



28 High Street
Ashley, Cambridgeshire

Client:
CgMs Ltd on behalf of Silverley Properties Ltd

Date:
April 2018

ECB 5365
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2018/029
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Report Date: April 2018

HER Information

CHER Event No.: ECB 5365
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Report Number: 2018/029
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Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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Summary

In March 2018 a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on a piece of land to the rear of 28 High Street, Ashley, Cambridgeshire prior to the construction of eight dwellings with associated access and open space. Seven archaeologically supervised trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.

The works revealed three pits within Trench 1 at the east end of the site, immediately behind plots fronting onto High Street, all of which are likely to be post-medieval or modern in date, together with a ditch likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date. Two undated pits were identified in Trenches 5 and 6 and a shallow undated gully within Trench 4. A single pit containing small fragments of pottery, and tentatively dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age period, was identified within Trench 4. A small assemblage of later prehistoric flint and medieval pottery was recovered from overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 0008
- Archaeological Feature 
- Modern Feature 
- Natural Feature 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Uncertain 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Uncertain 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number **0088**
- Deposit Number 0089
- Ordnance Datum

	S	N
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	⋈	⋈

1. Introduction

In March 2018 Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) carried out an archaeological evaluation on a piece of land to the rear of 28 High Street, Ashley, Cambridgeshire. The project was commissioned by CgMs Ltd on behalf of their client, Silverley Properties Ltd, and undertaken according to a Brief (dated 14/02/2018, Appendix 1) produced by the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET), and then addressed by a SACIC Written Scheme of Investigation (Craven, 2018).

This evaluation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The relevant planning application reference is 17/01171/OUT. The proposed development consists of the construction of eight dwellings with associated access and open space.

The site is located in the East Cambridgeshire district of Cambridgeshire, in the civil parish of Ashley, centred on NGR TL 6968 6144. The site comprises a sub rectangular parcel of land encompassing 0.815 hectares including No 28 itself and its gardens, and a series of small pasture fields/paddocks to the rear. The site is bounded to the east and south by neighbouring properties and gardens, and to west and north by further paddocks or agricultural land (Fig. 1).

2. Geology and topography

Ashley lies on the western side of a broad ridge of relative high ground which overlooks the River Kennett 2.3km to the east. To the west of the site itself, which is at c.100m above Ordnance Datum, the ground levels slope down to the east where a tributary drain heads northwest to the River Snail. The site geology consists of superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation diamicton, overlying chalk bedrock of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) (British Geological Survey website, 2018).

3. Archaeology and historical background

The condition has been placed as the site lies in an area of high potential for archaeological deposits, as described in the CCCHET Brief and shown in the accompanying Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) search. The Brief states that the Icknield Way, *'an ancient trackway which runs from Norfolk to Wiltshire'*, runs along the northern boundary of the site and that the wider area *'has had little archaeological investigation and while no known archaeological evidence is recorded within the application area, it is located just to the south west of the historic core of the village of Ashley, which includes numerous listed buildings'...*

The HER search, which covers an area extending 1km from the site centre, has identified nineteen monument records of which two are Scheduled Monuments. There are also two recorded instances of past archaeological fieldwork in the search area, one of which corresponds to a monument record. A watching brief in the centre of the village identified a flint wall and modern pit (ECB16) while evaluation at 80 Mill Road, c.700m to the north (24388 / ECB5234) has identified a series of undated ditches.

Evidence of pre-medieval activity is relatively sparse. A finds scatter 700m northeast of the site, to the northwest of Gazely Road (11993), contained Neolithic and Bronze Age flint and possible Iron Age pottery. Roman pottery and CBM is recorded in a finds scatter c.950m to the east (7680).

The present settlement of Ashley may have originated during the Saxon period, but little is known of the early development of the village. Ashley was included in the Domesday survey (1086) and referred to as *Esselie* (Williams 2003), translated as 'an ash tree wood or clearing' (Mills 2003, 21). The land was held by Aubrey de Vere at this time. Medieval settlement in the area is represented by the aforementioned Scheduled Monuments; the medieval moated sites of Sylhall (National Heritage List for England Ref.1017886 / CHER Ref 01186) and Gesyns (1017885 / 01187) which lie 530m to the southeast and 900m to the east respectively. Medieval pottery is also recorded in the finds scatter 07680 to the east of Gesyns and at Gazely Road (11993) c.700m to the northeast.

The majority of records relate to post-medieval and modern settlement. They include

the former site, 100m to the east, of the 15th century 'Old Chapel' (07481), a brick kiln depicted on an 18th century map 1km to the west (07485), post-medieval pottery and pipe fragments in the 11993 finds scatter, gravel and quarry pits (23893 and 24644) and the Victorian St Mary's Church. Several buildings are also known from the First Edition Ordnance Survey; a corn windmill (23884), Mill House (23885), Butcher's Farm (23886), Ashley Hall (23888), a rectory (23889), Houghton Farm (23890), a blacksmith's workshop (23892) and Victorian school (23894).

Twelve Listed Buildings also lie within the search area, of which three (St Mary's Church, The Plough Inn and the School have already been noted above). The historic buildings, both lost and extant, are generally distributed to the north and east of the site throughout the settlement.

Examination of historic Ordnance Survey six inch mapping (published 1884, 1903, 1927 and 1953) available online (<http://maps.nls.uk>) reveals that the site is continually shown as consisting of the bulk of a single triangular field to the rear of the Plough Inn. Selected rectified boundaries and buildings from the 1884 First Edition Ordnance Survey are shown on Figure 2. The Plough Inn itself represents the southwest corner of the historic settlement core and since the early/mid-20th century the village has expanded substantially. No. 28 and other properties to the south are developed along the frontage of High Street, infilling two small intermediate fields, some time after 1953. Silverley Way to the south is first shown in 1953, replacing former allotment gardens, although its associated housing estate has largely developed since.

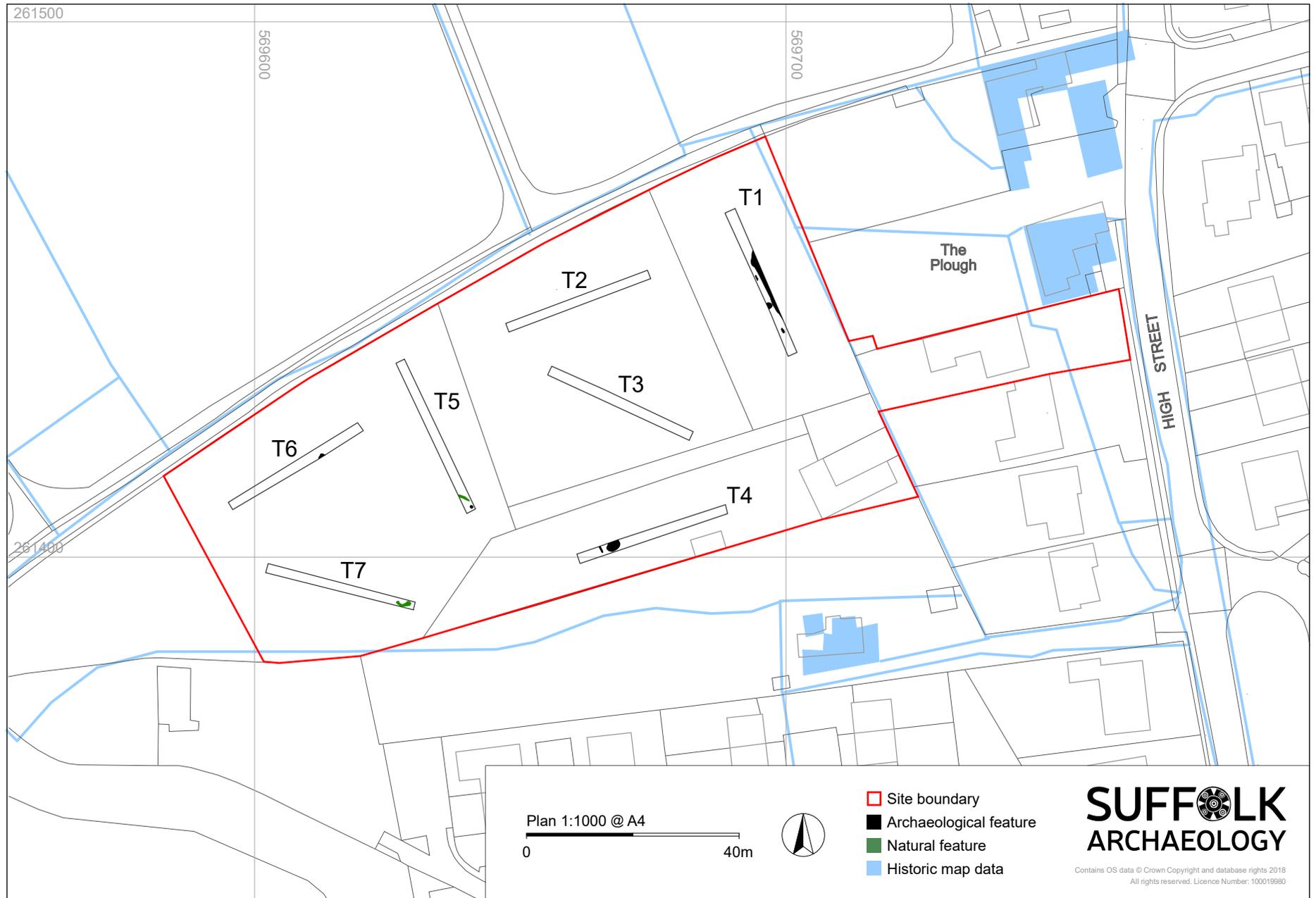


Figure 2. Trench location plan showing archaeological features and rectified boundaries/structures from 1st Edition OS

4. Project objectives

As described in the Written Scheme of Investigation the aims of the evaluation were:

- To accurately quantify the quality and extent of the site's archaeological resource so that an assessment of the development's impact upon heritage assets can be made.
- To establish whether any archaeological deposits existed in the application area, with particular regard to any which were of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- To identify the date, approximate form and function of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To establish the extent, depth and quality of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and whether masking alluvial or colluvial deposits were present.
- To establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- To assess the potential of the site to address research aims defined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- To provide sufficient information for CCCHET to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation or the further recording of archaeological deposits.
- To provide sufficient information for the client to establish time and cost implications for the development regarding the application areas heritage assets.

5. Methodology

Seven trenches were excavated across the development area. The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision. Topsoil followed by the subsoil was removed, exposing the superficial geological layers of the site. Following excavation, the trench was cleaned sufficiently to determine if archaeological remains were present. Basic trench information was recorded on pro-forma sheets and a photographic record was compiled.

The topsoil within the line of each trench was metal detected prior to machine excavation and the spoil heaps were visually scanned and metal detected looking for the presence of archaeological artefacts, but no pre-modern artefacts were recovered.

Ninety litres of topsoil and subsoil were sieved from either end of the seven trenches looking for the presence of archaeological artefacts, the results of which are discussed in section 6 and 7.

Site data has been added onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code ECB 5365.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (Reference no. suffolka1-310399 – Appendix 5) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The project archive is currently located at SACIC's office in Needham Market, but will be transferred to the Archaeological Store of CCHET, upon approval of the report.

6. Results

6.1. Introduction

This section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation by trench. Full descriptions of the trenches are provided in Appendix 2 and contexts in Appendix 3.

A total of four of the seven excavated trenches contained archaeological features. Features identified in Trench 1 appear to relate to post-medieval or modern activity perhaps relating to settlement activity of properties fronting onto the High Street. These features take the form of three pits containing animal burials and an undated ditch that could have once formed the rear boundary of properties fronting onto the High Street. Two undated pits were identified in Trenches 5 and 6, along with an undated gully in Trench 4 that was located in close proximity to a wide shallow pit tentatively dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age period.

Ninety litres of topsoil and subsoil were sieved from either end of the seven trenches looking for the presence of archaeological artefacts. Four fragments of 12th-14th century medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil of Trench 1 (SSE end) along with a fragment of post-medieval clay pipe stem from the topsoil of Trench 2 (ESE end). Fifteen fragments of struck flint with moderate to frequent amounts of modern plough damage were recovered from topsoil deposits from trenches 1-3, 5 and 6. The material recovered likely span the later prehistoric periods indicating a low level of prehistoric activity in the area.

The soil profile varied slightly but was largely consistent and is characterised as a topsoil (0021) of loose, darkish brown–grey silty clay with common flint and pebble inclusions, 0.3 – 0.4m thick overlying the subsoil (0034) of mid brown silty clay with frequent flint and pebble inclusions, c.0.04-0.36m thick. A thicker deposit of topsoil was noted in Trench 1, located close to the rear boundary of the properties fronting onto the High Street. Subsoil was not apparent at the central southern part of the site, within the south-eastern end of Trench 3 and the eastern end of Trench 4, and may have been truncated. The natural strata (0003) was consistent across the site and comprised firm, orange brown sandy clay with frequent gravel and flint nodules.

6.2. Trench results

6.2.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 was 29.3m long, 1.8m wide and 0.66m deep, and was aligned NNW-SSE. Two flint flakes were recovered from the topsoil, 0001 and four sherds of medieval pottery from subsoil 0002.

Three pits of post-medieval/modern date were identified. All were visible from the base of the topsoil, cutting the subsoil, and contained articulated and disarticulated animal bones. Pit 0005 was half sectioned and a complete modern juvenile pig burial was recovered. A second pit was fully excavated, the fill of which contained concrete fragments and modern glass. The location of the pits was recorded, but further recording did not take place (Fig. 3; Plate 1).



Plate 1. Modern pit within Trench 1, looking southwest (1m scale)

An undated ditch, 0007/0009 was partially revealed along the eastern fringe of Trench 1 extending beyond the limit of excavation (Fig. 3; Plates 2 & 3). The ditch was aligned northwest-southeast, entering the trench 5.6m from the trenches southern end and terminating 7.7m from the trenches northern end. Two sections were excavated across

the ditch revealing a U-shaped profile with gradual sloping sides leading to a gradual concave base, measuring 1.4m wide and 0.58m deep. The ditch contained two distinct fills. The lower fill (0008/0010) comprised a mid-greyish brown sandy silt and the upper fill (0011) comprised a light greyish yellow silty clay with frequent chalk inclusions. The ditch was visible below the base of the topsoil, cutting the subsoil. No finds were recovered from either of the excavated sections.



Plate 2. Southwest facing section through Ditch 0009 within Trench 1 (2m scale)



Plate 3. Northwest facing section through Ditch 0009 within Trench 1 (2m scale)

6.2.2. Trench 2

Trench 1 was 28.5m long, 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep, and was aligned ENE-WSW. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the trench, other than the fragment of post-medieval clay pipe stem and prehistoric flint recovered from the topsoil, 0022 and 0023.

6.2.3. Trench 3

Trench 3 was 29m long, 1.8m wide and 0.30m-0.50m deep, and was aligned NW-SE. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the trench, other than a possible flint flake recovered from the topsoil, 0025.

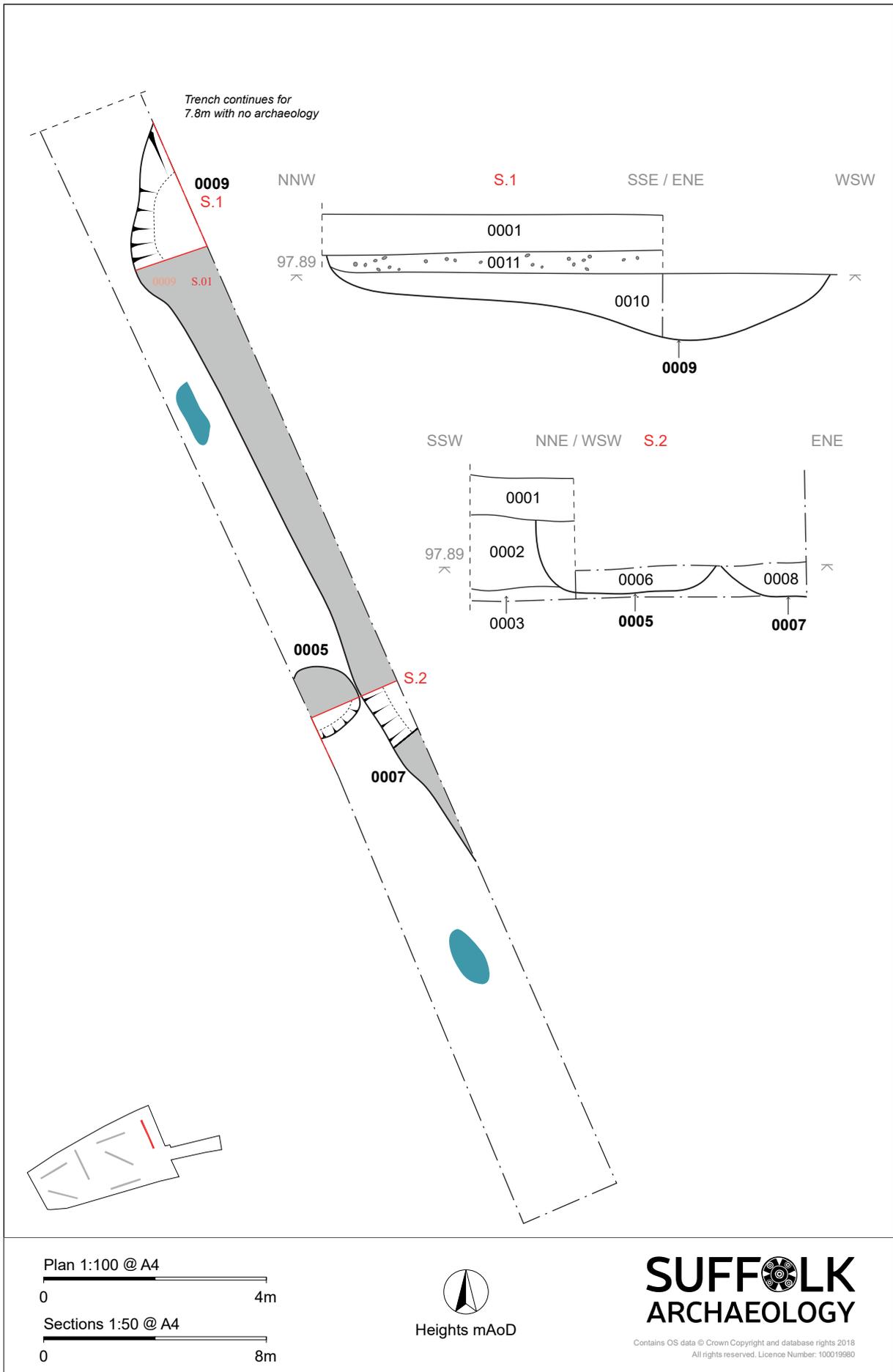


Figure 3. Plan and feature sections of Trench 1

6.2.4. Trench 4

Trench 4 was 29.3m long, 1.8m wide and 0.30m-0.40m deep, and was aligned ENE-WSW. One undated gully and one shallow pit of possible Early/ Middle Iron Age date were identified.

Gully 0017 was observed c.4.3m from the trench's western end, just west of pit 0018 (Fig. 4). It was aligned northwest-southeast continuing beyond the northern limit of excavation and terminating within the trench. The gully was shallow with a very gradual bowl-shaped profile, 0.4m wide and 0.10m deep and contained a single fill. The fill (0016) comprised a soft mid-orange brown silty clay with occasional flints and gravel inclusions that was sealed by the subsoil. No finds were recovered from the fill. The gully has tentatively been assigned to the same phase of activity as 0018 due its proximity, the similarity in fills and that both features were sealed by the subsoil.

Pit 0018 was located 5.5m from the trench's western end. The pit was sub-oval in plan and lay directly beneath the subsoil cutting the natural and measured 2.50m x 2.25m and 0.30m deep with moderate sloping sides leading to a flat base (Fig. 4; Plate 4). The pit contained a single fill, 0019, comprising a soft mid greyish brown silty clay. Three small fragments of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered along with a residual fragment of a Bronze Age/Neolithic leaf-shape arrowhead.



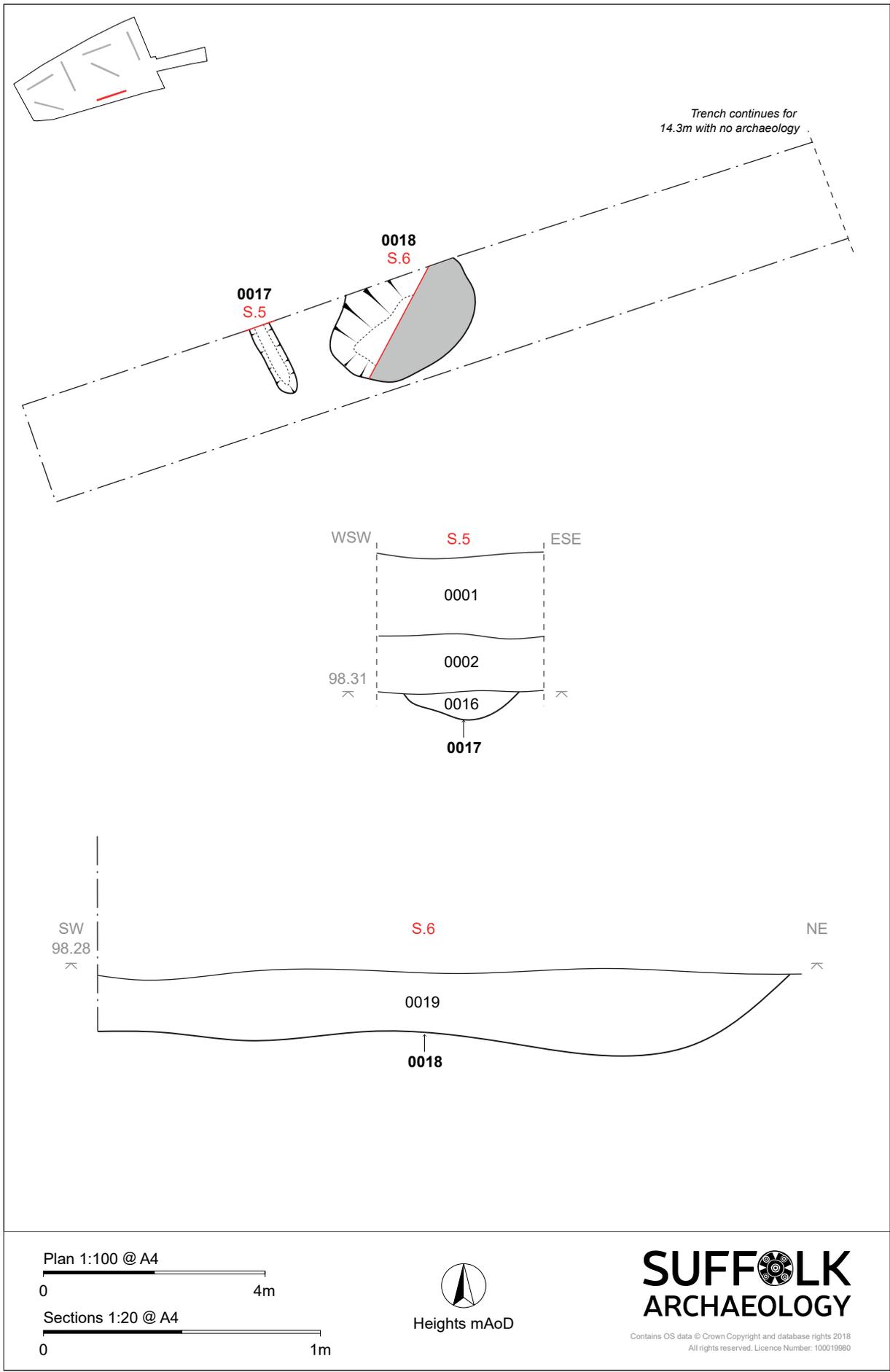


Figure 4. Plan and feature sections of Trench 4

6.2.5. Trench 5

Trench 5 was 30.78m long, 1.8m wide and 0.40m-0.50m deep, and was aligned NNW-SSE. An undated pit was identified in the trench and a single flint flake and a possible scraper were recovered from the topsoil, 0028.

Pit 0013 was observed c.0.3m from Trench 5's southern end (Fig. 5; Plate 5). It measured 0.70m x 0.61m and 0.12m deep with a shallow profile, very gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (0012) comprising a pale mid-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. The natural strata at the base of the pit was different to the natural around the pit and comprised a pale-yellow sand. The pit was 100% excavated in search of finds, none were recovered.



Plate 5. Possible Pit 0013, 100% excavated within Trench 5 (0.5m scale)

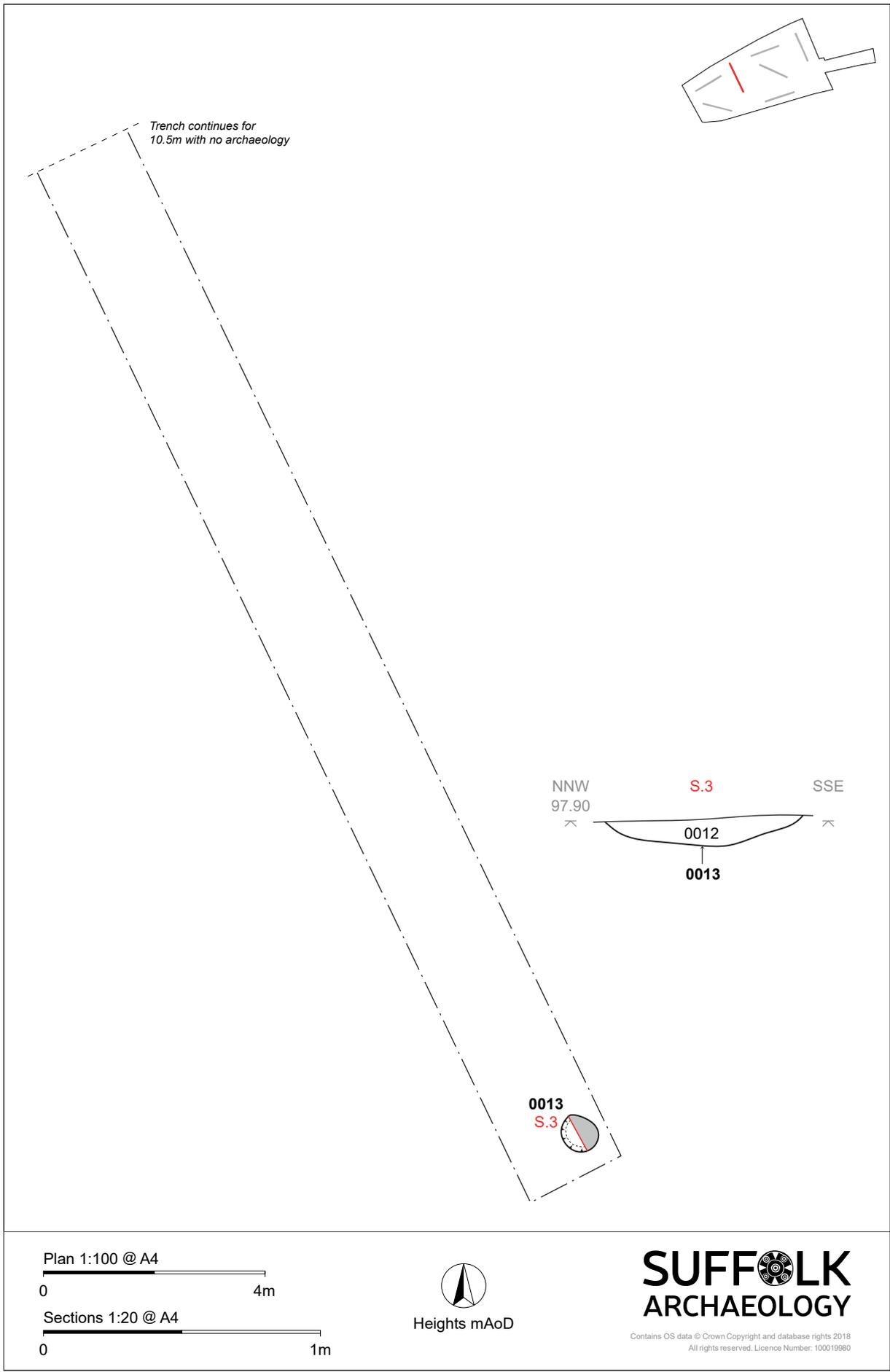


Figure 5. Plan and feature section of Trench 5

6.2.6. Trench 6

Trench 6 was 28.5m long, 1.8m wide and 0.50m deep, and was aligned NE-SW. An undated pit was identified in the trench and a single flint flake of likely Iron Age date was recovered from the topsoil, 0031.

Pit 0015 was observed c.8.5m from Trench 6's eastern end (Fig. 6; Plate 6). It measured 1.44m x 0.66m and 0.24m deep with a shallow profile, gradual sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (0014) comprising a pale mid-brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles. The natural strata at the base of the pit was different to the natural around the pit and comprised a pale-yellow sand. The pit was 100% excavated in search of finds, none were recovered.



Plate 6. Possible Pit 0015, 100% excavated within Trench 6 (1m scale)

6.2.7. Trench 7

Trench 7 was 28.6m long, 1.8m wide and 0.34m deep, and was aligned WNE-ESE. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

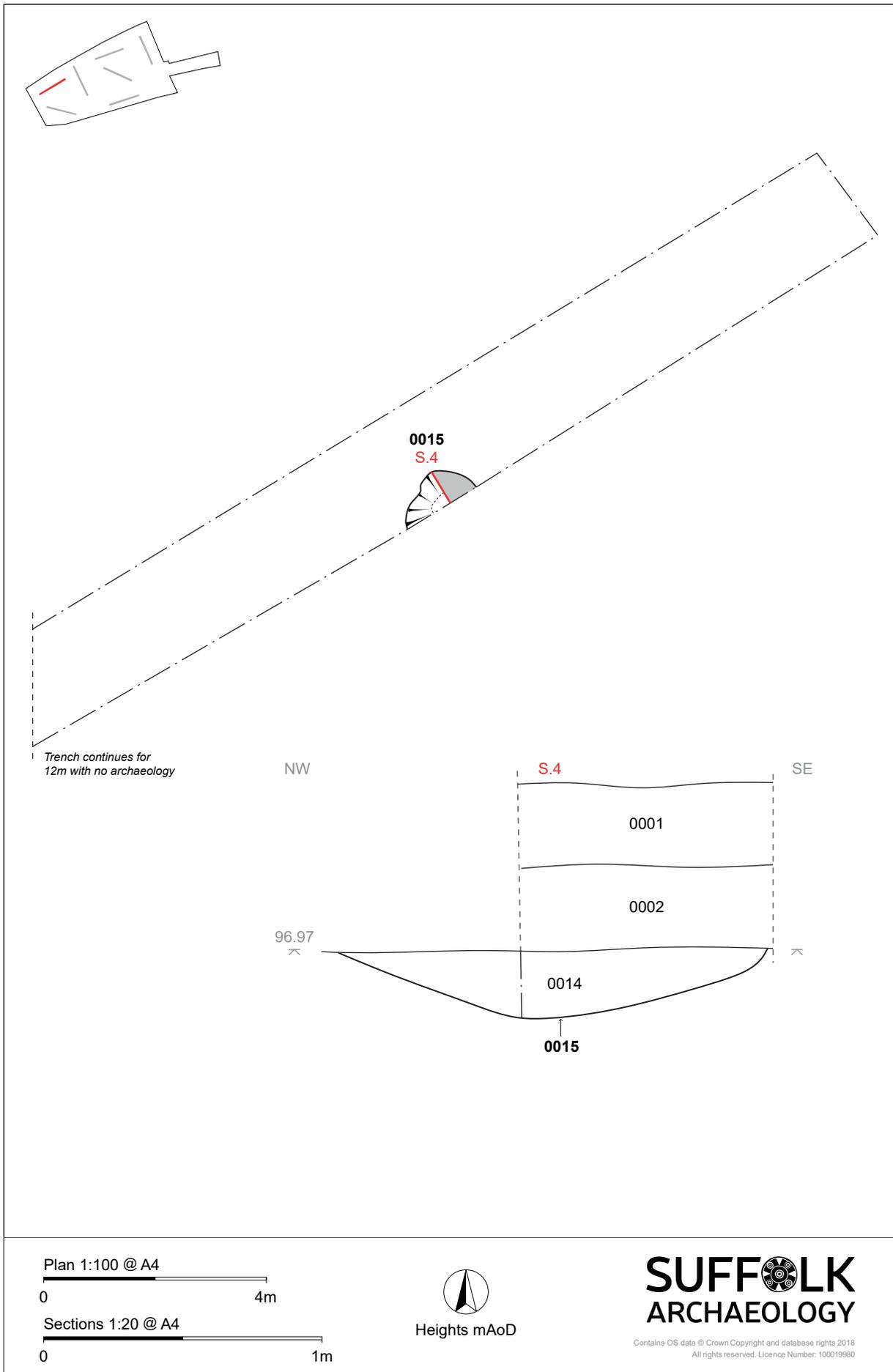


Figure 6. Plan and feature section of Trench 6

7. Finds evidence

Ioannis Smyrnaioi (unless stated differently)

7.1. Introduction

The total bulk finds from the evaluation are presented in Table 1 and Appendix 4.

Context	Pottery		Clay Pipe		Flint		Animal Bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001					2	32				
0002	4	22							Clinker 1 x 1g	Medieval, Post- medieval
0006							85	416		
0019	3	2			1	1				Prehistoric
0022			1	2	5	77			Clinker 4 x 2g, Coal/Coke 11 x 9g	
0023					3	39				
0025					1	2			Coal/Coke 1 x 1g	
0028					2	8				
0031									Coal/coke 1 X 2g	
total	7	24	1	2	14	159	85	416		

Table 1. Finds quantities

7.2. The Pottery

The site produced seven fragments of pottery weighing 24 grams. The material derived from two contexts.

7.2.1. Prehistoric Pottery

Pit fill 0019 in Trench 4 produced three small fragments of prehistoric pottery weighing two grams in total. Two of the fragments come from the same vessel, which is produced from a fine sandy fabric with small-sized flint and fine organic inclusions (QFV). Based on their fabric, the sherds date to the Early/Middle Iron Age. A tiny fragment from a fine sandy fabric with flint (QF) is likely to come from a Middle Iron Age vessel; however, the fragment is too small to offer any useful information. None of the sherds carries any diagnostic features or decoration, which may have assisted further in the dating of the pottery.

7.2.2. Medieval pottery

(Identifications by Richenda Goffin)

Subsoil layer 0002, from Trench 1, produced four fragments of medieval pottery weighing 22 grams in total. The sherds associate with three different vessels. More specifically, two joining sherds weighing 11 grams come from the base of a medieval grey coarse ware (MCW), dating between the 12th and 14th century AD. A small fragment weighing a gram from a Hedingham glazed fineware (HFW1) dates between the middle 12th and middle 13th century AD. Finally, a single sherd from an Essex sandy orange ware (ESOW) dates between the late 12th and 14th century AD.

7.3. Struck flint

(Michael Green)

7.3.1. Introduction

A total of sixteen flints were recovered during the evaluation from seven separate contexts. The flint was mainly struck from a dark black-blue glassy flint with some lighter brown-grey glassy flint also present. Moderate to frequent signs of antiquated and modern edge damage were present with two pieces showing signs of retouch.

Context Number	Type	Patination	Cortex %	Number	Weight (g)
0001	Flake	None	0-10	2	32
0019	Arrow head (partial)	Light	0	1	<1
0022	Flake	None	20	1	61
0022	Chip	None	0	1	<1
0022	Natural (discarded)	Heavy	40	3	15
0023	Shatter	None	0	1	19
0023	Flake	None	10	1	4
0023	Natural (discarded)	Heavy	40	1	15
0025	Flake (broken)	None	0	1	2
0028	Flake	None	10	1	2
0028	Crude scraper?	None	4	1	4
0031	Flake (squat)	Light	0	1	8
0031	Natural (discarded)	Heavy	5	1	1
Total				16 (5 discarded)	165 (31 discarded)

Table 2. Flint summarised by type

7.3.2. Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded in Table 2 below. The material was classified by type with numbers of pieces, corticated and patinated pieces recorded; the condition of the flint is commented on in the discussion.

7.3.3. Discussion

Topsoil 0001, Trench 1 (South/South-East end)

Two flakes were recovered from this context. One flake is a large squat flake and is likely to be a plough-stuck shatter piece due to excessive bulb splintering. The other flake is small and broken, with extensive modern edge damage present. These flints are not closely datable due to extensive damage.

Pit 0018, fill 0019, Trench 4

A small chip was recovered from this feature. It shows signs of retouch along one end and is likely to be the dorsal end of a leaf-shape arrowhead. Light edge damage and light patination is also noted. This typology of the arrowhead is likely to date between the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods but due to the edge damage and patination noted, it is likely residual within this context.

Topsoil 0022, Trench 2 (East/North-East end)

Three natural flints were recovered and discarded from this context. A single chip and a single flake was also present. The flake is large and irregular with a single hazen cone present on a single platform. It is moderately edge damaged and has a pronounced bulb with two additional flake scars present on a single face. The flake is likely struck using hard hammer techniques. The chip is small and undiagnostic. The flake and possibly the chip are likely date to the later prehistoric periods, most likely to the Iron Age due to the crude knapping techniques used.

Topsoil 0023, Trench 2 (West/South-West end)

A single shatter fragment, a single flake and a single natural flint were recovered from this context. The shatter fragment shows signs of flake removal from a single edge forming a crude core; five small hazen cones are also present on a single face. The small flake is squat and heavily edge damaged. Both pieces of struck flint are relatively

undiagnostic but shatter pieces are more commonly associated with later prehistoric activity.

Topsoil 0025, Trench 3 (South-East end)

A single fragment of a possible flake was recovered from this context. It is heavily edge damaged, very small and undiagnostic.

Topsoil 0028, Trench 5 (North/North-West end)

A single flake and a possible crude scraper were recovered from this context. The flake is small and hinge-fractured, possibly struck using soft hammer techniques. It is heavily edge damaged and undiagnostic. The possible small scraper, although crude, may be a Bronze Age thumbnail scraper with heavy edge damage. It shows signs of 50% retouch using hard hammer knapping techniques.

Topsoil 0031, Trench 6 (South-West end)

A single squat flake and a single natural flint were recovered from this context. The squat flake is hinge-fractured with a pronounced splintered bulb and is likely Iron Age in date. It was struck using hard hammer knapping techniques.

7.3.4. Conclusion

All but a single piece of struck flint was recovered from topsoil deposits on this project. The majority of the flint recovered showed moderate to frequent amounts of modern plough damage although a low level of patination was present. The material recovered likely spans the later prehistoric periods and shows a low level of activity in the area. The lack of patination, in combination with the higher levels of edge damage, suggests that the struck flint has recently been disturbed from sealed archaeological deposits by ploughing. The single fragment of a leaf-shape arrowhead from fill 0019 in pit 0018 is likely to be the earliest recovered, dating between the Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods. This fragment of leaf-shape arrowhead is likely to be residual within a later feature but does show a low level of use of the wider landscape in these periods.

7.4. Clay pipe

The topsoil layer 0022 above Trench 2 produced a stem fragment from a post-medieval clay pipe. The stem carries no decoration; the surviving part is 3cm long and the

perforation diameter of the stem is 2mm. The fragment dates between the 17th and 18th century AD.

7.5. Faunal Remains

The evaluation produced eighty-five fragments of animal bone weighing 416 grams. The entire material derived from pit fill 0006 and is associated with the same individual. The bone comes from a young pig with fully erupted molars, yet with unfused limb joints. The surviving material is moderately abraded and the maxillary/mandibular bones of the animal have been partially damaged by direct contact with fire. The bone does not carry any butchering marks and it appears unlikely that the animal was prepared to be consumed. Among the surviving bones are two mandibular and four maxillary fragments, a lacrimal fragment, two joining unfused femur pieces, a scapula fragment, two possible tibia fragments, at least six different vertebral fragments, and various metacarpal/metatarsal bones. The condition of the bone suggests a relatively recent death.

7.6. Discussion of material evidence

The material evidence from the site associates with sporadic and limited prehistoric activities, and the distribution of the material suggests scattering due to relatively modern disturbance. The presence of medieval pottery in subsoil deposits and a clay-pipe stem in topsoil layer 0022 are likely to suggest that this disturbance occurred between the 12th and 18th centuries. Almost every flint from the site derived from the topsoil. Although much of it shows damage from modern ploughing activities, some of the pieces are likely to date to the later prehistory. A possible thumbnail scraper from topsoil layer 0028 could even date to the Bronze Age. The faunal remains associate with a single animal, a young pig, which probably died from natural causes in relatively recent periods and was disposed in pit 0005. The only feature with some importance is pit 0018, which produced the earliest flint from the site. More specifically, a lightly patinated and edge-damaged leaf-shaped arrowhead recovered from this feature could date to the Earlier prehistory, and more specifically between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. Of course, the arrowhead is most likely residual as the same feature produced small fragments of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery.

8. Discussion

8.1. Deposit model

The natural geological surface and pre post-medieval archaeological horizon is generally present at a depth from 0.4m to 0.7m across the site, being deepest to the east in Trench 1 where a thicker buildup of modern topsoil was present together with a range of late features. The few earlier features were sealed below both topsoil and subsoil in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 in the south and west parts of the site at a depth of 0.3m to 0.5m.

Across the site Trenches 2, 3 and 7 were shallower, with subsoil at times being absent. Combined with an absence of archaeological deposits this suggests some level of truncation in these parts of the site. The mixed dating of material recovered from topsoil and subsoil across the site, and shallow depth of identified features, also indicates past truncation to archaeological deposits although those features of earlier date were clearly sealed below topsoil and subsoil.

The archaeological horizon is at a depth where it will be affected by significant development groundworks such as house footings and service trenches. Planning documents show the proposed development as broadly affecting the whole site although the easternmost part of the site around Trench 1 is to be left as open space and the western and southern fringes are broadly to be gardens and so may see limited impact.

8.2. Phase 1. Early/Middle Iron Age and later prehistoric

Evaluation Trench 4 located a pit of possible prehistoric date. The pit contained small fragments of Early/Middle Iron Age pottery and is tentatively dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age period. The character and proximity between the undated gully 0017 and the possible prehistoric pit 0018, suggest the two features could be contemporary. The fifteen fragments of struck flint recovered from topsoil deposits from Trenches 1-3, 5 and 6 likely span the later prehistoric periods and so could be contemporary with pit 0018.

Undated features include two possible pits identified in Trenches 5 and 6. The natural pale sand at the base of each pit suggest the features are naturally derived and could be geological or created by root action although it is also possible they could be of prehistoric date.

The Early/Middle Iron Age pit, coupled with the unstratified flint assemblage, is a heritage asset of local significance and indicates a low level of dispersed prehistoric activity in the vicinity. While further contemporary deposits may survive the results of the evaluation suggest that these will be slight and if a focus of prehistoric activity is indeed present it may be located along the southern periphery of the development site, or possibly beyond. As such the site evidence is thought to have only limited potential to address regional research aims for the period, such as finds studies, settlement types or the agrarian economy (Medlycott 2011, 29-32).

8.3. Phase II. Medieval

The four fragments of 12th-14th century medieval pottery, recovered from the subsoil layer of Trench 1, indicate medieval activity within the vicinity of the trench but the paucity of material and absence of contemporary features suggests that the site was located on the periphery of the settlement or beyond and as such the site is thought to have minimal potential to address regional research aims for the period.

8.4. Phase III. Post-medieval/modern

The archaeological deposits within Trench 1 comprised three pits and a ditch, all of which cut through the subsoil and lay directly below the topsoil. The three pits contained animal burials, one of which was found with concrete and glass, and are believed to be modern in date.

The existing site boundary to the east of Trench 1 matches the field boundary on Ordnance Survey mapping from the late 19th/early 20th century (maps.nls.uk, Fig. 2). Ditch 0007/0009 therefore does not align with any known features but its similar orientation and the position of the potential terminus, which broadly aligns to a former perpendicular boundary running to the corner of the Plough Inn, suggests it likely

comprises part of a system of smaller fields to the rear of properties that fronted onto the High Street in the medieval or post-medieval periods.

The archaeological deposits of the later historic periods are of local significance and there is a low potential for the presence of similar features across the development site. The site is thought to have minimal potential to address regional research aims for the period.

8.5. Confidence rating

The evaluation took place in changeable weather conditions but there were no limiting factors to the investigation. Full co-operation was received from the client's archaeological consultant and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the evaluation.

9. Conclusion

The evaluation has defined the character, significance and deposit model of the archaeological deposits present within the development site. The evidence suggests the survival of a truncated archaeological horizon with the presence of three distinct phases of past activity in the Early/Middle Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval/modern periods. However the evaluation suggests that the extent of each phase of activity is slight, with deposits being only of local significance at best and of limited potential to address regional research aims.

The final decision on whether further work is required to mitigate the impact of the development on heritage assets rests with CCCHET.

10. Archive deposition

The project archive consisting of all paper and digital records will be deposited with the Archaeological Store of CCCHET and ownership transferred within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. Until deposition, the archive will be kept in the Suffolk Archaeology CIC office in Needham Market.

The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Written Scheme of Investigation
3. Initial Report
4. Site records
5. Finds records
6. Finds
7. Site record drawings
8. GIS data
9. List of photographs
10. Original specialist reports and supporting information
11. CDROM with copies of all digital files

11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Cameron Bate BSc (Hons) PCIfA, Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) ACIfA and John Phillips BA (Hons) PCIfA and directed by Martin Cuthbert. Project management was undertaken by John Craven BA (Hons) MCIfA who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin BA (Hons) MCIfA. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds report was produced by Michael Green BSc (Hons) ACIfA and Ioannis Smyrnaios PhD MCIfA.

The report illustrations were created by Ryan Wilson BA (Hons) and the report was edited by John Craven.

12. Bibliography

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Williams, A., and Martin, G. H. (eds), 2003, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*, London

Websites

British Geological Survey

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

National Library of Scotland

<http://maps.nls.uk>

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team

Site: 28 High Street, Ashley

Planning Application: 17/01171/OUT

Company: Silverley Properties Limited

Location: NGR TL 6968 6144

This design brief is only valid for six months after the date of issue. After this period the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET) should be contacted. Any specifications resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period. Please note that this document is written for archaeological project managers to facilitate the production of an archaeological specification of work; the term project manager is used to denote the archaeological project manager only.

The project manager is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their specification, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. Historic environment data from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) is attached to this brief, but further contact with the CHER for specific information is recommended. Any response to this brief should follow CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2014.

NO FIELDWORK MAY COMMENCE UNTIL WRITTEN APPROVAL OF A SPECIFICATION HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT TEAM

1.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.1 The development is located in Ashley, to the west of the High Street on chalk formation geology at roughly 97.5m AOD.
- 1.2 Running along the northern boundary of the development area is the Icknield Way, an ancient trackway which runs from Norfolk to Wiltshire. This area has had little archaeological investigation and while no known archaeological evidence is recorded within the application area, it is located just to the south west of the historic core of the village of Ashley, which includes numerous listed buildings (for example, Historic Environment Record references 49086, 49085, 49088, 49087, 49091, 49090, 49083, 49084).
- 1.3 To the south east are a series of designated sites, including moated sites (National Heritage List for England reference 1017886, HER DCB259, NHLE 1017885, HER DCB257) and the remains of Saint Mary's church (NHLE 1006791, HER DCB207). While to the south of the Icknield Way between the High Street and The Green is the former site of the 'Old Chapel'. The chapel, which was thought to be Medieval by William Cole, 1750, was later used as a school, then barn, then demolished in 1955 (07481). In addition to the north west of Gazeley Road is artefact evidence of Prehistoric occupation (11993).
- 1.4 The results of a CHER search are attached in map and pdf report format. Due to the large amount of data included in the area, this data can also be supplied in a GIS format (MapInfo TAB. or ESRI ArcGIS shapefile SHP.) at no further cost. If you would like to receive this data, please complete and return the attached GIS licence form (stating the responsible officer and which GIS format you require) to the CHER either by email or post; email and address details are included on the form.

Reproduction of spatial data by any other means is not recommended.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The development is for the demolition of 28 High Street and construction of 8 dwellings with all matters reserved except access.
- 2.2 Due to the high archaeological potential of the site, a condition has been placed on planning consent requiring a scheme of archaeological work to be undertaken at the site. The first phase of this work will be an archaeological evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site. This brief deals solely with the evaluation phase.
- 2.3 The evaluation should include a suitable level of documentary research, including further consultation with information held in the CHER as necessary, to set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context.
- 2.4 The required scheme shall include a field evaluation of the application area.

Non-intrusive methods

- 2.5 Aerial photographic assessment is not required for this site.
- 2.6 Geophysical survey is not required for this site.

Intrusive methods

- 2.7 The evaluation should include a programme of linear trial trenching, or test-pitting in confined areas, to adequately sample the development area. The following sample percentage is provided as a guide: **5%** with contingency for judgemental trench use, should this prove necessary in the field. Archaeological features within the trenches will be sufficiently excavated to conform to section 3.0 below.
- 2.8 The artefact contents of the ploughsoil and any lower soil horizons should be examined as part of the evaluation and the field data quantified and spatially illustrated within the report. If the field conditions are not conducive for fieldwalking, a bucket sampling or test pit programme should be conducted, whereby 90 litres of spoil is hand sorted for each soil horizon encountered. Bucket sampling points should occur at each end of trenches that are less than 50m in length, or at trench ends and mid-point of 50m and longer trenches. Unstratified artefacts should be sought and recovered from trench spoil heaps.
- 2.9 The use of metal detectors on site to aid the recovery of artefacts is required. The detector should not be set to discriminate against iron.
- 2.10 **All** features must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with CHET. Investigation slots through all linear features must be **no less than 1m in width**. Discrete features must be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants where they are large or found to be deep. The use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) is recommended to gain information from very deep deposits/features and should be available in the staff tool kit. Machine assistance may be required for very large/deep features and should be shown as a contingency arrangement in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

Character and Significance

- 3.1 The evaluation should aim to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied.

- 3.2 The evaluation results will be used to:
- determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource,
 - define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.
- 3.3 The mitigation of construction impacts to archaeological remains identified during this evaluation will be outlined in a further design brief for archaeological investigation.

Environment, Economy and Industry

- 3.4 Particular study of the following should occur:
- presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits,
 - the character of deposits and their contents within negative features
 - palaeochannels
 - site formation processes generally.
- 3.5 Buried soils and associated deposits should be inspected on site by a suitably qualified geoarchaeologist whose advice should be sought as to whether soil micromorphology or other analytical techniques will enhance understanding of depositional processes and transformations at the site. If so, suitable samples should be taken from relevant deposits or features for assessment and inclusion in the report.
- 3.6 The assessment of the potential to inform on the general environmental and dietary evidence of the inhabitants of the site through examination of suitable deposits must also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid to:
- the retrieval of charred plant macro & microfossils, faunal remains and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features,
 - the retrieval of plant macro & microfossils, insect, faunal remains, molluscs, pollen and other biological remains from waterlogged deposits located;
 - provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: *eg* the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts.
- 3.7 The evaluation should also carefully consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial or economic evidence to assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence and in the development of future mitigation strategies.
- 3.8 The assessment of environmental & economic potential should follow advice in these and other guidance documents:

- Historic England, 2011, **Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)**.
- Historic England, 2014, **Animal Bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for Best Practice**.
- Historic England, 2015, **Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record**
- Historic England, 2004, **Human Bones from Archaeological Sites** A guideline for best practice for producing human osteological assessments and analytical reports

- 3.9 The Project Manager & field team are also advised to consult the following guidance documents in order to provide an adequate strategy for the excavation, field treatment and conservation of any delicate organic materials:

- Historic England, 2012, **Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on Their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation**;
- Historic England, 2010, **Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recovery, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood**.
- Historic England, 2008, **Investigative Conservation: Guidance on How the Detailed Examination of Artefacts from Archaeological Sites Can Shed Light on Their Manufacture and Use**;

Reference to other specialist investigation and assessment methodologies for artefact studies should also occur.

- 3.10 The Project Manager & field team are also advised to consult the following guidance documents in order to provide an adequate strategy for the excavation, field treatment and conservation of any delicate organic materials:

Historic England, 2012, *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on Their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation*;
 Historic England, 2008, *Investigative Conservation: Guidance on How the Detailed Examination of Artefacts from Archaeological Sites Can Shed Light on Their Manufacture and Use*;
 Historic England, 2010, *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recovery, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood*.

Reference to other specialist investigation and assessment methodologies should also occur.

- 3.11 The project manager must ensure that the results of palaeoenvironmental investigation, industrial residue assessments/analyses & scientific analyses are included in a full evaluation report and sent to the Historic England Science Advisor.

4.0 REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The evaluation must be undertaken by an archaeological team of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character and formally acknowledged by the CHET officers, advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Inclusion in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Register of Archaeological Organisations is recommended. Details, including the name, qualifications and experience, of the site director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) will be communicated to CHET within a specification of works, or Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which must be prepared by the archaeological contractor undertaking the programme. The specification must conform to the guidance in Historic England's MoRPHE publication (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, Historic England, 2006, reissued 2015*). This specification must:
- i. be supported by a research design which sets out the site specific objectives of the archaeological works.
 - ii. detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on plan their location and extent.
 - iii. provide a timetable for the proposed works including a "safety" margin in the event of bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances that may effect this timetabling.
- 4.2 All aspects of the evaluation shall be conducted in accordance with
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*
 - *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CIfA 2014),
 - *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14).
 - *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011), to define research objectives.
- 4.3 Care must be taken in dealing with **human remains** and the appropriate guidance issued by the Ministry of Justice should be followed. Environmental health regulations must also be followed. The CHET officer must be informed immediately upon discovery of human remains. If found during an evaluation, the human remains can be left *in situ*, covered and protected when discovered, depending on the site circumstances and depths of cover soils. Where the reburial of revealed human remains would be considered detrimental to their survival, arrangements for their immediate excavation should be made to establish the date, condition and character of the burial. If removal is essential an exhumation licence should be requested from the MoJ.

- 4.4 Project Managers are reminded of the need to comply with the requirements of the **Treasure Act 1996** (with subsequent amendments). Advice and guidance on compliance with Treasure Act issues can be obtained from the Finds Liaison Office of the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team office. Any finds that could be considered treasure under the terms of the Act made during the process of fieldwork **should be immediately reported** to the Finds Liaison Officer, so that it is properly reported to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery in line with the Treasure Act¹.
- 4.5 Care must be taken in the siting of offices and other support structures in order to minimise impact on the environment. Extreme care must also be taken in the structure and maintenance of spoil heaps for the same reasons and to facilitate a high quality reinstatement. This is particularly important in relation to pastureland.
- 4.6 The archaeological project manager must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths. The CHET officers bear no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.
- 4.7 Before commencing work the project manager must carry out a risk assessment and liaise with the site owner, client and CHET in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised. A copy of this must be given to CHET before the commencement of works.

5.0 REPORTS

- 5.1 The evaluation report should include a comprehensive assessment of the regional context and present well described, illustrated (including site and artefact/deposit photos) and tabulated archaeological evidence. It should highlight any relevant research objectives published in themed national and regional research frameworks.
- 5.2 The evaluation report should refer to the CHER evidence submitted with the brief.
- 5.3 The evaluation should provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. Constraints to the evaluation should be clearly shown and explained. An impact assessment should also be provided.
- 5.4 If any areas of analysis from Section 3 (above) are not considered appropriate for inclusion the report will detail justification for their exclusion.
- 5.5 One hard or digital copy of the report, clearly marked **DRAFT**, should be prepared and presented to CHET within four weeks of the completion of site works unless there are reasonable grounds for more time. This report should conform to the format contained within the document **HET Evaluation report guidance 2016** dealing with the production of archaeological evaluation reports. Copies can be obtained from the address below. CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) Annex 2.
- 5.6 CHET supports the national project: Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS III) project and requires archaeological contractors working in Cambridgeshire to support this initiative. In order that a record is made of all archaeological events within the county occurring through the planning system, the archaeological contractor is required to input details of this project online at the OASIS website²: The OASIS reference ID and completed Data Collection Form should be clearly presented in the relevant report. **Any report that does not contain this information will not be approved.**

¹ Please see <http://finds.org.uk/treasure> for further information.

² <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>

5.7 Following acceptance, **one hard copy** of the approved evaluation report should be submitted to the **CHER**. The approved report in digital form should also be uploaded to the **OASIS** database within **two weeks** of approval.

Note: Project Managers must ensure that sub-contracted specialist reports are uploaded at this time (e.g. geophysics and AP reports, geoarchaeological assessment reports).

6.0 ARCHIVE

6.1 The site archive specification should conform to the guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2006, reissued 2015), eg section 2.5.3 and be deposited within the County's archaeological archive storage facility (see 6.3) on completion of site analysis and any ensuing publication.

6.2 To assist with the creation and curation of the project's archive, the Project Manager must contact the CHER office to obtain an **Event number (ECB)** at the outset of the project. CHER use this number as a unique identifier linking all physical and digital components of the archive. **The unique event number must be clearly indicated on any specification received for this project. It should be shown on all paperwork created on site (context forms and plans etc), on relevant ensuing reports and on the OASIS data collection form.**

6.3 Arrangements for the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and CHER before or during the reporting stage. Transfer of title and the transfer of the ownership of the archive to the County Archive Facility or another local registered depository need to be arranged at this time, and the arrangements indicated in the evaluation report. The Project Manager should consult *Deposition of archaeological archives in Cambridgeshire 2017* regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive into the County's Archaeological Archive Facility at this web link:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-&-culture/archaeology/archaeology-archives/>

6.4 The current archive deposition cost is £75 per box (or minimum £50 per archive). This combined charge covers accessioning and uplift (£15) together with a fee to provide for the long term storage (£60). Further details of charges for the use of the County Archive Facility can be found in Section 5 of the guidelines.

7.0 MONITORING & COMMUNICATING CHANGES

7.1 CHET officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Cambridgeshire and will need to inspect site works at an appropriate time during the fieldwork, and review the progress of excavation reports and/or archive preparation. A monitoring visit must be booked with CHET prior to works commencing on site.

7.2 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of CHET. Further trenching or deposit testing may be a requirement of the site monitoring visit if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy. Appropriate provision should be made for this eventuality. The project manager must inform CHET in writing **at least one week in advance** of the proposed start date for the project.

7.3 Any changes to the specifications that the project manager may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to CHET for approval.

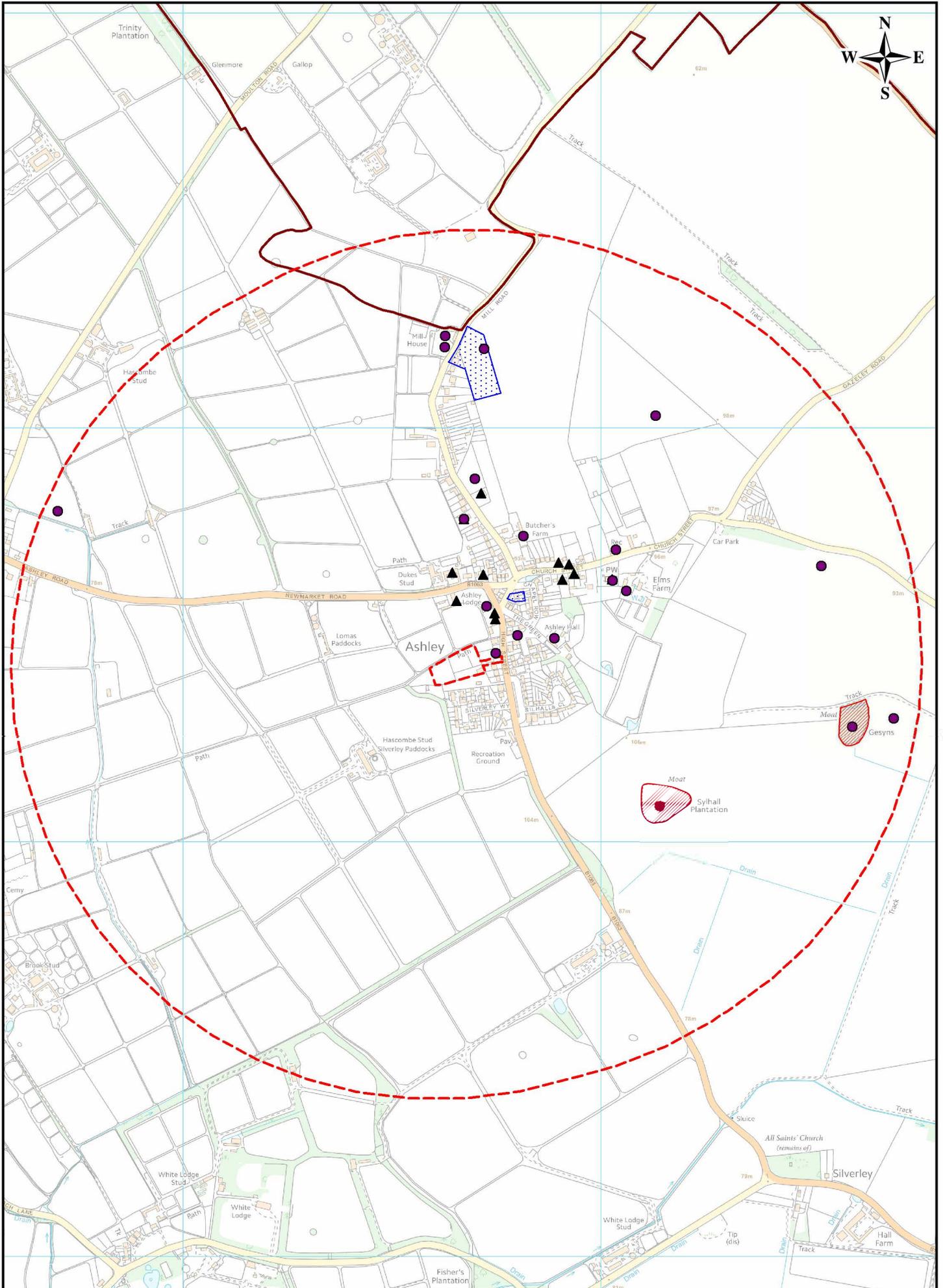
7.4 CHET should be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

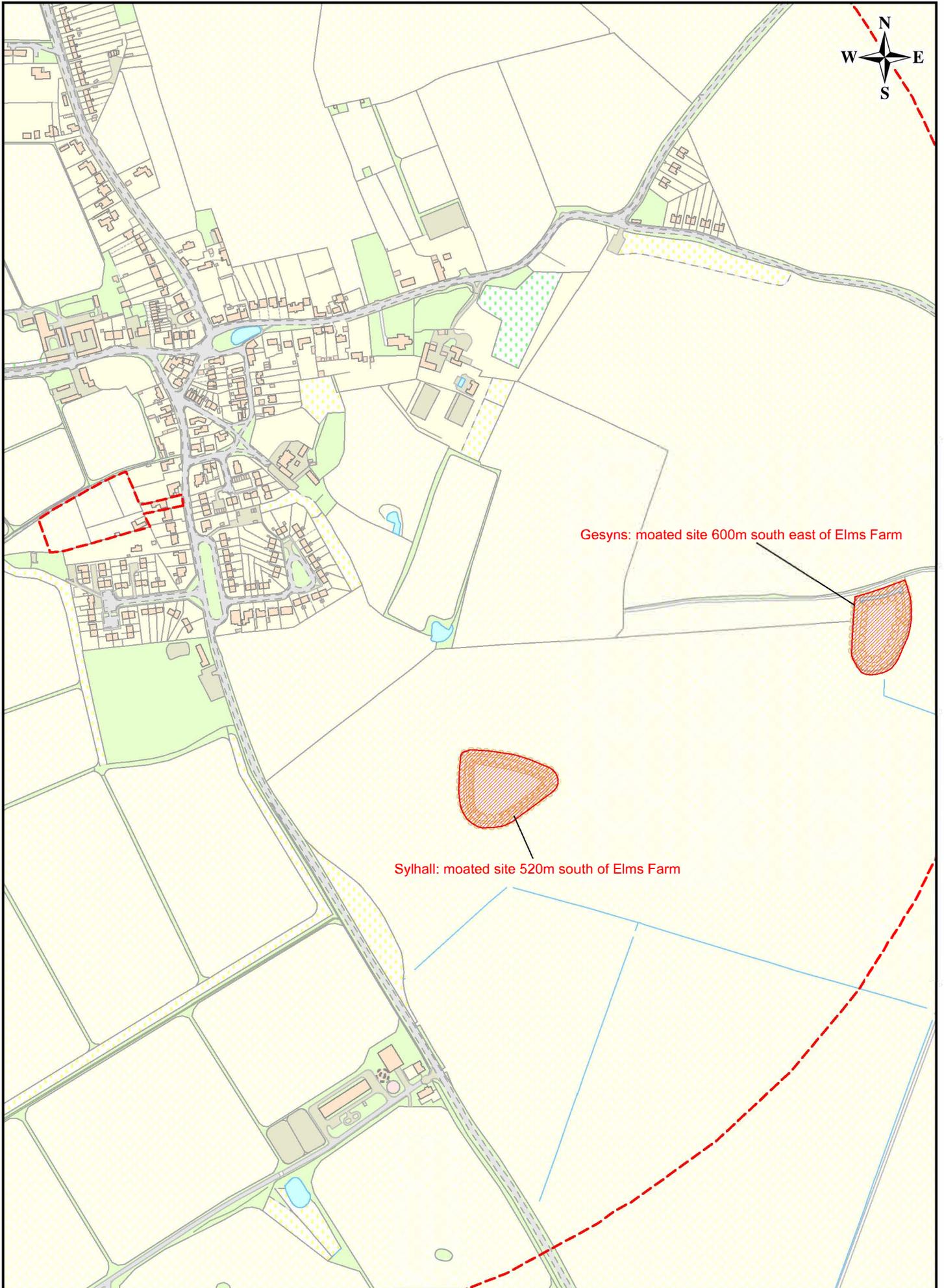
- 7.5 The archaeological advisory and planning role of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team should be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

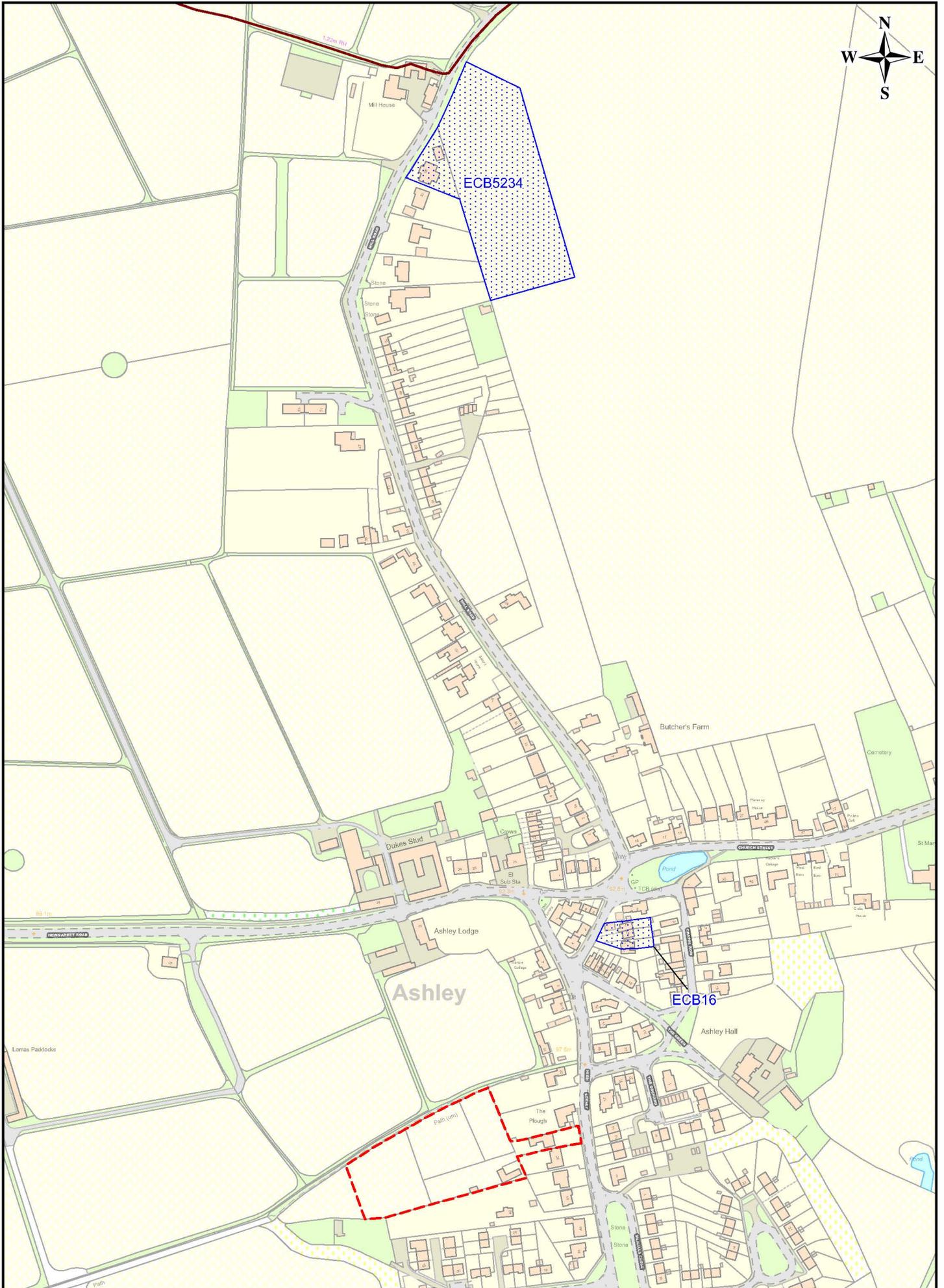
As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

Gemma Stewart

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Appendix 2. Trench list

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Depth to Natural	Description	Comments	Summary	Associated Contexts
1	29.3	NNW-SSE	Orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	0.66	Topsoil of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stone inclusions, over Subsoil of mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions		3 modern pits with animal burials 1 ditch of possible medieval-post medieval date	0001, 0002, 0004, 0005, 0006, 0007, 0008, 0009, 0010, 0011, 0020
2	28.5	ENE-WSW	Orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	0.60	Topsoil of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stone inclusions, over Subsoil of mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions		No archaeology	0022, 0023
3	29.09	NW-SE	Orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	0.30-0.50	Topsoil of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stone inclusions, over Subsoil of mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. No subsoil at the SE end of the trench		No archaeology	0024, 0025
4	29.28	ENE-SWS	Orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	0.30-0.40	Topsoil of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stone inclusions, over Subsoil of mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. No subsoil at the ENE end of the trench		1 large pit of early-middle Iron age date 1 undated gully	0016, 0017, 0018, 0019, 0026, 0027
5	30.78	NNW-SSE	Orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	0.40-0.50	Topsoil of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stone inclusions, over Subsoil of mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. Less subsoil at the SSE end of the trench		1 possible pit/natural feature 1 natural feature	0012, 0013, 0028, 0029
6	28.51	NE-SW	Orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	0.50	Topsoil of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stone inclusions, over Subsoil of mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions.		1 possible pit/natural feature	0014, 0015, 0030, 0031
7	28.59	WNW-ESE	Orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	0.34	Topsoil of dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional small and medium stone inclusions, over Subsoil of mid greyish brown silty clay with rare small stone inclusions. Shallow subsoil deposit		No archaeology	0032, 0033

Site Code ECB 5365
Appendix 3. Context List

Context No	Feature No	Group No	Trench No	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts
0001	0001	0021		Layer		Topsoll trench 1 SSE end				1.30 - 0.40	0002, 00			
0002	0034			Layer		subsoil trench 1 SSE end				0 - 0.20	0003	0001	0005, 0004, 0009, 0007	
0003				Layer		orange brown sandy clay with gravel and flint	natural strata					0002, 00	0017, 0018, 0013, 0015	
0004	0004		1	Pit	Cut	modern pit with complete animal burial - not recorded, concrete and glass finds not retained	modern pit							0002
0005	0005		1	Pit	Cut	modern pit sub-circular in plan, steep sides sloping to a moderate base, containing animal burial. Cut to the base of the topsoll	modern pit with animal burial	1.26<	1.30	0.52		0006		0002
0006	0005		1	Pit	Fill	dark greyish brown silty clay moderate compaction with occasional small stones	fill of modern pit	1.26<	1.30	0.52	0005	0001		
0007	0007		1	Ditch	Cut	linear in plan orientated N-S, moderate sloping sides and a flat base	ditch possibly modern	0.75<	0.30			0008		0002
0008	0007		1	Ditch	Fill	mid greyish brown silty clay moderate compaction with occasional small stones	fill of ditch	5<	0.75<	0.30	0007	0011		
0009	0009		1	Ditch	Cut	linear in plan with a U shape profile gradual sloping sides with a concave base NNW-SSE aligned, possible terminus or turning within trench to head East	cut of ditch	1.50<	0.58			0010		0002
0010	0009		1	Ditch	Fill	mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional firm patches generally moderately compacted. Small stone inclusions	lower fill of ditch	1.50<	0.58	0.009		0011		
0011	0009		1	Ditch	Fill	upper fill of ditch seen in trench edge. Layer of compacted mid brown silty clay with frequent chalk	upper fill of ditch	0.70	0.61	0.12	0013	0034		
0012	0013		5	Pit	Fill	mid brown soft silty clay occasional small rounded pebbles pale sand at base	possible pit, or natural feature. 100% excavated in search of finds - non recovered	0.70	0.61	0.12	0012			0003
0013	0013		5	Pit	Cut	sub oval pit with a very gradual profile with 30 degree sides to a v gradual concave base	fill of pit / natural feature							
0014	0015		6	Pit	Fill	pale mid light orange brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded pebbles, sandy base	possible pit but more like a natural feature	1.44	0.66<	0.24	0015	0034		
0015	0015		6	Pit	Cut	irregular sub oval in plan with very gradual sloping sides to a very gradual concave base	fill of possible pit / natural feature	1.44	0.66<	0.24		0014		0003
0016	0017		4	Gully	Fill	mid brown orange soft silty clay occasional large flints no finds sealed by the subsoll	fill of small gully - no finds	0.40	0.10	0.017		0034		
0017	0017		4	Gully	Cut	shallow gully NNE - SSE orientated with very gradual sides 20 degrees leading to a very gradual concave base	undated gully	0.40	0.10			0016		0003
0018	0018		4	Pit	Cut	sub-oval slightly irregular shaped pit, moderate sloping sides to a flat base	larger shallow pit	2.5m<	2.25<			0019		0003
0019	0018		4	Pit	Fill	mid greish brown silty clay regular small to large stones and flint small frags of prehistoric pot?	large shallow pit	2.5m<	2.25<			0034		
0020	0021		1	Layer		Topsoll trench 1 NNW end								
0021			1	Layer		dark brown loose silty clay, occasional small and medium stone inclusions, frequent rooting	topsoil - overall group number							
0022	0021		2	Layer		Topsoll trench 2 ENE end								
0023	0021		2	Layer		Topsoll trench 2 WSW end								
0024	0021		3	Layer		Topsoll trench 3 NW end								
0025	0021		3	Layer		Topsoll trench 3 SE end								
0026	0021		4	Layer		Topsoll trench 4 WSW end								
0027	0021		4	Layer		Topsoll trench 4 ENE end								
0028	0021		5	Layer		Topsoll trench 5 NNW end								
0029	0021		5	Layer		Topsoll trench 5 SSE end								
0030	0021		6	Layer		Topsoll trench 6 NE end								
0031	0021		6	Layer		Topsoll trench 6 SW end								
0032	0021		7	Layer		Topsoll trench 7 WNW end								
0033	0021		7	Layer		Topsoll trench 7 ESE end								
0034				Layer		mid brown silty clay with gravel and flint inclusions	subsoil - overall group number					0003, 00		

Appendix 4. Bulk finds catalogue

Context	Pottery		Clay Pipe		Worked Flint		Animal bone		Clinker		Coal/Coke		Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	
0001					2	32							
0002	4	22							1	1			Med, Pmed
0006							85	416					
0019	3	2			1	1							Pre
0022			1	2	5	77			4	2	11	9	
0023					3	39							
0025					1	2					1	1	
0028					2	8							
0031													
total	7	24	1	2	14	159	85	416	5	3	12	10	

Appendix 5. OASIS form

OASIS ID: suffolka1-310399

Project details

Project name	Land to the rear of 28 High Street
Short description of the project	<p>In March 2018 a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on a piece of land to the rear of 28 High Street, Ashley, Cambridgeshire prior to the construction of eight dwellings with associated access and open space. Seven archaeologically supervised trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.</p> <p>The works revealed three pits within Trench 1 at the east end of the site, immediately behind plots fronting onto High Street, all of which are likely to be post-medieval or modern in date, together with a ditch likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date. Two undated pits were identified in Trenches 5 and 6 and a shallow undated gully within Trench 4. A single pit containing small fragments of pottery, and tentatively dated to the Early/Middle Iron Age period, was identified within Trench 4. A small assemblage of later prehistoric flint and medieval pottery was recovered from overlying topsoil and subsoil deposits.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-03-2018 End: 28-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB5365 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2018_029 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	suffolka1-310399 - OASIS form ID
Any associated project reference codes	17/01171/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Middle Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	GULLY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	FLINT Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	BONE Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE ASHLEY Land to the rear of 28 High Street
Postcode	CB89DX
Study area	0.82 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6968 6144 52.224541424277 0.4845325763 52 13 28 N 000 29 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 96.76m Max: 99.22m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Martin Cuthbert
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultants/architects
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Physical Archive ID	ECB5365
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Archive ID	ECB5365
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Archive ID	ECB5365
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	28 High Street, Ashley, Cambridgeshire - Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cuthbert, M.
Other bibliographic details	2018/029
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market
Description	A4 ring bound report with full colour photos and figures

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