

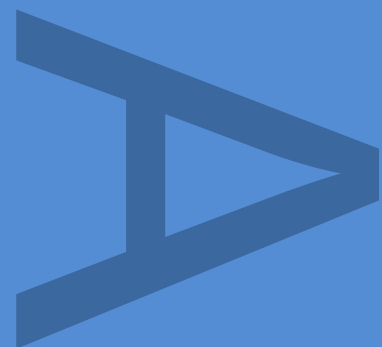
**Archaeological Excavation of the  
Land at the Former Hartismere  
Hospital,  
Castleton Way, Eye, Suffolk, IP23  
7BH**

**An Interim Report**

**Client: Care UK Community Partnerships Ltd  
(Incorporated and Registered in England and  
Wales under Company Registration Number  
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**April 2014**



## **Archaeological Excavation of the Land at the Former Hartismere Hospital,**

### **Castleton Way, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7BH: An Interim Report**

**Local Planning Authority:** Mid Suffolk District Council

**Central National Grid Reference:** TM 14065 74022

**Site Code:** EYE111

**Report No.** R11658

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This interim report describes the results of archaeological excavations undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on at the former Hartismere Hospital, Castleton Way, Eye (NGR TM 14065 74022) in February-March 2014. The archaeological work was carried out on behalf of Care UK Community Partnerships Ltd (Care UK), in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new care home. The aim of the work was to preserve by record any archaeological remains which would be damaged or destroyed by the new development.*

*The most important feature identified by the excavation was an Early Iron Age pit in the northern half of the site. The excavation also identified two post-medieval to modern pits and quarrying from the same period as well as finding evidence for more recent modern truncation.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in advance of the redevelopment of land at the former Hartismere Hospital, Castleton Way, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 7BH (Figure 1) during February 2014.
- 1.2 The site is located to the south of Castleton Way, to the east of Hartismere High School and north-west of Eye. It is bounded by Hartismere NHS facility to the north, a foot path to the west and a small area of scrub/ wasteland to the east. The southern boundary is formed by woodland within low lying ground with the southernmost point of the development area bounded by a railway embankment for the former Eye-Mellis railway. It has a total area of 0.47ha (Figure 1).
- 1.3 The archaeological work was carried out on behalf of Care UK, in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of a new care home with associated access, car-parking and landscaping. The site was previously evaluated in December 2011 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team. This evaluation work (Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) Nos. EYE111, (SCCAS Rep 2012/001).
- 1.4 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA in response to a Brief for archaeological excavation by Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).
- 1.5 The aim of the excavation was to 'preserve by record' any archaeological remains present in those areas of the site which would be affected by groundworks associated with the new development.
- 1.6 This interim report describes the results of the excavation and their significance, following completion of the project, the site archive will be deposited at Suffolk County Council Archaeology Store.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The site lies within an area of geological bedrock of Crag, water marine and estuarine sands, gravels, silts and clays. The superficial deposits lying on top of the bedrock were the Lowestoft formation of clay, silt, chalky till and sands. (British Geological Survey 2014).

2.1.2 The majority of the geological horizon arbitrarily machined to (1101) was clay with flint nodules. This is likely part of the underlying strata due to modern truncation removing the majority of the Lowestoft sands and gravels except for some remaining 'islands' of gravel in the south-west corner amongst the post-medieval quarrying.

### **2.2 Topography**

2.2.1 The town centre of Eye is 500m to the south-east of the site, Castleton Way runs east to west 100m to the north. Magdalen Street is aligned south-east-east to north-west-west 300m to the south of the site.

2.2.2 The River Waveney runs 4.8km to the north of the site, and the Dove River and its associated drain works are located to the south and to the south-east of the site, within the low lying ground which forms the immediate area which surround the town of Eye. The ground steadily rises to the north and north-west of the site. The site slopes to the south/south-east, with ground level heights varying between 36.7m and 32.3m above the Ordnance Datum.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, as recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), and as indicated by the results of recent archaeological excavations in the vicinity.

3.1.2 An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out to the south of the existing buildings at Hartismere Hospital by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service during December 2011. Twelve trenches were excavated, of which three were disturbed, two were blank and the remainder contained archaeological features. A phase of later medieval/post-medieval quarrying and other activity was indicated by several large pits and a ditch, which mainly produced CBM. Earlier occupation was characterised by small pits, ditches and a gravel spread, which are thought to probably be Roman and/or Early Anglo-Saxon, but may be of later prehistoric date. Finds from these periods include prehistoric flint and Iron Age pottery, Early Anglo-Saxon pottery and a brooch and Roman pottery. The archaeological levels to the west were generally well preserved, often below several layers of imported or redeposited topsoil (SCCAS Rep 2012/001).

3.1.3 The archaeological and historical background of this site has been researched in the evaluation report (Brooks 2012); the following text forms a summary of that document.

#### **3.2 Prehistoric**

3.2.1 Neolithic flints have been recorded at EYE 005 as well as a Neolithic arrowhead at EYE 026.

3.2.2 During the development of the arable field on the south side of Hartismere High School in 2007 a multi-period site was excavated (EYE 083). Four Neolithic and Bronze Age cremations and a probable Bronze Age crouched inhumation indicated early prehistoric activity. Later prehistoric activity consisted of two possible Iron Age roundhouses and pits.

#### **3.3 Roman**

3.3.1 An evaluation of the existing high school playing field (EYE 094) identified a series of late Roman ditch networks, pit groups, possible surfaces, plus a

number of small kilns or ovens. Roman occupation was indicated by a finds assemblage containing Roman pottery of early and late date, a range of metal finds and ceramic building material.

3.3.2 This evidence of Roman occupation forms a distinct contrast with the EYE 083 site and its predominant phase of Early Anglo-Saxon activity. EYE 094 was therefore thought to be of particular importance, offering the potential for studying the Roman/Anglo-Saxon transition period.

### **3.4 Saxon**

3.4.1 Anglo-Saxon brooches and other metalwork have been found at EYE 051, EYE 052 and EYE 053.

3.4.2 The 2007 excavation at EYE 083 revealed a substantial phase of Early Anglo-Saxon occupation with nineteen sunken featured buildings, two posthole structures and a range of other features and finds.

3.4.3 Test pits in the area now under the new sports hall identified Early Anglo-Saxon deposits (EYE 084).

### **3.5 Medieval/Post-Medieval**

3.5.1 During these periods the site lay beyond the western edge of the medieval town of Eye and was most likely open farmland, as well as marshland/floodplain closer to the river.

3.5.2 The Eye-Mellis railway line, constructed in the mid-19th century, ran along the southern edge of the hospital grounds until the early 20th century.

3.5.3 In 1907 the Eye and Hoxne Poor Law Unions merged, resulting in the Hartismere Poor Law Institution being built on the site in 1915-1916. This replaced the Eye Workhouse, which was situated on Castle Hill and was demolished in the 1970s. Around 1948-1955 the Institution was converted into the hospital and further 20th century development in the area included new housing along Castleton Way.



## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The archaeological works consisted of an open area excavation within the footprint of the proposed building (Figure 2, Plate 1).

### **4.2 Machining and Site Planning**

4.2.1 The open excavation area was machined under constant experienced archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket to remove the overlying topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) down to the archaeological horizon or geological horizon (110), whichever came first.

4.2.2 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools.

4.2.3 Metal-detecting was carried out of any stripped deposits throughout the excavation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps will be surveyed by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.2.4 Limits of all excavation areas, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) were recorded using a Leica 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

### **4.3 Recording and Sampling**

4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.3.2 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.3.3 Drawn records were in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings of all archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20,

- 1:50) while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded as written records on PCA Pro-forma context sheets.
- 4.3.4 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and when considered appropriate 100% excavated.
- 4.3.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the monitoring process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.
- 4.3.6 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site.
- 4.3.7 A metal detector was used during excavation in order to enhance finds recovery.
- 4.3.8 Bulk samples, 40 litres in volume when possible, were taken by the excavator and in consultation with the project's environmental specialist where practicable, in order to recover micro- and macro-botanical environmental remains. The broad aim of such sampling is to recover evidence relating to the past environment and agricultural economy of the site, and how these changed over time under both natural and anthropogenic influence.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **5.1 Prehistoric**

5.1.1 Twelve struck flints were recovered from the excavation area. Three struck flints were recovered from the Early Iron Age Pit [103]. The rest of the struck flints recovered were either in medieval or post-medieval features and deposits or they were unstratified and would therefore appear to be redeposited and residual. The worked flint assemblage is detailed in the lithics assessment (see Bishop, section 6.1). Despite the residual location of the majority of the struck flint, they still demonstrate prehistoric activity especially when taken into consideration alongside the Early Iron Age pit.

5.1.2 A single pit [103] was identified as dating to the Early Iron Age period (800-350BC, see Percival, section 6.2.1) in date, and appeared to represent the partial remains of a highly truncated feature. This feature was located centrally within the northern part of the excavation area and measured 1.07m in length, 1.02m in width and 0.08m in depth (Figure 4, Plates 2&3). The pit contained a dark brownish grey, sandy silt fill (102) and a high frequency of pottery sherds from up to six vessels (see Percival, section 6.2.1) were recovered from the deposit. The pottery dated to between 800BC and 350BC while the three pieces of struck flint already mentioned support a later prehistoric date (see Bishop, Section 6.1.4). The pit was 100% excavated for the purpose of retrieval of the full pottery assemblage within the pit.

5.1.3 These worked flints and the Early Iron Age pit evidenced similar prehistoric activity identified on the nearby site of Hartismere High School in 2007 (EYE 083) and demonstrate that before the current site was heavily truncated it would have been part of the prehistoric landscape of Eye.

### **5.2 Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern**

5.2.1 Extensive quarry activity was investigated in the south-west corner of the site (Figure 4, Plate 5), hand excavated slots within the quarry area revealed bands of redeposited natural within the quarry area, suggesting the nature of the quarrying to be large scale across the south-west corner of the

excavation area. Finds recovered from the quarrying deposits showed a wide range of artefacts with a long date range represented from the Early Saxon period through to the post-medieval period (see Sudds, section 6.4). Other finds recovered included six struck flints of Mesolithic through to later prehistoric date (see Bishop, section 6.1.3) and while evidencing prehistoric activity are residual within the backfill of the quarrying.

- 5.2.2 Fragments of glass, CBM and metal recovered from the quarry (noted by the excavator as being medieval or later but not kept) also supports the pottery in dating the quarrying activity as medieval or post medieval in date.
- 5.2.3 The quarry activity on the site appears to be have been followed by large scale truncation of the area, the scale of the truncation is unclear although it appears to have occurred across the majority of the excavation area. The excavation area exposed clean clay (110) with large flint nodules while sand and gravel deposits (thought to be the original superficial Lowestoft formation) were seen in the south-east corner of the site which might suggest the overall truncation was less severe in the south-east corner of the site where the quarrying had occurred.
- 5.2.4 It is possible that this truncation may have been directly associated with the construction of the nearby railway embankment, providing the material for the embankment.
- 5.2.5 Direct association with the nearby Eye-Mellis railway line is evidenced by the backfill of pit [109] located in the north-west of the site (Figure 4, Plate 4). Pit [109] was backfilled by (108) a deposit containing high quantities of furnace ash and clinker; two things you would expect to come from railway activity.
- 5.2.6 Pit [105] to the north-east of Pit [103] contained two sherds of prehistoric pottery but these have been attributed as residual (see Percival, Section 6.2.7) and the feature was noted as being of modern date by the excavator (Figure 4, Plate 6).

## **6 THE FINDS**

### **6.1 Lithic Assessment**

**By Barry Bishop**

#### Introduction

- 6.1.1 The archaeological investigations at the site resulted in the recovery of twelve struck flints. This report quantifies and describes the material, assesses its significance in terms of its potential to contribute to the stated research aims and objectives, and recommends any further work needed for it to achieve its full research potential. The flint work has been fully catalogued and this should be consulted in conjunction with reading this report (Appendix 3).

#### Raw Materials

- 6.1.2 The struck assemblage is made from flint that varies somewhat in colour and texture but it is predominantly fine-grained, translucent black and of good knapping quality. Cortex, where present, is mostly rough but weathered, and some thermal surfaces are also present. This indicates that the raw materials consisted of thermally affected nodular flint as would be available from the Lowestoft Formation glacial deposits which cover the site.

#### Description

- 6.1.3 Context [106], fill of [107]: This feature produced six struck flints, all of which are chipped and abraded as is consistent with residual deposition. The assemblage includes two broad flakes with wide and markedly obtuse striking platforms, typical of 'squat' flakes that can be dated to the Middle Bronze Age through to the Iron Age. A decortication flake and two other flakes are less diagnostic but are also rather crudely struck and most likely of a comparable date. The assemblage from this feature also includes a blade which is most typical of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries and which is possibly the earliest piece recovered from the site.
- 6.1.4 Context [102] Feature [103]: This feature produced three struck pieces, two flakes and a conchoidally fractured chunk. These are all in a good and sharp condition and may have been deposited within the feature shortly after they

were made. The conchoidally fractured chunk, probably a fragment of a large and irregularly shaped flake, has severe 'chattermarking', formed from a multitude of incipient Hertzian cones as caused by repeated bashing, across its ventral face. This damage is similar to that present on another of the flakes from this context, whose striking platform also consists of a severely chattermarked surface. The remaining flake has a disintegrated striking platform and, whilst this is mostly missing, chipping around its proximal end suggests that it too had been repeatedly bashed prior to eventual detachment. All of these pieces are very likely to have been struck, probably accidentally, from a hammerstone or pounder as it was being used; the similarities in the flint suggesting they may all have come from the same implement. Pre-battering flake scars present on all three pieces suggest that this had either been deliberately shaped or, perhaps more plausibly, consisted of a reused core (cf Bishop 2011). Hammerstones/pounders were used throughout the prehistoric period and as such this is undateable, although there are no reasons to suppose that it could not have been at least broadly contemporary with the bulk of the rest of the flint work recovered from the site and belong to the later prehistoric period.

- 6.1.5 Unstratified: Contexts produced three struck flints consisting of two flakes and a core-dressing or –shaping flake. None of these are particularly diagnostic although a Bronze Age through to Iron Age date would perhaps be most appropriate.

#### Significance

- 6.1.6 The struck flint assemblage indicates activity occurring at the site by the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods, but the bulk of it most likely belongs to the later prehistoric period, during the later parts of the second or the first millennium BC. The size of the assemblage is small and comparable with the small and similarly dated assemblage recovered during the evaluation (Biddle 2012). The pieces from feature [103] have probably been accidentally created from the disintegration of a flint hammerstone or pounder. The remaining later prehistoric pieces together with the material from the evaluation would be consistent with the occasional and ad hoc use

of flint such as is frequently documented within Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age settlements and field systems. Unfortunately, the generally chipped condition of most of the deliberately struck flakes precludes the identification of simple edge retouch and it is impossible to speculate on the types of activities the flints may have been used for.

#### Recommendations

- 6.1.7 Due to the size and lack of secure contextual associations the assemblage's interpretational value is limited and no further analytical work is recommended. As it is likely that the flint work represents a small element of a much more extensively used landscape, its presence should be noted in the local HER and a brief description included in any published account of the excavations.

## **6.2 Prehistoric pottery**

### **By Sarah Percival**

- 6.2.1 A small assemblage of 83 sherds weighing 995g was recovered, principally from a single pit at EYE111. The assemblage is of Early Iron Age date (800-350BC) and features plain and decorated sherds from at least six vessels. The sherds are fragmentary but otherwise in good condition. The average sherd weight is 12g.

#### Fabric

- 6.2.2 Four fabrics were identified in two fabric groups (Table 1). The assemblage is almost all flint tempered with three flint-tempered fabrics forming 92% of the total assemblage by weight. Quantity and size of flint inclusions vary between the fabrics from fine to coarse with most sherds being in a 'medium' fabric with speckled through with fine inclusions and occasional larger angular flint pieces. A second fabric, F1, is sandier including occasional clear rounded quartz. A small number of sherds were found in very coarse flint fabric F3.
- 6.2.3 A single sandy fabric with few visible inclusions of rounded clear to orange quartz was also found in small quantities, perhaps representing a single vessel.

Fabric Code	Fabric Description	Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
F1	Moderate white sub-rounded to angular flint > 4mm. Occasional rounded quartz. Sandy matrix	27	365	36.68%
F2	Common white fine to medium angular flint, speckled through matrix flint, sandy matrix	45	505	50.75%
F3	Common coarse flint >6mm	3	49	4.92%
Q1	Fine sandy fabric, sparse rounded quartz clear to orange	8	76	7.64%
Total		83	995	100.00%

**Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by fabric**

### Form and Decoration

6.2.4 The assemblage includes rims from perhaps six vessels, however as most of these have broken just below the rim it is not possible to identify these vessels to a particular form. Several vessels are identifiable however including a large rim from a long-necked tripartite jar with smoothed surfaces and rounded rim ending (Form I3 Brudenell 2012, fig.4.1). Around 15% of this vessel rim is present, suggesting the jar had a diameter at the rim of 210mm. A second vessel of similar form but with a flattened rim ending was also found. Other rims within the assemblage are flat or hooked and one is decorated with fingertip impressions to the rim top. A second rim has incised lines running vertically down the exterior of the vessel terminating in nicks from the flattened rim edge. Two base sherds are both flared with added grits adhering to the underside.

6.2.5 Decoration is also found on a number of body sherds. Fingertip impressions are present two vessels, both as a single row to the shoulder, one example being deep almost plastic rustication. These sherds are curved suggesting a vessel with a rounded shoulder (Brudenell 2012 fig.4.1, F2, F6). A third vessel has a row of light fingernail impressed decoration. This type of decoration is extremely common within earlier Iron Age assemblages being found locally at West Harling (Clark and Fell 1953) and more recently within the Early Iron Age assemblage from Flixton quarry (Percival forthcoming).

6.2.6 Two joining sherds have linear combed decoration. This form of decoration



is unusual, though Brudenell notes that it is most commonly found in Later Bronze Age assemblage from south east Essex (Brudenell 2012, fig. 6.21). One sherd has a possible impressed dot. Combining all types of decorative technique represented, around 13% of the assemblage is decorated.

#### Deposition

- 6.2.7 Ninety nine percent of the assemblage came from a single pit, [103], which contained all of the rims, bases and decorated sherds. The remaining two sherds came from a second pit [105], and are probably residual. The assemblage from pit [103] is typical of earlier Iron Age deposition, containing as it does small numbers of sherds from a relatively large number of vessels. Within the assemblage one vessel, the tripartite jar, has several large joining sherds whilst others are represented by small, non-joining fragments. No burnt or abraded sherds were noted suggesting that they were deposited quite soon after breakage.

#### Discussion

- 6.2.8 This small assemblage is similar to Early Iron Age Decorated Ware pottery found during excavations at Flixton Quarry some 25km along the Waveney Valley. Pottery of similar date has also been found more locally at Hartismere High School (EYE 083) which included both Plain and Decorated Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery (Percival 2008).
- 6.2.9 The assemblage is of interest representing a further Post Deverel-Rimbury activity focussed around the Waveney and Dove Valleys. The presence of distinctive combed sherds might suggest contact with south east Essex, perhaps utilising riverine transport links. It is likely that the pit was filled in the Early Iron Age around 800-350BC.

### **6.3 The Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery**

#### **By Berni Sudds**

- 6.3.1 A small assemblage of post-Roman pottery was retrieved from site amounting to 12 sherds, weighing 143g. The group derives from the backfill of a single quarry pit ([107]) and includes material of Early Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. A small number of prehistoric flint-tempered sherds

were also recovered from this feature (see Percival, this report). The pottery of all periods is in poor condition, demonstrating fairly significant abrasion and fragmentation.

6.3.2 The material was scanned under x20 magnification and recorded by fabric, form, number and weight (Table 1). The fabric codes assigned to the pottery follow the SCCAS fabric series.

SCCAS Fabric code	Expansion	No.	Wg	Comments/ condition	Date range
Early Saxon					
ESQZ	Early Saxon quartzite	1	24	Body/base sherd. Burnt. Grey core with oxidised surfaces. Coarse mineral tempering. Quartz/ quartzite and calcareous inclusions.	5 – 7 <sup>th</sup> century
ESCM	Early Saxon calcareous and granitic (gold mica)	1	15	Black throughout. Abraded. Sand and granitic temper, gold mica and sparse calcareous inclusions.	5 – 7 <sup>th</sup> century
Medieval					
EMW	Early medieval ware	1	17	Grey core, oxidised surfaces. Sand tempered with occasional flint and calcareous inclusions.	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> century
MCW	Medieval coarseware	1	5	Abraded body sherd. Sandy fabric, oxidised.	L.12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century
UPG	Unprovenanced glazed ware	2	16	Abraded. Green glaze. One base, one sooted body sherd.	L.12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century
LMT	Late medieval and transitional	3	39	Bunghole jar and two non-diagnostic body sherds.	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> century
Post-medieval					
GRE	Glazed red earthenware	3	27	Everted, broad rim sherd, strap handle from a jug and a body sherd. Clear glaze.	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century

**Table 2: The pottery from (106). No = Number of sherds. Wg = Weight in grams.**

6.3.3 Two sherds of Early Saxon pottery were recovered from the pit. The largest is characterised by quartz, coarse quartzite and sparse calcareous inclusions and is from the bottom part of a handmade vessel, where the

body meets the base. The second sherd is smaller and more abraded but contains distinctive granitic inclusions and gold mica in a sandy matrix also containing sparse calcareous. The combination of inclusions in this sherd would be consistent with a local East Anglian origin with the granitic inclusions derived from the local boulder clays as glacial erratics. Both of these sherds are likely to be contemporary with the five sherds of Early Saxon pottery recovered during the evaluation (Goffin 2012, 23).

6.3.4 The small assemblage of medieval pottery is also very abraded but includes material dating from the 11th to 14th century including glazed wares and coarsewares. The Early medieval ware sherds are reminiscent of Medieval Ely ware in firing and composition but differ in fabric, containing rare coarse flint and only sparse calcareous inclusions. The late medieval and transitional wares include the bunghole from a bunghole jar. No other diagnostic sherds were identified.

6.3.5 The three Glazed red earthenwares are also abraded but provide a terminus post quem of c.AD 1580 for deposition given the thick, even glaze present on one of the body sherds. The broad, thickened rim is more typically 16th century in date, but is again abraded.

## **6.4 Environmental analysis**

### **By Val Fryer**

6.4.1 Environmental analysis is currently being carried out by Val Fryer and will be detailed in the final submission of the excavation report that will follow this interim report.

6.4.2 A 20 litre soil sample of (102) within Pit [103] was recovered for flotation in order to recover evidence relating to the past environment and agricultural economy of the site, and how these changed over time under both natural and anthropogenic influence. The final report will detail any information relating to the pit and place it into context within the Early Iron Age period.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The pottery recovered from Early Iron Age pit [103] is consistent with an assemblage associated with settlement activity. Although further evidence of this activity may exist further to the north, no further evidence for activity of this date was seen during the excavation. The depth and form of the pit would be consistent with a highly truncated feature, possibly representing the base of a much deeper feature. It is likely that other prehistoric features were located on the site before the two events of truncation. This is supported by the residual struck flints found unstratified and within the backfill of the medieval to post-medieval quarrying. The flints evidence prehistoric activity on the site, even if they are located within later features.
- 7.2 Pit [103] and the struck flints not only demonstrate that the site itself was occupied in the later prehistoric period, more specifically the Early Iron Age, but also places the site within the prehistoric landscape already discovered on nearby excavations at Hartismere High School (EYE 083) .
- 7.3 While demonstrating evidence for prehistoric activity, the most tangible evidence for activity on the site is the medieval to post-medieval quarrying located in the south-western corner. This demonstrates that during these periods the inhabitants of Eye quarrying the sands, gravels and clays of the local geology on the site. This quarrying has helped contribute to the truncation of the prehistoric site. This was identified in the evaluation (Biddle, J. 2012) of the site where large scale soil movements were identified, with the suggestion of both removal and importation of soil deposits on the site, this activity may have also removed any evidence for residual finds which may have been present in the overburden deposits.
- 7.4 Pits [105] and [109], while providing evidence for further activity, are likely to be directly associated with the more recent post-medieval to modern activity on the site with pit [109] evidencing material likely to have come from the nearby railway line.
- 7.5 The site has clearly been heavily truncated since the quarrying in the south-western part of the site as the geological and archaeological horizon

machined to during the excavation was comprised of clean clay rather than the expected sands and gravels. Islands of gravel identified within the quarrying demonstrate that the site has been landscaped and heavily truncated in the modern period. A possible interpretation for why this has happened may be in order to construct the railway embankment for the Eye-Mellis railway line along the southern part of the site.

- 7.6 From the results of the evaluation and excavation it is clear there was significant activity on the site but it is only following the excavation that it is clear much of this activity has been truncated by the quarrying and modern truncation associated with building the 19<sup>th</sup> century Eye-Mellis railway line.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Care UK for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project and the site team: Jon House, Mary-Anne Slater, Bonnie Knapp and Tom Learmonth, for their hard work. The author would like to thank Hayley Baxter of PCA's CAD Department for preparing the figures, Barry Bishop for the lithic report, Sarah Percival for the prehistoric pottery report, Berni Sudds of PCA for the Saxon to post-medieval pottery report and Val Fryer for the environmental analysis.

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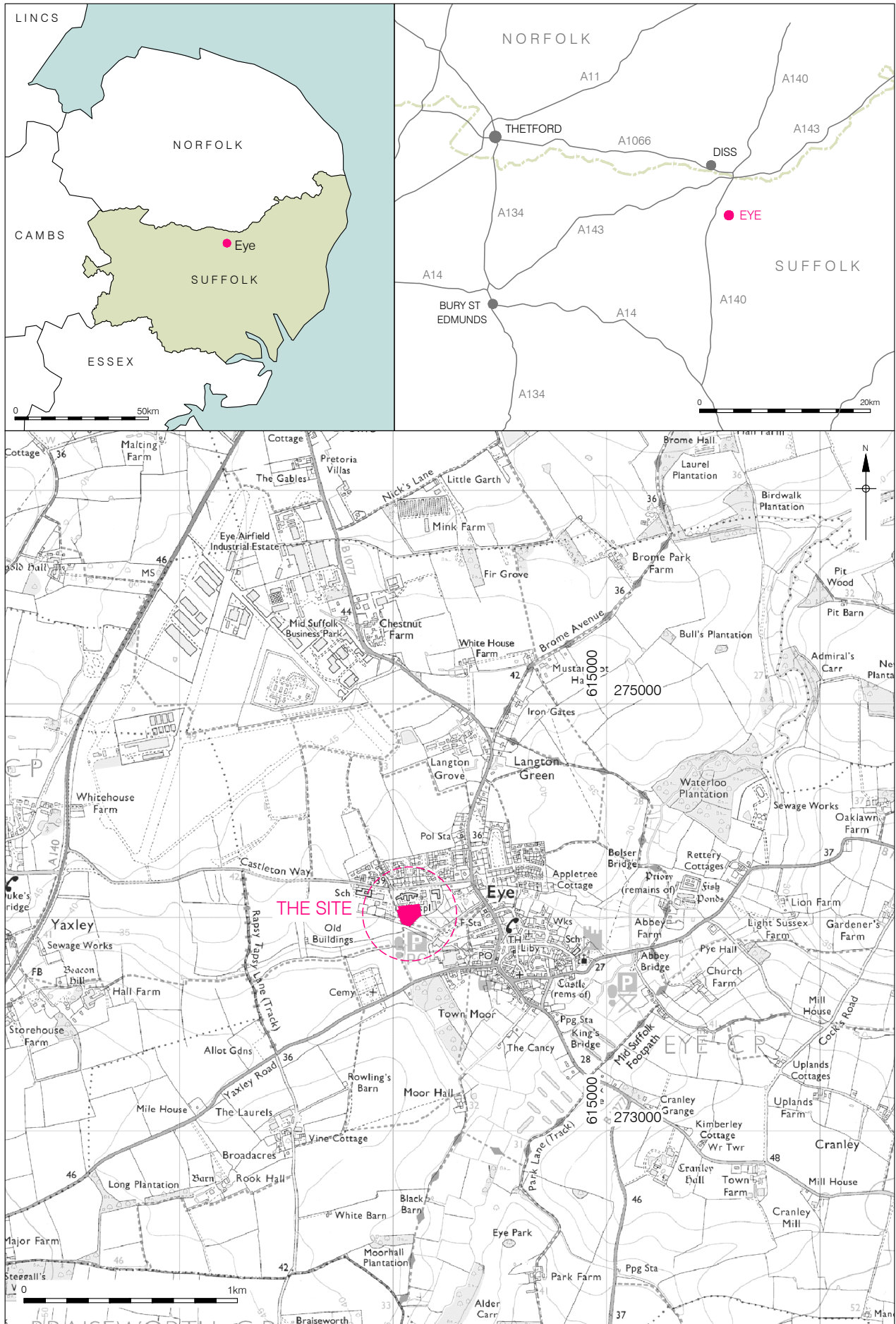
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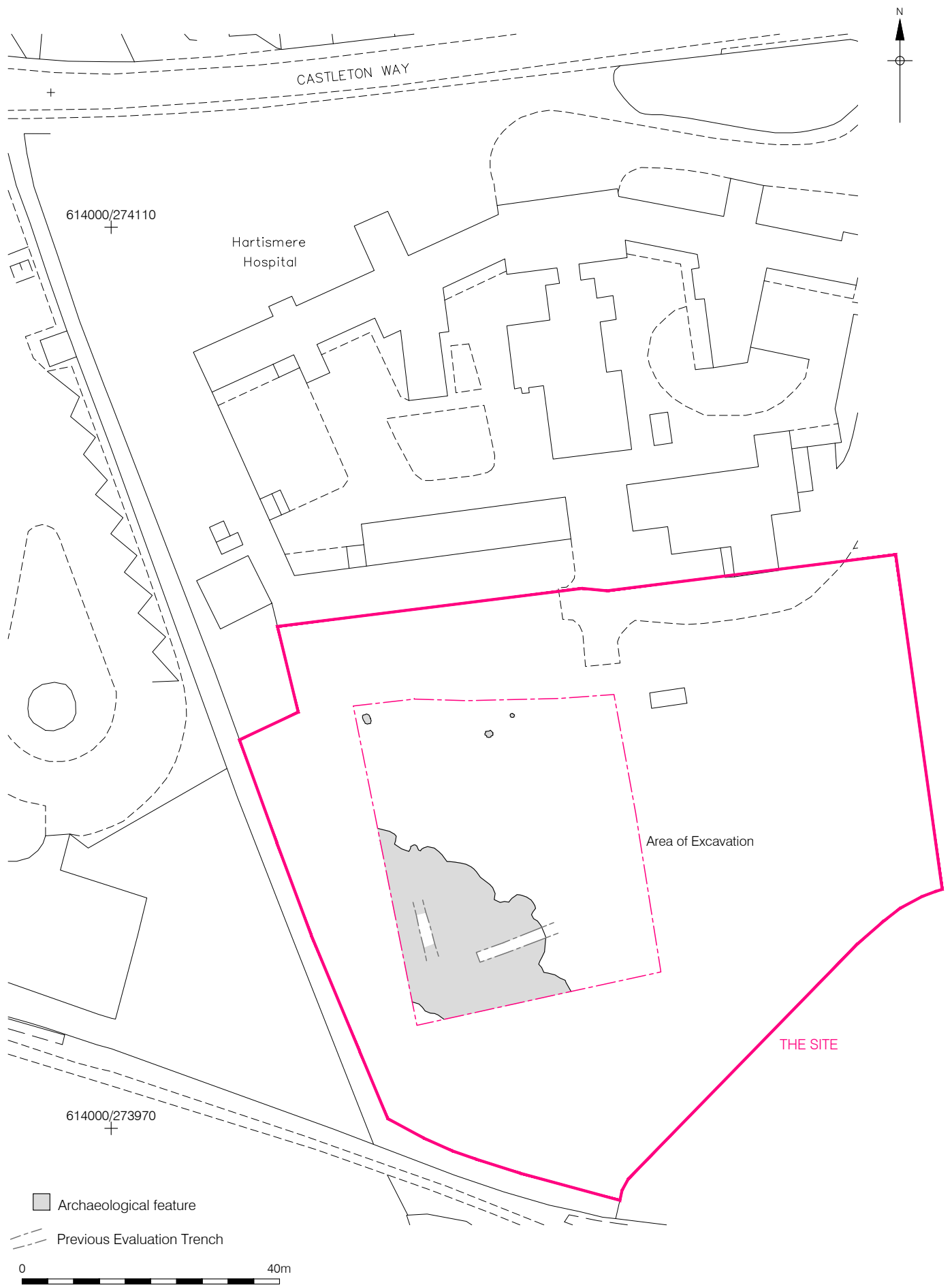
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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000, 625,000 & 25,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:800 at A4

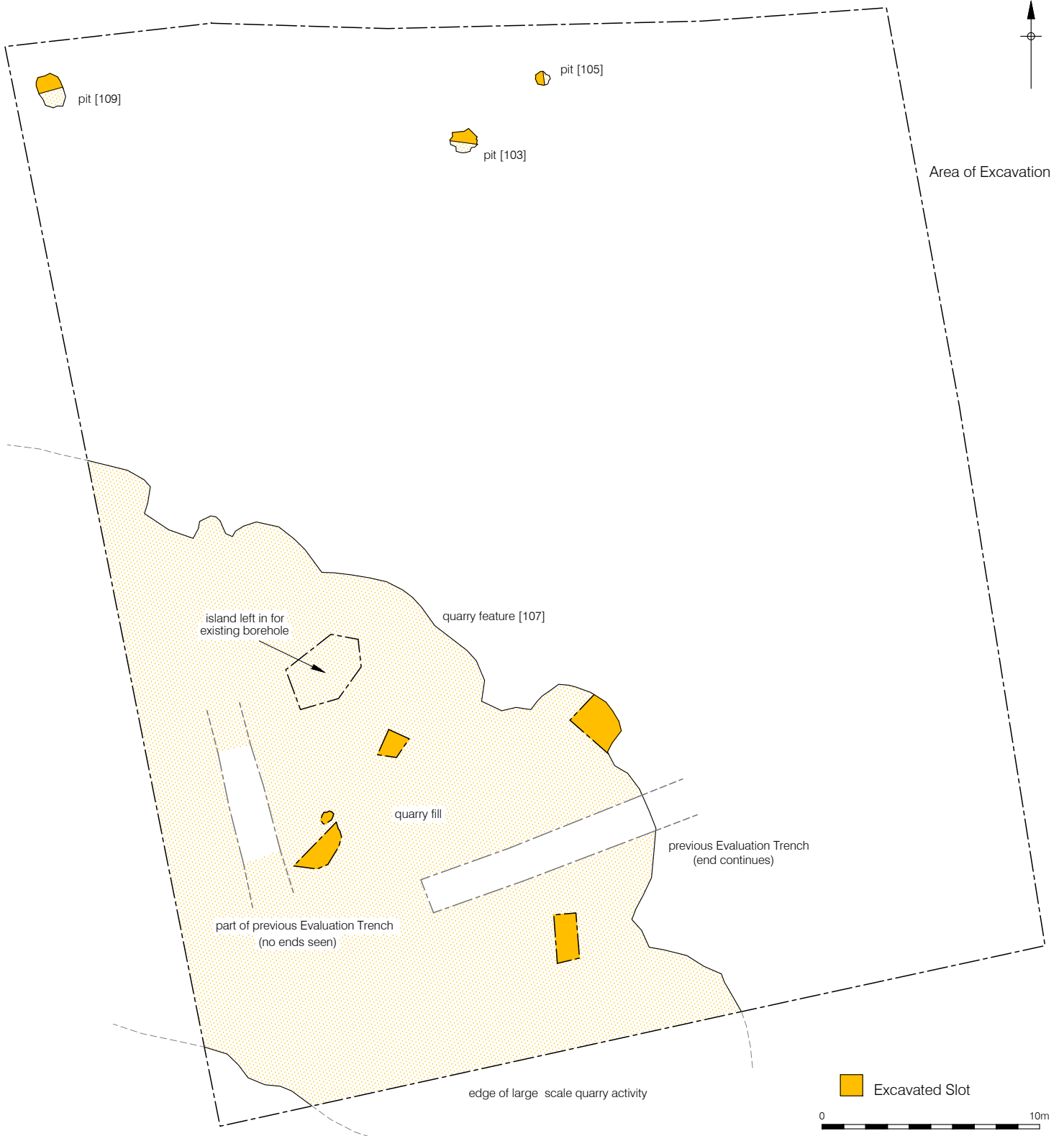


- Archaeological feature
- Previous Evaluation Trench

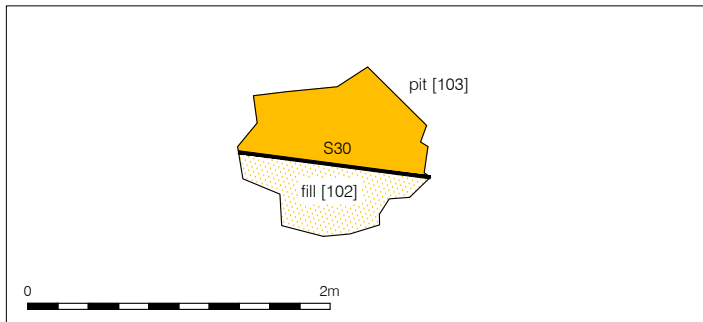
0 40m

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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:800 at A4



Detail of Pit [103]



Section 30

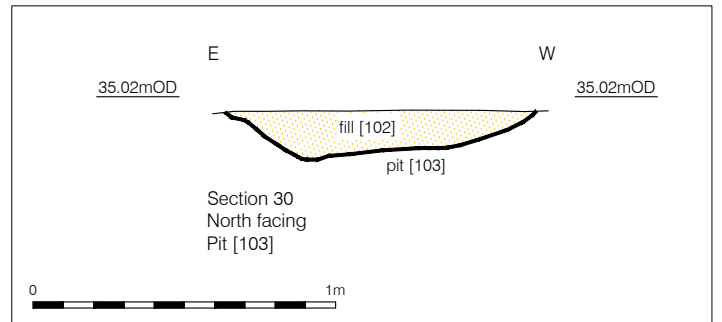


Figure 3  
Area of Excavation Plan 1:250 at A4  
& Detail of Pit [103]/Section 30  
1:50 & 1:25 at A4

## 10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: North-west facing view of the Site



Plate 2: North facing view of Pit [103]



Plate 3: Fully Excavated Pit [103]



Plate 4: North facing View of Pit [109]



Plate 5: North-west facing view across Quarrying area [109]



Plate 6: East facing view of Pit [107]

## 11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

<b>Context</b>	<b>Cut</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>
(100)	-	Layer	Topsoil	-
(101)	-	Layer	Subsoil	-
(102)	[103]	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [103]
[103]	[103]	Cut	Pit	Prehistoric Pit
(104)	[105]	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [105]
[105]	[105]	Cut	Pit	Post-medieval Pit
(106)	[107]	Fill	Quarry	Fill of Quarrying [107]
[107]	[107]	Cut	Quarry	Post-medieval quarrying
(108)	[109]	Fill	Pit	Fill of Pit [109]
[109]	[109]	Cut	Pit	Post-medieval to Modern Pit
(110)	-	Layer	Natural Geological Horizon	-



## 12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: [preconst1-177203](#)

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Excavation of the Land at the Former Hartismere Hospital, Castleton Way, Eye
Short description of the project	Archaeological excavations carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on at the former Hartismere Hospital, Castleton Way, Eye (NGR TM 14065 74022) in February-March 2014. The aim of the work was to preserve by record any archaeological remains which would be damaged or destroyed by the new development. The most important feature identified by the excavation was an Early Iron Age pit in the northern half of the site. The excavation also identified two post-medieval to modern pits and quarrying from the same period.
Project dates	Start: 24-02-2014 End: 07-03-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	EYE111 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	EYE111 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	QUARRYING Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK EYE Land at the former Hartismere Hospital, Castleton Way, Eye, Suffolk
Postcode	IP23 7BH
Study area	0.47 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 14065 74022 52.3219710917 1.1414762335 52 19 19 N 001 08 29 E Point  
Lat/Long Datum Unknown  
Height OD / Depth Min: 32.30m Max: 36.75m

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Project brief originator Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Officer  
Project design originator Mark Hinman  
Project director/manager Mark Hinman  
Project supervisor Jonathan House  
Type of sponsor/funding body Care UK  
Name of sponsor/funding body Care UK

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#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Suffolk County Council  
Physical Archive ID EYE111  
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental"  
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Council  
Digital Archive ID EYE111  
Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Survey","other"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council  
Paper Archive ID EYE111  
Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Survey","other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

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Entered by Matthew Lees (MLees@pre-construct.com)  
Entered on 15 April 2014

### 13 APPENDIX 3: LITHICS CATALOGUE

Context	Cut	Typology	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
102	103	Conchoidal chunk	Translucent Black	Thin, weathered	Good	Undated	Conchoidally fractured 'ventral' with severe battering across most to its dorsal face overlying earlier flake scars. Disintegrated hammerstone / pounder
102	103	Flake	Translucent Black	Thin, weathered	Good	Undated	Partially cortical flake with severe chattermarking across its striking platform. Earlier flake scars on dorsal face and very pronounced ripple-marked and distorted ventral face. Badly mis-struck, probably accidentally flaked from a hammerstone / pounder
102	103	Flake	Translucent Black	None	Good	Undated	Small thin flake with a disintegrated striking platform and multi-directional flake scars
106	107	Flake	Translucent Black	Thick weathered	Chipped	MBA-IA	Classic 'squat' flake, possibly retouched along platform/dorsal edge and around perimeter but condition precludes positive identification
106	107	Flake	Translucent Black	None	Chipped	MBA-IA	Small classic 'squat' flake
106	107	Flake	Translucent Black	Thick weathered	Chipped	Undated	Small, well struck but probably post-Neolithic
106	107	Flake	Translucent Brown	Thick weathered	Chipped	Undated	Narrow, distal missing and possibly of blade proportions but very thick and with multi-directional dorsal scars and quite possibly post-Neolithic
106	107	Blade	Mottled grey	None	Chipped	Meso/ENeo	Distal missing, and quite thick but appears to be from systematic reduction
106	107	Decortication Flake	Translucent Black	Thermal scar	Chipped	Undated	Laterally broken, probably post-Neolithic
+	unstrat	Flake	Translucent Black	None	Chipped	Undated	Struck along the edge of a keeled striking platform, possibly the edge of a large implement but of uncertain form. Most probably post-Neolithic
+	unstrat	Flake	Speckled semi-translucent black	None	Chipped	MBA-IA	Thick hard hammer struck

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+	unstrat	Core dressing flake	Translucent Black	Thin, weathered	Slightly chipped	Undated	Thin flake but retains cortex around both lateral margins
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## 14 APPENDIX 4: PREHISTORIC POTTERY CATALOGUE

Site code	Context	Sample	Illustration	Fabric	f2	dsc	qty	wt	vess no	no of vessels	Pot type	FORM	surf	ab	ERA	Spot date	Comment	dec	res	rim type	rim %	rim diam	base type	base %	base dia	handle	Feature	Feature type
EYE111	102			F1	F	U	17	189				S			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age	Mature Decorated											103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	U	24	249				S			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age												103 Pit
EYE111	102			Q1	Q	U	4	50				B			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age												103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	U	1	47				wiped			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age	coil break curved											103 Pit
EYE111	102			F3	F	U	1	26				F			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age												103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	D	2	20							Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age		FTIOS										103 Pit
EYE111	102			Q1	Q	U	1	15				F			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age	Curved exaggerated shoulder											103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	D	3	48				W			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age		FTIOS										103 Pit
EYE111	102			F1	F	D	1	19				W			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age		FNI										103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	D	2	10							Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age		combed										103 Pit
EYE111	102			F1	F	D	1	3				S			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age		IMP ?dot										103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	B	1	35							Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age						flared gritted						103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	R	4	38	1	1 Jar	?	S			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age				flat								103 Pit
EYE111	102			F1	F	R	1	76	2	1 Jar	I3	B			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age				Rounded	15	210						103 Pit
EYE111	102			F1	F	R	4	73	3	1 Jar	I3	S			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age				flattened								103 Pit
EYE111	102			F2	F	R	3	29	4	1 Jar	?	S			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age				hooked								103 Pit
EYE111	102			F3	F	R	2	23	5	1 Jar	?	W			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age		FTIORT		flattened								103 Pit
EYE111	102			Q1	Q	R	1	5	6	1 Jar	?	S			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age	incised lines running down body from rim<nicks in rim ext											103 Pit
EYE111	102	10		Q1	Q	U	2	6				B			Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age				flat								103 Pit
EYE111	102	10		F1	F	R	3	5							Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age	v small fragments			flat								103 Pit
EYE111	102	10		F2	F	U	3	19					Y		Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age												103 Pit
EYE111	106			F2	F	U	2	10					Y		Later Prehistoric	Early Iron Age												105 Pit
							83	995																				

Row Labels	Sum of q	Sum of wt	Sum of wt2
103	81	985	98.99%
105	2	10	1.01%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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