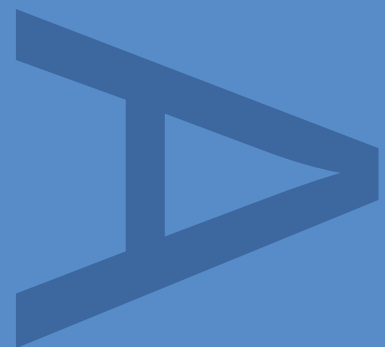


**An Archaeological Evaluation on  
Land at the former Radwinter  
Mushroom Farm, Roman Road,  
Radwinter, Essex.**



**October 2014**




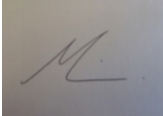
**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R11898**

LAND AT THE FORMER RADWINTER  
MUSHROOM FARM, ROMAN ROAD,  
RADWINTER, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3717
Report Number	R11898

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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CB22 3EN

## **An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the former Radwinter Mushroom Farm, Roman Road, Radwinter, Essex.**

**Local Planning Authority:** Uttlesford District Council

**Planning Reference:** UTT/13/2678/FUL

**Central National Grid Reference:** TL 6078 3581

**Site Code:** RDMF14

**Report No.** R11898

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**Commissioning Client:** Moody Homes Ltd

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of a six-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at the former Radwinter Mushroom Farm, Roman Road, Radwinter. (NGR TL 6078 3581) on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Moody Homes Ltd. in response to a planning condition attached to residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.*

*The east boundary of the site is formed by a modern road known to follow the former course of a Roman road; however no evidence was seen for the road, or any potentially associated ditch.*

*The evaluation identified no significant archaeological features or deposits.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at the former Radwinter Mushroom Farm, Roman Road, Radwinter, CB10 2TF (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR TL 6078 3581) on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2014 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is located 1.4km to the south of Radwinter, on the western side of Roman Road, Wimbish Green is located 0.3km south of the development area. The site contained 16 derelict single storey buildings of various structural forms, all associated with Second World War activities serving the air-force base at Great Sampford. These buildings were grouped together in three main blocks, along the northern boundary, in the centre of the site and toward the south and eastern boundary; and were latterly used in a horticultural (mushroom farming) and commercial context.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Moody Homes Ltd in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of three large detached dwellings and associated hard standings and access. (Planning Reference UTT/13/2678/FUL).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Adam Garwood of PCA (Garwood 2014) in response to a Brief produced by Richard Havis of Place Services, Essex County Council, who advises the Local Planning Authority (Uttlesford District Council) on archaeological matters (Havis 2014).
- 1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.6 A total of 6 trenches were excavated on the site. Length of the individual trenches varied due to site specific constraints, with the total length of trial

trenching measuring 212m.

- 1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Essex County Council Archaeology Store.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1 The superficial deposits comprise Lowestoft formation, an extensive sheet of chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays which is characterised by its chalk and flint content. This overlies bedrock formed of chalk member (British Geological Survey 2014).
- 2.2 Radwinter is located within the rolling landscape of north-west Essex and to the west of the Pant river valley. The site lies at a height of approximately 107m AOD, which slopes gently from south to north, and covers an area of c. 0.90 hectares. A large detached house, Radwinter House is located to the south of the site, with Applecroft Bungalow and the farm complex of Jenkins Hog Farm being located to the north. The western boundary of the site consists of arable fields.



### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The proposed development also lies immediately adjacent to the route of a Roman Road (EHER 1452) running north to Radwinter and possibly connecting with the Colchester-Great Chesterford Road (EHER 1437).
- 3.2 The line of a lane running south from Radwinter-Jenkinhog Farm is continued by footpaths and parish boundaries for 2.5 miles to Bow Croft wood in Thaxted where Roman remains have been found. It is recognisable as a field boundary c.1 mile north of Thaxted and identified on the north edge of Thaxted at TL 6117 3116.
- 3.3 Investigation of a section of the road within Thaxted revealed a compact upper dressing of small stones, flint chippings and pieces of chalk, overlying a layer of large stones and flints. Many "had been roughly shaped to form a close-knit foundation". The road appeared to be 25-27ft wide and between 10 and 15inches below the surface. It is suggested that the road was long lived with evidence of use and re-surfacing into the medieval period (EHER 1402).
- 3.4 Given the sites location, there is significant potential for the discovery of either the Roman Road or settlement/roadside activity associated with the Roman road.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised six 2m wide trenches of varying lengths, totalling 212m of linear trial trenching (Figure 2).
- 4.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 20 ton 360-type mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.3 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.4 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.5 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

- 4.6 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present within any of the trenches.

### 5.2 Trench 1 (Plate 1)

5.2.1 The eastern half of the trench was located in an area which had been levelled, with some disturbance to the overburden deposits through recent demolition activity. The underlying natural deposits remained undisturbed, with little or no impact from recent demolition activity.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2	Plates 1	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Trench Length: 49.5m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Demolition (Recent)	102	0.15	-
Topsoil	100	0.1	0.18
Subsoil	101	0.19	0.21
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 1 was located in the southern end of the site, parallel to the southern site boundary.			
No archaeological features or deposits.			

### 5.3 Trench 2 (Plate 2)

5.3.1 The north-western end of the trench was partially truncated by modern demolition, with modern demolition material pressed into the natural clay. Two linear concrete pads were also present within the trench, the majority of the trench was however undisturbed natural. The trench was located the closest to the known course of the Roman road, however no evidence was seen in the south-eastern end of the trench for the ancient road or any possibly associated road side ditch.

<b>TRENCH 2</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 2</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Trench Length: 38.5		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>SE End</b>	<b>NW End</b>
Demolition (Recent)	102	0.11	-
Topsoil	100	-	0.19
Subsoil	101	0.26	0.17
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 2 was located centrally within the site.			
No archaeological features or deposits.			

## 5.4 Trench 3 (Plate 3)

5.4.1 The trench contained no modern truncation, or disturbance.

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 3</b>	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Trench Length: 19m		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>N End</b>	<b>S End</b>
Topsoil	100	0.22	0.17
Subsoil	101	0.36	0.26
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 3 was located centrally within the southern half of the site.			
No archaeological features or deposits.			

## 5.5 Trench 4 (Plate 4)

5.5.1 The trench contained no modern truncation, or disturbance.

<b>TRENCH 4</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 4</b>	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Trench Length: 45m		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>N End</b>	<b>S End</b>
Topsoil	100	0.2	0.25

Subsoil	101	0.19	0.29
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 4 was located at the western edge of the site, parallel to the western site boundary.			
No archaeological features or deposits.			
The trench was shortened due to overhead power lines present at the south-west corner of the site.			

## 5.6 Trench 5 (Plate 5)

- 5.6.1 Modern intrusions were present within the trench, the intrusions were services uncovered below the archaeological grade and did not affect the machining levels.

<b>TRENCH 5</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 5</b>	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Trench Length: 18m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	100	0.15	0.13
Subsoil	101	0.34	0.17
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 1 was located on the eastern side of the site, parallel to the eastern site boundary.			
No archaeological features or deposits.			

## 5.7 Trench 6 (Plate 6)

- 5.7.1 The trench contained a small amount of modern disturbance at the western end, and a single defunct electric cable.

<b>TRENCH 6</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 6</b>	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Trench Length: 41m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	100	0.12	0.13

---

Subsoil	101	0.24	0.21
<b>Summary</b>			
<p>Trench 1 was located in the northern half of the site.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits.</p> <p>The trench was shortened due to the presence of a public footpath.</p>			

## **6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 Despite a degree of truncation from recent demolition works and modern intrusions relating to the previous structures on the site, the natural underlying deposits remained relatively undisturbed. Demolition and modern activity seen on the site is not thought to be masking archaeological features or deposits, with the evaluation suggesting an absence of visible archaeological remains. Trench 2 was located as close as possible to the known course of the Roman road; however no evidence was seen for the road, or an associated ditch. A large modern ditch was present at the current road side, which may have been the location of a prior Roman roadside ditch, if the modern course of the road is fairly consistent with the ancient route.
- 6.2 No residual finds were seen within the topsoil and subsoil deposits suggesting the site is likely to be a distance from any Roman settlement activity.



## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Moody Homes Ltd for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Richard Havis of Place Services, Essex County Council, who advises the Local Planning Authority for monitoring the work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

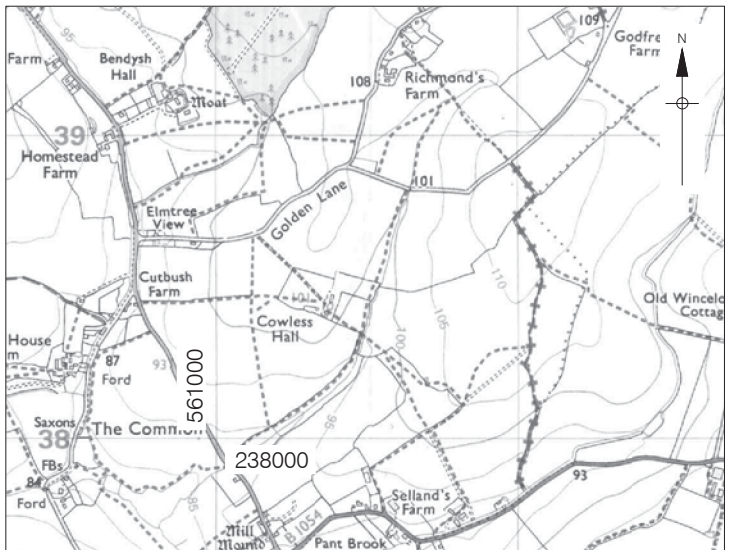
### **8.1 Printed Sources**

Garwood, A. 2014 Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the former Radwinter Mushroom Farm, Roman Road, Radwinter, Essex CB10 2TF (unpublished, Pre-Construct Archaeology)

Havis, R. 2014 Brief for Archaeological Building Recording, Trial Trenching and Excavation at Radwinter Mushroom Farm, Bent Road, Radwinter (unpublished, Essex County Council Place Services)

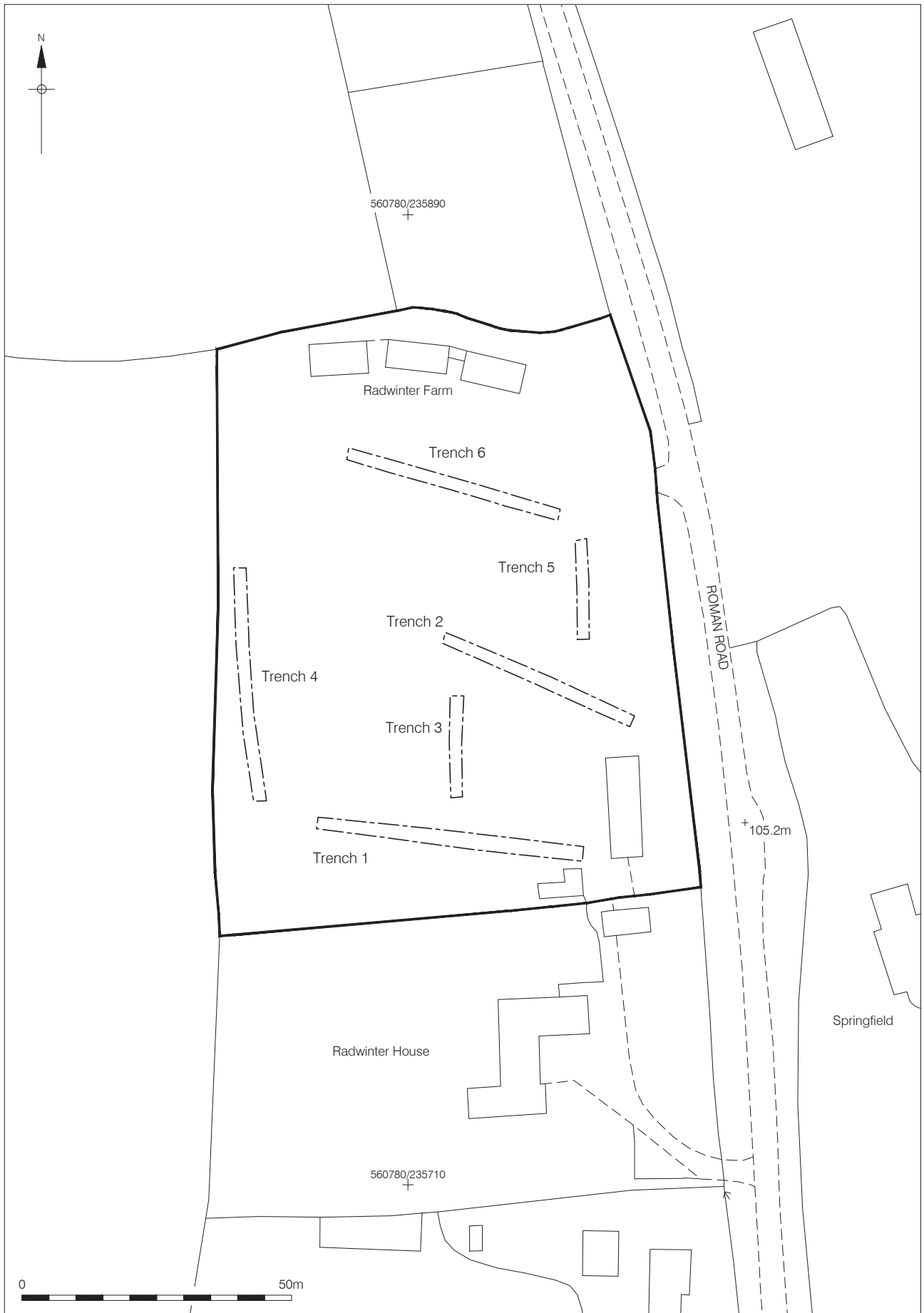
### **8.2 Websites**

1) British Geological Survey 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP9%203DG>.



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 28/10/14 JS

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



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Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:1,000 at A4

**9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



Plate 1: Trench 1, taken from the east.



Plate 2: Trench 2, taken from the south-east.



Plate 3: Trench 3, taken from the south.



Plate 4: Trench 4, taken from the north.



Plate 5: Trench 5, taken from the south.



Plate 6: Trench 1, taken from the east.

## 10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	1-6
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	1-6
102	-	Layer	Demolition	Modern	Recent Demolition	1-2



## 11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

### 11.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-193279

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#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at the former Radwinter Mushroom Farm, Roman Road, Radwinter, Essex.
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of a six-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology. The east boundary of the site is formed by a modern road known to follow the former course of a Roman road; however no evidence was seen for the road, or any potentially associated ditch. The evaluation identified no significant archaeological features or deposits
Project dates	Start: 21-10-2014 End: 22-10-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RDMF14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/13/2678/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

---

#### Project location

Country	England
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Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD RADWINTER Land at the former Radwinter Mushroom Farm, Roman Road, Radwinter, Essex.
Postcode	CB10 2TF
Study area	8241.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6078 3581 51.9969612758 0.342232885124 51 59 49 N 000 20 32 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 102.00m Max: 107.00m

---

### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Essex County Council
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Jonathan House
Type of sponsor/funding body	House Builder
Name of sponsor/funding body	Moody Homes Ltd.

---

### **Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	County Archaeological Store
Digital Archive ID	RDMF14
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

available	
Paper Archive recipient	County Archaeological Store
Paper Archive ID	RDMF14
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

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## Project

### bibliography 1

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Description	Grey lit

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