LAND OFF MOW HILL, WITNESHAM SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

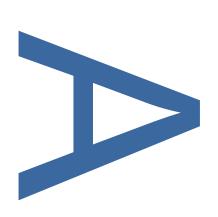
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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land at Mow Hill, Witnesham, Suffolk: An Archaeological Evaluation

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Land at Mow Hill, Witnesham, Suffolk: An Archaeological Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

Between 24th and 28th May 2021, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at Mow Hill, Witnesham, Suffolk. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Hopkins & Moore (Developments) Limited through RPS Group, their archaeological consultant, was carried out prior to the submission of planning proposals for the residential development of the site to East Suffolk District Council.

Three pieces of worked, or possibly worked flint were recovered from archaeological features and the ploughsoil. The material is not closely dateable but attests to low levels of prehistoric activity on or near the site during this period.

Prehistoric remains were encountered in the northeastern corner of the site, consisting of a ditch and a pit, from which were recovered a small number of pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date. By close association, three undated pits and two small ditches in the same area may be of a similar date. The small number of finds and sparsity of environmental material recovered from soil samples taken from these features suggest that the activity is peripheral to any nearby areas of settlement, the ditches perhaps forming paddocks or livestock enclosures at the edge of a small farmstead.

Three undated, parallel, similar-sized ditches at the eastern edge of the site may be the remains of agricultural drainage channels. Evidence for later activity on the site was confined to land drains that were installed in the 20th century.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between 24th and 28th May 2021, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Mow Hill, Witnesham, Suffolk (site centred on Ordnance Survey NGR TM 1854 5049; Fig. 1). The evaluation, which was commissioned by Hopkins & Moore (Developments) Limited through RPS Group (RPS), their archaeological consultant, was carried out prior to the submission of planning proposals for the residential development of the site to East Suffolk District Council.
- 1.2 The applicant was advised to undertake the evaluation by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS), providers of archaeological advice on planning matters in the county. This was in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework* paragraphs 189 and 190 (DCLG 2018), as the site was considered to lie within an area of archaeological potential.
- 1.3 The scope of the evaluation was set out in a *Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* issued by SCCAS (SCCAS 2021), the requirements of which were incorporated into the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the project (PCA 2021). The evaluation consisted of 18no. 30m trial trenches at 1.8m wide (a total of 540 linear metres; Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI and abided by Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003), Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2021) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA 2020).
- 1.5 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE):*Project Manager's Guide (HE 2015).
- 1.6 Following Transfer of Title, the site archive, which will include the approved version of this report, will be deposited with the SCCAS Store or relevant recipient museum.

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2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The site, which covers an area of 2.0ha, is located in the parish of Witnesham, *c*. 6km to the northeast of Ipswich city centre (Fig. 1). The modern village consists of three areas of settlement: the village's manorial centre clusters around the parish church of St Mary's and Witnesham Hall, accessed from Witnesham Church Lane; the lower village clusters around The Street, at the bottom of Mow Hill, and straddles the River Fynn; and the northern part of the village borders America Hill and Upper Street (B1077), the road that leads northwards, over the hills towards Ashbocking. The site is located on the northern outskirts of the lower village and comprises the western part of a large arable field, bounded by Mow Hill (B1077) to the west, the garden of a house fronting on to Mow Hill to the north, arable land to the east, and the car park of the Barley Mow public house and a pasture field to the south.
- 2.1.2 The site is situated on a long, south-facing slope that overlooks the valley of the River Fynn, with ground level descending from *c.* 48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern boundary of the site to *c.* 37m aOD in its southern corner.
- 2.1.3 The bedrock geology of the site consists of pre-glacial Pleistocene coarse-grained, abundantly shelly sands of the Red Crag Formation. This is overlain by superficial Quaternary glacigenic deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, consisting of diamicton, a chalky till with flints (BGS 2021).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

2.2.1 The following account is a summary of known archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the site, obtained from records held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER invoice no. 9505410), supplemented with general historical information about the village gathered from British History Online and other sources.

Prehistoric (pre-AD43)

2.2.2 In 2016, an excavation at Jack's Field, on the north side of The Street and *c.* 200m to the southwest of the site, revealed an Iron Age boundary ditch, a four-post structure and a comparatively dense scatter of pits and other features, indicative of nearby settlement at this time (CA 2018; WTN 032). The boundary ditch contained many fragments of fine handmade black burnished pottery, animal bone and pieces of fired clay. The pottery from the site suggests a date range from the Middle Iron Age to the

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Late Iron Age/early Roman period (4th century BC to 1st century AD).

- 2.2.3 At the western terminal of the boundary ditch an interesting group of loom weights was recovered, including a complete triangular example. The densest concentration of Iron Age pits was in the vicinity of the ditch terminal and from one of these part of an articulated skeleton of an adult female individual was recovered, consisting of the torso and skull but without limbs. Also found was a linear arrangement of ditches and several pits of the Roman period, a late Saxon pit and a ditch of medieval or later date.
- 2.2.4 Other records relating to prehistoric activity in the study area relate to artefact findspots. These include: the discovery of the front half of a Neolithic stone axe at a location somewhere in the vicinity of the site (WTN 041); the recovery of worked flint flakes during a fieldwalking survey on the site of the golf course south of the village (WTN 028); and the recovery of Belgic/Iron Age pottery in a sandpit *c*. 150m to the southwest of the site (WTN 003).

Roman (AD43 to AD 410)

2.2.5 There are no records of Roman settlement within the study area, although Roman pottery and coins have been found, suggesting likely settlement nearby (see para 2.2.3). Sherds of Roman pottery, including samian, were found in the 1930s in the sand pit *c.* 150m to the southwest of the site (WTN 003) and there is a record of a scatter of Roman material, including pottery and a silver coin, having been found in the general vicinity (WTN 043). A number of Roman coins have been found in and around the village, including: a coin of Allectus (AD293-296) found in a field *c.* 400m to the west of the site (WTN 004); six Roman coins in a field *c.* 1km to the north-east of the site (WTN 015); a Roman coin in a field off Cockfield Hall Lane, *c.* 950m to the southwest of the site (WTN 050); and a coin of Trajan Decius (AD249-251) at an unknown location in the general vicinity (WTN 042).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 to 1066)

- 2.2.6 The village has Anglo-Saxon origins, although no archaeological evidence for settlement dating to this period has been discovered so far. The village derives its name from the Old English for 'Wittin's homestead' (Briggs and Kilpatrick 2004, 156), variously recorded as *Wittlesham* (1086), *Witnesham* (1254) and *Wetylsham* (1524). The village lay within the Carlford Hundred (BHO 2021).
- 2.2.7 A single sherd of Thetford ware, which was produced during the Middle/Late Saxon

period, was found during a fieldwalking survey *c.* 600m to the southwest of the site (WTN 027) and another sherd was recovered during groundworks on the church (WTN 033). Finds scatters indicate the probable site of an early Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery to the west of the site (WTN 020).

Medieval (1066 to 1485)

- 2.2.8 The fabric of the parish church of St Mary's (WTN 016) is largely of late 13th/early 14th date, although excavations on the northwest side of the church uncovered the remains of a flint and mortar foundation, probably the remains of an earlier 11th/12th century church building (WTN 033; Newman 2017). The south aisle and clerestory were built in the 14th/15th century and the church was extensively restored in 1845.
- 2.2.9 At The Rectory, *c.* 700m to the northwest of the site, are the remains of a possible medieval moat (WTN 001).
- 2.2.10 Sherds of medieval pottery were found at two locations off Sandy Lane, *c.* 400 and 600m to the southeast of the site, during construction work for a replacement water main (WTN 014 and WTN 029). Medieval pottery was also recovered by a fieldwalking survey *c.* 600m to the southwest of the site (WTN 027).
- 2.2.11 There is an intriguing account dating to the early 19th century of human remains and armour having been discovered at Manor Farm (WTN 049), *c.* 800m to the northwest of the site. In 1985, Mrs Dorothy Barker, the village historian, wrote:

'it is thought about 800 years ago, a battle was fought here as several human skeletons were found circa 1818 and various pieces of armour thrown up within a short distance of the Hall. In 1820, the skeleton of a man in armour with his lance and horse were discovered near the same spot, carefully buried. The bit and buckles of the bridle, also the stirrups and studs belonging to the saddle were near perfect. The helmet was also in good condition but crumbled to pieces on being handled, as did the saddletree and bones, but not the teeth. A short sword of the time of Edward III was also discovered'.

Post-medieval and modern (1485 to present)

- 2.2.12 Witnesham Hall (WTN 057) was built in the 16th century and has been extensively altered, with much of the new work being undertaken in the 19th century in the Elizabethan style.
- 2.2.13 Reference to 19th-century maps shows the site as farmland and it is likely to have

been farmland since at least the medieval period.

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3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The main aim of the investigation, as stated in the WSI (PCA 2021, 7) was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site by trial trenching. This was achieved through the identification, sample excavation and recording of archaeological remains encountered by the evaluation and determining their location, extent, date, character and state of preservation. The results will assist SCCAS in determining if archaeological mitigation will be required.
- 3.2 To determine the significance of the results of the evaluation in a local, regional and national context (as appropriate), reference has been made to the East Anglian regional research agendas:
 - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997);
 - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000);
 - Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008);
 - Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011).

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4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 18no. 30m trial trenches at 1.8m wide (a total of 540 linear metres), the locations of which are shown in Figure 2. There was a contingency for an additional 25m of trial trench, but this was not required.

4.2 Survey and machine excavation

- 4.2.1 The trenches were set out in accordance with the approved trench plan using a Geomax Global Positioning System (GPS). Prior to machine excavation, the locations of each trench were scanned with a CAT (Cable Avoidance Tool) to check for services.
- 4.2.2 Using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, the overburden was removed in level spits down to the surface of the geological substrate or first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil were kept separate and stored in temporary bunds adjacent to each trench.
- 4.2.3 Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned using hand tools to define their boundaries and extent within the trenches. Limits and locations of all trenches, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum were recorded using a Geomax GPS.
- 4.2.4 Following sign-off by SCCAS, the trenches were simply backfilled, topsoil uppermost, and tracked in by the machine.

4.3 Recording and sampling

- 4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). All archaeological features and deposits were sufficiently excavated to fulfil the project aims stated in Section 3 above.
- 4.3.2 Drawn records were in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings of all excavated archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50), while all individual deposits and cuts were recorded as written records on PCA *pro forma* context sheets. Appropriate photographs of the archaeological remains

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- encountered by the evaluation, supported by general photographs of the site, its setting and working shots, were taken using high resolution digital cameras (minimum 10 megapixels).
- 4.3.3 Linear features were investigated by means of slots excavated across their width and measuring at least 1m in length, positioned to avoid areas of intercutting/disturbance in order to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages. A minimum of 10% of each linear was excavated. Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and when considered appropriate 100% excavated.
- 4.3.4 Two bulk soil samples were taken in order to recover micro- and macro-botanical environmental remains. The sampling strategy and subsequent assessment of the samples was carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines, as set out in Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (English Heritage 2011).

4.4 Metal detecting and Treasure

4.4.1 Once the trenches were open, the spoil heaps and any features exposed in the trenches were scanned for finds by an experienced metal detectorist (due to tall, standing crop, the areas of the trenches couldn't be scanned prior to excavation). The metal detector was set to detect all metal objects, including those of iron.

4.5 Monitoring visits

4.5.1 A monitoring visit was undertaken on 27th May 2021, with Hannah Cutler (SCCAS), Myk Fitcroft (RPS) and Simon Carlyle (PCA) in attendance.

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5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper archive

Context register sheets	1
Context sheets	27
Plans at 1:50	1
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	9
Trench record sheets	13
Photo register sheets	2
Small finds register sheets	1
Environmental register sheets	1

5.2 Digital archive

Digital photos	132
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical archive

Struck flint	3 (-)
Burnt flint	- (16g)
Prehistoric pottery	12 (72g)
Fired clay	24 (125g)
Small Finds	1
Animal bone	17 (2.5g)
Environmental bulk samples	2 (8no. 10-litre tubs)

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6 EVALUATION RESULTS

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 18no. 30m trial trenches at 1.8m wide (a total of 540 linear metres), the locations of which are shown in Figure 2. Archaeological features, mostly undated but two of which have been dated to the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age, were encountered in the northeastern part of the site, in Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 (Fig. 3). There were no archaeological features in the remaining trenches (Trenches 3 and 7-18). Details of the features and deposits encountered by the evaluation are summarised below and presented by context in Appendix 1.
- 6.1.2 Three pieces of worked, or possibly worked flint were recovered from archaeological features and the ploughsoil. The material is not closely dateable but attests to low levels of prehistoric activity on or near the site during this period.
- 6.1.3 The prehistoric remains in the northeastern corner of the site consist of a ditch and a pit, from which were recovered a small number of pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date. By close association, three undated pits and two small ditches in the same area may be of a similar date. The small number of finds and sparsity of environmental material recovered from soil samples suggest that the activity is peripheral to any nearby areas of settlement, perhaps forming paddocks or livestock enclosures at the edge of a small farmstead.
- 6.1.4 Three undated, parallel, similar-sized ditches in Trench 6 may be the remains of agricultural drainage channels.
- 6.1.5 An 18th/19th-century button was recovered from the ploughsoil. Evidence for later activity on the site was confined to land drains that were installed in the 20th century.

6.2 Trench 1

6.2.1 In the northern half of the trench was ditch [1010], which was aligned northeast to southwest, measured *c*. 1.1m wide by 0.56m deep and had a steep-sided,V-shaped profile (Fig. 4, Section 4; Plate 2). It was filled with firm, mid-dark bluish grey silty clay with orangey brown mottles (1011), from which was recovered a single sherd (9g) of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, two small fragments of possibly worked flint and fragments of animal bone. The ditch was not encountered in Trench 2, indicating that it either terminateas between the two trenches or curves to the west.

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6.3 Trench 2

- 6.3.1 At the eastern end of the trench was ditch [1018], which is probably the northwards continuation of ditch [1006] in Trench 4 (Fig. 4, Section 6; Plate 3). It measured 0.68m wide by 0.25m deep and was filled with firm mid-dark bluish grey silty clay with orangey brown mottles, occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (1019). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 6.3.2 Immediately to the west of the ditch was pit [1026], which measured 1.76m long by more than 0.72m wide by 0.32m deep (Fig. 4, Section 9; Plate 4). It was filled with firm mid-yellowish brown silty clay containing occasional pebbles and charcoal flecks (1027). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 6.3.3 Approximately 2m to the west of pit [1026] was pit [1023], which measured 2.20m long by more than 1.15m wide by 0.40m deep (Fig. 4, Section 8; Plate 5). It was filled with mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small pebbles (1022), from which was recovered eleven sherds (63g) of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery and pieces of fired clay (125g).
- 6.3.4 At the western edge of pit [1023] was a spread of burnt pebbles and charcoal, possibly filling an oval pit (Plate 6). The feature was not excavated at the evaluation stage but retained for investigation as part of any subsequent phase of works. It measured 0.73m long by 0.52m wide and two fragments of burnt flint (16g) were recovered from the surface of the feature.
- 6.3.5 At the western end of the trench was a possible pit [1020]. It measured 1.9m long by 0.62m wide by 0.16m deep and was filled with firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay containing occasional small stones (Fig. 4, Section 7; Plate 7). No finds were recovered from this feature.

6.4 Trench 4

- 6.4.1 Two parallel ditches, [1004] and [1006], which were aligned roughly north to south and spaced *c.* 5m apart, were encountered at the western end of the trench. The northwards continuation of ditch [1006] probably passes through Trench 2 as ditch [1018].
- Ditch [1004] measured 0.65m wide by 0.22m deep and had a V-shaped profile with a concave base (Fig. 4, Section 1; Plate 8). Ditch [1006] was smaller, measuring 0.42m wide by 0.14m deep, and had more of a concave profile (Fig. 4, Section 2).

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The fills of both ditches was firm mid brown silty clay containing occasional small stones and charcoal flecks ((1005) and (1007) respectively). There was no artefactual dating evidence in the excavated fills of the ditches.

6.5 Trench 5

6.5.1 Towards the northern end of Trench 5 was pit [1016]. It had a diameter of approximately 0.9m and depth of 0.16m and was filled with firm, mid-brownish grey silty clay (1017) (Fig. 4, Section 5; Plate 9). There was no artefactual dating evidence in the excavated fill of the pit.

6.6 Trench 6

Passing through the trench on a northeast to southwest alignment were three undated, parallel ditches, [1008], [1012] and [1014] (Plate 10). They were spaced c. 4-5m apart, were similar in width and were filled with firm, mid-brown silty clay with occasional pebbles. Of the three, only [1008] was excavated, which was found to measure 0.51m wide by 0.15m deep and have near vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 4, Section 3). The similarity between the ditches suggests that they are agricultural drainage ditches.

6.7 Trench 18

6.7.1 Beneath the ploughsoil was a layer of colluvium, consisting of stony, mid greyish brown silty sand (1002). The layer was up to 0.50m thick at the western end of the trench and thinned out to the east.

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7 FINDS

7.1 Worked flint by Sarah Bates

7.1.1 Three pieces of struck, or possibly struck, flint were found along with two small pieces of burnt flint (total weight 16g).

Table 1: Flint by context

Context	Feature	Sample	Cat.	Туре	No.	Wt (g)
1011	Ditch [1010]	1	flak	flake	1	0
1011	Ditch [1010]	1	flak	spall	1	0
1025	Pit [1024]		burn	burnt fragment	2	16
1000	Topsoil		utbl	utilised blade	1	0

- 7.1.2 A small flake and a tiny spall were recovered from soil sample <1> from the fill (1011) of ditch [1010]. The flake is a thick piece with some cortex, another surface recorticated and abraded. The distal end is missing and the flake is heavily abraded, including at its proximal end where there is no true platform and although the percussion point is obvious, very pronounced ripple scars on the ventral face are rather irregular; possibly the piece was accidentally struck. The tiny spall could be from knapping.
- 7.1.3 A small, thin tertiary blade has a slightly abraded platform edge from a prepared core. It is edge-damaged but its left lateral edge has clearly been utilised. The blade is likely to be of earlier Neolithic date and represents activity in the vicinity of the site during that period. It was found in the topsoil (1000).
- 7.1.4 Two small fragments of burnt flint were found on the surface of fill (1025) in pit [1024] (the feature was not excavated). It is possible that flint was deliberately heated as 'potboilers', the pieces are characteristically white and crackled in surface appearance but, alone, the two very small fragments are uncertain evidence for such activity. Burnt pebbles and charcoal are recorded as being found in the pit fill and the nature of these pebbles (if additional to the two flint fragments) is unknown.

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7.2 Prehistoric pottery by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Introduction

7.2.1 A small assemblage comprising 12 sherds (72g) of handmade prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation. The pottery derived from two contexts, relating to a ditch and a pit (Table 2). The assemblage can be assigned to a single period, the broad Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age (LBA-MIA), although aspects of the assemblage suggest an Early Iron Age to Middle Iron Age date is the most plausible. A total of 4g of crumbs (<1g) were also recovered during the course of the evaluation; these were recorded by fabric and weight in the catalogue but do not form a further part of this analysis. This report provides a quantified description of the assemblage with a brief discussion.

Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Cut	Feature type	No. of sherds	Wt(g)	Overall context spot date	Fabrics	Reason for date
1011	1010	Ditch	1	9	LBA-EIA	FLQU1	Fabric
						FLQU1, QUFL1, QU1,	
1022	1023	Pit	11	63	EIA-MIA	VE1	Fabric, form

Table 3: Fabric series

SSFabric code	Fabric type	Description
FLQU1	FL-rs-fmQU-r-f	Rare to sparse fine to moderate, calcined flint, rare fine sand
QUFL1	QU-rs-fFL-r-f	Rare to sparse fine, sand, rare fine, calcined flint
QU1	QU-rs-f	Rare to sparse fine, sand
VE1	VE-rs-cvc	Rare to sparse coarse to very coarse vegetable

Methodology

7.2.2 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Fabric groups are designated based on abbreviated codes, recorded as INCLUSIONTYPE-frequency-size in the catalogue. These groups were then given site specific codes i.e. FL1, QUFL2 in this report (Table 3). Sherds from all contexts were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram and assigned to a fabric group (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single

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entities). Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (all sherds within the assemblage were handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. All pottery recovered in the evaluation was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (9 sherds): sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (3 sherds) and sherds over 8cm in diameter were classified as 'large' (0 sherds), giving a Mean Sherd Weight (MSW) of 6g. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim and shoulder, the vessel was also classified using a series devised by M. Brudenell (Brudenell 2012) for Post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) ceramics. The evaluation assemblage contained a minimum of 1 vessel, based on the single rim sherd recovered.

7.2.3 Due to the gradual, piecemeal process of ceramic change within the PDR tradition, the periods represented by the tradition have substantial degrees of chronological 'overlap', in terms of fabric recipes and forms used. Generally, although overall trends of fabric recipes and decorative techniques can be used to suggest date ranges, more precise and definitive dating hinges on the presence or absence of certain diagnostic forms. As this assemblage generally lacks these characteristics, date ranges have mainly been assigned based on fabric recipes, a necessarily coarse measure.

Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age assemblage characteristics and discussion

7.2.4 The assemblage of this broad period formed the totality of the site assemblage. The single sherd recovered from Ditch [1010] was composed of a fine, calcined flint and quartz sand fabric which is most commonly found in the Post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. As a general rule of thumb, calcined flint fabrics are more common in the earlier range of this tradition, with a gradual transition to mixed and then eventually solely sand tempered fabrics by the end of the date range of the tradition (although this is regionally specific). The bulk of the site assemblage was recovered from Pit [1023] and is slightly more mixed in character. Mixed sand and calcined flint fabrics still form a large part (4/11 sherds) of the feature assemblage, but are found alongside pure sand fabrics (QU1, 4/11), with the remainder of the assemblage consisting of sherds where chopped vegetable matter was used as the fabric temper. All the sherds, including those with flint temper used as part of their fabric recipes, are well-made and hard-fired, with the calcined flint not fully extruding from the sherd surfaces. These characteristics (principally the greater variation in fabric recipes and the increase in sand-tempering) are more

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Iron Age, possibly continuing into the transition into the Middle Iron Age. As such, although a relatively broad date has been assigned to the site assemblage, a date towards the end of this range, in the Early to Middle Iron Age, is the most plausible.

Summary

- 7.2.5 The prehistoric pottery recovered from the excavation can be split into a single broad period, the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age (1150-100 BC), although a date in the Early Iron Age into the Middle Iron Age (c. 600-200 BC) is considered to be the most plausible 'best-fit' within this period.
- 7.2.6 The results of this report should be integrated into any future phases of work undertaken on the site.

7.3 Fired clay by Dr Kevin Hayward

- 7.3.1 A small assemblage of undiagnostic burnt clay (24 fragments, 125g) was recovered from the fill (1022) of pit [1023] (Table 4). The fired clay is made from a fine red brickearth or glacial till, probably from the underlying Pleistocene geology of this part of Suffolk. It contains small fragments of white burnt flint and red iron oxide. The outer margins have a darker, charred appearance that suggest that they were used in a clay-lined furnace, or even result from burning (e.g. surface clamp, bonfire) of the underlying natural Upper Jurassic clays.
- 7.3.2 It has not been possible to date these any tighter than prehistoric to medieval (1500BC-AD1600) as fired clay is widely used over considerable periods of time.

Table 4: Distribution of fired clay by context

Context	Fabric	Material		Date rai material	-	Latest material	dated	Spot date	Spot date mortar
1022 Pit [1023]	3102	Large and fragments of fired with a charred margin	small d clay outer	1500BC	1600	1500BC	1600	1500BC- 1600	No mortar

7.3.3 No further work is required to be carried out on this material and it can be discarded.

7.4 Metalwork by Tom Lucking

- 7.4.1 A single circular copper alloy button of 18th to 19th-century date was recovered from the topsoil (1000) using a metal detector. Approximately three-quarters of the button survives, with the remainder missing due to old breaks. The front face is undecorated, and the rear loop is missing.
- 7.4.2 Buttons such as this are very common post-medieval finds, occurring in abundance on some fields, and were in use on everyday clothing of the time. As such, this object is of relatively low archaeological value and this report provides sufficient record, so it may be discarded.

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8 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

8.1 Animal bone *by Ryan Desrosiers*

8.1.1 A total of 17 fragments of animal bone, weighing 2.5g, were recovered by the evaluation. Only one feature on the site yielded any animal remains, fill (1011) of prehistoric ditch [1010]. Two cattle-sized rib fragments were hand collected, with the remaining 15 fragments of unidentifiable mammal bone recovered from soil sample <1>. No evidence of direct human alteration can be noted on the specimens, and all are very poorly preserved. These specimens alone do not shed much light on past subsistence or human animal interaction at the site. If no further archaeological mitigation at the location is warranted, these specimens should not be retained as part of the project archive.

8.2 Environmental remains by Tegan Abel

Introduction

8.2.1 This report summarises the findings from the assessment of two bulk environmental samples taken from prehistoric features during the archaeological evaluation. The sample volumes ranged from 28 to 32 litres, with the samples being extracted from a single ditch and a single pit (Table 5).

Table 5: Context information for environmental samples

Context number	Feature number	Environmental sample number	Context category	Feature type	Period
1011	1010	1	Fill	Ditch	LBA/EIA
1022	1023	2	Fill	Pit	LBA/MIA

Aims

8.2.2 The aims of the report are as follows: 1- To give an overview of the ecofacts and artefacts extracted from the bulk samples; 2- To evaluate the potential of the environmental remains and, 3- To make recommendations for additional analysis.

Methodology

8.2.3 Two samples were retrieved during this evaluation. Prior to being processed, the sediment volume was measured and recorded, the data for which is presented in Appendix 3, Table 1. The samples were processed using a modified SIRAF floatation

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system; the flot residue was collected using a 300 µm mesh and the heavy residue, a 3mm mesh. After being left to dry naturally, the residue was sieved through 2mm, 5mm and 10mm sieves, and sorted to remove ecofacts and artefacts; material was recorded using a non-linear scale, as follows: 1- occasional (1-10), 2- fairly frequent (11-30), 3- frequent (31-100) and abundant (31-100).

8.2.4 The light residue was examined under a low-power binocular microscope and the contents recorded, with abundances being quantified as above.

Results

Sample <1> ditch [1010] (1011)

8.2.5 Ditch [1010] had a sample taken from fill (1011). The sample contained low to moderate quantities of highly fragmented charcoal, with no specimens of a suitable size for species identification (>4mm in all diameters) present. Charcoal was the only archaeobotanical remain noted in the sample. Further to this, less than 10 pieces of vitrified material were identified, which could indicate burning at extremely high temperatures. Small amounts of fragmented animal bone and struck flint were extracted from the retent. Bioturbation of the context could be indicated by an abundance of rooting and moderate quantities of modern plant remains.

Sample <2> pit [1023] (1022)

8.2.6 Sample 2, taken from a fill (1022) of pit [1023], once again contained only a moderate quantity of fragmented charcoal, which would be unsuitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating. Less than 10 whole terrestrial mollusc shells were noted in the flot. A small amount of fired clay was present. Once again, moderate to abundant quantities of modern plant and root material was identified in the sample, which may indicate post-depositional disturbance of the context.

Conclusions

- 8.2.7 An assessment of the environmental samples has provided evidence for the potential preservation of carbonised plant material and other ecofacts at this site, although charred seeds and cereals were not present in large enough quantities to warrant further analysis.
- 8.2.8 The presence of unburnt plant material and roots could indicate post-depositional disturbance to the contexts.
- 8.2.9 Should further work be carried out, the potential for preservation of carbonised plant

remains should be considered in the environmental sampling strategy, and sampling should focus on sealed contexts where possible.

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9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 Archaeological features of prehistoric and later date were encountered near the top of the hill, in the northeastern part of the site. The remains consisted of a ditch and a pit, from which were recovered a small number of pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date. By close association, three undated pits and two small ditches in the same area may be of a similar date. The small number of finds and sparsity of environmental material recovered from soil samples taken from these features suggest that the activity is peripheral to any nearby areas of contemporary settlement, the ditch perhaps forming a paddock or livestock enclosure at the edge of a small farmstead.
- 9.1.2 Three parallel, similar-sized ditches at the eastern edge of the site may be the remains of agricultural drainage channels. The date of these features is uncertain as there was no dating evidence from their fills; the date range of similar features investigated at other Suffolk sites has been broad, anywhere between the Late Iron Age and post-medeival periods.

9.2 Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age (1150 BC-200 BC)

9.2.1 While struck flints may indicate the presence of earlier activity on the site, the earliest remains encountered by the evaluation were a ditch and a pit, which have been dated from sherds of pottery to the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age periods. The ditch may form an enclosure boundary, possibly that of a paddock or similar livestock corral. The small number of finds and sparsity of environmental material recovered from soil samples taken from these features suggest that the activity is peripheral to any nearby areas of settlement, such as that investigated at Jack's Field, on the north side of The Street and *c.* 200m to the southwest of the site (CA 2018).

9.3 Late Iron Age to Roman (200 BC-AD 400)

9.3.1 There is little evidence for Roman activity in the surrounding area, but it is possible that the series of parallel linear ditches identified at the eastern edge of the site may form part of a Late Iron Age to Roman agricultural drainage system. Such features are often interpreted as medieval or post-medieval furrows, but occasionally their alignment differs from that of the medieval/post-medieval field boundaries (as in this case), suggesting that they are earlier in date. They are also narrow, unlike medieval furrows, and are generally located on heavy clay soils, where drainage would have

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been required to assist in growing wheat. Such systems have recently been investigated by PCA in Suffolk at Leiston and Whitton (PCA forthcoming), where artefactual and stratigraphic dating evidence does suggest that they date to this period. However, a later date, perhaps even as late as the post-medieval period, can not be ruled out for these features.

9.4 Post-medieval to modern (1485-present)

9.4.1 Map evidence shows that the site has been arable farmland since at least the 18th century. The heavy soils and relatively steep slope within the modern field suggest that the land may not have been ploughed in the medieval period, the land possibly being used for pasture or woodland at this time. A system of land drains was installed in the 20th century to assist in drainage.

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- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS Group for commissioning the work on behalf of Hopkins & Moore (Developments) Ltd and Hannah Cutler (SCCAS) for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- The fieldwork was undertaken by Laura Desrosiers-Whalley (supervisor), Simon Carlyle, Farrell Bentinck and Fabian Danielsson. The report was written by Laura Desrosiers-Whalley, with contributions from Sarah Bates, Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne, Kevin Haywood, Tom Lucking, Ryan Desrosiers and Tegan Abel, and the figures were prepared by Rosie Scales. The project was managed for PCA by Simon Carlyle and for RPS by Myk Flitcroft.

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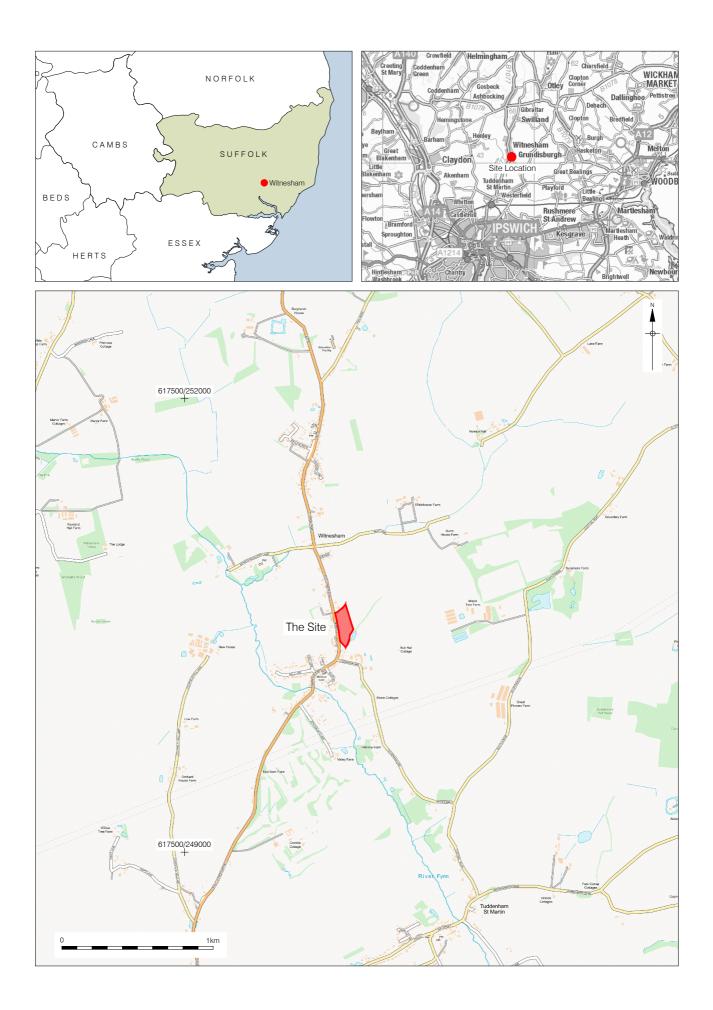
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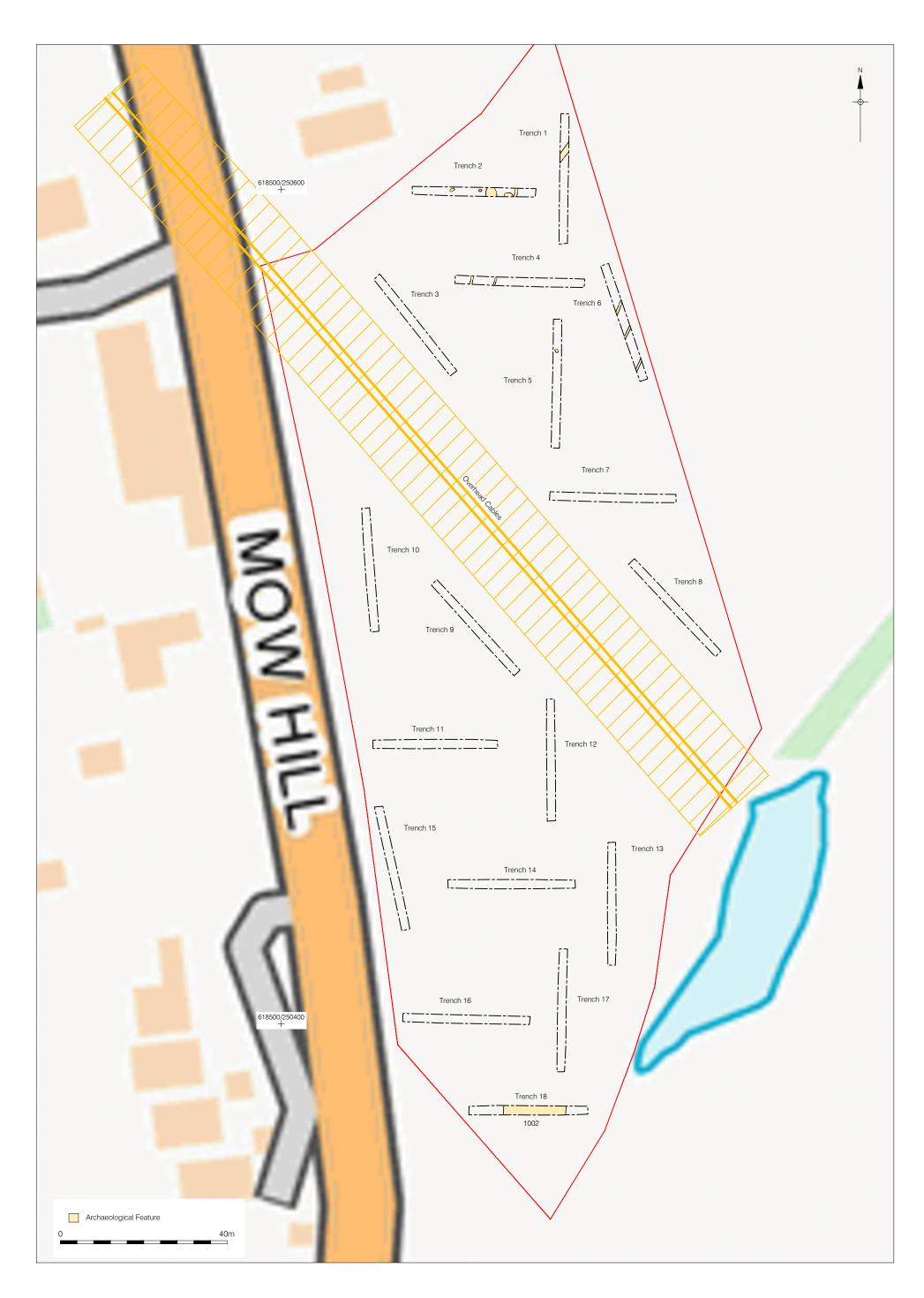
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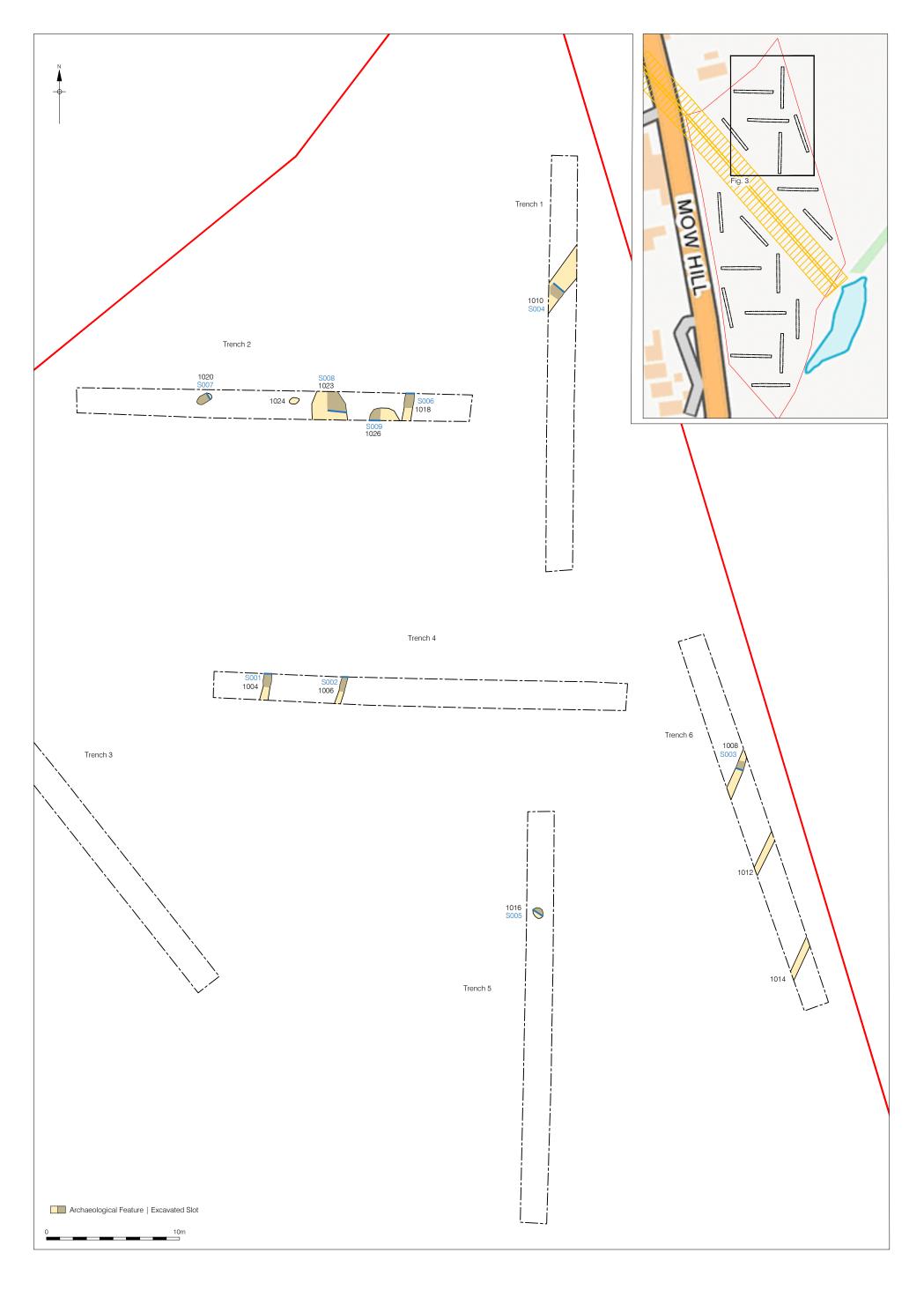
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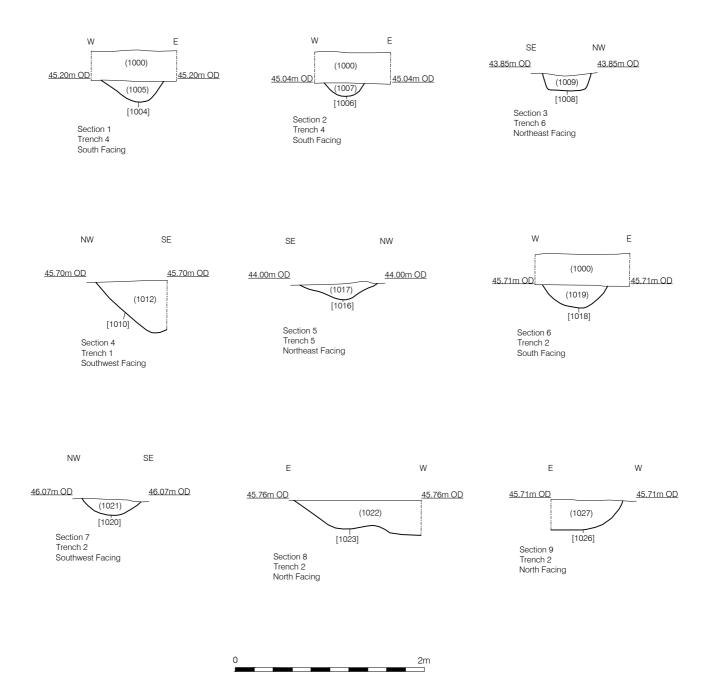
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PLATES



Plate 1: View of the site from its southern corner, looking northeast



Plate 2: Trench 1, Iron Age ditch [1010], looking southwest



Plate 3: Trench 2, ditch [1018], looking north



Plate 4: Trench 2, pit [1026], looking south



Plate 5: Trench 2, pit [1023], looking south



Plate 6: Trench 2, pit [1024], looking west



Plate 7: Trench 2, pit [1020], looking northeast



Plate 8: Trench 4, ditch [1004], looking north



Plate 9: Trench 5, pit [1016], looking southwest



Plate 10: Trench 6, ditches [1008], [1012] and [1014], looking north

APPENDIX 1: CONTENTS INDEX

Context	Cut	Trench	Туре	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description
1000	0		Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.3	Soft dark greyish brown humic clayey silt with mod. pebbles
1001	0		Layer	Natural	0	0		Variable clay, sand and gravel
1002	0	18	Layer	Colluvium	0	0	0.5	Mid greyish brown silty sand with mod. pebbles
1003	0	0	Layer	Subsoil	0	0		Firm mid brown silty clay with occ. pebbles
1004	1004	4	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.65	0.22	Linear cut, aligned roughly N-S, edges well-defined, concave profile
1005	1004	4	Fill	Ditch	0	0	0.22	Firm mid brown silty clay with occ. pebbles and v.occ. charcoal flecks
1006	1006	4	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.42	0.14	Linear cut, aligned roughly N-S, edges well-defined, concave profile
1007	1006	4	Fill	Ditch	0	0	0.14	Firm mid brown silty clay with occ. pebbles and v.occ. charcoal flecks
1008	1008	6	Cut	Ditch	2.7	0.51	0.15	Linear cut, aligned NE-SW, edges well-defined, steep, near vertical sides, flat base
1009	1008	6	Fill	Ditch	0	0	0.15	Firm mid brown silty clay with occ. pebbles and v.occ. charcoal flecks
1010	1010	1	Cut	Ditch	2	1.1	0.56	Linear cut, aligned NE-SW, edges well-defined, steep-sided V-shaped profile with narrow concave base
1011	1010	1	Fill	Ditch	2	0	0.56	Firm mid-dark bluish grey silty clay with orangey brown mottles, occ. pebbles and occ. charcoal flecks
1012	1012	6	Cut	Ditch	2.7	0.49		Linear cut, aligned NE-SW, edges well-defined, not excavated
1013	1012	6	Fill	Ditch	0	0		Firm mid brown silty clay with occ. pebbles
1014	1014	6	Cut	Ditch	2.7	0.53		Linear cut, aligned NE-SW, edges well-defined, not excavated
1015	1014	6	Fill	Ditch	0	0		Firm mid brown silty clay with occ. pebbles
1016	1016	5	Cut	Pit	0.87	0.81	0.16	Oval cut, long axis NE-SW, edge well-defined, concave profile
1017	1016	5	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.16	Firm mid brownish grey silty clay with occ. pebbles
1018	1018	2	Cut	Ditch	1.8	0.68	0.25	Linear cut, aligned roughly N-S, edges well-defined, steep-sided concave profile
1019	1018	2	Fill	Ditch	0	0	0.25	Firm mid-dark bluish grey silty clay with orangey brown mottles, occ. pebbles and occ. charcoal fleck
1020	1020	2	Cut	Pit	1.9	0.62	0.16	C-shaped cut, edge poorly defined, concave profile
1021	1020	2	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.16	Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occ. pebbles
1022	1023	2	Fill	Pit	2.2	1.15	0.4	Probable oval cut, extends beyond LoE, steeply-sloping sides and flat base
1023	1023	2	Cut	Pit	0	0	0.4	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occ. pebbles
1024	1024	2	Cut	Pit	0.73	0.52		Oval cut, long axis E-W, not excavated
1025	1024	2	Fill	Pit	0	0		Burnt pebbles and charcoal
1026	1026	2	Cut	Pit	1.76	0.72	0.32	Edge of circular or oval cut, extends beyond LoE to S, steeply sloping sides and flat base
1027	1026	2	Fill	Pit	0	0	0.32	Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with occ. pebbles and occ. charcoal flecks

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APPENDIX 2: LITHIC CATALOGUE

Table 1: Worked flint catalogue

Ctxt	Sample	Cat.	Туре	No.	Wt(g)	Comp.	Cort.	Prim.	Pat.	Sharp	E.dam.	Hinge	Cortical platform	Prepared platform	Burnt	Comment
			burnt													
1025		burn	fragment	2	16	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	sm crackled frags
1011	1	flak	spall	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	tiny
1011	1	flak	flake	1	0	0	1	0	0		yes	0	0	0	0	sm thick frag, dist missing abraded
			utilised													sm, v slight abr plat edge, damaged and dist tip
1000		utbl	blade	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	1	0	missing but at least L lat edge utilised

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APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL RESIDUES

Table 1: Context information for environmental samples

Sample Number	1	2
Context Number	1011	1022
Feature Number	1010	1023
Feature type	Ditch	Pit
Volume of flot (mililitres)	42	58
Volume of residue (litres)	28	32
FLOT RESIDUE:	_	
Charcoal		
Charcoal 2-4mm	1	1
Charcoal <2mm	3	4
Other plant macrofossils		
Modern plant material	3	3
Roots/ tubers	4	4
Molluscs		
Terrestrial molluscs		1
Broken shell		1
Other remains		
Vitrified material	1	
HEAVY RESIDUE:		
Charcoal		
Charcoal >4mm		
Charcoal 2-4mm	1	1
Cereal		
Charred cereal		
Building material		
Burnt clay		1
Finds		
Struck Flint	1	
Bone		
Animal	2	

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant.

APPENDIX 4: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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LAND OFF MOW HILL, WITNESHAM SUFFOLK



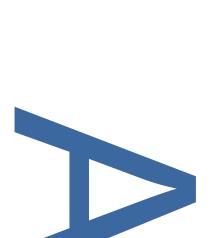
WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: PRE-APPLICATION

PARISH/SITE CODE: WTN 064
OASIS NO: preconst1-420591

MAY 2021



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land off Mow Hill, Witnesham, Suffolk: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: East Suffolk District Council

Planning Reference: Pre-application

Parish/Site Code: WTN 064

Oasis number: preconst1- 420591

Central National Grid Reference: TM 1854 5049

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location, 1:25,000

Fig. 2 Proposed trench location plan, 1:1,250

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) for an archaeological evaluation of land off Mow Hill, Witnesham, Suffolk (site centred on NGR TM 1854 5049; Fig. 1). The evaluation, which has been commissioned by Hopkins Homes Limited through RPS Group (RPS), their archaeological consultant, is being carried out prior to the submission of planning proposals for the residential development of the site to East Suffolk District Council.
- 1.2 The applicant was advised to undertake the evaluation by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS), providers of archaeological advice on planning matters in the county. This was in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework* paragraphs 189 and 190 (DCLG 2018), as the site was considered to lie within an area of archaeological potential.
- 1.3 The scope of the evaluation has been set out in a *Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* issued by SCCAS (SCCAS 2021). The evaluation will consist of 18no. 30m trial trenches at 1.8m wide (a total of 540 linear metres; Fig. 2). There is a contingency for an additional 25m of trial trench, should this be required by SCCAS to clarify the nature and extent of any archaeological remains that may be encountered.
- 1.4 Once approved by SCCAS, all work relating to this project will be carried out in accordance with this WSI, Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003), Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2019) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA 2020).
- 1.5 The project will be managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE):*Project Manager's Guide (HE 2015).
- Subject to the results of this investigation, if any further archaeological work is required by SCCAS, this will be carried out in accordance with a subsequent Brief and WSI.

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2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The site, which covers an area of 2.0ha, is located in the parish of Witnesham, *c.* 6km to the northeast of Ipswich city centre (Fig. 1). The modern village consists of three areas of settlement: the village's manorial centre clusters around the parish church of St Mary's and Witnesham Hall, accessed from Witnesham Church Lane; the lower village clusters around The Street, at the bottom of Mow Hill, and straddles the River Fynn; and the northern part of the village borders America Hill and Upper Street (B1077), the road that leads northwards, over the hills towards Ashbocking. The site is located on the northern outskirts of the lower village and comprises the western part of a large arable field, bounded by Mow Hill (B1077) to the west, the garden of a house fronting on to Mow Hill to the north, arable land to the east, and the car park of the Barley Mow public house and a pasture field to the south.
- 2.1.2 The site is situated on a long south-facing slope that overlooks the valley of the River Fynn, with ground level descending from *c.* 48m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern boundary of the site to *c.* 37m aOD in its southern corner.
- 2.1.3 The bedrock geology of the site consists of pre-glacial Pleistocene coarse-grained, abundantly shelly sands of the Red Crag Formation. This is overlain by superficial Quaternary glacigenic deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, consisting of diamicton, a chalky till with flints (BGS 2021).

2.2 Historical and archaeological background

2.2.1 The following account is a summary of known archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the site, obtained from records accessed online via Heritage Gateway and Archaeological Data Service, supplemented with general historical information about the village gathered from British History Online and other sources. For the evaluation report, this summary will be updated with information obtained from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER), which was contacted on 5th May 2021 and a request made for a search of records within the 1km radius study area.

Prehistoric (pre-AD43)

2.2.2 In 2016, an excavation at Jack's Field, on the north side of The Street and *c.* 200m to the southwest of the site, revealed an Iron Age boundary ditch, a four-post structure and a comparatively dense scatter of pits and other features, indicative of nearby settlement at this time (CA 2018; WTN 032). The boundary ditch contained many

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fragments of fine handmade black burnished pottery, animal bone and pieces of fired clay. The pottery from the site suggests a date range from the Middle Iron Age to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period (4th century BC to 1st century AD).

- 2.2.3 At the western terminal of the boundary ditch an interesting group of loom weights was recovered, including a complete triangular example. The densest concentration of Iron Age pits was in the vicinity of the ditch terminal and from one of these part of an articulated skeleton of an adult female individual was recovered, consisting of the torso and skull but without limbs. Also found was a linear arrangement of ditches and several pits of the Roman period, a late Saxon pit and a ditch of medieval or later date.
- 2.2.4 Other records relating to prehistoric activity in the study area relate to artefact findspots. These include: the discovery of the front half of a Neolithic stone axe at a location somewhere in the vicinity of the site (WTN 041); the recovery of worked flint flakes during a fieldwalking survey on the site of the golf course south of the village (WTN 028); and the recovery of Belgic/Iron Age pottery in a sandpit *c*. 150m to the southwest of the site (WTN 003).

Roman (AD43 to AD 410)

2.2.5 There are no records of Roman settlement within the study area, although Roman pottery and coins have been found, suggesting likely settlement nearby (see para 2.2.3). Sherds of Roman pottery, including samian, were found in the 1930s in the sand pit *c*. 150m to the southwest of the site (WTN 003) and there is a record of a scatter of Roman material, including pottery and a silver coin, having been found in the general vicinity (WTN 043). A number of Roman coins have been found in and around the village, including: a coin of Allectus (AD293-296) found in a field *c*. 400m to the west of the site (WTN 004); six Roman coins in a field *c*. 1km to the north-east of the site (WTN 015); a Roman coin in a field off Cockfield Hall Lane, *c*. 950m to the southwest of the site (WTN 050); and a coin of Trajan (AD249-251) at an unknown location in the general vicinity (WTN 042).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 to 1066)

2.2.6 The village has Anglo-Saxon origins, although no evidence for settlement dating to this period has been discovered so far. The village derives its name from the Old English for 'Wittin's homestead' (Briggs and Kilpatrick 2004, 156), variously recorded as *Wittlesham* (1086), *Witnesham* (1254) and *Wetylsham* (1524). The village lay within the Carlford Hundred.

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2.2.7 A single sherd of Thetford ware, which was produced during the Middle/Late Saxon period, was found during a fieldwalking survey c. 600m to the southwest of the site (WTN 027) and another sherd was recovered during groundworks on the church (WTN 033).

Medieval (1066 to 1485)

- 2.2.8 The fabric of the parish church of St Mary's (WTN 016) is largely of late 13th/early 14th date, although excavations on the northwest side of the church uncovered the remains of a flint and mortar foundation, probably the remains of an earlier 11th/12th century church building (WTN 033; Newman 2017). The south aisle and clerestory were built in the 14th/15th century and the church was extensively restored in 1845.
- 2.2.9 At The Rectory, *c.* 700m to the northwest of the site, are the remains of a possible medieval moat (WTN 001).
- 2.2.10 Sherds of medieval pottery were found at two locations off Sandy Lane, *c.* 400 and 600m to the southeast of the site, during construction work for a replacement water main (WTN 014 and WTN 029). Medieval pottery was also recovered by a fieldwalking survey *c.* 600m to the southwest of the site (WTN 027).
- 2.2.11 There is an intriguing account dating to the early 19th century of human remains and armour having been discovered at Manor Farm (WTN 049). In 1985, Mrs Dorothy Barker, the village historian, wrote:

'it is thought about 800 years ago, a battle was fought here as several human skeletons were found circa 1818 and various pieces of armour thrown up within a short distance of the Hall. In 1820, the skeleton of a man in armour with his lance and horse were discovered near the same spot, carefully buried. The bit and buckles of the bridle, also the stirrups and studs belonging to the saddle were near perfect. The helmet was also in good condition but crumbled to pieces on being handled, as did the saddletree and bones, but not the teeth. A short sword of the time of Edward III was also discovered'.

Post-medieval and modern (1485 to present)

- 2.2.12 Witnesham Hall (WTN 057) was built in the 16th century and has been extensively altered, with much of the new work being undertaken in the 19th century in the Elizabethan style.
- 2.2.13 Reference to 19th-century maps shows the site as farmland and it is likely to have been farmland since at least the medieval period.

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3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The main aim of the investigation will be to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site by trial trenching. This will be achieved through the identification, sample excavation and recording of any archaeological remains that may be encountered by the evaluation and determining their location, extent, date, character and state of preservation. The results will assist SCCAS in determining if archaeological mitigation will be required.
- 3.2 To determine the significance of the results of the evaluation in a local, regional and national context (as appropriate), reference will be made to the East Anglian regional research agendas:
 - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997)
 - Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
 - Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008)
 - Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011)

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4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation will consist of the excavation of 18no. 30m trial trenches at 1.8m wide (a total of 540 linear metres), the locations of which are shown in Figure 2. There is a contingency for an additional 25m of trial trench, should this be required by SCCAS to clarify the nature and extent of any archaeological remains that may be encountered.

4.2 Survey and machine excavation

- 4.2.1 The trenches will be set out in accordance with the approved trench plan using a Leica Global Positioning System (GPS). Prior to machine excavation, the locations of each trench will be scanned with a CAT (Cable Avoidance Tool) to check for services. With the agreement of SCCAS, trenches will be moved to avoid any services or any other constraints that may be identified.
- 4.2.2 Using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operated by a suitably experienced and certified operator, the overburden will be removed in level spits down to the surface of the geological substrate or first significant archaeological horizon, whichever is encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate and stored in temporary bunds adjacent to each trench.
- 4.2.3 Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned using hand tools to define their boundaries and extent within the trenches. Limits and locations of all trenches, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum will be recorded using Leica GPS.
- 4.2.4 The trenches will only be backfilled following inspection by or with the agreement of SCCAS. The trenches will be simply backfilled, topsoil uppermost, and tracked in by the machine. No reseeding or resurfacing will be undertaken by or on behalf of PCA.

4.3 Recording and sampling

- 4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). All archaeological features and deposits will be sufficiently excavated to fulfil the project aims stated in Section 3 above, unless agreed otherwise with SCCAS.
- 4.3.2 Drawn records will be in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings

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of all excavated archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50), while all individual deposits and cuts will be recorded as written records on PCA *pro forma* context sheets. Appropriate photographs of the archaeological remains encountered by the evaluation, supported by general photographs of the site, its setting and working shots, will be taken using high resolution digital cameras (minimum 10 megapixels).

- 4.3.3 Linear features will be investigated by means of slots excavated across their width and measuring at least 1m in length, positioned to avoid areas of intercutting/disturbance in order to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages. A minimum of 10% of each linear will be excavated. If stratigraphic relationships between features are not visible in plan, slots will also be positioned to determine inter-feature relationships although, in consultation with SCCAS, care will be taken not to compromise the integrity of the archaeological record by excavating complex features or groups of features that would be better understood if they were investigated at the mitigation stage.
- 4.3.4 Discrete features such as pits and postholes will be at least 50% excavated and when considered appropriate 100% excavated. If deep features are encountered and the base cannot be safely attained by hand-excavation, alternative methods will be used to establish the depth of the feature (e.g. the use of an auger), in consultation with SCCAS.
- 4.3.5 Bulk soil samples, normally up to 40 litres in volume (where obtainable), will be taken in order to recover micro- and macro-botanical environmental remains. The sampling strategy and subsequent assessment of the samples will be carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines, as set out in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011). Where appropriate, advice on the sampling strategy will be obtained from PCA's Environmental Archaeology specialist and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

4.4 Metal detecting and Treasure

- 4.4.1 Prior to the mechanical excavation of the trenches, the area of each trench will be scanned by an experienced metal detectorist. Once the trenches are open, the spoil heaps and any features exposed in the trenches will be scanned for finds. The metal detector will not be set to discriminate against iron.
- 4.4.2 All finds defined as 'Treasure' will be removed to a safe place and reported to the

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local coroner according to the procedures outlined in the *Treasure Act 1996* (as amended by the *Treasure Designation Order 2002 No. 2666*). Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. Any finds that could be considered treasure under the terms of the Act made during the process of fieldwork will be immediately reported to the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer, so that it is properly reported to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery, in line with the Treasure Act.

4.5 Human remains

4.5.1 If human remains are encountered, SCCAS and the client will be informed immediately. Human remains will be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. If articulated human remains are encountered, minimal excavation would be required to determine the quality of their preservation which will inform on further mitigation. Such work would only be carried out in accordance with all appropriate Environmental Health regulations and only after a Ministry of Justice license has been obtained.

4.6 Monitoring visits

4.6.1 RPS will be responsible for notifying SCCAS of the proposed start date of the evaluation before commencement so that a monitoring visit can be arranged. The PCA project manager will keep RPS updated on any significant discoveries made during the fieldwork so that SCCAS can be kept informed.

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5 ACCESS, WELFARE AND SAFETY

- 5.1 Permission to access the site for the evaluation will be arranged by RPS or their client so that the PCA field team can start work promptly on the first day of their arrival at site. It is expected that the site will be suitably clear of vegetation, crop and other obstructions to allow the free movement of plant and the excavation of the trenches.
- 5.2 Welfare facilities will be provided by PCA for the use of their site staff, sub-contractors and visitors.
- 5.3 PCA staff will secure all deep excavations (over *c.* 0.8m deep) with orange netlon fencing secured on road pins.
- All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected. The Health and Safety policies will be those of PCA and will be in accordance with all statutory regulations. A site-specific *Risk Assessment and Method Statement* (RAMS) will be prepared before fieldwork commences and all staff will be briefed on the content of the RAMS at an induction that they will be required to attend on arrival on site.
- 5.5 There is a duty of care for the client to provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before site works commence.

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6 TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

- The project will be managed by Simon Carlyle MCIfA, Senior Project Manager at PCA Cambridge, and the fieldwork will be directed by Romy McIntosh, Project Supervisor, assisted by up to three Site Assistants drawn from PCA's team of qualified and experienced staff, as required.
- The duration of the evaluation will be 5 working days (including backfilling). Working days are based on a 5-day working week, Monday to Friday, 8am–4pm. The start date for the evaluation has been provisionally arranged for Monday 24th May 2021, subject to prior approval of this document. RPS will confirm the start date with SCCAS at least ten working days before fieldwork commences.
- 6.3 Metal detecting will be carried out by Tom Lucking (PCA), an acknowledged metaldetectorist who has considerable experience and routinely carries out metal detector surveys for PCA.
- 6.4 Where required, the following PCA specialists may be invited to advise on aspects of the project and contribute to the evaluation report:

Berni Seddon-medieval pottery

Chris Jarrett-medieval pottery

Katie Anderson-Roman pottery

Barry Bishop-worked flint and prehistoric pottery

Kevin Haywood-CBM/stone

Karen Deighton-animal bone

Other specialists may be consulted, depending on the types of artefacts recovered or the nature of the deposits encountered by the evaluation. A full list of specialists currently used by PCA is presented in Appendix A. Illustrations will be prepared by the PCA Drawing Office.

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7 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

- 7.1 Post-excavation tasks and report writing will take approximately four weeks to complete following the end of fieldwork. Specialists will be employed for consultation and analysis as necessary.
- 7.2 An illustrated report on the evaluation will be prepared to present the results of the fieldwork and the assessment of the artefacts and palaeoenvironmental samples. The report will include: a non-technical summary; an archaeological and historical background to the site, supported by relevant historical maps; a description of the methodology employed; plans and sections showing the location and extent of any archaeology encountered; a site narrative, with a discussion of the archaeological results; specialist reports; photographs supporting the text.
- 7.3 A draft copy of the report will be provided to the client for comment prior to its submission to SCCAS. Once the report has been approved by SCCAS, a final copy and a digital copy (in pdf/A format) will be presented to SCCAS and the Suffolk HER (SHER), on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months).
- 7.4 The unique event number for this project, issued by SHER (**WTN 064**), will be clearly indicated on relevant ensuing reports and on the OASIS data collection form.
- 7.5 Contingency will be made for the publication of results. The minimum requirement will be for an appropriate note to be made available in the *Archaeology in Suffolk* section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. This summary will be included in the project report or submitted to SCCAS by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is soonest.

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8 OWNERSHIP OF FINDS, STORAGE AND CURATION OF ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The site will use the SHER Parish Code (**WTN 064**) as a unique identifier. This reference will be used to identify the archive (including finds, paper and digital archive). It will be cross-referenced with any reports and the OASIS data collection form.
- 8.2 The parish number will be used to identify any resulting reports and will be added to the OASIS data collection form.
- 8.3 All artefactual material will be held in storage by PCA Cambridge until ownership of all such archaeological finds are transferred and the archive is deposited with the SCCAS Store or the relevant recipient museum. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to *Treasure Act* legislation, separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated.
- 8.4 The project archive shall be compiled in accordance with the advice contained in Archive Guidelines (SCCAS 2019b), Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992).
- 8.5 A copy of the report will accompany the archive when it is deposited with the museum stores.
- The SHER is registered with the *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) project. PCA will provide appropriate details relating to this project by completing the OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis, in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service. An online OASIS record has been initiated (preconst1-420591).
- 8.8 All data will be gathered, collated and stored in accordance with PCA's data management plan (Appendix B).

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9 INSURANCES

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd is covered by the following insurances:
 - Public & Products Liability £5,000,000 with £5,000,000 Excess Layer (Aviva Insurance Ltd & Zurich Insurance Ltd), Policy nos: 000133 & PC00788;
 - Employers Liability £10,000,000 (Aviva Insurance Ltd) Policy no: 000133;
 - Professional Indemnity £5,000,000 (Hiscox Underwriting Ltd). Policy no: PL-PSC10002112906/00:
 - Hired in Plant and Equipment £500,000 (Aviva Insurance Ltd) Policy no: 000133;
 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems £5,000,000 (Tokio Marine Kiln Ltd) Policy no: B0831TMKDRO2020/8688.

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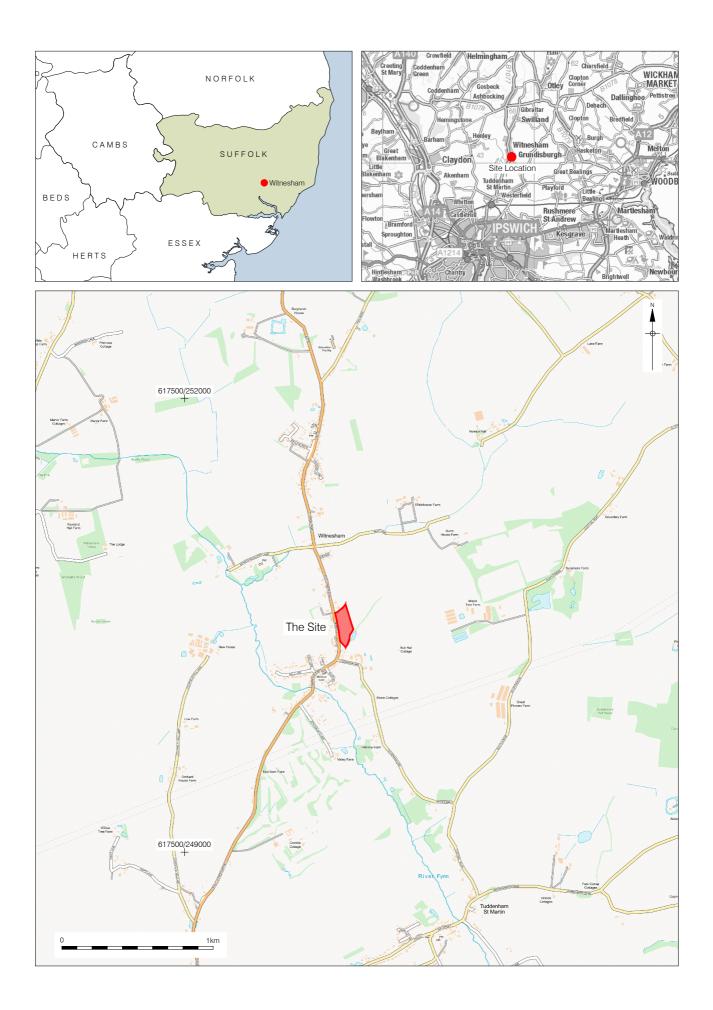
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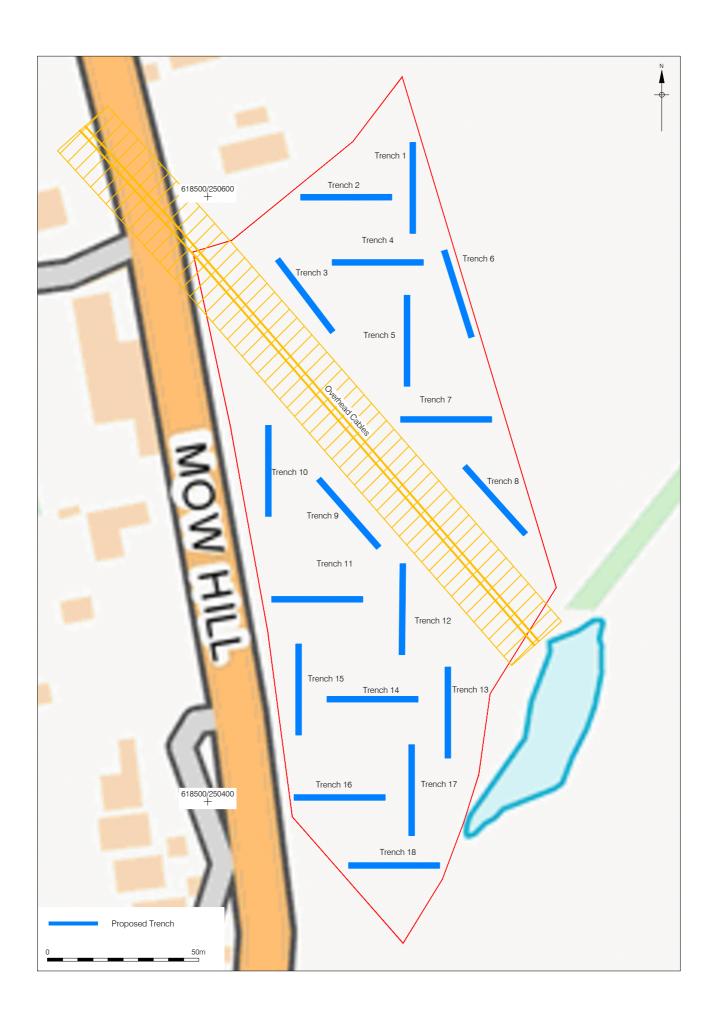
SCCAS (Suffolk County Council's Archaeology Service) 2019b Archive Guidelines

SCCAS (Suffolk County Council's Archaeology Service) 2021 *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Mow Hill, Witnesham,* dated 26th April 2021

UKIC 1990 Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term

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APPENDIX A: FINDS, ENVIROMENTAL AND OTHER SPECIALIST SERVICES

Prehistoric Pottery: Matt Brudenell, Sarah Percival, Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne **Roman Pottery:** Katie Anderson (PCA), Eniko Hudak (PCA), Kayt Hawkins, Jo Mills (samian), Gwladys Monteil (samian), Joanna Bird (decorated samian), David Williams (amphora)

Post-Roman Pottery: Chris Jarrett (PCA), Berni Seddon (PCA), Sue Anderson

Clay Tobacco Pipe: Chris Jarrett (PCA)

CBM: Berni Seddon (PCA), Kevin Hayward (PCA), Amparo Valcarcel (PCA)

Stone & Petrological Analysis: Kevin Hayward (PCA), Mark Samuel (moulded stone) **Glass:** Chris Jarrett (PCA), John Shepherd (PCA), Ruth Beveridge, Hilary Cool, Rachel Tyson

Coins: James Gerrard (PCA), Ruth Beveridge

Inscriptions & Graffiti: Roger Tomlin

Animal Bone: Kevin Rielly (PCA), Karen Deighton (PCA), Philip Armitage, Robin Bendrey,

Ryan Desrosiers

Lithics (inc Palaeolithic): Barry Bishop (PCA)

Osteology: James Langthorne (PCA), Petra Ivanova (PCA)

Timber: Damian Goodburn, Nigel Nayling (Wales), Mike Bamforth

Leather: Quita Mould

Small Finds: Marit Gaimster (PCA), James Gerrard (PCA), Hilary Major, Ian Riddler (esp

worked bone), Ruth Beveridge

Metal slag: Gary Taylor (PCA), Lynne Keys

Textiles: Sue Harrington, Penelope Walton Rogers

Conservation: Drakon Heritage, Karen Barker, Stefanie White (Colchester Museums),

Emma Hogarth (Colchester Museums)

Dendrochronology: lan Tyers

Archaeomagnetic dating: Mark Noel

Environmental: Kate Turner (PCA), Tegan Abel (PCA), Kath Hunter, Val Fryer, QUEST,

University of Reading

Documentary Research: Guy Thompson (PCA), Chris Phillpotts, Frederick Hamond (NI),

Gillian Draper, Jeremy Haslam, Roger Leech

Industrial Archaeology: Gary Taylor (PCA), David Cranstone

Finds Illustration: Cate Davies (PCA), Roz Hall (PCA), Rita Goncalves-Pedro (PCA), Mark

Roughley (PCA)

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APPENDIX B: DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section A: Project Information							
HER# (Site Code):	BAA048	Other Site Codes	N/A				
Site Full Location	ocation Land north of The Broadway, Badwell Ash, Suffolk						
OASIS ID:	preconst1-	K-Code:	К				
Museum Acc. #	N/A	NGR #	TL (5)9931 (2)6946				
Planning Ref #:	DC/18/02577	Planning Authority	Mid Suffolk District Council				
DMP Written	08/04/2021	DMP Last Updated					
Project Manager/ Primary Contact:	Simon Carlyle/07887530154	Project Type:	Excavation				
Client:	Hopkins & Moore (Developments) Ltd c/o RPS Group Ltd	Site Supervisor:	TBC				
Data Sharing Agreement in Place?	TBC	,					
Data Management Responsibility	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited	Who will take possession of the generated data at the end of the project	ADS/ Designated Archive Repository/Museum				

Section B: Estimated Volume of Data						
File types generated as part of the project archive by PCA:						
Data Type	Format	Estimated Volume	Details/Comment			
Spreadsheets	Excel (.xlsx), .csv	256 MB				
Database	Access (.accdb)	5 GB				
Text/Documents	.pdf, Word (.docx)	2 GB				
Images	.jpeg, .png, .DNG	30 GB				
Graphics	.dwg,	256 MB				
GIS	.shp	1 GB				
Will existing or external data be utilised?						
If yes, list type of data and source:						

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Data Type	Format	Estimated Volume	Source	Details/Comment
Images	.jpeg, .png, .DNG			
Graphics	.dwg,			
Text/Documents	.pdf, Word (.docx)			

Section C.: Data Acquisition, Processing, and Analysis

What methods and data standards will be undertaken?

Field data will be collected through digital and analogue means as set out within the project design. All data that will be collected will aim to work to best practice guidelines as outlined by CIFA and the ADS whenever possible and will be updated as the project progresses, or as guidance is modified.

What file naming/structure is in place and how will version control be maintained? Display example below.

Example file name: PCA_ECB6240_BRADLEY ROAD_EVAL_MH_rev1

Key: PCA (Organisational identifier) ECB6240 (site code) BRADLEY ROAD (Site name) EVAL (report type) MH (author identifier) rev1 (version control identifier)

The project archive will be stored in a project specific folder, with sub folders being utilised to further sub-classify data as appropriate (e.g. databases, photos, reports, etc.).

What Quality Assurances of the data are in place?

All digital instruments used to capture data on site and during post-ex (e.g. cameras, GPS/RTK units, etc.) will be appropriately calibrated and checked to be in full working order prior to fieldwork and subsequent analysis to ensure accurate data capture. Site records and data will be reviewed during project delivery to guarantee all digital data is both secure and correct.

Section D: Documentation and Metadata:

How can the data be read?

Data collected during the course of the project will include standard formats as listed within section B.

What documentation and metadata will be provided when the data is archived?

A catalogue of the digital archive, material archive, paper archive, and the supporting metadata will be provided to the digital repository

Section E: Ethics and Legal Compliance:

How can the identity of individuals be protected if required

Personal data will be removed from the digital archive prior to deposition, and permission to include personal data

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will be gained during the project if required.

Is the data GDPR 2018 compliant?

All digital archive data is compliant with GDPR as outlined within PCA's GDPR policy.

Who owns the data generated during the course of this project?

Copyright for all data generated or collected by the project team belongs to PCA. However, if external data is utilised, formal permission or licences will be obtained prior to use, and correct citation given during reporting and when archived. Any licences agreed with external parties will be included within the project archive.

Section F: Storage and Backup:

Is sufficient storage in place?

All project data will be held on a server based at our regional office. The server has sufficient space to hold all data generated during the project.

What backups are in place?

Project data will be stored on a companywide intranet and on servers located at our regional office.

What data security is in place?

All project data is restricted by permission-based access and single factor authentication. The only exception to this is when external finds or data specialists are consulted, with only files pertinent to their role are shared directly.

Section G: Selection and Preservation:

Which data will be selected for inclusion within the project archive?

Selection of data that will be included within the project archive will be informed by the WSI, Project Brief, research aims, and specialist recommendations. All data selected for preservation will be logically named, identified, and structured, and will adhere to the formats listed in section B. Any deselected data will be deleted after deposition with the ADS or relevant archival repository.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the project dataset?

The digital archive will be deposited with the ADS.

If this is a larger project, has the ADS been	
contacted regarding accession of the project	NO
dataset?	

Has the Museum or depository been contacted NO

Section H: Data Dissemination:

How will the dataset or parts of it be shared?

The final project report will be uploaded to the HER via OASIS and subsequently released onto ADS's report library. Additionally, the report will be published either through a full publication, or as a note in the regional archaeological journal. After deposition of the digital archive, the ADS and relevant depository are able to share the data under licence.

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Section I: Responsibiliti	es:					
Who will manage the da	ata?					
The project manager w	ill be responsible for implementing the	e data management plan and its security.				
Roles and Responsibilit	ties:					
Action Responsible Person(s) Details/Comment						
Field Data	Field team	Including initial storage and backup				
Data Analysis and Interpretation	Site Supervisor/Project Manager					
Data Archiving	Archives Officer					
Data Dissemination	Project Manager/Archives Officer	Archives officer will be responsible for uploading report onto OASIS.				
GDPR Compliance	Project Manager/Archives Officer/ IT Specialist					
General Data backup	IT Specialist/Archives Officer					

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APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

PCA Report Number: R14587 Site code: WTN 064 Page 69 of 69

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | FAQs | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: preconst1-420591

Project details

Project name Mow Hill, Witnesham

Short description of the project

Three pieces of worked, or possibly worked flint were recovered from archaeological features and the ploughsoil. The material is not closely dateable but attests to low levels of prehistoric activity on or near the site during this period. Prehistoric remains were encountered in the northeastern corner of the site, consisting of a ditch and a pit, from which were recovered a small number of pottery sherds of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date. By close association, three undated pits and two small ditches in the same area may be of a similar date. The small number of finds and sparsity of environmental material recovered from soil samples taken from these features suggest that the activity is peripheral to any nearby areas of settlement, the ditches perhaps forming paddocks or livestock enclosures at the edge of a small farmstead. Three parallel, similar-sized ditches at the eastern edge of the site may be the remains of Late Iron Age or Roman cultivation/drainage channels. Evidence for later activity on the site was confined to land drains that were installed in the 20th century.

Project dates Start: 24-05-2021 End: 28-05-2021

Previous/future

work

codes

No / Not known

Any associated project reference

WTN 064 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m

Monument type PITS Iron Age

Monument type DITCHES Iron Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Iron Age

Methods & "Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Housing estate

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process

Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WITNESHAM Land off Mow Hill, Witnesham

Postcode IP6 9HL Study area 2 Hectares

TM 1850 5050 52.109050315809 1.191267347638 52 06 32 N 001 11 28 E Point Site coordinates

Height OD / Depth Min: 37m Max: 48m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

originator Project design

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

originator

Project director/manager

Simon Carlyle

Project supervisor Laura Desrosiers-Whalley

Type of

House builder

sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Physical Archive

WTN 064

"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics" **Physical Contents**

Digital Archive

recipient

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Digital Archive ID WTN 064 **Digital Contents** "none"

Digital Media available

"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Paper Archive ID WTN 064 **Paper Contents** "none"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Desrosiers-Whalley, L

Other bibliographic R14587

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2021 Date

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