

## **Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of Cable Trench at Shire Hall, Cambridge.**

ECB4567

Centred on TL 4454 5939

Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted a phase of archaeological monitoring and recording on the excavation of a fibre optic cable trench at Shire Hall, Cambridge (TL 4454 5939), on 25th September 2015. The works are situated by the Civil War Earthworks at Castle Hill, Shire Hall, a Scheduled Monument (No. SM CB 48, HA 1006886). Because of this, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was applied for and granted by Historic England (Ref S00118325).

The University of Cambridge were to install a new network cable into the Octagon building at Cambridgeshire County Council's Shire Hall campus. The cable trench was to be inserted along Magrath Avenue, across a car park to the west of Wessex Place, in the concrete staircase ascending to higher level land south-west of Wessex Place, and beneath a path located between Sheraton House and the scheduled earthwork of the northern bastion of the star shaped Civil War fort. Historic England mapping shows that the path is contained in the designation area, but the earthwork rises to the south east side of it (Fig. 1).

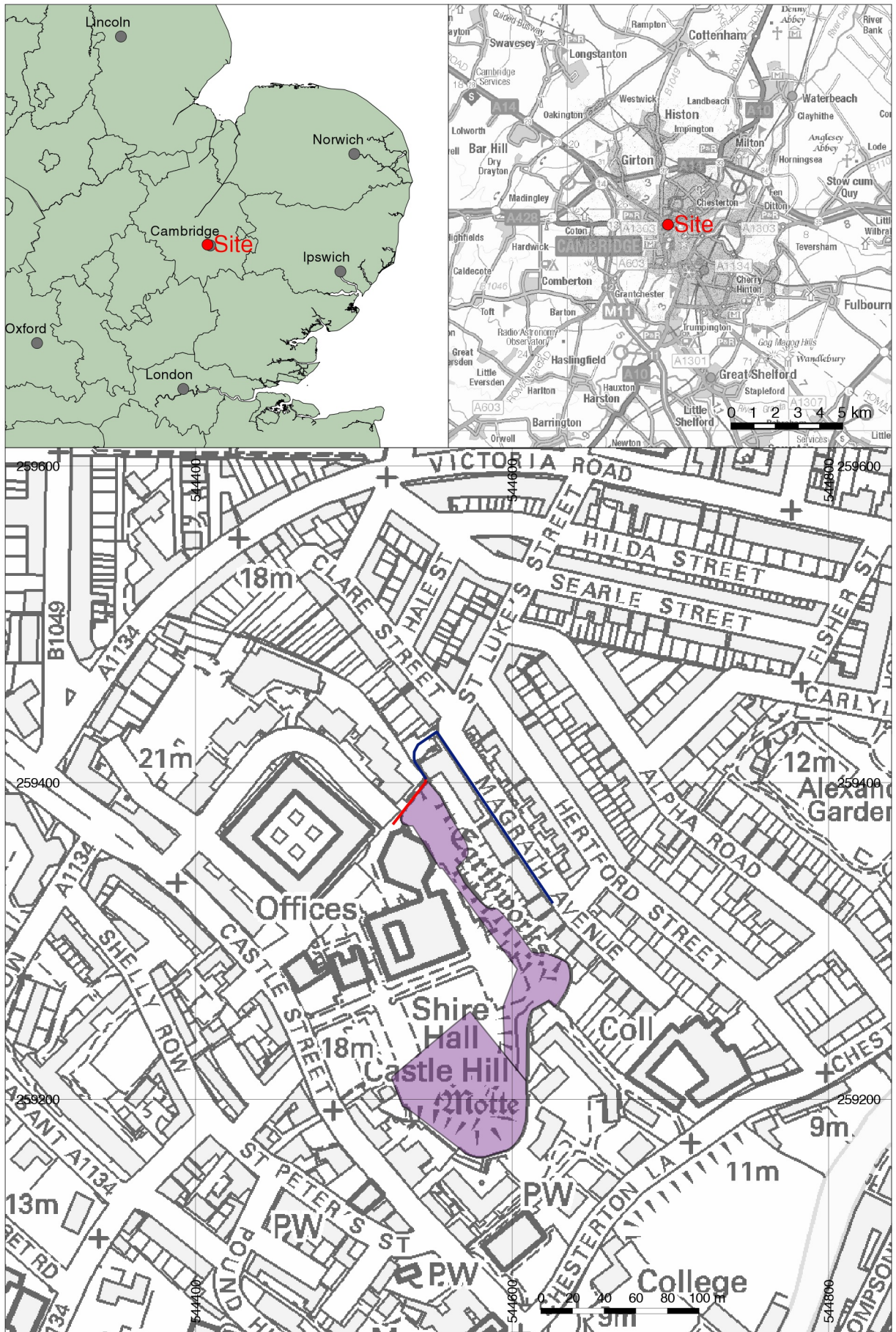
Approximately 28m of trenching was monitored, aligned along a footpath between the county council offices and Wessex Place (Fig. 1). The trench measured 200-300mm wide and between 200mm to 400mm in depth. All works were kept within the footprint of the pathway, and no topsoil was disturbed. No archaeological deposits or natural geology were encountered during the monitoring, with only modern made ground related to the footpath being impacted upon.



Excavation of trench, looking south-west



Excavation of trench at deepest impact (400mm), looking north-east



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Figure 1: Site location showing trench route (blue), monitored section of trench (red) and scheduled area (purple)