

Chiltern Way Academy MUGA
Church Lane, Wendover
Buckinghamshire
Archaeological Evaluation



for
WSP

CA Project: MK0114
CA Report: MK0114_1
Accession Number: AYBCM: 2019.132

September 2019



Chiltern Way Academy MUGA Church Lane, Wendover Buckinghamshire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: MK0114
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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Chiltern Way Academy MUGA
Location:	Church Lane, Wendover, Buckinghamshire
NGR:	487260 207170
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	19 August 2019
Planning Reference:	18/04288/APP
Location of Archive:	Buckinghamshire Museum Service
Accession Number:	AYBCM: 2019.132
Site Code:	CWAC19

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2019 at Chiltern Way Academy, Church Lane, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. Two trenches were excavated.

The site lies within the Wendover Conservation Area, and approximately half of the site also lies within the Wendover Historic Core Archaeological Notification Area (ANA). A small part of the northern extent of the site lies within the Manor Site ANA, which marks the grounds of the former medieval manor house. A rich array of archaeological finds and features from the prehistoric period onwards are known within the Wendover area, including prehistoric, Roman, later medieval and post-medieval finds and features in the area surrounding the site.

Despite the archaeological potential of the wider area no finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified during the evaluation. The evaluation did identify a possible modern trackway, and a made ground deposit likely associated with former garden landscaping.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for WSP at Chiltern Way Academy MUGA, Church Lane, Wendover, Buckinghamshire centred on National Grid Reference 487260 207170 (see Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken to help fulfil an archaeological planning condition (ref: 18/04288/APP; November 2018) attached to the planning permission for the proposed development for Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and associated terracing, a new footpath, sound barriers and drainage at Chiltern Way Academy.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by WSP (2019) and approved by Lucy Lawrence, Archaeological Advisor to Buckinghamshire County Council (AABCC). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by WSP and Lucy Lawrence, including a site visit on 19 August 2019.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 0.12ha, and mainly comprises a grass field located to the south of the school. The site lies at approximately 132m above aOD, with a slight upwards slope to the west of the site.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (BGS 2019) with no superficial deposits recorded.
- 1.5 This archaeological evaluation recorded the natural chalk geology at 0.5m – 0.9m below present ground level (bpgl), sealed by subsoil overlain by topsoil in Trench 1, and in Trench 2 the natural chalk geology was overlain by made ground, sealed by topsoil. In Trench 2, however, natural geology was only reached at the eastern end of the trench; in the western portion natural geology was still not encountered at 1.2m bpgl.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies within the Wendover Conservation Area as designated by BCC. Approximately half of the Site also lies within the Wendover Historic Core Archaeological Notification Area (ANA). A succinct summary of the archaeological background of the site is given below, using information garnered from a Historic Impact Assessment Report for Wendover House School (now Chiltern Way Academy), prepared by Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd. (ASC 2011), as well the results from an archaeological evaluation (ASC 2012) within the Academy grounds to the north of the site.

Prehistoric (Pre – AD 43)

2.2 Evidence of Neolithic activity is extremely limited within the town of Wendover, with a flint scraper (HER: 096700000) being the only evidence of activity within the town itself. However, Wendover lies within a landscape that is rich in later prehistoric remains. It is located on the line of a major prehistoric trackway linking East Anglia with the southwest and on a second ancient trackway, also of possible prehistoric origin, in the river valley that runs north-south through Wendover (BCC 2009: 22).

2.3 To the east of Wendover is Boddington Hill, the site of a late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hillfort (HER: 041500000). Grim's Ditch, a linear monument of uncertain function, although possibly a territorial boundary, is located to the south of the town (HER: 0014000001).

2.4 The 2012 archaeological evaluation conducted by ASC within the Academy ground to the north of the site recorded a boundary ditch containing a small number of Late Bronze Age pottery sherds, as well as a ditch dated to the Late Iron Age. The evaluation also revealed a number of undated ditches and postholes, potentially pertaining to the prehistoric periods (ASC 2012).

Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

2.5 Roman coins and brooches have been found in Wendover, as have Roman pottery fragments, tesserae and shells (BCC 2009:25). Evidence for a possible occupation site was found during the construction of the Wendover bypass in 1997 and also at Wellwick Farm, which suggested a nearby villa or farmstead, possibly with an associated cemetery (Zeepvat 2003: 57).

- 2.6 Two Roman coins were located near to Chiltern Way Academy (then school) approximately 60m from the Site, although the precise location of the find spot is unknown (HER: MBC4510).
- 2.7 The 2012 archaeological evaluation to the north of the site recorded a continuity of field boundaries being used from the prehistoric periods into the Roman period (ASC 2012).

Early medieval and medieval (AD 410 – AD 1539)

- 2.8 Documentary evidence indicates Wendover was part of the royal estate centred at Aylesbury and was held by Ælfheah, ældorman of Hampshire who bequeathed both estates to King Edgar in c. 970AD (Williams, Smyth & Kirby 1991:8). Wendover has yielded archaeological evidence for Saxon activity from the early-mid Saxon period onwards. The earliest datable evidence is a possible 5/6th century disc brooch (HER: 0585200000), which was found off Hale Street to the east of the school.
- 2.9 An early Saxon cemetery has been postulated because of the location of the remains of two early Saxon or Romano-British females found in Hampden Road (HER: 0615400000). Another Saxon burial, which is said to have been unearthed at the manor house (BCC 2009: 25), could have been associated with the church.
- 2.10 Archaeological remains discovered at Heron Cottage span the Saxon and medieval period (HER: 0441400003 and 0453800001; 044140001; 044140002; 0453800000), and are evidence for a clear and definite settlement shift in the medieval period.
- 2.11 The Domesday entry for Wendover describes a large estate of 24 hides with woodland for 2,000 swine, ploughland for 26 ploughs, meadow for 3 ploughs and 2 mills, held by the King.
- 2.12 The site of the present manor and church is generally held to be that of the original Saxon/medieval settlement (cf Bucks CC 2009: 30; VCH), but archaeological and architectural evidence for the church and its immediate environs does not predate the 12th century (HER: 0537900000, 0537900001 & 0537901000).
- 2.13 In 1999, a watching brief recorded a pit containing medieval pottery 90m north-west from the Site (Babtie 1999). The 2012 archaeological evaluation recorded no early medieval to medieval archaeological features or deposits suggesting medieval

occupation was limited in this area and concentrated to the north-west of the church (280m north of the site) and later within the planned settlement of present day Wendover further north. 14th century pottery was found 50m east of the site.

Post – medieval to modern (AD 1540 – present)

- 2.14 The manor passed between the Crown and a number of families in the medieval and post-medieval period. In 1800, the manor of Wendover was bought by Robert Smith, later Lord Carrington. Albert Smith later became not only Lord of the Manor but was also the vicar for some 47 years (Holland 1944: 8).
- 2.15 Wendover House, a Grade II listed building (HER: 0152801000) was largely rebuilt in an Elizabethan style by Devey in 1871-3 for Lt-General Philip Smith. The associated gardens, pond and parkland are recorded in the HER (0152804000). The range attached to the eastern side of the house was built in 1948 and echoes the architectural details of the stable block (HER: 0152801001).
- 2.16 The evaluation from 2012 to the north of the site recorded 19th and 20th garden features associated with the former manor house; as well as a potential 16th century structure identified by a series of postholes.
- 2.17 A school was established on the site by 1961 and the buildings to the rear of the main house were constructed in 1967. The site mainly lies within playing fields belonging to the school.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to clarify the presence, nature, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains that might have been present within the areas of impact.
- 3.2 The specific research objectives for the evaluation were as follows:
- What evidence is there for prehistoric evidence activity on the Site? Evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age features have been identified to the north of the Site and may extend to the south of the Site;

- What evidence is there for Roman activity on the Site? Some of the ditches found on the 2012 evaluation to the north of the Site were thought to have continued in use into the Romano-British periods. These ditches may extend into the Site. A number of isolated finds from the Roman period have also been found in the surrounding area by metal detectorists.
- What evidence is there within the Site for activity associated with the medieval and post-medieval manor house, which lay a short distance to the north of the Site?
- What are the nature and levels of natural deposits, and has there been any modern disturbance?

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches both measuring 12m long by 2m wide, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Figure 2). With permission from the client (WSP), both trenches were moved slightly. Trench 1 was moved approximately 5m south to avoid blocking a gateway. The west end of Trench 2 was swung slightly to the north to target a ridge in the landscape. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS 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.
- 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, no deposits were identified that required sampling. No artefacts were identified during the evaluation.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their office in Milton Keynes. The physical site archive will be deposited with Bucks County Museum, and the digital site archive with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). 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 - 7)

5.1 Two trenches were excavated. The stratigraphy of the two trenches varied significantly despite their close proximity.

Trench 1

5.2 **Trench 1** was broadly orientated north/south. The natural geology, **102**, was encountered at 0.5m bpgl. It comprised of grey/white silt/clay with significant chalk inclusions and was overlain by mid-orange/brown clay/sand subsoil, **101**, which was only visible in patches throughout the trench and measured 0.2m thick. This was then sealed by mid-brown/grey clay/silt topsoil, **100**, measuring 0.3m thick.

5.3 Located at the northern end of the trench was a modern feature measuring in excess of 6m wide, and with a depth exceeding 0.3m thick. The feature comprised mostly of stone, tile, CBM, and hard core including modern inclusions such as metal drinks cans, making the appearance of a surface, with a small amount of light/grey/brown sand/silt fill located around the other components, likely formed via natural silting processes over time. No excavation was undertaken below the made ground deposit.

Trench 2

5.4 **Trench 2** was broadly east-west orientated. Made ground was encountered across the trench. Due to health and safety restrictions, the natural geology was not reached at the western end of the trench, due to the depth exceeding 1.2m. Due to the depth of the trench, a sondage was dug within the western end of the trench. The natural geology, where encountered within a sondage, comprised mid-grey/white silt/clay with significant chalk inclusions encountered at 0.9m bpgl at the eastern end of the trench. The natural geology **202**, was encountered within this sondage, and was overlain by an excess of 0.6m of made ground comprising mid-yellow/grey clay/sand, with occasional chalk flecks. The made ground (**201**) was likely formed either by landscaping associated with previous gardens on the site, or by development associated with the school.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were encountered during the archaeological evaluation.
- 6.2 The possible surface encountered at the northern end of **Trench 1** is potentially related to a former modern trackway, broadly aligned south-west/north-east. This trackway is not visible on any historical mapping, but has been suggested, by the groundskeeper, as being for emergency services access. It is also possible that this feature is a waste deposit associated with the various redevelopment stages of the school; however, due to the limited scope of the evaluation this theory cannot be developed upon.
- 6.3 **Trench 2** contained a significant deposit of made ground, which can be observed as a ridge above ground. This deposit is likely to either relate to developments associated with the school, or with landscaping works associated with the former gardens on the site.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Bethany Hardcastle, assisted by Harriet Farr. The report was written by Bethany Hardcastle. The illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd, 2011, *Heritage Impact Assessment: Wendover House School, Wendover, Buckinghamshire*

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WSP, 2019, Chiltern Way Academy MUG, *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*

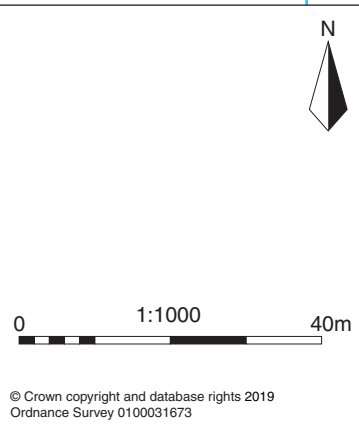
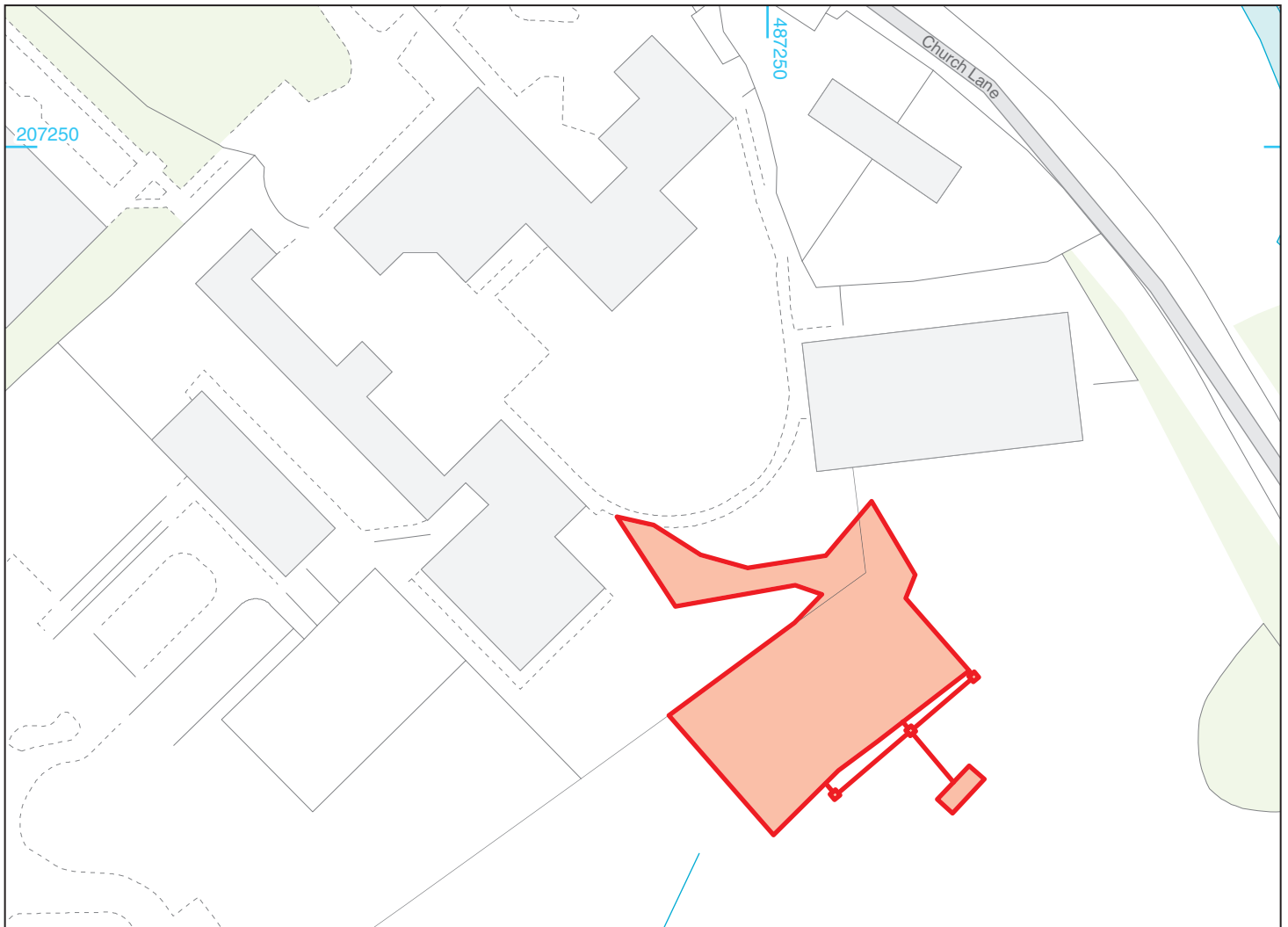
Zeepvat, R. 2003 *A Romano-British Cremation Burial from Wellwick Farm, Wendover Recs Bucks* **43**, 47-6


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey clay silt	12	1.6	0.3
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay sand with occasional chalk inclusions	12	1.6	0.2
1	102	Layer		Natural	Light grey white silt clay with significant chalk inclusions	12	1.6	
1	103	Cut		Modern feature	Unknown	>1.6	>6.0	>0.3
1	104	Fill	103	Fill of modern	Significant stones, tiles, CBM, hardcore with light grey brown sandy silt	>1.6	>6.0	>0.3
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown grey clay silt	12	1.6	0.3
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Light yellow grey clay sand	12	1.6	0.9
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid brown white compact silt clay with significant chalk inclusions	12	1.6	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Chiltern Way Academy MUGA, Church Lane, Wendover, Buckinghamshire	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2019 at Chiltern Way Academy, Church Lane, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. Two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The site lies within the Wendover Conservation Area, and approximately half of the site also lies within the Wendover Historic Core Archaeological Notification Area (ANA). A small part of the northern extent of the site lies within the Manor Site ANA, which marks the grounds of the former medieval manor house. A rich array of archaeological finds and features from the prehistoric period onwards are known within the Wendover area, including prehistoric, Roman, later medieval and post-medieval finds and features in the area surrounding the site.</p> <p>Despite the archaeological potential of the wider area no finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified during the evaluation. The evaluation did identify a possible modern trackway, and a made ground deposit likely associated with former garden landscaping.</p>	
Project dates	19 August 2019	
Project type	Archaeological evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Chiltern Way Academy, Church Lane, Wendover, Buckinghamshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.12ha	
Site co-ordinates	487260 207170	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	WSP 2019	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Bethany Hardcastle	
MONUMENT TYPE		
None		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	<p>Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Recipient of each type of archive Buckinghamshire Museum Service Accession Number: AYBCM: 2019.132</p>	<p>Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) Indicate the contents of each archive box</p>
Physical		none
Paper		Trench recording sheets, photographic registers, survey sheets
Digital		Photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019. <i>Chiltern Way Academy MUGA, Church Lane, Wendover, Buckinghamshire: an Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report MK0114_1</p>		



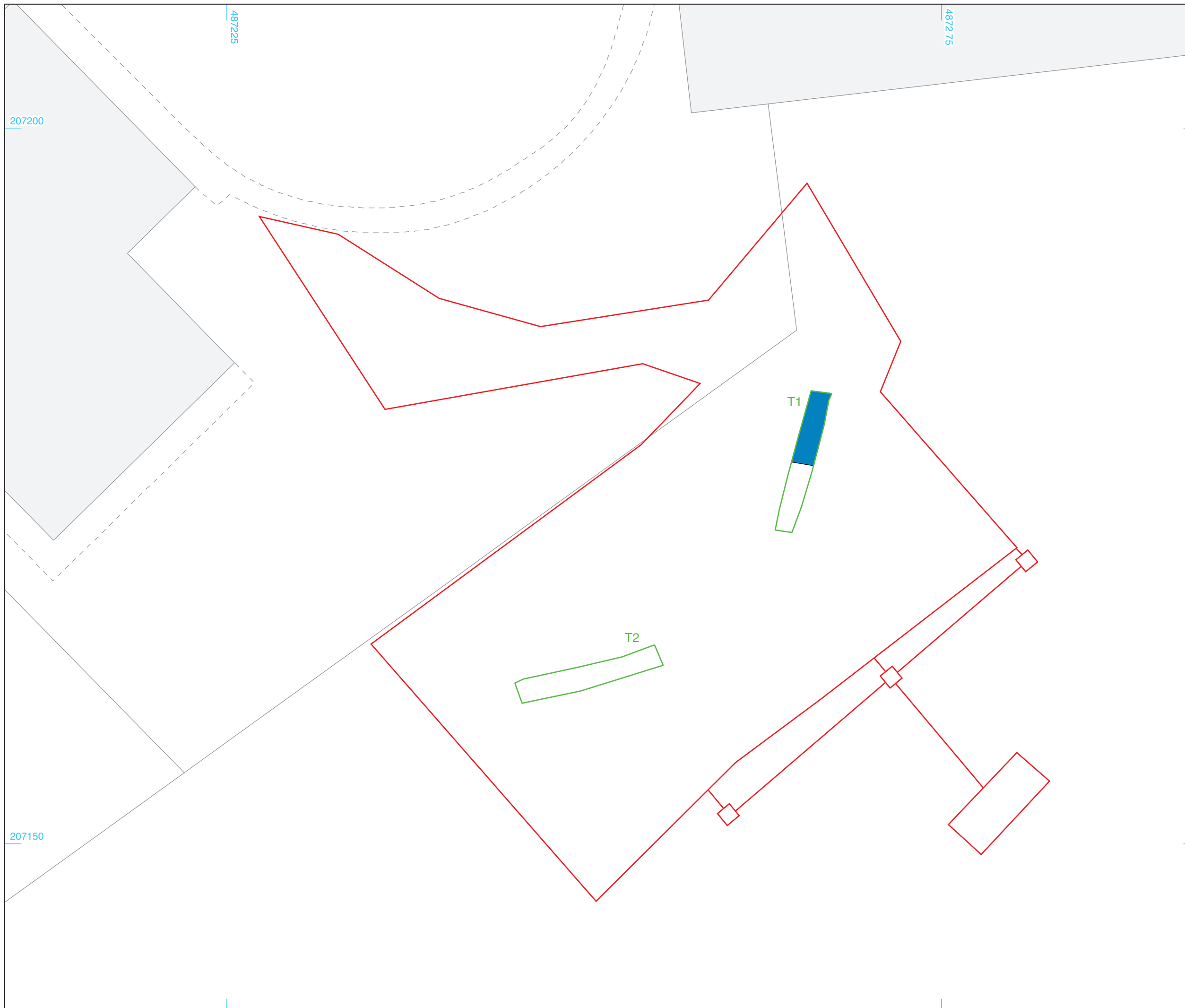

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PROJECT TITLE
 Chiltern Way Academy WUGA,
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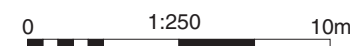
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	GB/AW	PROJECT NO.	MK0114	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	02/09/2019	
APPROVED BY	BH	SCALE@A4	1:1000; 1:25,000	1

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trenches
- Modern



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PROJECT TITLE
**Chiltern Way Academy MUGA,
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

<i>DRAWN BY</i>	GB	<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	MK0114	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>
<i>CHECKED BY</i>	DJB	<i>DATE</i>	02/09/2019	2
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	BH	<i>SCALE@A3</i>	1:250	



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Chiltern Way Academy MUGA,
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FIGURE TITLE

**General view of site, looking
south-west**

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APPROVED BY	BH	SCALE@A4	NA	



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1 looking south

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<i>CHECKED BY</i>	DJB	<i>DATE</i>	02/09/2019	
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	BH	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	NA	4



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1 section looking west

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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2 looking west

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<i>APPROVED BY</i>	BH	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	NA	



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2 sondage looking north

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APPROVED BY	BH	SCALE	@A4 NA	

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