LAND AT GREEN LANE WEST, RACKHEATH, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

MITIGATION REPORT WITH C14 APPENDIX

CNF45670

**ACCESSION NO. 2018.327** 

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PCA REPORT NO: 13564

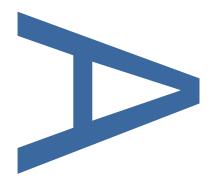
SITE CODE: ENF144766

OASIS ID:-PRECONST1 328868

**FEBRUARY 2019** 







#### PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

# LAND AT GREEN LANE WEST, RACKHEATH, NORFOLK

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION MITIGATION REPORT WITH C14

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#### Land at Green Lane West, Rackheath, Norfolk: An Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority:	Broadland District Council
NCC/HES Reference:	CNF45670
Central National Grid Reference:	TG 2814 1255
Site Code:	ENF144766
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#### ABSTRACT

This re-issued report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Green Lane West (NGR TG 2814 1255) between the 20th August and 8th September 2018. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs prior to proposed construction works associated with residential development. The aim of the work was to characterize the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. This re-issued report now contains an appendix of the C14 results, and an updated conclusions.

A total of 43 archaeological trial trenches were excavated across the site to a standard pattern in order to identify and provide a sample of any archaeological features present and to enable decisions to be made about possible mitigation measures. It was agreed with the planning archaeologist at NHES that inclusion of the C14 dating within this re-issued report would be sufficient mitigation for the site to fulfill the planning condition.

The evaluation uncovered nine features including pits, a ditch and a possible ditch dispersed across the site in Trenches 3, 5, 19, 21, 24, 27, 37 and 43, without an obvious pattern.

Three pits [103], [120] and [126] and a possible ditch [117] contained varieties of flint, often very small, including worked, microliths and burnt flint fragments all indicative of a prehistoric date. A flint core and worked flint from the possible ditch [117] had Mesolithic to Early Neolithic characteristics in keeping with the background of the site as recorded on the Norfolk County Council Historical Environment Record.

The C14 dated Early/Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Roman period pits reflect the utilisation of the heath land during a period of rising population, possibly connected with Iron Age enclosures and field systems as recorded on the NHER.

A boundary ditch [111] of late Post-medieval date excavated and recorded in Trench 5 and also observed in Trenches 11 and 14, had been depicted on the Tithe map of c.1840, and had been backfilled prior to the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. to undertake a programme of informative trial trenching on Land at Green Lane West, Rackheath, Norfolk, NR13 6PG. (NGR TG 2814 1255). The project was undertaken prior to the construction of a new housing development of approximately 322 dwellings, with associated infrastructure. The evaluation took place between 20th August and 8th September 2018.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Peter Crawley of PCA (Crawley 2018) in response to pre-application archaeological-advice (Percival CNF45670\_3) issued by John Percival of the Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council (NHES) and guidelines (Robertson et al 2018).
- 1.3 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
- 1.4 A total of 43 no. 50 x 1.8m trenches totalling 3870m<sup>2</sup> were excavated and recorded (Figure 2).
- 1.5 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The report presents the C14 dating which was undertaken as mitigation on the scheme.
- 1.6 The site archive will be deposited at Norfolk Museum Services.

#### 2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### 2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The underlying geology consisted of Crag Group Sand and Gravel. Sedimentary Bedrock which formed up to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas.
- 2.1.2 The upper geology in the western half of the site consists of Sheringham Cliffs Formation - Sand and Gravel and for the eastern half of the site Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation - Diamicton. Each, superficial deposits which formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (BGS).
- 2.1.3 The superficial soils comprise Wick 2 association, described as deep well drained coarse loamy, often stoneless soils (BGS).

#### 2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site is situated on sloping ground between 25.6m and 31.8m AOD, and consists of open agricultural fields. The ground on the west side of the site lies between 31.1m and 31.8m AOD, with the land sloping down to the east reaching its lowest point at 25.6m AOD where Green Lane West and Salhouse Road meet. The River Bures is situated 3km to the north.

#### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background is based on the archaeological advice issued by HES/NCC (Percival CNF45670\_3), the desk-based assessment (Thompson and Summers 2014) and a search of the Norfolk HER (Enquiry No. 18\_07\_14).
- 3.1.2 A geophysical survey had previously been undertaken at the site (Davies 2014). The survey identified the extent of a former "quarry hole" or "gravel hole" which was visible on mapping from 1834 to 1928. Other anomalies were considered to be of recent date.
- 3.1.3 Two other relevant fieldwork investigations have taken place immediately adjacent to the west of the site ahead of the Norwich Northern Distributor Route. Initially fieldwalking was undertaken between 2006 and 2007 (Morgan and Hoggett 2008) followed by a geophysical survey in 2013, which identified a number of anomalies consistent with ferrous objects in the topsoil, and a number of anomalies thought to be geological (Harrison 2013). Disturbance at the northern edge of the plot was thought to relate to Hall Farm.

#### 3.2 Early Prehistoric

3.2.1 There appears to be little of Palaeolithic date in the vicinity of the site although an Upper Palaeolithic flake was found from the top of the natural silt during an archaeological evaluation approximately 420m north, could indicate a background presence of this period in the vicinity (NHER 54173). To the north west of the site, a possible Mesolithic/Neolithic flint working site consisting of a large number of blades, borers, scrapers and flakes was recorded (NHER 12630). An important NHER record of Neolithic date was recorded 750m to the north-east of the site, consisting of an oval barrow or mortuary enclosure (NHER 18875). Closer to the site finds of a similar date included a quartz macehead (NHER 8169), polished stone axe heads to the south, east and west (NHER 8153, 8160, 8149), and a stone axe hammer was found closer to the site (NHER 8171). Several worked and burnt prehistoric flints have also been found as part of multi-period finds scatters. (NHER 33570, 49752, 50502).

#### 3.3 Later Prehistoric to Roman

- 3.3.1 Ahead of the construction of the Northern Distributor Route, which runs past the site to the west, a metal detecting survey unearthed a middle Bronze Age spearhead (NHER 49751). Other finds of a similar date found close to the site include a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrow head, and a possible Bronze Age unidentified object (NHER 36254, 51314). The cropmark of a possible ring ditch located approximately 130m east of the site may represent the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, but could also be a later feature, such as a windmill base (NHER 51924).
- 3.3.2 There are several cropmarks representing enclosures and trackways (NHER 50730 NHER 51930, NHER 51932) and curvilinear features (NHER 51923), thought to be Iron Age to Roman date, located around the site. It is also likely that other recorded cropmarks represent landscape features which continued in use into the Roman period (NHER 50728, 50729, 50730, 50744, 51930, 51932). Low levels of Roman material have been recovered during fieldwalking within Beeston Park and it is considered that the Broad Walk at the western limit of Beeston Park could align with the route of the former Brampton to Thorpe St Andrew Roman road (NHER 7598)

#### 3.4 Anglo Saxon to medieval

- 3.4.1 Of three Domesday entries for the settlement of Rackheath, the main entry relates to the larger village of Rackheath Magna which was located approximately 400m north-east of All Saints Church (the church is 1.3km north of modern Rackheath). The Domesday survey lists 27 heads of households comprising villagers, smallholders and free men, and had 5 men's ploughs and 7 acres of meadow. A second entry related to Rackheath Parva and a third to an unnamed strip of land, but details of those are not recounted here.
- 3.4.2 Within the wider parish there are several recorded medieval metalwork find spots, (NHER 36254, 51314, 52535), which include a leaf-decorated copper alloy strap end (NHER 19297), the quillon from a dagger (NHER 40112), and 13th century coins of Edward I and Alexander the III (NHER 39886). An earlier coin of William I was found near Rackheath Hall (NHER 8172). Field walking to

the west of the site produced one possible sherd of medieval pottery (NHER 49751). An important local historical event was recorded close to the site, whereby, during the Peasants Revolt in 1381, a large gathering of Norfolk rebels assembled at the northern end of Mousehold Heath at Rackheath and proclaimed their leader Geoffrey Litster, 'King of the Commons', before marching on to defeat at North Walsham.

#### 3.5 Post-medieval to modern

- 3.5.1 Much of the southern part of the site is located within NHER 30518, an area of land which had become by the late 16th century part of the estate owned by the Pettus family. It had passed to the Stracey family by the 18th century. At this time, following the c. 1801 Parliamentary Enclosure of Rackheath, the park was extended to the south, taking in part of former Mousehold Heath. A further HER entry NHER 53082 indicates that the site was located within and at the northern limit of Mousehold heath as it appeared on Fadens' map of Norwich 1797.
- 3.5.2 The Grade II listed Rackheath Hall to the west of the site was probably built, in 1777 although it could have been built as late as 1852-4 (NHER 8172). It replaced a 16th or 17th century hall, destroyed by fire, owned by Sir John Pettus, MP and Mayor for Norwich, who was knighted by Elizabeth I. A number of post-medieval finds have been metal detected from close to the site (NHER 49749, 49754, 50501).
- 3.5.3 To the north and north west, in 1943, agricultural land between Rackheath Magna and Rackheath Parva (NHER 8170) was turned over to a new role as an airfield for the use of the United States Army Air Forces Eighth Air Force. The larger and heavier B24s required long concrete runways.

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 General

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised of 43 no. 50 x 1.8m trial trenches, totalling 3870m<sup>2</sup>. These were distributed to a standard pattern, evenly across the site, in order to provide a representative sample of the development area

#### 4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation was carried out using a 14 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator (Plate 1). Topsoil and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

#### 4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 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 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]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All

features and deposits excavated during the evaluation and excavation are listed in Appendix 1. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

- 4.3.3 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 periodically. Only objects of modern date were found which were not retained for accession.
- 4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process. In addition, monochrome photographs were taken of significant features.

#### 4.4 Sampling Strategy

- 4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a crosssection scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). Where large or significant finds assemblages were present, features were subsequently 100% excavated for finds recovery.
- 4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly-spaced slots amounting to 25% of their lengths. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

#### 4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 A total of 6 bulk samples (generally 20-40 litres in volume) were taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The aim of this sampling was to help reconstruct the past environment and economy of the site. An additional aim of the sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals. These samples were taken from sealed deposits.

#### 5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

#### 5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	2
Context sheets	28
Plan registers	0
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	3
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	53
Trench record sheets	43
Photo register sheets	10
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	1

#### 5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	352
GPS survey files	7
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

#### 5.3 Physical Archive

Struck flint	12
Burnt flint	98
Pottery	0
Ceramic building material (CBM)	0
Glass	0
Briquetage	0
Small Finds	0
Slag	0
Animal bone	0
Shell	0
Environmental bulk samples	6
C14 samples	4
Colour slides	0

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

#### 6.1 Overview

(Plates 2-20)

6.1.1 Archaeological remains, consisting of a ditch, a possible ditch and seven pits were found in Trench 3, 5, 19, 21, 24, 27, 37 and 43. These included four undated features and four ([119], [108], [121], [127]) which contained various amounts of flint (both worked, unworked and burnt). The ditch [111] was of later Post-medieval date recorded on the Tithe map of c.1840 and backfilled later in the 19th-century.

#### 6.2 Prehistoric ditch, pits and undated Pits

- 6.2.1 The earliest evidence of activity at the site dates from the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic and comprised a flake and core found in the upper ditch fill (119) of possible shallow ditch [117] in Trench 19, in the south/central area of the site. It is unclear if these were residual, or, with the very small fragments of burnt flint and debitage being found in further pits (recovered from environmental samples (108), (121), (127)), the finds may be contemporary with the feature.
- 6.2.2 Pits were uncovered in trenches 3 [103], [105], 21 [120], 24 [113], 27 [122], 37 [124] and 43 [126]. Due to their similarity of form they are discussed together here. They were all, bar pit [103], circular in plan with a diameter range of 1-1.5m. They had gently sloping sides with irregular concave bases at depths not exceeding 0.4m. Where charcoal and /or burnt flint was present, this appeared to have been deliberately deposited when cold, as there was no sign of burning of the natural at the sides or base of the feature.
- 6.2.3 The dating evidence included a burnt blade fragment and four micro-debitage pieces from [120], five micro-debitage pieces and 59 fragments (195.3g) of unworked burnt flint from [126]. A total of 24 unworked burnt flint fragments (40.6g) were found in (108), a fill of pit [103]. Pit [103], Trench 3, had an elongated shape in plan and was located in the northern field, and pits [120] and [126] in the southern field (Trench 21 and 43 respectively).

- 6.2.4 The charcoal-rich fills of several pits, when processed as samples, aside from the recovered flint mentioned above, produced very few archaeobotanical remains or other environmental fragments. Pit fill (108) (<2>) produced two fragments of hazelnut shell and free threshing wheat glumes suggestive of modern cereal cultivation were recovered from pits [120] and [126] (samples <6> and <7>) respectively, although it is likely these could be intrusive and linked with modern arable.
- 6.2.5 There was little Stratigraphy present at the site, with all of the features singly located. The archaeological features where a relationship was observed appeared to truncate the base of the subsoil. The boundary between the subsoil (101) and topsoil (100) appeared to be very diffuse at the site, likely to be due to its former heathland character.
- 6.2.6 The archaeology formed no clear pattern in plan, and was highly dispersed, across the site with perhaps more pits being located in the southern field.

#### 6.3 Post-medieval ditches

6.3.1 Ditch [111] in Trench 5 was determined to be a recently redundant field boundary ditch depicted on the Tithe map, circa.1840. (not reproduced). It was observed traversing the northern field to a north east to south west orientation across Trench 11 and 14 but was not fully excavated with permission of NCC/HES, due to its relatively recent date. In Trench 5 and 11 a large associated field drain was also located in close-proximity to ditch [111], presumably located at the former edge of this field.

#### 6.4 Natural Features

6.4.1 Natural features, likely bioturbation and animal burrows, which were partly hand-excavated and checked were planned but not further recorded in Trench 14, 16, 9 and 5, all located in the mid part of the northern field, perhaps reflecting the previous environment here which may have once contained more foliage/animal runs.

#### 7 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Lithic Assessment Ella Egberts

Introduction

7.1.1 Archaeological investigations resulted in the recovery of a small quantity of struck flint and unworked burnt stone. The assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued by context and this includes further descriptive details of the material (Appendix 4). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents a preliminary assessment and outline of its significance. No statistically based technological, typological or metrical analyses have been conducted and a more detailed examination may alter or amend any of the interpretations offered here

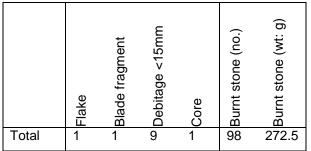


Table 1: Quantification of struck and burnt flint from Green Lane West.

- 7.1.2 A total of 3 struck flints, 9 pieces of micro-debitage (flakes and flake fragments less than 15mm in maximum dimension) and 98 pieces (272.5g) of unworked burnt flint were recovered from the above-mentioned site (Table 1).
- 7.1.3 One flake and the core were found in context (119) together with a fragment of unworked burnt flint (27.3g). The other struck flint from this site is a very small blade fragment which was found in context (121). The blade fragment is burnt and was recovered from a sample of unworked burnt flint. Context (121) also included four micro-debitage pieces. Another five micro-debitage pieces were recovered from context (127) (modern). This context also included 59 fragments (195.3g) of unworked burnt flint. Context (108) contained 24 unworked burnt flint fragments (40.6g).

Struck flint

#### Raw material

7.1.4 The core and flake recovered from this site were both made of fine-grained, translucent dark grey flint struck from a nodular flint core. The burnt blade fragment is decoloured and fire-crazed but made of a fine-grained flint. Such flint could have been obtained from the diamicton and sand and gravel deposits present in the vicinity of the site (BGS 2018).

#### Condition

7.1.5 The worked flint is in fresh to slightly chipped condition. This suggests that some of the pieces might have moved to some extend after discard.

#### Description

7.1.6 A total of three struck flints were recovered from the site at Green Lane West, including a blade core, a flake and a blade fragment. The blade fragment and core show technological and typological characteristics typical for Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint working. The blade fragment is well struck with a prepared striking platform. The core (169.8g) is worked from the front, has one main striking platform from which long blades were knapped. The striking platform seems to have been rejuvenated at least once and there is some evidence of platform trimming. The back is facetted and formed by a few large flake removals. The core is slightly red stained and has potentially been lightly heated, a process sometimes undertaken during prehistory to facilitate reduction, but as it was found in a modern, burnt context, this may have occurred more recently.

#### Discussion

7.1.7 The worked flints from Green Lane West indicate some human activity at the site during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic periods. This is in agreement with earlier finds in the area. For example fieldwalking in between 1977-1986 northwest of Rackheath resulted in the recovery of large quantities of Mesolithic worked flint (NHER 12630). The limited amount of material found at Green Lane West may present a background scatter signal of a larger, more intensely used Mesolithic and Early Neolithic landscape, and could therefore provide a context to richer sites in the vicinity.

Conclusions

7.1.8 The struck flint assemblage has been comprehensively catalogued and no further analytical work is recommended. Nevertheless, it does demonstrate prehistoric activity at the site which further fieldwork could potentially elucidate. Although the assemblage is small, the site sits in a rich early prehistoric landscape and is a useful contribution to what is known.

## 7.2 Environmental Results.

#### Kath Hunter Dowse

- 7.2.1 During an evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) at Green Lane West, Rackheath, Norfolk six environmental samples were taken. These were processed to assess their potential for plant remains and other environmental evidence including charcoal. The samples were processed using a flotation technique recovering the flot to 300 µm and the residue to 1mm. The residues were sorted in-house by PCA with charcoal and other environmental remains extracted from the greater than 2 mm fraction. The flots were rapidly assessed by the author using an MTL stereo microscope. The results from this assessment are recorded in Appendix 5.
- 7.2.2 The project has attempted to identify the presence of ring porous or diffuse vessel patterns. Where possible the author has attempted to identify whether the charcoal represents roundwood, heartwood, twig or root. The frequency of all charred remains has been recorded using the following criteria:
- 7.2.3 \* 1-5 items
- 7.2.4 \*\* 6-10 items
- 7.2.5 \*\*\* 11-50 items
- 7.2.6 \*\*\*\*50-100+ items
- 7.2.7 The frequency for charcoal recorded in Appendix 5 in brackets e.g. (\*\*\*) represents the proportion that appears to be larger than 2mm in all dimensions and may be identifiable to species.

- 7.2.8 Where identification of other plant macrofossils has taken place, the nomenclature for cereals follows Zohary et al. 2012 and other plants Stace 2010. The term "seed" may include achene, fruit, nutlet etc.
- 7.2.9 The criteria used to select samples for further analysis of archaeobotanical remains is based on a scheme developed by Wendy Carruthers. This allows various factors to be considered when assessing samples. The priority categories used in this assessment are as follows:
- 7.2.10 A= high potential on archaeobotanical grounds (i.e. rare or interesting plant taxa or exceptional preservation) or due to the scarcity of information from this type of deposit (e.g. Neolithic contexts).
- 7.2.11 B= good potential due to reasonable preservation and/or frequent identifiable charred plant remains, i.e. the assemblage can provide a useful amount of information.
- 7.2.12 C= some charred material but present in low concentrations or very poorly preserved. The samples will only be worth including if part of a group, or if the context is especially important or particular information is required.
- 7.2.13 D= no charred material or so few to have been fully identified and recorded. Any information recovered from C and D samples can be included in the final report if necessary.

(Carruthers pers. comm)

- 7.2.14 Whilst there was abundant charcoal in all six samples there was very little other charred material present. Two fragments of hazelnut shell (Corylus avellana) were recovered from sample 2 context (108). These could be evidence of a wild grown food resource or could simply have been gathered with wood for fuel.
- 7.2.15 The presence of charred, free threshing wheat glumes (Triticum sp.) suggests modern cereal cultivation in the area (Sample 6 context (120) and sample 7 context (126)). These charred wheat glumes appear along-side uncharred modern chaff leading to a high risk of the material also being relatively modern

or being redeposited. Also culm nodes are not particularly diagnostic beyond saying they are from a type of cereal so it is not possible to say when they were charred If cereals have been cultivated in the area in the recent past, it would be difficult to distinguish modern charred chaff, from before the 1993 ban on stubble burning, from much older examples. So, it is possible that the two cereal culm fragments from sample 6 may well be relatively modern.

#### Conclusions

Charcoal

7.2.16 All of the samples produced abundant charcoal fragments of greater than 2mm in all dimensions which might be suitable for species identification. Only sample 5 context (119) contained fewer than 100 examples. A few fragments from samples 4,5,6 and 7 contained fragments that appear to be oak (Quercus sp.).

Other plant macrofossils

7.2.17 Due to the paucity of preserved plant remains no further work is recommended on theses samples

C14 samples

7.2.18 Following the evaluation stage, four sub-samples of charcoal were selected to undertake C14 dating and the results of this exercise are presented in this re-issued report, as mitigation.

#### 8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 It seems highly likely that at least four of the features present on the site were of prehistoric date (now Confirmed by C14 dating see below), with perhaps more residuality about the dating of possible ditch [117], nevertheless the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint core and flake, confirm activity of this date was being undertaken in the vicinity, confirming what is known of the prehistoric landscape as recorded on the NHER. For example NHER 12630 records that fieldwalking between 1977-1986 north-west of Rackheath resulted in the recovery of large quantities of Mesolithic worked flint. With such a small quantity of worked flint (3 flakes) and debitage (9 flakes) recovered from across the current site, this activity should be seen as sporadic 'background noise' in its character.
- 8.1.2 Following the evaluation phase on the site, four charcoal sub-samples were submitted for C14 dating. This discussion now reflects the new information. It has previously been stated by Medleycott that for the Iron Age period, "Dating and chronology -This is still a central concern" and that further efforts would be needed "to help refine the absolute chronology for the region". (Medleycott 2011 p29). The provision of radio carbon dates from the site has been useful and adds to the growing body of evidence for this period, helping towards addressing this concern.
- 8.1.3 The 95% probability date ranges are as follows:-
- 8.1.4 Pit [105] (106) 92-68 calBC and 61-53 calAD [SUERC-84159 (GU50033)]
- 8.1.5 Pit [103] (108) 363-203 calBC [SUERC-84160 (GU50034)]
- 8.1.6 Pit [124] (125) 357-282 calBC, 257-246 calBC, 236-154 calBC and 135-116 calBC [SUERC-84164 (GU50035)]
- 8.1.7 Pit [126] (127) 401-355 calBC and 289-233 calBC [SUERC-84165 (GU50036)]
- 8.1.8 The results show a familiar 'double-spike' of potential dates, a phenomenon often associated with Iron Age C14 dating. Aside from context 106, which is potentially of Late Iron Age to Roman date, the other dates have been returned

as reasonably closely dated to the Early to Middle Iron Age. The NHER background supports this dated activity, with recorded cropmarks thought to represent enclosures, trackways and curvilinear features of likely Iron Age to Roman date in the vicinity of the site (NHER 50730 NHER 51930, NHER 51932, NHER 51923)

- 8.1.9 There is a lack of macro remains, for example items such as burnt grains, within the environmental samples, to confirm the original function of the pits. For example Iron Age pits can often contain burnt cereal grains with the charcoal a by-product of the cereal processing, but here, there is a scarcity of burnt grains. The lack of pottery suggests that these pits were located away from centres of Iron Age settlement.
- 8.1.10 The quantity of small fragments of burnt flint present within the fills of several pits is likely to derive from directly heated flints added and used to heat water, possibly for cooking, again identified as generally prehistoric date, with the 'high-period' of this activity generally considered to be the Bronze-Age to Early Iron Age. This was probably undertaken as a very localised action close to the fires themselves and is not in this instance associated with the widespread mounds of such burnt flint which can sometimes be unearthed of this period. The pits therefore contained deposited waste materials from such fires, either as a practical measure or with ritual considerations. Worked and burnt flints have previously been found a short distance to the west of the current site at NHER 49752.
- 8.1.11 The undated pits have a similar size and profile to those which contained the flint and charcoal, and as such they may also be of a similar date, but more simply had the remains of a fire deposited into them, without the splintered and heat-shattered flint. However, it should be born in mind that these pits could be of any date through to the post-medieval period.
- 8.1.12 There was a noticeable lack of a sharp boundary between the topsoil and the subsoil possibly representing the character of the former heath. NHER 53082 records that the site lay within the former extent of Mousehold Heath as depicted on Faden's map of 1797.

#### 9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 The evaluation identified sporadic evidence of prehistoric and undated activity in keeping with what is known of the historical character of the wider Rackheath area, as recorded on the NHER.
- 9.1.2 The C14 dated Early/Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Roman period pits reflect the utilisation of the heath land during a period of rising population levels. As stated in Medleycott "The Norfolk NMP has identified a large numbers of enclosures of probable Iron Age date......Two such enclosures, located only 50m apart, were mapped recently at Rackheath (Alboneetal.2008)...... The Rackheath enclosures are located within a complex area of multi-phase field systems and boundaries, at least some of which may be contemporary with either or both of them. Further investigation of this cropmark group would potentially reveal vital new information on prehistoric enclosed settlement in Norfolk, a subject about which little is currently known". (Medleycott 2011 p22) These pits, as well-dated features, offer circumstantial supporting evidence for an Iron Age date for said field-systems and enclosures, and are valuable in what they add to Iron Age settlement and landscape studies for the area.
- 9.1.3 Shattered flint within the fills may indicate the continued use of heated flint as a means of heating water during this time, other information regarding the original function of the pits was not forthcoming.
- 9.1.4 The lack of medieval evidence is in keeping with the main centre of medieval Rackheath, being located some distance from the site (Rackheath Magna and Rackheath Parva NHER 8170). The site's position within Rackheath Park (NHER 30518) has also acted to reduce the Post-medieval exploitation of the site, prior to its use as arable fields.
- 9.1.5 The evaluation confirmed the presence of a post-medieval field boundary In Trench 5, 11 and 14, depicted on the Tithe map c. 1840, which appears to have been backfilled prior to the drawing up of the 1st Edition Ordnance survey map c.1885.

#### 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Paul Clark of CgMs for commissioning the project and Norfolk Homes for funding it. PCA are also grateful to John Percival of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed for PCA by Peter Crawley. The project was supervised by Antonio Pavez assisted by Gary Reid. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department. The C14 dates were supplied by The Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre.

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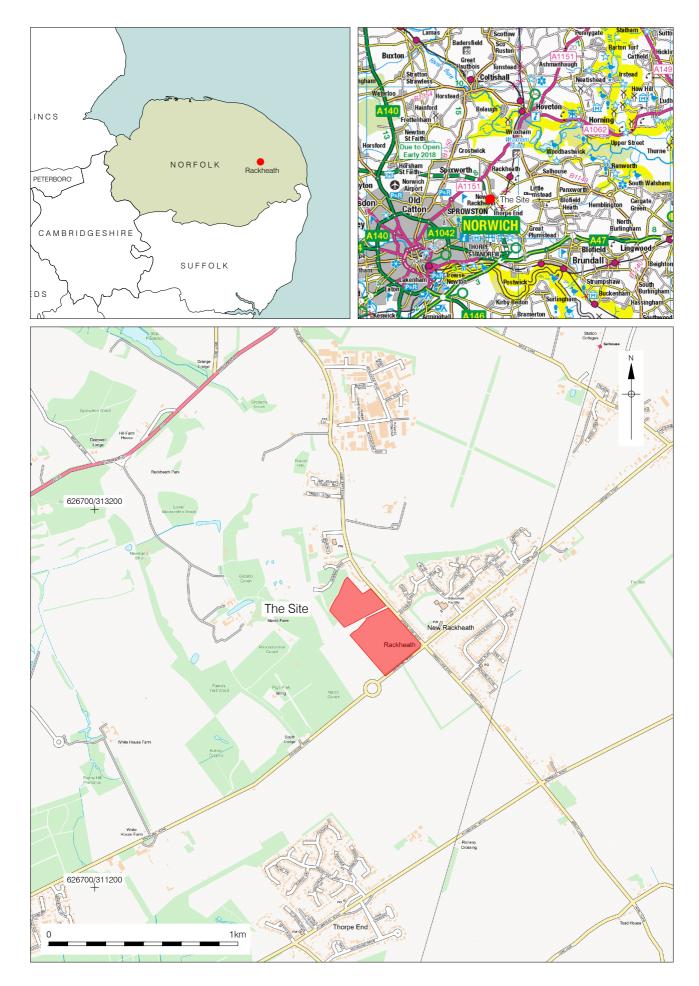
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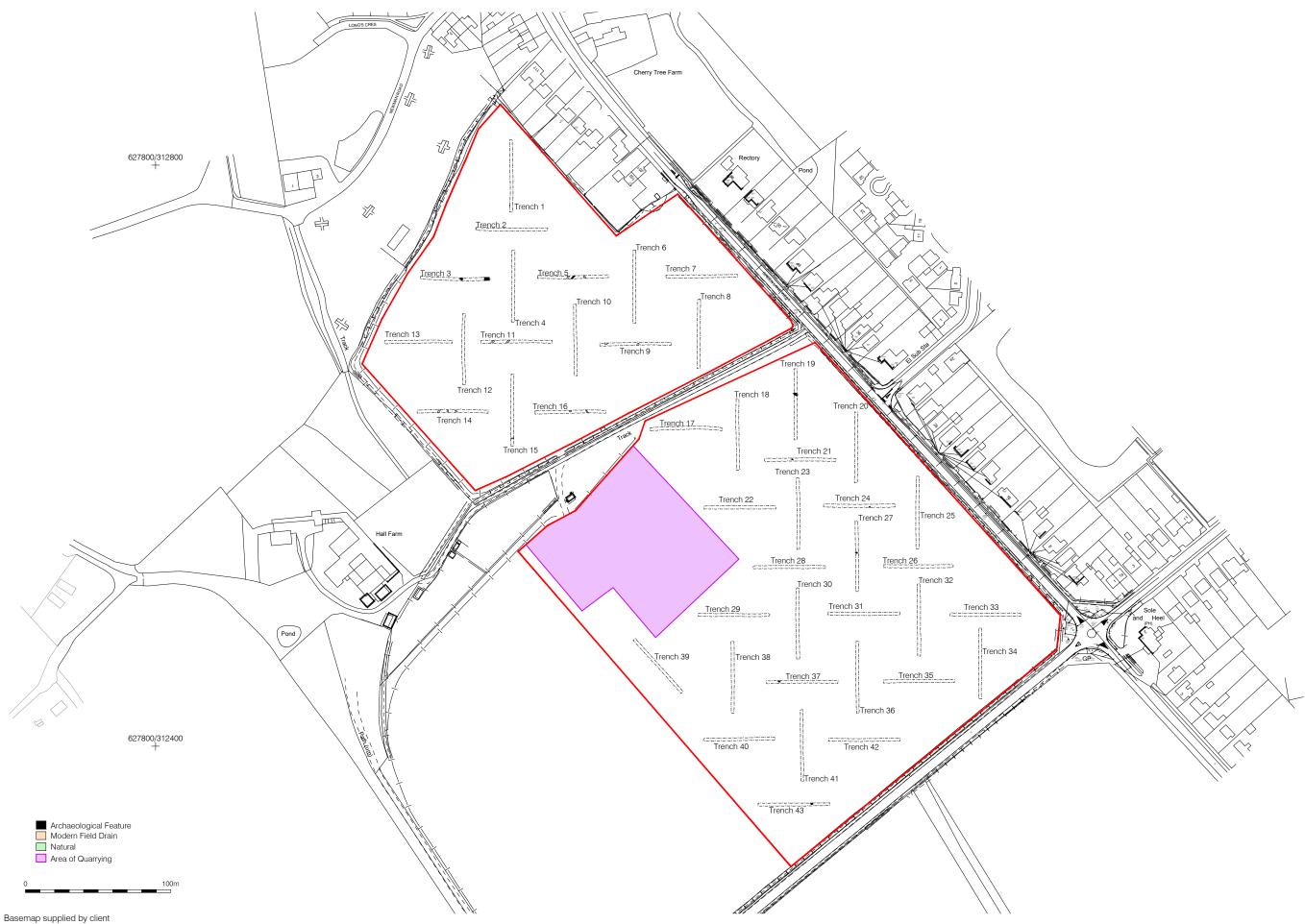
1) British Geological Survey 2014 Geology of Britain Viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP9%203DG.A ccessed 31/07/14

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Figure 1 Site Location

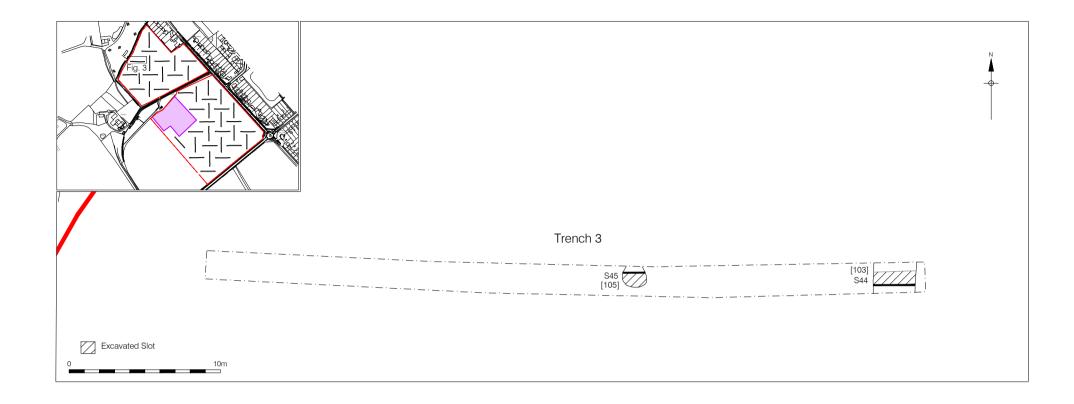


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Figure 2 Trench Location 1:2500 at A3



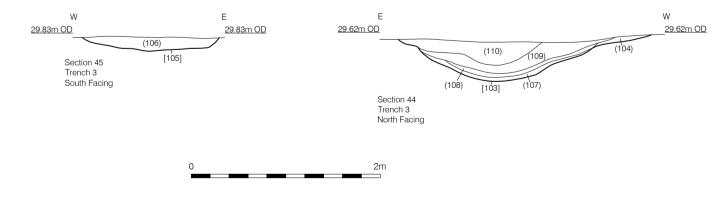
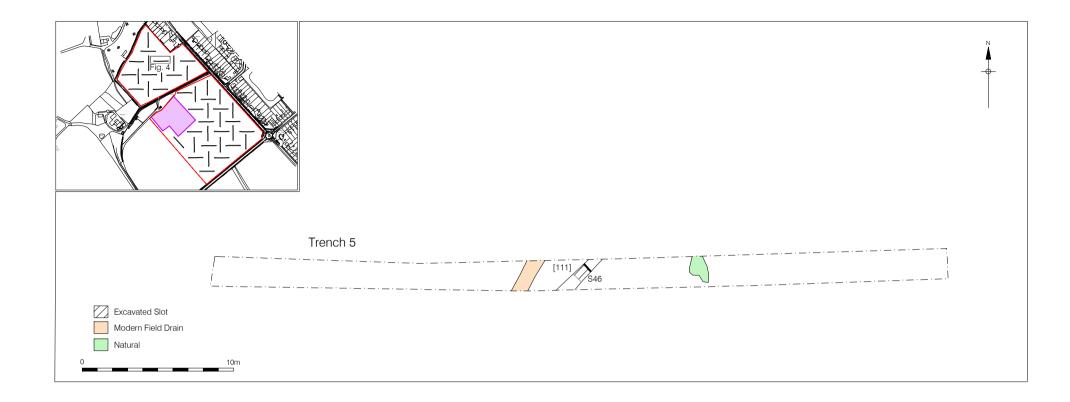


Figure 3 Trench 3 Plan and Section Inset 1:12500; Plan 1:250; Sections 1:40 at A4



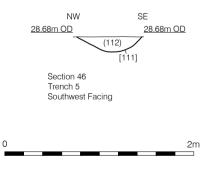


Figure 4 Trench 5 Plan and Section Inset 1:12500; Plan 1:250; Sections 1:40 at A4

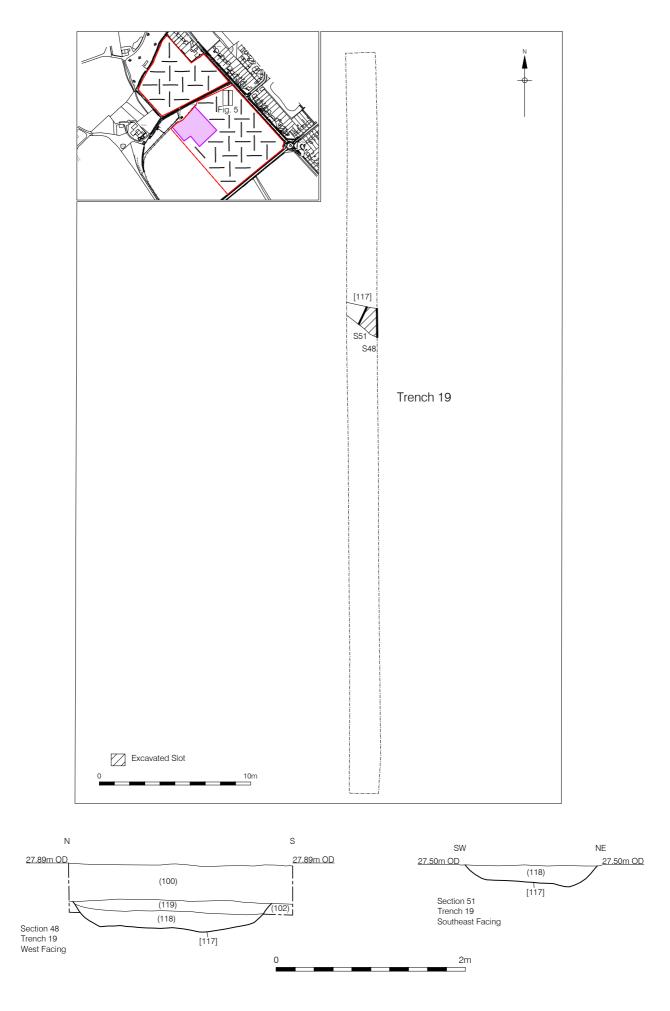
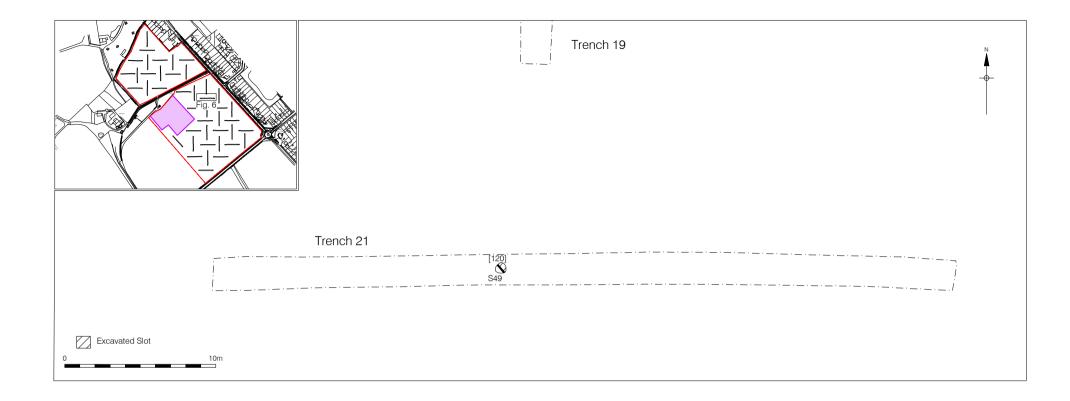


Figure 5 Trench 19 Plan and Section Inset 1:12500; Plan 1:250; Sections 1:40 at A4



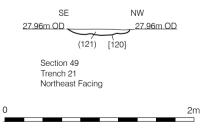


Figure 6 Trench 21 Plan and Section Inset 1:12500; Plan 1:250; Sections 1:40 at A4

	Trench 24	
i 		
Excavated Slot		

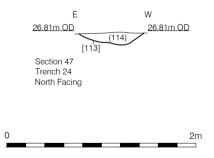
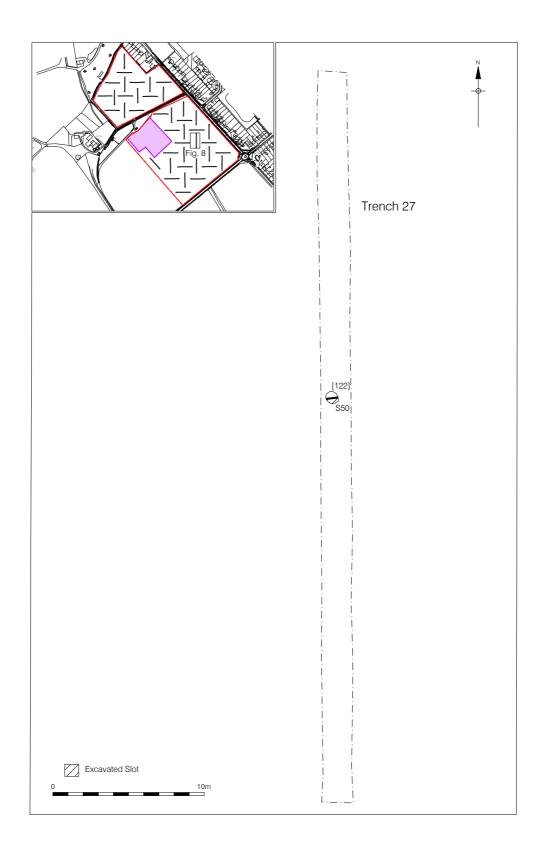
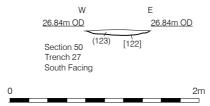
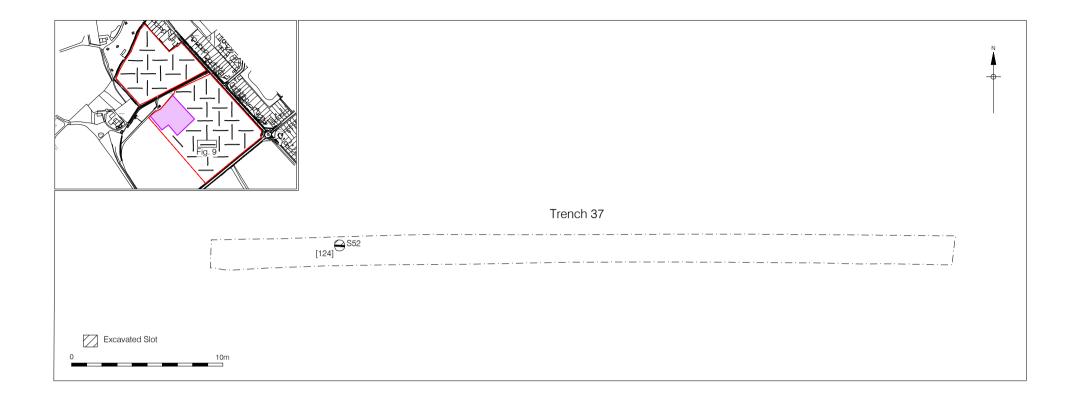


Figure 7 Trench 24 Plan and Section Inset 1:12500; Plan 1:250; Sections 1:40 at A4







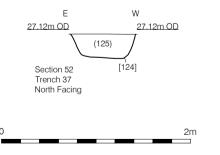
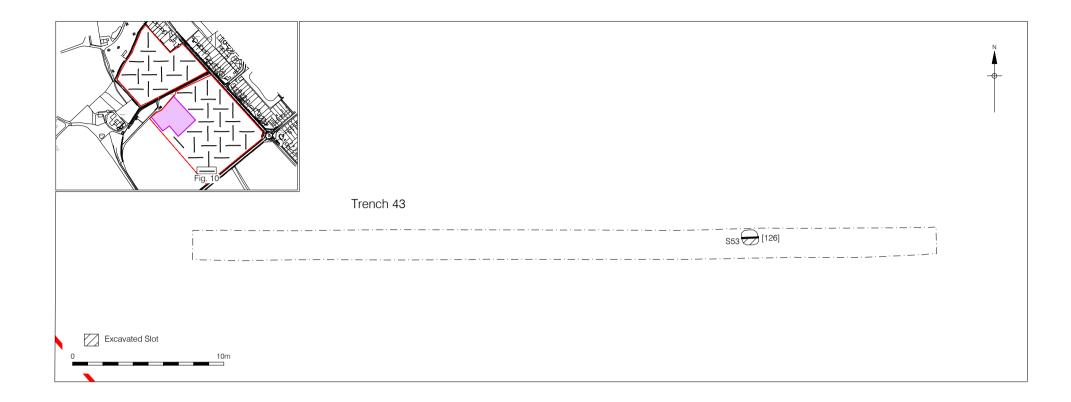
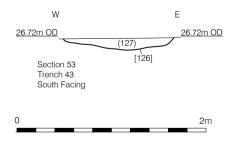


Figure 9 Trench 37 Plan and Section Inset 1:12500; Plan 1:250; Sections 1:40 at A4





Basemap supplied by client © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2018 25/09/18 RS Figure 10 Trench 43 Plan and Section Inset 1:12500; Plan 1:250; Sections 1:40 at A4

### **APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



Plate 1 Machining Trench 1, looking south



Plate 2 Trench 3, looking west



Plate 3 Trench 3, sample section, looking north



Plate 4 Trench 3, Pit [103], looking south



Plate 5 Trench 3, Pit [105], looking north



Plate 6 Trench 5, looking west



Plate 7 Trench 5, sample section, looking north



Plate 8 Trench 19, looking south



Plate 9 Trench 19, sample section, looking east



Plate 10 Trench 19, Ditch [117], looking south



Plate 11, Trench 21, looking west

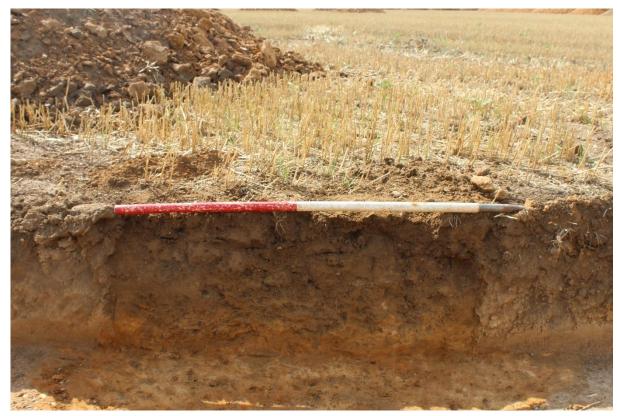


Plate 12, Trench 21, sample section, looking east



Plate 13 Trench 21, Pit [120], looking north east



Plate 14, Trench 24, looking east



Plate 15 Trench 24, sample section, looking north



Plate 16 Trench 24, Pit [113], looking south



Plate 17 Trench 27, looking south



Plate 18 Trench 27, sample section, looking west



Plate 19 Trench 27, Pit [122], looking north



Plate 20 Trench 37, looking south



Plate 21 Trench 37, sample section, looking east



Plate 22 Trench 37, Pit [124] looking south



Plate 23 Trench 43, looking east



Plate 24 Trench 43, sample section, looking north



Plate 25 Trench 43, Pit [126] looking north

# **APPENDIX 2: TRENCH TABLES**

TRENCH 1	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate 1			
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m Level		of Natural (m OD): 30.40m			
Deposit	I		No.	Maximum D	Depth (m)		
				S End	N End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.08m	0.08m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.28m	0.29m		
Natural		(102)		0.36m+	0.37m+		
Summary							
Trench 1 was located close to the northern boundary of the north site.							
Trench 1 contained no archaeological features.							

TRENCH 2	Figures 2		Plate -				
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 30.20m			
Deposit	it		No.	Maximum De	epth (m)		
				W End	E End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.10m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.50m	0.50m		
Natural	Natural			0.60m+	0.60m+		
Summary							
Trench 2 was located in the north area of the north site.							
Trench 2 There were no archaeological features in the trench.							

TRENCH 3	Figures 3		Plate 2-5		
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50r	n	Level	of Natural (m Ol	D): 30.74m
Deposit		Context	No.	Maximum Dep	oth (m)
				W End	E End
Topsoil		(100)		0.15m	0.10m
Subsoil		(101)		0.50m	0.50m
Natural		(102)		0.65m+	0.60m+
Pit		[103]			1.05m
Fill		(104)			0.05m
Pit		[105]		0.15m	
Fill		(106)		0.15m	
Fill		(107)			0.10m
Fill		(108)			0.10m

Fill	(109)	0.30m
Fill	(110)	0.30m

Summary

Trench 3 was located in the north-west area of the north site.

There were two archaeological features in Trench 3:

A large elongated pit [103] was located at the eastern end of the trench. In plan this measured at least 1.80m north to south by 2.0m east to west. It contained five fills, a mix of natural and deliberate fills.

Towards the western end of the trench was a roughly circular shallow pit [105] with a diameter of 1.80m. It contained 1 charcoal-rich fill of likely deliberate origin.

TRENCH 4	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -			
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m		of Natural (m OD): 30.07m			
Deposit	I		No.	Maximum D	epth (m)		
				N End	S End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.11m	0.11m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.30m	0.30m		
Natural		(102)		0.41m+	0.41m+		
Summary		1		I			
Trench 4 was located in the north-west area of the north site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 4.							

Figures 2,	Figures 2, and 4		Plate 6 and 7			
Length: 50	m	Level	of Natural (m	of Natural (m OD): 29.36m		
eposit		Context No.		Depth (m)		
			W End	E End		
	(100)		0.09m	0.09m		
	(101)		0.40m	0.40m		
	(102)		0.49m+	0.49m+		
	[111]		-			
	(112)		-			
	<b>u</b>	Length: 50m Context (100) (101) (102) [111]	Length: 50m Level of   Context No. (100)   (101) (102)   [111] (111)	Length: 50m Level of Natural (m   Context No. Maximum E   (100) 0.09m   (101) 0.40m   (102) 0.49m+   [111] -		

Summary

Trench 5 was located in the north central area of the north site.

There was one archaeological feature and a field drain located in Trench 5:

Ditch [111] was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave

base. It was at least 2.0m long and was also observed in Trench 11 and 14.

TRENCH 6	Figures 2		Plate -				
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50r	Length: 50m Le		l of Natural (m OD): 29.08m			
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)			
				N End	S End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.09m	0.09m		
Subsoil	Subsoil			0.30m	0.30m		
Natural		(102)		0.39m+	0.39m+		
Summary							
Trench 6 was located in the north-east of the north site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 6.							

TRENCH 7 Figures 2 Plate -Trench Alignment: W-E Level of Natural (m OD): 28.60m Length: 50m Deposit Context No. Maximum Depth (m) W End E End 0.07m Topsoil (100) 0.07m Subsoil (101) 0.28m 0.28m Natural (102) 0.35m+ 0.35m+ Summary Trench 7 was located in the north-east of the north site. There were no archaeological features in Trench 7.

TRENCH 8	Figures 2		Plate -			
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 29.38m		
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)		
				NW End	SE End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.10m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.40m	0.40m	
Natural	Natural			0.50m+	0.50m+	
Summary						
Trench 8 was located in the east of the north site.						
There were no archaeological features in Trench 8.						

TRENCH 9	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50m Le		Level of	Level of Natural (m OD): 29.20m		
Deposit	Cont		No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
				W End	E End	

Topsoil	(100)	0.08m	0.08m				
Subsoil	(101)	0.24m	0.24m				
Natural	(102)	0.32m+	0.32m+				
Summary							
Trench 9 was located in the south-east of the north site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 9.							

TRENCH 10	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -			
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m Lev		of Natural (m OD): 29.92m			
Deposit	Deposit		Context No.		Pepth (m)		
				N End	S End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.19m	0.18m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.36m	0.35m		
Natural		(102)		0.55m+	0.53m+		
Summary							
Trench 10 was located in the east central area of the north site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 10.							

TRENCH 11	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50m Level of		of Natural (m OD): 29.69m			
Deposit	Context		No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
				W End	E End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.10m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.30m	0.30m	
Natural		(102)		0.40m+	0.40m+	

Summary

Trench 11 was located in the central area of the north site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 11.

A Post-medieval boundary ditch and a field drain (both unexcavated at this position) were revealed. No contexts were allocated.

TRENCH 12	Figures 2		Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m Le		Level	of Natural (m OD): 31.07m	
Deposit	-	Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)	
				N End	S End
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.10m
Subsoil		(101)		0.34m	0.34m

Natural	(102)	0.44m+	0.44m+
0			

Summary

Trench 12 was located in the central west of the north site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 12. A natural hollow was also revealed.

TRENCH 13	Figures 2			Plate -			
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50m Lev		Level	el of Natural (m OD): 31.17m			
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)			
				W End	E End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.07m	0.07m		
Subsoil	Subsoil			0.34m	0.34m		
Natural		(102)		0.41m+	0.41m+		
Summary							
Trench 13 was located in the west of the north site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 13.							

TRENCH 14	Figures 2			Plate -	
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50r	Length: 50m Level		of Natural (m OD): 30.67m	
Deposit	Context		No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
				W End	E End
Topsoil		(100)		0.07m	0.07m
Subsoil		(101)		0.35m	0.35m
Natural		(102)		0.42m+	0.42m+

Summary

Trench 14 was located in the south-west of the north site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 14.

A Post-medieval boundary ditch (unexcavated at this position) was revealed. No contexts were allocated.

TRENCH 15	Figures 2			Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50r	Length: 50m Le		evel of Natural (m OD): 30.42m	
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)	
				N End	S End
Topsoil		(100)		0.15m	0.15m
Subsoil		(101)		0.30m	0.30m
Natural		(102)		0.45m+	0.45m+
Summary					

Trench 15 was located in the north-west of the north site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 15. A natural gully was present.

TRENCH 16	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50	Length: 50m I		Level of Natural (m OD): 30.19m	
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)	
				W End	E End
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.10m
Subsoil		(101)		0.34m	0.34m
Natural		(102)		0.44m+	0.44m+
Summary					•

Trench 16 was located in the north-west of the north site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 16. A natural hollow was revealed.

TRENCH 17	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -			
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50	Length: 50m		_evel of Natural (m OD): 30.69m			
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)			
				W End	E End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.12m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.34m	0.33m		
Natural		(102)		0.44m+	0.45m+		
Summary							
Trench 17 was located in the north-west area of the south site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 17.							

TRENCH 18	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m Leve		Level of	of Natural (m OD): 29.28m		
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.14m	0.12m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.30m	0.35m	
Natural		(102)		0.44m+	0.47m+	
Summary						
Trench 18 was located in the north area of the south site.						
There were no archaeological features in Trench 18.						

TRENCH 19	Figures 2 and 5	Plate 8, 9 and 10
-----------	-----------------	-------------------

Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Leve	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.0		
Deposit	Conte	ext No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
			N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)		0.12m	0.13m	
Subsoil	(101)		0.30m	0.31m	
Natural	(102)		0.42m+	0.44m+	
Possible ditch	[117]		0.30m		
Primary fill	(118)		0.20m		
Fill	(119)		0.14m		

Summary

Trench 19 was located in the north-east area of the south site.

There was one archaeological feature in Trench 19.

A possible ditch [117] was located towards the northern end of the trench. It was 0.70m wide and 1.80m long, had gradual sides and a roughly flat base. The feature contained two fills.

TRENCH 20	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 27.06	
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)	
				N End	S End
Topsoil		(100)		0.08m	0.09m
Subsoil		(101)		0.27m	0.27m
Natural		(102)		0.35m+	0.36m+
Summary				1	1
Tranch 20 was located in t	ha narth agat a	f the cout	h aita		

Trench 20 was located in the north-east of the south site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 20.

TRENCH 21	Figures 2 and 6		Plate 11, 12 and 13				
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50r	Length: 50m		of Natural (m OD): 28.16m			
Deposit	t		No.	Maximum Dep	pth (m)		
				W End	E End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.09m	0.09m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.29m	0.21m		
Natural		(102)		0.38m+	0.38m+		
Pit		[120]		0.07m			
Fill		(121)		0.07m			
Summary							
Trench 21 was located in the north central area of the south site.							
There was one archaeological feature in Trench 21.							

Pit [120] had a diameter of 0.70m and a depth of 0.07m. It had gradual sides and a roughly flat base.

TRENCH 22	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50	Length: 50m L		evel of Natural (m OD): 29.15m	
Deposit		Context	No.	No. Maximum Depth (m)	
				W End	E End
Topsoil		(100)		0.09m	0.10m
Subsoil		(101)		0.32m	0.32m
Natural		(102)		0.41m+	0.42m+
Summary		4		I	I

Trench 22 was located in the north-west of the south site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 22.

TRENCH 23	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m		of Natural (m OD): 28.68m		
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.09m	0.10m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.29m	0.29m	
Natural		(102)		0.38m+	0.39m+	
Summary						
Trench 23 was located in the central north of the south site.						
There were no archaeological features in Trench 23.						

TRENCH 24	Figures 2 and 7		Plate 14, 15 and 16			
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50r	Length: 50m		of Natural (m OD): 28.26m		
Deposit	it		No.	Maximum D	Pepth (m)	
				W End	E End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.11m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.35m	0.32m	
Natural	Natural			0.45m+	0.43m+	
Pit		[113]		-		
Fill		(114)		-		
Summary		1		<u> </u>	<u>I</u>	
Trench 24 was located in the	e central north	area of t	he sout	th site.		
There was one archaeological feature in Trench 24.						

Pit [113] had a circular shape in plan with a diameter of 0.60m and a depth of 0.20m. The

sides were moderately sloping and it had a slightly irregular base.

TRENCH 25	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m		evel of Natural (m OD): 27.25m		
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)		
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.11m	0.11m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.32m	0.32m	
Natural		(102)		0.43m+	0.43m+	
Summary		•				
Trench 25 was located in the north-east of the south site.						

There were no archaeological features in Trench 25.

TRENCH 26	Figures 2			Plate -			
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50m		Level	of Natural (m OD): 27.16m			
Deposit	osit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)			
				W End	E End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.14m	0.15m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.34m	0.34m		
Natural		(102)		0.48m+	0.49m+		
Summary							
Trench 26 was located in the east of the south site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 26.							

TRENCH 27	Figures 2 and 8		Plate 17, 18 and 19			
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m		Level	vel of Natural (m OD): 27.71m		
Deposit		Context	No.	Maximum D	epth (m)	
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.16m	0.12m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.21m	0.25m	
Natural		(102)		0.37m+	0.37m+	
Pit		[122]		0.05m		
Fill		(121)		0.05m		
Summary				•		
Trench 27 was located in the central east of the south site.						
There was one archaeological feature in Trench 27.						
Pit [122] had a circular shape in plan and a diameter of 0.60m. It had gradually sloping sides						

and a roughly flat base.

TRENCH 28	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50	Length: 50m		of Natural (m OD): 28.04m		
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)		
				W End	E End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.09m	0.13m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.31m	0.32m	
Natural		(102)		0.40m+	0.45m+	
Summary						
Trench 28 was located in the centre of the south site.						

There were no archaeological features in Trench 28.

TRENCH 29	Figures 2		Plate -				
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50r	n	Level of	of Natural (m OD): 30.05m			
Deposit	L		Context No.		pth (m)		
				W End	E End		
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.11m		
Subsoil		(101)		0.44m	0.44m		
Natural		(102)		0.54m+	0.55m+		
Summary							
Trench 29 was located in the west of the south site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 29.							

TRENCH 30	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m		of Natural (m OD): 28.25m		
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)		
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.10m	0.12m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.36m	0.35 m	
Natural		(102)		0.46m+	0.47m+	
Summary						
Trench 30 was located in th	he centre of the	e south sit	e.			
There were no archaeological features in Trench 30						

There were no archaeological features in Trench 30.

TRENCH 31	Figures 2	Plate
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 27.76m

Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Dep	oth (m)				
		W End	E End				
Topsoil	(100)	0.13m	0.13m				
Subsoil	(101)	0.36m	0.36m				
Natural	(102)	0.49m+	0.49m+				
Summary							
Trench 31 was located in the centre of the south site.							
There were no archaeological features in Trench 31.							

TRENCH 32	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m		l of Natural (m OD): 27.12m		
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.12m	0.13m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.35m	0.35m	
Natural		(102)		0.47m+	0.48m+	
Summary					·	
Trench 32 was located in the central east of the south site.						
There were no archaeological features in Trench 32.						

TRENCH 33	Figures 2			Plate -				
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50m		Level	of Natural (m OD): 26.73m				
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum D	Depth (m)			
				W End	E End			
Topsoil		(100)		0.14m	0.12m			
Subsoil	Subsoil			0.29m	0.31m			
Natural	Natural			0.43m+	0.43m+			
Summary								
Trench 33 was located in the east of the south site.								
There were no archaeological features in Trench 33.								

TRENCH 34	Figures 2		Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m		Level	of Natural (m OD): 26.59m	
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)	
				N End	S End
Topsoil		(100)		0.15m	0.13m
Subsoil		(101)		0.29m	0.32m

Natural	(102)	0.44m+	0.45m+				
Summary							
Trench 34 was located in the south-east of the south site.							
There were no archaeological fea	atures in Trench 34.						

TRENCH 35	Figures 2			Plate -				
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50	Length: 50m		l of Natural (m OD): 26.77m				
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)				
				W End	E End			
Topsoil		(100)		0.17m	0.15m			
Subsoil		(101)		0.30m	0.32m			
Natural		(102)		0.47m+	0.47m+			
Summary								
Trench 35 was located in the south of the south site.								
There were no archaeological features in Trench 35.								

TRENCH 36	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50	Length: 50m Le		vel of Natural (m OD): 27.26m	
Deposit			No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
				N End	S End
Topsoil		(100)		0.11m	0.13m
Subsoil		(101)		0.33m	0.33m
Natural		(102)		0.44m+	0.46m+
Summary		1			

Trench 36 was located in the central south of the south site.

There were no archaeological features in Trench 36.

TRENCH 37	Figures 2 a	Figures 2 and 9		Plate 20, 21 and 22	
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50	Length: 50m		of Natural (m	OD): 27.40m
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum D	Depth (m)
				W End	E End
Topsoil		(100)		0.09m	0.10m
Subsoil		(101)		0.38m	0.37m
Natural		(102)		0.47m+	0.47m+
Pit		[124]		0.35m	
Fill		(125)		0.35m	
Summary		1		1	1

Trench 37 was located in the central south of the south site.

There was one archaeological feature in Trench 37.

Pit [124] had a circular shape in plan and a diameter of 0.70m. It had steep sides, a sharp break of slope and a flat base. A single deliberate fill was present.

TRENCH 38	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50r	Length: 50m		of Natural (m OD): 29.10m		
Deposit	sit		No.	Maximum D	Pepth (m)	
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.16m	Topsoil	
Subsoil		(101)		0.34m	Subsoil	
Natural		(102)		0.50m+	Natural	
Summary		I		1	<u> </u>	
Trench 38 was located in the west of the south site.						
There were no archaeological features in Trench 38.						

TRENCH 39	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m		Level of	of Natural (m OE	0): 29.95m	
Deposit	Deposit		No.	Maximum Dep	th (m)	
				NW End	SE End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.12m	0.13m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.40m	0.36m	
Natural		(102)		0.52m+	0.49m+	
Summary						
Trench 39 was located in the west of the south site.						

There were no archaeological features in Trench 39.

TRENCH 40	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50m L		Level	of Natural (m OD): 28.79m		
Deposit	osit		No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
				W End	E End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.18m	0.17m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.31m	0.33m	
Natural		(102)		0.49m+	0.50m+	
Summary						
Trench 40 was located in the south-west of the south site.						
There were no archaeological features in Trench 40.						

TRENCH 41	Figures 2			Plate -		
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m		Level of	of Natural (m OD): 27.76m		
Deposit		Context No.		Maximum Depth (m)		
				N End	S End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.19m	0.19m	
Subsoil	Subsoil			0.31m	0.32m	
Natural		(102)		0.50m+	0.51m+	
Summary						
Trench 41 was located in the south-west of the south site.						

There were no archaeological features in Trench 41.

TRENCH 42	Figures 2	Figures 2		Plate -				
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50	Length: 50m		el of Natural (m OD): 27.67m				
Deposit		Context	No.	Maximum D	Depth (m)			
				W End	E End			
Topsoil		(100)		0.17m	0.16m			
Subsoil		(101)		0.33m	0.35m			
Natural		(102)		0.50m+	0.51m+			
Summary								
Trench 42 was located in the south of the south site.								
There were no archaeological features in Trench 42.								

TRENCH 43	Figures 2 a	nd 10		Plate 23, 24 ar	nd 25	
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 50r	n	Level of	of Natural (m OD): 28.00m		
Deposit		Context	No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
				W End	E End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.18m	0.22m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.33m	0.34m	
Natural		(102)		0.51m+	0.56m+	
Pit		[126]		-		
Fill		(127)		-		
Summers.						

Summary

Trench 43 was located in the south-west of the south site.

There was one archaeological feature in Trench 43.

Pit [126] had a circular shape in plan and a diameter of 1.10m. It was 0.10m had gradually sloping sides and a roughly flat base.

Context	Cut	Section	Description	Period	Interpretation			
100	0	0	Loose mid-greyish brown silty sand	unknown	Topsoil			
101	0	0	Moderate mid-greyish brown silty sand	unknown				
102 0 0		0	Mid reddish yellow gravelly sand	unknown	Geological-			
					Substratum			
103	103	44	Circular with concave base and moderately	Prehistoric	Pit			
			sloped sides					
104	103	44	Light brownish grey silty sand	Prehistoric	Fill			
105	105	45	Circular with irregular base and moderately	unknown	Pit			
			sloped sides					
106	105	45	Loose dark greyish brown silty sand with	unknown	Fill			
			frequent charcoal inclusions					
107	103	44	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Prehistoric	Fill			
108	103	44	Charcoal	Prehistoric	Fill			
109	103	44	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Fill				
110	103	44	mid greyish brown silty sand	Prehistoric	Fill			
111	111	46	NE-SW orientated linear with a concave	Late Post-	Boundary			
			base and moderately sloped sides	medieval	ditch			
112	111	46	Moderate, mid-greyish brown silty sand	Late Post-	Fill			
				medieval				
113	113	47	Circular with concave base and moderately	unknown	Pit			
			sloped sides					
114	113	47	Dark greyish brown silty sand	unknown	Fill			
115	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID			
116	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID			
117	117	48/51	Circular with concave base and moderately	Prehistoric	Possible			
			sloped sides		ditch			
118	117	48/51	mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent	Prehistoric	Fill			
			charcoal inclusions					
119	117	48/51	Dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent	Prehistoric	Fill			
			charcoal inclusions					
120	120	49	Circular with concave base and moderately	Prehistoric	Pit			
			sloped sides					
121	120	49	Dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent	Prehistoric	Fill			
			charcoal inclusions					
122	122	50	Circular with concave base and moderately	unknown	Pit			
			sloped sides					

# **APPENDIX 3: CONTEXTS INDEX**

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123	122	50	Dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal inclusions	unknown	Fill
124	124	52	Circular with concave base and moderately sloped sides	unknown	Pit
125	124	52	Dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal inclusions	unknown	Fill
126	126	53	Circular with concave base and moderately sloped sides	Prehistoric	Pit
127	126	53	Dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent charcoal inclusions	Prehistoric	Fill

# **APPENDIX 4 LITHIC ASSESSMENT**

Context	Cut	Sample	Flake	Blade fragment	Debitage <15mm	Core	Burnt stone (no.)	Burnt stone (Wt:g)	Colour	Cortex	Suggested date range	Description
119	117		1			1			Translucent dark grey and red to grey	Nodular	Meso/E-	Flake like core shaping flake. Core (169.8g) is worked from the front, has one main striking platform from which long, parallel blades are knapped. It appears that the striking platform has been maintained by the removal of at least one core tablet. There is some evidence of platform trimming. On the back and left edge of the core there are some undeveloped Hertzian cones and the core is possibly heat treated. Fresh condition
127	126	7					59	195.3	Decoloured	Weathered and nodular, ancient re- corticated fractures and pebble	Undated	Moderate to heavily burnt flint and some quartz
121	120	6		1			14	9.3	Decoloured	NA	Meso/E- Neo	Unworked burnt flint fragments, sample includes very small proximal part of blade, also burnt.
108		2					24	40.6	Decoloured	Pebble and weathered nodular	Undated	Heavily burnt flint
119	117	5					1	27.3	Decoloured	Weathered nodular	Undated	Heavily burnt flint

1	27	126	7			5				Translucent grey, yellow, red	NA	Prehistoric	Small, undiagnostic micro-debitage
1	21	120	6			4				Translucent grey/brown	Weathered nodular	Meso/E- Neo	Mostly undiagnostic micro-debitage and one flake fragment with blade-based characteristics
				1	1	9	1	98	272.5				

# **APPENDIX 5 ENVIRONMENTAL RESIDUES**

Sample	Context	Cut	Interpretation	flot volume /I	chaff	fruit/nut	ACL	Charcoal	Comments	Potential	Charcoal Potential
									Abundant often distorted charcoal including large		
									fragments over 10cm.lt includes ring porous,		
								(****)	hearwood,roundwwod and twigs.Amorphous charred		
1	106	105	Shallow Pit fill	4.0			**	****	fragments and fungal sclorotia.	D	Good
									Hazelnut shell fragments (Corylus avellana). Abundant		
			Intentional					(****)	charcoal including ring porous fragments.Amorphous		
2	108	103	backfill of pit	0.5		*	*	****	charred fragments.	D	Good
								(****)	Abundant charcoal including ring porous fragments		
4	125	124	Shallow Pit fill	0.9				****	possibly oak (Quercus sp.). Coal	D	Good
									Abundant charcoal including ring porous fragments		
			Upper fill of						possibly oak (Quercus sp.) and difuse fragments Coal		
			possible					(***)	and possible slag. Abundant modern roots with modern		
5	119	117	shallow ditch	0.2				****	wheat chaff and blind awl snail (Cecilioides acicula).	D	Fair
									Charred possible cereal culm. Charcoal includes difuse		
								(****)	roundwood, ring porous possibly oak (Quercus sp.) and		
6	121	120	Shallow Pit fill	0.6	*			****	twigs. Includes modern cereal chaff.	D	Good
								(****)	Abundant charcoal including ring porous fragments		
7	127	126	Shallow Pit fill	3.5				****	possibly oak (Quercus sp.)	D	Good





# RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE 06 February 2019

Laboratory Code	SUERC-84159 (GU50033)
Submitter	Sîan O'Neill
	Pre-Construct Archaeology
	The Granary
	Rectory Farm
	Brewery Road
	Pampisford CB22 3EN
Site Reference	ENF144766
Context Reference	106
Material	Charcoal
δ <sup>13</sup> C relative to VPDB	-25.3 ‰

**Radiocarbon Age BP**  $2021 \pm 24$ 

**N.B.** The above <sup>14</sup>C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23*.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at <u>suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk</u>.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

E. Dunbar

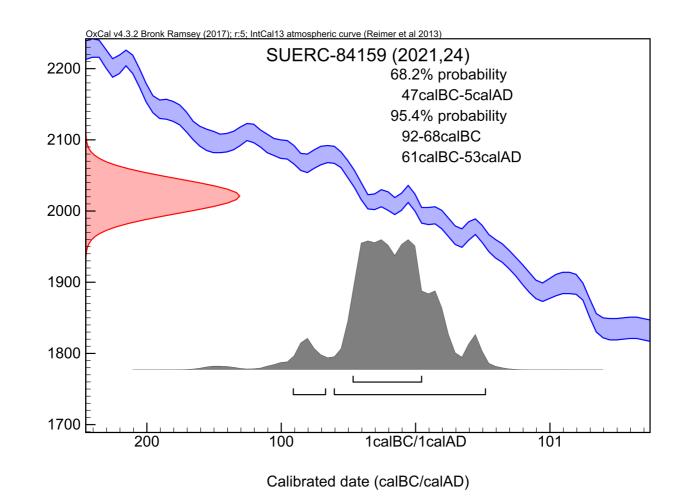
Checked and signed off by :

P. Nayonto





The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.\*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curvet

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

\* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60* † Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon 55(4) pp.1869-87* 





# RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE 06 February 2019

Laboratory Code	SUERC-84160 (GU50034)
Submitter	Sîan O'Neill
	Pre-Construct Archaeology
	The Granary
	Rectory Farm
	Brewery Road
	Pampisford CB22 3EN
Site Reference	ENF144766
<b>Context Reference</b>	108
Material	Charcoal
δ <sup>13</sup> C relative to VPDB	-25.6 ‰

**Radiocarbon Age BP**  $2211 \pm 24$ 

**N.B.** The above <sup>14</sup>C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23*.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

E. Dunbar

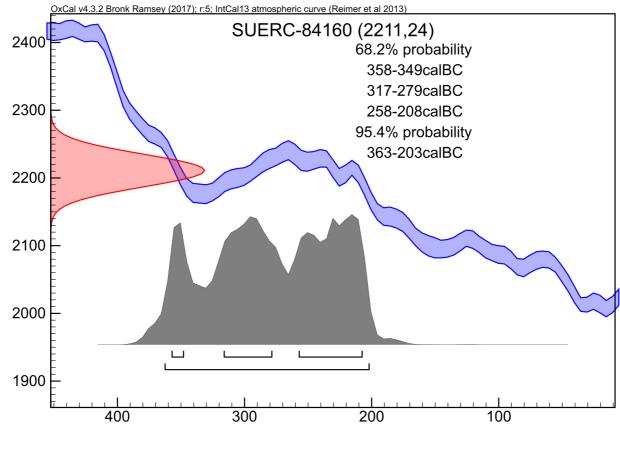
Checked and signed off by :

P. Nayonto





The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336



Calibrated date (calBC)

The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.\*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curvet

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

\* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60* † Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon 55(4) pp.1869-87* 





# RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE 06 February 2019

Laboratory Code	SUERC-84164 (GU50035)
Submitter	Sîan O'Neill
	Pre-Construct Archaeology
	The Granary
	Rectory Farm
	Brewery Road
	Pampisford CB22 3EN
Site Reference	ENF144766
<b>Context Reference</b>	125
Material	C1 1
wraterial	Charcoal
δ <sup>13</sup> C relative to VPDB	-25.3 %
	25.5 /00

**Radiocarbon Age BP**  $2163 \pm 24$ 

**N.B.** The above <sup>14</sup>C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23*.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

E. Dunbar

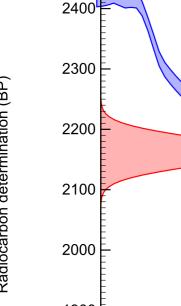
Checked and signed off by :

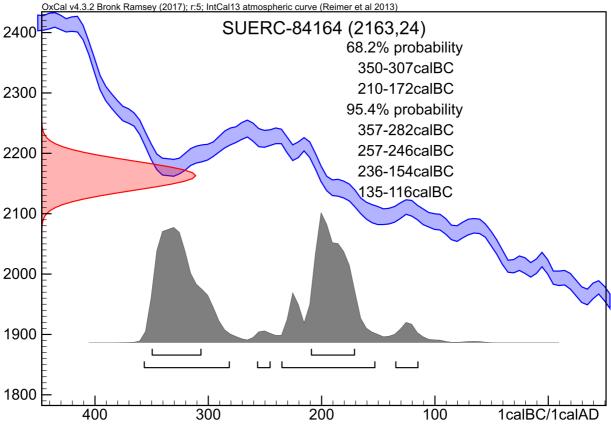
P. Nayonto





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Calibrated date (calBC/calAD)

The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.\*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curvet

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

\* Bronk Ramsey (2009) Radiocarbon 51(1) pp.337-60 † Reimer et al. (2013) Radiocarbon 55(4) pp.1869-87





# RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE 06 February 2019

Laboratory Code	SUERC-84165 (GU50036)
Submitter	Sîan O'Neill
	Pre-Construct Archaeology
	The Granary
	Rectory Farm
	Brewery Road
	Pampisford CB22 3EN
Site Reference	ENF144766
<b>Context Reference</b>	127
Material	Charcoal
δ <sup>13</sup> C relative to VPDB	-25.5 ‰

**Radiocarbon Age BP**  $2281 \pm 24$ 

**N.B.** The above <sup>14</sup>C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon 58(1) pp.9-23*.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :

E. Dunbar

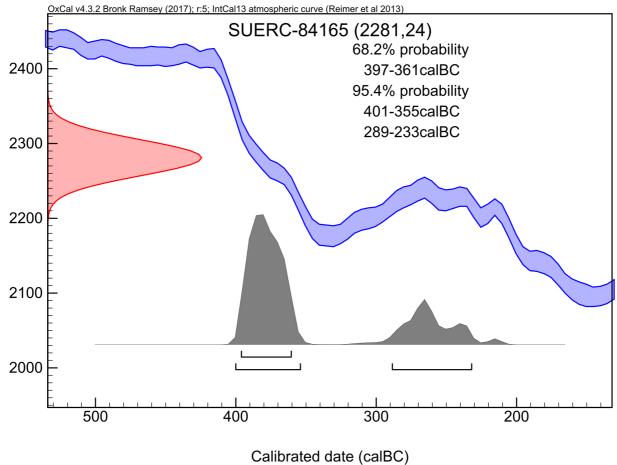
Checked and signed off by :

P. Nayonto





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The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.\*

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#### OASIS ID: preconst1-328868

#### **Project details**

Project name Land at Green Lane West, Rackheath, Norfolk

Short description An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Green Lane West (NGR TG 2814 1255) between the of the project 20th August and 8th September 2018. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs prior to proposed construction works associated with residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. A total of 43 archaeological trial trenches were excavated across the site to a standard pattern in order to identify and provide a sample of any archaeological features present and to enable decisions to be made about possible mitigation measures. The evaluation uncovered nine features including pits, a ditch and a possible ditch dispersed across the site in Trenches 3, 5, 19, 21, 24, 27, 37 and 43, without an obvious pattern. Three pits [103], [120] and [126] and a possible ditch [117] contained varieties of flint, often very small, including worked, microliths and burnt flint fragments all indicative of a prehistoric date. A flint core and worked flint from the possible ditch [117] had Mesolithic to Early Neolithic characteristics in keeping with the background of the site as recorded on the Norfolk Historical Environment Record. A boundary ditch [111] of late Postmedieval date excavated and recorded in Trench 5 and also observed in Trenches 11 and 14, had been depicted on the Tithe map of c.1840, and had been backfilled prior to the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping. Project dates Start: 20-08-2018 End: 08-09-2018 Previous/future No / No work Any associated ENF144766 - Sitecode project reference

codes	
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	PITS Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Prehistoric
	"'Sample Trenches'''

Methods & techniques

Development<br/>typeUrban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)PromptPlanning conditionPosition in the<br/>planning processPre-application

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND RACKHEATH Land at Green Lane West, Rackheath, Norfolk
Postcode	NR13 6PG
Study area	2150 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 2813 1254 52.661985447896 1.373896656532 52 39 43 N 001 22 26 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30m Max: 32m

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting Limited
Project director/manager	Peter Crawley
Project supervisor	Antonio Pavez
Type of sponsor/funding body	via consultant: CgMs Consulting

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"other"

Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Green Lane West, Rackheath, Norfolk: an archaeological evaluation
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Reid, G and Crawley, P
Other bibliographic details	R 13413
Date	2018
lssuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Pampisford
Description	Grey Literature
Entered by Entered on	Peter Crawley (PCrawley@pre-construct.com) 14 November 2018

# **OASIS:**

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