

**Walton Manor
Brickhill Street
Milton Keynes**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Orion Heritage Ltd

on behalf of
Intervet UK Production Ltd

CA Project: 660627
CA Report: 16006

MK HER Event Number: EMK1265

December 2015



Walton Manor
Brickhill Street
Milton Keynes

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Walton Manor
Location:	Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes
NGR:	SP 8892 3646
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	14-15 December 2015
Planning Reference:	15/02293/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum Service
MK HER Event Number:	EMK1265
Site Code:	WMB15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2015 at Walton Manor, Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes. The fieldwork was undertaken to inform a planning application to Milton Keynes Council for the construction of a process and packaging facility and associated works. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches.

Archaeological interest in the site derived from its close proximity to a high concentration of archaeological remains, most notably a Roman occupation site located c. 200m to the north. This was overlain by medieval earthworks of the shrunken village of Walton.

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no evidence of Romano-British or medieval occupation or activity was found during the evaluation. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Walton Manor, Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes (centred on NGR: SP 8892 3646; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd at the request of Intervet UK Production Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken to inform a planning application to Milton Keynes Council (MKC; Planning ref: 15/02293/FUL) for the construction of a process and packaging facility with associated works, including car parking, engineering works and landscaping.
- 1.3 The scope of the evaluation, which comprised the excavation of six 40m long by 1.8m wide trial trenches, was defined in discussions between Orion Heritage Ltd and Nick Crank, MKC's Archaeological Officer (MKCAO).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by Nick Crank. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (2015) the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5 The proposed development area is situated on the eastern side of Milton Keynes, with the River Ouzel located 300m to the west. The site measures approximately 0.6ha and comprises part of a grass field. It is bounded to the north and east by industrial units, to the south by the remainder of the field and to the west by Woughton Park. The site lies at approximately 71m above Ordnance Datum, on relatively flat ground.
- 1.6 The bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay Formation, mudstone of the Jurassic period, overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of Oadby Member diamicton (brown to grey silty clay, with chalk and flint fragments and lenses of sand and gravel) (BGS 2015).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the area surrounding the site has been presented in an archaeological desk-based assessment (CgMs 2010). An archaeological evaluation of the area to the immediate north of the site has also been undertaken (JMHS 2010). The following section is summarised from these sources and reference to the Milton Keynes HER (HER numbers in parenthesis).

Prehistoric (Pre-43 AD)

2.2 A piece of Neolithic or Bronze Age worked flint has been recorded to the west of the site (1246), with a further three prehistoric struck flints noted within Walton parish, although their exact location was not recorded (1174).

2.3 A later Bronze Age socketed axe has been recorded c. 400m to the east of the site (2224), with two Bronze Age spearheads and a disc pin recorded c. 500m to the east of the site (2225, 2226 & 2227).

2.4 The cropmarks of two possible square enclosures are located c. 400m to the south of the site (1176 & 1177). Although undated they are presumed to date to the prehistoric period. A ring ditch, also of presumed prehistoric date, has been recorded c. 500m to the south-west of the site (2093).

2.5 A Late Iron Age/Roman occupation site comprising an enclosure, building and a possible kiln is recorded at the V9-H9 junction to the east of the site (1257-1264).

2.6 A sherd of Late Iron Age pottery is recorded c. 500m to the north-east of the site (1700).

Roman (AD43 – AD 410)

2.7 A Roman occupation site has been excavated c. 200m to the north (1537-1558) of the proposed development area. Further excavations ahead of the construction of 'building 25' revealed two Roman possible boundary ditches thought to be associated with this occupation (Albion Archaeology 2008).

2.8 Metal detecting surveys ahead of development of the housing on the east side of Brickhill Street recorded a bronze coin hoard of Roman date, as well as various other coins and brooches, Roman pottery sherds and a ring (2230-2238, 2246 &

2247). Three Roman coins have been recorded c. 500m to the north-east of the site (2239-2241).

- 2.9 Various Roman artefacts have been dredged from the River Ouzel to the south-west of the site (1533-1536).
- 2.10 John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological evaluation to the north of the proposed development site in 2010. This revealed ditches and postholes dating between the 1st and 4th centuries AD (JMHS 2010).

Early medieval (AD 410-1066) to medieval (1066-1539)

- 2.11 A number of 5th to 9th-century sherds of pottery and a fragment of a Saxon brooch were recovered from the ploughed earthworks of Walton DMV (2300). The presence of these finds implies that Walton village may have had Saxon origins.
- 2.12 The first documentary reference to Walton is in the 12th century when the manor was divided into two manors. The earthwork remains of the shrunken village of Walton lay to the north of the site (2758-2762 & 2932-2934). These earthworks comprised a sunken trackway and a series of property boundaries located around a number of crofts to the north and the south of the trackway.
- 2.13 Excavation undertaken between 1971 and 1972 revealed a medieval road, two 14th to 15th century timber framed buildings, associated cobbled surfaces both overlying 13th-14th century pits. Excavation ahead of the construction of 'building 25' of the Schering-Plough campus revealed a series of earlier medieval boundary ditches. The latest pottery recovered was from a midden dating to the 13th/14th centuries after which occupation of this area appears to have ceased (Albion Archaeology 2008).
- 2.14 Walton's medieval church, St Michael's, lies c. 500m to the north of the site (3000).

Post-Medieval (1540-1800)

- 2.15 No significant post-medieval remains are recorded on the HER.
- 2.16 The Walton Tithe map (1840) and the first edition Ordnance Survey Map (1881) depict the site as being part of a large agricultural field. The 1925 Ordnance Survey

Map shows the subdivision of this large field into two unequal size fields. None of these maps show the earthworks of the medieval village.

- 2.17 The site seems to have been utilised as pastureland throughout the post-medieval period.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation, as detailed within the WSI (CA 2015), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will enable Nick Crank, MKCAO, archaeological advisor to Milton Keynes Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 3.2 During the course of the project the results were assessed and, where relevant, reference was made to the *Solent Thames Research Framework* online resource ([www.http://thehumanjourney.net](http://thehumanjourney.net)) in order to place the remains within their local and regional context.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan. Trenches 1 to 3 were 40m long, Trench 3 was 20m long. All the trenches were 1.8m wide. Due to on-site constraints Trenches 5 and 6 could not be excavated. 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*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant

archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 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* and where appropriate, were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their office in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum Service, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-8)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified within all of the evaluation trenches. The geological substrate, consisting of mid orange/yellow brown compact silty clay, with chalk and flint pebbles and lenses of sand and gravel was observed at an average depth of 0.5m across the site. This was in turn overlain by subsoil, which comprised mid orange/yellow brown compact silty clay subsoil, measuring between 0.25m-0.3m thick. This was in turn sealed by topsoil 0.25m-0.33m thick.
- 5.3 No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were located within the excavated trenches.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains within the

proposed development area. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the Roman occupation site excavated to the north of the site and the medieval earthworks of the shrunken village of Walton either do not extend as far as the development area, or that they may have been removed during previous development.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by James Coyne, assisted by Kim Devereux-West and Alice Amabilino. The report was written by James Coyne and the illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Joyce.

8. REFERENCES

Albion Archaeology. 2008 *Building 25, Walton Manor, Milton Keynes: Assessment of Potential and Updated Project Design*. Unpublished client report.

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 9 December 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Walton Manor, Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CgMs 2010 *Intervet Northern Car Park, Walton Manor, Milton Keynes: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Report no. **RB/11614**

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

JMHS (John Moore Heritage Services) 2010 *An Archaeological Evaluation at the Northern car park, Intervet Campus, Walton Manor, Milton Keynes*. Report no. **2226**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.			0.33	Modern
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown moderate to highly compact silty clay.			0.25	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown highly compacted clay.				

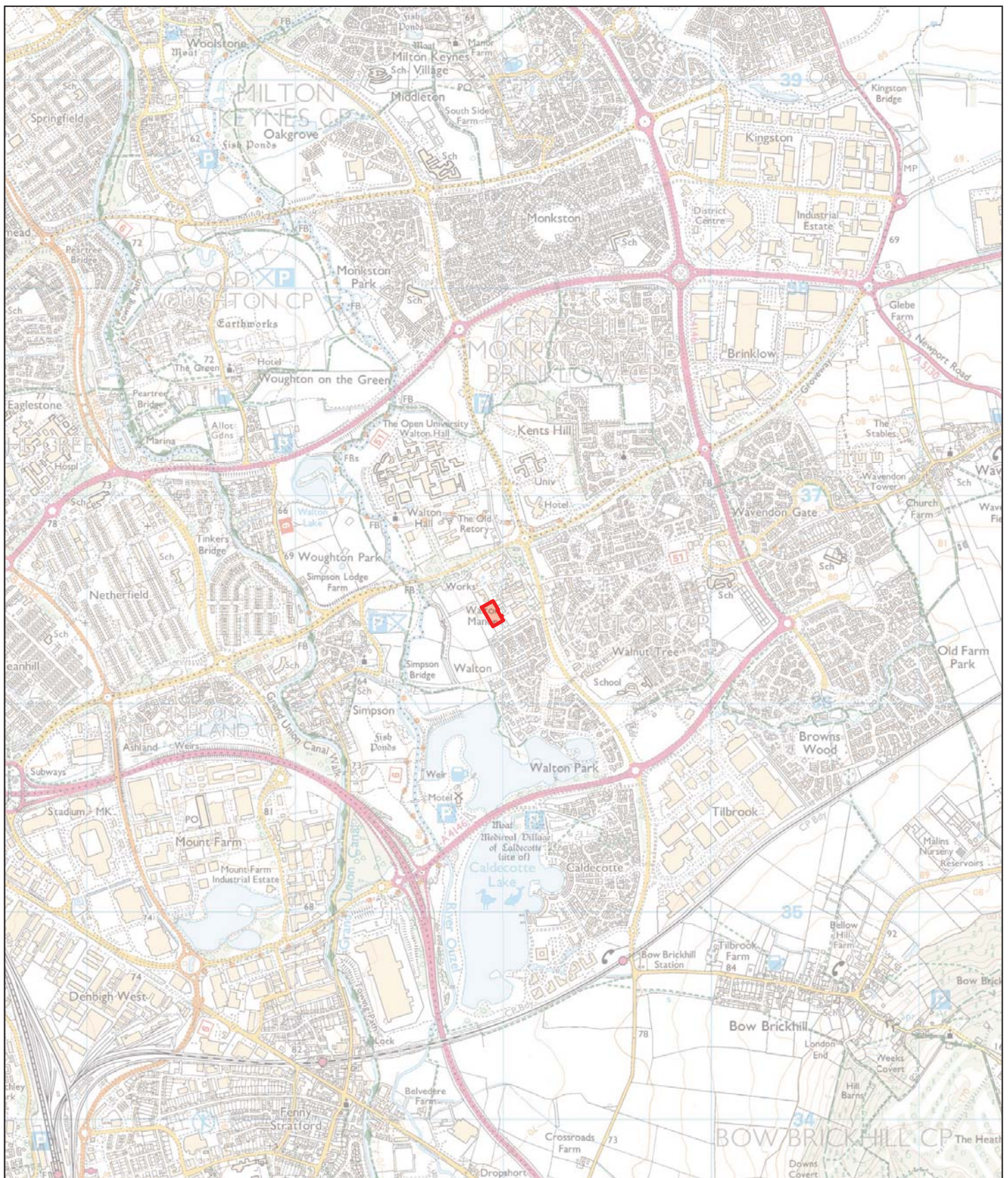
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.			0.26	Modern
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay.			0.28	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay.				

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.			0.26	Modern
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown moderate to highly compact silty clay.			0.28	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown highly compact clay.				
3	303	Cut		Cut of tree bole	Irregular shape in plan, with moderate to steep sides and an irregular base. Feature appears to undercut the geology which provides evidence of rooting.	>1.6	3.0	0.58	Undated
3	304	Fill	303	Fill of tree bole	Mid greyish brown moderately compacted silty clay with moderate small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks.	>1.6	3.0	0.58	Undated

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot-date
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.			0.25	Modern
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay.			0.3	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown compact silty clay.				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Walton Manor, Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in December 2015 at Walton Manor, Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes. The fieldwork was undertaken to inform a planning application to Milton Keynes Council for the construction of a process and packaging facility and associated works. The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches.</p> <p>Archaeological interest in the site derived from its close proximity to a high concentration of archaeological remains, most notably a Roman occupation site excavated c.200m to the north. This was overlain by medieval earthworks of the shrunken village of Walton, comprising a sunken trackway and a series of property boundaries.</p> <p>Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no evidence of Romano-British or medieval occupation or activity was found during the evaluation. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	14-15 December 2015	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	DBA (CgMs 2010)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Walton Manor, Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.6ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 8892 3646	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Stuart Joyce	
Project Supervisor	James Coyne	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Buckinghamshire County Museum Service	None
Paper		Pro-forma registers, recording sheets, WSI
Digital		Database, digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Walton Manor, Brickhill Street, Milton Keynes: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16006		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Walton Manor, Brickhill Street
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

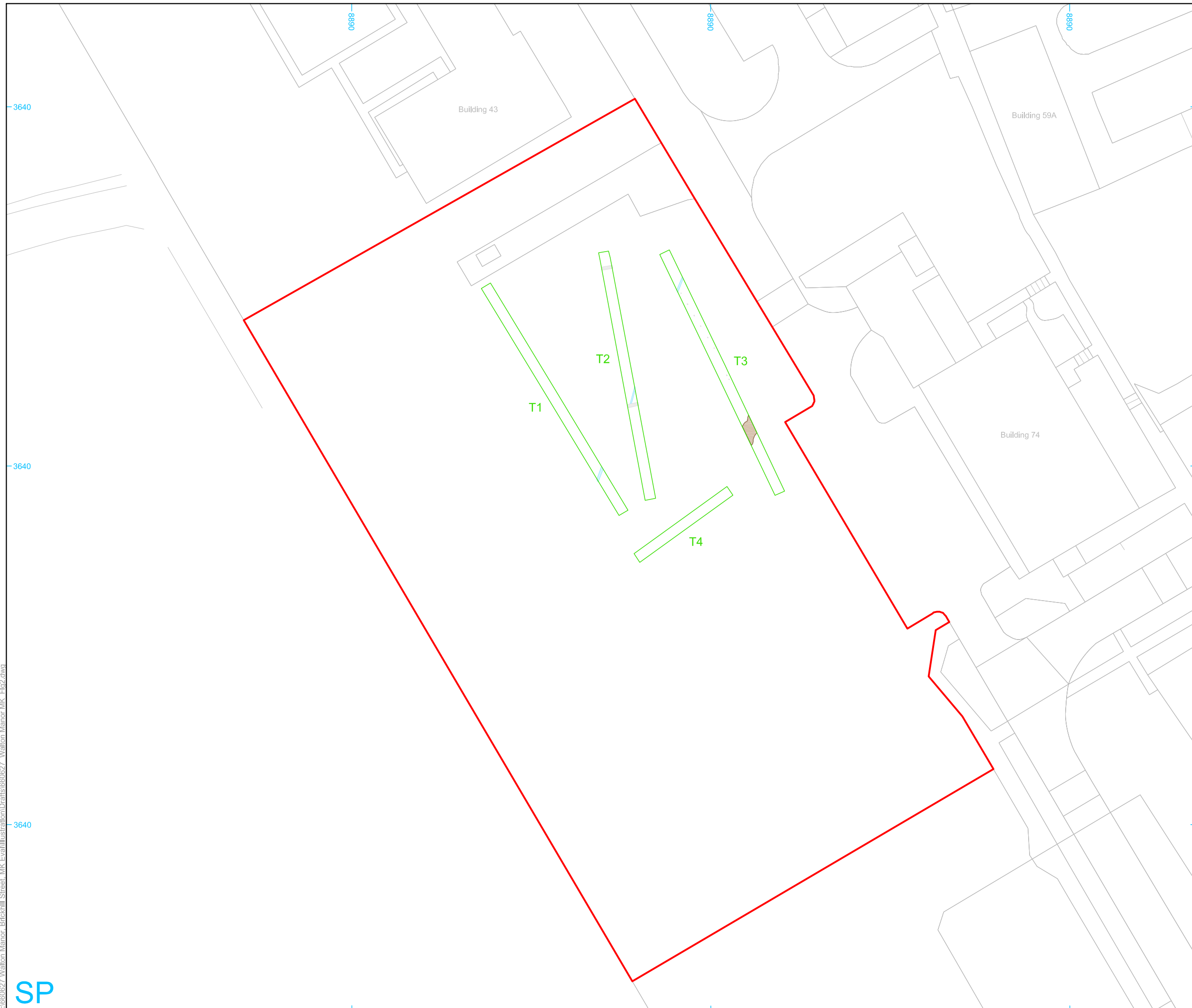
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FIGURE NO.

1



- evaluation trench
- modern
- field drain
- bioturbation



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PROJECT TITLE
Walton Manor, Brickhill Street
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing
evaluation results

DRAWN BY LJH	PROJECT NO. 660627	FIGURE NO.
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APPROVED BY SJ	SCALE@A3 1:500 & 1:7500	

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3



4

3 Site, looking north

4 Site, looking south



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PROJECT TITLE

Walton Manor, Brickhill Street
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

3 & 4



5



6

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

6 Trench 2, looking north (1m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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7



8

7 Trench 3, looking north (1m scales)

8 Trench 4, looking south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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