Murketts Garage, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire:

A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Planning Application: 18/02726/FUL

National Grid Reference Number: TL 31110 70744

AOC Project No: 80084

Event Number: ECB7033

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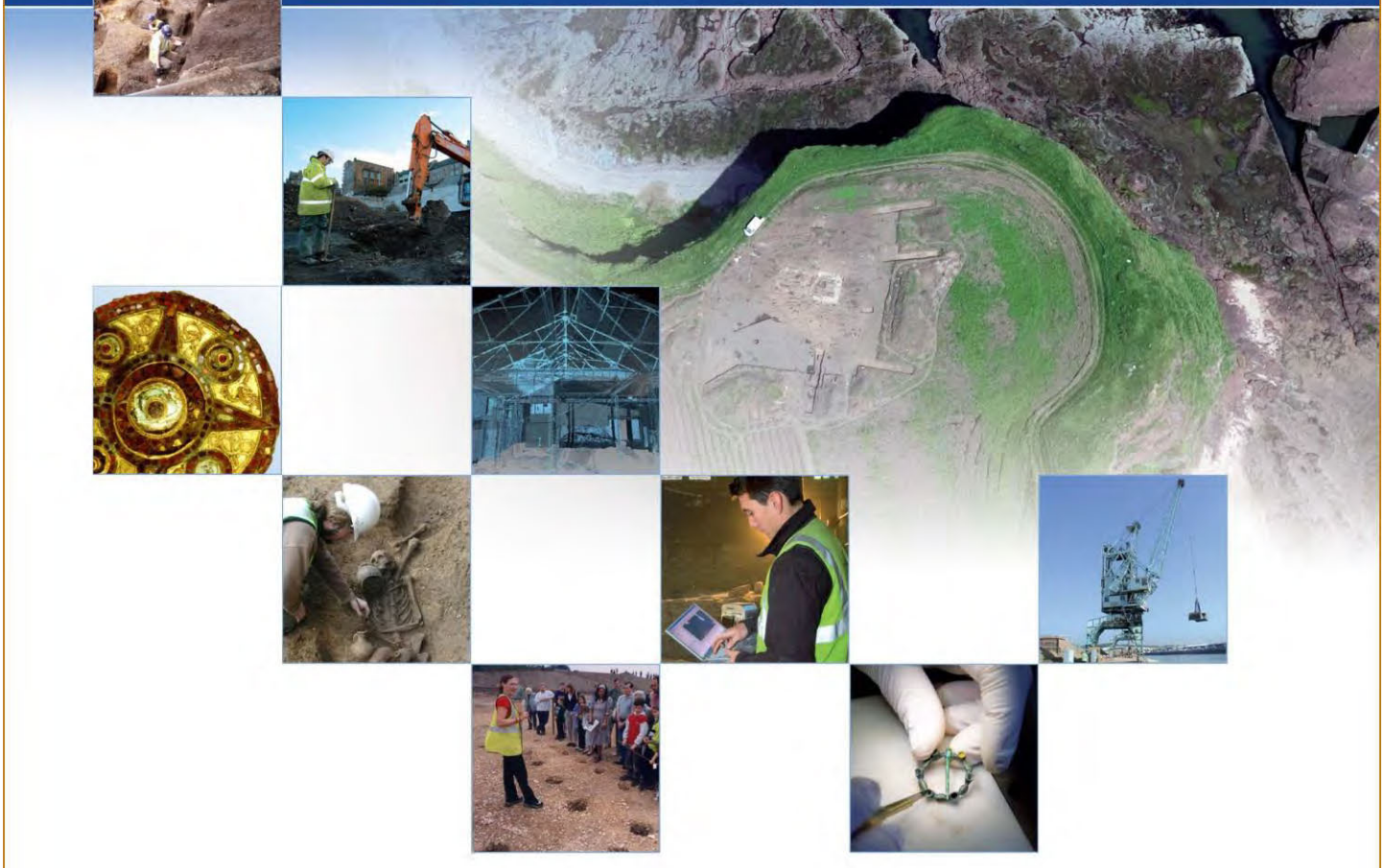

AOC Archaeology Group

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On Behalf of:	**Windborough Homes Ltd** **Jubilee House** **Townsend Lane** **London** **NW9 8TZ**
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Planning Application No:	**18/02726/FUL**
Event Number:	**ECB7033**
AOC Project No:	**80084**
Prepared by:	[redacted]
Illustration by:	[redacted]
Date:	**12th February 2025**

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Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Unit 3
Goulds Cose
Chancerygate Business Centre
Denbeigh West
Milton Keynes
MK1 1EQ
Tel. [redacted]
Fax.
e-mail. [redacted]

AOC Archaeology Group

www.aocarchaeology.com

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1 Introduction

1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) setting out a methodology for an archaeological evaluation (Event Number: ECB7033) to be undertaken on the site of the former Murketts Garage (hereafter 'the Site'), London Road, St Ives in Cambridgeshire, PE27 5EZ (NGR TL 31110 70744).

1.2 Huntingdonshire District Council has granted planning approval for development of the Site (18/02726/FUL). The consented scheme involves:

- Demolition of upstanding buildings on site; and
- Phased residential development of 49 dwellings with access, parking, landscaping and associated works.

1.3 The former Murketts Garage site is located on the southeast side of London Road, which travels south-west from the town of St Ives (Figure 1). The development Site is largely waste ground with several buildings within it, including a former Vauxhall car showroom slightly set back from London Road. Three additional buildings are located to the immediate north-east of this, together with a National Grid Gas Compound further to the south.

1.4 The buildings within the development Site are unlisted, although the Site is located within St Ives Conservation Area. A map showing previous investigations in the area can be found in Figure 4 (CHER). Formerly known as Bridge Terrace, this section of London Road was an area of the post-medieval expansion of St Ives. In the early 19th century, the development Site was used as a small town gasworks which was altered and expanded into the 20th century. In 2019, Historic England published their volume on the significance of, and guidance for, the recording of gasworks site in the England (HE 2019). Specifically, they note the importance of recording early gasworks sites from the early 19th century to the 1860s, noting also that remnants of these gasworks will likely be largely below-ground (archaeological) remains given the large growth and expansion of the gas industry throughout the 19th century.

1.5 This WSI responds to the instructions set out by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) in the Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (CHET, 2025). This precisely established that an archaeological evaluation, consisting in the excavation of targeted trenches and trial pits (Figure 2), needs to be undertaken to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their extent, nature, quality, date and character.

1.6 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation only; this document alone will not result in the discharge of the archaeological condition

1.7 This WSI details how the archaeological evaluation will be undertaken. The works will comprise the supervised machine excavation and/or hand cleaning of four up to 10m long targeted trenches in the northern area of the site, the location of the former gasworks (Figure 2). These have been positioned to investigate the absence/presence of known remains from cartographic sources such as gasometers (Figures 3 and 4), to investigate the absence/presence of earlier possible medieval remains fronting onto London Road, and finally to establish the extent of previous demolition and the nature of any anthropic levelling deposits present within the Site. In addition, a 2m by 0.5m test pit is to be excavated in the southern area of the site to assess the level of disturbance and potential for the survival of archaeological remains in this area and to accommodate for a footing trench (Figure 2). The archaeological evaluation will follow the typical guidelines as applied to archaeological evaluation works in order to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains; their extent; nature; quality; date, and character. All works will be undertaken by a team of suitably qualified

professional archaeologists in accordance with current best practice standards and guidance. The results will be published online via Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

2 Planning Background

2.1 The local planning authority is Huntingdonshire District Council and archaeological advice to the Huntingdonshire District Council is provided by CHET. A *Design Brief for Archaeological Historic Building Recording* (issued by CHET on 19th August 2022), *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* (issued by CHET on 25th November 2022) and updated *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* (issued by CHET on 7th February 2025) outline the specific requirements for the work to date.

2.2 The planning application was granted with an archaeological condition (No 36). Archaeology:

No demolition/development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI which shall include:

a) The statement of significance and research objectives.
b) The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works.
c) The timetable for the field investigation as part of the development programme.
d) The programme for the analysis, publication & dissemination, and deposition of resulting material.

Part (d) of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.
Developers will wish to ensure that in drawing up their development programme, the timetable for the investigation is included within the details of the agreed scheme.

Reason

A pre-commencement condition is considered necessary to ensure that the significance of the historic environment is conserved in accordance with Section 16 of the NPPF and the requirements of Policy LP34 of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.

2.3 In discussion with CHET it was agreed that the archaeological work required historic building recording to protect the special architectural or historic interest of the building (AOC 2022a WSI, 2022b Report) and an archaeological evaluation to investigate the below ground remains on the Site (this Written Scheme of Investigation). The HBR works have been and will be specified in separate documentation including a WSI and survey reporting.

2.4 This WSI details the methods and standards to which the archaeological evaluation will be undertaken and has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- ADS (2011) - *Guides to Good Practice*.

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023a)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - *Standard for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2023b)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists – *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (CIfA 2019).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists - *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019).
- Chartered Institute for Institute for Archaeologists - *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (CIfA 2020).
- Chartered Institute for Institute for Archaeologists - *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA 2014).
- *East of England Regional Research Framework* (ALGAO East of England 2020).
- Historic England – *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork* (HE 2015a).
- Historic England - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (HE 2015b),
- Historic England – *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (HE 2011).
- Historic England (HE) 2019 *Gasworks and Redundant Gasholders: Guidelines for Their Evaluation and Recording.* Historic England: Swindon.
- Museum of London – *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLA 1994).
- *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHLG 2019; updated 2021).
- RESCUE & ICON – *First Aid for Finds* (RESCUE & ICON 2001).
- *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, D. 2003, EAA Occasional Paper 14).
- *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper No 24) 2011.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1983) – *Conservation Guidelines No.*2.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1990) – *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice.*
- Brown, D.H. (2011) *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Second Edition).

2.5 The assessment of environmental and economic potential will follow advice in these guidance documents:

- Historic England, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (second edition).
- Historic England, 2014, *Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice*.

- Historic England, 2015c, *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*.

2.6 In case human burials are found, the excavation of skeletal articulated and disarticulated remains will be conducted by a qualified osteologist according to the principles and technical advice published in:

- Historic England, 2018, *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project Swindon.*
- Historic England, 2004, *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: a guideline for best practice for producing human osteological assessments and analytical reports*.

2.7 In case of any delicate organic material the following guidance documents will be consulted, in order to provide an adequate strategy for the excavation, field treatment and conservation:

- Historic England, 2018, *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on Their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation*.
- Historic England, 2010, *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recovery, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood*.
- Historic England, 2008, *Investigative Conservation: Guidance on How the Detailed Examination of Artefacts from Archaeological Sites Can Shed Light on Their Manufacture and Use.*

3 Geology and Topography

3.1 The British Geological Survey Map (BGS 2025) indicates the Site is comprised of Oxford Clay Formation mudstone, and sedimentary bedrock formed between 166.1 and 157.3 million years ago during the Jurassic period. Moreover, the Site is positioned at the eastern boundary of an area of the River Terrace Sand and Gravel deposits which give way to alluvium adjacent to the river (CHET 2025).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

Introduction

4.1 Examination of the HER data within a 1km radius of the development area was supplied by CHET as part of their brief (2025), and this has identified evidence of archaeological and historical activity dating from the Prehistoric period up to the early 20th century. Indeed, archaeological investigations within 1km of the development area from the last 25 years have yielded a wealth of evidence for the medieval and post-medieval occupation of St Ives (Cooper 1999; Abrams 2000; Prentice 2001; Dell *et al* 2012; Barlow 2016; Barlow *et al* 2017; Knapp & Fennelly 2019). A brief précis of the evidence for this occupation is provided below; references in brackets refer to the HER Reference Number and the recorded National Grid Reference (NGR) of the event.

Palaeolithic Period (500000 BC – 10001 BC)

4.2 Finds within the proximity of the development which date to this period relate to findspots, notably a small flat-butted cordiform handaxe which was found at Fenstanton (01685; TL 317 700) and a small brown flint handaxe found in the garden of No 12 Burleigh Terrace in St John's Road (01698; TL 313 715).

Neolithic (4000 BC – 2500 BC)

4.3 A flint blade dating to the Neolithic period has been found (again the exact location unknown) in St Ives (02114a; TL 30 70). Other undated enclosures and ring ditches are also known in Fenstanton (08276; TL 315 703), (09165; TL 3120 6972) and (08831; TL 309 696).

Bronze Age (2500 BC – 701 BC)

4.4 A Bronze Age spearhead has been found in Bridge Street (02030; TL 313 713). Another Bronze Age spear – reportedly in excellent condition – was found on the edge of a trench between a quarry area and disused railway line close to Meadow Lane (CB14765; TL 32147 70850). An arrowhead has also been found of black flint, although the exact location of the found is unknown (02114; TL 30 70).

4.5 Evaluations at London Road in 2007 (TL 30644 70240) recorded a sherd of Iron Age pottery from **a** quarry pit, and two sherds of Bronze Age pottery from a small pit, indicating a low level of past activity on the Site**.**

4.6 Bronze Ages ditches have been found during excavations in 2012 at the former St Ives Motel on London Road (Janulewicz, 2012) (MCB19624; TL 3071 7031). The first terminus was part of a ditch which was aligned roughly east/west and the second terminus was part of a ditch aligned north/south, one of which contained two small sherds of Bronze Age pottery.

4.7 A total of two sherds weighing 8g each were recovered including three joining pieces from a recently broken sherd. The fabric and distinctive colouring of the sherds suggests that they may be late Neolithic or early Bronze Age Beaker in type (*ibid*).

Roman (43 AD – 409 AD)

4.8 Finds and features from the Roman period up to the 19th century were uncovered during excavations at The Priory in St Ives with evidence for Romano-British occupation in the form of large enclosure ditches, other ditches and pits (Fell *et al* 2012) (MCB15820; TL 3147 7112).

4.9 There is additional evidence of Roman activity in the form of coin findspots within the vicinity of the development area, including:

- a brass coin found in the garden of Westwood House (HER: 00459; TL 308 716) dating to 330 AD – 337 AD;
- a silver coin found at Clifton's Farm (HER: 00866; TL 302 707) dating to the 2nd century AD which was struck in honour of the Sixth Legion to celebrate a victory in the time of Marcus Aurelius in 162 AD;
- a coin 'of Valens' which has no other information attached to in the HER (01883; TL 313 711);
- two sets of two coins (dating to the 3rd and 4th century respectively) found in St Ives, the exact location for the find unknown (03516; TL 30 70) and (03601; TL 315 716);
- a coin hoard (again exact location of find unknown) containing a coin from the period of Constantine (03550; TL 3070).

4.10 Other finds dating from the Roman period include:

- a pewter plate, possibly 4th century (HER: 00770; TL 31 71), which was dredged from the River Ouse and found in association with a clay tile;

- a quernstone (03553; TL 30 70);
- a collection of Roman pottery sherds presumed to have been found in St Ives and now located in local museums (03555; TL 3110 7165), (03649; TL 3080 7160) and (03581; TL 308 716), and
- an unidentified Roman object (03599; TL 315 702).

Saxon (410 AD – 1065 AD)

4.11 Saxon occupation was uncovered at the priory at St Ives, which contained evidence of occupation since the Roman period (Dell *et al* 2012) (MCB15820; TL 3147 7112). A cruciform brooch dating from the 5th – 7th century was found in Meadow Lane (11011; TL 31 70).

Medieval (1066 AD – 1539 AD)

4.12 St. Ives was the location of a late Saxon settlement known as Slepe and was in a strategic location near the Great Ouse River (Montagu Evans 2021, 16). The earthwork remains of medieval ridge-and-furrow can be found in Fenstanton (03499; TL 312 680). Medieval occupation was also uncovered at the priory at St Ives, which contained evidence of occupation since the Roman period (Dell *et al* 2012) (MCB15820; TL 3147 7112).

4.13 All Saints Church (03531; TL 309 715) is thought to have origins in the 12th century with further repairs and extensions carried out up to the 19th century (RCHM 1926, 212).

4.14 A 15th century house is known to exist in the north corner of Merryland (now concealed by a modern shopfront (01762; TL 313 713). A Manor House of a similar or slightly later date is also known to have existed at No 28 Bridge Street (RCHE 1926, 2016) St Ives Bridge, of six spans, was also built in the 15th century with later rebuilding in the 17th century (03593; TL 312 711).

4.15 Both medieval and post-medieval features were located during excavations as part of the Permanex development (Nicolson 2004). Medieval remains comprised a range of pits of varying sizes, two possible fence lines and five ditches thought to represent boundaries between backyard plots. No features could be securely dated to the 16th – 18th century, suggesting that the Site may have reverted to pasture or gone unused during this period (*ibid*). In the south-west corner of the Site a dark palaeosol was found covering the medieval features, and two layers of silt were noted, thought to result from the flooding by the River Ouse (*ibid*). Features belonging to the 17th century included a property boundary ditch and possible fence line. In the northern central area of the Site a ring gully of 6.5m in diameter was found, a possible cock fighting pit (*ibid*). Documentary evidence records that the area of the Permanex site was known as "le Pitts", but no conclusive artefactual evidence was found to support this theory (*ibid*). Further medieval – 19th century features were also found during excavation at Oliver Road in 2001 (Prentice 2001).

Post-Medieval (1540 AD – 1900 AD)

4.16 A post-medieval ditch boundary (13043; TL 31638 71030) on a north-east/south-west alignment was uncovered during excavations in 2000 at New Road in St Ives (Abrams 2000). This related to a ditch noted on Pettis' map of 1728 and also previously noted on aerial photographs (*ibid*). Post-Medieval occupation was uncovered at the priory at St Ives, which contained evidence of occupation since the Roman period (Dell *et al* 2012) (MCB15820; TL 3147 7112). The Permanex site excavations also uncovered Post-medieval remains, as noted above (Nicolson 2004).

4.17 The site of Slepe Hall is located within the vicinity of the development area, which was demolished in 1848, and is presumed to have dated from at least the early 18th century (01565; TL 3157 7129).

Brick burial vaults dating to the 18th century were also found dating to the post-medieval period beneath the United Reform Church (01510; TL 315 713).

4.18 The Ely and Huntingdon Railway was opened in 1847 (later the Great Eastern and Great Eastern Joint Railway) (03698; TL 3728 8428) and the tracks of the old line of the railway still exist, albeit now no longer in use since the late 1950s/early 1960s (02600; TL 2756 7129).

St Ives Gasworks (ca. 1836 – 1958)

4.19 The HER notes the presence of a gasworks site dating to the 19th century (MCB21632; TL 310 707).

4.20 A detailed account of the history of the Site as a former gasworks is outlined in the Montagu Evans Heritage Statement (2021, pp 17 – 19) and can be summarised here. The gasworks was built by James Malam and, although the exact date of the establishment of the gasworks is unknown, it is likely to have been between 1820s – 1840s (*ibid*, 16). A report produced by the St Ives Civic Society (2017) indicates that the London Road site may have been used as a Gas Works since 1836. There are standing buildings within or adjacent to the site redline which may be surviving structures relating to the Gas Works, including the Manager's House (now Arona Villa, listed at Grade II – National Heritage List for England reference 1128487) and the Meter House, and consultee comments by Historic England posit that part of the Retort and Purifier houses may also survive.

4.21 The 1888 Ordnance Survey map shows the gasworks taking central place nestled between a range of dwellings, including Arona Villa to the north and buildings associated with Providence Place and Granville House to the south. It shows a long T-shaped building fronting London Road with three gasometers to the rear of the plot (although one of these may have been a water tower). There is an additional L-shaped building and another detached structure to the south-west of the T-shaped building, although it appears to be set within a separate boundary and therefore may not have been related to the gasworks.

4.22 The 2021 Heritage Statement identifies that the gasworks was, at some point, purchased by the St Ives Improvement Commissioners and remodelled by George Bower of St Neots, although exact dates for these events are unknown (Montagu Evans 2021, 17).

4.23 Into the early part of the 20th century, the site layout had completely changed, possibly part of George Bower's remodelling, as depicted on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map. The land to the rear of Arona Villa was reduced and used by the gasworks. It is thought that Arona Villa was now being used as the gasworks manager's house (Montagu Evans 2021, 17). The T-shaped building fronting London Road was demolished and replaced by four detached buildings. Four standalone small square structures to the rear (east) of the plot were possibly tanks for scrubbers and washers, used in the process of purifying the coal-gas. Another large gasholder (or 'gasometer') was also constructed in the adjacent field to the south.

Gasholder Station and Murketts Garage (1958 – ca. 2015)

4.24 The gasworks closed in 1958 and the Site was retained as a gasholder station following the widespread use of national gas as a general movement away from coal gas in the later 20th century. By the 1970s, the changeover from coal gas to natural gas meant that the gasworks was no longer required as gas was piped in through gas pipelines into the gasholders which were retained.

4.25 The Site was re-used in the late 20th century as a garage and showroom, latterly known as Murketts Garage. Only one building related to the former gasworks still exists on the Site, a possible Meter House, which was later converted and extended by the owners of Murketts Garage as a mechanics workshop. This was further extended in 1984 (Montagu Evans 2021, 19).

4.26 Now unoccupied, the Site remains empty, the buildings in an extremely poor condition and have been subject to general decay and vandalism

4.27 The historic building recording (HBR) conducted by AOC on 14th July and 9th September 2022 in the area of the former Murketts Garage, recorded four upstanding structures, Buildings A – D. The Buildings A, B, and C were the structures subject to the Level 3 survey, Building D being a late 20th century former small car garage.

4.28 Building A was a three-by-two bay whitewashed brick-built structure with a double-pitched asbestos roof and a short lean-to extension to the north-east side. Building B was a much smaller two-by-two bay whitewashed brick building with a pitched asbestos roof. Building C consisted of the main showroom for Murketts, with offices to the south-west end. It was brick-built, most of which was whitewashed with a pitched felt roof. Building D, located to the south-west of Building B, was a two-bay car garage constructed of brick covered in a roughcast render. The garage doors faced Building B in the north-west side and a small window was located on the north-west elevation.

4.29 The ground to the rear of the development plot once housed a number of buildings related to the former gasholder here, although the ground is now open wasteland and very overgrown and the buildings have long since been removed.

5. Objectives

Archaeological Evaluation

5.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation are defined as being:

- To determine, the location, geoarchaeological context, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development, in order to enable the CHET to make an informed decision on the requirement for future work;
- to record and excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- to inspect buried soils and associated deposits on site, which will be carried out by suitably qualified geoarchaeologists.
- to collect samples from relevant deposits or features for assessment and inclusion in the report;
- to assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits to inform on the general environmental conditions and dietary evidence of the inhabitants.
- to determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- to retrieve, characterise and date artefacts, burial or economic evidence.
- to define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.
- to make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

5.2 The specific objectives of the archaeological evaluation are defined as being:

- to determine the nature, date and extent of any archaeological activity or evidence.

- to determine the presence/absence of palaeosols, paleochannels, and old land surface soils/deposits.
- to characterise deposits and their contents within negative features.
- to target structures from the early gasworks visible on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, including the possible retort house fronting London Road, the later retort house and possible purifier houses to the rear of the complex, as well as the gas holders also located to the rear.
- to establish the extent of previous demolition on site, the nature of any anthropic levelling deposits present within the Site, and assess site formation processes generally.
- To make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6. Scope of Works and Strategy

Archaeological Evaluation

6.1 The programme of archaeological works is for archaeological evaluation, which will see five trenches opened across the Site. These have been targeted based upon on-site discussions with CHET and are designed to answer specific questions as outlined above in Section 5.2. The dimensions of trenches could vary to answer the questions posed by CHET.

6.1 The location of the trenches is outlined in Figure 2. Changes to the trench locations may be required should unknown live services or ecological issues be present.

6.2 The archaeological evaluation and subsequent post-excavation work will conform to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines as detailed in Section 2.4.

6.3 Insurances, copyright and confidentiality, and standards are defined in Appendix A.

6.4 The site archive will be organised to be deposited with the local museum/archive, according to their current guidance. It is the appointed archaeological contractors' duty to ensure that they conform to these standards.

6.5 A unique Event Number has been obtained, ECB7033, and this will be used as the identifier for all records.

6.6 The archaeological evaluation will take up to two weeks. It will be undertaken by a team composed of a Project Officer, a Supervisor and up to two Site Assistants under the overall direction of a Project Manager. Further staff will be made available as required.

6.7 A copy of the approved WSI will be held on site along with the detailed site method statement and risk assessment (RAMS). All site staff will be made aware of and will have reviewed both documents.

6.8 CHET as archaeological advisors to the Cambridgeshire County Council, will be advised at least one week in advance of the proposed start date and pre-programmed monitoring meetings will be arranged to ensure all works are reviewed on site. No backfilling of the trenches and can commence until signed off by the archaeological advisors.

6.9 If significant archaeological remains are identified in the initial phase of works, a programme of mitigation, which may include elements of preservation *in situ*, excavation or conservation, may be required in accordance with an agreed revised *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

7. Archaeological Evaluation: Methodology

Introduction

7.1 As detailed in the 'Scope' section 6.1, the evaluation will include five trenches. The location of the trenches is outlined in Figure 2. These will target areas of interest and look to answer specific questions about the archaeological remains on site, past demolition works and site build up/levelling episodes. These have been discussed with CHET and are positioned to provide comprehensive coverage of the development area.

7.2 Current service plans will be consulted and the entire Site, including any available exposures (e.g. recently cut ditches or geotechnical test pits), will be visually inspected prior to the commencement of any machine excavation. Trench locations will be CAT scanned before excavation. Changes to the trench locations may be required should unknown live services or ecological issues be present.

7.3 The trenches will be opened using a machine excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Trenches 1-4 will be excavated to a width of 1.8m, however, Trench 5 will be 0.5m wide to ensure adequate reinstatement of this as a footing trench. Trenches 2 and 3, due to their smaller size and the expected depth of deposits, will be be excavated to a double-width, 3.6m, where required, to achieve the anticipated necessary depth. The excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological direction and control of AOC staff.

7.4 Undifferentiated topsoil or overburden of recent origin will be removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural geology, whichever is encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately and will be examined for archaeological materials.

7.5 On encountering preserved buried soils during trenching, the trench strip depth will be raised to enable hand excavation in 1m square test pits on a grid along the trench to examine the artefact content and for sampling such old land surfaces soils. If the soils occur along the full length of the trench a 5m grid will be used, or, if the soils are found in discrete patches, a suitable array of grouped test pits. The remaining soil layer will then be stripped out by machine or by hand accordingly.

7.6 If access to archaeological features in deep excavations is required, the sides of the trenches will be stepped to allow safe access/egress. Only deep trenches will be fenced with orange barrier fencing and road irons if required.

7.7 Hand-excavation will be undertaken once the top of any archaeological remains is exposed.

7.8 Upon completion of the archaeological evaluation, the trenches will be backfilled (after approval by CHET) and compacted by machine bucket, with the exception of hardstanding material removed during the course of the trenching works, which is to be retained to the side of the trench in a safe position. The integrity of any archaeological features or deposits, which might better be excavated in conditions pertaining to full excavation, or might warrant preservation in situ, will not be compromised.

7.9 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of the trenches that require examination or recording will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All investigation of archaeological horizons will be undertaken by hand and recorded in plan and section.

7.10 All features will be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with CHET, except for repeating features in trench bases, such as furrows. A representative sample of these will be examined and recorded.

7.11 Linear features will be excavated to achieve a minimum sample of 10% of their length, with a minimum individual slot length of 1m. The termini of any linear features will be 100% excavated. Pits

will be 50% excavated as a minimum. Significant solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes will be preserved intact, even if fills are sampled. Isolated post holes and complex features such as hearths will be 100% excavated.

7.12 Discrete features will be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. Machine assistance may be required for very large/deep features.

7.13 Sections through linear features will be excavated at approximately 90° to the longitudinal axis to provide a cross-section profile. Cross-sections will be cut vertically and cleaned by hand, in order to enhance the definition of stratigraphic sequences.

7.14 Intersecting features will be investigated to determine the relationship between them. The full stratigraphy will be recorded by using the trench cross-section.

7.15 For sections at trench edges, the vertical sequence to the top of the plough or topsoil will be cleaned (to establish the presence/absence of vestigial old land surface soils and other stratified deposits), photographed, drawn and discussed in the final report.

7.16 In case of built structures, they will be excavated sufficiently to define the extent of the feature and to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

7.17 The use of metal detectors on site to aid the recovery of artefacts is required and will be performed by a named, experienced metal detector user. The metal detector will not be set to discriminate against iron. Metal detected finds will be plotted on suitable plans within the report.

7.18 Very deep deposits or features will be examined using a handheld auger, power auger, or with machine assistance.

7.19 Records will be produced using either pro-forma context or trench record sheets compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoL 1994), and features will be planned according to the single context method.

7.20 Trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of CHET. Further trenching or deposit testing may be a requirement of the site monitoring visit if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation.

7.21 The photographic record will consist of high-quality digital uninterpolated images of at least 10 megapixels taken using a camera with an APS-C or larger sensor. Graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths will be used, ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales. Digital photographs intended for archive purposes will comprise high quality non-proprietary raw files (DNG) or TIFF images.

7.22 A record of the full sequence of all archaeological deposits as revealed in the evaluation will be made using the Harris Stratigraphic Matrix. Plans and sections of features will be drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. Trench locations will be surveyed using a differential GPS (Trimble).

7.23 A high priority will be given to dating any finds exposed. All artefactual and ecofactual material revealed during the excavation will be retained for recording/assessment and, where appropriate, will be treated in accordance with the CIfA *Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material* ([revised edition] 2014).

7.24 Environmental samples up to 40 litres in volume will be taken from suitable deposits. A sub-sample of the most productive looking samples will be selected by the archaeological contractor's environmental specialist for processing, sorting, assessment and discussion in the evaluation report,

with a statement as to the potential for further analysis. The Regional Science Advisor for Historic England will be consulted as appropriate, and CHET, the LPA's archaeological advisor, will also be consulted on the scope of environmental sampling.

7.25 The evaluation report containing the results of palaeoenvironmental investigation, industrial residue assessments/analyses, and scientific analyses will be sent to the Historic England Science Advisor.

7.26 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to standards agreed in advance with Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeological Archives Facility. All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No* 2 (1983). Appropriate guidelines set out in the Museums and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) will also be followed.

7.27 All identified finds and artefacts will be collected and retained. Certain classes of material, i.e. post-medieval pottery and building material may be discarded after recording if a representative sample is kept. No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of CHET, the LPA's Archaeological Adviser.

7.28 Any finds that could be considered treasure under the terms of the Treasure Act 1996 (with subsequent amendments) and uncovered during the process of fieldwork will be immediately reported to the Finds Liaison Officer, so that it is properly reported to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery in line with the Treasure Act. Advice and guidance on compliance with Treasure Act issues would be undertaken with the Finds Liaison Office of the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the CHET office. Where removal cannot be enacted on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage.

7.29 Finds will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage with reference to pottery. In addition, the artefacts will be used to characterise the site and to establish the potential for all categories of finds should further archaeological work be necessary.

7.30 Any finds of human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected. If removal is essential a Licence will be sought from the Ministry of Justice. CHET LPA's and the Local Authority Environmental Health Officer will be informed.

7.31 In case of human remains found on site, a human osteologist will be appointed for the in-field recording.

7.32 Provision for on-site conservation and finds treatment, in addition to any scientific dating of materials uncovered, will be undertaken where appropriate.

7.33 Upon completion of the project the landowner and the Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeological Archive Storage Facility will be contacted regarding the preparation, ownership and deposition of the archive and finds. The digital archive will be submitted via ADS. A digital management plan is attached as Appendix D.

8. Report and Archive Preparation

8.1 Upon completion of the archaeological fieldwork, a report will be produced within six to eight weeks, subject to specialist availability.

8.2 The evaluation report will highlight any relevant research objectives published in themed national and regional research frameworks and will provide a statement on the significance of the investigated archaeological evidence.

8.3 The evaluation report will refer to the CHER evidence submitted with the Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (CHET 2025) and any additional searches obtained for comparative research.

8.4 The archaeological advisory and planning role of CHET will be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

8.5 The field evaluation report will include:

- A location plan of the Site.
- A comprehensive written assessment of the regional context and present archaeological evidence (including general views of the site, deposits and artefact photos – both *in situ* and /or as cleaned objects).
- The date of the record, the names of the recorders, and the location of the archive.
- A table of contents and a list of figures and plates.
- Acknowledgements to all contributors to the fieldwork, reporting, and analysis. Also, a note of any copyrights for reproduced material.
- A location plan of the trenches.
- Plans and sections of features and/or extent of archaeology located. These will be at an appropriate scale.
- A summary statement of the results.
- A site plan showing surviving archaeological remains and detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. Constraints to the evaluation will be clearly shown and explained.
- An impact assessment will be provided.
- A table summarising, per trench, the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds.
- An HER summary sheet and OASIS form (Appendix C).
- The procedures defined in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd edition (1991) will be followed for immediate post-field archive preparation and initial assessment if warranted. It will then be agreed with the Client.

8.3 A list of specialist staff that may be used for analysis of samples and artefacts is given in Appendix B.

8.4 A draft copy of the archaeological evaluation report will be sent to the client, followed by CHET for comment, prior to a final copy being submitted. Digital copies of the final report will be submitted to Cambridgeshire Council to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the archaeological programme of works. A digital copy of the report will also be provided to the Historic Environment Record ('HER'). A copy will also be uploaded as part of the Archaeology Data Service Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations ('ADS OASIS') database record.

8.5 An OASIS form will be completed (Summary in Appendix C - aocarcha1-511350) and an electronic copy of the evaluation report deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

Archive Preparation

8.6 The site archive will comprise all artefacts, environmental samples, and written and drawn records. It is to be consolidated after completion of the whole project, with records and finds collated and ordered as a permanent record. Archaeological finds rarely have any monetary value but they are an important source of information for future research, included in museum exhibits and teaching collections. The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA 2020) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) recommend that finds are publicly accessible and that landowners donate archaeological finds to a local museum.

8.7 The Event Number (ECB7033) obtained from the CHET will be clearly indicated on all paperwork (context/photo/enviro sample forms, lists and plans), and on finds bags and sample containers/bags created on site and later shown on ensuing reports and on the OASIS data collection form.

8.8 During production of the archaeological evaluation report AOC will discuss arrangements with the developer/landowner for the archive to be deposited with CHET within their repositories at the County Council's offices in Cambridge as per the Cambridgeshire County Council guidelines within the 2020 '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Cambridgeshire*'. Following completion of each stage or the full extent of the fieldwork (as appropriate) the physical site archive will be prepared in the format agreed with CHET.

8.9 The digital archive will be submitted via ADS. A digital management plan is attached as Appendix D.

8.10 Where finds are retained, landowner consent will be required to allow transfer of the finds to Cambridgeshire County Council's Archaeological repositories. This will require the completion of a Deed of Transfer form accompanied by a Legal Title Consent Request Letter from the landowner. A complete finds inventory and further finds information can be provided to the landowner on request.

8.11 The site archive will be deposited within one year of the completion of fieldwork (if no further work is required). It will then become publicly accessible.

Further Work

8.12 In the event that further work is to be undertaken on the Site, the further analysis and publication of the evaluation and subsequent archives will be undertaken together. If no further work is required, or that further work will only proceed after a substantial period of time after the evaluation report, the further analysis and publication of the report should proceed.

9. Health and Safety

9.1 Health and Safety will take priority over all other requirements. A conditional aspect of all archaeological work is both safe access to the area of work and a safe working environment.

9.2 The project will be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under the defined Health and Safety Policy. The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (CDM) may apply to the archaeological work depending on whether contractors other than the archaeological team are present on the Site.

9.3 A separate Risk Assessment/Method Statement (RAMS) will be prepared prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

9.4 Staff present on site will be required to wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which will be issued as necessary. Facilities will be made available on site for staff welfare and washing.

9.5 Where AOC is not the main contractor on a site the main contractor's Risk Assessment will have primacy over the AOC document given that:

- The main contractors' risk assessment is aware of, and takes account of, AOC's working practices – i.e. it does not compromise normal and safe archaeological procedure as set out in our Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment.
- AOC was notified of the full suite of hazards present prior to arriving on site.
- There is a proper induction and monitoring process in place and AOC staff have been through this process.
- There is no significant conflict between AOC HSE procedures and those proposed by the main contractor.
- AOC are made aware of new threats or hazards as they arise during the course of our on-site involvement.

Staffing and Timescales

9.6 The project will be managed by Yvonne Robertson MCIfA, for AOC Milton Keynes.

9.7 The fieldwork will be led in the field by Jay Wood (Senior Project Officer) have not yet been assigned to this project but once they are finalised their details will be passed to client and CHET with CV's supplied if required. Similarly, dates for the fieldwork have not yet been agreed but once established CHET as archaeological advisors to the Cambridgeshire County Council, will be advised at least two weeks in advance of the proposed start date and pre-programmed monitoring meetings will be arranged to ensure all works are reviewed on site.

9.8 AOC Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (CIfA).

9.9 A detailed risk assessment will be undertaken prior to on-site works.

10. General

10.1 The methodologies of the WSI will be met in full, where reasonably practicable.

10.2 Any significant variations to the proposed methodology will be discussed and agreed with the Client and the CHET in advance of implementation.

10.3 The scope of fieldwork is aimed at meeting the aims of the project in a cost-effective manner. AOC Archaeology attempts to foresee all possible site-specific problems and make allowances for these. However, there may on occasion be unusual circumstances, which have not been included in the programme and costing. These can include:

- unavoidable delays due to extreme bad weather, vandalism etc.;
- extensions to feature excavation sample sizes requested by the local authority's archaeological advisor, CHET; and
- complex structures or objects, including those in waterlogged conditions, requiring specialist removal.

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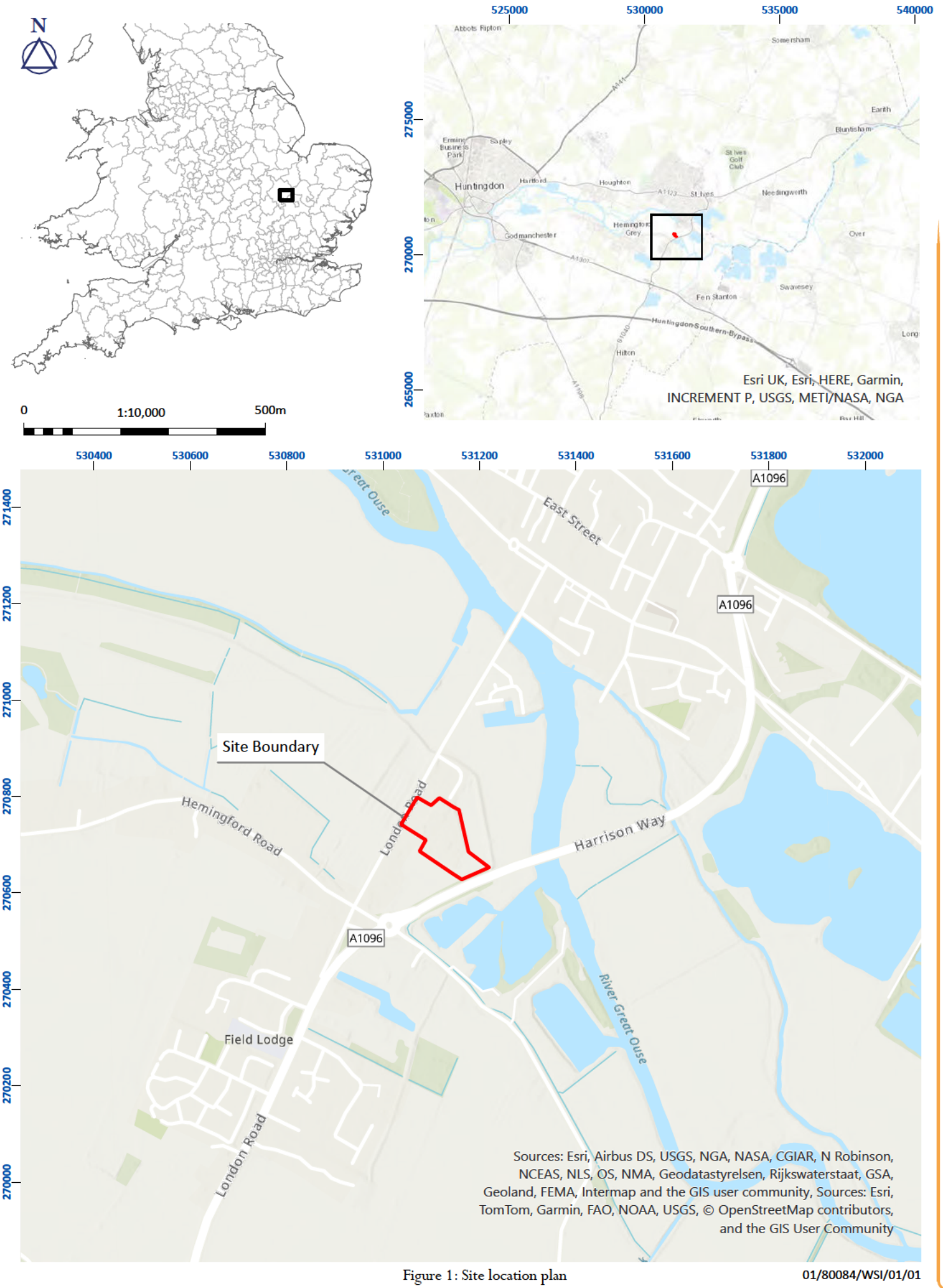

Figure 1: Site location plan

01/80084/WSI/01/01



Figure 2: Trench location plan

01/80084/WSI/02/01

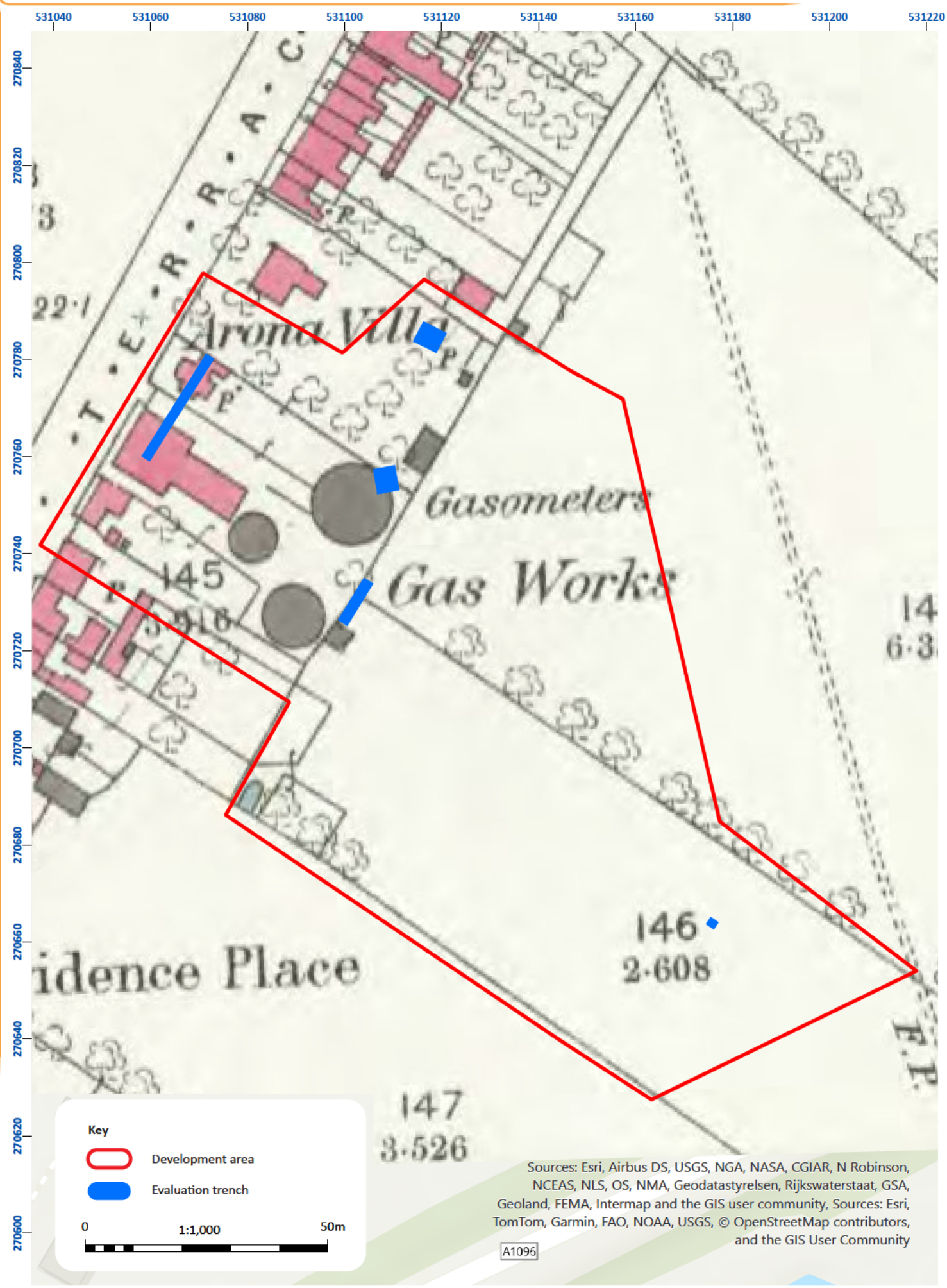

Figure 3: Trench location plan with extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1886 01/80084/WSI/03/01



Figure 4: Trench location plan with extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1926

01/80084/WSI/04/01

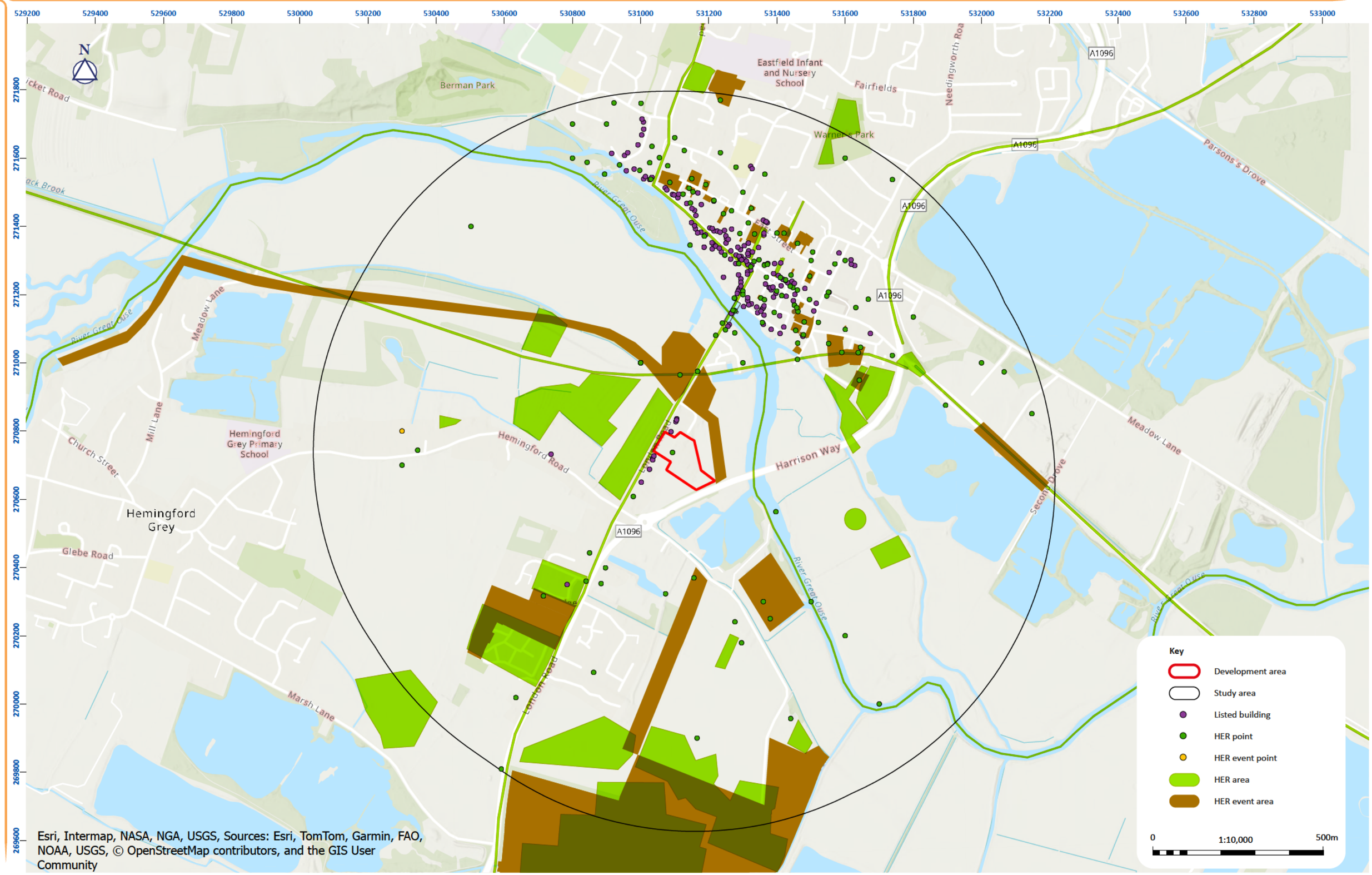

Figure 5: Site location and investigations in the area (CHER)

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Appendices

Appendix A – General Information

Insurances

1. AOC holds Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details can be supplied on request.
2. AOC will not be liable to indemnify the client against any compensation or damages for or with respect to:
   - damage to crops being on the Area or Areas of Work (save in so far as possession has not been given to the Archaeological Contractor)
   - the use or occupation of land (which has been provided by the Client) by the Project or for the purposes of completing the Project (including consequent loss of crops) or interference whether temporary or permanent with any right of way light air or other easement or quasi easement which are the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement
   - any other damage which is the unavoidable result of the Project in accordance with the Agreement
   - injuries or damage to persons or property resulting from any act or neglect or breach of statutory duty done or committed by the client or his agents servants or their contractors (not being employed by AOC Archaeology or for or in respect of any claims demands proceedings damages costs charges and expenses in respect thereof or in relation thereto
3. Where excavation has taken place trial pits will be backfilled with excavated material but will otherwise not be reinstated unless other arrangements have previously been agreed. Open area excavations normally will not be backfilled but left in a secure manner unless otherwise agreed.

Copyright and Confidentiality

4. AOC Archaeology will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive license to the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Written Scheme of Investigation.
5. AOC will assign copyright to the client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.
6. AOC will advise the Client of any such materials supplied in the course of projects, which are not AOC's copyright.
7. AOC undertake to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Client's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. In addition AOC further undertakes to keep confidential any conclusions about the likely implications of such proposals for the historic environment. It is expected that Clients respect AOC's and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

Standards

8. AOC conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the CIfA Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Desk Based Assessments, Field Evaluations etc., and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group Code of Practice.
9. Where practicable AOC will liaise with local archaeological bodies (both professional and amateur) in order that information about particular sites is disseminated both ways (subject to client confidentiality).

Appendix B – Specialist Staff

The following specialist staff may be used on this project depending on the type of artefacts and soil samples recovered during the course of the fieldwork.

Macroscopic plant remains	AOC
Soils and sediments analysis	AOC
Palaeo-environmental archaeology	AOC
Human remains	AOC
Conservation	AOC
Building material	Wardell Armstrong
Lithics	Freelance
Mammal and bird bone	AOC
Prehistoric pottery	Freelance
Roman pottery	ASE
Medieval	Freelance
Post-medieval pottery	AOC
Metal	AOC
Glass	AOC
Geo-archaeology	AOC

Appendix C – OASIS form

Summary for aocarcha1-511350

OASIS ID (UID)	aocarcha1-511350
Project Name	Evaluation at St Ives
Sitename	Murketts Garage
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	80084
Planning Id	18/02726/FUL
Reason For Investigation	
Organisation Responsible for work	AOC Archaeology Group
Project Dates	
Location	London Rd, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, England, United Kingdom, NGR : TL 31110 70744
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Cambridgeshire District : Huntingdonshire District Council Parish : St Ives
HER	Cambridgeshire

Appendix D – Digital Management Plan

1. Project	
Site Code:	80084
Address:	Murketts Garage, London Rd, St Ives, Cambridgeshire
Project Type:	Archaeological Evaluation
Event number:	ECB7033
OASIS ID:	aocarcha1-511350
Data Repository:	ADS (Archaeology Data Service)
Version No.	1.0

2. Data Collection and Standards

The table below provides a summary of the data types and formats for data collected and created. In cases where the project progresses or becomes more complex, additional types will be added to this section where required.

Data collected will include standard formats which maximise use and reuse in the future.

Type	Format
Spreadsheets (Context register / Finds and samples Register / Photo register / Drawing register / sample register / specialist data tables / metadata tables)	Excel (.xlsx) To be deposited in preserved format (.csv)
Text / Documents (WSI / Final Report / Individual Specialist reports)	Word (.docx) PDF (.pdf/a)
Photographs / Images (Final archive shots / photogrammetry)	Raw files (DNG) or TIFF (.tiff) Photogrammetry files (.tiff)
CAD (Site plans / building elevations / survey data)	DWG DXF To be deposited in preserved format(.dxf ASCII format)
GIS (Site plans / survey data)	ESRI Shapefile (.shp &.shx & .dbf, plus associated files) ESRI .gdb (Site plans / report images)
Laser Scan (Detailed elevations / site data)	ASCII TXT Realworks (.RWP) To be deposited in preserved format (.LAS or .e57)

Data Standards / Methods

Methods of collection are specified within the WSI and conform to AOC recording practices and relevant CIfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (CIfA 2014). Digital data acquisition standards are defined from ADS Guides to Good Practice (2011) and will adhere to

FAIR principles https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/

Data Storage

- The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder or data specific folder on AOC's organisational server.
- The on-premises server is backed up daily to maintain an up-to-date security copy of the organisation wide data. A working copy is kept in cloud storage.
- Project folders and files will be named following established AOC procedures. *Project Number_name_date (yyyymmdd)* and conform to ADS best practice and version control guidance.
- GPS survey data collected will be downloaded as Trimble .job file. Raw data will be stored in the appropriate Survey processing folder within the Project folder structure.
- Raw survey data will be processed using Trimble Business Centre and exported as ESRI shapefiles to GIS for final plans.

3. Metadata

- Metadata tables for each data type will be populated as the project progresses and will use the standard format for each data type as recommended by ADS. https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/guidelinesForDepositors.xhtml
- Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project, Museum Deposition Guidelines, Digital Repository Guidelines and the methodology described in the WSI.

Section 4: Ethics and Legal Compliance

- Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting will be gained prior to use.
- Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to AOC Archaeology Group (AOC Holdings Ltd), and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.
- Where formal permissions and/or license agreements are linked to data sharing, details of these will be included in the project documentation folders and will accompany the archaeological project archive.

Section 5: Storage and Backup

- Sufficient data storage space is available via AOC'S servers and via SharePoint/Azure Files backup. The server is accessible by staff on and off-site through a secure log-in, including 2-factor authentication.
- Off-site access to the project files on AOC's servers is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing.
- Where internet access for data backup is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive) and transferred to the server at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Project files will be shared with external specialists and contractors directly using the same system, with the wider project team gaining access to only the files needed using permissions-based access.

Section 6: Selection and Preservation

Digital archive material will be deposited with a trusted digital repository, where data migration and backup procedures are in place, and the integrity of the digital archive is maintained (see Section 1).

- Version control will be applied throughout the project in line with AOC standard operating procedures and ADS guidelines (2011).
- Only the final version of all born digital documents (reports, databases, images, survey files) will be selected for inclusion in the Digital Archive. The material de-selected from inclusion in the preserved archive will be duplicates or re-productions created during the lifespan of the project.
- Digital photographs will be assessed during post ex and selection based on the principles set out in the ADS (2011) & and HE guidelines (2015).
- Selection will be carried out based on the following guidelines:

ADS (2021) Guidelines for Depositors
http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/guidelinesForDepositors
ADS(2018) Guidance for the selection of material for deposit and archive
https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/advice/selectionGuidance.xhtml
CIfA (2019) Selection Toolkit for Archaeological Archives
https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit
Historic England (2015) Digital Image Capture and File Storage – Guidelines for Best Practice
https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/digital-image-capture-and-file-storage

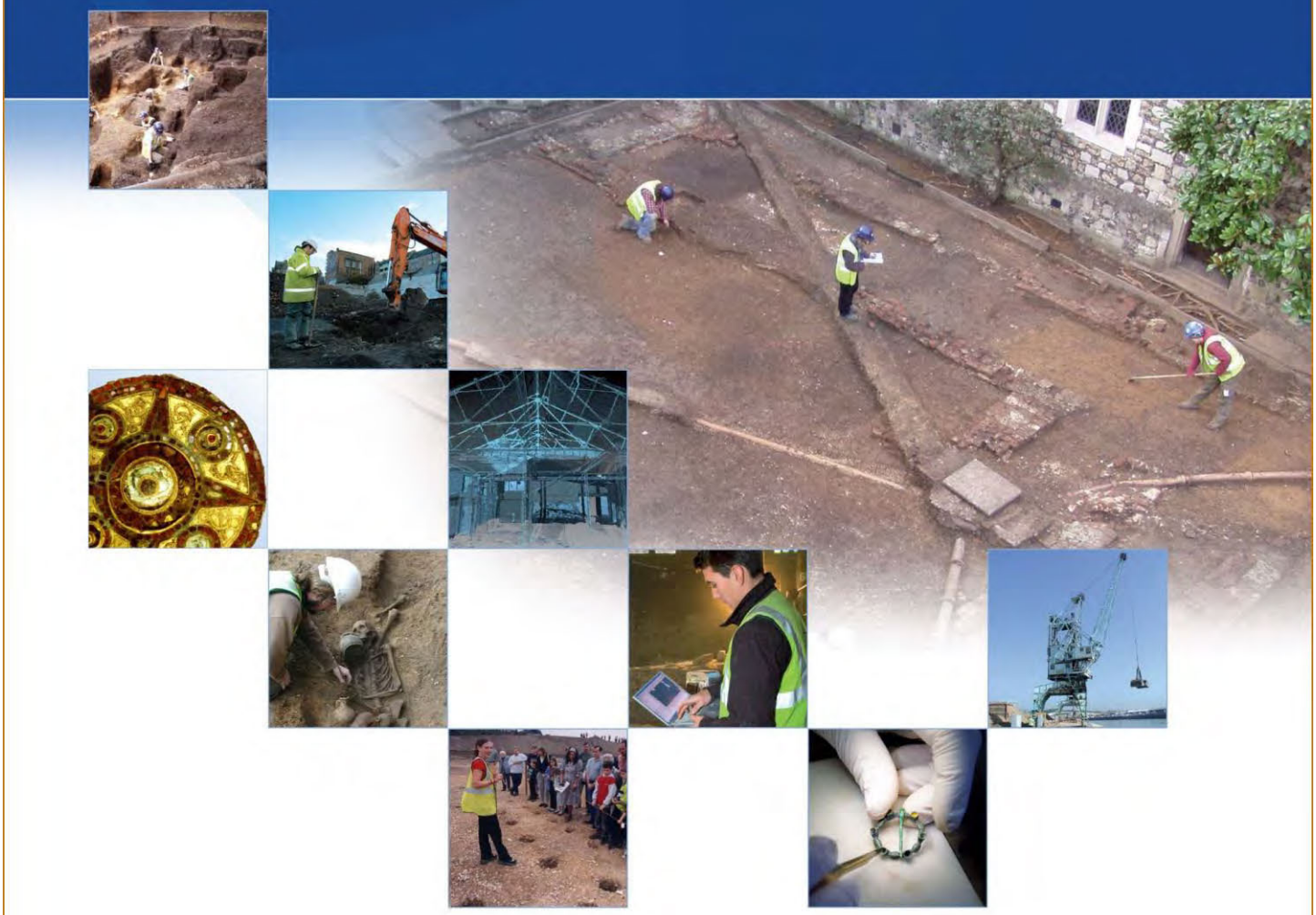
Section 7: Data Sharing and Accessibility

Data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargos which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive.

- A summary of the project will be included on the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigation (see Section 1).
- A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record via OASIS, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.
- The location (s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be added to OASIS when appropriate.
- The ADS will disseminate the digital elements of the Archaeological Archive online under a creative commons licence and the dataset will receive a unique identifier (DOI)

Section 8: Responsibilities

- The Project Manager as named in the WSI will be responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised at each stage of the project.
- Data capture, metadata production and data quality are the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager with support from the Senior Data Officer.
- Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.
- Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by AOC's IT Support suppliers.
- Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Archives Officer with the support of the Senior Data Officer.
- The Archives Officer is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.
- Details of the core project team can be provided on request.



AOC Archaeology Group

AOC Archaeology Group, Unit 3, Goulds Close, Chancerygate Business Centre, Denbeigh West,
Milton Keynes MK1 1EQ