

Newbury Canoe Club Newbury West Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Peter Tompkins

on behalf of
Newbury Canoe Club

CA Project: 770477
CA Report: 18071



Newbury Canoe Club Newbury West Berkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 770477
CA Report: 18071



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	15.02.2017	RK	Richard Greatorex	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex
B	23.01.2018	Francesco Catanzaro	Ray Kennedy	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site location plan (1:25,000)
Figure. 2	The site, showing location of groundworks (1:100).
Figure. 3	Working photographs



SUMMARY

Project Name: Newbury Canoe Club,
Location: Newbury, West Berkshire
NGR: SU 47416 67159
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 13 February 2017, 22 January 2018
Planning Reference: 14/00657/FUL
Location of Archive: West Berkshire Museum
Site Code: NCC17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with demolition of the current clubhouse and replacement with a new structure at Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West Berkshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered due to the limited nature of the observed excavations.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2017 and January 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Newbury Canoe club which is located alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal and A339 in the centre of Newbury, West Berkshire (centred at NGR: SU 47416 67159 Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the demolition the current clubhouse and replace it with a new structure (West Berkshire Council ref 14/00657/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved the archaeological advisors to the West Berkshire Council (WBC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The site is bounded to the north by the River Kennet, and to the west is the A339. The southern boundary is formed by the Newbury Police Station. The west edge is bounded by manicured green land with mature Trees (Figure 2). The site lies at approximately 75.6m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with a drop in height of approximately 0.3m from north to south.
- 1.4 The site is 0.03 hectares in size. The previous building was used by the canoe club for the storage of the canoes.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation - Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 84 to 89 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The superficial deposit is recorded as Peat. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017). During the current groundworks only made ground was encountered down to a depth of 0.7 (see section 5.1).



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site consisted of the Newbury Canoe Club Clubhouse, which comprised corrugated iron, timber framed structure, standing on the edge of the Kennet and Savon Canal close to Newbury Wharf in the town centre.
- 2.2 The West Berkshire Council Archaeologist has advised that the site is of archaeological and historic interest. In archaeological terms the site was considered to have a 'high potential for below ground archaeology associated with the Kennet Valley and internationally important Mesolithic sites, several of which have been found close by in Victoria Park and along the dual carriageway. Medieval and Post-Medieval deposits associated with the river usage were also considered likely. 'The proposed works involve the demolition of a stone wall that is likely to be part of an 18th or 19th century canal development and commercial activities of the wharf.' (Alex Godden, *per comms*)
- 2.3 It was suggested that 'The building.....scheduled for demolition could possibly be a surviving 'Tin Tabernacle' Victorian church, although this has only been surmised from external appearances. The building was used by the local artist Victor Corden and such has a strong local connection.' (Alex Godden, *per comms*)
- 2.4 The current structure was demolished and a new clubhouse erected on the same site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of two shallow service trenches (Figure 2). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum. 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 (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 No natural geology was observed within **Trench 1**, a foul sewer service, which ran along the south-east corner of the building. The trench which was 0.6m wide consisted of the removal of modern made ground which was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m.
- 5.2 No natural geology was observed within **Trench 2**. The trench which was 0.5m wide consisted of the removal of modern made ground which was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above) due to the limited nature and depth of the trenches observed the watching brief identified no archaeological remains. The depth of the trenches did not exceed the depth of topsoil/madeground.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Francesco Catanzaro, and Adam Howard. The report was written by Francesco Catanzaro and Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Patman. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2018 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 5 February 2018

CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2016, *Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CIfA (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists), 2014, *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

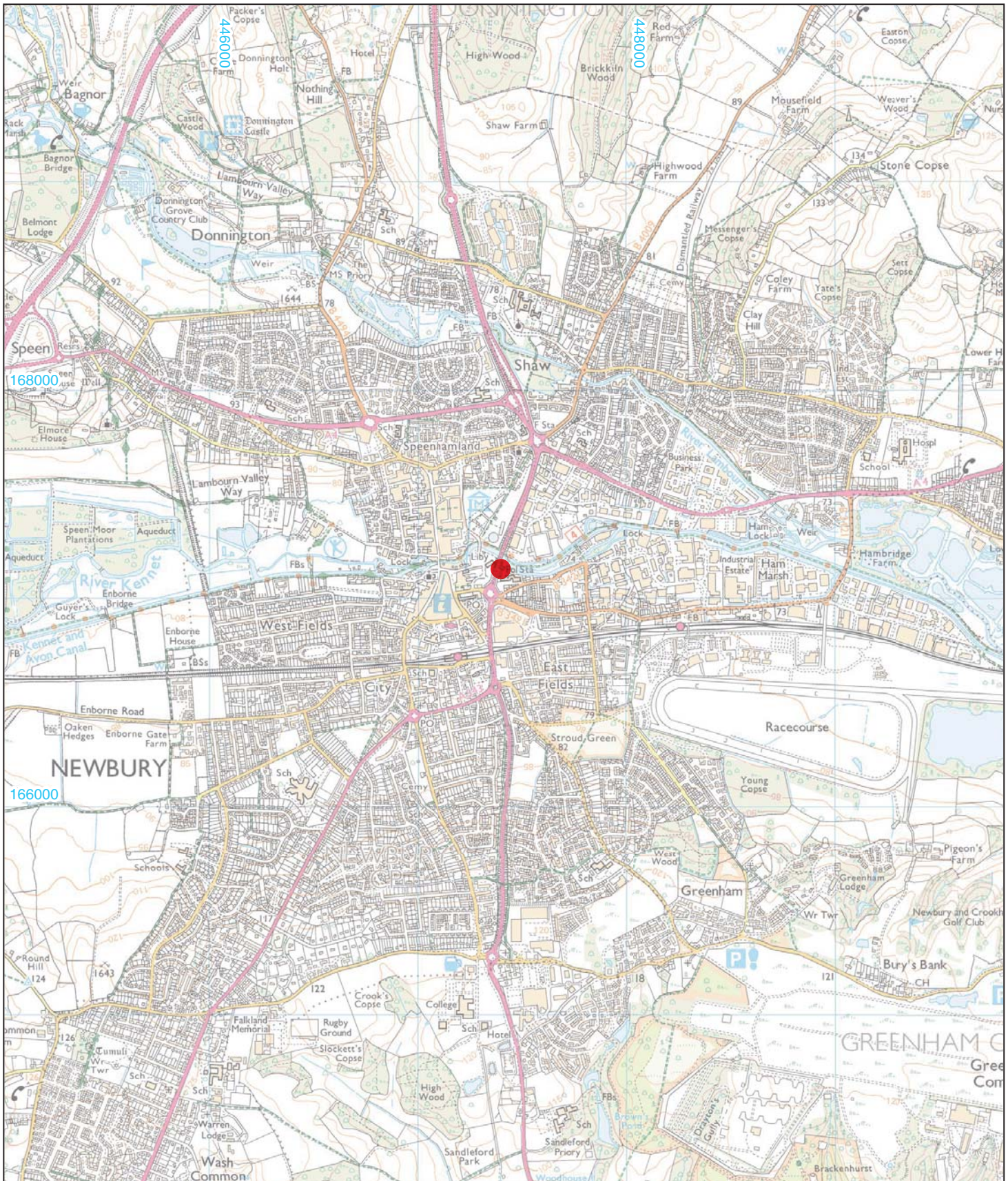


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Made ground	Dark greenish black clayey silt. Frequent building debris and diffused rooting. Loose	>11m	>0.6	>0.4m
2	200	Layer		Made ground	Dark greenish black clayey silt. Frequent building debris and diffused rooting. Loose	>18.5	>0.5	0.6m
2	201	Layer		Buried Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt. Moderate pebbles, diffused rooting. Loose	>5.9m	>0.5	>0.1M
2	202	Cut		Rain-water pipe	Cut of modern rain-water pipe. Linear in plan	>0.5m	0.5	0.3m
2	203	Fill	202	Backfill	Pea-shingle made backfill of rain-water pipe	>0.5m	0.5	0.3m
2	204	Layer		Made ground	Mix of building debris and light yellowish green sand. Frequent patches of gravel. Compact. Covered at the NW end of the trench by 200.	>10m	>0.5	>0.6

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West Berkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundwork associated with demolition of the current clubhouse and replacement with a new structure at Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West Berkshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered due to the limited nature of the observed excavations.</p>	
Project dates	13 February 2017, 22 January 2018	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West Berkshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	SU 47416 67159	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard and Francesco Catanzaro	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) West Berkshire Museum	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical		For example ceramics, animal bone etc
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Add reference this report only, for example:		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2018, <i>Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West Berkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA Report 18071		



© Crown copyright and database rights 2018
Ordnance Survey 0100031673



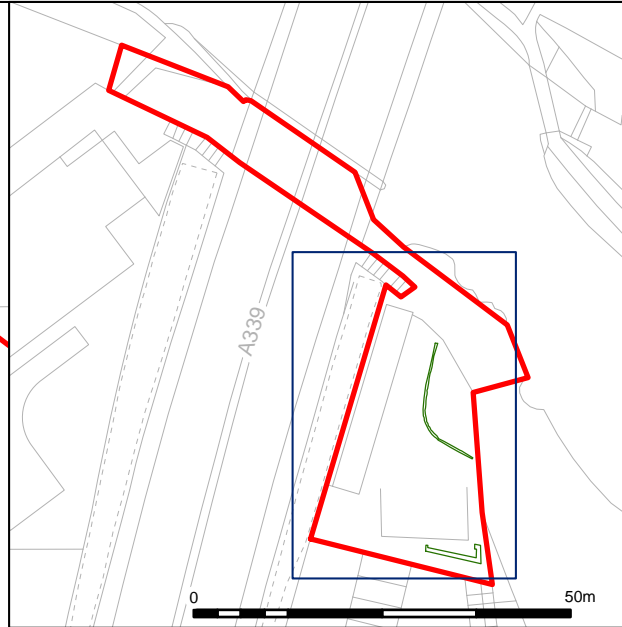
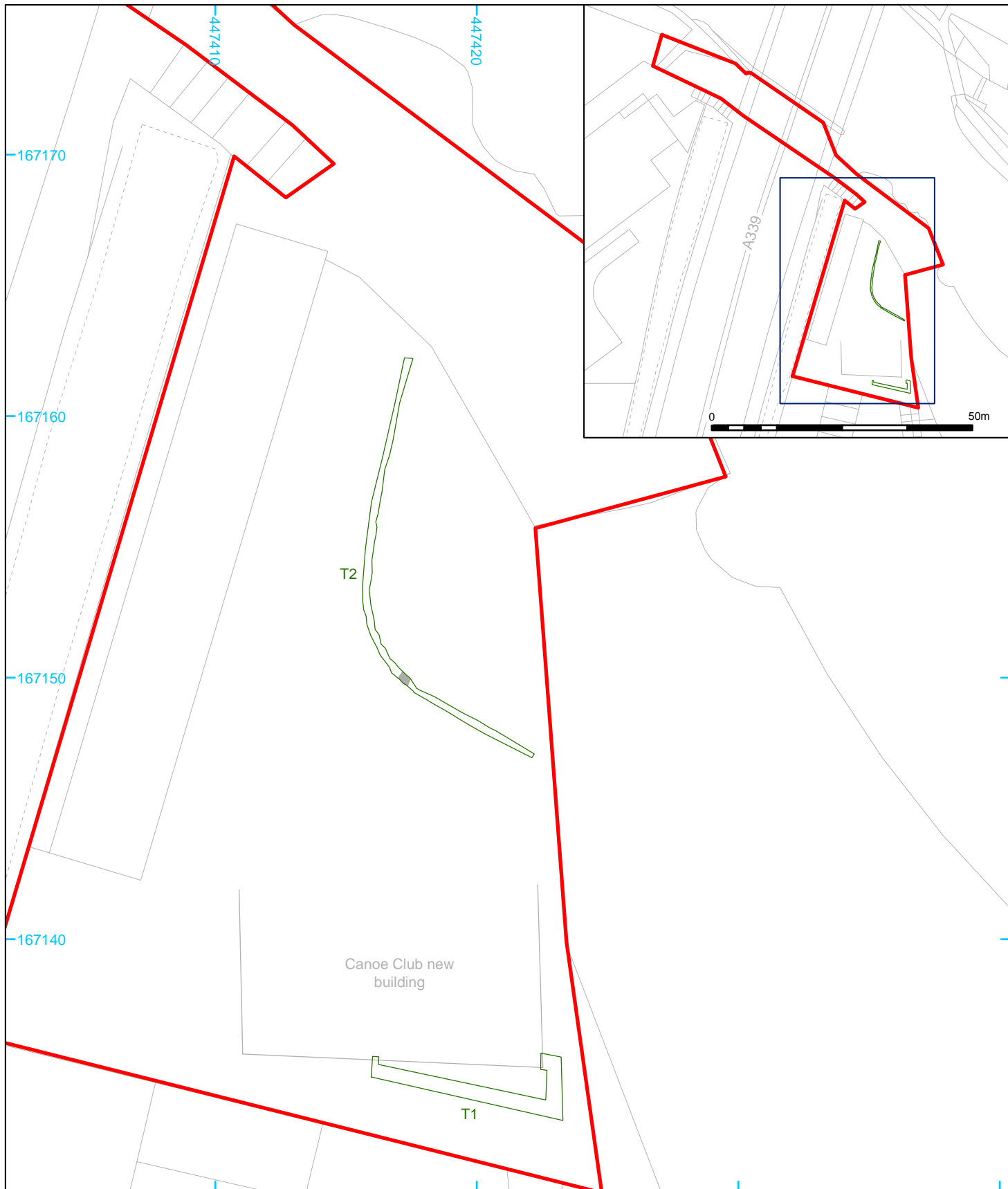
**Cotswold
Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West
Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	770477	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	29/01/2018	1
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- modern



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West
 Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

DRAWN BY CP PROJECT NO. 770477
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 29/01/2018
 APPROVED BY RK SCALE @ A4 1:200

FIGURE NO.

2





Trench 1, looking north-west



Trench 2, looking east (scales 1m)



Trench 2, looking south-east (scales 1m)



Trench 1, looking south-east (scale 1m)


Cotswold Archaeology
 Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Newbury Canoe Club, Newbury, West
 Berkshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Working photographs

DRAWN BY	CP	PROJECT NO.	770477	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	29/01/2018	3
APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	@A3 NA	

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660