

Islamabad, Tilford, Surrey



Archaeological Evaluation Phase 1 Report



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Islamabad, Tilford, Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

On the 13th June 2016, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on the Islamabad site at Tilford near Farnham in Surrey. The site contains a series of buildings which were built during the Second World War as a camp school.

The work was commissioned by Centenary Constructions as part of a joint scheme of historic building recording and archaeological evaluation which formed a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

This 7 trench archaeological investigation formed Phase 1 of a 2 part evaluation programme with a further 5 trenches (Phase 2) to be completed at a later date.

No evidence of archaeological activity was observed during the evaluation. Of the 7 trenches, 6 were positioned within the footprints of recently removed buildings where their construction may have truncated the underlying natural sands. The further trench contained an intact topsoil and subsoil but was also void of archaeological interest.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by Centenary Constructions to undertake an archaeological evaluation and programme of historic building recording at a site just to the north of Tilford near Farnham in Surrey (Fig. 1). The site contains a series of buildings which were built during the Second World War as a camp school (Sheephatch School) but since 1985 they have been used by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association for religious and educational instruction. The site is known as Islamabad and over 100 people live there.
- 1.1.2 Planning permission was recently granted by Waverley Borough Council for a major development at the site which will see the replacement of almost all the buildings and the construction of a new mosque as a centrepiece (ref WA/2015/0075).
- 1.1.3 Planning permission was granted with a condition that requires an archaeological trial trench evaluation and programme of historic building recording. The work has been carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (OA 2015) which was approved by Nick Truckle the Surrey County Council Archaeologist. The historic building record has been made and will be reported on under separate cover. The evaluation has been divided into two phases (Fig. 2). This report deals with Phase 1, Phase 2 will be undertaken at some point in the future.
- 1.1.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The subject site is 25.58 acres (10.35 ha) in total and is roughly triangular. The site is centred on SU 8730 4425 in the parish of Tilford and lies c 700m south of Sheephatch Lane, and about 700m north-west of the centre of Tilford village in Surrey.
- 1.2.2 This part of south-west Surrey has been defined by the River Wey and the numerous branches cutting through the predominant greensand ridge upon which the subject site lies.
- 1.2.3 To the west of the site North Branch of the Wey runs roughly north-south, turning south-east and in to the centre of Tilford. The site slopes steeply down from 51m OD at the north-east to 39m OD on the south-west. Parts of the site have been terraced for sports grounds.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 No previous archaeological work had been carried out within the site itself.
- 1.3.2 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Mills Whipp 2014), the results of which are summarised below. The gazeteer and map at the back of the Desk Based Assessment gives more detail on the find spots and sites mentioned below.

Prehistoric c 700,000 BC – AD 43

- 1.3.3 A scatter of prehistoric material has been reported from the vicinity of the subject site. A redeposited Lower Palaeolithic handaxe was recovered from Lower Dene, Tilford. More noteworthy has been the reported flint finds from Mesolithic to Bronze Age date from



Sheephatch Copse to the north of the site. This bluff overlooking the Wey would have been suitable for transient hunting populations.

- 1.3.4 Other prehistoric finds in the vicinity of the site include a Bronze Age knife from Crooksbury, a hammer from the same period from Tilford and an Iron Age quern from Mount Pleasant Farm Tilford, which may have been cut on site suggesting a possible quern factory.
- 1.3.5 It appears there were transient prehistoric populations in the area but no long term settlements.

Roman AD 43- AD 410

- 1.3.6 After the invasion in 43 AD the Romans quickly established control of south-east Britain. It is likely that the area now called Surrey was divided between the local tribes, namely the *Atrebates*, the *Cantiaci* and the *Regni*. There is no indication that there was any significant resistance to the Romans (Bird and Bird 1987 165).
- 1.3.7 Initially, life in the countryside probably changed very little after the Roman invasion and the subject site lay beyond any major town or near any major road. That there was a Roman settlement, perhaps no more than a large farmstead is attested by two groups of later 1st century Roman pottery finds, both probably derived from cremation burials located to the east of the site.
- 1.3.8 To the south-east of the site three late Roman, 3rd century, kilns were excavated in the mid 20th century and crop marks in that area may indicate the presence of Roman buildings. The subject site was probably open ground during the Roman period.

Saxon AD 410- c AD 1000

- 1.3.9 The name 'Tilford' has been identified as the personal name *Tila* or *Tilla* who owned the ford across the Wey (EPNS 1944 173).
- 1.3.10 No Saxon material has been reported in the study area.
- 1.3.11 The subject site probably lay in open ground in the Saxon period.

Medieval c AD 1000-AD 1500

- 1.3.12 The area of the subject site was dominated and owned by Waverley Abbey. The Abbey was established in 1128 about 1.2km north of the subject site. The Abbey was the first Cistercian House established in England. The Cistercians were noted for their determination to return to monastic purity and poverty, concentrating on physical labour. The House was never particularly rich and when Henry VIII closed the smaller monasteries in 1536, Waverley was one of that number.
- 1.3.13 The hamlet of Tilford was probably concentrated where the present village now stands. The monastery built two bridges which still exist to allow passage over the branches of the Wey.
- 1.3.14 No medieval material has been reported in the study area. The site was probably open ground at that time.

Post medieval AD 1500-present

- 1.3.15 The earliest map showing any useful level of detail was surveyed by Rocque in 1762. The village of *Tylford Bridge* is shown either side of the branches of the Wey with a large open space, now Tilford Green. To the north lies the high upper plateau of



Crooksbury Common, its western side steeply cut by the northern Wey. Sheep Hatch (Farm) is depicted as is another unnamed farm to the south. The subject site is shown as enclosed fields, probably reclaimed from the common. Further north lies 'Waverley Abby'. Similarly, a more schematic map of 1794 shows the site as open ground to the north of Tylford Bridge. A more detailed map of 1816 shows the area in considerable detail. It appears that there were two settlements, Tilford and Tilford Bridge separated by the Wey. To the north lies Sheep Hatch and Tilhill Farm. The subject site is open ground.

- 1.3.16 By 1871 the landscape had changed. Much of the open heath shown in 1816 had become wooded countryside. Beside Sheephatch another farm, Heathyfield, had been built. To the south lay Tilhill Farm and Squire's Hill. In 1895 a small copse had been planted on the site but otherwise the area was open farmland.
- 1.3.17 In 1939 a radical change of use occurred when a school was built on the site. This was Sheephatch Camp School.
- 1.3.18 The legislative history of Camp Schools, including Sheephatch Camp School, dates to May 1939 when Parliament passed The Camps Act. The Local Education Authorities, in conjunction with The National Camps Corporation in England and Wales (the Scottish Special Housing Association in Scotland) were allocated £1.2 million for constructing, maintaining and managing 50 camps in rural settings. In total 32 of the intended 50 camps were erected, each accommodating approximately 300 people.
- 1.3.19 Although originally designed as camps for schools and holidaymakers, their role was dramatically redefined with the onset of war in 1939 when they were used as evacuation centres for some of the thousands of children who were moved out of urban areas. In the post-war era the camps became sites for an education experiment in living and learning. Typically, pupils nearing the leaving age of 15 were admitted to the camps for one term. Once there they were exposed to experiences intended to prepare them for post-school life, notably learning through observation and self-education. The camps also offered children from poorer, urban backgrounds a unique living experience in rural environments. Consequently, the health benefits of these environments were strongly promoted.
- 1.3.20 Sheephatch Camp School at Tilford was built in 1939 - its main buildings were designed by Thomas S. Tait of Sir John Burnet, Tait and Laine architects. During the war it housed evacuees from Ruckholt Road Central School in Leyton. In 1946 Surrey County Council leased the camp from The National Camps Corporation and maintained it as a co-educational boarding school until its closure in 1977. In 1984 the school was sold to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK.
- 1.3.21 The development of the site to the present day can be traced through maps. The layout of the site in 1958 shows the cluster of south-west facing buildings overlooking the valley of the Wey. The outline of the site usage shown on the 1973 map broadly reflects the present site buildings.

1.4 Potential

- 1.4.1 The Surrey County Council Historic Environment Record has indicated a general development of the site since the Mesolithic period. Clearly, the area around the streams forming the Wey were attractive to nomad groups of hunter / gatherers. A few elements of later prehistoric material suggest some transient exploitation of local resources.



- 1.4.2 There was clearly an early Roman presence in the more hospitable river valley but there seems to have been a hiatus until the later Roman period when kilns were built, perhaps as an increasing disruption of Britain's trade connections with the remainder of the Roman Empire. There is no indication of significant Roman occupation on the subject site.
- 1.4.3 Similarly, during the Saxon and medieval periods the site appears to have been open ground, perhaps heath. The cartographic evidence indicates that the site was a field from the mid 18th century until the mid 20th century.
- 1.4.4 The buildings erected in 1939 onwards for Sheephatch Camp School now occupy the site.
- 1.4.5 The site has been agricultural land for several centuries. Repeated ploughing is likely to have removed any archaeological deposits above the natural subsoil. The construction of the present buildings and accompanying services will have caused localised truncation.
- 1.4.6 Survival of earlier horizontal deposits is likely to be poor but deeper cut features such as ditches or pits could have been present.
- 1.4.7 There was no indication that significant archaeological deposits were present on the subject site



2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 The aims of the evaluation:

- (i) To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains which may survive.
- (ii) To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any surviving remains
- (iii) To determine the date range of any surviving remains by artefactual or other means.
- (iv) To determine the condition and state of preservation of any remains.
- (v) To determine the degree of complexity of any surviving horizontal or vertical stratigraphy.
- (vi) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.
- (vii) To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence, and the forms in which such evidence may survive.
- (viii) To determine the implications of any remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
- (ix) To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 This Phase 1 of the evaluation comprised 7 trenches (trench numbers 6 to 12). Trenches measured 20m by 2m and were located as shown on Figure 2. The location of Trench 8 was adjusted slightly to avoid high voltage services. Trenches were located using a GPS system and were opened in level spits by a suitably powered machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation ceased at undisturbed natural deposits. Each trench was investigated for archaeological evidence and a photographic and written record made.



3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 Seven 20m trenches were opened in the locations shown on Figure 2. Trench descriptions and a context inventory are presented in Appendix A below.
- 3.1.2 The revealed natural in all trenches was a yellow-red coarse sand. In Trench 9 an intact subsoil was recorded that was probably derived from historic ploughing episodes. This was topped by a shallow, turfed, sandy topsoil. In all other locations there was both no topsoil and the subsoil was mixed with building rubble.
- 3.1.3 In all trenches, the uppermost natural horizon was machined to but no features of archaeological interest were observed.

3.2 Finds summary

- 3.2.1 No finds were recovered from the site.



4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The natural horizon observed in Trench 9 appears to have been undisturbed in recent times, having been sealed beneath an intact subsoil. The remaining trenches indicated some level of truncation probably relating to the construction of the former buildings although the severity of this is difficult to determine. Ground conditions were good and the natural deposit easy to assess. Two trenches are illustrated in Plates 1 and 2 as examples.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 No archaeology was present in the evaluation trenches. This may be due to truncation of archaeologically significant horizons during the construction phases of the site, although the one trench observed to have a full sequence of stratigraphy intact was also void of archaeology.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil/ modern rubble overlying natural sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
601	Layer	-	<0.6	Rubble/subsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil/ modern rubble overlying natural sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.2
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
701	Layer	-	<0.4	Rubble/subsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil/ modern rubble overlying natural sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
801	Layer	-	0.2	Rubble/subsoil	-	
802	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.30



		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	20			
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
901	Layer	-	0.10	Turf/Topsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description		Orientation	N-S			
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil/ modern rubble overlying natural sand.		Avg. depth (m)	0.30			
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	20			
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1001	Layer	-	0.3	Rubble/subsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description		Orientation	NW-SE			
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil/modern rubble overlying natural sand.		Avg. depth (m)	0.3			
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	20			
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1101	Layer	-	0.2	Rubble/subsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description		Orientation	E-W			
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil/modern rubble overlying natural sand.		Avg. depth (m)	0.5			
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	20			
Contexts						
Context no	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1201	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-



1203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
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APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Bird J., Bird D G, 1987 *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*. Surrey Archaeological Society

English Place Name Survey 1944

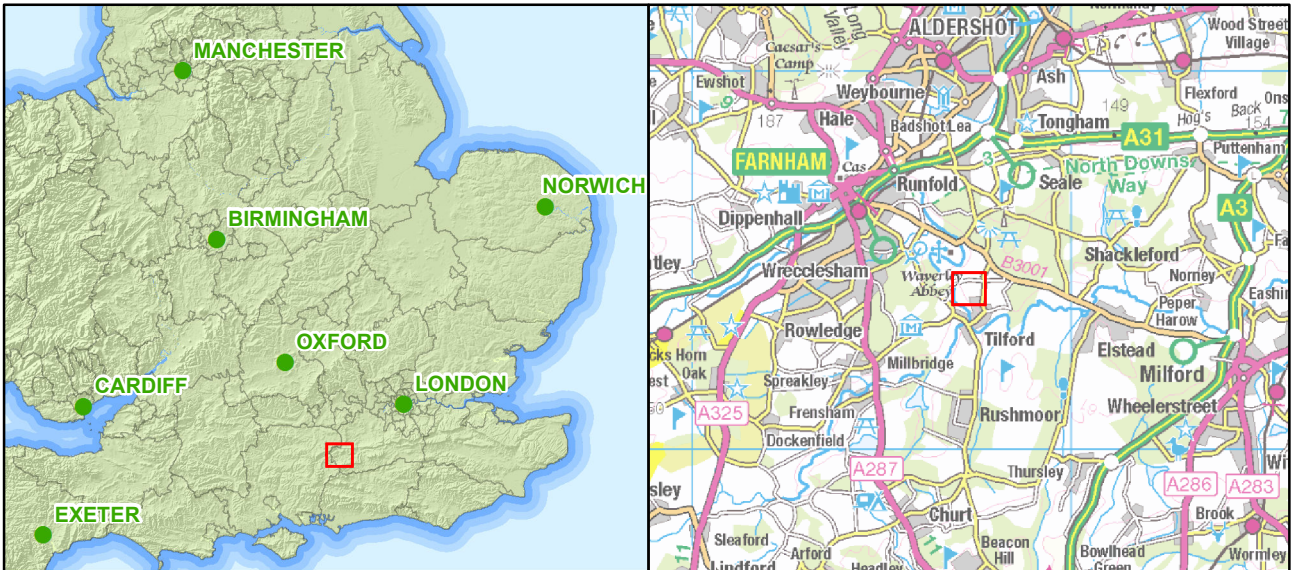
Mills Whipp 2014 *Islamabad, Tilford, Surrey Archaeological Desktop Report*. Client Report

OA 2015 *Islamabad, Tilford, Surrey. Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation and building recording*. Client Report



APPENDIX C. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Islamabad, Tilford, Surrey
Site code: TIIS16
Grid reference: SU 8730 4425
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 13.6.16.One day
Area of site: 10.35 ha total site area
Summary of results: A 7 x 20m Trench evaluation (Phase 1 of 2 phases) which revealed no evidence of archaeological activity.
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Farnham Museum in due course.

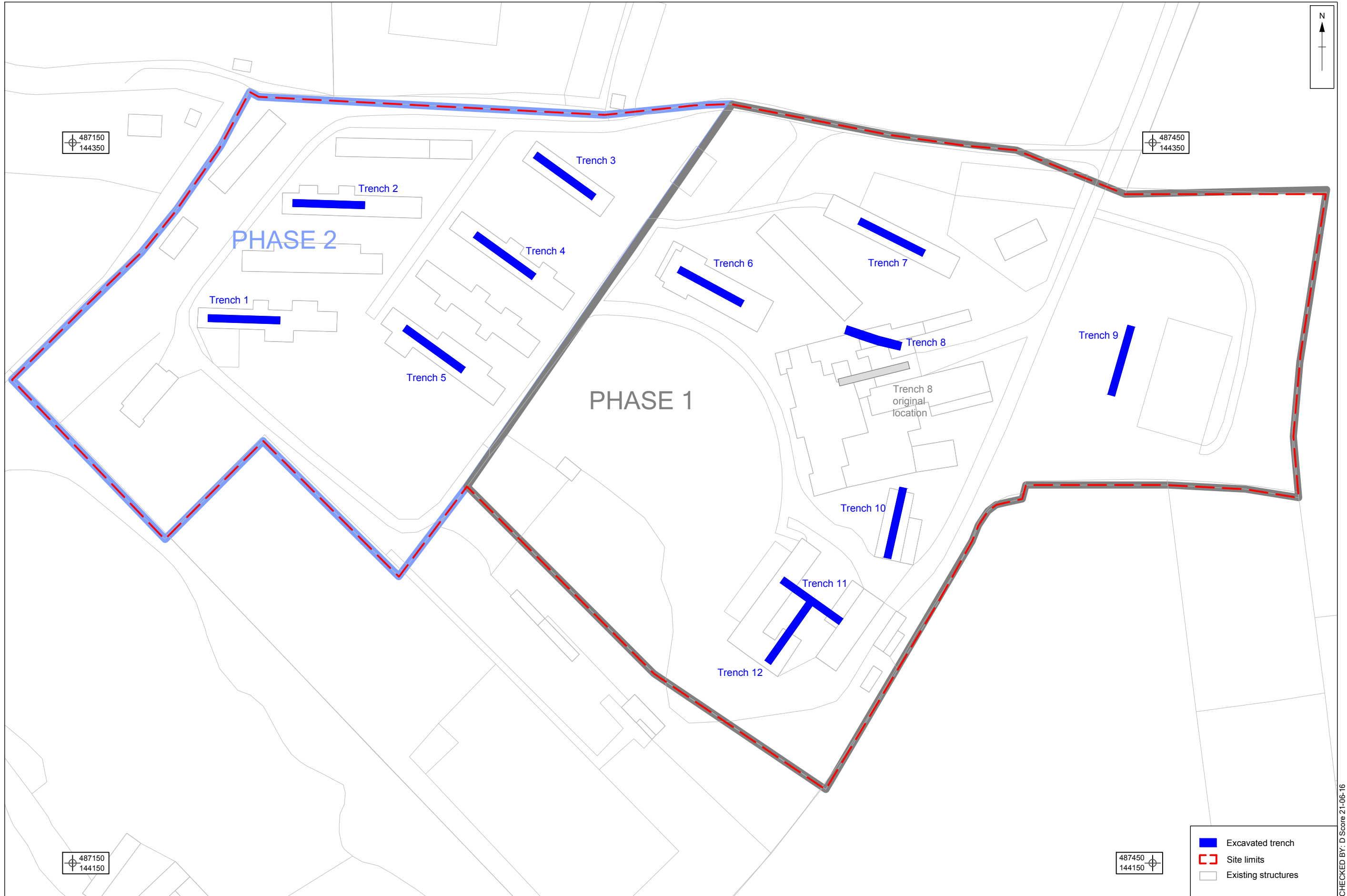


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 Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA,
 USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User

Figure 1: Site location

X:\Islamabad\010\Geomatics\02 CAD\Islamabad 18530b.dwg(A3 Fig 2)*18530*BI\OXFW\Islamabad, Tifford*Conan Parsons* 21 Jun 2016



Base map data provided by Sutton Griffin Architects, James House, 27-35 London Road, Newbury, RG14 3BX

0 25 50
m
Scale at A3 1:1000

Figure 2 - Trench location plan

CHECKED BY: D Score 21-06-16



Plate 1: Trench 9. View to south



Plate 2: Trench 8. View to west



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