

Land north of
Cathedral View,
Turf Fen Lane,
Doddington,
Cambridgeshire



Archaeological
Evaluation Report



September 2016

Client: Mr and Mrs Glowacki

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Land north of Cathedral View, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East undertook a three trench evaluation on 23rd August 2016 at land north of Cathedral View, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington, Cambridgeshire (TL 3990 9003). No archaeological features or deposits were found.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Brand Associates for commissioning this project on behalf of Mr and Mrs Glowacki. Thanks are also extended to Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Matt Brudenell. The fieldwork was directed by Anthony Haskins. Survey and digitizing was carried out by David Brown and Charlotte Walton. The archive was prepared under the management of Katherine Hamilton.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Brand Associates, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Glowacki, to undertake a field evaluation by trial trenching on land proposed for the erection of four dwellings.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. F/YR15/0779/O), in accordance with a Brief issued by Gemma Stewart of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET: Stewart 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by OA (Brudenell 2016). This document outlines how OA implemented the Local Planning Authority's requirements in line with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the east of Turf Lane, Doddington, Cambridgeshire, on the southern side of the village (TL 3990 9003; Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of a grassed field that has previously been used for pasture and agriculture. The field is relatively flat with drainage ditches located along the boundaries. The western boundary is formed by Turf Lane.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as West Walton formation and Ampthill Clay formation with no recorded superficial deposits (BSG). The site lies at approximately 2-4m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

1.3.1 Although the March Island has significant prehistoric remains, in common with many counterparts in the peat fen, relatively few are known from Doddington parish. Those that are recorded include Neolithic finds to the north-west of the development site (HER 08671), a Bronze Age beaker found at How Moor just south of Primrose Hill (HER 03748), approximately 0.5km west of the site, and finds of Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery recovered c. 1km to the north (MCB20540; MCB20333). Cropmarks of two probable Bronze Age ring ditches have been recorded 1.5km north-east of the site (MCCB19680), whilst Bronze Age funerary activity was also recorded in this area, with pits containing possible pyre debris found during evaluation (MCB17563). Immediately east of the site, a socketed axe head was also recovered from Stitches Farm (HER 08261).

Romano-British

1.3.2 Only a small number of finds and features in the area have been dated to the Roman period. A few sherds of Roman pottery (mainly grey wares) were found 1.7km west of the site (HER 10888), whilst a series of Roman ditches were recorded during an evaluation at Wimblington Road, c. 1km north-east of the site (MCB20333). A coin hoard was also recovered to the north-east, including coins of Vespasian to Antoninus Pius (|HER 05910). Just over 1km to the north of the site, four coins were recovered; one of Decentius and Constans, one of

Magnentius, and two which were illegible. A gold coin of Theodosius was also uncovered alongside fragments of Roman pottery (HER 05896).

Saxon and medieval

1.3.3 Doddington is a fen-edge village of Saxon origin, and was the main settlement on March Island until the 18th century. The western part of Doddington has extensive cultivation evidence comprising ploughed out ridge and furrow belonging to the medieval open field system (e.g. HER 09674; 13006; 09676). This system was associated with a deserted area of the village, the remains of which have proven elusive in many local development areas, although a large medieval ditch was found with associated smaller features to the south of Benwick Road (MCB19304). Ridge and furrow has also been recorded to the north-east of the site (CB14519).

1.3.4 St Mary's church is located in the village centre to the north of the site. The earliest phasing of the church is dated to the 13th century, with evidence for major reconstruction in the 14th century and further additions in the 15th and 19th centuries (MCB 17088).

1.3.5 A number of post-medieval finds and features have been located north of the site, around the core of the village. An evaluation at Ingles Lane uncovered features believed to be associated with former ancillary buildings of Ingles House (ECB 900). A number of post-medieval houses in Doddington have been listed, including the Doddington Hall Coach House (DCB 1606).

1.3.6 Archaeological works at Askham house revealed a single undated posthole (ECB 3088), whilst an evaluation on land at 50 Benwick Road identified a gully tentatively dated to the medieval period (ECB 3491).

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines.

2.2.2 All work will be conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists':

- Code of Conduct
- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations

2.2.3 Additional guidelines, specific to the region, which we also adhere to are:

- Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14)

2.2.4 Fieldwork will also be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the OA Field Manual (ed. D Wilkinson 1992), and the revised OA fieldwork manual (publication forthcoming). Further guidance is provided to all excavators in the form of the OA Fieldwork Crib Sheets – a companion guide to the Fieldwork Manual. These have been issued ahead of formal publication of the revised Fieldwork Manual.

Background research

2.2.5 Data from the County Historic Environment Record (HER) has been obtained and read in preparation of this document, with the relevant results briefly summarised in Section 1.3 above.

Trial Trenching

2.2.6 Three trenches were excavated at the site (Fig. 2), totalling 70m of linear trenching (a 5% sample). These comprised 1x30m long trench, 1x25m long trench, and 1x15m long trench.

2.2.7 All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the depth of geological horizons. Excavation was carried out using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.8 All machine excavation took place under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

Environmental sampling

2.2.9 No environmental sampling was carried out as no archaeological features were found during the works. Bucket sampling for artefacts was carried out but did not produce any finds, beyond modern CBM from hardcore layer (2).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below. The full details of the trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence across all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of a mid reddish-grey clay was overlain by topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 No archaeological features were present.

3.4 Excavated Trenches

3.4.1 The trenches were between 0.32m and 0.66m deep. Trench 1, which lies parallel to Turf Lane, was 0.66m deep (Plate 1). The natural geology was overlain by a 0.21m thick buried topsoil, which in turn was overlain by a 0.3m thick layer of hardcore and modern building rubble including frogged bricks from Whittlesey (not retained). The hardcore layer was then sealed by a thin modern topsoil, measuring 0.15m thick.

3.4.2 Trenches 2 and 3 were largely undisturbed and measured 0.32m deep (Plates 2 and 3).

3.5 Finds summary

3.5.1 Several modern frogged bricks and Cambridgeshire yellow unfrogged bricks were identified within the hardcore layer in trench 1. These were not retained.

3.5.2 Although undertaken, bucket sampling of the topsoil as outlined in the brief did not produce any artefacts.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 No archaeological features were present within any of the trenches. The local geology was slightly over machined to confirm the lack of features. Where present the cuts for modern field drains were clearly visible.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation had two aims: -

4.2.2 To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present and to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence. No archaeological features were present.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The location of the evaluation on the southern edge of Doddington did not produce any archaeological remains. It is likely that the area under investigation was outside any area of occupation, which would have been primarily located on the bank of March Gravel that Doddington is built on.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 No significant archaeological remains were uncovered.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1		
General description Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and a modern layer of rubble and hardcore, which sealed a layer of buried topsoil overlying natural geology of clay.	Orientation	N-S
	Length (m)	15
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.66

Contexts

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-		Hardcore layer	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Buried topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2		
General description Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay	Orientation	NE-SW
	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.32

Contexts

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3		
General description Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of clay	Orientation	NW-SE
	Length (m)	25
	Width (m)	1.8
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35

Contexts

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Brundenell, M., 2016, *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological evaluation: Land North of Cathedral View, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington*. Unpublished

Stewart, G., 2016, *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation: Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team: Site: Land North of Cathedral View Turf, Fen Lane, Doddington* Unpublished

APPENDIX C OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar2-260958		
Project Name	Land north of Cathedral View, Turf Fen Lane, Doddington, Cambridgeshire		
Start of Fieldwork	23/8/2016	End of Fieldwork	23/8/2016
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	DODTFL16	Planning App. Number	F/YR15/0779/O
HER Number	ECB 4795	Related Numbers	
Prompt	Planning condition		
Development Type	New Residential Development		
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded		

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
None	Choose an item.	None	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Land North of Cathedral View Turf, Fen Lane, Doddington PE15 0SN
District	Fenland	
Parish	Doddington	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	0.28 ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 3990 9003	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Gemma Stewart
Project Design Originator	Matt Brudenell
Project Manager	Matt Brudenell
Project Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB 4795
Digital Archive	OA East	DODTFL16
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 4795

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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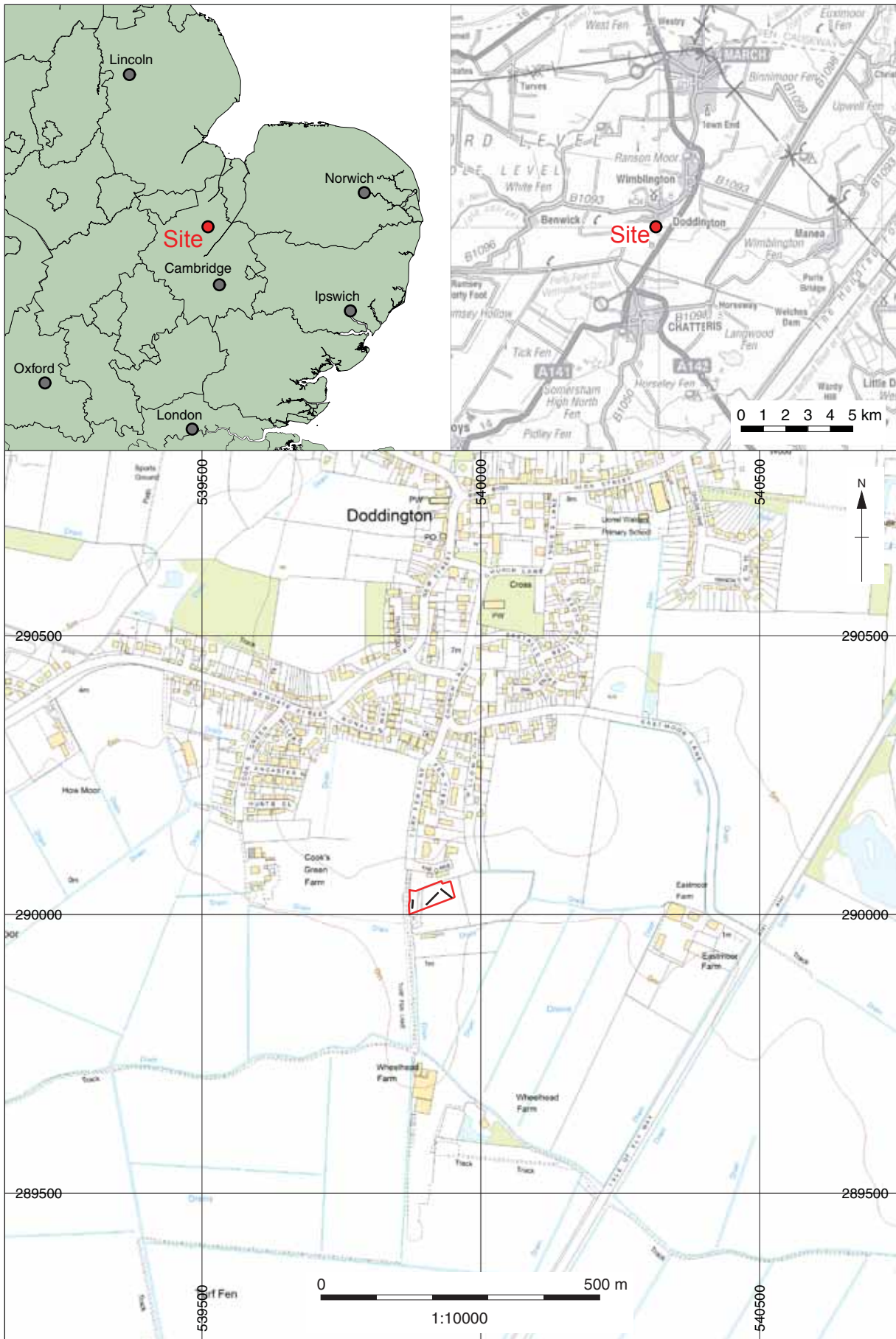
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Paper Media

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Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

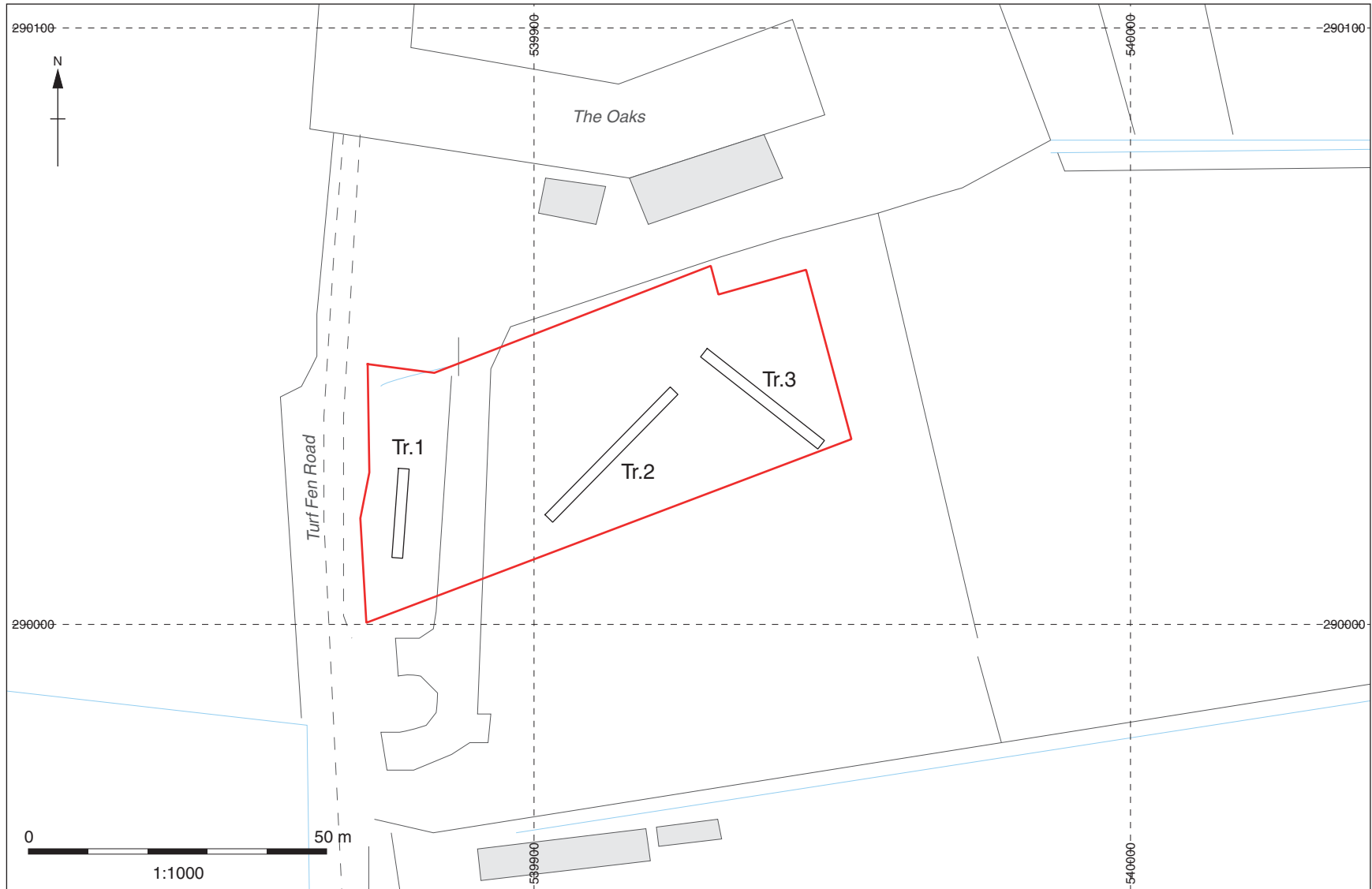


Figure 2: Trench location plan

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Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-east



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking north-west



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