

**Land at Wellbrook Way
Girton
Cambridgeshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

Cambs HER event number: ECB4276

for
Frontier Estates (Essex) Ltd
and

Hallmark Care Homes Developments (No 2) Ltd


CA Project: 660313
CA Report: 14347

July 2014

Land at Wellbrook Way Girton Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 660313
CA Report: 14347

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date	30 July 2014
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signed	
date	31 July 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Wellbrook Way
Location:	Girton, Cambridgeshire
NGR:	TL 4269 6129
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	21–22 July 2014
Planning Reference:	S/0294/14/FL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Site Code:	LWW 14
Cambs HER event number:	ECB4276

In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire. Five trenches were excavated.

There is evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the site from the prehistoric period onwards. Twentieth-century Ordnance Survey maps show a cold storage depot building within the site.

The evaluation demonstrated that the ground at the site has been truncated down to depths of 0.6m BGL to over 1.4m BGL, and then made up with a series of modern deposits. The truncation was down into the level of the natural substrate, and no traces of subsoil or topsoil layers remained. This process is likely to have occurred during either the construction or the demolition of the cold storage depot depicted at the site on later 20th-century cartographic sources.

No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present. Any archaeological remains which may once have been present at the site will have been completely removed by the truncation described above, and the site is therefore considered to have no potential for surviving archaeological remains.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire (site centred at NGR: TL 4269 6129; Fig. 1). This work was undertaken for Frontier Estates (Essex) Ltd and Hallmark Care Homes Developments (No 2) Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation results will inform a planning application (ref: S/0294/14/FL) for the development of a care home at the site, which has been submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC; the local planning authority). A brief for the evaluation was issued by the Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council (HETCCC 2014), the archaeological advisors to HDC. The scope of the evaluation was further defined in correspondence with Dan McConnell (Assistant Archaeologist, HETCCC).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the brief, as well as a detailed written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Dan McConnell. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Dan McConnell.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development site encloses an area of approximately 0.6ha and lies to the north-east of Girton College, some 2.5km north-west of Cambridge city centre.
- 1.5 At the time of the evaluation, the site comprised a roughly square area of scrubland and dense overgrowth. The site is bounded by Wellbrook Way to the south-west, residential properties to the south-east, an industrial estate to the north-west and agricultural fields to the north-east. The ground level slopes downwards to the north-east, descending from c. 20m aOD to c. 18m aOD.

- 1.6 The solid geology of the proposed development site is mapped as Gault Formation mudstone. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014).

Archaeological background

- 1.7 The WSI (CA 2014) includes a full archaeological background to the site. This section presents a brief summary of this data only.
- 1.8 Although there are no known heritage assets within the proposed development site, there is evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the site from the prehistoric period onwards. In particular, Iron Age and Roman features were recorded by an archaeological evaluation to the south-east of the site, and archaeological works during the construction of the A14 revealed Iron Age and Roman ditches and a Roman inhumation burial. Cropmarks denoting an extensive complex of enclosures and a trackway have been observed on aerial photographs to the north-west of the site.
- 1.9 The 1888 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the site within an agricultural field. By the time of the 1903 OS map, this field had been divided into allotments. The 1970 OS map shows a building labelled as a 'Cold Storage Depot' occupying the central and northern parts of the site. This structure was demolished in the late 20th century.
- 1.10 A geotechnical survey of the site (Listers Geotechnical Consultants 2013) indicated that the natural substrate was overlain directly by modern made ground deposits throughout the site, with no topsoil or subsoil left *in situ*. This indicates that the entire site has been stripped, presumably during either the construction or the demolition of the 20th-century cold storage depot. The geotechnical data was not sufficient to estimate the extent of the impact of this process on any below-ground archaeological remains.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.11 As defined by the brief (HETCCC 2014), the aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the site. The information gathered will enable HDC to identify and assess the significance of the heritage resource within

the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and avoid or minimise any conflict between conservation of the heritage resource and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of five trenches, varying in length between 15m and 30m (Fig. 2). All trenches were 1.8m in width. There was some variation from the trench plan specified in the WSI (CA 2014) and Trench 2 was not excavated. This was due to the presence of thick overgrowth, a tree line and a spoil heap. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (2012).
- 1.13 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Trenches were recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.14 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003). No deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts pre-dating the modern era were present.
- 1.15 The project archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. It will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A. Figures 3–5 present a selection of photographs of the trenches.

- 2.2 The natural substrate comprised grey sandy clay and was exposed in all but Trench 4 at depths of 0.6m–1.25m below the present ground level (BGL). The natural was overlain directly by a series of modern made ground deposits, with no subsoil or topsoil layers present. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present.

Trench 1

- 2.3 The natural substrate was exposed 1.25m BGL and was sealed directly by modern made ground deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present.

Trench 2

- 2.4 Trench 2 was not excavated due to the presence of thick overgrowth, a tree line and a spoil heap.

Trench 3

- 2.5 The natural substrate was exposed 0.85–1.2m BGL and was sealed directly by modern made ground deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present.

Trench 4

- 2.6 Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of 1.4m BGL without the natural substrate being reached. This trench contained modern made ground deposits to depth. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed at this depth, and no pre-modern artefacts were present. The geotechnical survey of the site showed that the natural substrate lies some 2.6m BGL in this area of the site (Listers Geotechnical Consultants 2013, trial pit 5).

Trench 5

- 2.7 The natural substrate was exposed 0.95m BGL and was sealed directly by modern made ground deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present.

Trench 6

- 2.8 The natural substrate was exposed 0.6m BGL and was sealed directly by modern made ground deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation demonstrated that the ground at the site has been truncated down to depths of 0.6m BGL to over 1.4m BGL, and then made up with a series of modern deposits. The truncation was down into the level of the natural substrate, and no traces of subsoil or topsoil layers remained. This process is likely to have occurred during either the construction or the demolition of the cold storage depot depicted at the site on later 20th-century cartographic sources.
- 3.2 No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present. Any archaeological remains which may once have been present at the site will have been completely removed by the truncation described above, and the site is therefore considered to have no potential for surviving archaeological remains.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter James, assisted by Emily Evans. This report was written by Peter James. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and Peter James, and prepared for deposition by Nicola Powell. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 14 May 2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land at Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

HETCCC (Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council) 2014 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*

Listers Geotechnical Consultants 2013 *Land off Welbrook Lane: Ground Investigation Report* Listers report ref. **13.08.024**



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-black sandy clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.45
1	101	Layer	Made ground	Medium red-brown crushed brick	0.4
1	102	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-blue compacted clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.4
1	103	Layer	Natural	Medium grey sandy clay	-
3	300	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-black sandy clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.5
3	301	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-blue compacted clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.7
3	302	Layer	Natural	Medium grey clay	-
4	400	Layer	Made ground	Medium yellow-brown sandstone and gravel overlying groundsheet	0.22
4	401	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-black sandy silt with building and demolition material (red brick and concrete)	0.25
4	402	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-blue compacted clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.46
4	403	Layer	Made ground	Medium yellow-grey compacted clay with mottled yellow-brown sandy clay	0.3
4	404	Layer	Made ground	Medium red-brown crushed brick	0.2
5	500	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-black sandy clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.3
5	501	Layer	Made ground	Medium red-brown mixed garden soil and crushed red brick	0.6
5	502	Layer	Made ground	Medium yellow-grey clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.5
5	503	Layer	Natural	Medium grey clay	-
5	504	Layer	Made ground	Medium yellow-brown sandstone and gravel overlying groundsheet	0.18
5	505	Layer	Made ground	Medium red-brown crushed brick	0.1
6	600	Layer	Made ground	Medium grey-black sandy clay with building and demolition material (red brick, concrete, plastic, etc.)	0.6
6	601	Layer	Natural	Medium yellow-brown sandy clay	-

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire. Five trenches were excavated.</p> <p>There is evidence for human activity in the vicinity of the site from the prehistoric period onwards. Twentieth-century Ordnance Survey maps show a cold storage depot building within the site.</p> <p>The evaluation demonstrated that the ground at the site has been truncated down to depths of 0.6m BGL to over 1.4m BGL, and then made up with a series of modern deposits. The truncation was down into the level of the natural substrate, and no traces of subsoil or topsoil layers remained. This process is likely to have occurred during either the construction or the demolition of the cold storage depot depicted at the site on later 20th-century cartographic sources.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no pre-modern artefacts were present. Any archaeological remains which may once have been present at the site will have been completely removed by the truncation described above, and the site is therefore considered to have no potential for surviving archaeological remains.</p>	
Project dates	21–22 July 2014	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation, etc.)	Field evaluation	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers, etc.)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TL 4269 6129	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Historic Environment Team, Cambridgeshire County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Peter James	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, etc.)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store	Trench sheets, registers, etc.
Digital	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store	Digital photos, etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2014 <i>Land at Wellbrook Way, Girton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 14347		



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Wellbrook Way, Girton,
Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE

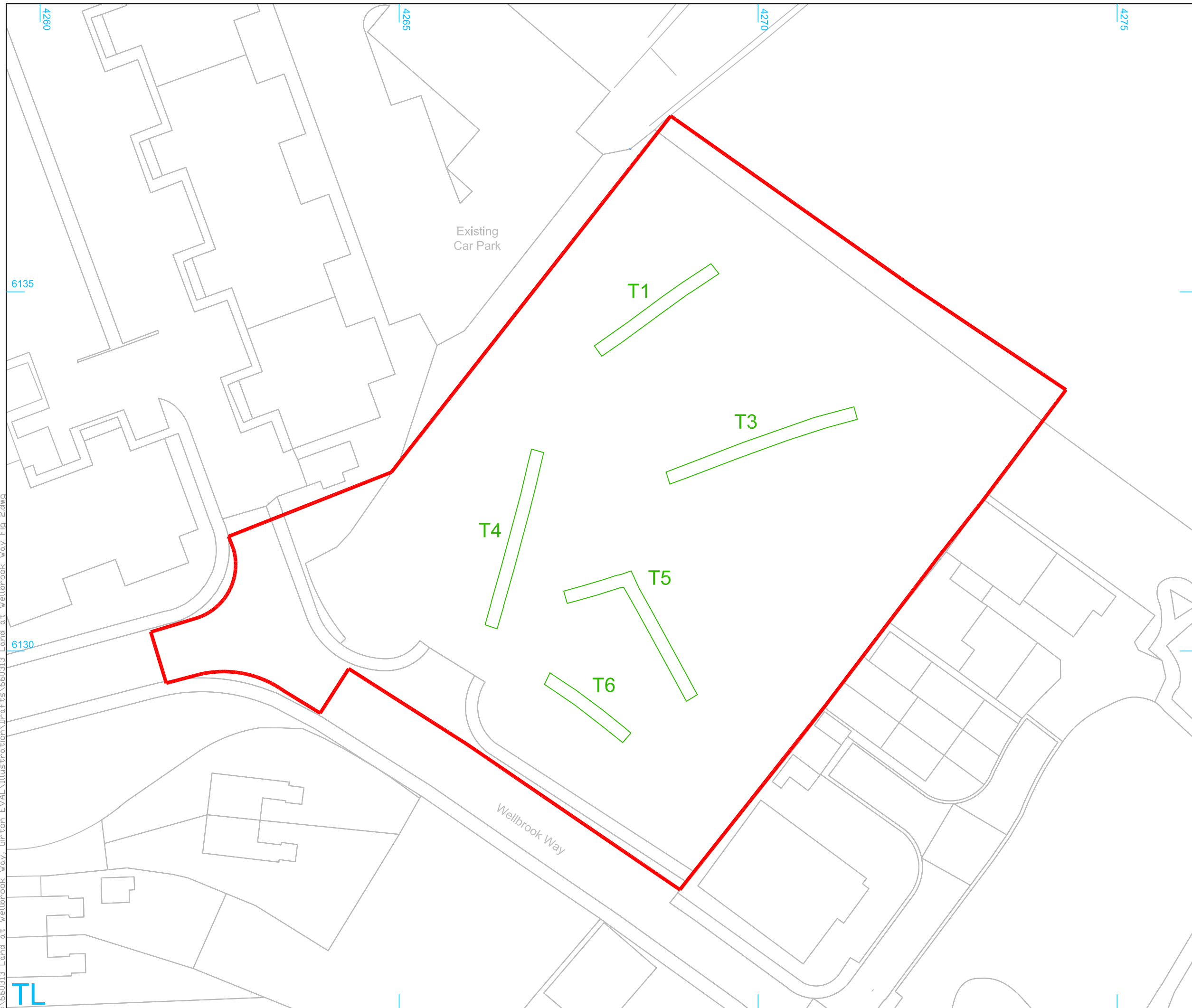
Site location plan

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PROJECT NO. 660313 DATE 028-07-2014
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- ▬ site
- ▬ evaluation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Wellbrook Way, Girton,
 Cambridgeshire

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

PROJECT NO.	660313	DATE	28-07-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	DJB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

P:\660313 Land at Wellbrook Way, Girton EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\660313 Land at Wellbrook Way Fig 2.dwg

TL



3



4

3 Representative section of Trench 1, facing south-east (scale 1m)

4 Representative section of Trench 6, facing south-west (scale 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 660313 DATE 28-07-2014
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 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

3 & 4



5

5 Trench 5, looking north-west (scales 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5