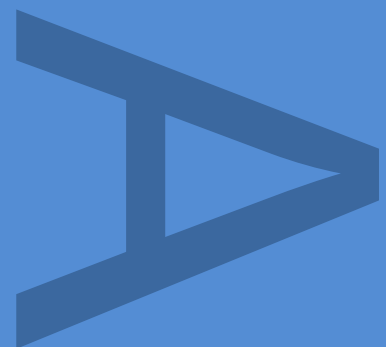


**Land at Station Road,  
Framlingham, Suffolk:**

**An Archaeological Trial Trench  
Evaluation**

**August 2015**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY  
R12168**

LAND AT STATION ROAD,  
FRAMLINGHAM, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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## **Land at Station Road, Framlingham, Suffolk:**

### **An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation**

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

**Planning Reference:** C/13/0773

**HER Event Number:** ESF23182

**Central National Grid Reference:** TM 2827 6297

**Site Code:** FML 086

**Report No.** R12168

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**August 2015**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of a 12 trench (441.39m) archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Station Road, Framlingham IP13 9EE, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 2827 6297) from the 27th to the 28th of July 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference C/13/0773 on the site. The aim of the work was to characterise 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.*

*The evaluation identified modern contaminated landfill, demolition material and truncation across much of the area, with no features or deposits of archaeological significance.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on Land at Station Road, Framlingham IP13 9EE, centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 2827 6297) from the 27th to the 28th of July 2015 (Figure 1, Plates 1 & 2).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference C/13/0773).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Shannon Hogan of PCA (Hogan 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation (Hogget 2015) issued by Dr Richard Hogget of the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Councils Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT).
- 1.4 The primary 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 on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A further aim of the evaluation is to assess the impact of past land use relating to the railway and industrial activities on the site, the presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits and the potential for palaeo-environmental remains relating to the river history and any associated archaeological activity.
- 1.6 A total of 12 trial trenches totalling 441.39m were excavated and recorded (Figure 2).
- 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 the SCCAS/CT archaeological stores.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

- 2.1.1 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is recorded as sands of the Crag Group, formed during the Quaternary and Neogene periods. (British Geological Survey 2015).
- 2.1.2 Superficial deposits of the site are recorded as terrace sands and gravels and alluvial clays and silts within the valley base and by Lowestoft deposits (chalky till) further up the side of the valley.
- 2.1.3 Overlying deposits across the site mostly comprised made ground (100) and is discussed in section 2.2.5 and the results section (Section 5).
- 2.1.4 In the few places they were identified, subsoil deposits (103) were identified as mid-grey brown clay silt. The depth of this deposit, the location of it in the north-eastern corner of the site within Trenches 11 and 12 in the lower part of the site may identify this deposit as colluvium, formed by silt accumulating from the top of the slope down to the east towards the river.
- 2.1.5 The natural geological horizon (102) was identified as orange and yellow sands and gravels and light greenish grey clay. The sands and gravels are part of the river terrace deposits associated with the River Ore down the slope to the east of the site.

### **2.2 Topography**

- 2.2.1 The site is located in the western valley of the River Ore, on the southern edge of the town of the historic Suffolk town of Framlingham.
- 2.2.2 The site sloped from the higher ground on the western side of the site down towards the river to the east. The north-western corner of the site was the highest part of the site while the south-east corner of the site was the lowest. This slope had been managed in the late post-medieval through to modern periods when the site has been terraced (Plates 1 and 2) in order to allow flat foundations for the now demolished buildings on the site.
- 2.2.3 Trenches 1, 4 and 5 and Trenches 8 and 9 were located on the upper



terrace between 30.66 Over Datum (OD) (Western end of Trench 5) and 35.13m OD (North-west end of Trench).

2.2.4 Trenches 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 12 were located on the lower terrace between 28.48m OD (Eastern end of Trench 2) and 29.41m OD (Northern end of Trench 11).

2.2.5 The site is now derelict, post-industrial land in which the rail station and industrial buildings dating to the 19th century have been demolished. This demolition and the past use of land has had a significantly detrimental effect on the site with the majority of overlying deposits comprising tarmac, made ground and demolition material.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1.1 The archaeological background below has been taken from the WSI which itself referenced the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) online database ([www.heritage.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.heritage.suffolk.gov.uk)).

#### **3.2 General**

3.2.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological significance as documented in the SHER. The location within the River Ore valley would have been favourable for settlement and activity during the earlier and later prehistoric periods and also during the Roman era.

#### **3.3 Prehistoric**

3.3.1 Neolithic struck flints and flint tools have been recovered from the river valley to the north and south of the site (FML 007; FML 054; FML Misc). Similarly, Bronze Age implements (both flints and metalwork) have been found along the river corridor, with a notable concentration of both Neolithic and Bronze Age material having been found close to The Mere (a natural feature which is thought to date from the Bronze Age or earlier) north of the town (FML 008; FML 054; FML Misc).

3.3.2 Iron Age pottery and artefact scatters have been identified to the south of the site, on the west side of the river and within the vicinity of The Mere (FML 008; FML 054; FML Misc).

#### **3.4 Roman**

3.4.1 The present A1120 occupies the route of a Roman road and although the modern road has been diverted to the north, the original route of the Roman road can be seen immediately north of Framlingham town, aligned southwest to northeast.

3.4.2 Roman pottery, glass, coins and other metalwork have been found south of the site in the river valley (FML 008) and on the higher valley slopes in the parish west of the site (FML015; FML 068) and to the north of the site within Framlingham (FML Misc) and around Framlingham castle to the northwest (FML 001).

### **3.5 Anglo-Saxon to Medieval**

- 3.5.1 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been recorded in Framlingham, on the higher valley slope east of the river, close to Framlingham castle (FML 002).
- 3.5.2 Medieval remains and finds across Framlingham are considerably more abundant. A settlement at Framlingham is recorded in the Domesday Survey with several manors located throughout the parish. Medieval moated sites and traces of moated sites can still be seen today (FML 003; FML 017). Many of the manor sites which they originally enclosed have survived as farms today (FML 005; FML 006).
- 3.5.3 The first castle at Framlingham was built in the early 1200s and the castle has been modified throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF3; FML 001). The church of St Michael was built in the 15th century (FML 009), although the existence of a settlement recorded in the Domesday Survey and the human burials found at Dennington Road (FML 022) suggest there was an earlier church presence.
- 3.5.4 The sites of several windmills of medieval date are recorded in the parish (FML Misc; FML 014) and medieval coins and artefacts have been found throughout the parish. The Mere was modified during the medieval period through stone quarrying and then converted into a fishpond (FML 021), although the natural feature itself is undoubtedly prehistoric in origins.

### **3.6 Post-Medieval**

- 3.6.1 Although there are a number of entries in the HER relating to the post-medieval development of Framlingham, the most pertinent records are those relating to the railway station and the surrounding industrial activities. The rail station (FML 060) and a number of industrial buildings (Bibby's and Walne's Seeds Site FML 044) dating to the 19th century originally existed within the limit of the site. These buildings included granary warehouses, a goods shed, stables and a kiln and brickworks located to the south. The railway (which originally headed south from the station, along the valley) went out of use in the late 20th century and the industrial buildings and

station have been demolished in recent years.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 General**

4.1.1 12, 2m wide trenches totalling 441.39m were investigated across the site (Figure 2).

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

4.2.1 Each trench was excavated using a 14 tonne tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket (Plate 3). The overlying made ground (100), tarmac (101) and subsoil (103) deposits were excavated in spits down to the natural geological horizon (102).

4.2.2 Metal-detecting was carried out on all stripped deposits throughout the evaluation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps were surveyed by metal-detector as they were encountered.

4.2.3 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.

4.2.4 Upon completion of the evaluation all 12 trenches were backfilled.

### **4.3 Recording Methodology**

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 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 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]. These

conventions are continued throughout the report.

- 4.3.3 Drawn records are 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 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. This includes information on depths of overlying deposits such as made ground (100), lengths of trenches and heights over datum of the natural geological horizon (102). Made ground (100), tarmac (101) and subsoil (103) deposit measurements represent the thickness of the deposit while the natural geological horizon (102) is a measurement from the top to the base of the trench and therefore should equal the overlying deposits combined.

5.1.2 The evaluation identified the site as archaeologically blank with much of the site comprising modern contaminated landfill, demolition material and truncation.

### 5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2	Plate 13	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 31.79m	Level of Natural (m OD): 30.37-31.21m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		S End	N End
Made Ground	(100)	0.47m	0.54m
Natural	(102)	0.47m+	0.54m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 1 was located towards the south-western corner of the site. Trench 1 was shorter than planned due to overgrowth of the southern boundary of the site.			

### 5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

<b>TRENCH 2</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate 16</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 24.65m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.31-28.36m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.32m	0.53m	
Natural	(102)	0.32m+	0.53m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 2 was located towards the south-eastern corner of the site. Trench 2 was shorter than planned due to a straight drop to the east of the trench in the location of an old basement.				

## 5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate 17</b>	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 45.38m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.27-28.35m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.25m	0.5m	
Natural	(102)	0.25m+	0.5m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 3 was located towards the south-eastern corner of the site.				

## 5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Trench 4 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

<b>TRENCH 4</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate 14</b>	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 41.68m	Level of Natural (m OD): 30.67-30.74m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		S End	N End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.27m	0.45m	
Natural	(102)	0.27m+	0.45m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 4 was located towards the south-western corner of the site.				



## 5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 Trench 5 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

<b>TRENCH 5</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate 15</b>	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 33.81m	Level of Natural (m OD): 30.66-31.37m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.32m	0.53m	
Natural	(102)	0.32m+	0.53m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 5 was located towards the south-eastern corner of the site. Trench 5 was shorter than planned due to the straight drop of the north to south aligned terrace across the middle of the site to the east of trenches 4 and 5 (See Plate 2).				

## 5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 Trench 6 Trench 6 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity with the north half of the trench being entirely truncated by modern activity.

<b>TRENCH 6</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate 8</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 39.63m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.01-28.73m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		S End	N End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.64m	0.32m	
Natural	(102)	-	0.32m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 6 was located towards centre of the site.				

## 5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 Trench 7 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity which included aligned modern building foundations.

TRENCH 7	Figure 2		Plate 9	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 46.04m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.01-28.73m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.27m	0.5m	
Natural	(102)	0.27m+	0.5m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
<p>Trench 7 was located towards centre of the site. Trench 7 was located to the east of its planned location due the north to south aligned terrace across the middle of the site (See Plate 1).</p> <p>Trench 7 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.</p>				

## 5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 Trench 8 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

TRENCH 8	Figure 2		Plate 11	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 40.77m	Level of Natural (m OD): 33.54-34.95m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.34m	0.32m	
Natural	(102)	0.34m+	0.32m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
<p>Trench 8 was located towards the north-western corner of the site.</p>				

## 5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 Trench 9 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

TRENCH 9	Figure 2		Plate 10	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 40.34m	Level of Natural (m OD): 34.74-34.88m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Made Ground	(100)	0.43m	0.44m	
Natural	(102)	0.43m+	0.44m+	

**Summary**

Trench 9 was located towards the north-western corner of the site.

**5.11 Trench 10**

5.11.1 Trench 10 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

<b>TRENCH 10</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plate 7</b>	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 35.21m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.28-28.87m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>
Made Ground	(100)	0.42m	0.25m
Natural	(102)	0.42m+	0.25m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 10 was located towards the north-eastern corner of the site.			

**5.12 Trench 11**

5.12.1 Trench 11 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity which included north to south and east to west aligned modern building foundations (Plates 5 & 6).

<b>TRENCH 11</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 5-6</b>	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 38.1m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.38-29.42m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>S End</b>	<b>N End</b>
Made Ground	(100)	0.24m	0.5m
Subsoil	(103)	0.16m	0.5m
Natural	(102)	0.4m+	0.1m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 11 was located towards the north-eastern corner of the site.			

**5.13 Trench 12**

5.13.1 Trench 12 contained no archaeological deposits or features. The natural geological horizon was heavily truncated by modern activity.

<b>TRENCH 12</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 3-4</b>	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 23.99m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.48-29.09m	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>
Tarmac	(101)	-	0.37m
Made Ground	(100)	0.5m	0.53m
Natural	(102)	0.5m+	0.9m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 12 was located towards the north-eastern corner of the site. Trench 12 was shorter than planned due to recent building foundations stripped to the west of the trench.			

## **6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Discussion**

- 6.1.1 No significant archaeology was identified in any of the trenches across the site.
- 6.1.2 The only activity identified were modern building foundations (19th century to late 20th century), tarmac and made ground as well as the remains of recent demolition of the former buildings across the site.
- 6.1.3 Although the site was heavily truncated, there was no evidence to suggest that any archaeological remains had existed and since been removed or destroyed (i.e. there were no archaeological finds from the topsoil or subsoils to indicate 'background noise').

### **6.2 Conclusions**

- 6.2.1 Only modern (19th-late 20th century) activity was identified on the site, comprising the foundations and demolished remains of a number of former industrial buildings. No stray finds were found in the trenches, in the topsoil or subsoil to indicate that any earlier archaeology had been destroyed or removed by this modern activity.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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 30/7/15 JS

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000; 200,000 & 25,000 at A4

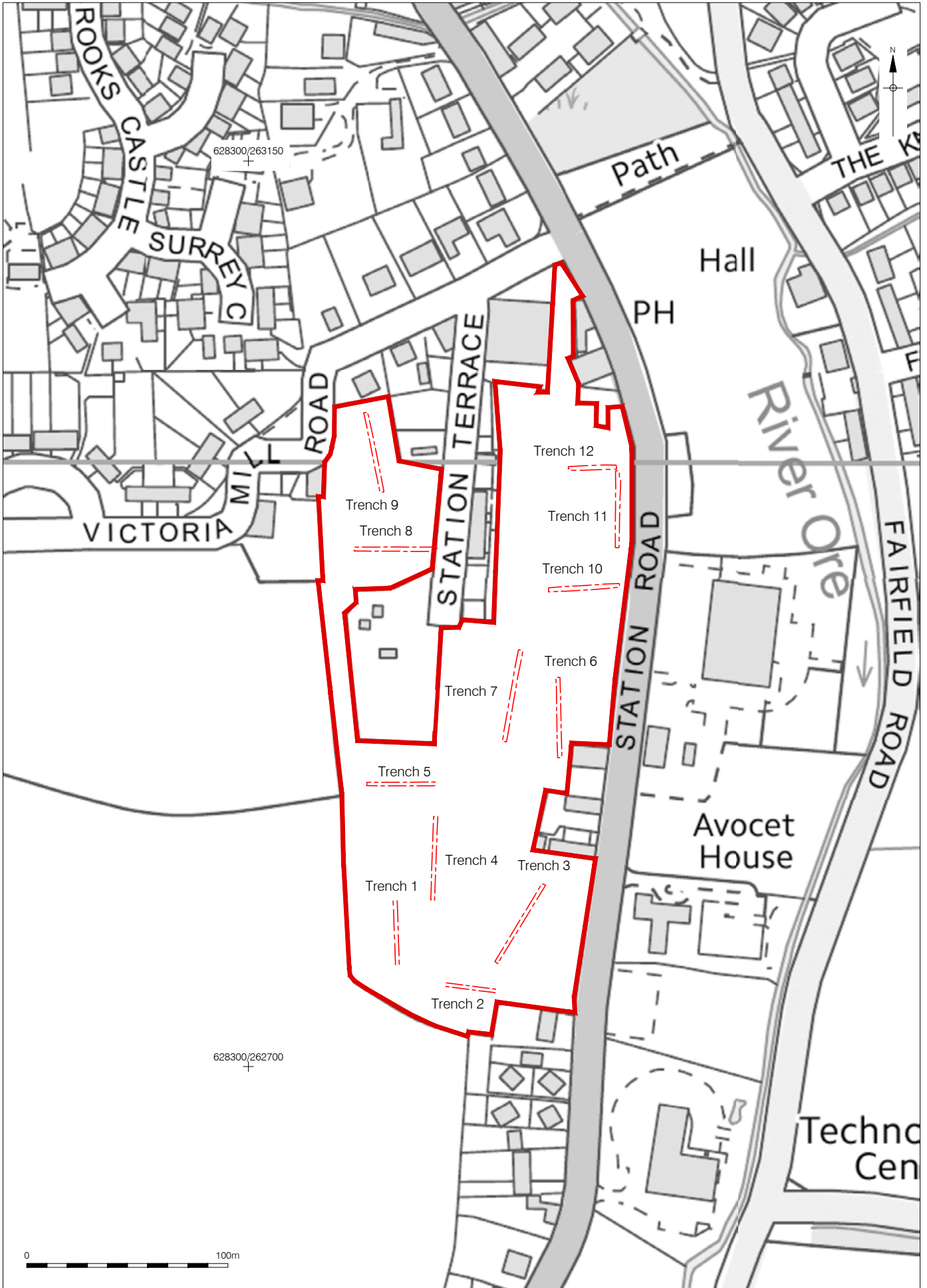


Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:2,500 at A4



## APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: North facing view across site



Plate 2: South-west facing view across site





Plate 3: Trench 12, North-east facing view during machining



Plate 4: Trench 12, East facing view of trench





Plate 5: Trench 11, South facing view of trench



Plate 6: Trench 11, West facing view of modern foundations





Plate 7: Trench 10, West facing view of trench



Plate 8: Trench 6, South facing view of trench



Plate 9: Trench 7, South-west facing view of trench



Plate 10: Trench 9, South-east facing view of trench





Plate 11: Trench 8, West facing view of trench



Plate 12: South facing view towards Trench 8





Plate 13: Trench 1, North facing view of trench



Plate 14: Trench 4, North facing view of trench





Plate 15: Trench 5, East facing view of Trench



Plate 16: Trench 2, South-east facing view of trench



Plate 17: Trench 3, South-west facing view of trench

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Made Ground	Demolition/Landfill	1-12
101	-	Layer	Tarmac	Tarmac	12
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural Geological Horizon	1-12
103	-	Layer	Subsoil	Colluvium	11, 12

### APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-218495

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#### Project details

Project name	Station Road, Framlingham, Suffolk Trenched Evaluation
Short description of the project	Trial trench evaluation at Station Road, Framlingham, Suffolk
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2015 End: 29-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL FRAMLINGHAM Station Road, Framlingham
Postcode	IP13 9EE
Study area	3.60 Hectares
Site coordinates	TG 2827 6297 53.1145076192 1.4113489627 53 06 52 N 001 24 40 E Point

Height OD / Depth           Min: 28.00m Max: 36.00m

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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   CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Project director/manager   Shannon Hogan

Project supervisor          Matthew Lees

Type of sponsor/funding   Private Developer  
body

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Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?   No

Digital Archive recipient   Suffolk County Council

Digital Archive ID          FML086

Digital Contents            "none"

Digital Media available     "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"

Paper Archive recipient     Suffolk County Council

Paper Archive ID            FML086

Paper Contents             "none"

Paper Media available      "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Survey "

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Project bibliography 1

                                  Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title                         Land at Station Road, Framlingham, Suffolk: An Archaeological  
Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s)        Lees, M

Other bibliographic details R12168

Date                         2015

Issuer or publisher         Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or Pampisford  
publication

Description PCA Grey Literature Report

URL [www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)

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Entered by Matthew Lees (MLees@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 29 July 2015

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