

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ALLINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

Archive Report for:  
Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring

*Prepared by*

**NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Project Code: HTA16**

*For*

**Report: 22018**

**SOUL ARCHITECTS**

**March 2023**

*On Behalf of*

**The Bishop of Lincoln's Registry**

**soul**  spirit and place  
**architects**



**network**   
archaeology

# Document Control Sheet

<b>Project title</b>	Holy Trinity Church, Allington, Lincolnshire				
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<b>Northern Office</b> 15 Beaumont Fee Lincoln LN1 1UH Tel: 01522 532621 Email: enquiries@netarch.co.uk		<b>Southern Office</b> 22 High Street Buckingham MK18 1NU Tel: 01280 816174 Email: enquiries@netarch.co.uk
	Network Archaeology delivers a complete consultancy and field service nationwide. Our emphasis is upon good communication and recognition of individual needs and priorities of each of our clients. We are known for delivering professional support, taking care of the archaeology and enabling projects to keep moving forward.	



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# Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Network Archaeology within the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church, Allington, Lincolnshire, over two days in September 2022.

The work involved the excavation for four 1m x 1m test pits along the route of the existing churchyard pathway, in order to inform the methodology to be employed in the construction of a proposed new path.

The four test pits were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.40m in, line with the methodology set out in the WSI. Two of the test pits exposed the natural substrate 0.25m below the current ground level. The remaining two test pits exposed a cemetery soil containing occasional disarticulated human remains and truncated by a possible boundary wall or ditch. Articulated human remains were recorded at a depth of 0.40m within one of the test pits.

Subsequent Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at the site during the construction of a footpath and conduit trench between 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

All works were undertaken in accordance with a Grant of Faculty issued by the Diocese of Lincoln and an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation that was prepared by Network Archaeology (2022).

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

This archaeological evaluation and monitoring report is designed to inform the relevant parties of the potential for archaeological remains at Holy Trinity Church, Allington, Lincolnshire prior to the proposed groundworks and any archaeological remains identified during subsequent monitoring (Figure 1).

The evaluation comprised the excavation of four 1m x 1m test pits within the churchyard. The monitored groundworks comprised the construction of a new path and parallel conduit trench.

## 1.2 Project Background

### 1.2.1 Proposed development and planning history

A planning proposal (S21/1343) was granted to Soul Architects, on behalf of Allington Parochial Church Council, in July 2021:

*Planning application for a new Resin gravel foot path from the main entrance to the South*

*Porch. New stone and brick steps to access the garden of remembrance. New trench arch drainage system.*

Condition 3 of the planning consent states that:

*Before the development hereby permitted is commenced, a written scheme of archaeological investigation to include monitoring of all groundworks, with the ability to stop and fully record archaeological features, shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

The work also takes place under a Grant of Faculty, granted to Soul Architects in January 2022 by the Bishop of Lincoln (Appendix B).

### 1.2.2 Location, description, and natural environment

The site is located within the village of Allington, to the northwest of Bottesford Road, at SK 85555 40258. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) consists of the historic churchyard; a broadly northwest-southeast aligned rectangular plot with an area of approximately 0.36ha. The

church itself is in use and the PDA contains numerous standing funerary monuments (gravestones) within landscaped grounds.

The bedrock geology is identified as Stubton Limestone Beds separated by mudstone with no superficial deposits recorded (BGD 2022). The overlying soils are characterised as lime-rich loams and clays with impeded drainage (Soilscapes).

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

The name of the settlement of Allington probably includes the Old English prefix *æðeling-*, meaning a prince or nobleman, and the suffix *-tun*, meaning a farmstead, village or estate (KEPN 2022). The settlement is recorded within the Domesday survey of 1086 as under the ownership of three lords. The survey lists 73 households comprising 20 villagers, 39 freemen, and 14 smallholders (Open Domesday 2022). Two churches are recorded within the settlement, suggesting that there may have been at least one church on the site prior the Norman Conquest.

The Church of the Holy Trinity in Allington is a Grade II\* listed building (NHLE 1062909). The church was constructed around 1150 with the north arcade, comprising four bays, dating to this period (MLI30146). The church underwent alterations in the 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The chancel and the south part of the nave date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and it was lengthened in brick in the late-18<sup>th</sup> century.

The origins of the village probably lie in the Late Saxon period, and pottery from this date has been recovered from its environs. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks have been recorded surrounding the village, suggesting that it has not significantly contracted since this period. Allington Manor lies directly to the northeast of the churchyard (MLI30144). The house is mid-17<sup>th</sup> century (probably dating to c.1660) with Dutch style gables. It fell into significant levels of ruin between the 19<sup>th</sup> and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, but has been since restored. Undated earthworks have been recorded to the east of the manor house (MLI80077).

Previous archaeological evidence from Allington is limited to a series of watching briefs on small-scale groundworks and small-scale evaluation trenching. A watching brief at Dalestorth Farm (APS 1999) recorded medieval features containing 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds. Trial trenching at The Nurseries (PCA 2002) uncovered a refuse pit and ditch containing 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and animal bone.

## 2 Results

3 All work was undertaken in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that was prepared for the works (NAL 2022) and with the Grant of Faculty (Appendix 2).

### 3.1 Evaluation

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of four no. 1m x 1m test pits along the route of the churchyard pathway (Figure 2). The four test pits were located along the route of the existing churchyard pathway leading from the entrance on Bottesford Road to the church. The existing path had been heavily eroded and partly overgrown. The test pits were sited to avoid tree roots and extant services.

#### 3.1.1 Test pit 1

A layer of mid-greyish-brown sandy silt (*02*) was encountered at a depth of 0.2m. Layer *02* was excavated to a depth of 0.2m to achieve the 0.4m depth stipulated within the WSI and continued below the level of excavation (Photograph 1). The deposit was sealed by the 0.12m thick gravel and sand path (*01*), which was overlain by a 0.08m thick layer of turf (*03*). No artefacts were recovered from the excavated layers.

#### 3.1.2 Test pit 2

Layer *02* was also encountered within Test Pit 2 at a depth of 0.2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.2m (Photograph 2). It has been truncated within the southwestern half of the test pit by a steep linear northeast-southwest aligned cut (**05**). Cut **05** was filled by a loose light-yellowish-brown fine sand with frequent small stone inclusions (*06*). Fill *06* was excavated to a depth of 0.2m to achieve the 0.4m depth stipulated within the WSI and continued below the level of excavation. Fill *06* was sealed by the 0.12m thick gravel and sand path (*01*), which was overlain by a 0.08m thick layer of turf (*03*). No artefacts were recovered from the excavated deposits. Evidence of possibly articulated human remains, comprising five ribs and two metacarpals, were recorded within layer *02* at a depth of 0.4m.

#### 3.1.3 Test pit 3

A natural substrate of light-brownish-yellow sand (*04*) containing frequent stone and fossil inclusions was encountered at a depth of 0.1m. This was a natural deposit and continued below the level of excavation (Photograph 3). Layer *04* was sealed by the 0.15m thick gravel and sand



path (01), which was overlain by a 0.05m thick layer of turf (03). No artefacts were recovered from the excavated layers.

### 3.1.4 Test pit 4

A natural substrate of light-brownish-yellow sand (04) containing frequent stone and fossil inclusions was encountered at a depth of 0.1m and continued below the level of excavation (Photograph 4). Layer 04 was sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of turf (03). No artefacts were recovered from the excavated layers.

Table 1: Test Pit Depths and Archaeological Findings

Test Pit	Depth (m)	Comments
1	0.4m	No archaeological remains
2	0.4m	Possible boundary wall or ditch recorded at 0.2m depth. Articulated remains found at 0.4m depth
3	0.3m	Natural substrate recorded at 0.2m depth
4	0.25m	Natural substrate recorded at 0.15m depth

## 3.2 Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the excavation of the foundation of the new pathway leading from the entrance to the church to site access from Bottesford Road. Additional, monitoring was undertaken on the route of a conduit trench running partly within the footprint of, and partly parallel to the pathway (Figure 3).

### 3.2.1 Pathway

The foundation trench for the new pathway was approximately 1.2m wide and 0.25m deep along the entire length (Photographs 5 and 6). Layer 02 was exposed in the base of the trench following the removal of the old path (02) and sealed by a thin layer of turf (03). A partial section of ceramic drain, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century, was recorded approximately 3m south of the church entrance (07- Photograph 7). A collection of unworked stone was recorded directly outside the entrance, likely used to consolidate the existing path (08).

No artefacts or archaeological features were identified during the excavation of the pathway. A small amount of disarticulated human remains was recovered from the excavation. These were stored within the church for reburial by the incumbent.

### 3.2.2 Conduit Trench

The conduit trench was approximately 0.2m wide and 0.4m deep. To the south of the church, the route of the conduit trench was excavated through the ceramic drain (08) to minimise potential impact on in situ burials (Photograph 8). The same layer of natural sand (04) observed during the evaluation was exposed at within the southern half of the conduit trench (Photograph 9) following the removal of the old path (02) and the turf (03).

No disarticulated human remains or artefacts were recovered from the excavation of the conduit trench.

### 3.3 Photographs



Photograph 1: Test pit 1, facing northeast.



Photograph 2: Test pit 2 containing feature **05** with possibly in situ human remains (top left), facing northeast.



Photograph 3: Test pit 3, facing north.



Photograph 4: Test pit 4, facing northeast.



Photograph 5: Stripping of the pathway within the churchyard, facing south



Photograph 6: Stripping of the pathway to the southwest of the main access, facing southwest



Photograph 7: Post-medieval drain **07** to the south of the church , facing northeast



Photograph 8: Stripping of the conduit to the north of the church, facing south



Photograph 9: Excavation of the conduit trench, facing southwest

## 4 Conclusion

The first edition Ordnance Survey map (Surveyed 1883-7, Published 1887) of Allington shows that the southern half of the PDA was separated from the churchyard by a boundary wall. This suggests that the limit of the historic cemetery may not extend across the entire PDA.

The evaluation of Test Pits 1 and 2 revealed a ubiquitous layer of cemetery soil covering the area within the historic churchyard (04). No chanel, or loose, disarticulated bones were recovered from this layer during the groundworks. Possible articulated remains were recovered at a depth of 0.4m within later 04 within Test Pit 2. The linear cut (05) recorded within Test Pit 2 may represent the top of a backfilled grave, or a ditch or foundation trench associated within an earlier boundary.

Test Pits 3 and 4 suggest that the southern half of the land containing the path has been landscaped and its level reduced. This has resulted in the natural substrate being directly below the c. 0.15m thick turf and topsoil (03).

The low potential for *in situ* archaeological remains within deposits less than 0.4m below the current ground surface was demonstrated during the archaeological monitoring. This monitoring recorded stratigraphy conforming to that identified during the evaluation. The lack of a significant number of chanel remains suggests that the burials within this area of the churchyard have remained undisturbed by intercutting and may be of lower density than those often found within comparable rural churchyards.

This report confirms that the full programme of Archaeological Evaluation (test pitting) and archaeological monitoring was carried out at Holy Trinity Church, Allington, Lincolnshire as stipulated in the WSI and the Grant of Faculty.

## 5 Archive

The archive will be offered to the Bishop of Lincolns' Registry for retention in the Parish archives and to The Collection, Lincoln (Accession: LCNCC : 2023.17).

**Table 2: Archive Quantification**

Archive component	Count
Context registers	2
Context sheets	9
Photographic registers	2
Digital colour photographs	133
Drawing permatrace sheets (A3)	1



# 6 Bibliography

## 6.1 Secondary sources

Reference	Year	Title	Published
AAF	2007	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
CifA	2007	Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation	
CifA	2014a	Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology	
CifA	2014b	Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials	
CifA	2014c	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation	
CifA	2014d	Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives	
Ferguson L.M. & Murray D.M.	1997	Archaeological Documentary Archives: Preparation, Curation and Storage, Paper 1,	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Manchester
Historic England	1997	English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (Unpublished draft)	London
Historic England	2009	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Excavation	London
Historic England	2011	Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation (second edition) (Centre for Archaeology Guidelines)	London
Museums & Galleries Commission	1992	Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections	London
Network Archaeology	2006	Health, Safety and Welfare Policy	
Network Archaeology	2022	Holy Trinity Church, Allington, Lincolnshire: WSI for archaeological monitoring and recording	
Society of Museum Archaeologists	1995	Towards an accessible archaeological archive - the transfer of archaeological archives to museums: guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales	Society for Museum Archaeologists, London
UKIC	2001	Excavated Artefacts and Conservation	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines No. 1, revised
Walker, K.	1990	Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage.	United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Archaeology Section (London)
Watkinson, D & Neal A. V	1998	First Aid for Finds	Rescue Publications, Hertford

## 6.2 Website sources

Reference	Title	Link
ADS	Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork: Guide to Good Practice Second Edition	<a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation/</a> [Accessed 29/09/2017]
British Geological Survey, undated	Geology of Britain viewer	<a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</a> [Accessed 29/09/2017]
Cranfield University	Soilscapes Viewer	<a href="https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/">https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/</a> [Accessed 29/09/2017]
Heritage Gateway	Heritage Gateway Online Viewer	<a href="http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx">http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx</a> [Accessed 09/07/2021]
Historic England	List entry for Allington Church	<a href="https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1062909">https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1062909</a>
Open Domesday	Open Domesday Viewer	<a href="https://opendomesday.org/place/SK9856/wellingore/">https://opendomesday.org/place/SK9856/wellingore/</a> [Accessed 09/07/2021]

# Appendix 1

## Context listing

Context No.	Type	Fill of / filled by	Description
01	Layer	-	Existing pathway
02	Layer	-	Cemetery soil
03	Layer	-	Turf
04	Layer	-	Natural substrate
05	Cut	06	Cut within Test Pit 2
06	Fill	05	Backfill of cut 05
07	Structure	-	Drain
08	Layer	-	Layer of stone south of church porch

# Appendix 2

## Grant of Faculty

**Ref:** 2021-060440 **Church:** West Allington: Holy Trinity  
**Diocese:** Lincoln **Archdeaconry:** Boston  
**Created By:** Dr John Manterfield (06/04/2021) **Contact Tel.:** 01476565782  
**Status:** Faculty granted, awaiting Practical Completion

Form 7  
(Rule 7.4)  
Faculty

**In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Lincoln**

**Parish of West Allington with East Allington**

**Church of West Allington: Holy Trinity**

THE WORSHIPFUL MARK BISHOP One of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges Chancellor of the Diocese and Official Principal of the Right Reverend CHRISTOPHER lately Lord Bishop of Lincoln to CHRISTOPHER DICKEN Churchwarden of the Parish of West Allington with East Allington and MARY MCKINLAY Parochial Church Council Secretary and MARIAN HUBBARD of that Parish:  
GREETING

COPY

**A PETITION presented by you has been submitted to the Registry of this Court together with designs, plans, photographs or other documents requesting a Faculty authorising the works or other proposals specified in the Petition**

A PUBLIC Notice was duly displayed giving an opportunity to all persons interested to object and give reasons why a Faculty should not be granted

THE PROCEEDINGS were unopposed and did not give rise to a question of law or of doctrine, ritual or ceremonial or relate to proposals that affect the legal rights of any person or body

THIS COURT now grants a Faculty authorising you to carry out the works or other proposals described in the Schedule in accordance with the designs, plans or other documents accompanying the Petition and subject to any conditions set out in the Schedule

THE WORKS must be completed within TWELVE months from the date below or such further period as this Court may allow and the Certificate of Practical Completion is to be sent to the Registry within the period allowed

A COPY of this Faculty is to be supplied by you to the architect or surveyor and contractors to be employed in respect of the authorised work before any work is commenced

THIS FACULTY is duly authenticated by the Seal of this Court

Dated 18/01/2022

Ian Blaney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Registrar

## SCHEDULE

*(Description of Works or Proposals)*

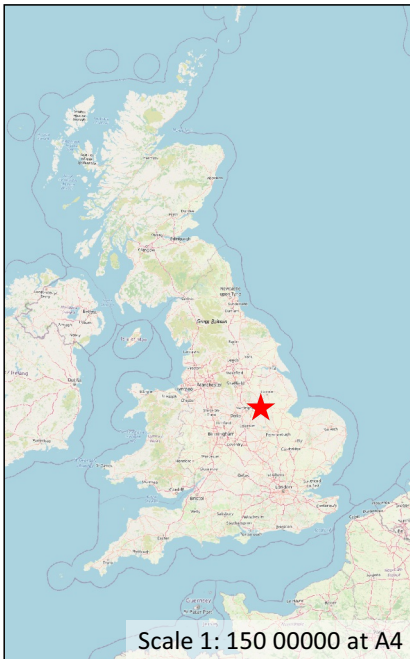
The introduction of a toilet at the west end of the north aisle and a servery underneath the organ gallery and all associated electrical, water and drainage connections at the parish church, the introduction of a Trench Arch Drainage System to the north side of the church, an internal access ramp from the internal south porch door, the laying of an external resin gravel path and steps to the Garden of Remembrance, all to be in accordance with the Statements of Significance and Needs, Soul Architects Limited Specification and Schedule of Works 9206 dated 28th October 2021, Drawings Nos 9206 15 dated November 2017, 9206 50A dated May 2021, 9206 51A dated June 2021, 9206 52A, 9206 53 and 9206 54 all dated July 2021, and document entitled 'Amended Proposal Trench Arch Drainage System', South Kesteven District Council Planning Permission Application No. S21/1343 dated 26th August 2021 and Approval of Non-Material Amendments Application No: S21/2402 dated 5th January 2022, displayed at the parish church and lodged in the Diocesan Registry.

### Conditions

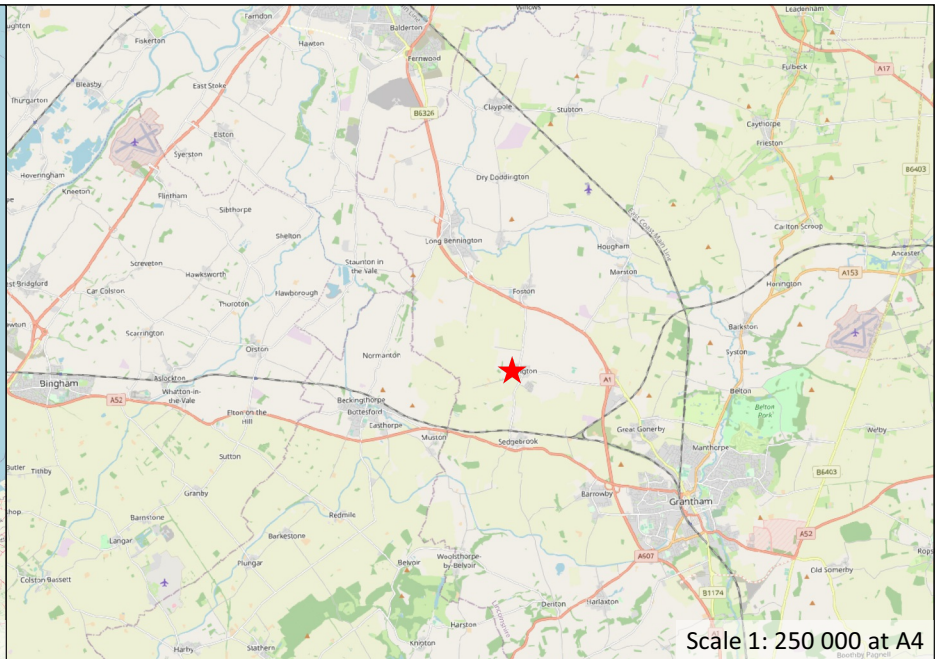
1. No works to commence before the funds are held by the Parochial Church Council or pledged thereto.
2. All excavations must be subject to an archaeological mitigation strategy.
3. If during the works any disarticulated human remains are uncovered and it is necessary to move them, they may be removed and reinterred as close to their original position as possible in consecrated land, all to be done under the supervision of a priest. If articulated human remains are uncovered, all works are to stop, and further directions obtained from this Court.
4. The requirements of the Ecclesiastical Insurance as set out in their letter dated 22nd October 2021 must be met.
5. The conditions of South Kesteven District Council Planning Permission granted on 26th August 2021 as amended on 5th January 2022 are conditions of this faculty.

# Appendix 3

## Figures



Scale 1: 150 0000 at A4



Scale 1: 250 000 at A4



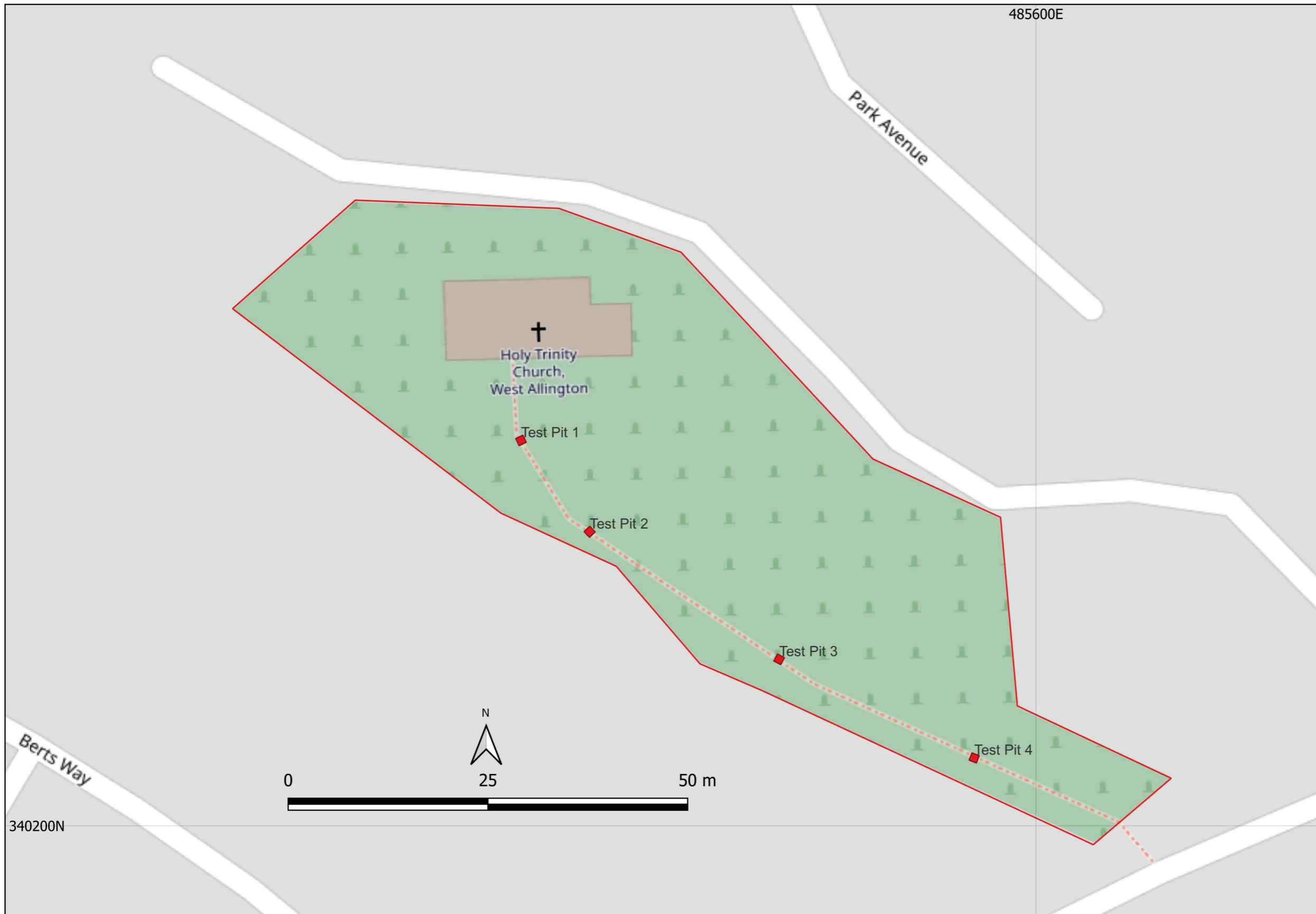
Site location ★  
 Site outline

(Contains Ordnance Survey data  
 @ crown copyright 2010)

1.0	30/08/22	First Issue	AT	TQ	TQ
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App

HTA16  
 Figure 1 Site location





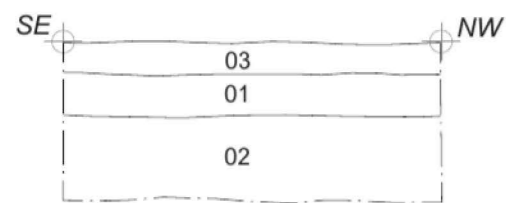
- PDA
- Test pits
- Pathway

(Contains Ordnance Survey data © crown copyright 2010)

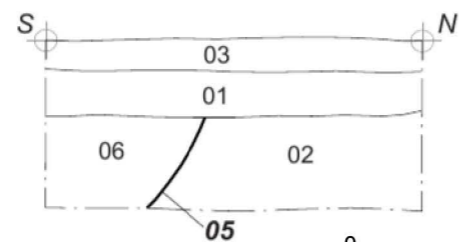
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1.00	30/08/22	First Issue	BD	PT	TO



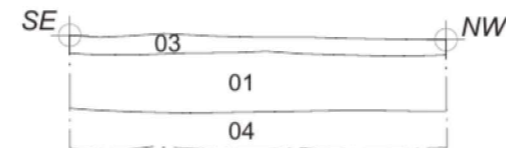
Test pit 01 - northeast facing section



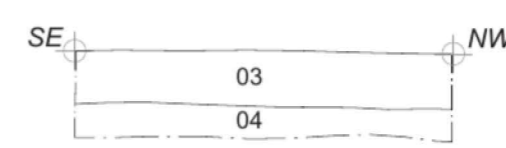
Test pit 02 - east facing section



Test pit 03 - northeast facing section



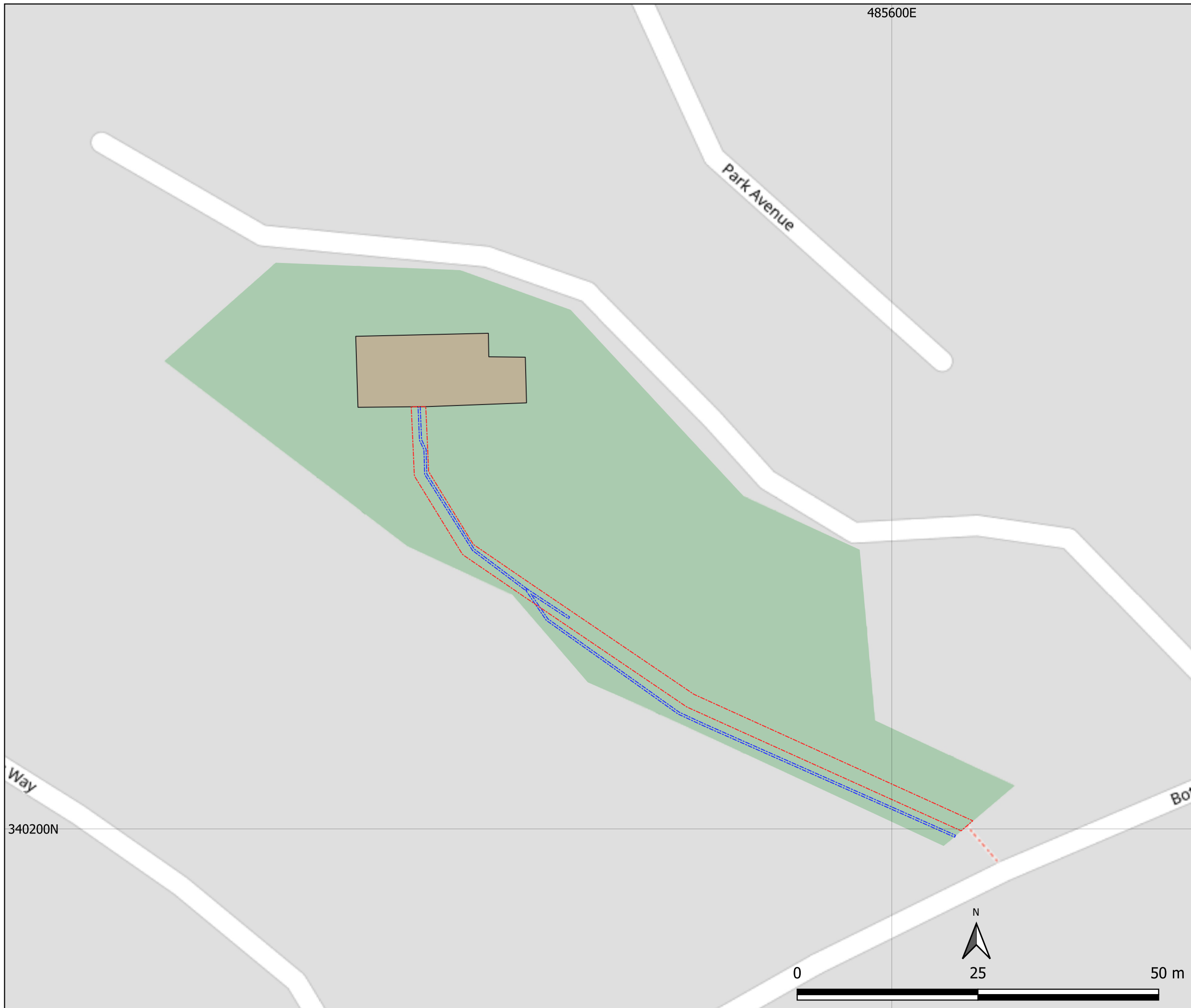
Test pit 04 - northeast facing section



HTA16

Figure 2 Test Pit Locations and Sections

Scale 1: 500 at A3  
Scale 1:20 (sections)



- PDA
- Route of Conduit
- Route of Path

(Contains Ordnance Survey data @ crown copyright 2010)

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
1.00	30/08/22	First Issue	BD	PT	TQ



HTA16

Figure 3 Location of Pathway and Conduit Trenches

Scale 1:500 at A3