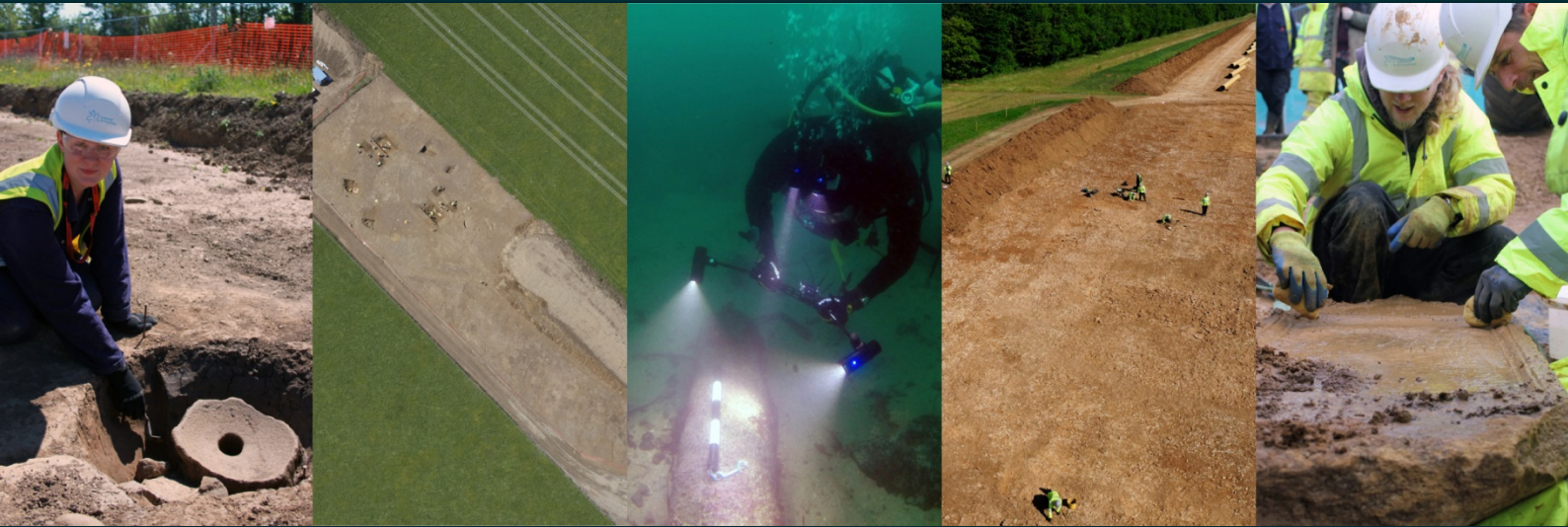




# Harestone House East Kennett Wiltshire

*Programme of Archaeological Works*



for  
Mathewson Waters Architects LLP

on behalf of  
Alison Jones

CA Project: CR0096  
CA Report: CR0096\_1

November 2019



# Harestone House East Kennett Wiltshire

## Programme of Archaeological Works

CA Project: CR0096  
CA Report: CR0096\_1



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	25/11/19	Matt Nichol	Ray Kennedy	Internal Review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire  
**Location:** Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** 411678 167439  
**Type:** Programme of Archaeological Works  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July, and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019  
**Planning Reference:** 18/10206/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** Wiltshire Heritage Museum  
**Site Code:** HARE19

A programme of archaeological works was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July, and October 2019 at Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire.

No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundwork, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2019 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an programme of archaeological works for Mathewson Waters Architects LLP on behalf of Alison Jones in respect of land at Harestone House, East Kennet, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 411652 167436 (see Figure 1).

1.2 Planning permission for development of four dwellings, and the extension and alteration to the existing property known as Harestone House, with associated change of use of equine yard, removal of modern barn & stables, and the introduction of car parking and WC facilities for church visitors was granted by Wiltshire Council (ref: 18/10206/FUL), conditional on a programme of archaeological work etc.

### *Condition 13*

*Excluding the demolition works hereby approved, no development shall commence within the area indicated (proposed development site) until a written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and The approved programme of archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

*REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.*

1.3 The programme of archaeological works was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2019) and approved by Rachel Foster, the archaeological advisor to Wiltshire Council (WC). It also followed the ClfA (Chartered Institute of Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation Reading: University of Reading Press*, and ClfA (Chartered Institute of Archaeologists) 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief Reading: University of Reading Press*

### **The site**

1.4 The development area (approx. 0.3ha) is presently in use as a farm with stabling and a barn. The Site is located to the southern end of East Kennet village, on Church Lane, to the south of the A4. The historic buildings within the farm lie within the East Kennet Conservation Area and the Site is surrounded on three sides (55m

to the north, 228m to the south and 250m to the east) by the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site.

- 1.5 East Kennet sits largely upon roughly 10m thick superficial deposits of Head Gravel, overlying the New Pit Chalk Formation, belonging to the Cretaceous Period (BGS). The soils within the area of the farm are shallow, free draining, lime rich, and loamy.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of a Desk Based Assessment of the site by Cotswold Archaeology (2018).

### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2 Harestone House is surrounded by the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage site (55m north, 228m south and 250m east of the Site and as such, is in very close proximity to a range of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments that are part of a much larger prehistoric landscape.
- 2.3 The fields to the south of the Site contains East Kennet Long Barrow 600m from the centre of the site, a barrow cemetery comprising a group of approximately 13 barrows (including the barrow at Millball Cottage to the immediate east of the Site. Some of these barrows are considered to be denuded, plough-levelled and some are not proven to be archaeological features; the HER description explains that some may be agricultural in origin. A geophysical survey carried out as part of Environmental Stewardship, over the site of one of the Scheduled bowl barrows located three further ring ditches and a number of linear ditches, two linear features leading to and possibly related to the East Kennet Long Barrow, and a rectangular enclosure that may not be prehistoric in origin but rather represent a medieval sheep fold. Some of the evidence for cultivation around the village may also date to the prehistoric period. The fields 591m west of the Site, by Millball Cottage, also contains a late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age enclosure.
- 2.4 Finds evidence of prehistoric activity is also recorded within the study area. In 1978, a Neolithic hollow-based arrowhead and waste flake, mounted as a spear, were found within the grounds of Millball Cottage, 213m to the west of the Site. Slightly further away, 360m northeast of the Site, close to the Manor, a Bronze broad-bladed

tanged chisel and a socketed axe of Breton type, with the clay core still in place, were found in the early 1930s.

### *Romano-British*

- 2.5 There is no recorded evidence for Roman activity within the study area. However, the Roman road from Bath to Cenutio runs east-west, 852m north of the Site.

### *Early medieval and medieval*

- 2.6 East Kennet has its origins in a 9th century settlement called Cynetan, according to Gover. A Charter of 972AD also mentions the foundation of a church within this settlement.
- 2.7 The Site sits just within the westernmost edge of the area suspected to be the site of the Saxon settlement. This area contains an extensive series of earthworks forming small rectangular enclosures or closes, and including building platforms measuring c60x20m, and 0.2m high. Some of these are surrounded by banks and a narrow hollow way. A fragment of Saxon pottery found in a ditch 248m northeast of the Site, close to the Manor House.
- 2.8 East Kennet has been a parish since 1291 and remains of the medieval church are in evidence within the current late 19th century parish church of Christ Church, which stands next to the Site. Evidence that this area of the village may have been part of a Saxon settlement, and that it also may have been the centre of the later medieval village, leads to the conclusion that the size, location and layout of the medieval and even Saxon church and churchyard is unknown but potentially outside of the area of the current churchyard. The medieval church was reported to be in bad repair during the late 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and although a painting of the church dating to 1807 shows a tower and chancel, no church is shown within the Tithe Map of 1838. The current church was built in 1864 by Gane of Trowbridge and it contains 18th century wall monuments.
- 2.9 During the 14th century, East Kennet was a small but moderately wealthy community, with fewer than 10 households, as recorded by the Exchequer, on the Wiltshire Roll. The centre of the settlement has apparently shifted since the 14th century. The current church and Manor Farmhouse are believed to mark the earlier centre of the village (*ibid*). Manor Farm preserves structural elements that suggest an early 15th century origin, though the building is predominantly of much later date.



- 2.10 The 2006 LiDAR shows that the land between the barn on the Site, and Millball Cottage, contains a series of earthworks defining at least three (possibly six) croft-sized plots. These are arranged on both sides of a field boundary which could possibly represent the line of an associated medieval or post-medieval street.

*Post-medieval and modern*

- 2.11 The village was enclosed by the Lord of the Manor in the late 17th or early 18th century (an agreement was drawn up in 1713). The Grade II Listed Manor Farm is a 17th century building with 18th and 19th century stables and dovecot, and 17<sup>th</sup> century gate piers. By the 19th century, land within the parish was a mixture of grassland and pasture.
- 2.12 The Site is shown on all of the historic maps that were reviewed for this assessment as having comprised the courtyard of Foxwitchen Farm. The 1838 Tithe map (not illustrated) shows that the early 19th century courtyard layout was a much smaller rectangular shaped courtyard, extending north from the farmhouse and aligned further to the east than the current yard (closer to the farmhouse). It consisted of four buildings: Foxwitchen Farm, two north-west aligned buildings (one facing the western end gable of Fox Twitchen Farm and the other facing the eastern gable end), and one opposite Foxwitchen Farm (now named the Old Dairy).
- 2.13 During the mid-19th century, the yard was extended and given a second range to the west of the first. The building now named the Old Dairy was expanded to the west, with an L shaped range. This plan of the courtyard is demonstrated on the 1887 1st edition and 1900s 2nd edition OS maps.
- 2.14 The third edition OS map, dating to 1924, shows that the building standing close to the western gable end of the farmhouse was demolished during the intervening period.
- 2.15 By the 1970s, aerial photographs show that a small block exists where the larger stable block now stands, to the southern edge of the range. The 1971 OS map shows a courtyard plan that closely resembles the current layout of buildings within the Site.
- 2.16 In 1978, planning permission was granted for an agricultural shed, which is shown in an aerial photograph taken in 1981 and which still stands. During the site visit, it was



observed that the Old Dairy has been recently converted to a dwelling and that it has received renovation. This may relate to the application to convert it into a holiday home, which was granted in 2005. Harestone House appears to be either a conversion of the earlier agricultural range or a replacement. The northernmost stable block also appeared to contain a large proportion of modern building materials.

### 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 2019). Following an initial evaluation within the area of Plot 5, **Trenches 1** and **2** (Figure 1), a further watching brief was undertaken on **Trench 3** following the removal of concrete hard standing. Archaeological monitoring of **Trench 1** (Plot 5), **Trenches 2**, and **3** has shown that there is low archaeological potential here. The programme of archaeological works comprised the excavation of three trenches. **Trenches 1, 2**, and **3** were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. The position of each trench had to be modified due to presence of above ground obstructions. 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, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with 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 offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts (if any were found) will be deposited with the relevant museum, 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 (FIGURES 2-3)

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate (**102** and **201**) consisted of compact silt/clay with gravel, which was revealed within **Trenches 1** and **2**. The geology in **Trench 1** was light yellow/brown compact silt/clay with gravel inclusions, and was encountered at an average depth of 1.27m. The geology within **Trench 2** was dark brown compact silt/clay with gravel inclusions and was encountered at an average depth of 0.75m. This was overlain by subsoil (**101**) within **Trench 1** averaging 0.37m thick. No subsoil was noted within **Trench 2**. The whole site was sealed by a made ground layer (**100** and **200**) varying in depth between 0.2m and 0.9m in thickness.
- 5.2 Within **Trench 3** to the north a modern made ground **301** with rubble inclusions and a thickness of 0.5m was encountered; and to the south a topsoil **300** with a thickness of 0.5m due to the NE facing slope overlying subsoil **302**. The natural substrate (**303**) in **Trench 3** consisted of marly chalk, with frequent mid brown silt/clay inclusions. A modern horse burial, containing modern brick was noted.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefacts pre-dating the

modern period were recovered. Several modern structural features were noted but these clearly related to the remnants of foundations or services associated with the modern buildings.

## 6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the area surrounding the application site, (see archaeological background above), the archaeological works identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The modern housing and stables along with the construction of farm yard surfaces had clearly truncated large sections of the natural geology.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Matt Nichol, Adam Howard, assisted by Tim Street and Steve Bush. The report was written by Adam Howard and Ray Kennedy. The illustrations were prepared by Amy Wright. The archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy, and Richard Greatorex.

## 8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 26 November 2019
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2018, Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, CA Report No. 18489
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2019, Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); published February 2019



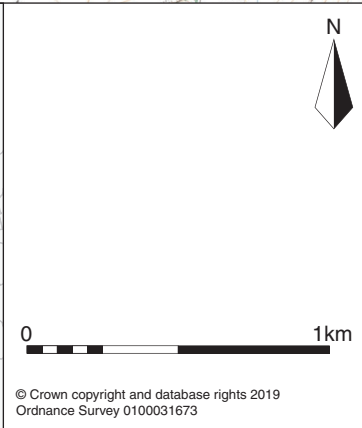
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
1	100	layer		Made Ground	mid-reddish brown friable silty clay, with frequent modern CBM inclusions	9	7.5	0.00-0.95
1	101	layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish brown silty clay with freq. gravel inclusions	9	7.5	0.90-1.27
1	102	layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent chalk patches.	9	7.5	1.27+
2	200	layer		Made ground	mid-grey brown friable silty clay, with frequent modern CBM inclusions	15.6	7.2	0.00-0.75
2	201	layer		Natural	dark brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular gravel inclusion	0.67	0.43	0.75+
3	300	layer		Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay			0.5
3	301	layer		Made ground	Mid-grey brown friable silty clay, with frequent modern CBM inclusions			0.5
3	302	layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay with sub-angular flint inclusions			0.5-1
3	303	layer		Natural	Marly chalk, with frequent mid brown silty clay inclusions.			1+

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire	
Short description	A programme of archaeological works was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July, and October 2019 at Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire.  No finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered	
Project dates	8th and 25th July, and 31st October 2019	
Project type	Evaluation and Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment CA 2018	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.3	
Site co-ordinates	411678 167439	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Matt Nichol, Adam Howard	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		Context sheets, matrices
Digital		Database, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Harestone House, East Kennett, Wiltshire: Programme of Archaeological Works</i> . CA typescript report <b>CR0096_1</b>		







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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Harestone House, East Kennet, Wiltshire

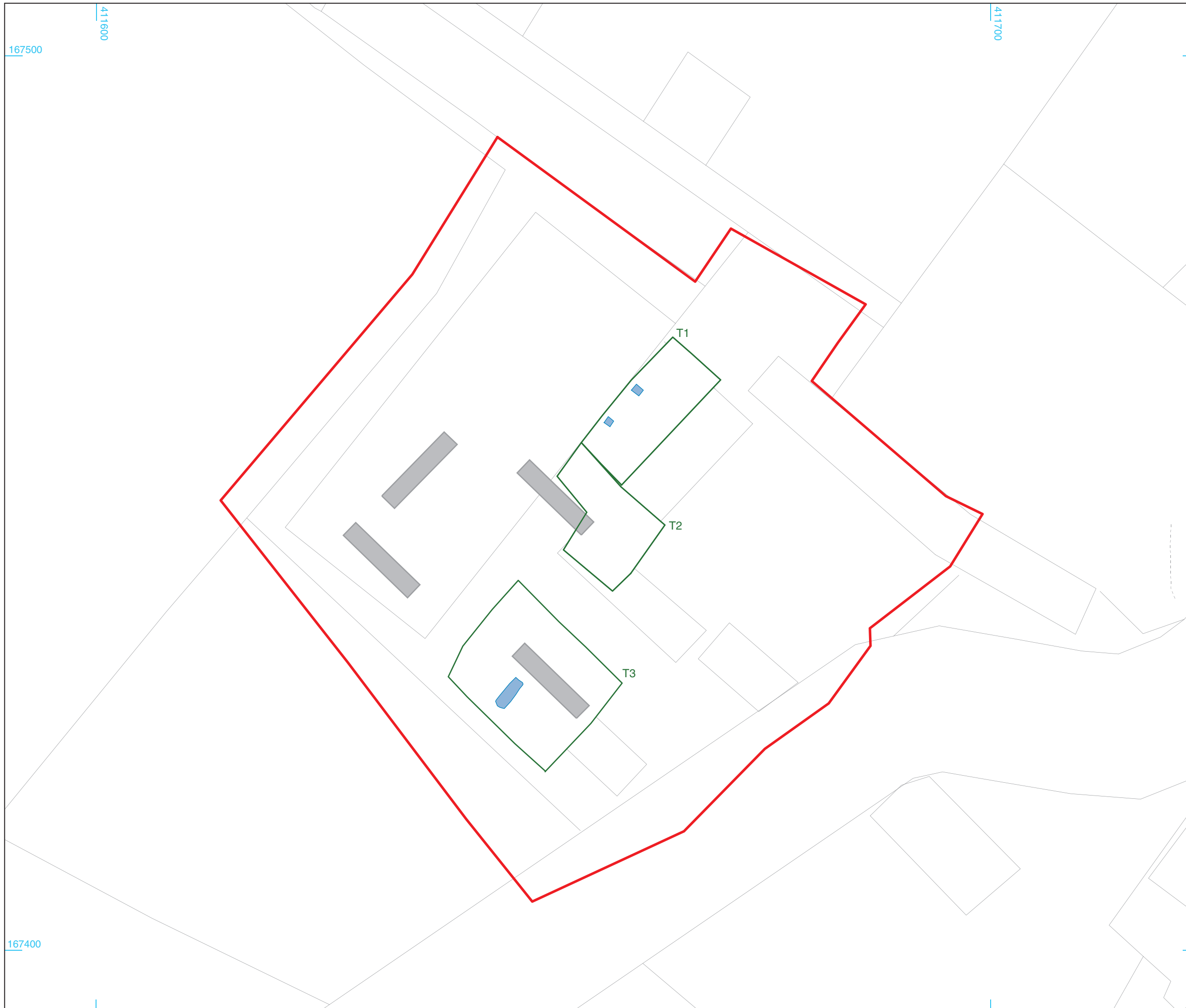
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan

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DRAWN BY	EC	PROJECT NO.	CR0096	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	AO	DATE	30.07.19	
APPROVED BY	AH	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	<b>1</b>

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- Site boundary
- Trench
- Proposed evaluation trench
- Modern



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PROJECT TITLE  
**Harestone House, East Kennet, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench location plan**

<small>DRAWN BY</small>	<b>EC, AW</b>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small>	<b>CR0096</b>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small>	<b>AO</b>	<small>DATE</small>	<b>04.12.19</b>	<b>2</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small>	<b>AH</b>	<small>SCALE@A3</small>	<b>1:400</b>	





Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 2, looking south (1m scales)



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE  
 Harestone House, East Kennet, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench photographs**

DRAWN BY	<b>AW</b>	PROJECT NO.	<b>CR0096</b>	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	<b>DJB</b>	DATE	<b>02.12.19</b>	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	<b>SB</b>	SCALE@A3	<b>NA</b>	



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