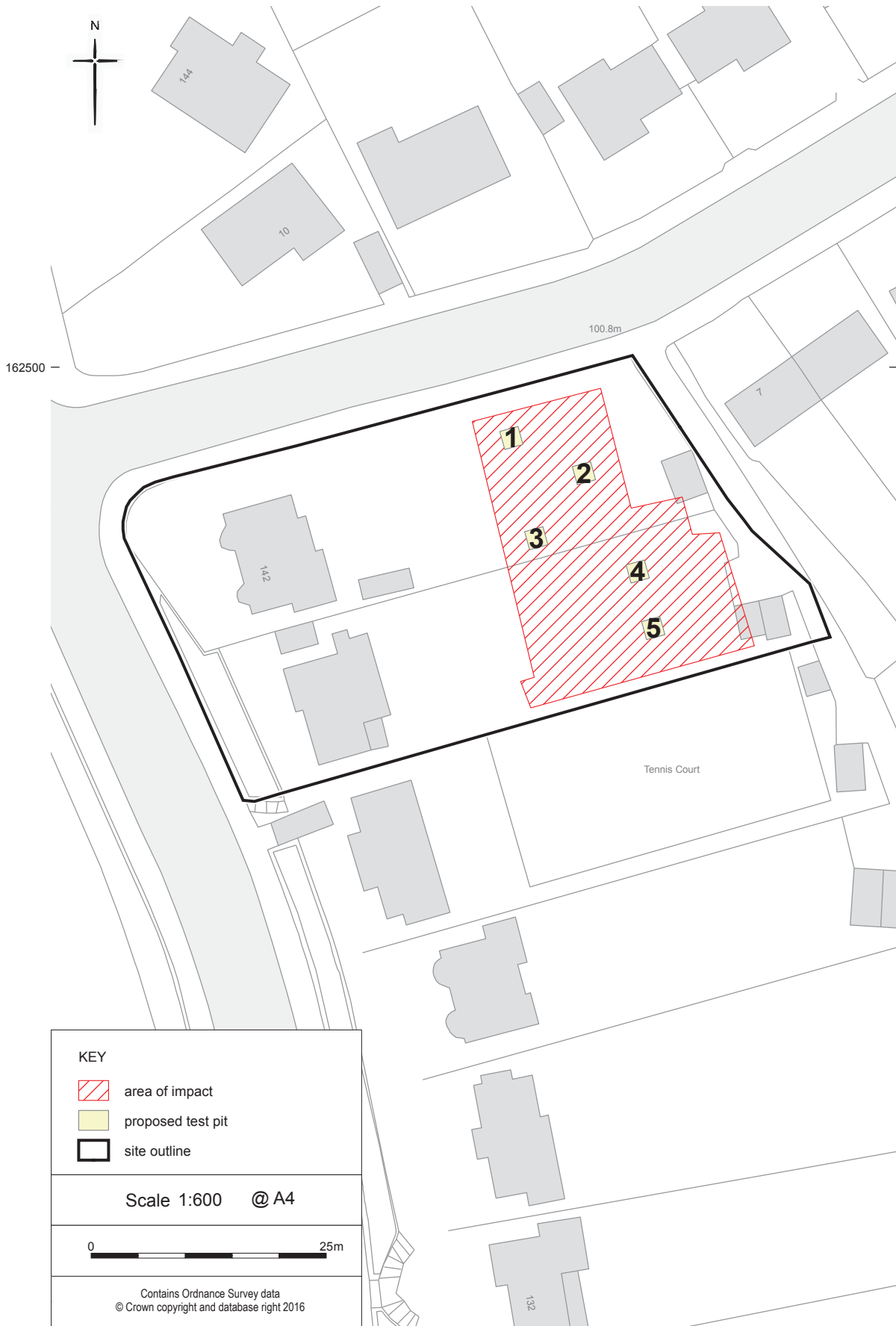


Fig 2 Proposed test pit location plan