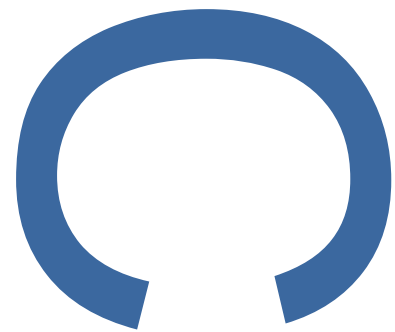


**LAND OFF CHAPEL LANE
WICKHAM MARKET
SUFFOLK**



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

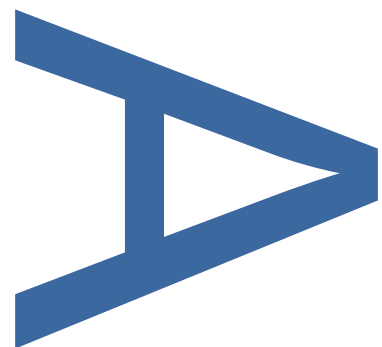


**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:
DC/20/3264/FUL**

PCA REPORT NO: R14919

OASIS REF: preconst1-428045

SITE CODE: PTR 070



MAY 2022

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Land off Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Suffolk: An Archaeological Excavation

Quality Assurance

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Land off Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Suffolk: An Archaeological Excavation

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ABSTRACT

In September 2021, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd carried out an archaeological excavation on land off Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Suffolk. The work was commissioned by Hopkins Homes Ltd, through RPS Group, their archaeological consultant, and consisted of the excavation of an area measuring 0.14ha in extent, targeting a possible prehistoric or Roman enclosure ditch that had been identified in Trench 57 of a preceding evaluation.

The excavation uncovered this ditch, as well as segments of other, complementary ditches on a similar alignment, and several natural features. Aside from the previously identified ditch, all the features had been heavily truncated and as a result were very shallow. Finds assemblages recovered were also extremely limited. Given these limitations, the ditches did not form part of an enclosure, as had been suggested by the results of the evaluation, but probably represent the remains of a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age field system, of a similar character to that identified across parts of the wider site in the evaluation.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2020, a hybrid planning application was submitted to East Suffolk District Council (ESDC planning ref. DC/20/3264/FUL) for the residential development of a plot of land off Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Suffolk (site centred on NGR TM 3032 5521; Fig. 1). The planning application was for a phased development comprising 129 houses and seven self-build plots together with public open space, access and associated infrastructure.
- 1.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site and in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework* paragraphs 189 and 190 (DCLG 2021), Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) advised the applicant that a programme of archaeological evaluation should be undertaken prior to the determination of planning consent to establish the archaeological potential of the site and inform the planning decision. Their advice was informed by the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site undertaken by RPS Group (RPS 2019) and archaeological investigations immediately to the north of the site.
- 1.3 The initial stages of the investigation were a geophysical survey undertaken by Magnitude Surveys (Magnitude 2019) and an evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Mlynarska 2021). The geophysical survey identified few features of archaeological interest but the evaluation, which consisted of the excavation of seventy-five 30m trial trenches across the site, identified part of a Late Bronze Age- Early Iron Age field system and a possible prehistoric or Roman enclosure ditch in Trench 57.
- 1.4 SCCAS, having reviewed the results of the evaluation, advised ESDC that conditions should be attached to planning consent, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. These conditions were attached to planning permission when this was granted in June 2021 (Conditions 34 and 35). The archaeological work, the scope of which was established following discussions between RPS Group and SCCAS, was for the further investigation of archaeological features in Trench 57, with an area measuring approximately 40m by 35m (0.14ha) being excavated around the feature identified in the trial trench, with contingency to extend the area if necessary.
- 1.5 PCA was appointed by RPS Group, acting on behalf of their client Hopkins Homes Ltd, to undertake the proposed mitigation work, the methodology for which was set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) that was prepared by PCA and approved by SCCAS prior to the commencement of fieldwork (PCA 2021). The fieldwork was undertaken between the 13th and 16th September 2021.

- 1.6 All work relating to this project was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*), Suffolk County Council's *Requirements of Archaeological Excavation* (SCCAS 2021), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2020).
- 1.7 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).
- 1.8 On completion of the project and following Transfer of Title, the archive, which will include the approved version of this report, will be deposited at Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Archive.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The site, which covers an area of 8.07ha, is located on the southern outskirts of Wickham Market, Suffolk, a market town that lies approximately 18km to the north-east of Ipswich city centre (Fig. 1). It comprises the northern part of a large arable field, bounded by Chapel Lane to the east, arable land to the south, High Street (B1438) to the west and modern housing to the north.
- 2.1.2 The site is situated on a gradual, north and east-facing slope, that descends from c. 32m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-west corner of the site to c. 23m aOD in its north-eastern corner. In its wider topographical setting, the site is situated on the east-facing slope of the valley of the River Deben, which is located c. 1.5km distant.
- 2.1.3 The bedrock geology of the site comprises pre-glacial Pleistocene sand of the Red Crag Formation. Across much of the site, this is overlain by superficial deposits comprising Lowestoft Formation Sands and Gravels, with the potential for Lowestoft Formation Diamicton along the western margins (BGS 2020).

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 The historical and archaeological background of the site has been presented in detail in the *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (DBA) undertaken by RPS (RPS 2019). This concluded that there were no archaeological designated or non-designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments) within the site and no potential impacts on any archaeological designated heritage asset in the wider vicinity (ibid., i). A programme of geophysical survey did not detect any evidence for archaeological features within the site (Magnitude Surveys 2019). This background draws on this document, as well as the results of the evaluation phase of works.

Pre-Iron Age (pre-800 BC)

- 2.2.2 Scattered evidence of early prehistoric activity has been recorded in the search area. The archaeological excavations at Wickham Place (WKM 037), immediately north of the site, recorded small quantities of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint and a possible Bronze Age hearth; two prehistoric flint tools are reported to have been found around 500m south of the study site (PTR 032); a Mesolithic flint pick is recorded as having been found north of Loudham Bridge (c. 1km south of the study site) during the construction of Wickham Market by-pass in the 1970s. A Bronze Age copper-alloy socketed axe was found within Pettistree parish to the south-west of the site.

Iron Age – Roman (800 BC to AD 410)

- 2.2.3 There is greater evidence for Iron Age and Roman period activity in the local area, with archaeological evidence for agricultural settlements and two coin hoards recorded within the study area, and the site of an extensive Roman settlement or small town lying a little further to the north-east.
- 2.2.4 Iron Age and/or Roman enclosure systems, pits and cremations are recorded directly north of the study site (WKM 037); a further Iron Age ditch and several Bronze Age-Iron Age pits were recorded to the east of Deben Court, c. 350m north-east of the site (WKM 023, Muldowney 2009).
- 2.2.5 A Late Iron Age glass bead was recovered to the east of Pettistree village, south-east of the study site (PTR 013).
- 2.2.6 One of the largest hoards of Iron Age gold coins found in recent times was discovered to the west of Wickham Market in 2011, suggesting that a significant settlement or religious centre lay within the area. The hoard contained 840 gold staters, by far the majority minted by the Iceni; they were buried in a jar beside a broadly contemporary ditch (Suffolk County Council 2011, unpublished document).
- 2.2.7 A hoard of over 1500 Roman coins, dating to the 3rd century AD and buried within a pottery vessel, was discovered in 1984 c. 1200m due north of the site on Border Cot Lane (WKM 004). A copper alloy coin of Hadrian is reported as having been discovered in the field to the west of the site (PAS CCB290), and a worn 4th-century silver coin and 1st-3rd century copper alloy coins from the field to the west (PAS 4FFD32 & CDOAB3); these coin finds to the west of the study site are likely to represent stray losses.
- 2.2.8 The site of a large Romano-British settlement has been identified east of the River Deben at Lower Hacheston, approximately 1.5km north-east of the study site. Excavations were carried out on the site as part of the Wickham Market A12 by-pass in the early 1970s and revealed a settlement comprising roads, buildings, burial activity, ovens, pottery kilns, and evidence of smithing. The settlement dates from the late 1st century AD, was at its zenith in the 3rd and declined through the 4th century AD (Blagg *et al.* 2004). Pottery kilns and other features/finds have also been recorded in the fields to the west of the main Lower Hacheston excavation during subsequent, smaller development works (*ibid.*).
- 2.2.9 The recent geophysical survey did not identify any evidence for probable Iron Age or Roman features within the study site.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 to 1066)

- 2.2.10 Given the proximity of the Lower Hacheston Roman small town, the Anglo-Saxon place name 'Wickham' (the 'Market' was added later) probably derives from 'Homestead/village associated with a Roman settlement (vicus)'. At Domesday Wickham, part of Wilford Hundred, was of moderate size with 25 registered households (compared to Hacheston to the north with 61 households, Loudham to the south with 80 and Rendlesham to the southeast with 47).
- 2.2.11 A damaged copper-alloy cloisonne enamel disc brooch, dating to the late 10th or 11th century was found to the south of the study site in Pettistree parish (PTR 027).
- 2.2.12 The study site lies between 300m and 500m south of the medieval church of All Saints and the historic (medieval) core of Wickham, and 300m outside the core of Pettistree village to the west. It is therefore expected to be beyond the likely spread of Middle and Late Anglo-Saxon settlement pre-dating the medieval villages.
- 2.2.13 No evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity was recorded in the archaeological excavations on the adjacent Wickham Place site (WKM 037), lying between the study site and the village core of Wickham.

Medieval (1066 to 1485)

- 2.2.14 Archaeological evidence for medieval activity in the study area relates to the historic settlement cores of Wickham Market (WKM 026) and Pettistree (PTR 028).
- 2.2.15 The HER maps the historic settlement core of Wickham Market (WKM 026) lying 300m north of the study site. Within the settlement core, the HER separately identifies the parish church and churchyard (WKM 008 & WKM 053), and medieval finds from archaeological investigations within the settlement core (WKM 048, WKM 069).
- 2.2.16 Similarly, within Pettistree village (PTR 028), the HER separately identifies the parish church (PTR 007) and medieval finds from archaeological monitoring of pipeline construction works (PTR 018, PTR 019, PTR 043, PTR 044).
- 2.2.17 The study site lies outside the medieval settlement core of Wickham Market and Pettistree and during this period would have lain within the surrounding agricultural hinterland.
- 2.2.18 Medieval (or early post-medieval) activity on the Wickham Place development site directly north of the study site was limited, and primarily represented by a ditched agricultural field system comprising two boundaries oriented north-north-west to south-south-east. A lack of contemporary activity within the enclosed areas suggests shallow

impact farming, rather than any nearby occupation.

Post-medieval and modern (1485 to present)

- 2.2.19 The post-medieval cores of Wickham Market and Pettistree are virtually identical in extent to their earlier medieval limits. The study site lies well outside the post-medieval core of both settlements and is anticipated to have continued to lie within the surrounding agricultural hinterland.
- 2.2.20 The earliest map consulted, Hodskinson's 1783 map, is too small-scale to determine detail of land-use within the site but does show the site area lying to the south of 18th-century core of Wickham Market, between two roads (the present High Street and Chapel Lane). The map also shows a roughly east to west routeway running from Pettistree to the edge of the River Deben valley. The section from Pettistree to High Street remains present as the current Rogues Lane; however, the route is shown on Hodskinson's map as continuing through the study site and crossing Chapel Lane to meet (current) Sandy Lane on the edge of the valley.
- 2.2.21 Hodskinson's map is the only map which shows this routeway extending through the study site. As this was the earliest map available the date at which this routeway was first created is unknown, but it assumed to have been in use during the post-medieval period and probably to have had earlier origins.
- 2.2.22 The 1820 (2" to 1 mile) OS drawing shows the roads of High Street and Chapel Lane running south from Wickham Market, with the study site shown as blank space between.
- 2.2.23 The east-west road from Pettistree is shown to the west of High Street (i.e. current Rogues Lane), but there is no indication of any continuation eastwards through the study site and east of Chapel Lane.
- 2.2.24 The more detailed 1883 Ordnance Survey (6" to 1 mile) map shows the same arrangement of High Street, Chapel Lane and Rogues Lane, and also includes internal detail within the study site. The northern side of the site is marked by a straight boundary running between High Street and Chapel Lane; this is annotated as the parish boundary, with the study site lying within Pettistree parish. The map shows the western part of the study site forming a roughly square field adjacent to High Street; a second smaller (narrower) field is shown adjacent to Chapel Lane at the eastern end of the site, with an unenclosed area between these fields (i.e. in the centre of the study site).
- 2.2.25 This arrangement of the site is shown in unchanged form on the subsequent 1905 OS

map and remained largely intact (albeit with some minor losses to the northern boundary and parts of the eastern fields) through the middle of the 20th century.

- 2.2.26 The 1982 OS (1:10,000) map, in contrast, shows the study site lying within a single, undivided, field extending south from Wickham Market. The 1982 map shows the parish boundary running along the northern side of the study site, but this is not marked by any physical hedge or similar.
- 2.2.27 The 2014 map shows Wickham Place development to the north of the study site.
- 2.2.28 The study site lay well outside the historic core of Wickham Market and Pettistree throughout the post-medieval and modern periods, and historic mapping depicts the development area as agricultural land since at least the 19th century.
- 2.2.29 Hodkinson's map suggests that a lane or trackway from Pettistree was present within the study site in the late 18th century, although later maps indicate it had been discontinued by the early 19th century. No evidence for this routeway (e.g. ditches defining the sides of the feature) were identified in the geophysical survey of the study site, but an indistinct shallow linear hollow can be traced on LiDAR.

Previous archaeological work

- 2.2.30 A geophysical survey of the site did not identify any anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological features within its bounds (Magnitude Surveys 2019). Agricultural activity was recorded across the whole survey area. The survey report also identified linear boundaries which correlate with known historic field boundaries illustrated on 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping, and other (unmapped) historic field boundaries (based on their similar magnetic signal and orientation with known boundaries). The HER does not record other any previous archaeological work within the study site itself, however, several interventions have taken place within the study area.
- 2.2.31 The archaeological evaluation of the site undertaken by PCA in 2020 (Mlynarska 2021) recovered evidence for Mesolithic to Early Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age activity, in the form of residual struck flint, most of which was recovered from the ploughsoil. The earliest dated archaeological features encountered by the evaluation were ditches that formed part of a Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age field system. The field system, which was on a north-north-west to south-south-east axis, was continuous with prehistoric activity previously investigated immediately to the north of the site during an excavation conducted in 2014. Artefactual evidence from the field system was limited to only a few sherds of very abraded prehistoric pottery, which is

- typical of field boundary ditches of this period. The evaluation also identified a possible prehistoric or Roman ditch in Trench 57, near the top of the slope, the ditch possibly surrounding a small enclosure.
- 2.2.32 The evaluation confirmed the presence of post-medieval boundary ditches shown on the 1882 OS Map. In addition, two post-medieval pits were also identified in Trenches 49 and 53. The evaluation found no evidence for the road depicted on Hodskinson's map of 1783 that was shown to extend across the northern part of the site.
- 2.2.33 Archaeological works immediately north of the site, in advance of the residential development at Wickham Place, investigated extensive remains of prehistoric and Roman date. Following on from a trial trench evaluation of the full development site in 2013 (ESF25500, WKM 037; Dyson 2013), a programme of further targeted archaeological investigation and recording works were undertaken in 2014 to mitigate the impact of development on identified archaeological assets. The mitigation works involved two areas of open-area excavations and four targeted trenches within the proposed development area (ESF23007; Dyson 2014).
- 2.2.34 The earliest remains identified on the Wickham Place site comprised a small scatter of potentially Bronze Age features including a possible hearth containing an assemblage of worked flint likely to date to the Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. There was also a scattered, mostly residual flint assemblage present within the fills of later features and soil horizons. The most significant findings were a ditched field and enclosure system of Prehistoric or Early Roman date and a series of six cremation burials towards the west of the site. Some of the cremation burials were late Iron Age/Early Roman in date while others may date to the early Bronze Age. A late medieval or early post-medieval ditched agricultural field system comprised two boundaries oriented north-north-west to south-south-east and at the far east of the area were the remains of a possible WWI practice trench system.
- 2.2.35 Elsewhere within the search area, a reasonable number of small archaeological observations, monitoring exercises and evaluations have been undertaken within the built-up area of the town itself.
- 2.2.36 A programme of archaeological evaluation, followed by a small excavation, was undertaken 350m to the north-east of the study site at Deben Court, Chapel Lane, in 2008 (ESF21263, WKM 023). The archaeology (WKM 023) comprised a small number of Bronze Age and Iron Age pits and a single contemporary west-east ditch.
- 2.2.37 Archaeological evaluation at 14-18 High St, 400m north of the study site in 2011

demonstrated that that site had been severely affected by modern development and demolition, and no archaeological remains were identified.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Broad aims

- 3.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation, as stated in the WSI (PCA 2021, 12-13) was to seek to contribute to an understanding of the character, condition, date and extent of the possible enclosure ditch identified in Trench 57 of the previous trial trench evaluation (Mlynarska 2021).
- 3.2 The excavation included a comprehensive appraisal of the context in which the archaeological evidence rests and aimed to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site.
- 3.3 The archaeological remains have been examined in their local and wider regional context in order to fully contextualize the results. Particular attention was given to tying in the results of excavation with related remains that have been previously excavated on adjacent sites.
- 3.4 The excavation aimed to place the results in a local, regional and national context, as appropriate, with reference 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)
- 3.5 In particular, it was anticipated that the excavation would have the following aims:
- To investigate and record the archaeological remains of the probable enclosure in order to inform mitigation on the impact of development;
 - To examine the nature, date and function of any features within the excavation area;
 - To retrieve information to reconstruct past landscapes and environment;
 - To determine the human impact on the landscape;

- To disseminate the results to the wider archaeological community and other interested parties.

Site specific research aims

3.6 The excavation and post-excavation project has sought to:

- Set out the archaeological background to the site, drawing together the results of previous archaeological work in the vicinity of the site;
- Complete a site archive of all project records, artefacts, ecofacts, any other sample residues and summaries of the context, artefact and environmental records;
- Complete an assessment report on the site archive and its potential to answer the research questions and for further analysis;
- Disseminate the results of the project to the public realm.

3.6.1 The project had the following research questions:

- Do the prehistoric/Roman features identified in Trench 57 form part of an enclosure and how does this enclosure relate to the prehistoric field system identified in the same field?
- What is the date of the enclosure and what function did it serve? Is there palaeoenvironmental evidence in the fills of the features that may cast light on the enclosure's use?
- How do the archaeological remains identified within the excavation area and the wider site relate to the remains investigated in the site immediately to the north?

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The excavation comprised a roughly rectangular area of 40m by 35m (0.14ha) in the south-east corner of the wider site (Fig. 3), centred on the archaeological feature, interpreted as a possible prehistoric or Roman enclosure ditch, identified in Trench 57 of the evaluation (Mlynarska 2021).

4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during the excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket (Plate 1). Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate; 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 GEOMAX GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.3.2 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA *Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual* (Taylor and Brown 2009). All features were investigated and recorded to provide an accurate assessment of their character and contents, so as to fulfil the project aims stated in Section 3 above. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) were sampled sufficiently to establish their character.
- 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 also scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.
- 4.4 Appropriate photographs of the archaeological remains encountered by the excavation, supported by general photographs of the site, its setting and working shots,

were taken using high resolution digital cameras (minimum 10 megapixels).

4.5 Sampling strategy

- 4.5.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). As no large or significant finds assemblages were present, these features (tree-throws) were subsequently 100% excavated for finds recovery.
- 4.5.2 Linear features were investigated by means of regularly-spaced slots along 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.

4.6 Environmental sampling

- 4.6.1 Archaeological deposits were assessed 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). No deposits were identified that were suitable for sampling.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper archive

Context register sheets	2
Context sheets	39
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	17
Photo register sheets	2

5.2 Digital archive

Digital photos	63
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical archive

Excavation and evaluation	
Struck flint	3
Prehistoric pottery	4 (18g)
Medieval pottery	1 (8g)

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 The excavation comprised a roughly rectangular area of 40m by 35m (0.14ha) in the south-east corner of the wider site (Fig. 3), centred on the archaeological feature, interpreted as a possible prehistoric or Roman enclosure ditch, identified in Trench 57 of the evaluation (Mlynarska 2021).
- 6.1.2 The excavation established that this feature and several adjacent small ditches, which were on a predominantly north-west to south-east alignment (Plates 2 and 3), date to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age periods. The ditches are the remains of a prehistoric field system, part of the wider field system that was identified by the evaluation across much of the site, and no evidence was found for the postulated enclosure.
- 6.1.3 The features and deposits investigated by the excavation are summarised below, with full context details presented in Appendix 1.

6.2 Undated

- 6.2.1 The excavation area contained six natural features, three of which were previously tentatively identified in the evaluation as possible ditches (two examples) and pits (one example). When exposed and excavated these features were all irregular in plan, generally had irregular sides and bases and measured 0.56-1.65m wide by 0.1-0.43m deep. Some of these features probably represent bioturbation of the light sandy geological deposits by trees or other vegetation, whereas others may represent variations in the geology. In most cases, these features did not produce finds assemblages, with the exception of [129/1110], which contained two Mesolithic/Early Neolithic struck flints.

6.3 Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

- 6.3.1 The main period of activity at the site dates to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and is represented by several small ditches (DITCHES 1-5), on a predominantly north-west to south-east alignment. The largest of these ditches (DITCH 1) consisted of the example previously identified in Trench 57 during the course of the evaluation (slots [135] and [137]), where a single, residual struck flint flake fragment was recovered. This ditch terminated outside the trench footprint in both directions, with the northernmost extent turning to the south-west before doing so.
- 6.3.2 The remaining ditches were extremely shallow, probably due to modern truncation.

Two of these ditches (DITCHES 2 and 3) were located parallel to DITCH 1 and probably represented a reinterpretation or reinstatement of this ditch line. The southernmost ditch, DITCH 3 continued out of the excavation area to the south but was not visible in evaluation Trenches 73 or 74 (located directly to the south of the excavation area). The last two ditches present in the excavation area (DITCHES 4 and 5) were on a slightly different (although still north-west to south-east) alignment to the other ditches present and formed a short segment branching off from the main ditch line. The positioning of these short segments of ditches were clearly complementary to the other ditches present, suggesting that all of the ditches in the excavation area formed a part of the same boundary system.

- 6.3.3 During the excavation, three of the ditches (DITCHES 1-3) produced very limited assemblages of prehistoric pottery, as well as a residual struck flint, from DITCH 1.
- 6.3.4 DITCH 1 ([135], [137], [1112], [1130] and [1134]) (Fig. 4, Sections 5 and 15; Plate 4) was on a north-west to south-east alignment, turning to a north-east to south-west alignment at its northern extent. The ditch measured 1.5-1.6m wide and 0.2-0.42m deep. It contained a single fill, which contained two sherds of pottery (7g), one of a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date, the other of a Later Iron Age date.
- 6.3.5 DITCH 2 ([127], [1124] and [1128]) was on a north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch measured 0.42-0.5m wide by 0.06-0.2m deep. It contained a single fill, which contained a single sherd (7g) of residual Early to Middle Bronze Age pottery.
- 6.3.6 DITCH 3 ([125], [1136] and [1138]) (Fig. 4, Section 16) was on a north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch measured 0.42-0.5m wide by 0.04-0.15m deep. It contained a single fill, which contained a single sherd of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery (2g).
- 6.3.7 DITCH 4 ([1116], [1118], [1120], [1126] and [1132]) (Fig. 4, Section 8) was on a north-west to south-east alignment, turning to a north-east to south-west alignment at its northern north-western extent. The ditch measured 0.42-0.75m wide and 0.05-0.11m deep. It contained a single fill, from which a single sherd (8g) of medieval pottery was recovered.
- 6.3.8 DITCH 5 ([1122]) was on a north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch measured 0.23m wide by 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill, which contained no finds.

7 FINDS

7.1 Struck flint by Barry Bishop

Introduction

7.1.1 The excavation and preceding evaluation of the excavation area (Trench 57) resulted in the recovery of three struck flints from an archaeological and a natural feature. The material has been comprehensively catalogued by context and this includes further descriptive details (Appendix 2). This report summarises the data in the catalogue; it quantifies and describes the material and presents an assessment and outline of its significance. The struck flint was recorded following standard technological and typological classifications and largely follows the methodology of Inizan *et al.* (1999) with modifications and additions as indicated in the text by the author. Retouched tools were classified following standard British works such as Healy (1988) and Bamford (1985). Measurements were taken following the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification and distribution

Table 1: Quantification of the struck flint

Phase	Trench 57	Feature	Excavation	Feature
Blade: prismatic (no.)	-		1	Tree throw [129]/[1110]
Retouched	-		1	Tree throw [129]/[1110]
Flake fragment >15mm (no.)	1	Ditch [135]	0	

7.1.2 A total of three struck flints was recovered during the investigations (Table 1), deriving from Ditch [135] in Trench 57 and Tree-throw [129]/[1110] in the excavation area (this feature had also been investigated in Trench 57).

Description of the struck flint

7.1.3 The struck assemblage is made from a good knapping-quality translucent dark grey/black flint, often with opaque, lighter grey mottling. The pieces are in a good condition, possibly indicating that at least some are contemporary.

7.1.4 The two pieces from Tree-throw [129]/[1110] are the products of a blade-based industry, of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, and include a systematically produced prismatic blade and a thick core-adjustment flake with parallel dorsal scars. The latter also has worn, fine retouch or use-wear along one margin suggestive of heavy-duty cutting or light scraping tasks.

7.1.5 The small fragment of a thin flake from Ditch [135] has no diagnostic characteristics

and can only be broadly dated to the prehistoric period, although given that most of the material recovered from across the wider site is Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age in date, contemporary with the ditch system from which the flint flake was recovered, a similar date can be suggested.

Significance and conclusions

7.1.6 The main significance of the struck flint assemblage is that it demonstrates flintworking activities occurring at the site during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and possibly the Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age periods. However, as it stands the assemblage is small, which limit its interpretation value and understandings of the precise chronology and nature of the activities conducted at the site.

7.2 Prehistoric pottery by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Introduction

7.2.1 A very small assemblage comprising four sherds (18g) of prehistoric pottery was recovered from the excavation, displaying a low mean sherd weight (MSW) of 4.5g. A further single gram of pottery was recovered as crumbs (<1g).

7.2.2 The pottery derived from three contexts, relating to three ditches (Table 2).

7.2.3 The assemblage contains limited quantities of pottery from a number of periods, comprising the Early to Middle Bronze Age (E-MBA; one sherd; 7g), Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (LBA-EIA; two sherds; 9g) and Later Iron Age (LalA; one sherd; 2g).

7.2.4 The previous phase of evaluation on the site uncovered no prehistoric pottery in the vicinity of the excavation area, with the recovered assemblage from this phase of works comprising only 15 sherds (31g) of an almost exclusively Early Iron Age date (Percival 2021). As with the excavation assemblages, the sherds are exclusively small and in a poor condition. The ceramics are in a stable condition. This report provides a quantified description of the excavation assemblage with a brief discussion.

Table 2: Pottery quantification by context

Context	Cut	Feature type	Feature Group	No. of sherds	Wt(g)	Overall context spot date	Fabrics	Reason for date
1123	1124	Ditch	DITCH 2	1	7	E-MBA	GRFL1	Fabric
1129	1130	Ditch	DITCH 1	2	7	LBA-EIA/LalA (Int)	FL1/QU1	Fabric
1137	1138	Ditch	DITCH 3	1	2	LBA-EIA	FL1	Fabric

Table 2: Prehistoric pottery fabric types

SSFabric code	Fabric type	Description
FL1	FL-sm-fc	Sparse to moderate, fine to coarse calcined flint
GRFL1	GR-rs-mcFL-r-c	Rare to sparse, moderate to common grog, rare, coarse calcined flint
QU1	QU-rs-fm	Rare to sparse, fine to moderate sand

Methodology

- 7.2.5 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, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single entities). Sherds weighing less than 1g were classified as crumbs and were recorded by context and weight in the catalogue, but do not form part of this analysis.
- 7.2.6 Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (all sherds in the assemblage were handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were not present within the assemblage.
- 7.2.7 All pottery recovered in the excavation was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (four sherds, 100% of the assemblage).
- 7.2.8 Within the assemblage, three sherds (75% by Sherd Count (SC)) were either lightly or heavily abraded, a very high amount which is in accord with the fragmentary nature of the assemblage. The assemblage contained no diagnostic sherds that could be assigned vessel numbers.

Early to Middle Bronze Age

- 7.2.9 The period assemblage was extremely limited, comprising a single sherd recovered from a single feature, DITCH 2. It was composed of coarse grog and calcined flint fabric GRFL1. Although fabrics of this type are found as minor parts of later, Post-Deverel-Rimbury assemblages (Brudenell 2012), the thick sherd diameter and larger curvature of the sherd suggests it may derive from a bucket or barrel shaped vessel, more

commonly found in pottery traditions in use earlier in the Bronze Age.

Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

- 7.2.10 The period assemblage formed the dominant part of the site assemblage and was recovered from two complementary ditches (DITCHES 1 and 3). Both the sherds were composed of a single, coarse flint fabric (FL1), which is common to various prehistoric pottery traditions. However, the hard-fired nature of the sherds, as well as the greater care taken in manufacture (with little evidence for inclusions protruding through the sherd walls) is more typical of Post-Deverel-Rimbury, Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery in East Anglia.

Later Iron Age

- 7.2.11 The period assemblage was comprised a single, very small (2g) sherd recovered from a single feature, DITCH 1, which otherwise produced Late Bronze Age to Earlier Iron Age pottery. The sherd utilized sand as the sole temper (QU1) and was thinner than the other sherds present in the site assemblage, suggesting that it is of a later date. Its isolation in the context, small size and wear suggests it is intrusive.

Discussion

- 7.2.12 The assemblage contains pottery from a number of periods, comprising the Early to Middle Bronze Age (E-MBA; c. 1800-1100 BC), Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age (LBA-EIA; c. 1150/1100-400/350 BC) and Later Iron Age (LaIA; c. 400/350 BC- AD 50). The site assemblage was extremely limited in size and in a poor condition, meaning that even its potential to date the contexts in which it was found is limited. However, taken at face value it does indicate low-level activity taking place in the vicinity of the site during the periods in question.

7.3 Medieval pottery by Chris Jarrett

Introduction

- 7.3.1 A single sherd (1 ENV, 8g) of medieval pottery was recovered by hand from fill (1131), Ditch [1132] (DITCH 4) during the excavation. The condition of the sherd is poor, indicating that it was deposited under secondary or tertiary circumstances. It consisted of the base of a thin-walled bowl or dish convex base sherd with an internal good quality mottled green glaze, made in Hedingham-type fine ware (HFW1), dated c. 1150–1350 (Suffolk Ceramic Type Series classification). The information was entered in a database format, which will form part of the archive. The pottery type and its form is recorded below in Table 4.

Table 4: Medieval sherd from Ditch 4 (fill (1131), Ditch [1132])

SC = Sherd count, ENV = Estimated number of vessels, Wt = Weight in grams

Pottery type	Date range	SC	ENV	Wt (g)	Forms
Medieval					
Hedingham fineware	1150–1350	1	1	8	Bowl or dish

Discussion

- 7.3.2 The medieval sherd of Essex Hedingham fineware has a wide distribution in East Anglia. The sherd is likely to have entered the site from the process of manuring during the medieval period, with manure and domestic waste having been gathered in middens in nearby farmyards and then spread over the fields.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 The results of the excavation are somewhat limited, due to the relative paucity of archaeological features encountered. They did, however, allow the results of the evaluation (principally the ditch in Trench 57) to be better assigned to period, through the recovery of small finds assemblages of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date from this ditch and most of the other excavated examples. The excavation also confirmed that the ditch in Trench 57 was not an enclosure ditch, as was initially thought, but part of an outfield agricultural system, of a similar nature to that identified across much of the northern extent of the wider site in the evaluation. Despite the limited results, it can therefore be claimed that the site specific research objectives for the project were achieved.
- 8.1.2 The Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age remains were represented by several small ditch lines, on a predominantly north-west to south-east alignment, the largest of which was previously investigated in Trench 57, during the course of the evaluation (Mlynarska 2021, 17-18). Exposing the wider area demonstrated that this ditch was not part of an enclosure but terminated outside the trench footprint in both directions, with the northernmost extent turning to the south-west. The other ditches present were much smaller, consisting of small, shallow ditch segments on complementary alignments to the larger ditch. Their parallel alignment with the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age ditch investigated in Trenches 29, 76, 51 and 56 to the east and the projected continuation of their alignment coinciding with that of a ditch of a similar date in Trenches 7, 13 and 28 to the north-west supports their interpretation as being part of the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age field system.
- 8.1.3 Finds assemblages recovered were extremely limited, consisting of very small assemblages of pottery and struck flint. The poor, abraded condition of the Later Iron Age and medieval sherds recovered from two of the ditches indicate that they are intrusive. No discrete archaeological features were identified, with some of the possible 'features' identified in the evaluation being demonstrated to be natural features, or variations in the natural geology upon excavation.
- 8.1.4 The settlement to which these field systems belong cannot be identified based on the results of the evaluation and excavation, although it is possible that it relates to the more slightly more archaeologically productive enclosure systems and pits identified to the north-east of the site, at Deben Court (Muldowney 2009). These enclosures may also relate to further ditches identified at Wickham Place (Dyson 2013 and 2014), immediately to the north of the current site. As such, the limited evidence from Chapel

Lane may reflect the increasing distance from this area of more dense activity, focused on the lower lying ground adjacent to the River Deben. Identifying the cores of settlements belonging to this broad period can, however, be a difficult exercise, as settlements are often quite 'mobile', with the corners of certain fields being selected for settlement on a changing, often seemingly generational basis.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Hopkins Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work through RPS Group, their archaeological consultant, and James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 9.1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne (Project Officer), Tabitha Lawrence and Sophie Pallett. This report was written by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne, with contributions from Barry Bishop and Chris Jarrett, 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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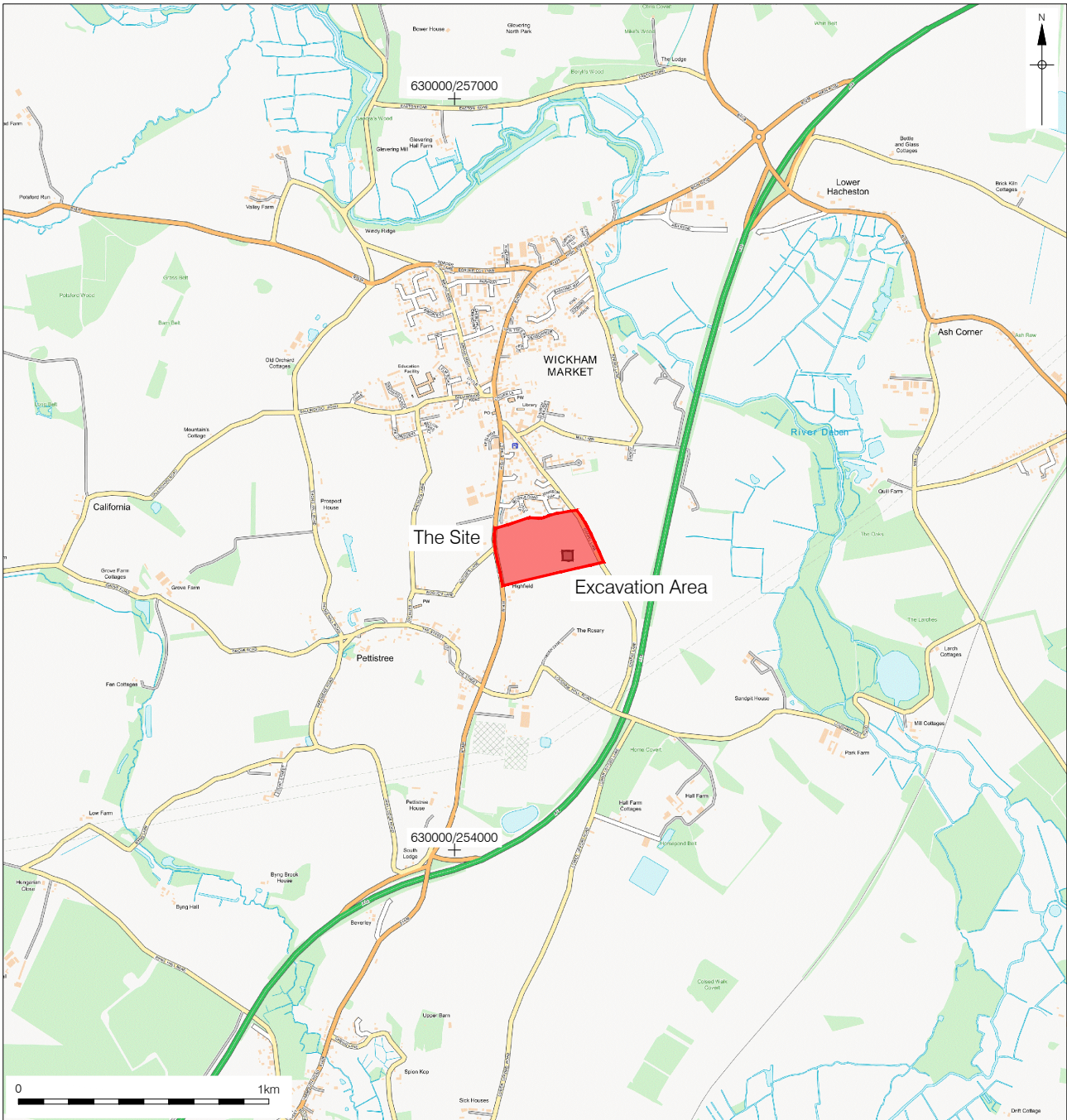
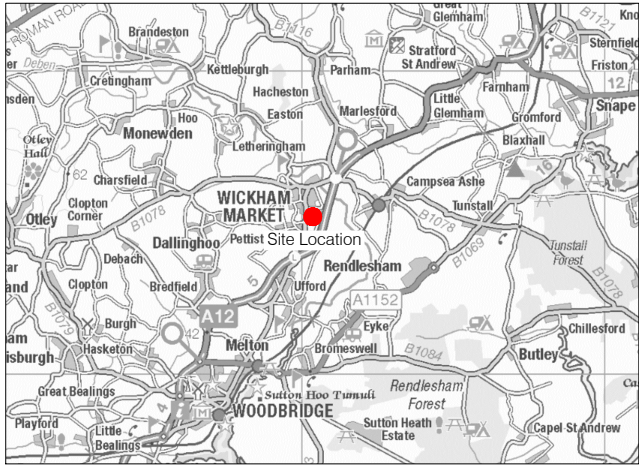
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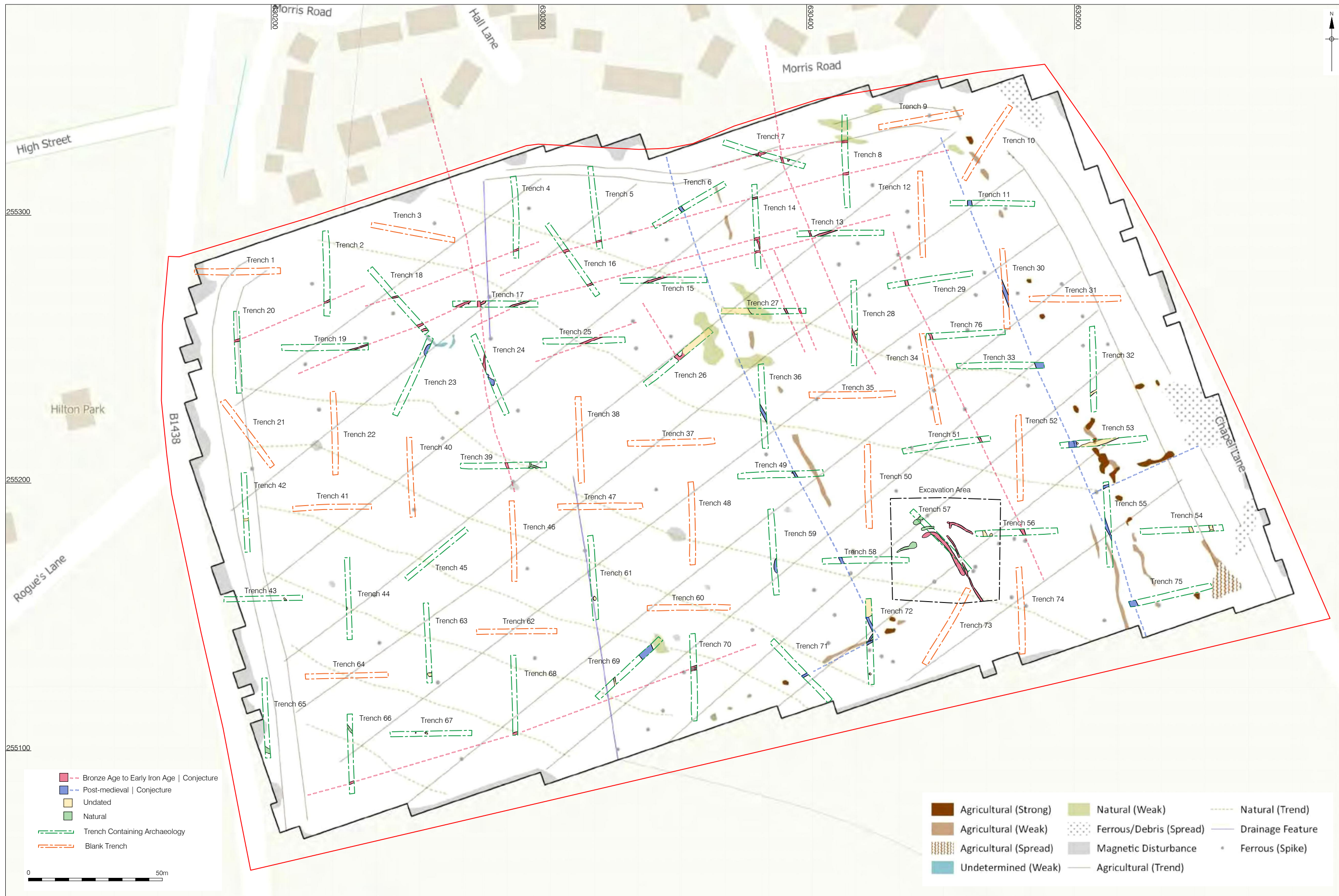
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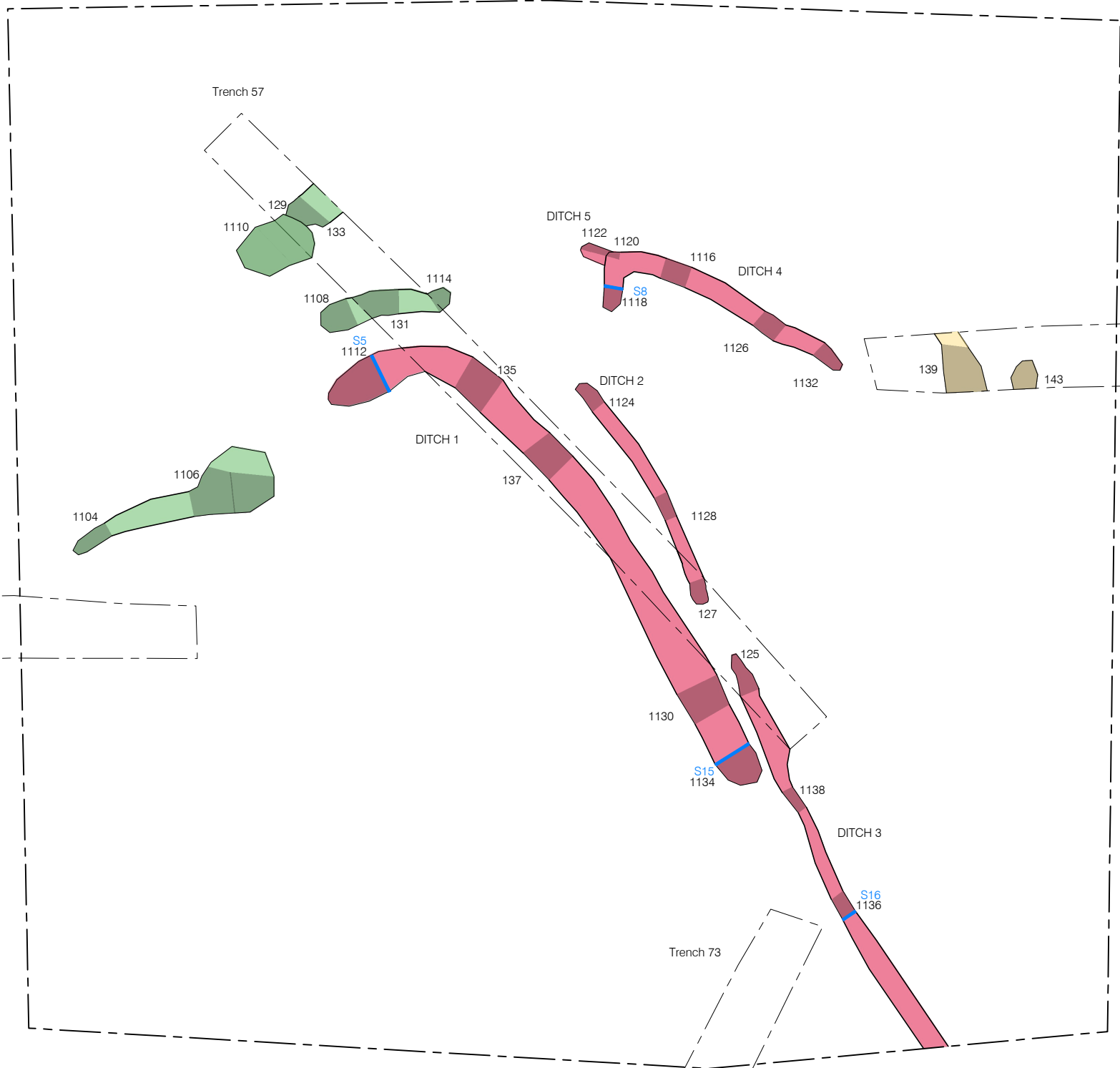
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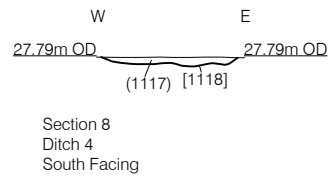
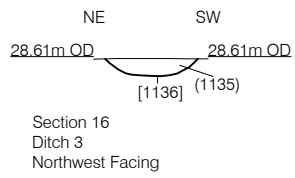
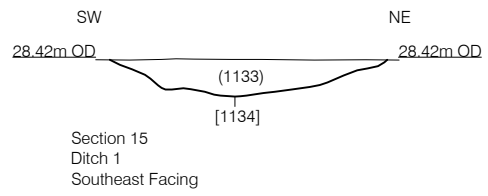
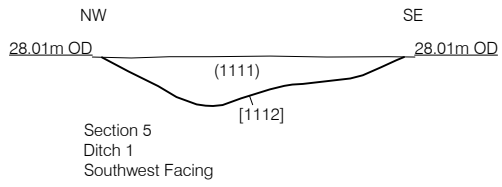
Excavation Area



- Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age | Excavated Slot
- Undated | Excavated Slot
- Natural | Excavated Slot



Figure 3
Detailed Plan of Excavation Area
1:200 at A3



PLATES



Plate 1: General view of the excavation area, looking west



Plate 2: The excavation area, looking north



Plate 3: The excavation area, looking west



Plate 4: Ditch 1, slot [1134], looking north-west

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Cut	Type	Category	Feature Name	Period Name	Group Name	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Section	Description	Cuts	Cut by	Fill Sequence
1100	1100	Layer	Topsoil				0	0		0	Friable, light to mid brownish-grey silty sand with rare flint			
1101	1101	Layer	Subsoil				0	0		0	Friable, light to mid orangey-brown silty sand with rare flint			
1102	1102	Layer	Natural				0	0		0	Friable, light to mid brownish-orange sand with occasional flint			
1103	1104	Fill	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	0.56	0.25	1	Moderate, mid orangey-brown silty clay with occasional flint			1/1
1104	1104	Cut	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	0.56	0.25	1	Irregular in plan, moderate sides, V-shaped base			
1105	1106	Fill	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	1.65	0.16	2	Loose, mid orangey-brown silty sand			1/1
1106	1106	Cut	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	1.65	0.16	2	Irregular in plan, moderate sides, uneven base			
1107	1108	Fill	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	1.2	0.3	3	Moderate, mid-yellowish brown silty sand			1/1
1108	1108	Cut	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	1.2	0.3	3	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, E-W aligned			
1109	1110	Fill	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1.7	0.6	0.36	4	Loose, mid orangey-brown silty sand			1/1
1110	1110	Cut	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1.7	0.6	0.36	4	Circular in plan, moderate sides, uneven base			
1111	1112	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 1	LBA-EIA		2.2	1.6	0.26	5	Friable, mid orangey brown silty sand			1/1
1112	1112	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 1	LBA-EIA		2.2	1.6	0.26	5	Linear in plan, moderate sides, uneven base, NE-SW aligned			
1113	1114	Fill	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	0.8	0.1	6	Loose, mid orangey-brown silty sand			1/1
1114	1114	Cut	Natural feature		Undated	NATURAL FEATURES	1	0.8	0.1	6	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, E-W aligned			
1115	1116	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		1	0.73	0.09	7	Friable, mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint			1/1
1116	1116	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		1	0.73	0.09	7	Linear in plan, gentle sides, uneven base, NW-SE aligned			
1117	1118	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		0.6	0.75	0.05	8	Friable, light orangey-brown silty sand with occasional flint			1/1
1118	1118	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		0.6	0.75	0.05	8	Linear in plan, gentle sides, uneven base, NE-SW aligned			

Context No	Cut	Type	Category	Feature Name	Period Name	Group Name	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Section	Description	Cuts	Cut by	Fill Sequence
1119	1120	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		0.24	0.42	0.1	9	Loose, mid orangey-brown silty sand			1/1
1120	1120	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		0.24	0.42	0.1	9	Linear in plan, moderate sides, uneven base, NE-SW by NW-SE aligned	1121		
1121	1122	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 5	LBA-EIA		1.02	0.24	0.1	9	Loose, mid orangey brown silty sand		1120	1/1
1122	1122	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 5	LBA-EIA		1.02	0.24	0.1	9	Linear in plan, moderate sides, uneven base, NW-SE aligned			
1123	1124	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 2	LBA-EIA		1	0.5	0.12	10	Friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with rare flint			1/1
1124	1124	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 2	LBA-EIA		1	0.5	0.12	10	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned			
1125	1126	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		1	0.65	0.11	11	Friable, mid greyish brown silty sand			1/1
1126	1126	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		1	0.65	0.11	11	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned			
1127	1128	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 2	LBA-EIA		1	0.42	0.06	12	Loose, mid orangey-brown, silty sand			1/1
1128	1128	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 2	LBA-EIA		1	0.42	0.06	12	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned			
1129	1130	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 1	LBA-EIA		1	1.6	0.28	13	Moderate, mid orangey-brown silty sand with occasional flint			1/1
1130	1130	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 1	LBA-EIA		1	1.6	0.28	13	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned			
1131	1132	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		1	0.6	0.09	14	Loose, mid orangey-brown silty sand			1/1
1132	1132	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 4	LBA-EIA		1	0.6	0.09	14	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned			
1133	1134	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 1	LBA-EIA		1	1.5	0.2	15	Loose, mid orangey-brown silty sand with occasional flint			1/1
1134	1134	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 1	LBA-EIA		1	1.5	0.2	15	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned			
1135	1136	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 3	LBA-EIA		1	0.49	0.08	16	Loose, mid-orangey-brown silty sand			1/1
1136	1136	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 3	LBA-EIA		1	0.49	0.08	16	Linear in plan, moderate sides, concave base, NW-SE aligned			
1137	1138	Fill	Ditch	DITCH 3	LBA-EIA		1	0.42	0.04	17	Friable, mid orangey-brown silty sand with rare flint			1/1
1138	1138	Cut	Ditch	DITCH 3	LBA-EIA		1	0.42	0.04	17	Linear in plan, gentle sides, flat base, NW-SE aligned			

APPENDIX 2: WORKED FLINT CATALOGUE

Context	Ref.	Feature	Phase	Blade: prismatic	Flake fragment >15mm	Retouched	Suggested date range	Comments
128		Tree-throw 129/1110	Exc	1			Meso/ENeo	Large but systematically produced, quite chipped and distal end missing
128		Tree-throw 129/1110	Exc			1	Meso/ENeo	Thick core adjustment flake, struck from a blade / narrow flake core, with inverse, fine retouch/use-wear along right margin. Moderate to heavy wear. 47x27x16mm
134	<3>	Ditch 135	57		1		Preh.	Small fragment of a thin flake

APPENDIX 3: OASIS SUMMARY FORM

Summary for preconst1-428045

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-428045
Project Name	Land off Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, Suffolk: An Archaeological Excavation
Sitename	
Activity type	Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	PTR 070
Planning Id	DC/20/3264/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	13-Sep-2021 - 16-Sep-2021
Location	Chapel Lane, Wickham Market NGR : TM 30410 55170 LL : 52.1467226656456, 1.36625525037815 12 Fig : 630410,255170
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : East Suffolk Parish : Pettistree
Project Methodology	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd carried out a single phase of excavation between the 13th and 16th of September 2021, following on from a previous phase of evaluation over the wider site area, carried out earlier in 2021. The work was commissioned by RPS Group, on behalf of their client, Hopkins Homes Ltd. The excavation was targeted on Trench 57 of the evaluation, which contained a possible prehistoric or Roman enclosure ditch. The excavation uncovered this ditch, as well as segments of other, complementary ditches on a similar alignment. Aside from the previously identified ditch, all the features had been heavily truncated and as a result were very shallow. Finds assemblages recovered were also extremely limited. As a result, the ditches probably represent the remains of a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age field system, of a similar character to that identified across parts of the wider site in the evaluation.
Project Results	This was not collected in OASIS IV when this record was originally created
Keywords	Ditch - EARLY IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	L, Morgan-Shelbourne
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - PTR 070
Archives	Physical Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service

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