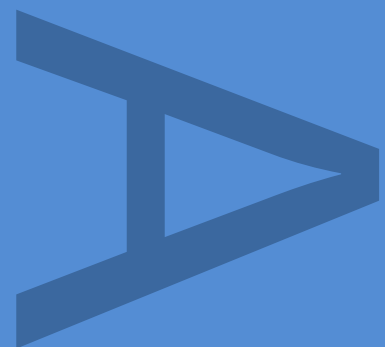


**THE GOFF PETROLEUM SITE,  
WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL  
TRENCH EVALUATION**

**MAY 2012**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R11222**

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AT THE GOFF PETROLEUM SITE, WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK**

**Site Code/HER Event Number: ENF129039**

**Central NGR TG 129/007**

**Local Planning Authority: South Norfolk Council**

**Planning Reference: 2010/2232/0**

**Written and Researched by Alexander Pullen**

**Project Manager: Mark Hinman**

**Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting**

**Contractor:**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited**

**7 Granta Terrace**

**Stapleford**

**Cambridgeshire**

**CB22 4PF**

**Tel: 01223 845522**

**Email: [mhinman@pre-construct.com](mailto:mhinman@pre-construct.com)**

**Website: [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)**

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**May 2012**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Wymondham, Norfolk. The work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Goff Petroleum to assess the archaeological implications of development of land at the Goff Petroleum Site, Wymondham, Norfolk. The work comprised eight archaeological evaluation trenches totalling 185 m. Three parallel probable post-medieval ditches were identified in Trenches 1 and 2. These may represent a former field boundary or hedgerow, with an accompanying drainage ditch. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill of these features. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the other evaluation trenches. The proposed development at the Goff Petroleum would have, at most, a negligible archaeological impact.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Wymondham, Norfolk. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Goff Petroleum to assess the archaeological significance of development of land at the Goff Petroleum Site, Wymondham, Norfolk in advance of a planning application. Background information can be found in the WSI prepared by CgMs (Meager 2012).
- 1.2 The site is centred at TG129 007. The site lies to the south of Stanfield Road Wymondham Norfolk and currently comprises open farmland level at c.37-43m AOD (see Figure 1). British Geological Survey Sheet 161 (Norwich: 1975), shows that the underlying geology of the study site comprises gravels.
- 1.3 The work was carried out on the 15th and 16th May 2012 and comprised the excavation and recording of eight archaeological evaluation trenches, measuring 1.8m wide. Trenches 1 to 5 were 20m in length, Trench 6, 7 & 8 measured 15m, 40m and 30m respectively. A total 185m of trenching was evaluated.
- 1.4 Three parallel, undated, probable post-medieval ditches were identified in Trenches 1 and 2. These may represent a former field boundary with an accompanying drainage ditch. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fills of these features. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the other six evaluation trenches. The proposed development at the Goff Petroleum would have, at most, a negligible archaeological impact.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 2.1 The methodology followed during this evaluation is detailed in the Method Statement (Hinman 2012).
- 2.2 The eight trenches were set out using a Leica 1200 rover unit following the trench location plan in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CgMs (Meager 2012 – see Figure 4). The trenches were CAT scanned prior to excavation.
- 2.3 The ground reduction was carried out using a tracked 360 type machine with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the clean natural where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 2.4 OD heights and trench locations were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

- 3.1 Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 contained no archaeological finds or features.
- 3.2 The top of natural sandy gravels and clays (23) were recorded at an average depth of 0.50m below ground level. The natural deposits were overlain by poorly developed sandy subsoil (22). The subsoil was overlain by agricultural topsoil (21).
- 3.3 Trench 1 contained two parallel NE-SW orientated ditches (see Figure 2). The largest of these [14] was 1.80m wide, while the smaller ditch [12] measured 1.0m in width. It was not possible to excavate ditches in Trench 1 because of the rapid inundation of ground water (see Plate 14). Ditches [12] and [14] were cut from immediately below the plough soil [21].
- 3.4 Three NE-SW ditches [16], [18] and [20] aligned with those in Trench 1 were excavated in Trench 2 (See Figure 2). They were cut from immediately below the topsoil. Ditch [16] which measured 1.8m across and 0.40m deep appears to be the same ditch as [14]. Ditches [18] and [20] were narrower and shallower c. 0.20m and possibly converge to the northeast as ditch [12] in Trench 1. The fills of these features (15), (17) & (19) were dark-brown silty-gravels. Ditches [18] and [20] contained occasional rotted root fragments. No finds were recovered from the excavation of ditches in Trench 2.

## **4 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Three parallel undated, probable post-medieval ditches were identified in Trenches 1 and 2. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fills of these features. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the other six evaluation trenches.
- 4.2 Ditch [14]/[16] probably represents a post-medieval drainage ditch and/or former field boundary. Ditches [12], [18] and [20] run parallel to the larger ditch and possibly represent the line of a former hedgerow or merely shallower drainage ditches. The extent to which the now dismantled railway affected the parcelling of land at the site is unknown.
- 4.3 This scarcity of archaeological features, aside from probable post-medieval drainage ditches, is attributed to the topographic position of the site on low lying marshy ground on or near the floodplain of the River Tiffey to the south.
- 4.4 The proposed development at the Goff Petroleum site would have, at most, a negligible archaeological impact.



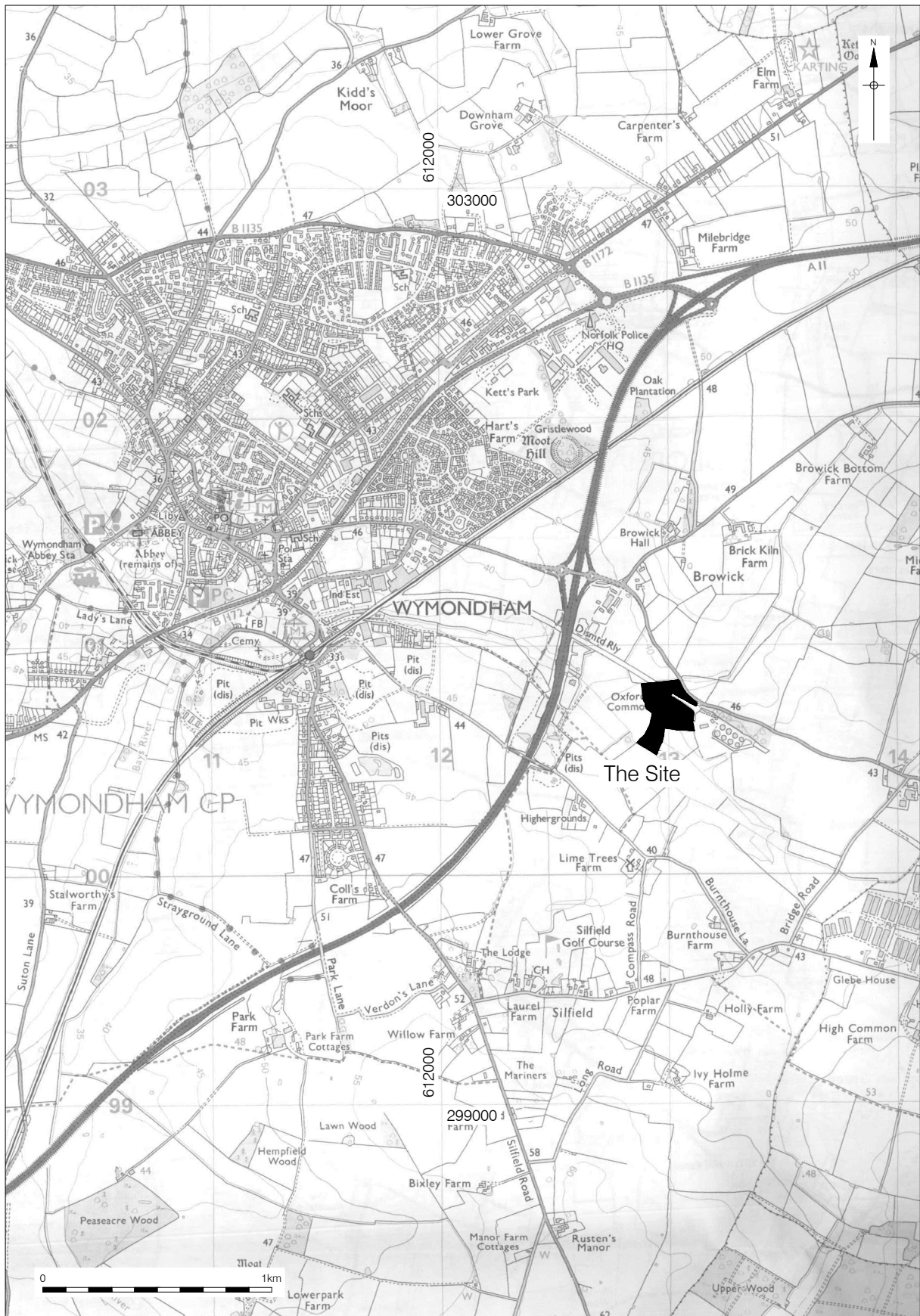
## **5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

PCA would like to thank Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting for commissioning this evaluation and Dr Ken Hamilton at Norfolk County Council for monitoring the work. Thanks to Goff Petroleum for their helpful co-operation and to Jenny Simonson for preparing the figures.

## **6 REFERENCES**

Hinman, M. 2012. *Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation at the Goff Petroleum Site, Wymondham, Norfolk*. Pre-Construct Archaeology.

Meager, R. 2012. *Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Evaluation. Goff Petroleum Site, Stanfield Road, Wymondham, Norfolk*. CgMs Consulting.

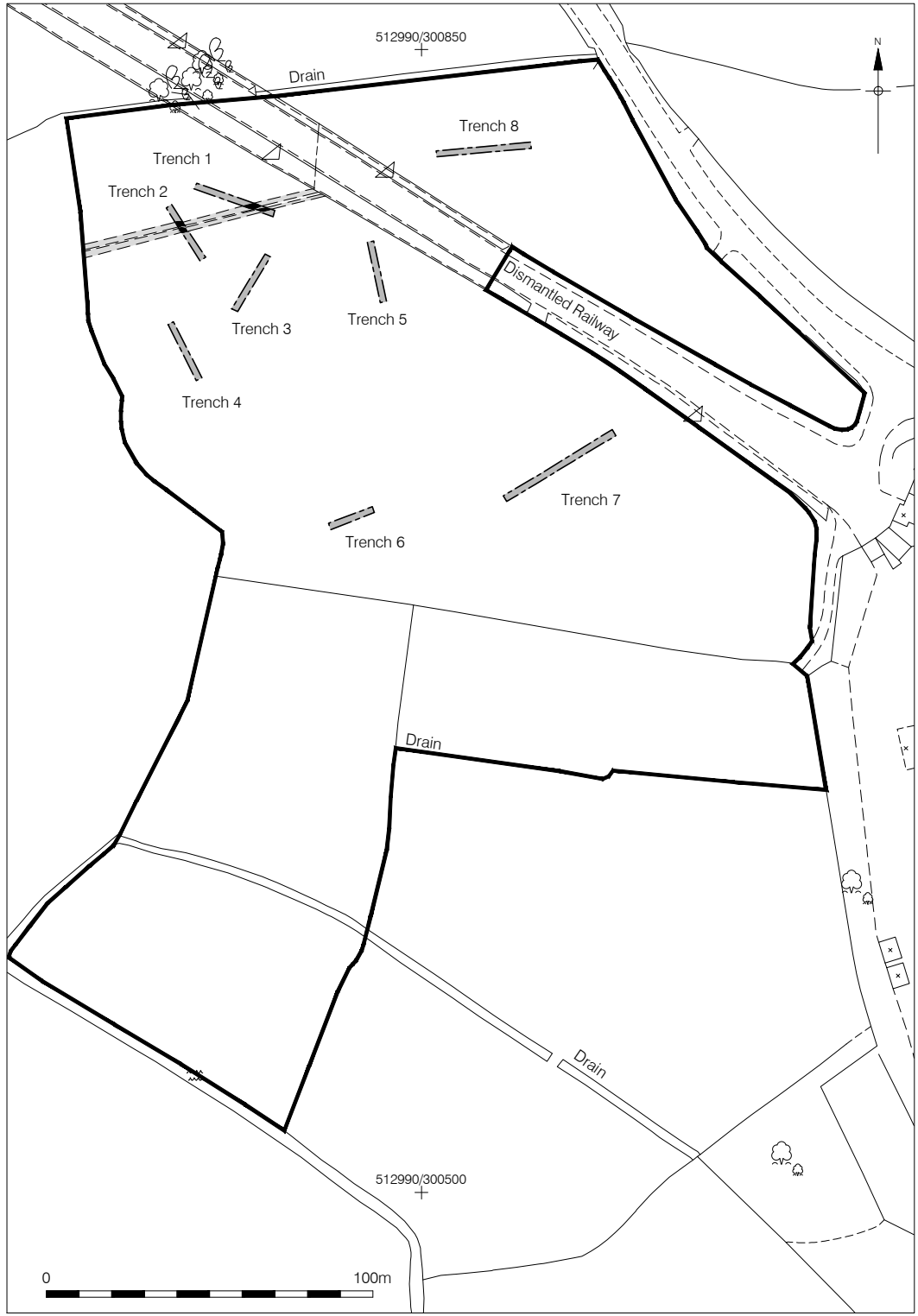


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:25,000 at A4

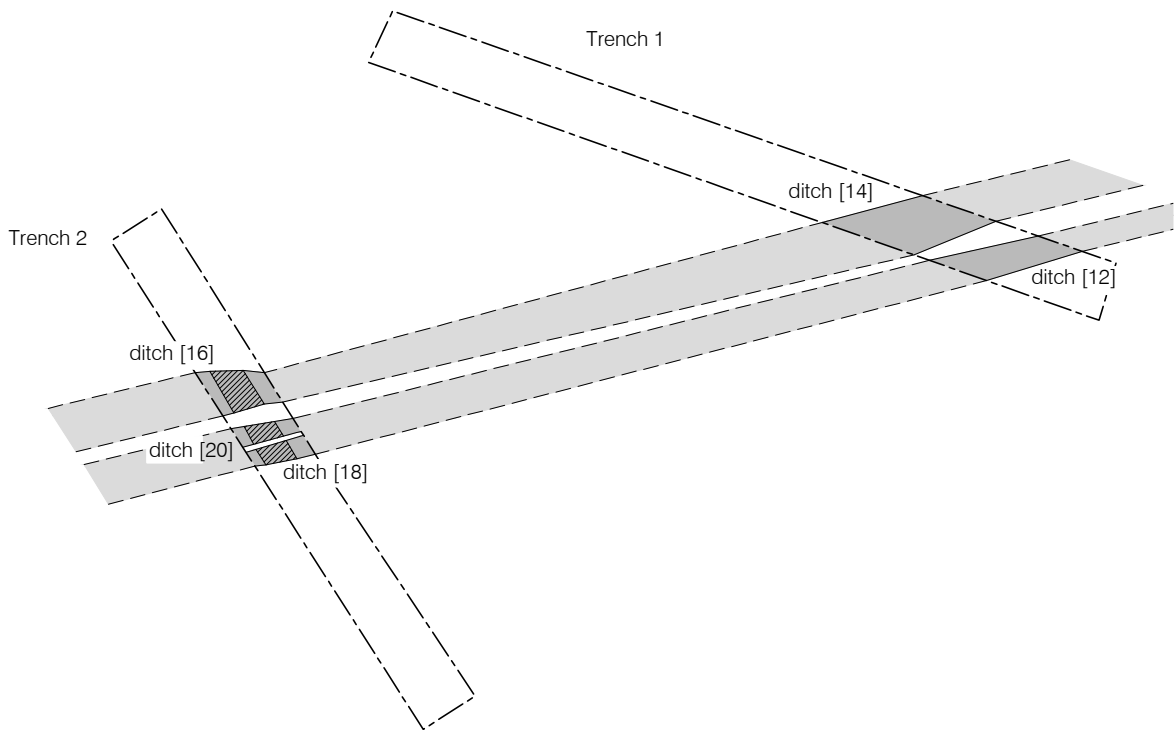


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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:2,000 at A4



612930/300815  
+



612930/300775  
+

 excavated slot

0 10m

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Figure 3  
Trenches 1 & 2  
1:250 at A4

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Cut	Type	Trench	Comments
1	-	Trench	1	Trench 1
2	-	Trench	2	Trench 2
3	-	Trench	3	Trench 3
4	-	Trench	4	Trench 4
5	-	Trench	5	Trench 5
6	-	Trench	6	Trench 6
7	-	Trench	7	Trench 7
8	-	Trench	8	Trench 8
11	12	Fill	1	Fill of [12]
12	12	Cut	1	Cut of ditch
13	14	Fill	1	Fill of ditch [14]
14	14	Cut	1	Cut of ditch [14]
15	16	Fill	2	Fill of ditch [16]
16	16	Cut	2	Cut of ditch [16]
17	18	Fill	2	Fill of ditch [18]
18	18	Cut	2	Cut of ditch [18]
19	20	Fill	2	Fill of ditch [20]
20	20	Cut	2	Cut of ditch [20]
21	-	Layer	1-8	Topsoil/Plough soil
22	-	Layer	1-8	Subsoil
23	-	Layer	1-8	Natural clay and sandy gravels

## APPENDIX 2: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1. Trench 1 with Ditch [14] and [12] being exposed. View NE.



Plate 2. Trench 1 View NW showing ditches [12] & [14].



Plate 3. Trench 2. Ditches [16], [18] and [20] running across trench beyond scale. View NE.



Plate 4. Trench 2. Ditches [16], [18] and [20]. View N.



Plate 5. Trench 3. View SW.



Plate 6. Trench 4. View NW.





Plate 7. Trench 5. View S.



Plate 8. Trench 6. View E.



Plate 9. Trench 7. View NE.



Plate 10. Trench 8. View NE.



Plate 11. Trench 2. Bailing Ditch [16]. View SW.



Plate 12. Trench 2. Left to right. Ditches [18], [20] and [16]. View SW.



Plate 13. Trench 2. Ditch [16]. View SW.



Plate 14. Trench 1 filling with ground water. View NW.

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## APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-126406

### Project details

Project name	Goff Petroleum Site. Stanfield Road. Wymonham. Norfolk. Archaeological Evaluation.
Short description of the project	Archaeological Evaluation Goff petroleum. Stanfield Road. Wymonham. Norfolk. * Eval Trenches totalling 185m. Post Med Field boundary/Hedgerow.
Project dates	Start: 15-05-2012 End: 16-05-2012
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF129039 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK WYMONDHAM Goff Petroleum
Study area	40000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 129 007 52.5619285218 1.141413265530 52 33 42 N 001 08 29 E Point

Height OD / Depth      Min: 37.00m Max: 43.00m

---

### Project creators

Name of Organisation      CGMS Consulting

Project brief originator      CgMs Consulting

Project design originator      Mark Hinman

Project director/manager      Mark Hinman

Project supervisor      Alexander Pullen

Type of sponsor/funding  
body      Owner

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Digital Archive recipient      Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service

Digital Contents      'none'

Digital Media available      'Survey'

Paper Archive recipient      Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Paper Contents      'none'

Paper Media available      'Context sheet', 'Photograph', 'Plan'

---

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      An Archaeological Trial Trench, Goff Petroleum Site,  
Wymondham, Norfolk

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Pullen, A

Date      2012

Issuer or publisher      PCA

Place of issue or      Stapleford

publication

Description                      A4 Grey Literature Report

Entered by                         Alexander Pullen (apullen@pre-construct.com)

Entered on                         17 May 2012

# PCA

## **PCA SOUTHERN**

UNIT 54  
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE  
96 ENDWELL ROAD  
BROCKLEY  
LONDON SE4 2PD  
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091  
FAX: 020 7639 9588  
EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA NORTHERN**

UNIT 19A  
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK  
DURHAM DH6 5PG  
TEL: 0191 377 1111  
FAX: 0191 377 0101  
EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA CENTRAL**

7 GRANTA TERRACE  
STAPLEFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL  
TEL: 01223 845 522  
FAX: 01223 845 522  
EMAIL: [info.central@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.central@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA WESTERN**

6 KING ALFRED'S PLACE  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO23 7DF  
TEL: 07714 134099  
EMAIL: [info.west@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.west@pre-construct.com)

