# MURKETTS GARAGE, LONDON ROAD, ST. IVES, CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Date: March 2025



AOC Archaeology Group

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# MURKETTS GARAGE, LONDON ROAD, ST. IVES, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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| **On Behalf of:** | **Lochailort St Ives Ltd**<br>**Eagle House**<br>**108-110 Jermyn Street**<br>**London**<br>**SW1Y 6EE** |
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| **Prepared by:** | [redacted] |
| **Illustration by:** | |
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**This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.**

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| **Author: Jay Wood and Erik Moreno** | **Date: March 2025** |
| **Approved: Yvonne Robertson** | **Date: March 2025** |
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**Enquiries to:** AOC Archaeology Group
Unit 3
Goulds Close
Chancerygate Business Centre
Milton Keynes
MK1 1EQ

Tel. [redacted]
E-mail. [redacted]

www.aocarchaeology.com

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## Executive Summary

This report details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Murketts Garage, London Road, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): TL 31110 70744)., undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Lochailort St Ives Ltd in February 2025.

A total of five trenches were excavated. The evaluation successfully identified structural remains associated with a 19th century St Ives Gas Works within two trenches (Trenches 1 and 4). Two stratigraphically earlier gullies were also recorded in Trench 1, although these did not contain any dateable evidence. Trench 3 which targeted the location of a gasholder did not identify any structural remains, with only a sequence of contaminated deposits identified. No significant archaeological remains were recorded in the two remaining trenches (Trenches 2 and 5).

In the southern area of the site, the trial trenching (Trench 5) uncovered alluvial deposits associated with flooding of the River Great Ouse prior to the construction of flood defences in the second half of the twentieth century.

An OASIS form (OASIS ID: aocarcha1-511350) has been compiled and an electronic copy of the report will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The site archive will be prepared for deposition in accordance with local and national guidance at the end of the project.

# 1. Introduction

1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Murketts Garage, London Road, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 5EZ (henceforth 'the Site'), undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Lochailort St Ives Ltd, prior to demolition of upstanding building on Site; and construction of a phased residential development of 49 dwellings with access, parking, landscaping and associated works. The works were completed in February 2025. The Site area (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): TL 31110 70744).

1.2 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.

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken across the Site (Figures 1-2) as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by AOC Archaeology (AOC, 2025); a total of five trenches were excavated.

1.4 The WSI conformed with the requirements set out by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) in the Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (CHET, 2025). The works were monitored by Lu Speariett, Archaeological Officer at CHET.

1.5 As required by the WSI, this final report will detail the results of the evaluation, which will enable CHET to decide upon the need for further works and the mitigation strategy, if required, for the scheme.

# 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. These briefs established that an archaeological evaluation, consisting of the excavation of targeted trenches (Figure 2), needed to be undertaken to assess the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their extent, nature, quality, date and character. One of the main focuses of the evaluation was to assess the coverage of surviving subsurface remains of the 19th century St Ives Gas Works.

2.2 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.

2.3 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.

2.4 The planning application was granted with an archaeological condition (No 36). The condition states the following:

*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.*

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 The evaluation was undertaken and designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and local and national standard guidelines:

- 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).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Standard for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023b).
- East of England Regional Research Framework (ALGAO East of England 2020).
- Historic England – Management of Archaeological Projects (HE 2015a).
- Historic England – Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (HE 2015b).
- Historic England – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (HE 2015c).
- Museum of London – Archaeological Site Manual (MoLA 1994).
- National Planning Policy Framework (MHLG 2019; updated 2021).
- Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, D. 2003, EAA Occasional Paper 14).
- RESCUE & ICON – First Aid for Finds (RESCUE & ICON 2001).
- Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011), as well as the updated agenda in the current online version to define research objectives.
- 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).

## 3. Site Location, Topography and Geology

3.1 The British Geological Survey (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 River Terrace Sand and Gravel deposits which give way to alluvium adjacent to the river (CHET 2025).

3.2 Mapping of the extent of superficial geological deposits by the BGS is not always accurate due to the discontinuity in distribution of these deposits and difficulties in accessing below ground data.

3.3 The evaluation identified river gravel and alluvial deposits within three trenches (Trenches 1, 4, and 5).

# 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, although the ground is now open wasteland, very overgrown and the buildings have long since been removed.

## 5. Project Aims

5.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were 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 CHET to make an informed decision on the requirement for future work;
- to record and sample 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 were 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. Methodology

6.1 The evaluation was undertaken and designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice, local and national standards and guidelines, and the Design Briefs issued by CHET (2022 and 2025):

- ADS (2011) *Guides to Good Practice*.
- Historic England – Management of Archaeological Projects (HE 2015a).
- Historic England – Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (HE 2015b).
- Historic England – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (HE 2015c).
- Historic England (2015). Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2021). *Code of Conduct*.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.
- Chartered Institute for Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.
- 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).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1983) – *Conservation Guidelines No.2*.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1990) – *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice*.
- Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Brown, D.H. (2011) Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Second Edition).

6.2 All five trenches were opened during the evaluation. The trial trenching was, however, impacted by the presence of buried services and contaminated ground deposits. This resulted in some trenches needing to be moved from the locations shown in the approved WSI, and some could not be fully

excavated to the natural geology. All changes were agreed with CHET during the fieldwork programme.

- Trench 1 was moved due to the presence of numerous buried services and was excavated in two, staggered sections (Fig 2, 7 and 8). The northern half measured 8.2m by 1.8m, and the southern half 9.5m by 1.8m. The southern section could not be fully excavated down to the natural geology due to the presence of contaminated material within made ground forming the uppermost deposits within the trench. Following consultation with Lu Speariett, Archaeological Officer (CHET), the archaeological remains within the trench were recorded but not hand excavated.
- Trench 2 measured 3.7m by 5.1m and was excavated in the position laid out in the WSI. The presence of buried live services and a modern storage tank meant that the natural geology was not reached.
- Trench 3 was repositioned to the south-east of its intended position due to the presence of buried live services. It measured 3m by 3.5m and revealed a sequence of heavily contaminated deposits immediately below the surface hardstanding. The underlying geology was not reached.
- Trench 4 was moved due to the presence of buried services. It measured 5.6m by 1.8m. A 0.5m wide sondage was excavated along the central area of the trench, which exposed a sequence of made ground and contaminated demolition deposits overlying the natural substrate.
- Trench 5 measured 2m by 1.8m and was excavated in the position laid out in the WSI. The underlying geology was reached, with a sequence of alluvial deposits recorded.

6.3 The methodologies employed during the archaeological evaluation followed the specification set out in the WSI (AOC 2025). For convenience a summary is provided below. For full details, please refer to this document.

6.4 The trenches were positioned to an accuracy of ± 100mm of the specified trench location using survey-grade Trimble DGPS. Prior to excavation, and at regular intervals throughout the excavation process, each trench area was surveyed using a CAT 4+.

6.5 Each trench was excavated under direct archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The hardstanding was removed, and the excavation undertaken in level spits of no more than 200mm, until either the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits were encountered. The surface achieved through machine excavation was then inspected for archaeological remains. The arisings from the archaeological works were stored adjacent to each trench (within a safe working distance) and separated according to material (i.e. made ground separated from subsoil).

6.6 Archaeological features were cleaned, sample excavated where it was safe to do so, and recorded by way of measured section drawing, photograph written record, and plan form recorded using a DGPS survey kit.

6.7 The trial trenches were not backfilled until permission was given by Lu Speariett, Archaeological Officer (CHET). The trial trenches were backfilled by machine under appropriate conditions and with direct archaeological supervision. Arisings were returned strictly in the correct sequence with the

exception of the hardstanding material removed from the uppermost part of each trench which was retained, as per the WSI, in a safe position to the side of each trench.

6.8 A unique Site code, ECB 7033, was used as the site identifier.

6.9 Should a scheme of detailed work be required to mitigate construction impacts on archaeological remains identified during this evaluation, the scheme will be outlined in a further Design Brief for Archaeological Investigation provided by CHET.

6.10 All works were 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) and appropriate journals.

# 7. Results

## Introduction

7.1 The overall Site is shown in Figure 1 whilst the trenches are numbered and shown in Figures 2.

7.2 Archaeological features associated with the St Ives Gas Works were identified in Trenches 1 and 4 (Figures 7 and 8). These remains appear to correspond with buildings shown on the 1st edition OS map from 1886 (Figures 3 and 4).

7.3 Trenches 2, 3 and 5 did not contain any significant archaeological remains. Modern made ground, demolition material and contaminated waste deposits as well as modern buried services and a storage tank were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3, along with contaminated waste assumed to be from the gas works (Figures 7 and 12). Trench 5 revealed alluvial deposits beneath the topsoil.

7.4 The results of each trench are discussed here in turn. A full list of contexts is provided in Appendix A. Deposits are enclosed in (parentheses) and cut features in [square brackets]. Levels are provided in metres above Ordnance Datum (m aOD). Photographs below feature a 1m photographic scale, unless stated otherwise in the plate caption.

7.5 An area overview and detailed trench plans are illustrated (Figures 7-12), along with associated section drawings of the trenches and features (Figure 13).

## Trench 1

*Table 1: Stratigraphic Sequence*

| Context No. | Thickness | Height of Deposit (aOD) | Description/Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 100 | 0.11m | 6.65m | Tarmac Hardstanding |
| 101 | 0.14m | 6.54m | Base layer for (100) |
| 102 | 0.24m | 6.40m | Made ground deposit – mid yellow-brown crushed stone and bricks |
| 103 | 0.18m | 6.16m | Hard-pack sub-surface |
| 104 | 0.7m | 5.98m | Alluvial |
| 105 | - | 5.28m | Natural geology |

*Site Stratigraphy*

7.6 Trench 1 was located in the north-west corner of the Site. It could not be excavated in its original position due to the presence of numerous buried services and was excavated in two, staggered sections (Figures 2, 7 and 8; Plates 1, 2, 3 and 4). These are referred to as the northern and southern segments.

7.7 The natural geology in Trench 1 was identified in the northern segment of the trench (Figure 7). It was identified at a height of 5.28m aOD and comprised of dark yellow-brown silty clay with common gravel (105).

7.8 The natural geology (105) was overlain by a mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones alluvial deposit (104). It measured 0.7m in depth and yielded no finds. This deposit was in turn overlain by a thin, 0.18m thick, hard-pack base layer (103), used to support the structures above it, comprised of compact mid blue-grey silty clay with occasional fragments of brick and occasional stones.

7.9 A deposit composed of mid yellow-brown crushed stone and fragments of brick (102) overlayed base layer (103). The current land surface was a 0.11m thick hardstanding tarmac (100) located at a height of 6.65m aOD, which overlayed base layer (101) formed by mid yellow-brown crushed stone and measured 0.14m thick.

*Pre-19th century agricultural remains*

7.10 The remains of two gullies were cut into the natural geology (105) at a height of 5.22m aOD. One was a northwest to southeast aligned gully [106] (Plate 1), which had gradual slopes on top and base, gradual sides, a flat base, and measured 0.16m in depth. It was naturally infilled over time by a friable dark yellow-brown silty clay where no finds were retrieved. Immediately to the south of gully [106], there was a gully terminus [111] on the same northwest to southeast alignment, that could not be fully investigated due to the presence of contaminated material in the trench. Both cut features are likely to be part of an agricultural enclosure system heavily truncated by the development of the gasworks on Site.




Plate 1: Northern facing section of Gully [106]

*St Ives Gas Works Structural Remains (19th century to mid 21st century)*

*Northern Building*

7.11 Within the northern segment of Trench 1, there were two areas where connected walls were identified (Figure 7); these walls appear to match a single structure depicted on the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps from 1886 and 1926.

7.12 In the north, structure [109] represented a T-shaped brick and mortar arrangement of walls and was found at a height of 6.24m aOD. In the south, structure [108] represented another series of contemporary walls form an H-shape in plan, found at a height of 6.18m aOD, aligned northwest to southeast was in the southern half of the trench.

7.13 Both structures were built with yellow gault bricks measuring 225mm by 110mm by 71mm and lime mortar as bonding material. The walls could not be investigated further due to contaminated material and asbestos being present in the trench.

7.14 As seen on the 1886 OS map and the 1926 OS map these two walls match the southeastern exterior walls of the northernmost building associated with the gasworks, with internal divisions evidenced by the adjoined wall segments.




Plate 2: Wall [109] looking northwest

### *T-Shaped Building*

7.15 The southern half of Trench 1 contained evidence for a separate structure, with the remains of six walls, seven surfaces and several associated deposits (Figure 8). The 1886 OS map shows the outline of a T-shaped building associated with gasworks located in the southern segment of Trench 1. As limited hand excavation of the structural remains could be undertaken, the phasing of construction and demolition could not be fully confirmed, however, the following outlines the assumed sequence based on the current evidence.

7.16 The sequence of construction of the T-shaped building within Trench 1 was revealed to be established by levelling deposits with structural walls then established, and surfacing within the structure. Demolition material then sealed the area, with levelling deposits for the modern structures and hardstanding above.

7.17 Wall [121] (Plate 3) is considered to be one of the earlier internal walls for the T-shaped building and was found at a height of 6.23m aOD. Aligned northwest to southeast this wall was 0.55m wide built in yellow gault brick measuring 200mm by 110mm by 70mm bonded with lime mortar. The relationship of this wall with surrounding structures is unclear but a hard-pack sub-surface (122), used to support other structures in the trench, was found sitting on top of it, which indicates this wall may be an earlier phase than the majority of structural remains.

7.18 Walls [117;123;127;129; Plate 4] formed further remains of internal walls associated with the T-shaped gas works building. Wall [117] was found at a height of 6.16m aOD aligned northwest to southeast built in yellow gault brick measuring 200mm by 110mm by 70mm and bonded with lime mortar. In average it measured 0.11m wide. It was abutted by brick surface [116] and likely related to brick surface [115]. Wall [123] was identified in the centre of the southern segment of Trench 1 aligned northwest-southeast at a height of 6.34m aOD. Constructed in red brick measuring 200mm by 110mm by 70mm bonded with lime mortar it measured 0.3m wide. Wall [123] was set onto hard-pack sub-surface (122) and was abutted by internal floor surface [125]. Based on their characteristics and relationships, walls [117;123] were likely to be internal walls dividing areas within the larger T-shaped building seen in the 1886 OS map.



Plate 3: Overview of walls [117;120;121;123] and associated deposits looking southeast

7.19 A hard-pack sub-surface (122) comprised of dark red-brown compact core waste was recorded at a height of 6.22m aOD. It was used as a hardstanding deposit for the surfaces located above and was truncated to the northwest by a footing trench for wall [118]. This material was interpreted as a levelling deposit for several surfaces within the T-shaped building.

7.20 Surfaces [115;116;125;126;128;130;131] were internal surfaces or interior floors from this T-shaped building. Surface [115] and [116] are partially blackened by fire gault brick floors. Located both to the north of the southern segment of Trench 1, surface [115] was found at a height of 6.09m aOD and measured 0.2m by 0.22m, and surface [116] was recorded at a height of 6.14m aOD and measured 0.55m long by 0.26m wide.

7.21 Surface [125] and [126] were both located in the centre of the southern segment of Trench 1 immediately next to each other and both were found at a height of 6.4m aOD. Surface [125] comprised of laid gault brick bonded with thick lime mortar and measured 1.5m long by 1.2m wide. Surface [126] in turn was composed of red brick measuring 221mm by 100mm by 72mm and was bonded by lime mortar. Surface [126] abuts surface [125] to the north and wall [127] to the south.

7.22 Walls [127;129] (Plate 4) were interpreted as part of a brick channel together with surface [128]. Located to the south of the southern segment of Trench 1 both walls are aligned northwest-southeast with surface [128] aligned in the same direction between them. Wall [127] was found at a height of 6.42m aOD and wall [129] was found at a height of 6.35m aOD. Both walls share characteristics as they were made of red brick measuring 220mm by 110mm by 70mm, were bonded with lime mortar, had an average width of 0.22m, and were laid on surface [128]. Surface [128] (Plate 5) was part of a brick channel together with walls [127;129] acting as a bed where these walls were laid. It was found at a height of 6.36m aOD aligned northwest to southeast.

7.23 Surfaces [130;131] (Plate 4) were the southernmost structural remains found in Trench 1. Surface [130] was composed of red brick measuring 221mm by 100mm by 72mm with no visible bonding material but using a stretcher bond pattern, and was found at a height of 6.47m aOD. Surface [130] and surface [126] may be mirrored surfaces to the north and south of the brick channel formed by [127;128;129]. Surface [131] was located immediately to the south of surface [130], but no clear relationship between these surfaces was found. Surface [131] was found at a height of 6.43m aOD and comprised of yellow gault brick bonded with thick mortar.

7.24 Deposits (102;113;114) were found in the southern segment of Trench 1, and these overlay the structural remains. These represent dumped and demolition material following the demolition of the gas works. Deposit (102), described above and noted in the northern segment of Trench 1, was spread across several features and surfaces in pockets in the north and south. Made ground (113) was composed of a yellow-brown charcoal mix with mid grey-brown silty clay located at a height of 6.26m-6.17m aOD. Made ground (114) comprised a dark black-grey silty clay with common gravel found at a height of 6.12m aOD. Deposit (114) covered surface [115] and made ground [113].

7.25 Deposit (124) was a dumped deposit of dark grey-brown gravel, silty clay and core waste found at a height of 6.24m aOD. It measured 0.52m long by 0.6m wide. This was truncated by cut of wall [118] to the northwest.

7.26 The cut of a footing trench [118] was recorded along northwestern edge of the trench. The footing trench [118] truncated several deposits of made ground and base layers used as support for the other structures in the trench suggesting a later phase of construction. The cut measured approximately 6.5m long and 0.40m wide, and contained wall [120] as well as a mid grey-brown silty clay deposit (119) used as packing for the wall. Wall [120] was identified at a height of 6.33m aOD. Built in yellow gault brick measuring 200mm by 110mm by 70mm bonded with lime mortar and a low row comprised of red bricks (Plate 3). This was the latest wall in the southern segment of Trench 1.




Plate 4: Overview of walls [127;129] and surfaces [128;130;131] looking northeast.

## Trench 2

*Table 2: Stratigraphic Sequence*

| Context No. | Thickness | Height of Deposit (aOD) | Description/Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 200 | 0.1m | 7.73m | Concrete hardstanding |
| 201 | 1.1-1.3m | 7.63m | Made ground deposit – mid yellow-brown clay with frequent brick fragments, plastic, cable and glass |
| 202 | >0.2m | 6.43m | Made ground deposit – mid yellow-brown clay silt, occasional brick rubble, plastic, glass and slate |

7.27 Trench 2 was located in the northern area of the Site, within an area of concrete hardstanding to the rear of Building A (Figures 9; Plate 5).

7.28 The natural substrate was not reached in Trench 2 due to the presence of buried services and a modern storage tank.

7.29 The earliest deposit identified within the trench was (202), a mid grey-brown silty clay identified in the base of the trench. It could not be fully tested due to the presence of buried services but seemed likely to represent a buried topsoil, possibly the original land surface prior to modern use and development of the Site. This deposit was overlain by deposit (201), a thick layer of made ground comprised principally of mid yellow-brown clay with frequent modern inclusions including brick fragments, plastic sheeting, plastic cable, and glass. The current land surface, concrete hardstanding (200), was laid directly onto made ground (201).



Plate 5: South facing section of Trench 2 with 2m scale

## Trench 3

*Table 3: Stratigraphic Sequence*

| Context No. | Thickness | Height of Deposit (aOD) | Description/Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 300 | 0.04m | 7.70m | Tarmac hardstanding |
| 301 | 0.06m | 7.66m | Base layer for (300) – mid yellow brown crushed stone |
| 302 | 0.2m | 7.60m | Made ground deposit – mid grey-black silty gravel with occasional brick rubble and plastic |
| 303 | 0.04m | 7.40m | Made ground deposit – mid brown-yellow sandy gravel with occasional brick rubble and plastic |
| 304 | 0.5m-0.55m | 7.36m | Made ground deposit – mid grey-black core waste |
| 305 | 0.2m | 6.76m | Contaminated soil. Made ground deposit – mid red-black clayey gravel |

7.30 Trench 3 was located in the central area of the Site, to the north of Trench 4 and to the south of Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 10; Plate 6)

7.31 The undelying natural geology was not reached in Trench 3 due to the presence of contaminated soil.

7.32 The lowest deposit, found at 6.76m aOD, was a contaminated made ground deposit of mid red-black clayey gravel (305) where the groundwater level was reached. Overlying it was a very firm mid grey-black core waste (304), measuring 0.5m-0.55m in thickness. A very thin (0.04m) made ground deposit of mid brown-yellow sandy gravel (303) was above this. In turn, this was overlain by deposit (302), measuring 0.2m thick, which was comprised of firm mid grey-black clayey gravel, very similar to (304). Deposit (301) was found overlaying deposit (302) and overlaid by tarmac hardstanding (300). It was a very thin (0.06m) firm mid yellow-brown crushed stone deposit used to support the current land surface.




Plate 6: South facing section of Trench 3 with 2m scale

## Trench 4

*Table 4: Stratigraphic Sequence*

| Context No. | Thickness | Height of Deposit (aOD) | Description/Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 400 | 0.13m | 7.51m | Tarmac hardstanding |
| 401 | 0.2m | 7.38m | Base layer for (400) – mid brown-yellow compact crushed stone |
| 402 | 0.85m-0.9m | 7.18m | Made ground deposit – dark black-grey core waste |
| 408 | - | 7.18m | Made ground deposit – dark black-grey core waste |
| 403 | 0.4m | 6.31m | Buried topsoil – mid grey-brown silty clay with common small-medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stones |
| 404 | 0.4m | 5.91m | Natural geology – dark yellow-brown gravel clay |

7.33 Trench 4 was located in the centre of the Site, to the south of Trench 3 and to the east of Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 11; Plate 7 and 8).

7.34 Due to the presence of contaminated soil the deposits and structures found in Trench 4 could not be examined in detail.

7.35 The natural geology in Trench 4 comprised a dark yellow-brown gravel clay (404), recorded at 5.91m aOD. Overlaying the natural was a buried topsoil comprising mid grey-brown silty clay (403) with common small-medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, measuring 0.4m thick. Above this buried topsoil a made ground deposit comprising dark black-grey core waste (402) with rare fragments of brick was found. It measured 0.85m-0.90m thick. Overlaying the core waste a base layer for the hardstanding measuring 0.2m thick composed of mid brown-yellow compact crushed stone (401) was found. The current land surface, tarmac hardstanding (400), was laid directly onto base layer (401) at 7.51m aOD.



Plate 7: Trench 4 overview looking north with 2m scale and 1m vertical scale

7.36 At the northeastern edge of Trench 4 walls [405] and [406] (Plate 9), and associated deposits were found. Wall [405] was aligned northwest to southeast.

7.37 Heavily truncated in the centre, wall [405] was found at its highest point at 6.95m aOD and at its lowest point at 6.09m aOD. It was mounted on concrete pad [409]. It was built of 102mm by 215mm by 70mm yellow gault brick and measured 0.23m wide by 0.8m high. Grey mortar was used as bonding material. Wall [406] was found 0.2m to the northeast of wall [405].

7.38 Wall [406] was aligned northeast-southwest, cornering at the south turning into a northwest-southeast alignment. It was found at 6.7m aOD, was mostly composed of 110mm by 220mm by 72mm red brick and was partially truncated. English bond was used as a pattern for the bricks. To the northwest of wall [406], a very similar deposit to made ground (402) was found within the space enclosed by wall [406] comprised of dark black-grey core waste (408), likely being the same event as (402). As seen on the 1886 OS map and 1926 OS map (Figures 3-6) wall [405] matches with a bund wall aligned northwest to southeast that divides the fields to the southeast of Site, and wall [406] matches with a wall aligned northeast to southwest that divides the fields from the northwest and southeast of Site. If

the walls found in Trench 4 are the ones depicted in the OS maps, wall [406] was heavily truncated as it was not found to the southwest of wall [405], which, is highly likely seen how heavily and partially truncated both walls were.

7.39 Separating both walls a dark grey-brown deposit (407) was found, likely formed by material accumulation over time. The walls were found to be overlaid by core waste (402).

7.40 The area was sealed by hard standing (400) and the associated base layer (401).



Plate 8: Trench 4 Walls [405] and [406] looking northeast

## Trench 5

*Table 5: Stratigraphic Sequence*

| Context No. | Thickness | Height of Deposit (aOD) | Description/Interpretation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 500 | 0.20m | 7.75m | Topsoil |
| 501 | 0.32m | 7.55m | Alluvial deposit |
| 502 | 0.25m | 7.23m | Alluvial deposit |
| 503 | 0.20m | 7.03m | Natural geology – mid grey-yellow gravely clay |

7.41 Trench 5 was located in the southeastern area of Site (Figures 2 and 12; Plate 9).

7.42 The natural geology was identified at a height of 7.03m aOD. It comprised a mid grey-yellow gravely clay (503). Overlaying it an alluvial deposit comprised of dark yellow-brown silty clay with occasional

small and medium sub-rounded stones (502) measuring 0.25m thick was found, which in turn was overlain by another alluvial deposit composed by mid yellow-brown silty clay with moderate root disturbance (501). Alluvial deposits (501;502) are related with flooding of the River Great Ouse prior to the construction of flood defences in the second half of the twentieth century.

7.43 The land surface was comprised of a mid grey-brown silty clay topsoil (500) at a height of 7.75m aOD.



Plate 9: Representative section Trench 5 facing northeast

## 8. Finds

Due to the contaminated nature of the soil and the finding of contaminated materials no finds were retrieved from Site.

## 9 Conclusions

9.1 The evaluation successfully identified structural remains associated with a 19th century St Ives Gas Works within two trenches (Trenches 1 and 4). Clear correlation was evident between the structures uncovered during the evaluation and the St Ives Gas Works structures on the 1886 and 1926 OS maps. Of particular note, is the survival of the structural remains of the T-shaped structure thought to be the Retort and Purifier houses. Evidence for this structure was found in the southern segment of Trench 1, which was built prior to the 1886 OS map and demolished by the time of the 1926 OS map.

9.2 Two stratigraphically earlier gullies were also recorded in Trench 1, although these did not contain any dateable evidence.

9.3 Trench 3, which targeted the location of a 19th century gasholder, did not identify any structural remains, with only a sequence of contaminated deposits identified although these are likely associated with waste from the gas works.

9.4 No significant archaeological remains were recorded in the two remaining trenches (Trenches 2 and 5).

9.5 This archaeological evaluation realised the aims and objectives of the project thus allowing the following aims to be addressed:

**To determine the nature, date and extent of any archaeological activity or evidence.**

9.6 Evidence of the 19th century St Ives Gas Works was present in Trench 1 and 4. Trench 1 yielded a high concentration of structural remains as shown in the 1886 and 1926 OS maps. Trench 3 was positioned across the location of a gas holder shown on both OS maps, and although no structural remains were encountered the heavily contaminated material identified is indicative of waste associated with the gasworks. Trench 4 yielded evidence of the junction between the northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest area boundary walls, matching the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, although these remains were heavily truncated.

**To characterize deposits and their contents within negative features.**

9.7 Two negative features were found during the evaluation, both of them in the northern segment of Trench 1. Gully [106] contained a friable dark yellow-brown silty clay (107). Immediately to the south of gully [106] a gully terminus [111] and its deposit (112) were located. No samples could be taken due to the presence of contaminated material in the trench, however, the sterile fills suggest natural infilling over time and the features are assumed at this stage to be the remains of agricultural activity prior to the installation of the gas works in the 19th century.

**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.**

9.8 The evaluation confirmed the survival of the T-shaped possible Retort and Purifier houses fronting London Road shown on the 1886 map, the adjacent building to the north shown on both the 1886 and 1926 maps, and a possible boundary wall between Arona Villa and the gas works compound. Although no structural remains for the gas holder were present in Trench 3, the presence of contaminated soil is highly likely to be related to the infilling of the gas holder and demolition of the gas works.

**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.**

9.9 Trench 5 contained a stratigraphy of topsoil, alluvial and the underlying superficial geological deposits, with no evidence for previous demolition of post-medieval or modern structures. A buried topsoil was noted within Trench 2 and the gullies recorded in Trench 1 indicative the potential for remains of post-medieval agricultural activity to survive. Trenches 1 and 4 showed good survival of post-medieval archaeological remains, despite demolition and modern disturbance. Made ground and demolition deposits were widespread across northern part of the site, testifying to the construction, use and

demolition of the St Ives Gas Works, and the subsequent construction of modern buildings and surface.

## 10 Publication

10.1 Copies of the evaluation report will be issued to Lochailort St Ives Ltd and CHET. Lochailort St Ives Ltd holds copyright of the evaluation report, and any copies of the report, documentation and images will not be distributed without prior consent of Lochailort St Ives Ltd.

10.2 After a period of time, a copy of the evaluation report will be issued to the local studies library, on the understanding that it will become a public document. A digital copy of the report will also be submitted to the Historic Environment Record and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). A summary of the findings will be submitted to the ADS (Appendix B – OASIS Form).

10.3 Following consideration of the evaluation results by CHET, further publication of the results may be required. In addition, if further stages of archaeological fieldwork are required, publication may be deferred until such time as the project works are substantially complete. The format of any publication shall be commensurate with the importance of the results and be agreed in advance with CHET and Lochailort St Ives Ltd.

10.4 The site archive will comprise all artefacts, written, drawn, and photographic 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 course of information for future research, included in museum exhibits and teaching collections. There Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) recommend that finds are publicly accessible and that landowners donate archaeological finds to a local museum.

10.5 Following completion of the full extent of the fieldwork, the site archive will be prepared in the format according to CHET guidelines (CHET 2020) and deposited with Cambridgeshire Archaeological Archives.

10.6 Landowner consent will be required to allow transfer of the finds to the museum. 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 can be provided to the Landowner on request.

10.7 The site archive will be deposited on the completion of the project. It will then become publicly accessible.

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Figure 1: Site location plan

01/80084/REP/01/01




Figure 2: Trench location plan

01/80084/REP/02/01

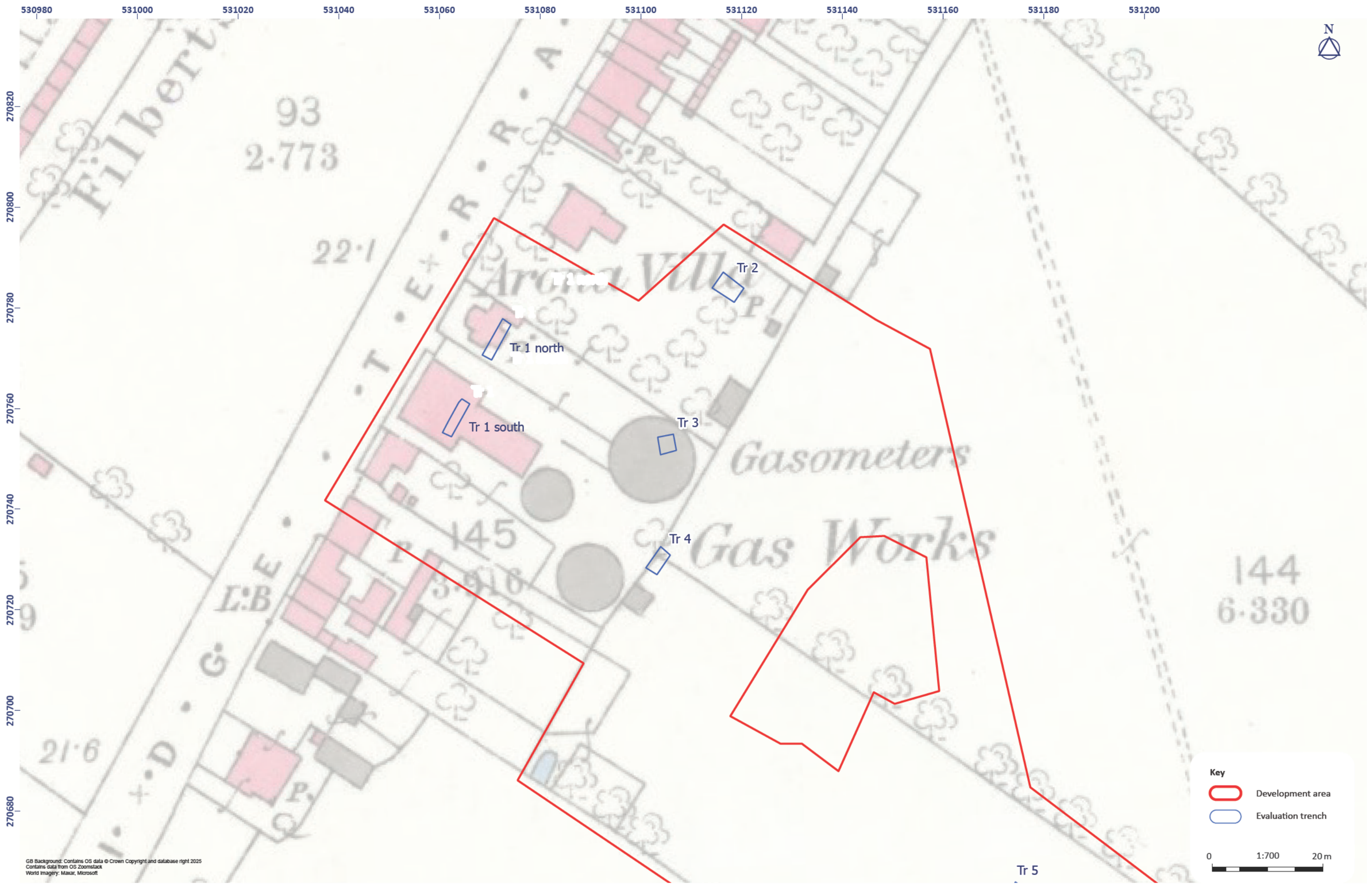


Figure 3: Excavated trenches on OS map 1886



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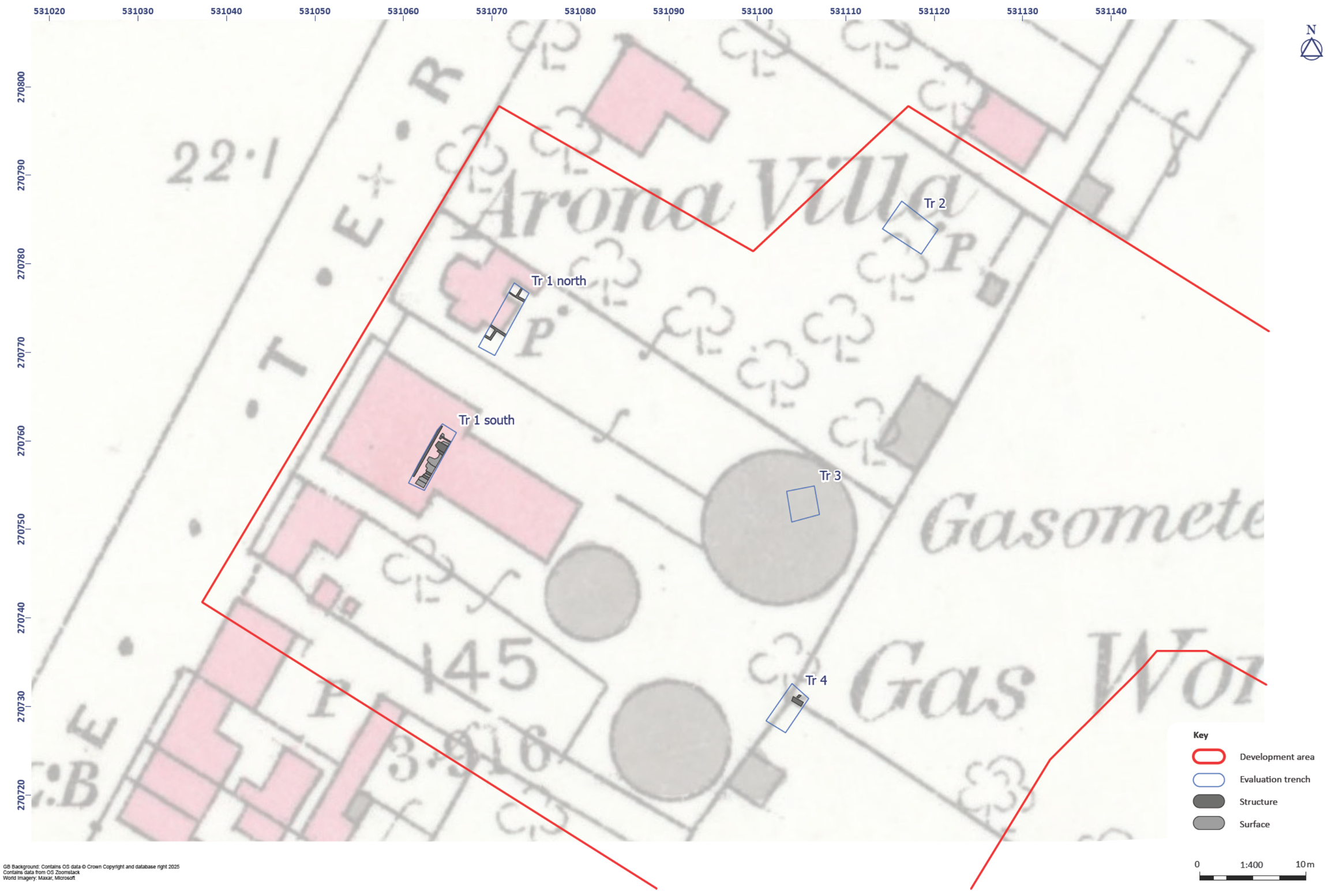


Figure 4: Excavated structures on OS map 1886



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Figure 5: Excavated trenches on OS map 1926



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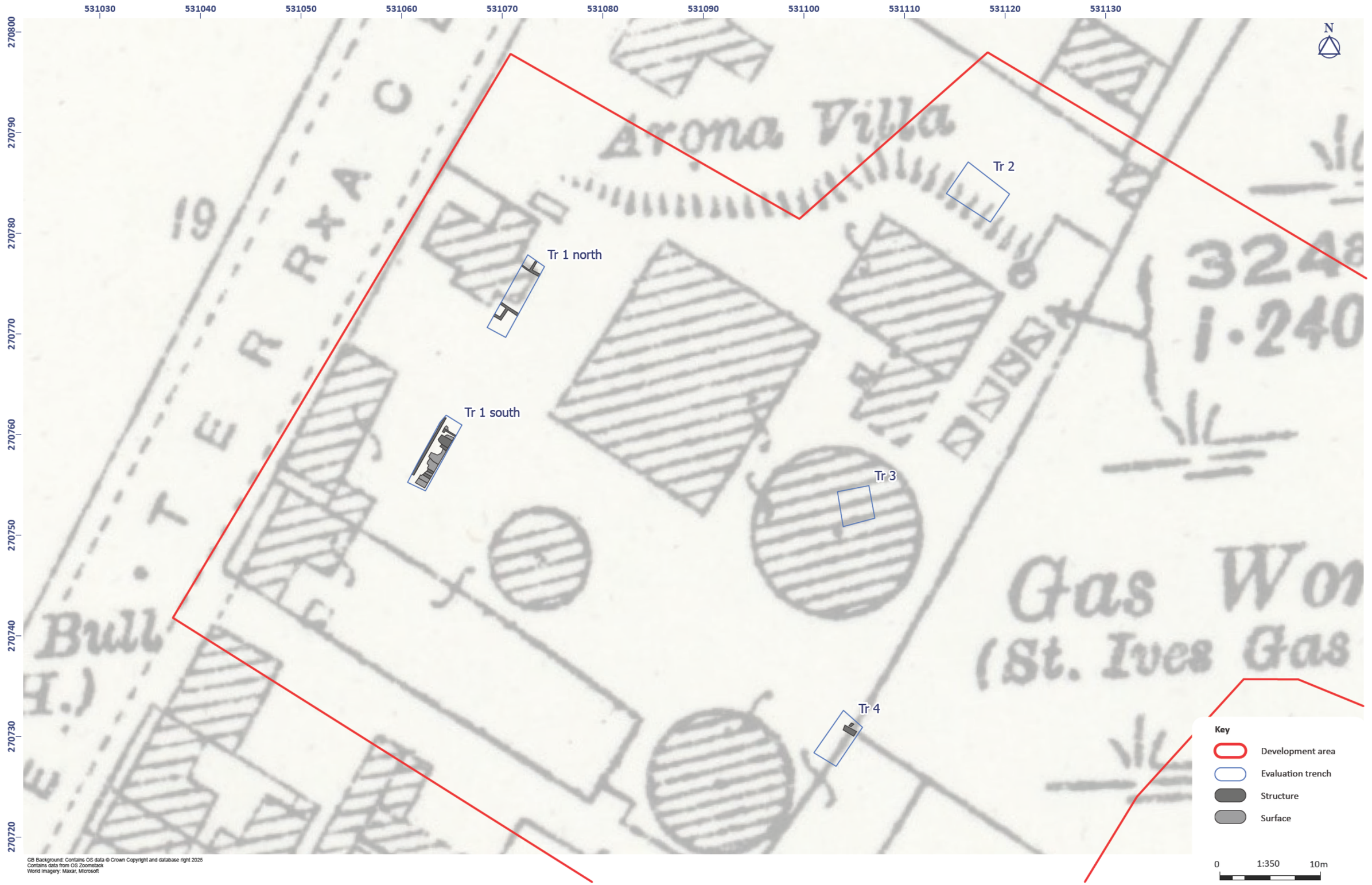


Figure 6: Excavated structures on OS map 1926



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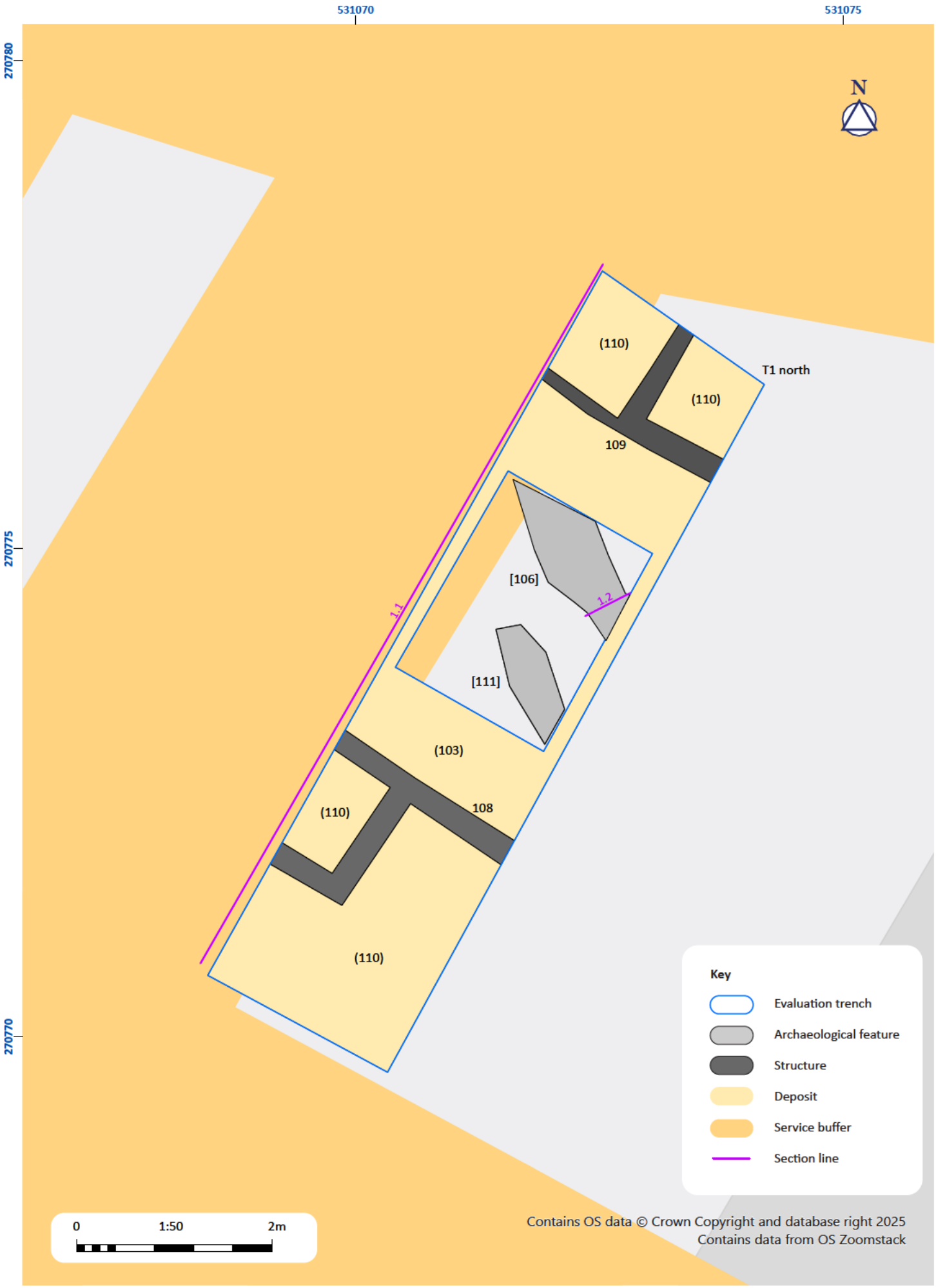



Figure 7: Trench 1 North overview

01/80084/REP/07/01

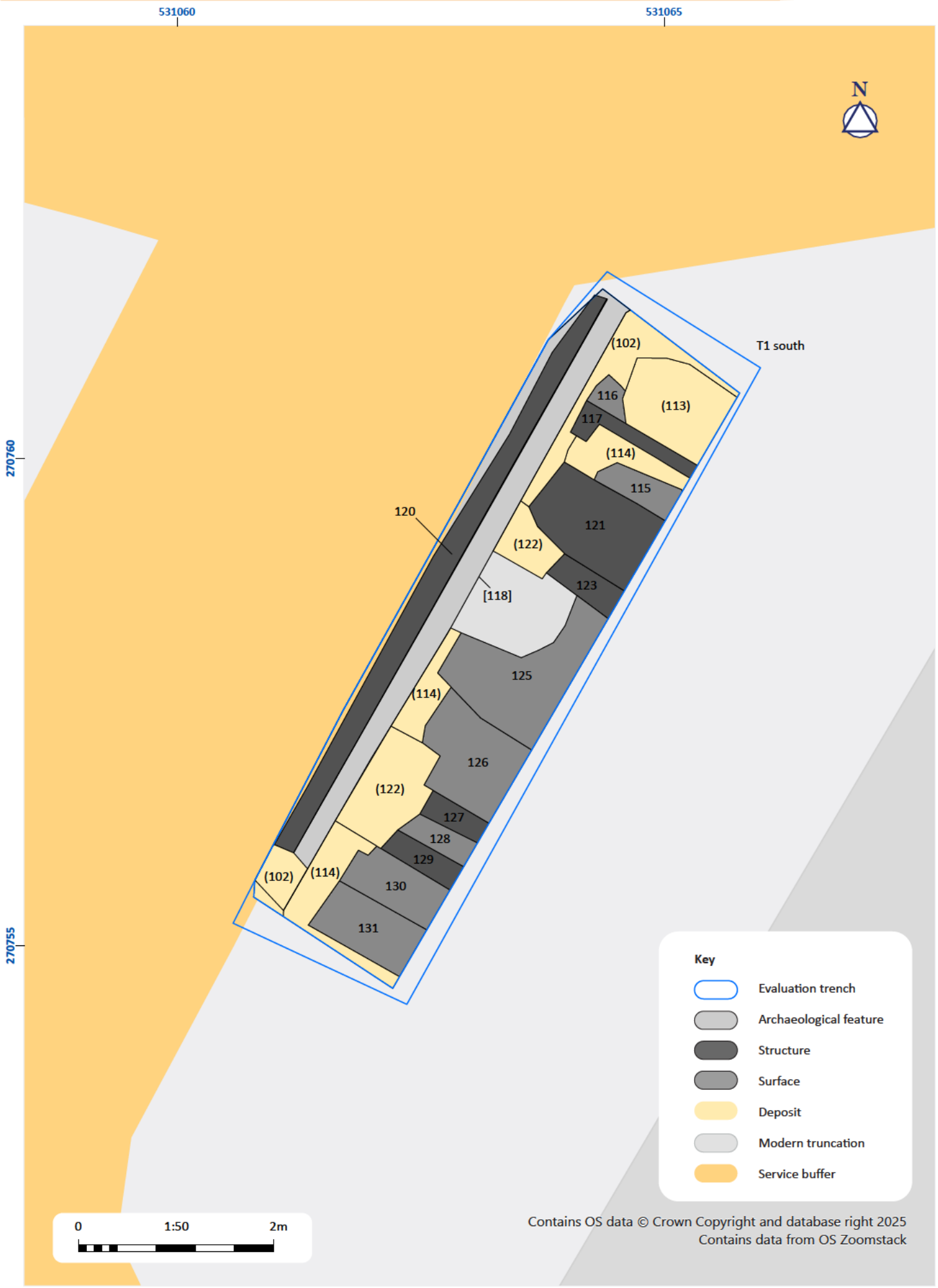



Figure 8: Trench 1 south overview

01/80084/REP/08/01

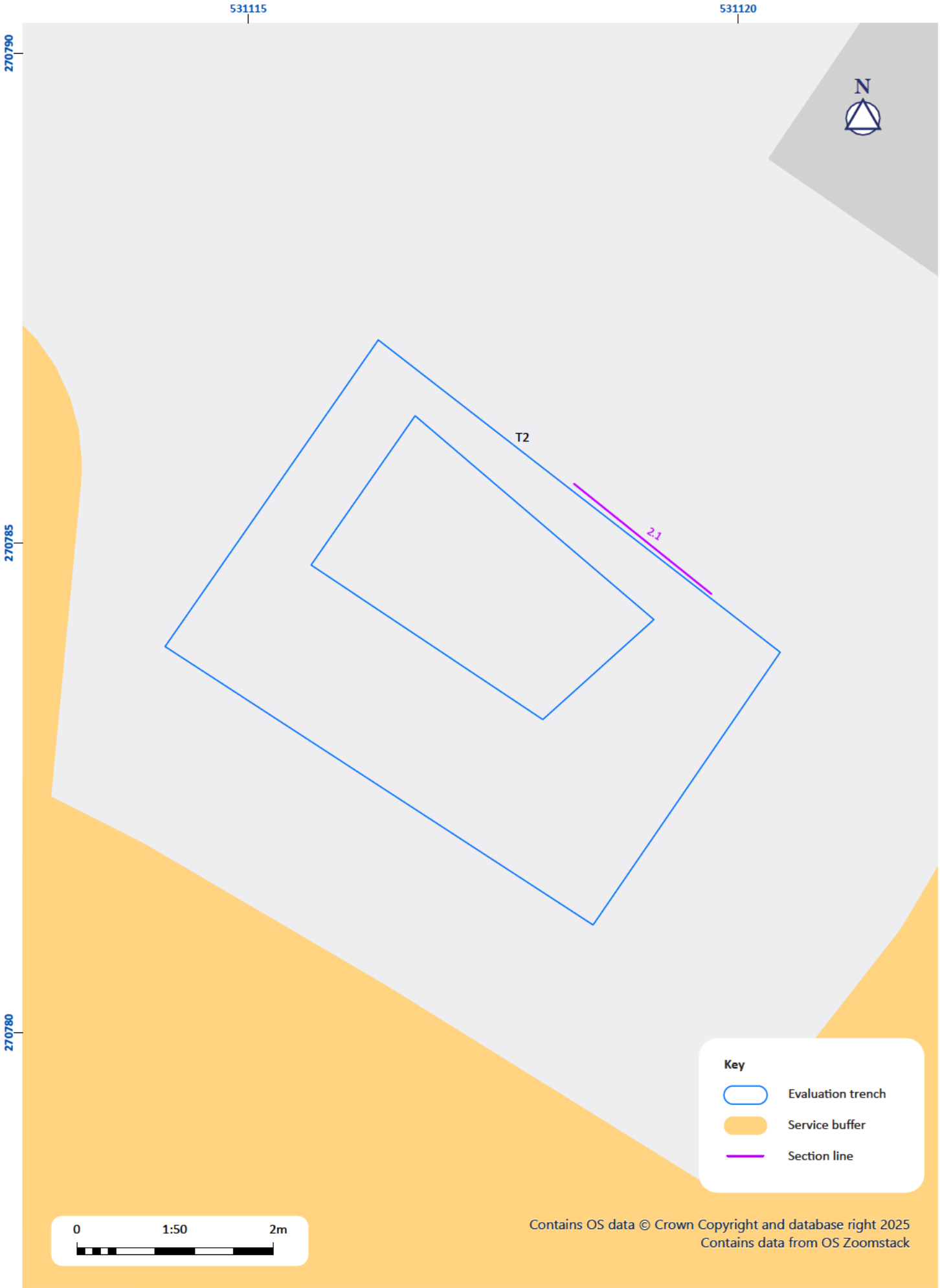



Figure 9: Trench 2 overview

01/80084/REP/09/01

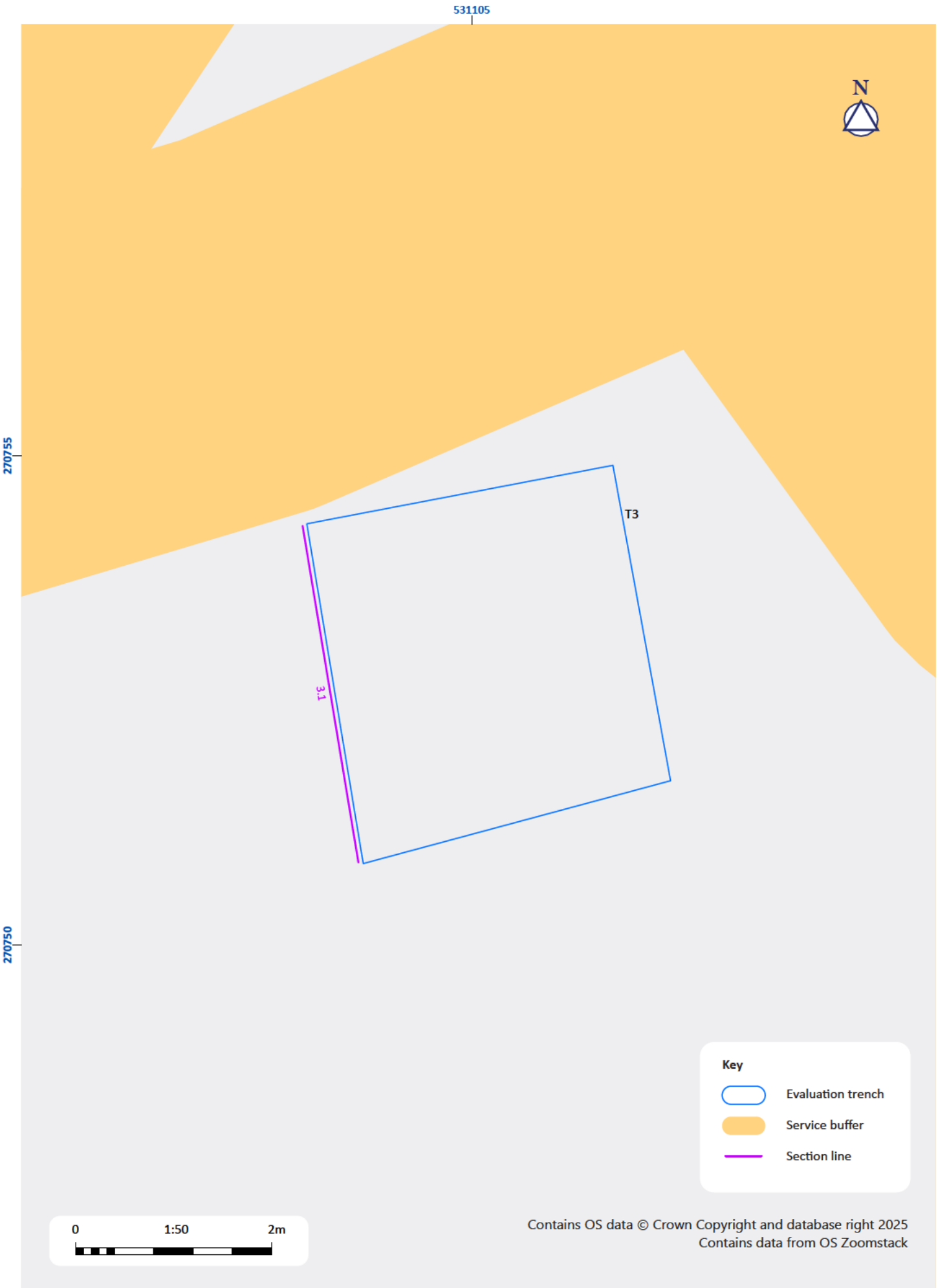



Figure 10: Trench 3 overview

01/80084/REP/10/01

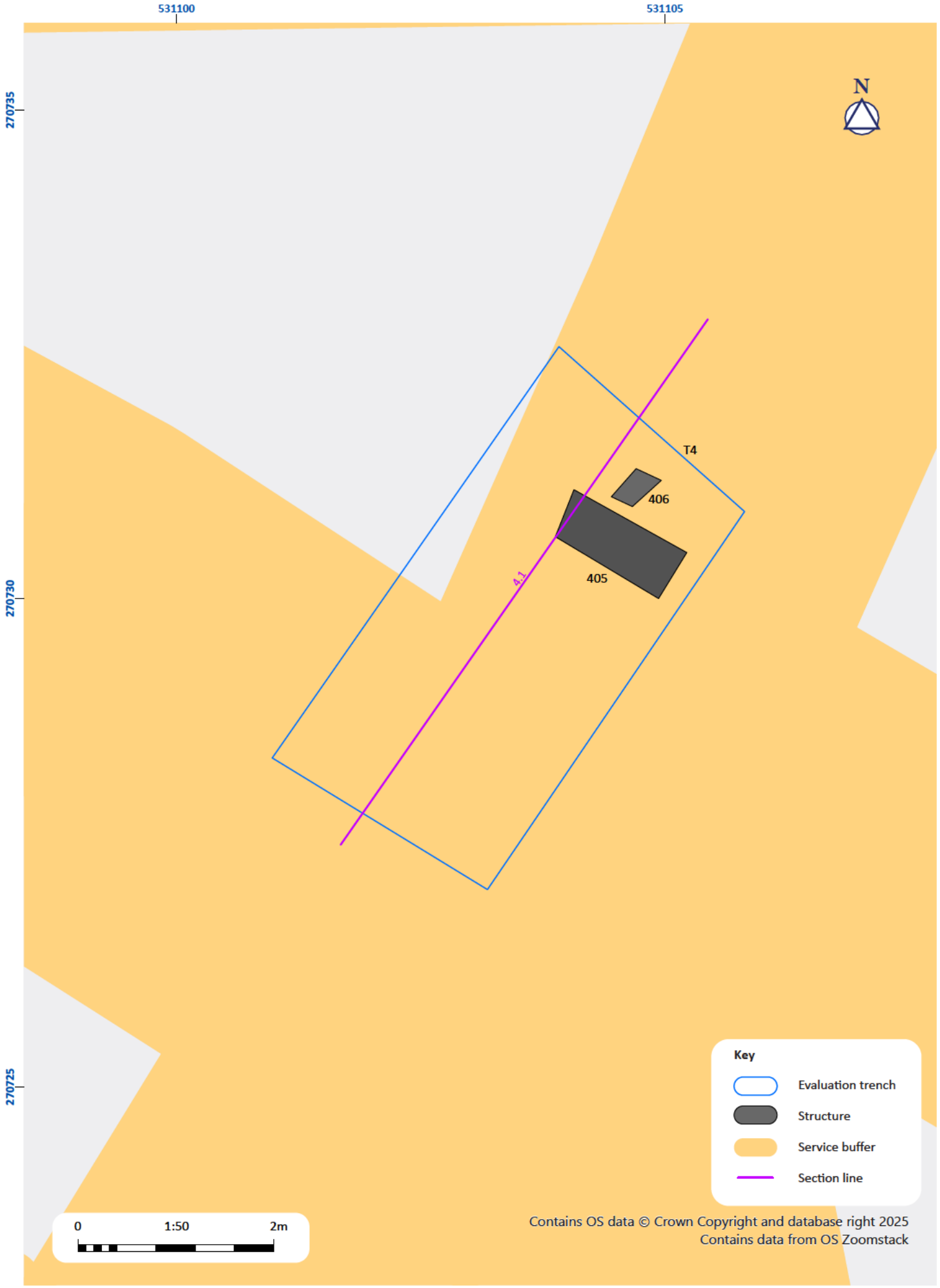



Figure 11: Trench 4 overview

01/80084/REP/11/01

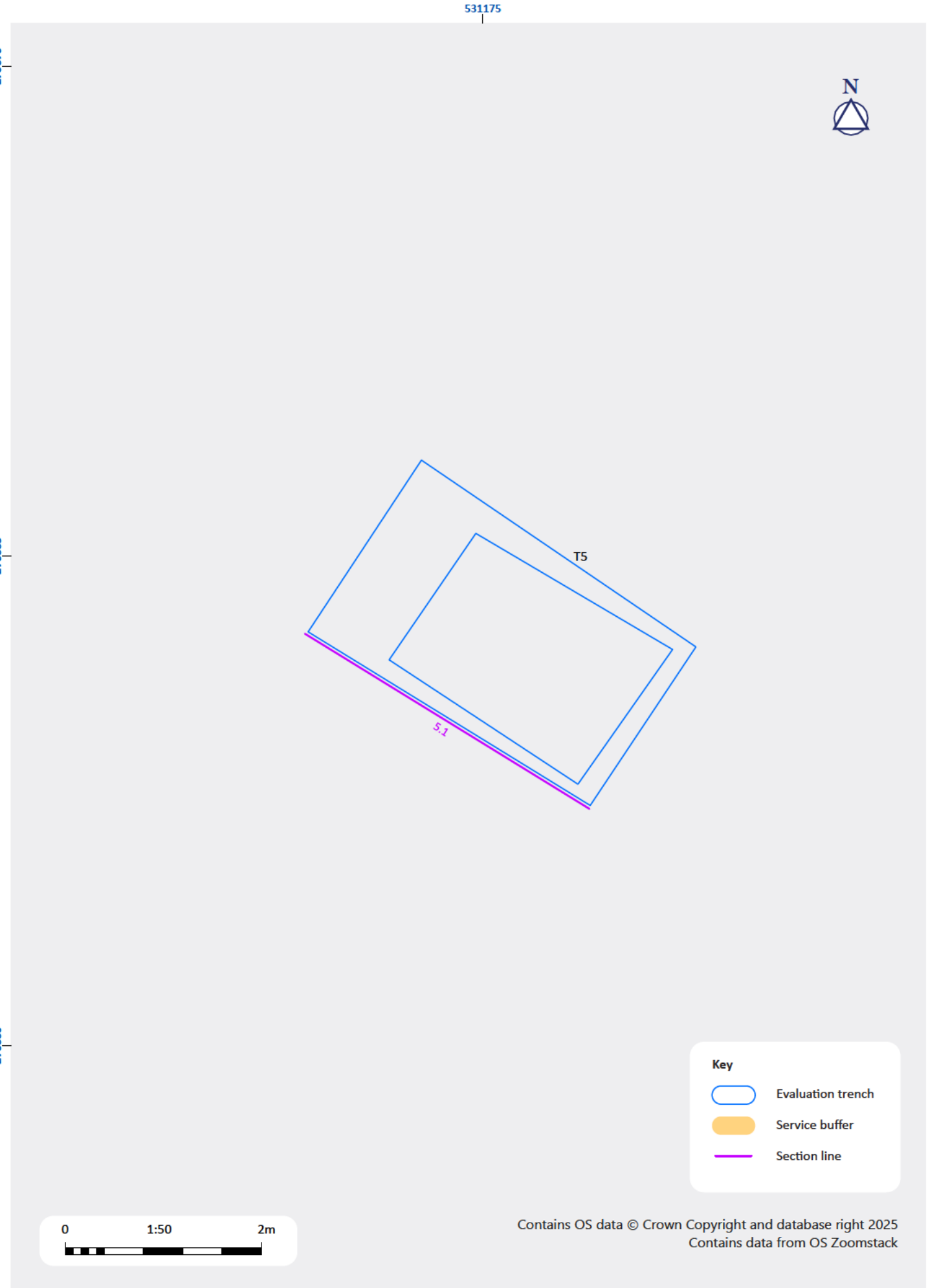



Figure 12: Trench 5 overview

01/80084/REP/12/01

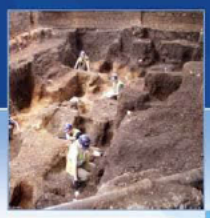
# Appendix A – Context Inventory

| ECB 7033 | | Site Name: | Murketts Garage 80084 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Context** | **Trench Number** | **Cut no.** | **Description** | **Depth (m)** | **Length (m)** | **Width (m)** | **Height of Deposit (aOD)** |
| 100 | 1 | | Concrete hardstanding | 0.11 | | | 6.65m |
| 101 | 1 | | Base layer for concrete | 0.14 | | | 6.54m |
| 102 | 1 | | Made ground | 0.24 | | | 6.40m |
| 103 | 1 | | Hard-pack sub-surface | 0.18 | 3.2 | 1.8 | 6.16m |
| 104 | 1 | | Alluvial | 0.7 | 2.6 | 1.8 | 5.98m |
| 105 | 1 | | Natural | | | | 5.28m |
| 106 | 1 | 106 | Gully [106] | 0.16 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 5.22m |
| 107 | 1 | 106 | F/O Gully [106] | 0.16 | 1.8 | 0.6 | 5.22m |
| 108 | 1 | | Wall [108] | | 1.8 | | 6.19m |
| 109 | 1 | | Wall [109] | | 1.8 | | 6.25m |
| 110 | 1 | | Hard-pack sub-surface – Same as (103) | | 1.8 | | 6.13m |
| 111 | 1 | 111 | Gully [111] | | 1.2 | | 5.20m |
| 112 | 1 | 111 | F/O Gully [111] | | 1.2 | | 5.20m |
| 113 | 1 | | Made ground deposit – light yellow-brown crushed stone | 0.05 | 1.15 | 0.5 | 6.17m |
| 114 | 1 | | Made ground deposit – dark black-grey silty clay with common gravel | | 1.8 | | 6.12m |
| 115 | 1 | | Surface [115] – interior floor | | 0.2 | 0.22 | 6.09m |
| 116 | 1 | | Surface [116] – interior floor | | 0.55 | 0.26 | 6.14m |
| 117 | 1 | | Internal wall [117] | | 1.15 | 0.11 | 6.15m |
| 118 | 1 | | Cut of footing trench for wall [120] | | 0.5 | 0.21 | 6.20m |
| 119 | 1 | | Backfill of footing trench [118] | | 0.5 | 0.21 | 6.20m |
| 120 | 1 | | Wall [120] | | 5 | 0.28 | 6.33m |
| 121 | 1 | | Wall [121] | | 1.4 | 0.56 | 6.23m |
| 122 | 1 | | Hard-pack sub-surface– dark red-brown core waste | | 3 | 0.4 | 6.24m |
| 123 | 1 | | Wall [123] | | 0.85 | 0.3 | 6.34m |
| 124 | 1 | | Dump deposit – dark grey-brown gravel, silty clay and core waste | | 0.52 | 0.6 | 6.33m |
| 125 | 1 | | Internal floor surface [125] | | 1.5 | 1.2 | 6.40m |
| 126 | 1 | | Surface [126] | | 0.9 | 0.5 | 6.40m |
| 127 | 1 | | Wall [127] | | 0.7 | 0.22 | 6.42m |
| 128 | 1 | | Surface [128] | | 0.62 | 0.33 | 6.36m |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 129 | 1 | | Wall [129] | | 0.81 | 0.22 | 6.35m |
| 130 | 1 | | Wall [130] | | | | 6.47m |
| 131 | 1 | | Internal floor surface [131] | | | | 6.43m |
| 200 | 2 | | Hardstanding | 0.1 | | | 7.73m |
| 201 | 2 | | Made ground | 1.1 | | | 7.63m |
| 202 | 2 | | Buried topsoil | | 2 | 2.3 | 6.43m |
| 300 | 3 | | Tarmac Hardstanding | 0.04 | | | 7.70m |
| 301 | 3 | | Made ground | 0.06 | | | 7.66m |
| 302 | 3 | | Made ground | 0.2 | | | 7.60m |
| 303 | 3 | | Made ground | 0.04 | | | 7.40m |
| 304 | 3 | | Made ground | 0.5 | | | 7.36m |
| 305 | 3 | | Made ground/contaminated soil | 0.2 | | | 6.76m |
| 400 | 4 | | Tarmac Hardstanding | 0.13 | | | 7.51m |
| 401 | 4 | | Base layer | 0.2 | | | 7.38m |
| 402 | 4 | | Made ground | | | | 7.18m |
| 403 | 4 | | Buried topsoil | 0.4 | | | 6.31m |
| 404 | 4 | | Natural | 0.4 | | | 5.91m |
| 405 | 4 | | Wall | | 1 | 0.23 | 6.95m |
| 406 | 4 | | Wall | | | | 6.7m |
| 407 | 4 | | Deposit between walls | 0.8 | 0.1 | | 6.88m |
| 408 | 4 | | Made ground | 0.5 | | 0.6 | 7.18m |
| 409 | 4 | | Concrete foundation | | 0.6 | 0.25 | 6.01m |
| 500 | 5 | | Topsoil | 0.2 | 2 | 1.8 | 7.75m |
| 501 | 5 | | Alluvial | 0.32 | 2 | 1.8 | 7.55m |
| 502 | 5 | | Alluvial | 0.25 | 2 | 1.8 | 7.23m |
| 503 | 5 | | Natural | 0.2 | 2 | 1.8 | 7.03m |

# Appendix B – OASIS Report

| | |
|---|---|
| **OASIS ID (UID)** | aocarcha1-511350 |
| **Project Name** | Murketts Garage, London Road, St Ives: An Archaeological Evaluation |
| **Sitename** | Murketts Garage, London Road, St Ives |
| **Sitecode** | ECB 7033 |
| **Project Identifier(s)** | 80084 |
| **Activity type** | Evaluation |
| **Planning Id** | 18/02726/FUL |
| **Reason For Investigation** | Planning: Post determination |
| **Organisation Responsible for work** | AOC Archaeology Group |
| **Project Dates** | 19-Feb-2025 - 26-Feb-2025 |
| **Location** | **Murketts Garage, London Road, St Ives**<br>NGR: TL 31110 70744<br>LL: 52.3191474132209, -0.077862185637219<br>12 Fig: 531110,270744 |
| **Administrative Areas** | Country: England<br>County/Local Authority: Cambridgeshire<br>Local Authority District: Huntingdonshire<br>Parish: St. Ives |
| **Project Methodology** | A total of five trenches were excavated across the site in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation for the project. |
| **Project Results** | The evaluation identified structural remains likely associated with the former gasworks at the site. In addition, two undated linear features were recorded. In the southern area of the site the trial trenching uncovered alluvial deposits associated with flooding of the River Great Ouse prior to the construction of flood defences in the second half of the twentieth century. |
| **Keywords** | Coal Gas Structure - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types |
| **Funder** | Private or public corporation a |
| **HER** | Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record - unRev - STANDARD |
| **Person Responsible for work** | [redacted] |
| **HER Identifiers** | HER Event No - ECB 7033 |
| **Archives** | Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Council County Archaeological Store; |











AOC Archaeology Group

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

[redacted]