

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON  
LAND NORTH OF  
LONDON ROAD  
KIRTON  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Planning Application No: B/19/0040  
Grid Ref: TF 3014 3822  
Accession No: LCNCC:2019.32**



**PREPARED FOR**



**FEBRUARY 2019**

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## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land to the north of London Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The area is archaeologically sensitive, lying close to the presumed site of a medieval market area which continued in use until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Previous geophysical survey of the site recorded magnetic anomalies considered to have been caused by modern disturbance and agriculture, although linear and curvilinear anomalies were located.*
- 1.3 *A programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching is required at the site. Should the trenching indicate that archaeological deposits are more extensive or complex than the geophysical survey suggests then the archaeological curator may require further trenching.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a text describing the nature of the archaeological deposits located and will be supported by illustrations and photographs.*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the archaeological field evaluation of land to the north of London Road, Kirton, Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview
  - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting
  - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used
  - 2.2.4 List of specialists
  - 2.2.5 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

## 3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Kirton is situated 5.8km south of Boston, Lincolnshire. The site is located 450m to the southwest of Kirton, as defined by the parish church of SS Peter and Paul, at National Grid Reference TF 3014 3822. The site lies to the north of London Road.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The site is the subject of a planning application (application no: B/19/0040) for residential development comprising 139 dwellings submitted to Boston Borough Council. The Planning Archaeologist for Boston Borough has advised that a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of

investigation (WSI) be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority, will be required to support the application. The present document provides such a WSI.

## 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Local soils are of the Stockwith Series, calcareous alluvial gley soils, with gleyic brown alluvial soils of the Snargate Series to the north (Robson 1990). These soils are developed on a drift geology of marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of mudstone of the West Walton Formation (BGS 2016).
- 5.2 The site lies at a height of c. 3m on generally level ground adjacent to the Kirton Drain which borders the site to the west.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Prehistoric remains have not, so far, been identified within the immediate vicinity of the site. It is likely that most of the land in the Kirton region was submerged during much of the prehistoric period and the area would have remained too wet for settlement until at least the 2nd century BC. No Romano-British remains are recorded in the Historic Environment Record near the site (Cope-Faulkner 2004).
- 6.2 No Early or Middle Saxon sites have been identified from Kirton, although place-name evidence may suggest an eighth-ninth century origin for the town (Stocker 1993, 114). Four archaeological investigations have identified a Late Saxon to early medieval element in the growth of the town (Cope-Faulkner 1996, Snee 2001a and 2001b, Thomson 2001). Sites of this date tend to be concentrated north of the proposed development area. Apart from a site near the church, few show structural evidence, the rest providing indications for an agricultural function.
- 6.3 Kirton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Chirchetune* the name is derived from the Old English *cirice* 'a church' and *tūn* meaning a village, with the Old Norse *kirkja* replacing *cirice* (Cameron 1998, 75).
- 6.4 The Domesday Survey records that the principal manor of Kirton was sokeland of Drayton (near Swineshead) with two further manors. Count Alan and Guy of Craon held the land which contained a church, 2 salt-pans and 84 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976, 12/71, 88; 57/29). Kirton's role in relation to the estate centred on Drayton can be seen as serving a particular function, namely as the church settlement (Roffe 2005). In addition to the Domesday entries above, a further 30 acres of meadow and c. 160 acres of arable land belonging to Reschintone were also recorded (Foster and Longley 1976, 12/72). This village is believed to be represented by Kirton Holme (Hallam 1965, 58).
- 6.5 During the medieval period, it is likely that there existed a watercourse to the sea, now represented by the Kirton Drain to the west of the site. Sea-banks further west indicate a gradually widening estuary. The ability to land cargoes along this watercourse may have dictated the location of the town's market, as evidenced by the local name Marketstead. A market was established here in 1308 by John, Earl of Richmond (Platts 1985, Appendix 1) and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was known to have taken

place at this locale (Marrat 1814, 136). Boats were discharging their cargoes at Kirton as late as the 1570s (Thirsk 1981, 12). Two fairs are also said to have taken place at Marketstead (Beecham et al. 1990, 2). The fairs and market had declined and then disappeared by the end of the nineteenth century (*ibid.* 4).

- 6.6 Prior to 1553, the area around Marketstead was being scrutinised by the Commissioners of Sewers who complained that the '*Marketstid Brige*' and the '*Markydstead Layn*' were in ruin and decay and should be repaired by the Marketstead Commoners (Kirkus 1959, 30, 65). The distinction made between the commoners at this end of Kirton and those within the town may indicate a separate manorial origin.
- 6.7 Medieval sites are clustered around the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of SS Peter and Paul. Again there is no evidence for structural remains, apart from the church and remains of a cross. Buried soils and flood deposits have been noted in archaeological investigations (Thomson 2002).
- 6.8 A geophysical survey was undertaken at the site in December 2017. This identified several anomalies, many of which relate to modern disturbance or agricultural activity. There are anomalies of possible archaeological origin including a double ditched feature and a possible circular feature within the site's boundary (Parker 2017).

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the work will be to:
- Establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - Determine the likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - Determine the date and function of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - Determine the state of preservation of the archaeological features present on the site.
  - Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features present within the site.
  - Determine the extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - Establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

## 8 LIAISON WITH THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATOR

- 8.1 Close contact will be maintained with the archaeological curator throughout the investigation to ensure that the scheme of works fulfils their requirements.

## 9 TRIAL TRENCHING

### 9.1 Reasoning for this technique

- 9.1.1 Trial trenching enables the *in situ* determination of the sequence, date, nature, depth, environmental potential and density of archaeological features present on the site.
- 9.1.2 The trial trenching arrangement has been specified as eleven [11No.] trenches each 30m x 1.8m, as shown on the attached plan.
- 9.1.3 In the event that the aforementioned trenching indicates that archaeological remains are more extensive or complex than expected, based on the results of the geophysical survey, the archaeological curator (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Officer) reserves the right to require more trenching to elaborate and clarify the remains.

### 9.2 General Considerations

- 9.2.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation. A Risk Assessment will be prepared.
- 9.2.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). *Archaeological Project Services* is CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21), managed by a member (MCIfA) of the institute.
- 9.2.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council 2016) and any revisions of such received up to the acceptance of this specification. Additionally, the work will be undertaken in consideration of, and with reference to, the regional research agenda (Knight *et al.* 2012).
- 9.2.4 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office and the Portable Antiquities'/Finds Liaison Officer.
- 9.2.5 Excavation of the archaeological features exposed will only be undertaken as far as is required to determine their date, sequence, density and nature. Not all archaeological features exposed will necessarily be excavated. However, the investigation will, as far as is reasonably practicable, determine the level of the natural deposits to ensure that the depth of the archaeological sequence present on the site is established.

- 9.2.6 Open trenches will be marked by orange mesh fencing attached to road irons or similar poles. Subject to the consent of the archaeological curator, and following the appropriate recording, the trenches, particularly those of excessive depth, will be backfilled as soon as possible to minimise any health and safety risks.

### 9.3 Methodology

- 9.3.1 Removal of the topsoil and any other overburden will be undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. To ensure that the correct amount of material is removed and that no archaeological deposits are damaged, this work will be supervised by Archaeological Project Services. On completion of the removal of the overburden, the nature of the underlying deposits will be assessed by hand excavation before any further mechanical excavation that may be required. Thereafter, the trenches will be cleaned by hand to enable the identification and analysis of the archaeological features exposed.
- 9.3.2 Investigation of the features will be undertaken only as far as required to determine their date, form and function. The work will consist of half- or quarter-sectioning of features as required and, where appropriate, the removal of layers. Should features be located which may be worthy of preservation *in situ*, excavation will be limited to the absolute minimum, (*ie* the minimum disturbance) necessary to interpret the form, function and date of the features.
- 9.3.3 The archaeological features encountered will be recorded on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma context record sheets. The system used is the single context method by which individual archaeological units of stratigraphy are assigned a unique record number and are individually described and drawn.
- 9.3.4 Plans of features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10. Should individual features merit it, they will be drawn at a larger scale.
- 9.3.5 Throughout the duration of the trial trenching a photographic record consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- the site before the commencement of field operations.
  - the site during work to show specific stages of work, and the layout of the archaeology within individual trenches.
  - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
  - groups of features where their relationship is important.

- the site on completion of fieldwork

- 9.3.6 Should human remains be encountered, they will be left *in situ* with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains. If removal of the remains is necessary the appropriate Ministry of Justice licences will be obtained and the local environmental health department informed. If relevant, the coroner and the police will be notified. The Historic Environment Service will also be informed,
- 9.3.7 Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered ready for later washing and analysis.
- 9.3.8 The spoil generated during the investigation will be mounded along the edges of the trial trenches with the topsoil being kept separate from the other material excavated for subsequent backfilling.
- 9.3.9 The precise location of the trenches within the site and the location of site recording grid will be established by a GPS and/or EDM survey.

## 10 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 If appropriate, during the investigation specialist advice will be obtained from an environmental archaeologist. The specialist will visit the site and will prepare a report detailing the nature of the environmental material present on the site and its potential for additional analysis should further stages of archaeological work be required. The results of the specialist's assessment will be incorporated into the final report.

## 11 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT

### 11.1 Stage 1

- 11.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the trial trenching will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence constituting a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour slides will be labelled and mounted on appropriate hangers and the black and white contact prints will be labelled, in both cases the labelling will refer to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 11.1.2 All finds recovered during the trial trenching will be washed, marked, bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to York Archaeological Trust.

### 11.2 Stage 2

- 11.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.



11.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### 11.3 Stage 3

11.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the investigation will be prepared. This will consist of:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site.
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results.
- A text describing the findings of the investigation.
- Plans of the trenches showing the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape.
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features.
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria.

## 12 **ARCHIVE**

12.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the investigation will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the appropriate local museum. This sorting will be undertaken according to the guidelines and conditions stipulated by the museum, and appropriate national guidelines, for long-term storage and curation.

- Site code KILR 19;
- Accession number LCNCC: 2019.32;
- Deposition date. February 2020

### 13 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 13.1 Copies of the investigation report will be sent to: the client, the Planning Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council and the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

### 14 PUBLICATION

- 14.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 14.2 Notes or articles describing the results of the investigation will also be submitted for publication in the appropriate national journals: *Medieval Archaeology* for medieval and later remains, and *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date. A note will also be submitted to the local journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.

### 15 CURATORIAL MONITORING

- 15.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Planning Archaeologist, Boston Borough Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project to enable them to make monitoring arrangements.

### 16 VARIATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SCHEME OF WORKS

- 16.1 Variations to the scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation from the archaeological curator, the client and their consultant.
- 16.2 Should the archaeological curator require any additional investigation beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

### 17 STAFF TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 17.1 The work will be directed by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Senior Manager (Archaeology), Archaeological Project Services. The on-site works will be supervised by an Archaeological Supervisor with knowledge of archaeological evaluations of this type. Archaeological excavation will be carried out by Archaeological Technicians, experienced in projects of this type.
- 17.2 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	York Archaeological Trust

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Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric: S Percival, independent specialist Roman: I Rowlandson, independent specialist Post-Roman: A Irving, independent specialist
Other Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist/D Buckley, APS
Metalworking	A Frasca, APS
Human Remains Analysis	R Kendall, independent specialist
Animal Remains Analysis	J Rackham/M Holmes, independent specialists
Environmental Analysis	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy/V Fryer, independent specialist
Radiocarbon dating	SUERC
Dendrochronology dating	University of Sheffield Dendrochronology Laboratory

## 18 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 18.1 Fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by appropriate staff, including supervisors and assistants, and to take about five days.
- 18.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will take about 25 days. A project officer or supervisor will undertake most of the analysis, with assistance from the finds supervisor, CAD illustrator and external specialists.

## 19 INSURANCES

- 19.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability insurance to £10,000,000. Additionally, the company maintains Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation are enclosed.

## 20 COPYRIGHT

- 20.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 20.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- 20.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to

pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.

- 20.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

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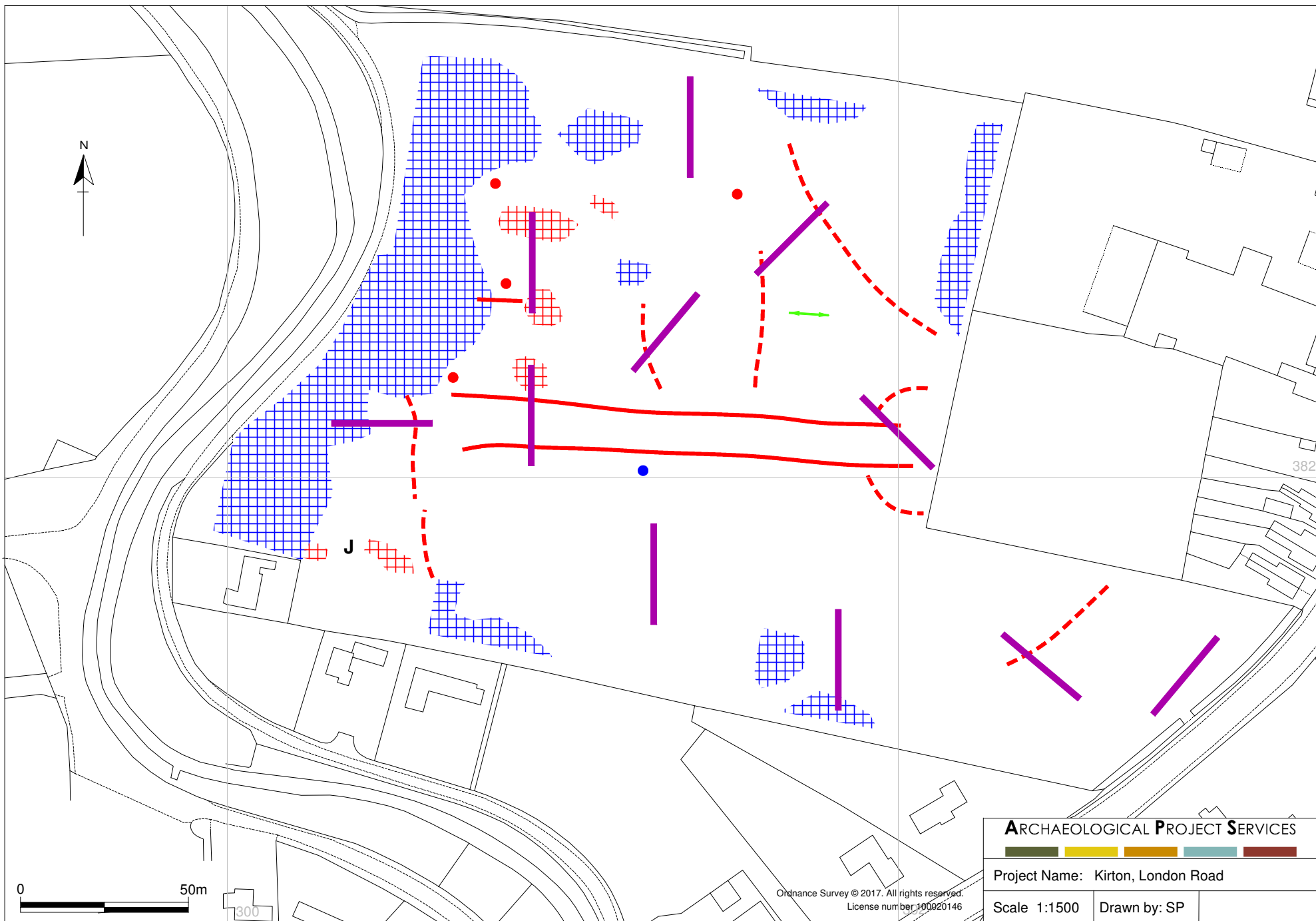
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Specification: Version 1, 19/02/2019



Proposed trenching array