LAND AT AND ADJACENT TO
MUSHROOM FARM, HIGH ROAD,
TRIMLEY ST MARTIN, SUFFOLK:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCH EVALUATION



**NOVEMBER 2015** 





PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY R12265

## LAND AT AND ADJACENT TO MUSHROOM FARM, HIGH ROAD, TRIMLEY ST MARTIN, SUFFOLK

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### **Quality Control**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd					
Project Number K4198					
Report Number	R12265				

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Stephen Porter		November 2015
Graphics	Jennifer		November 2015
Prepared by:	Simonson		
Graphics	Josephine Brown	( Josephine Brown	November 2015
Checked by:		Ochine -	
Project Manager	Mark Hinman	1/	November 2015
Sign-off:		100	

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited The Granary Rectory Farm Brewery Road Pampisford Cambridgeshire CB22 3EN

# Land at and adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Suffolk Coastal District Council

Planning Reference: C/13/0219

Central National Grid Reference: TM 2731 3744

Site Code: TYN132

Report No. R12265

Written and researched by: Stephen Porter

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd** 

Project Manager: Mark Hinman

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting Ltd

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Central Office
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire

ODOO OEN

**CB22 3EN** 

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: mhinman@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

## ©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd November 2015

The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 1 of 35

#### **CONTENTS**

ABSTRACT	CO	ONTENTS	2
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	AB	STRACT	3
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1	INTRODUCTION	4
4 METHODOLOGY	2	GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	5
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE       11         6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE       1-         7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS       1-         8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS       1-         9 BIBLIOGRAPHY       2-         10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES       2-         11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX       3-         12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM       3-         FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION       2-         FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATIONS AND CROPMARK DATA       2-         FIGURE 4 TRENCH 10 PLAN AND SECTION       2-         FIGURE 5 TRENCH 11 PLAN AND SECTION       2-         FIGURE 6 TRENCH 13 PLAN AND SECTION       2-         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2-         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2-         PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH       2-         PLATE 2: ANIMAL BURROW CONTAINING, VIEW SOUTH-EAST       2-         PLATE 3: EXCAVATING [108], VIEW SOUTH-EAST       3-	3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE       1.         7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS       1         8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS       1.         9 BIBLIOGRAPHY       2.         10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES       2.         11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX       3         12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM       3.         FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION       2.         FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATIONS       2.         FIGURE 3 TRENCH LOCATIONS AND CROPMARK DATA       2.         FIGURE 4 TRENCH 10 PLAN AND SECTION       2.         FIGURE 5 TRENCH 11 PLAN AND SECTION       2.         FIGURE 6 TRENCH 13 PLAN AND SECTION       2.         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2.         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2.         PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH       2.         PLATE 2: ANIMAL BURROW CONTAINING, VIEW SOUTH-EAST       2.         PLATE 3: EXCAVATING [108], VIEW SOUTH-EAST       3.	4	METHODOLOGY	8
7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS       1         8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS       1         9 BIBLIOGRAPHY       2         10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES       2         11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX       3         12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM       3         FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION       2         FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATIONS       2         FIGURE 3 TRENCH LOCATIONS AND CROPMARK DATA       2         FIGURE 4 TRENCH 10 PLAN AND SECTION       2         FIGURE 5 TRENCH 11 PLAN AND SECTION       2         FIGURE 6 TRENCH 13 PLAN AND SECTION       2         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2         PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH       2         PLATE 2: ANIMAL BURROW CONTAINING, VIEW SOUTH-EAST       2         PLATE 3: EXCAVATING [108], VIEW SOUTH-EAST       3	5	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	10
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6	THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE	14
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY       2         10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES       2         11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX       3         12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM       3         FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION       2         FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATIONS       2         FIGURE 3 TRENCH LOCATIONS AND CROPMARK DATA       2         FIGURE 4 TRENCH 10 PLAN AND SECTION       2         FIGURE 5 TRENCH 11 PLAN AND SECTION       2         FIGURE 6 TRENCH 13 PLAN AND SECTION       2         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2         PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH       2         PLATE 2: ANIMAL BURROW CONTAINING, VIEW SOUTH-EAST       2         PLATE 3: EXCAVATING [108], VIEW SOUTH-EAST       3	7	DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	17
10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES       2:         11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX       3         12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM       3         FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION       2:         FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATIONS       2:         FIGURE 3 TRENCH LOCATIONS AND CROPMARK DATA       2:         FIGURE 4 TRENCH 10 PLAN AND SECTION       2:         FIGURE 5 TRENCH 11 PLAN AND SECTION       2:         FIGURE 6 TRENCH 13 PLAN AND SECTION       2:         FIGURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION       2:         PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH       2:         PLATE 2: ANIMAL BURROW CONTAINING, VIEW SOUTH-EAST       2:         PLATE 3: EXCAVATING [108], VIEW SOUTH-EAST       3:	8	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	19
11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	20
12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	10	APPENDIX 1: PLATES	29
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	11	APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	31
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATIONS	12	APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	32
FIGURE 3 TRENCH LOCATIONS AND CROPMARK DATA	FIG	GURE 1 SITE LOCATION	22
FIGURE 4 TRENCH 10 PLAN AND SECTION	FIG	GURE 2 TRENCH LOCATIONS	23
FIGURE 5 TRENCH 11 PLAN AND SECTION	FIG	GURE 3 TRENCH LOCATIONS AND CROPMARK DATA	24
FIGURE 6 TRENCH 13 PLAN AND SECTION	FIG	GURE 4 TRENCH 10 PLAN AND SECTION	25
PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH	FIG	GURE 5 TRENCH 11 PLAN AND SECTION	26
PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH	FIG	GURE 6 TRENCH 13 PLAN AND SECTION	27
PLATE 2: ANIMAL BURROW CONTAINING, VIEW SOUTH-EAST	FIG	GURE 7 TRENCH 14 PLAN AND SECTION	28
PLATE 2: ANIMAL BURROW CONTAINING, VIEW SOUTH-EAST	PL/	ATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH	29
PLATE 3: EXCAVATING [108], VIEW SOUTH-EAST			

#### **ABSTRACT**

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at and adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk IP11 0RJ (NGR TM 2731 3744) between the 12th and the 16th of October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to proposed residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation revealed four undated ditches, two of which may relate to a possible prehistoric droveway, as indicated by cropmark evidence in the adjacent fields. The other ditches are thought to represent portions of field systems also of probable later prehistoric date. Two pits were also identified, one of which was probably associated with later Neolithic pottery.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at and adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk IP11 0RJ (NGR TM 2731 3744) between the 12th and 16th of October 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the proposed residential development of the site (Planning Reference C/13/0219).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman of PCA (Hinman 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation originally issued by Dr Jess Tipper of the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT).
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Five trial trenches totalling 150m were excavated and recorded during the evaluation.
- 1.6 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.

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 4 of 35

#### 2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### 2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The underlying geology of the development area comprises free-draining sands and gravels, occasionally overlain by a deposit of fine windborne silt (loess) lain down during the post-glacial period. The superficial geological deposits are that of river terrace deposits of sands and gravels.

#### 2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The development site consists of an irregular shaped area to the southwest of High Road. It lies on a relatively level plateau of high ground at c. 25m OD. This plateau overlooks the Trimley Marshes, located in the flood plain of the tidal River Orwell, the main channel of which lies approximately 2.7km to the southwest; the edge of the high plateau lies c.1.3km to the west.

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 5 of 35

#### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The archaeological background detailed below has been summarised from the adjacent archaeological evaluation report (Sommers 2013) and the desk-based assessment for the site (Newman 2012) which included a 500m radius search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 3.1.2 A single Neolithic flint axehead (TYN 076) and a Bronze Age flint scraper (TYN 052) have been found within a 500m search radius of the development area. In spite of this, the free draining, light soils of the Felixstowe peninsula were attractive to prehistoric settlers and activity is recorded in the wider area. A number of Bronze Age barrows recorded as ring ditches have bene recorded between Felixstowe and Ipswich. Furthermore, aerial photograph assessment (Cox 2012) conducted within the immediate area, coupled with data from the National Mapping Programme (NMP) has confirmed the presence of multi-period archaeological features visible as cropmarks within the fields to the southeast (TYN 125; ESF21997), southwest (ESF21729) and northwest (TYN 122; ESF18883) of the development area. Although the features undoubtedly represent several phases of activity, the alignment of many of the linear anomalies clearly suggest they do not relate to medieval or post-medieval field divisions. Many of the cropmark anomalies probably relate to prehistoric field systems and enclosures, and several ring ditches are also likely to be of prehistoric or early Roman date. The extensive cropmark data indicates that the development area lies within a landscape of substantial prehistoric activity.
- 3.1.3 No remains were visible in the aerial survey within the development site due to the extensive building coverage and modern structural activity, although a magnetometer survey (Schofield 2013) successfully recorded a number of anomalies across the fields to the east, which were investigated during the adjacent evaluation (Sommers 2013). The evaluation revealed a number of ditches, indicating potential field systems although no dating evidence was recovered. The features were considered to be of probable later prehistoric (Bronze/Iron Age) and/ or Roman date. The cropmark evidence, coupled with the adjacent evaluation indicate that these features likely continue into

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 6 of 35

the development area.

- 3.1.4 Very little Roman or Saxon material has been found in the immediate area, with only two sherds of Roman pottery (TYN 052), a Saxon coin (TYN 109) and a Saxon strap fitting (TYN 034) found within 600m of the development site. Additional Roman finds including pottery and roof tile fragments, as well as Saxon metal objects and oyster shells were found during fieldwalking and metal detecting 1km to the southwest of the site (TYN 075).
- 3.1.5 The historic core of Trimley St Martin, which is thought to have developed in the Saxon and medieval periods (TYN 060), lies just 100m south-east of the development area and the parish church of St Martin and St Mary is located 500m to the south. Medieval finds are still relatively scarce however, with small metalwork scatters (TYN 034) and pottery sherds (TYN 052) found 300m south of the development area and additional Saxon and medieval artefacts (TYN 104, TYN 108) approximately 1km south of the mushroom farm.
- 3.1.6 A 19th century brick kiln site (TYN 049) is recorded 250m to the north-east of the development area and the line of a post-medieval road is recorded to the south (TYN 085). Longford House (formerly the Rectory), immediately north of the development area was built in the mid-19th century is the earliest recorded structure in the vicinity of the site. It was built on glebe land owned by the parish church of Trimley St Martin and the 1839 tithe map suggests the surrounding area consisted of arable land. The mushroom farm was established in the mid-20th century.

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 7 of 35

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of five trial trenches (Figure 2). Due to site constraints including contaminated ground, four of the trenches (10, 11, 12 and 13) were relocated.
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 20-ton wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-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 and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to better 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.
- 4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and, where considered appropriate, 100% excavated.
- 4.1.7 Significant features such as structural remains, including walls and demolition deposits, were recorded in plan but left in-situ pending any future

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 8 of 35

open area excavation.

#### 4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 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.
- 4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 4.2.3 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.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation 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.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (ClfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

#### 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated. All features were cut into a deposit of post-glacial wind-deposited sand (Loess) that was present across site.

#### **5.2** Trench 10 (Figure 3)

- 5.2.1 Trench 10 contained two ditches, both aligned north-west to south-east and located in the south-west end of the trench.
- 5.2.2 Ditch [112] was 1.2m wide and 0.12m deep with shallow sides and a wide irregular base. It had a single fill of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (111). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.2.3 Ditch [110] was aligned parallel with [112] and was located immediately beside it, to the north-west. It was 0.68m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (109). No finds were recovered from this feature.

TRENCH 10	Figures			Plate	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 27	m	Level of Natural (m OD): 22.8		D): 22.8
Deposit		Context No. Average Depth		h (m)	
				NE End	SW End
Made ground		(102)		0.21m	0.24m
Subsoil		(101)		0.31m	0.15m
Loess		(123)		0.32m	0.2m
Natural		(122)		0.84m+	0.59m+

#### Summary

Trench 1 was located close to the southern boundary of the site.

Trench 10 contained two ditches [1101] and [112], both aligned north-west to south-east and located in the south-west end of the trench.

#### **5.3** Trench 11 (Figure 4)

5.3.1 The trench contained two ditches, both aligned north-west to south-east and

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 10 of 35

located in the middle of the trench. These formed a single boundary, of which Ditch [117] was a later extension.

- 5.3.2 Ditch [117] was 0.64m wide and 0.15m deep with moderately steep sides and a shallow concave base. It had a slumped fill of light brownish grey sandy silt (120) 0.1m thick and a secondary fill of mid greyish-brown sandy silt (116) that contained a single flint scraper of later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date and is likely to be a residual component. It cut Boundary Ditch [119] and extended it to the north-west.
- 5.3.3 Ditch [119] was 0.37m wide and 0.35m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It had a basal fill of mid pinkish grey sandy silt (121) 0.02m thick and a secondary fill of mid brownish grey sandy silt (118) 0.33m thick. No finds were recovered from this feature.

TRENCH 11	Figures			Plate	
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 18m Level		ch Alignment: W-E Length: 18m Level of Natural (m OD): 23.5		OD): 23.5
Deposit	Conte		t No.	Average De	epth (m)
				W End	E End
Topsoil		(100)		0.3m	0.24m
Subsoil		(101)		0.26m	0.27m
Loesse		(123)		0.22m	0.23m
Natural		(122)		0.78m+	0.74m+

#### **Summary**

Trench 11 was located in the southern part of the site.

The trench contained two ditches [117] and [119], both aligned north-west to south-east and located in the middle of the trench. These appeared to form a single boundary, of which Ditch [117] was a later extension.

#### 5.4 Trench 12

5.4.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 12	Figures			Figures Plate		
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 25m Level of			ch Alignment: NW-SE Length: 25m Level of Natural (m OD): 22.9		): 22.9
Deposit	Col		t No.	Average Dept	h (m)	
				NW End	SE End	

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 11 of 35

Made ground	(102)	0.2m	0.13m
Subsoil	(101)	0.11m	0.14m
Loess	(123)	0.42m	0.4m
Natural	(122)	0.73m+	0.67m+

#### Summary

Trench 12 was located in the centre of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features.

#### **5.5** Trench 13 (Figure 5)

- 5.5.1 The trench contained a pit located in the south-west end of the trench.
- 5.5.2 Pit [115] measured 0.8m long by 0.7m wide and was 0.23m deep. It was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping straight sides and a flattish base. It had a single fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (114) that contained frequent flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered from this feature.

TRENCH 13	Figures			Plate	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m Level of			of Natural (m OD	9): 23.1
Deposit	Deposit		t No.	Average Depth (m)	
				NE End	SW End
Made ground		(102)		0.25m	N/A
Subsoil		(101)		0.18m	0.25m
Loess		(123)		0.2m	0.3m
Natural		(122)		0.63m+	0.55m+

#### Summary

Trench 13 was located close to the western border of the site.

The trench contained a pit [115] located in the south-west end of the trench.

#### **5.6** Trench 14 (Figure 6)

- 5.6.1 The trench contained a pit in the north-east end of the trench. This had been disturbed by animal activity in which was found 16 sherds of later prehistoric pottery. A tree throw was identified in the south-west end of the trench.
- 5.6.2 Pit [106] measured 1.1m long by 0.7m wide and was 0.28m deep. It was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 12 of 35

a single fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (105). No finds were recovered from this feature per se, although the pottery found in the animal burrow which disturbed this pit, is considered to have derived from the pit originally.

TRENCH 14	Figures			Plate		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m Level of		Level	l of Natural (m OD): 23.1		
Deposit		Context No		Average Dept	th (m)	
				NE End	SW End	
Made ground		(102)		0.25m	0.14m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.17m	0.27m	
Loess		(123)		0.19m	0.15m	
Natural		(122)		0.51m+	0.56m+	

#### **Summary**

Trench 6 was located in the northern part of the site.

The trench contained a pit [106] in the north-east end of the trench. This had been disturbed by an animal burrow [104] in which was found 16 sherds of probable later Neolithic pottery. A tree throw [108] was identified in the south-west end of the trench.

#### 6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

#### 6.1 Flint

#### By Barry Bishop

6.1.1 The single piece from Trimley St Martin (context (116) of ditch [117]) is a side-scraper made on a flake of mottled light grey flint that has a thick but weathered cortex and is in good condition. Dating wise, it's quite a thick flake with a wide unmodified striking platform but has been competently struck and has a number of narrow flake scars on its dorsal side which would all go to suggest a Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. That would also fit in nicely with it being a side-scraper as they are more commonly seen during that time.

#### 6.2 Prehistoric Pottery

#### By Dr Adam S. Tinsley

- 6.2.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric ceramic material, deriving from a single cut feature (fill 103: cut 104), was assessed for typological identification. The assemblage comprised 16 sherds and a handful of crumbs, collectively weighing a total of 83g, producing an average weight (excluding crumbs) of 4.8g each. The bulk of material display signs of moderate or heavy abrasion and may have lain exposed to the elements, potentially as a surface scatter or midden deposit, prior to deposition within the feature, or else within the feature itself as it gradually infilled. The material appears to derive from a single vessel, although no examples of adjoining sherds were identified, and slight variation in colour and texture may suggest the presence of additional parental vessels. All sherds share a course but fairly well fired fabric type, characterised by the use of calcined flint as a temper agent. The flint component is poorly sorted, with the size range of individual elements varying considerably, up to a maximum of 0.8cm, and visibly protrude from the surface of the sherds. The majority of the sherds are plain, relatively undiagnostic body fragments, with only one example of a possible rim fragment, too badly abraded for positive typological identification. No form of decorative treatment is evident on any of the material.
- 6.2.2 There are few diagnostic features within the assemblage and a positive

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 14 of 35

typological identification for the material cannot be conclusively advanced. The flint tempered fabric and course nature of the pottery indicates a definite prehistoric origin, and is most redolent of a Neolithic origin. However, similar fabrics are evident among any number of later ceramic traditions, and without additional corroborative features, an alternative genesis among Late Bronze Age, or even Early Iron Age forms, cannot be entirely ruled out. The recovery of any additional ceramic material of comparable type, hopefully furnished with more conclusive diagnostic features, together with the elucidation of the wider context of the parental feature, would be of considerable aid to the interpretation of this small assemblage. In addition, a substantial piece of charcoal was included with the assemblage. If suitable, radiocarbon assay of the material would hopefully provide a more precise chronology for the assemblage.

#### 6.3 Environmental Remains

#### By Marta Pérez Fernández

#### Introduction

6.3.1 This report summarises the findings from the rapid assessment of four bulk samples taken from a pit and three ditches during an evaluation in Trimley St Martin, Suffolk. The aim of this environmental assessment is to: 1) provide an overview of the contents of the bulk samples, 2) determine the environmental potential of these sample and 3) identify if further analysis or sampling needs to be undertaken.

#### Methodology

- 6.3.2 The four flots produced by the bulk samples were scanned for environmental material under a binocular microscope and the results recorded.
- 6.3.3 The flots were scanned for the presence of charred grain, chaff, weed seeds, charcoal, molluscs and other environmental remains. These were recorded on a non-linear scale to denote 'abundance': Occasional (up to 5 items), 2-fairly frequent (5-25), 3- frequent (25-100), 4- abundant (>100). A note was also made of all other inclusions i.e. Modern plant fibres, coal, slag etc. The results of the assessment of the flots are presented in table 1.

#### Results and Discussion

6.3.4 The four flots are very small, and they did not produce any relevant environmental evidence. All of them have produced few fragments of charcoal that are too small to be identifiable. No other charred remains have been found. All the assessed flots were mainly formed by sand, a few roots, some modern snails and modern seeds. All indicating of contamination produced by bioturbation in the sampled features.

#### Recommendations

- 6.3.5 During the course of this assessment it was found that the samples contained very low quantities of wood charcoal, too small to be identified and very likely not even in situ.
- 6.3.6 Although the samples assessed have shown not to have any environmental evidence, the presence of charcoal suggest that charred remains could be preserved in this area and found in other features.
- 6.3.7 Further bulk samples for environmental analysis should be taken from well-sealed contexts, and areas where there is evidence of burning. Samples should also be taken from areas rich in artefacts. At the moment, until the excavation and full analysis of other areas of the site, no further work on the processed samples is required.

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 16 of 35

#### 7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The evaluation consisted of a total of 5 trenches placed to test the archaeological potential of the development area. The original WSI proposed the excavation of nine trenches in this area. Four of these were removed and one repositioned due to onsite contamination issues.
- 7.2 The five trenches represented the second phase of archaeological work undertaken at the site. The first phase, carried out by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team (Sommers 2013), consisted of nine trenches excavated to the immediate east of the current project.
- 7.3 The first phase of evaluation adjacent revealed a number of linear ditches, interpreted as field system boundaries. No dating evidence was recovered from the sampled fills, but the features were considered to be of potential later prehistoric and/ or Roman date based on the available evidence from the aerial survey of the surrounding landscape and also the limited finds of later date found in the immediate vicinity.
- 7.4 This second phase of evaluation identified a series of north-west to south-east oriented ditches, which could be directly aligned with linear features seen in the cropmark data immediately west of the site. Two closely spaced, parallel ditches [110] and [112] in Trench 10 are thought to represent the recutting or re-definition of the same feature. Ditch [119] in Trench 11 was on the same north-west to south-east alignment as those in Trench 10 and based on the available aerial survey information, it is possible that these parallel features may relate to a prehistoric trackway. Ditch [119] appeared to have been re-cut and extended to the north-west by Ditch [117], which contained a single residual flint scraper.
- 7.5 Two pits were identified, one in Trench 13 and another in Trench 14. No finds were recovered from these features, however an animal burrow which had disturbed pit [106] in Trench 14 yielded 16 sherds of probable later Neolithic pottery, which is thought to have originally derived from the pit, having been re-worked into the burrow. A small amount of oyster shell was also found within the fill of the animal burrow and similarly, is thought to have

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 17 of 35

been reworked from the pit fill.

The trial trench evaluation has identified evidence for a possible droveway and/ or field system boundaries and potential later Neolithic pitting to the north of the site. The dating evidence is not conclusive, although the morphology of the ditches when seen from a wider landscape perspective is in keeping with later prehistoric (Middle-Late Bronze Age) field system examples in the region. The aerial survey has also identified areas of concentrated pitting which could range from the Neolithic through to the Roman and later periods. The evidence from this investigation suggests that the undated pit in the evaluation might be also be of prehistoric date. The ditches might be considered of later prehistoric date based on the lack of finds, although a potential Roman date cannot be wholly ruled out at this stage.

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 18 of 35

#### 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Kate Batt for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project. The author would also like to thank Dan Britton for his hard work on site, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 19 of 35

#### 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### 9.1 Printed Sources

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.). 2000. Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8

Cox, C., 2012. Land Adjacent to Mushroom Farm, Trimley St Martin - Assessment of Aerial Photographs for Archaeology, Air Photo Services Ltd.(unpublished report)

Hinman, M. 2015. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at and adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk. Pre-Construct Archaeology (unpublished)

Medlycott, M. 2011. (ed.). Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

Newman, J., 2012. Land at and adjacent to The Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk - Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, John Newman Archaeological Services (unpublished report)

Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2012. Ver 1.1. (Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team)

Schofield, T., 2013. Mushroom Farm, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk – Detailed Magnetometer Survey, Britannia Archaeology Ltd. (unpublished report)

Sommers, M., 2013. Land at and adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk: Archaeological Evaluation Report Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (unpublished report HER ref. TYN 126)

Tipper, J. 2013. Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at and

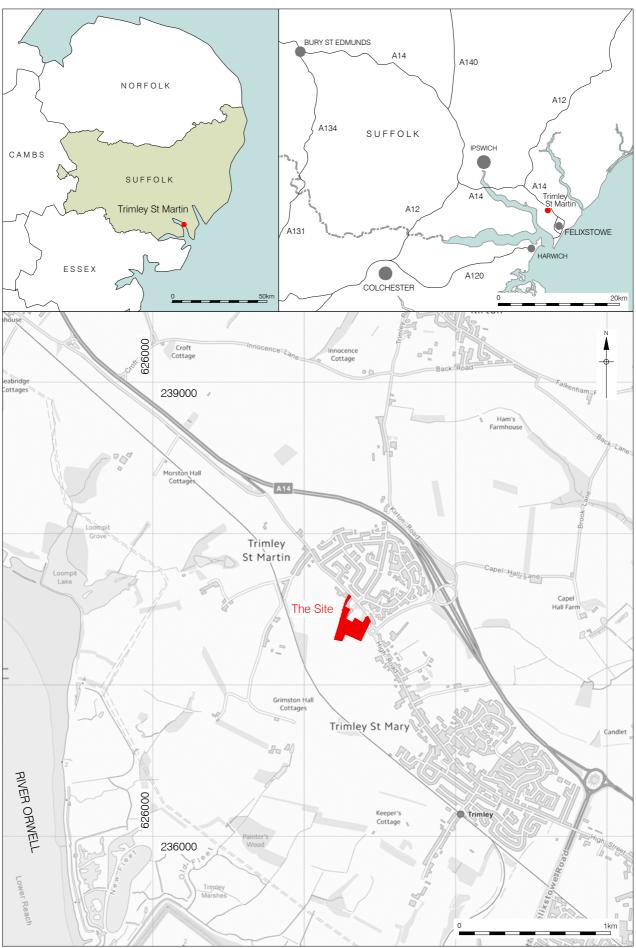
PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 20 of 35

adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk. (Unpublished SSCAS/CT)

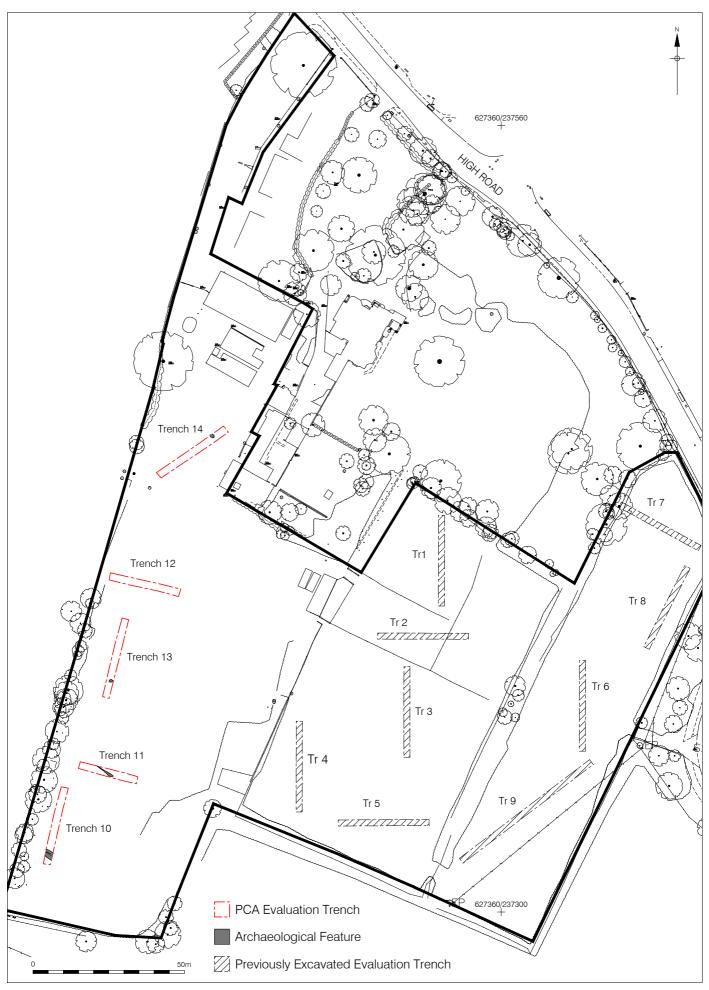
#### 9.2 Websites

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

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 21 of 35



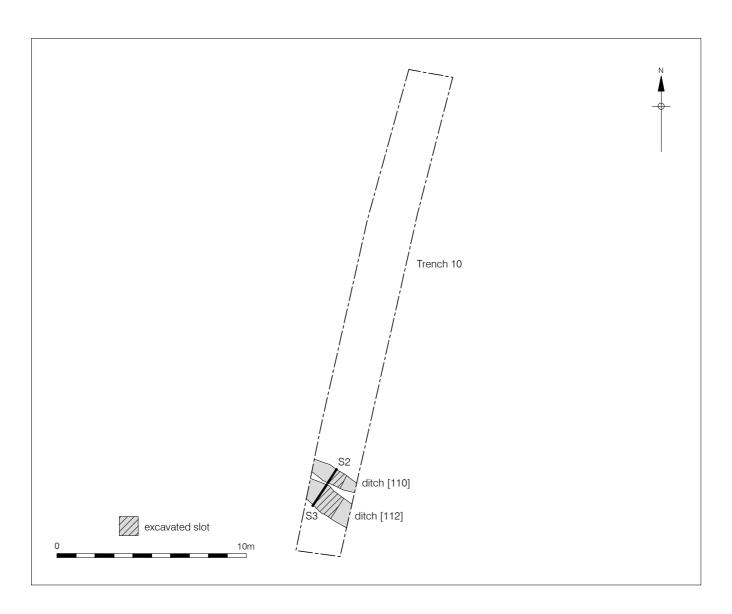
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015 21/10/15 JS

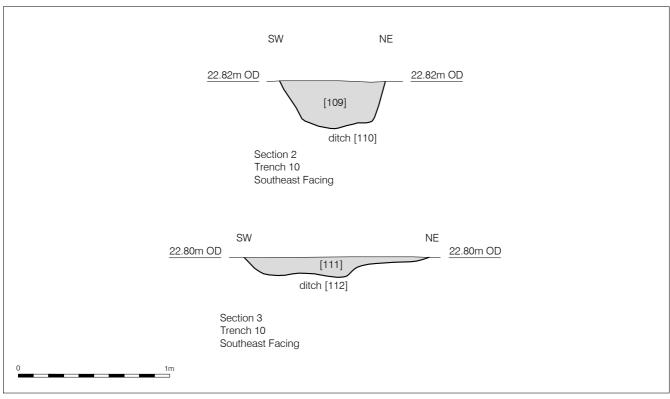


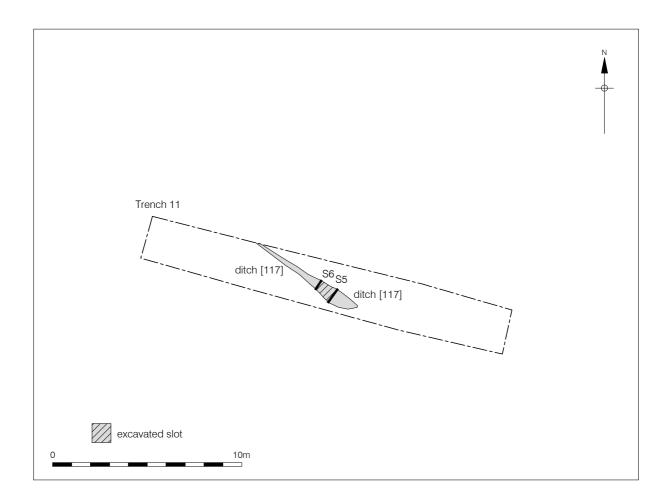
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015 21/10/15 JS

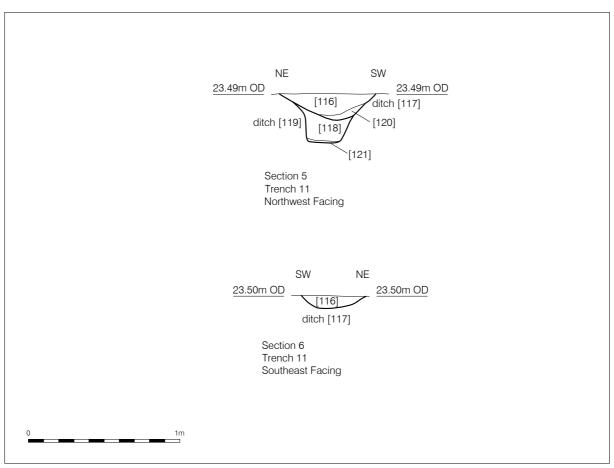


Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015 05/11/15 MR

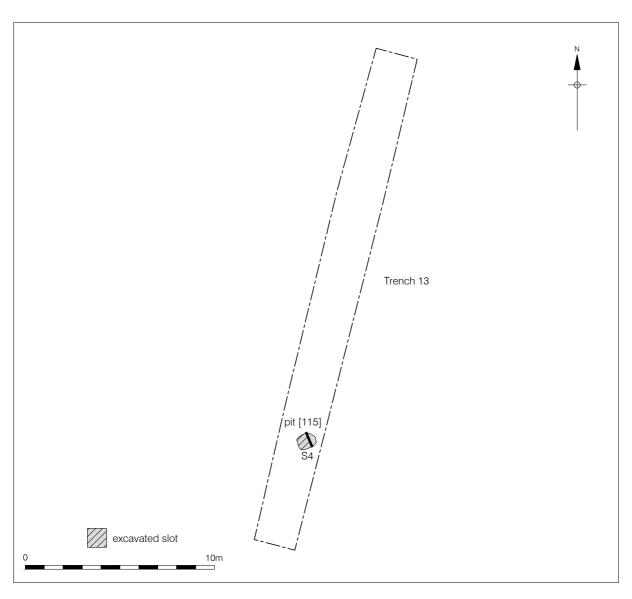


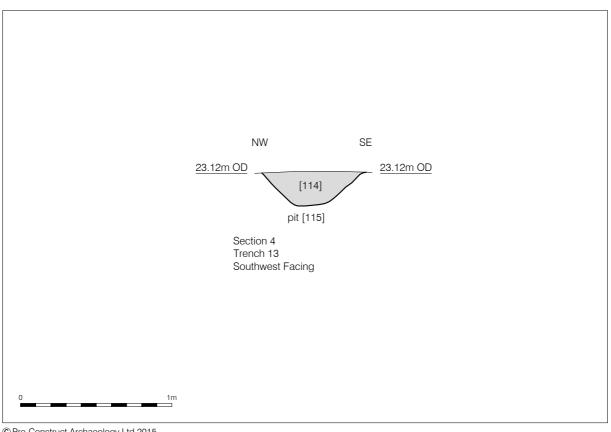


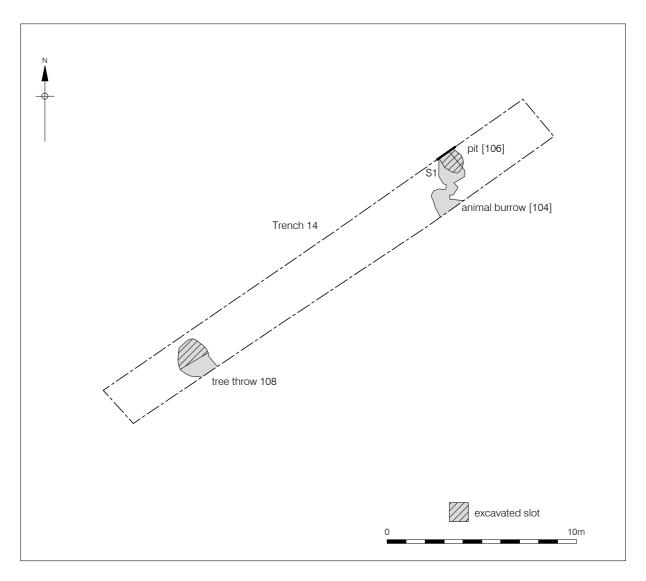


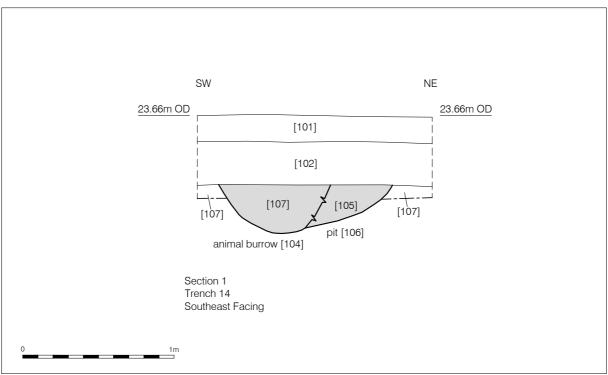


© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015 02/11/15 JS









© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015 02/11/15 JS

#### 10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: The site, view north



Plate 2: Animal burrow containing, view south-east



PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 29 of 35

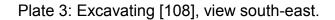




Plate 4: Ditches [112] and [110], view north-west



#### 11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

					Trench
Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Interpretation	Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	-
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	-
			Made		
102	-	Layer	ground	Overburden	-
			Animal		
103	104	Fill	Burrow	Fill of [104]	14
		Cut	Animal		
104	104		Burrow	Natural feature	14
105	106	Fill	Pit	Fill of [106]	14
106	106	Cut	Pit	Pit	14
		Fill	Tree		
107	108		Throw	Fill of [108]	14
			Tree		
108	108	Cut	Throw	Natural feature	14
109	110	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [110]	10
110	110	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	10
111	112	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [112]	10
112	112	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	10
113	Void	-	-	-	-
114	115	Fill	Pit	Fill of [115]	13
115	115	Cut	Pit	Pit	13
116	117	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [117]	11
117	117	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	11
118	119	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [119]	11
119	119	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	11
120	117	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [117]	11
121	119	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [119]	11
122	-	Layer	Natural	Geological	-
123	-	Layer	Loess	Naturally forming sand	-

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 31 of 35

#### **APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM** 12

#### 12.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-225522

Project details

Project name Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at and adjacent to

Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk

the project

Short description of This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at and adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk IP11 0RJ (NGR TM 2731 3744) between the 12th and the 16th of October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to proposed residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

> The evaluation revealed four undated ditches, two of which may relate to a possible droveway, as indicated by aerial survey evidence in the adjacent fields. The other ditches are thought to represent portions of field systems, of uncertain date. Two pits, likely of later prehistoric XXX date were also identified.

Project dates Start: 12-10-2015 End: 19-10-2015

Previous/future Yes / Not known

work

associated TYN132 - Sitecode Any

project reference

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type **DITCH Uncertain** 

PIT Uncertain Monument type

Significant Finds POTTERY Early Bronze Age

Significant Finds FLINT Bronze Age

& "Targeted Trenches" Methods

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 32 of 35 techniques

Development type Not recorded

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the Pre-application

planning process

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL TRIMLEY ST MARTIN land at and

adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St Martin, Suffolk

Postcode IP11 0RJ

Study area 3 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 2731 3744 51.98824612214 1.31102631721 51 59 17 N 001 18 39

E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Organisation

Project brief Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Officer

originator

Project design Mark Hinman

originator

Project Mark Hinman

director/manager

Project supervisor Stephen Porter

Project archives

Physical Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Physical Archive ID TYN132

Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

PCA Report Number: R12265 Page 33 of 35

Digital Archive ID TYN132

Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics"

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

available

Paper Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Paper Archive ID TYN132

Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

available

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at and adjacent to Mushroom Farm, High Road, Trimley St

Martin, Suffolk: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Porter, S

Date 2015

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or Cambridgeshire

publication

Entered by Steve Porter (stephen.porter@ymail.com)

Entered on 16 October 2015

# PCA

#### **PCA SOUTH**

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

#### **PCA NORTH**

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111 FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

#### **PCA CENTRAL**

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN

TEL: 01223 845 522 FAX: 01223 845 522

EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

#### **PCA WEST**

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549

EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

#### **PCA MIDLANDS**

17-19 KETTERING RD LITTLE BOWDEN MARKET HARBOROUGH LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN TEL: 01858 468 333

EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

