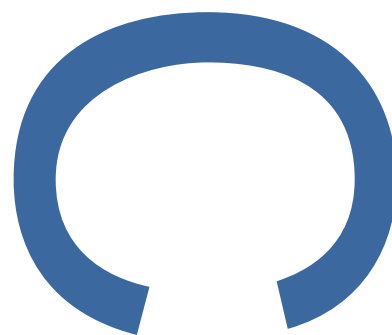


**LAND AT FAIRVIEW ROAD,
HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



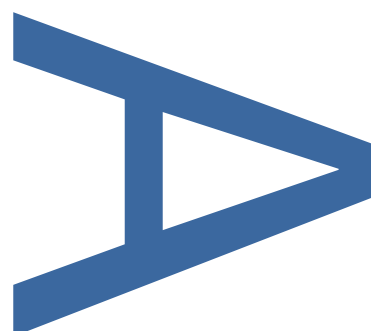
**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**



PCA REPORT NO: R12751

SITE CODE: ESF25094

DECEMBER 2016



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND AT FAIRVIEW ROAD,
HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4823
Report Number	R12751

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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Land at Fairview Road, Halesworth, Suffolk: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Waveney District Council

Planning Reference: DC/16/3667/ARM

Central National Grid Reference: TM 639197 278550

Site Code/Event Number: HWT050 / ESF25094

HER Search Reference: 9194756
Report No. R12751

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Fairview Road, Halesworth, Suffolk (NGR TM 639197 278550) between the 12th-13th December 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by PCA Heritage in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of 22 residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation revealed one undated ditch in Trench 2, which ran parallel to Norwich Road, most likely a field boundary ditch. The eastern half of the site had been heavily truncated by the former buildings, with no archaeological activity present in this area.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Fairview Road, Halesworth, Suffolk (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 639197 278550) from the 12-13th December 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by PCA Heritage in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of 22 new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping (Planning Reference DC/16/3667/ARM).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Andy Shelley of PCA Heritage (Shelley 2016) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Kate Batt (Batt 2016) of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (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 A total of eight x 20m and one x 10m trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 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 SCCAS/CT archaeological stores.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area is that of Crag Group gravels. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately up to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods, when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas (Website 1).

2.1.2 The superficial geological deposits are that of Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits which formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions (Website 1).

2.2 Location

2.2.1 The site was, until recently, occupied by commercial premises, with a large grassed area at to the west. Fairview Road creates the northern boundary of the site and to the immediate east is a housing estate and commercial premises occupying land to the south (Figure 1).

2.2.2 The site is positioned on the north-eastern side of Halesworth, approximately 900m from the towns' historic core. Halesworth is located c.12km inland from the Suffolk Heritage Coast, 21km south west of Lowestoft and 21km east of Diss within the Waveney District.

2.3 Topography

2.3.1 The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of c.38m OD.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The archaeological background detailed below has been taken from the archaeological brief (Batt 2016) and a search of the Suffolk HER.
- 3.1.2 This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record, in close proximity to the projected line of a Roman road between Ilketshall St John and Spexhall (ISL 007). As a result, there is potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area.
- 3.1.3 The site also lies 900m to the north-east of the historic core of Halesworth town, which is defined as an area of archaeological interest for both the Middle-Late Saxon settlement and the medieval town (MSF140 and MSF14069).
- 3.1.4 Approximately 600m to the north-west of the site, at Broadway Farm, a possible small ring ditch crop mark visible has been identified from aerial photographs (SPX 013). Two sides of a possible sub-rectangular cropmark have also been recorded 890m to the north-west (SPX 014). As yet these features are undated.
- 3.1.5 A series of linear cropmark features including probable field boundaries and possible enclosures has been identified 1km to the west at Hall Farm, Wissett (WSS 014). These also remain undated.
- 3.1.6 An excavation of land south of Sparrowhawk Road, Holton revealed a number of field boundary ditches dating to the Bronze or Iron Age, Roman and Post-Medieval periods, as well as a scatter of pits and isolated postholes of similar dates (ESF22854).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of nine trial trenches, distributed across the site (Figure 2). The trenches were positioned in order to obtain a representative sample of the 'blank' spaces on the site. Trench 9 had to be re-positioned to avoid cutting the access road.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 21-ton tracked 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 Ditch [105] was investigated and recorded in order to understand the nature of the archaeological remains on site. Prior to backfilling, 2m to the north and south of the ditch were machined, but no dating evidence was present.

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 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.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 1.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.76-36.87m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Topsoil	(101)	0.21	0.18	
Subsoil	(102)	0.21-0.38	0.18-0.29	
Natural	(103)	0.38+	0.29+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained one undated ditch, aligned north-east to south-west.

5.3.2 Ditch [105] (Figure 3, Section 1) was 1.61m wide and 0.39m deep with moderately steep rounded sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid orangey-/ greyish-brown silty clay (104), which contained flecks of CBM.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2-3		Plates 2-3	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.68-36.75m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SE End	NW End	
Topsoil	(101)	N/A	0.28	
Subsoil	(102)	0.28-0.45	0.28-0.45	
Natural	(103)	0.45+	0.45+	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located close to the western boundary of the site.				

One undated ditch was present.

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 3.

TRENCH 3	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.48-36.68m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		SW End	NE End
Topsoil	(101)	0.18	N/A
Subsoil	(102)	0.18-0.48	0.24
Natural	(103)	0.48+	0.24+
Summary			
Trench 3 was located close to the southern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present.			

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 4.

TRENCH 4	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.71-36.80m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		SW End	NE End
Topsoil	(101)	N/A	0.15
Subsoil	(102)	0.24	0.15-0.32
Natural	(103)	0.24+	0.32+
Summary			
Trench 4 was located close to the northern boundary of the site. No archaeological features were present.			

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 5.

TRENCH 5	Figure 2	Plate N/A
-----------------	-----------------	------------------

Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.28-36.48m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Made ground	(100)	0.37	0.34
Topsoil	(101)	N/A	N/A
Subsoil	(102)	N/A	N/A
Natural	(103)	0.37+	0.34+
Summary			
Trench 5 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site. No archaeological features were present.			

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 6.

TRENCH 6	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.00-36.16m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Made ground	(100)	0.21	N/A
Topsoil	(101)	N/A	N/A
Subsoil	(102)	0.21-0.43	0.18
Natural	(103)	0.43+	0.18+
Summary			
Trench 6 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site. No archaeological features were present.			

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 7.

TRENCH 7	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.28-36.61m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Made ground	(100)	0.18	0.2
Topsoil	(101)	N/A	N/A

Subsoil	(102)	N/A	N/A
Natural	(103)	0.18+	0.2+
Summary			
Trench 7 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site. No archaeological features were present.			

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 8.

TRENCH 8	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.55-36.64m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Made ground	(100)	0.06	0.10
Topsoil	(101)	N/A	N/A
Subsoil	(102)	0.06-0.37	0.10-0.19
Natural	(103)	0.37+	0.19+
Summary			
Trench 8 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site. No archaeological features were present.			

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 9.

TRENCH 9	Figure 2	Plate 4	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 10m	Level of Natural (m OD): 36.49-36.55m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Made ground	(100)	0.09	0.14
Topsoil	(101)	N/A	N/A
Subsoil	(102)	N/A	N/A
Natural	(103)	0.06+	0.14+
Summary			
Trench 9 was located in the centre of the site. No archaeological features were present.			

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The principal result of the evaluation was an undated ditch in Trench 2, which ran approximately 15m parallel to Norwich Road, and was most likely a field boundary ditch. The eastern half of the site had been heavily truncated by the former buildings, with no archaeological activity present in this area.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank PCA Heritage for commissioning the work and Toby Ashworth and Paul Fevearyear of Heritage Developments for sponsoring the project. PCA are also grateful to Kate Batt of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team 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 the project team: Laura Day for her hard work, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

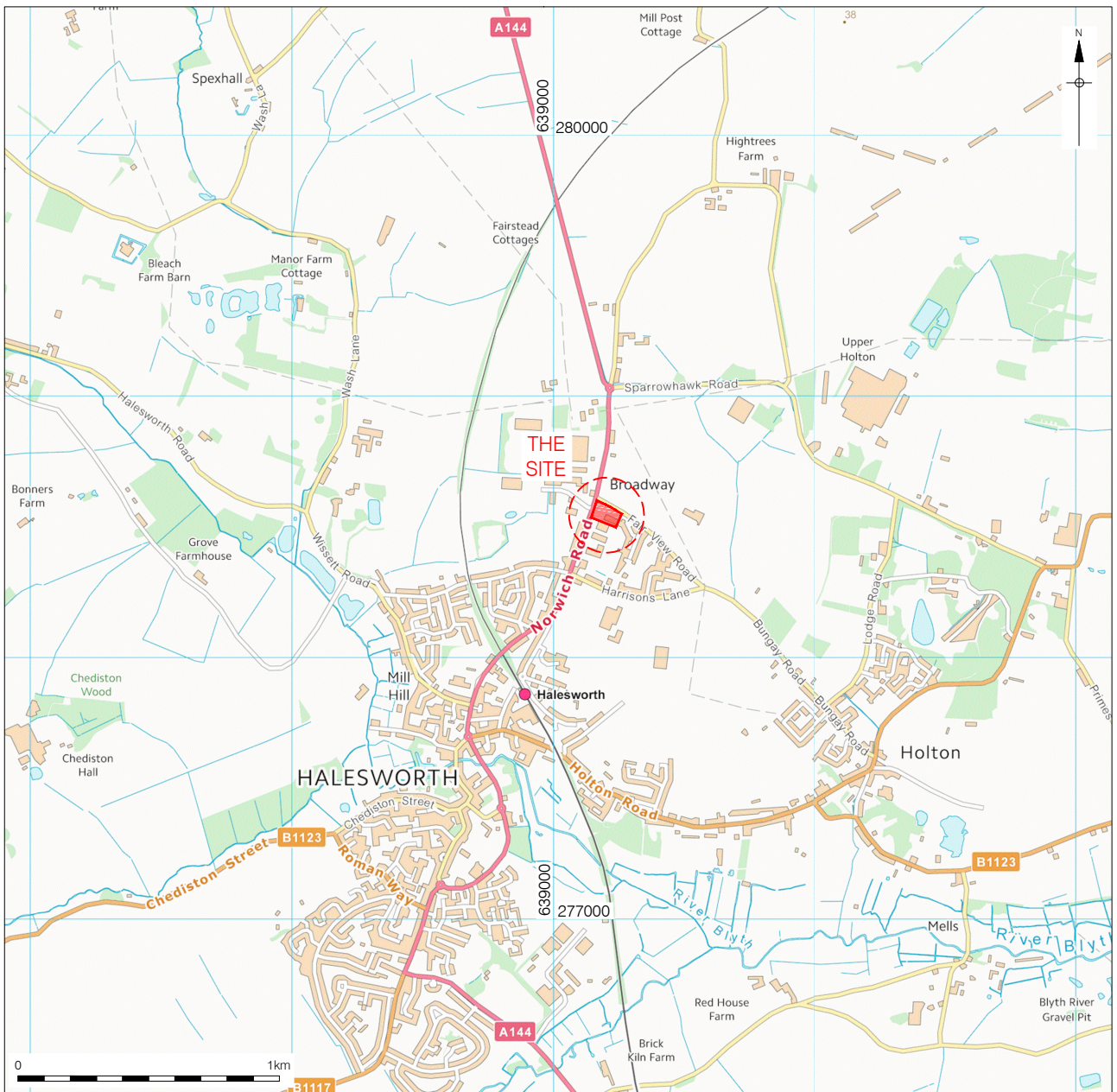
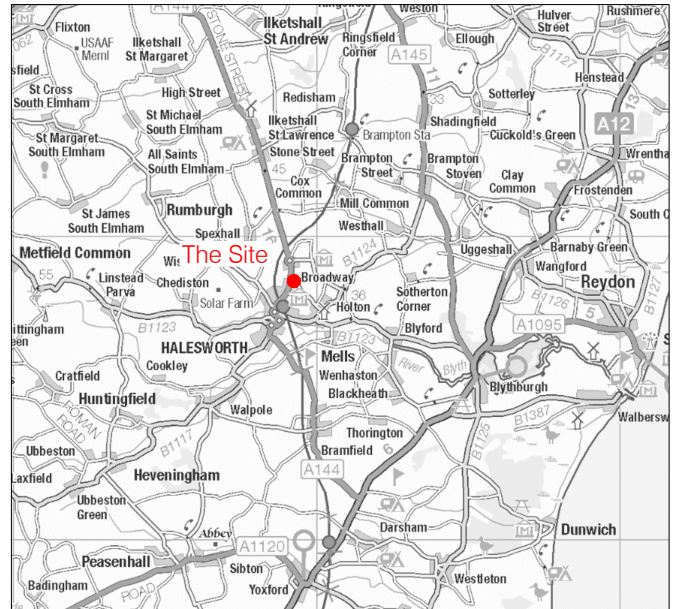
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Batt, K. 2016 Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Fairview Road and Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk. SCCAS/CT (unpublished)

Shelley, A. 2016 Fairview Road, Halesworth: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation. PCA Heritage (unpublished)

8.2 Websites

1) <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed 14/12/2016

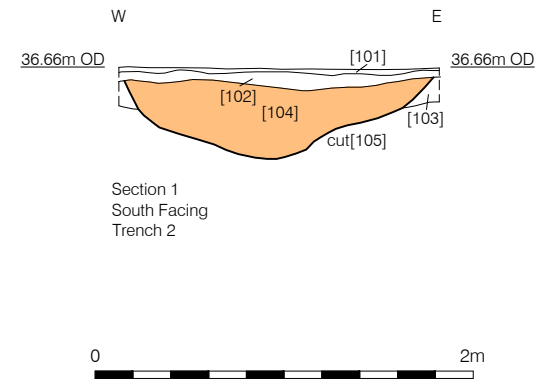
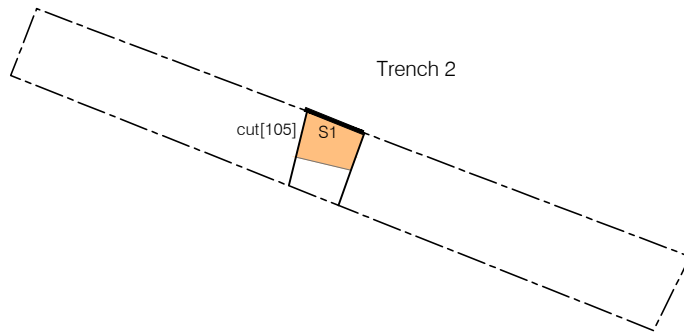


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 15/12/16 CF

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000, 250,000 & 1:25,000 at A4



Figure 2
 Trench Locations
 1:1,000 at A4



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Figure 3
Trench 2 and Section 1
1:200 and 1:40 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 2, view north-west



Plate 2: Ditch [105], view north-east



Plate 3: Trench 8, view north-east



Plate 4: The site and Trench 9, view north

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Made ground	Overburden	-
101	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	-
102	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	-
103	-	Layer	Natural Geology	Natural Geology	-
104	105	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [105]	2
105	105	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	2

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-269990

Project details

Project name Archaeological Evaluation at Fairview Rd and Norwich Rd, Halesworth, Suffolk

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Fairview Road, Halesworth, Suffolk (NGR TM 639197 278550) between the 12th-13th December 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by PCA Heritage in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of 22 residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The principal result of the evaluation was an undated ditch in Trench 2, which ran parallel to Norwich Road, most likely a field boundary ditch. The eastern half of the site had been heavily truncated by the former buildings, with no archaeological activity present in this area.

Project dates Start: 12-12-2016 End: 13-12-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes ESF25094 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample 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)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK WAVENEY HALESWORTH Land At Fairview Road And Norwich Road Halesworth
Study area	0.62 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 392 785 52.35171608209 1.512816476236 52 21 06 N 001 30 46 E Point

Project creators

Name	of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Organisation	
Project originator	brief Kate Batt
Project originator	design Taleyna Fletcher
Project director/manager	Taleyna Fletcher
Project supervisor	Mary-Anne Slater

Project archives

Physical Exists?	Archive No
Digital recipient	Archive Suffolk County Council
Digital Archive ID	ESF25094
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital available	Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper recipient	Archive Suffolk County Council
Paper Archive ID	ESF25094
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper available	Media "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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