

**Hanwell Fields, Banbury,  
Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Oxfordshire County Council**

by Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HFB 01/71

September 2001

## Summary

**Site name:** Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SP449 424

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 12th–13th September 2001

**Project manager:** Jo Pine

**Site supervisor:** Jo Pine

**Site code:** HFB 01/71

**Area of site:** 1.4ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits identified

**Monuments identified:** None

**Location and reference of archive:** The site archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museum Service in due course.

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	Steve Preston ✓ 17/9/01

## Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Jo Pine

Report 01/71

### Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire (SP449 424) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Julia Bennett of WS Atkins - Oxford, Chilbrook, Oasis Business Park, Eynsham, Oxfordshire OX29 4AH, on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council.

A planning application (C.09/01) has been made to construct a new primary school with carparking, play areas and landscaping. The potential of the site was identified by a desk-based assessment (CPM 2000), which indicated that the site lies within an area containing finds and deposits of prehistoric through to medieval dates. As a consequence of the possibility of the survival of archaeological deposits on the site, which may be damaged or destroyed by groundwork, a field evaluation was requested, in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and policy contained in the Local District Plan. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Steven Weaver, Conservation/Planning Archaeologist, of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was supervised by Jo Pine assisted by Sian Anthony between the 12th and 13th of September 2001 and the site code is HP/B 01/71.

### Location, topography and geology

The site is located north of Banbury, to the west of Southam Road and east of the B4100 and covers an area of 1.4ha (Fig. 2). At the time of the evaluation the land was set aside, with thick, dense undergrowth covering the area. It sloped gently from 105m above OD in the west to 99m aOD in the eastern part of the site. The underlying geology is on the border between Lower Middle Lias (BGS 1982). Within the evaluation trenches a mottled orange brown silty sandy clay (Head) was encountered.

### Archaeological background

A desk-based assessment has shown that the proposal area lies within an area of known archaeological sites, which include settlement features and finds dating from the prehistoric to the Medieval period (CPM 2000).

Two evaluations, to the west and east of the development area respectively, were undertaken but did not produce a significant number of archaeological features. The evaluation to the east of the area revealed a post-medieval pit and three shallow undated ditches (FA 2000).

### **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeological relevant levels survived on the site.
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.

This was to be achieved by the excavation of four evaluation trenches, each 21m long and 1.8m wide (Fig. 3). The topsoil and colluvium/subsoil were to be removed by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. This process was to be conducted under direct and continuous archaeological supervision and spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Potential archaeological features were to be hand-cleaned and investigated. A written, drawn and photographic record of the trenches was to be made.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### **Results**

All the four trenches showed similar stratigraphy: topsoil between 0.20m and 0.30m deep; onto light grey-brown silty sandy clay between 0.08m and 0.20m deep (which is either a subsoil or colluvial in origin) onto a mottled orange-brown silty clay with iron pan (Head). A test pit was excavated at the eastern end of Trench 2 which showed this head material was 0.30m deep within this trench and overlay a grey clay. No archaeological deposits were recorded in any of the trenches and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

### **Conclusion**

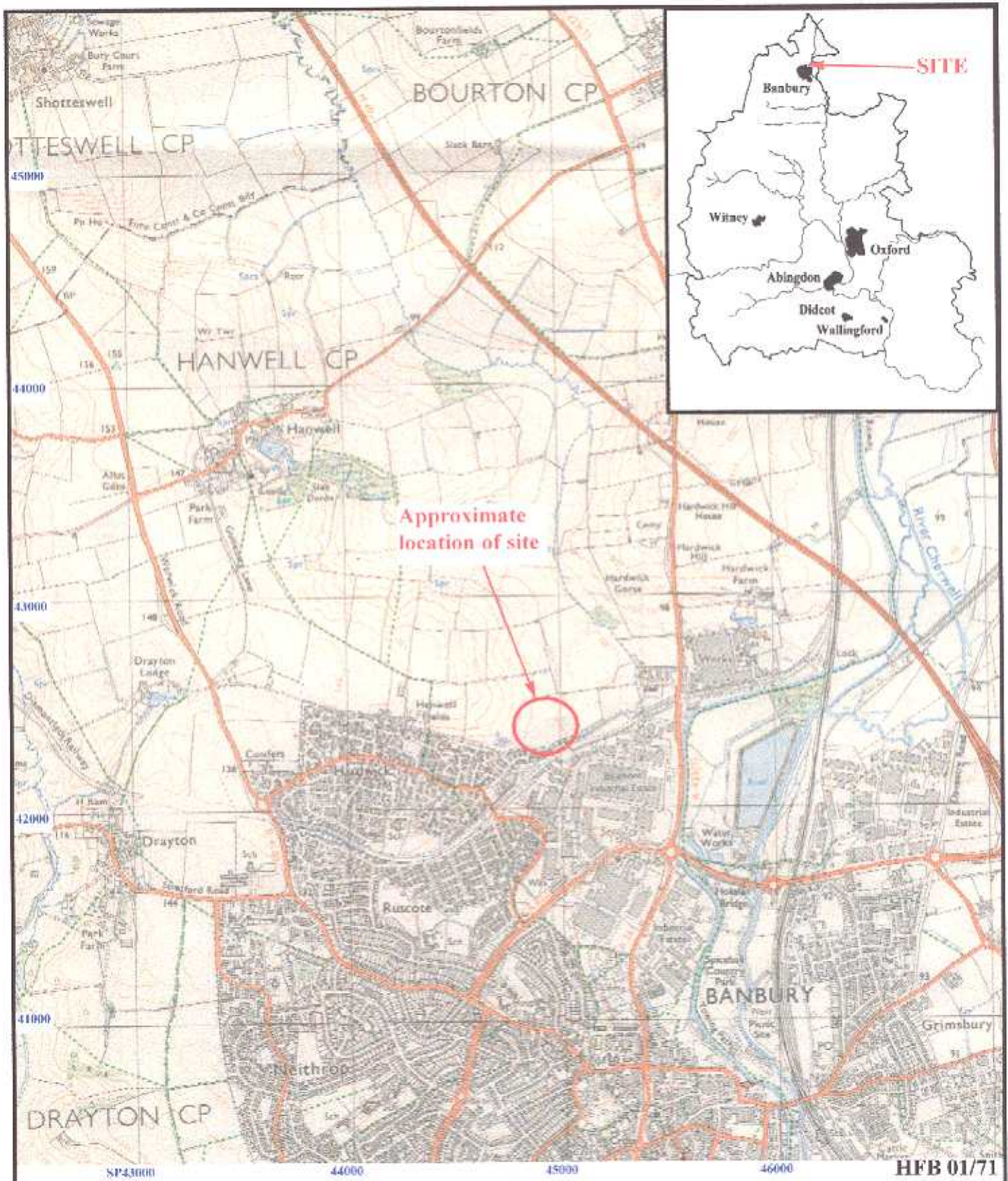
Four trenches were excavated on the site but none contained any archaeological deposits or finds of archaeological significance. On this basis of these findings the development site has no archaeological potential.

## References

- BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 201, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CPM, 2000, 'Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment,'  
Countryside Planning and Management report, Quenington
- FA, 2000, 'Land at Hanwell Fields, Banbury, archaeological evaluation, Foundation Archaeology report',  
Swindon
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**  
**0m at S or W**

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21.00	1.6	0.40-0.60	Topsoil 0.27m deep onto light grey brown silty sandy clay 0.21m deep onto mottled orange brown silty sandy clay with iron pan. No archaeology.
2	21.00	1.6	0.70-1.25	Topsoil 0.24m deep onto light grey brown silty sandy clay 0.28-0.40m deep onto a mottled orange brown silty sandy clay with iron pan (Head), 0.30m deep onto mid grey clay. No archaeology. Service trench.
3	21.00	1.6	0.50-0.60	Topsoil 0.20m deep onto light grey brown silty sandy clay 0.30-0.40m deep onto a mottled orange brown silty sandy clay with iron pan (Head). No archaeology. Land drains.
4	21.00	1.6	0.52-0.72	Topsoil 0.26m deep onto light grey brown silty sandy clay 0.08m-0.20m deep onto a mottled orange brown silty sandy clay with iron pan (Head). No archaeology.



**Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire, 2001**

Figure 1. Location of site within Banbury and Oxfordshire.

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T H A M E S V A L L E Y

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# Hanwell Fields, Banbury, Oxfordshire 2001

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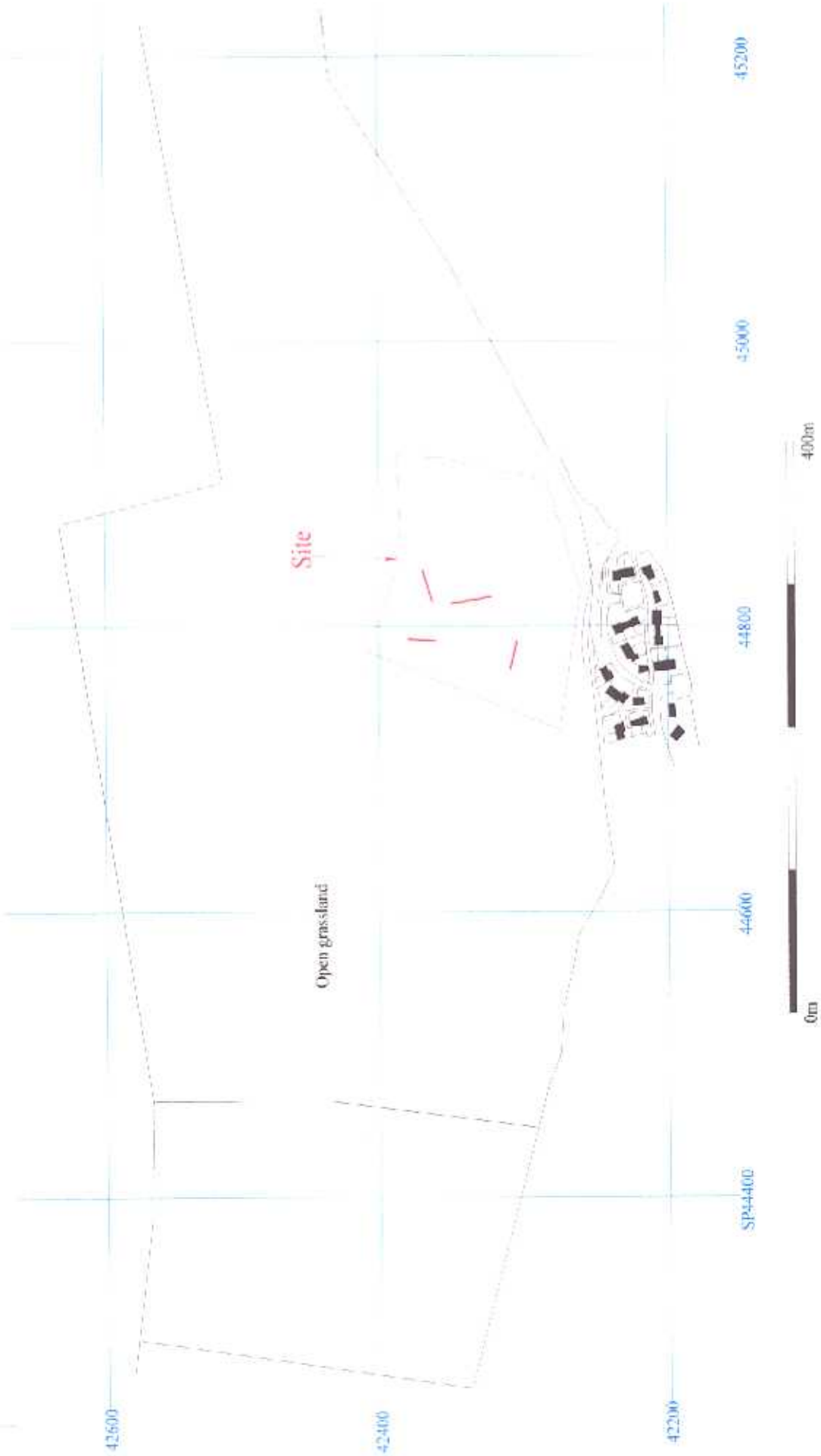


Figure 2. Location of site.



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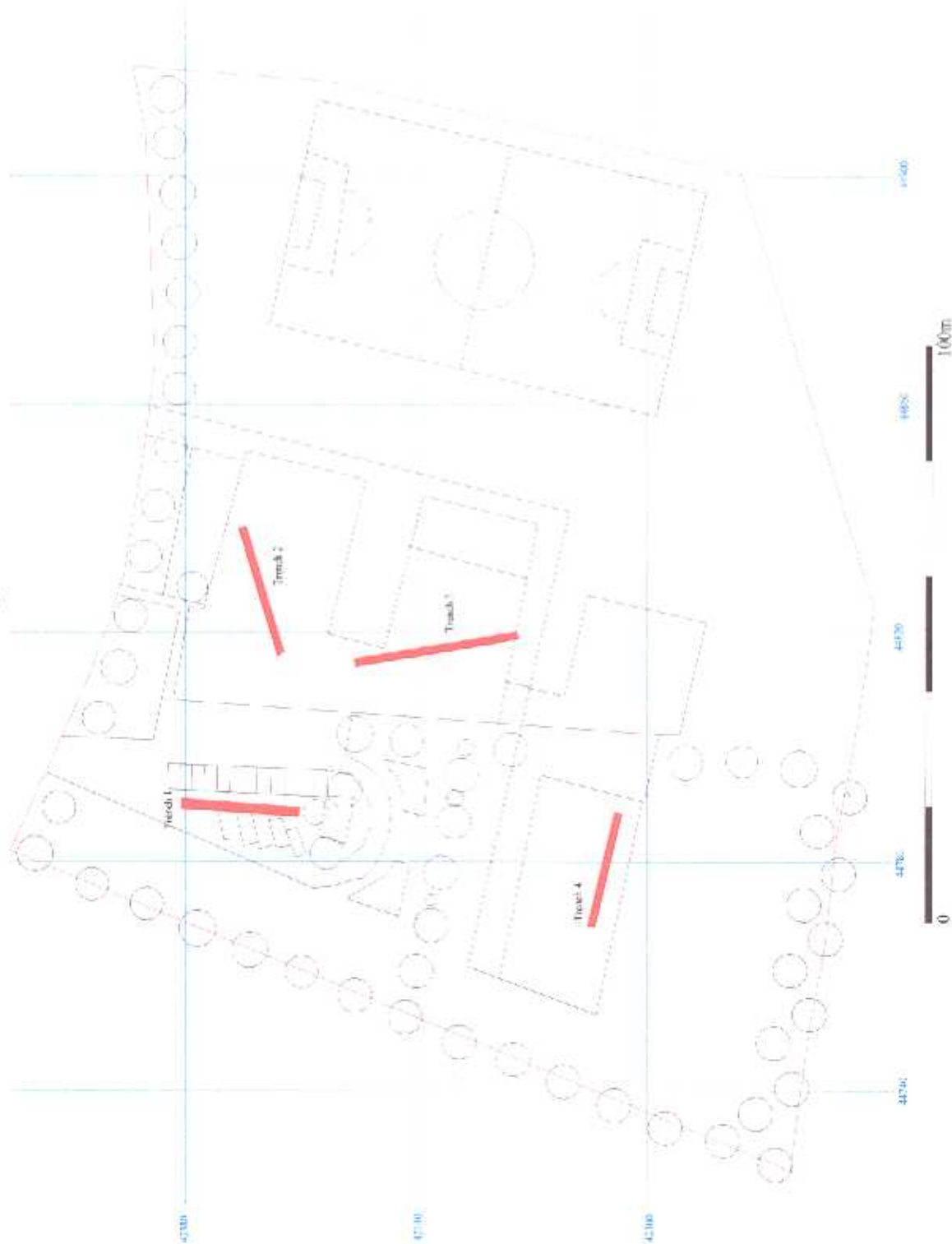


Figure 3. Location of trenches and proposed development.