



**LAND OFF THORPE ROAD
LITTLE CLACTON
ESSEX**

UPADTED DESK BASED ASSESSMENT



Report Number: 1127

March 2016



LAND OFF THORPE ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON, ESSEX

Updated - Desk Based Assessment

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Abstract

Britannia Archaeology was commissioned by Sole Bay Developments Ltd to update an archaeological desk based assessment on Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex (NGR: TM 1809 1883). The original assessment was completed in December 2014. The assessment will support a planning application for the residential development of the site and the associated works.

After undertaking research, consulting the EHER and visiting the site, the potential for finds or features dating to all periods is low.

Little Clacton is typical of villages in rural Essex, which are characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, usually focused on or around the parish church or village greens. The assessment site lies on the periphery this model and as such has undergone little in the way of development for the last 1500 years.

Historical maps show that the site has been given over to agricultural for at least the last 200 years and the only change has been a minor one to the internal field boundaries.

If standard depths for residential builds in this area are used then the construction would impact on any subsurface archaeological remains if present. The impact on the character for any listed buildings in the search area is negligible.



1.0 INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

1.1 Project Background

This report presents an updated archaeological desk based assessment undertaken by Britannia Archaeology Ltd, commissioned by Sole Bay Developments LTD for a proposed residential development on Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex (NGR: TM 1809 1883) (Fig.1). The original assessment was completed in December 2014, (Brook, M. 2014. *Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex; Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. Britannia Archaeology R1078).

This assessment will support a planning application for the proposed development of the site which will involve:

- construction of 81 residential properties on approximately 4.10 Hectares of land ;
- construction of internal access routes and associated services across the site.

Changes to the original plans include (Fig. 7):

- Bay windows added to house plans
- 6 additional visitors' parking spaces provided
- Private driveways adjusted to aid turning
- Bungalow plots 1 & 79 replaced with new four bedroom 1.5 storey houses
- Main access junction to allow left turn only

The objective of the assessment is to establish the presence of, or likely potential for, buried archaeological remains and the possible impact of the development on these remains. The assessment will also consider the setting of the new development in relation to existing listed buildings and known archaeological sites within the immediate area.

The study area (Fig.1) is formed by two distinct areas of land totalling approximately 4.10 Hectares. The majority of the site is within an area of former field and pasture while part of the study area in the south east is covered with an area of woodland, there is no indication in any records that this is a piece of ancient woodland and has subsequently been treated as relatively modern. The site does not fall within a known conservation area or Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI).

1.2 Site Description

The assessment site is located 1.30 km east of the village of Little Clacton and covers an area of 4.10 Ha (Fig. 1.). The site lies in the parish of Little Clacton and is situated at approximately C. 22.00m AOD.

No records from the British Geological survey were available for the underlying geology on the site, however previous geotechnical work on the site revealed that the superficial deposits consisted of stiff clays with pockets of sand throughout. Approximately 250.00m to the east of the site the BGS records a pocket of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (sand and gravel), (BGS, 2014) The bedrock geology is Thames Group Clay, a Sedimentary



Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period when the local environment was dominated by deep seas, (BGS, 2014).

The site is bordered by Thorpe Road to the west and Holland road to the North. Access to the site is down a private drive accessed from Thorpe road. This leads to the detached house that lies in the western portion of the site. Residential properties lie both to the east and south of the assessment site. Currently the majority of the land is vacant and could be described as been given over to pasture while a small portion of the land in the western part of the site forms part of the garden for the residence. Other parts of the land near the residence were part of the old chicken farm that used to occupy this area of the site. The area of woodland in the south east of the site also contained a small natural pond.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims & Scope

This report aims to assess all known information relating to subsurface and above ground archaeological remains within a 1.50 km radius centred on a point located in the middle of the site to identify the potential presence of archaeological remains that will be impacted upon during the development. It will also consider the impact of the development on the setting of existing archaeological sites and listed buildings in the immediate vicinity. This report will take into consideration existing truncation from previous developments and the potential impact caused by the implementation of the proposed development plans and construction methods.

2.2 Research and Sources

Historic Environment Record Office

The original search of the Essex Historic Environment Record Office (EHER) was undertaken in December 2014. At the request of the client for the case of this updated assessment no new search has been undertaken.

The EHER was originally consulted and provided details of all data held within a 1.50 km radius of the site. The EHER database holds records of archaeological sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, finds spots, registered parks and gardens, protected wreck sites and battlefields.

Documentary Sources

Primary and secondary documentary sources were consulted via the EHER, the Colchester Archive Access Point and the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk) in December 2014. All sources consulted are listed in the bibliography.



Cartographic Sources

A search of primary and secondary cartographic sources was undertaken at the Colchester Archive Access Point in Colchester Library.

Site Visit

A site visit was undertaken on the 5th November 2014 and a photographic record compiled. The visit aimed to identify any existing earthworks or visible archaeological remains, establish the condition and character of the existing site and note its setting. Proposed site plans were consulted during the visit to assess the areas where there is the greatest potential to encounter archaeological remains.

Presentation of Results

The results of the research are presented by historical/archaeological period and are a synthesis of all data gathered that are relevant to the site. Not all of the data supplied by the EHER is referred to in the report, however Appendix 1 contains a full table and brief description of the HER search results.

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

The archaeological assessment was carried out in accordance with guidance laid down by the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010) in March 2012. The relevant local development plan is the Tendring District Local Plan (2007).

3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred; and



- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

3.2 *Tendring District Local plan (2007)*

The Tendring District Local Plan 2007 deals with the development on archaeological sites in Policy EN29; this states the following:

Policy EN29 – Archaeology

- Development will not be permitted where the Council considers that it will adversely affect nationally important archaeological sites and their setting.
- Permission will be refused where development proposals do not satisfactorily protect archaeological remains of local importance. Where applications are submitted on sites where information indicates that there are likely to be archaeological remains, the Council will expect to be provided with the results of an archaeological evaluation prior to the determination of an application. The evaluation should seek to define:

A. the nature and condition of any archaeological remains within the application site;

B. the likely impact of the proposed development on such features; and

C. the means of mitigating the impact of the proposed development in order to achieve preservation "in situ" or, where this is not merited, the method of recording such remains prior to development. Where development is permitted on sites containing archaeological remains, any planning permission will be subject to conditions and/or formal agreements requiring appropriate excavation and recording in advance of development and the publication of the results.

4.0 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH RESULTS**

The following results are presented as a synthesis of all data obtained from the sources detailed above (Section 2.0) and listed in the bibliography (Figs. 2-3) in the research undertaken for the original report. Where possible the Essex HER preferred reference has been used. The EHER search returned 32 records in total including historic monuments and listed buildings.

4.1 **Prehistoric (750000 BC – 43A D) (Fig. 2)**

Essex has a rich record of prehistoric activity and archaeological sites. Fertile land and an abundance of natural resources means that the area has always been an attractive location for settlement.

The EHER returned two records of prehistoric date, neither of which are located within the assessment site. The oldest record (MEX1034365) relates to three pieces of possible



worked flint, possibly Lower Palaeolithic to Late Bronze Age in date, that were recovered during a field walking survey at Oakwood Industrial park approximately 300m south east of the assessment site.

The second record dates from the Iron Age (MEX1040021) and refers to a monitoring exercise that took place 250m from the assessment site, on an EDF Energy Networks Cable Route, and records that a ditch was encountered that contained a fragment of Iron Age Pottery.

While the wider landscape contains evidence of limited prehistoric activity, there is no record of any such activity on the assessment site. There are a number of undated cropmarks in the surrounding fields that are designated as undated which could potentially be of prehistoric date. The EHER returned one example record (2917), which relates to the possible location of a barrow.

4.2 Romano-British (43AD – c. 410AD) (Fig. 2)

The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for the wider area with *Camulodunum* (Colchester) becoming the Roman Capital of Britannia. Little Clacton is located approximately 22km south east of *Camulodunum* and located near a Roman road connecting the capital to the coast.

Much of Britain remained virtually unchanged in the years shortly after the Roman invasion of 43 AD; however East Anglia experienced significant development both in settlements and villa building as well as road construction.

The EHER returned one entry dating to the Roman period (MEX1034363). A single sherd of Roman greyware was found approximately 300m south east of the assessment site. The pottery was found as part of a field walking exercise on the extension to Oakwood Business Park. The find was probably the result of agricultural practice rather than any kind of significant archaeological anomaly.

There is no direct evidence for Roman activity on the assessment site and limited evidence for more Roman activity in the search area. While there was a Roman find recorded in the field walking exercise at Oakwood Business Park (MEX1034363) this was the only one in the search area. The lack of Roman evidence in the area may be considered a little unexpected especially given the sites location near the Roman capital of *Camulodunum*.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon (early medieval) (c.410AD – 1066AD)

The withdrawal of Roman authority in Britain in the early 5th Century AD and the dominance of the Anglo-Saxons in the south and east of England led to significant changes in settlement distribution. Many of the Roman settlements, such as Colchester, waned in significance and new settlements were established. Settlement patterns persisting throughout Iron Age and Roman Britain did not necessarily continue into the Anglo-Saxon period.



The settlement of Clacton was established within this period. The origins of the name Clacton is believed to have come from the name of a man associated with the estate, which in old English (Anglo – Saxon) is referred to as *Clacc*. The combination of this name with the old English words *ing* and *tūn*; *ing* meaning followers and *tūn* meaning an enclosed farmstead or dwelling, (Mills, A.D. 2003). The name may also be a derivative of the anglo-scandinavian name *Klax*, (Reaney, P. H. 1935).

The EHER search returned no records dating from this period and there is no direct evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity on the assessment site and limited evidence for more substantial settlement activity in the wider area.

4.4 Medieval (1066 AD – 1540 AD) (Fig. 2 & 3)

The medieval period in Little Clacton is better represented in both primary and secondary sources with four archaeological records and three listed building records within the search area.

The entry in Domesday Book of 1086 AD, records the village of Clacton (now separated as two villages; Great and Little Clacton) in the Tendring Hundred and County of Essex. The total population was 152 households (very large) comprising 47 villagers, 95 smallholders and 10 slaves. The total tax was assessed at 20 geld units which was a very large amount. The village had nine lord's plough teams and 23 men's plough teams, 20 acres of meadow, pasture with 141 sheep, woodland with 400 pigs, one mill and one fishery. The ownership of many manorial demesnes passed to Norman aristocrats after the Conquest and however Clacton remained under the control of the Bishop of London St Paul. (Morris, J. 1985). With such a large population for the time and the high value attached to the land it is fair to say that Clacton was a settlement of some significance before the conquest of 1066 AD. It is also in the medieval period where the name of Little Clacton is first used, in 1321 AD, (Walker, K. 1958).

Clacton appears to have prospered more than the surrounding area after the Conquest with a significant rise in livestock and value. The Bishop of London St Paul, to whom the lands were granted, appears numerous times in the Domesday survey. The value of Clacton from the information and its setting appears to have lain in its rich pasture of the marshlands, its ready access to the sea and also therefore the capital, (Walker, K. 1598).

The earliest record (MEX1040022) for this period returned by the EHER relates to a monitoring of an EDF Energy Networks cable route approximately 430m east of the assessment site. The excavations uncovered a number of medieval features the most significant of which was the site of a small, medieval rectangular structure with a burnt patch, identified as an oven or a hearth. It was not clear from the excavations however if the structure was domestic or agricultural in function or even if it was permanent.

Medieval finds were encountered during the field walking exercise associated with the Extension to the Oakwood Business Park (MEX1034364). The density of the finds overall was low and consisted of a single sherd of an 11th– 12th century cooking pot, a further six sherds of medieval pottery and two sherds of 15th – 16th century pottery. 29 pieces of



medieval/late medieval tile were found as well, however these and the other finds that were encountered are probably the result of agricultural practice rather than settlement.

A series of cropmarks dating to the medieval period have been identified in the search area. One (16989) located in a field approximately 430m south east of the assessment site; delineate the location of a possible medieval field boundary and a small rectangular enclosure. The second record (16988) refers to a field located 400m south west of the assessment site containing cropmarks that are believed to mark the location of a series of linear features and possible pits.

The first listed building record (DEX21288) returned by the EHER search relates to the parish church of St James and is designated Grade II*. The church is located in the centre of Little Clacton approximately 1.20 km west of the assessment site. The church is 12th century on origin and the Nave was lengthened and rebuilt in the early 14th century. The bell tower contains three bells the oldest of which was cast by Robert Crouch in 1437. It is believed that he only cast thirteen bells and this is the only one in Essex. Archaeological intervention in 2007 monitored the removal of a cement render which revealed architectural features not previously seen including an arch in the north chancel wall, (Andrews, D. 2007).

The final two records (DEX21168 and DEX21872) both refer to timber framed dwellings with possible construction dates in the early 16th century. The first (DEX21168) called Oak House, is located approximately 210m south west of the site while the second, (DEX21872) named, Clacton Grove House, is located 900m north east of the assessment site.

Medieval activity in the search area seems to relate to domestic farming activity. The village centre developed near the parish church of St James on either side of the old highway, (TDC. 1994). It is worth noting that through the medieval period the lands of Little and Great Clacton remained in the possession of the office of the Bishop of London, that is until 1545 (six years after the dissolution of nearby St Osyth's Priory) when the lands passed into the hands of traditional manorial lords and their descendants.

4.5 Post-medieval and modern (1540AD – Present) (Figs. 2 & 3)

Clacton and subsequently Little Clacton are reasonably well-documented, especially in cartographic sources, towards the latter half of the post-medieval period. The EHER search returned one monument record and six listed building entries.

The earliest record for this period (MEX1040578) returned by the EHER search relates to the site where a demolished post mill may have stood. A broad date of 1540 to 1900 is given as no clear construction date can be ascertained. Located at Foot's Farm, approximately 650m south west of the site, the post mill is believed to have stood at or very close to Foot's Farm, (which was formerly in Little Clacton). The evidence for this comes from a description contained in documentary sources detailed in a book; Farries, K. Essex Windmills, Millers and Millwrights, volumes 1 to 5, 1981 – 1988.



Two of the listed building entries date to the 17th century. One (DEX2188) relates to Willow Farmhouse, which is Grade II listed, and is located approximately 530m south west of the assessment site. The second (DEX2114) also refers to a timber framed house, named Westbourn Cottage. This dwelling is, located in Little Clacton itself, 1.14 km west of the site, the building is Grade II listed and has a thatched roof.

The earliest maps of the area show the village of Little Clacton but give very little detail. They confirm the rough location in relation to surrounding towns and villages. Bowen's Map of Suffolk dates to 1749 and shows pictorial representations of the village. It shows a basic layout of the roads, major dwellings and the church. Andre and Chapman's map from 1777 shows more detail of the buildings of Little Clacton and the study area can clearly be identified as an area of open fields with no sizeable or important structures on it.

The continued expansion of Little Clacton in the 18th century can be seen in the construction of more buildings in the search area. The final three listed building records (DEX21938, DEX21937 and DEX21285) returned by the EHER search all date to the 18th century. One of the records is close to the assessment site (DEX21285), approximately 200m west, and relates to a timber framed house called Reedlands Farm. This structure has a construction date of between 1733 and 1766 AD. The next record (DEX21937) also relates to a timber framed dwelling, also close to the site, 260m north and named Parkgate Farmhouse it is also Grade II listed. The construction date for this building is broad and is placed between 1700 and 1799 AD.

The final record (DEX21938) relates to a timber framed barn approximately 870m north west of the assessment site. The barn also has a broad construction date, which lies somewhere between 1700 and 1799 AD and it is Grade II listed.

Development of the area in the late post-medieval and modern periods is well documented in 19th century cartographic sources (Fig. 4 & 5). Faden's map from 1804 and and Greenwoods map from 1824 both show little detail of the area except for the continued expansion of buildings. The maps show important buildings marked in other areas so the lack of anything marked in the study area or wider search area can be considered evidence that there simply wasn't something of note (with the exception of the parish church) in the area.

No Enclosure Map was found for Little Clacton, however the Tithe Map dated to 30th May 1839 (Fig. 5) clearly identifies the assessment site to the East of Little Clacton. It shows that the modern field boundaries were part of four plots of land:

TITHE NUMBER	LAND OWNER	OCCUPIER	SITE NAME	A	R	P
37	John Sparling	Himself	Five Acres	4	0	22
38	Thomas Marbely	Maria I'anson	Ten Acres	9	1	30
39	Thomas Marbely	Maria I'anson	Chaseway	8	1	19
116	Thomas Marbely	Maria I'anson	Pond Field	8	1	19
479	Thomas Marbely	John Sparling	Linky Field	8	1	20
480	Thomas Marbely	Maria I'anson	Seven Acres	7	0	07
481	Thomas Marbely	Maria I'anson	Long bars	6	1	31



482	Thomas Marbely	Maria I'anson	Round Bars	7	3	21
483	Thomas Marbely	John Sparling	Sallow Field	6	3	28
484	Thomas Marbely	John Sparling	Long Six Acres	6	0	02
485	Thomas Marbely	John Sparling	Four Acres	4	2	00
486	Thomas Marbely	John Sparling	Cart Lodge Field	3	2	10
487	Thomas Marbely	John Sparling	Four Acres	4	3	24
488	Thomas Marbely	John Sparling	Short Six Acres	6	0	22
501	John Cook	John Dennis	Cart Lodge Field	11	3	13

Table 1: Tithe Apportionments

From table 1 we can see that the majority of the plots were owned by Thomas Marbely and farmed by the tenants, Maria I'anson and John Sparling. It is worth noting that the plots of land that the assessment site spans, 482 Round Bars, 483 Sallow Field, 484, Long Six Acres, and 485 Four Acres, were distinctly separate and farmed by two different people, Maria I'anson and John Sparling.

Kelly's directory for Essex from 1859 describes Little Clacton in great detail referring to the medieval parish church of St James with its wooden turret and three bells. The village is described as having 2966 acres and a population in 1851 of 615, (Kelly. 1859). Later in the 1878 directory the population has increased to 630. The later edition also describes the area as having a mixed soil of clay and gravel with the chief crops of the area being barley, wheat and oats, (Kelly. 1878).

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map dated 1884 (Fig. 4) offers far more detail than earlier maps and the assessment site is clearly identifiable to the east of Little Clacton. The most obvious changes since the production of the Tithe map are the combining of the four separate fields into a single plot of land. The second edition Ordnance Survey of 1897 (Fig. 5) shows no changes to the layout and no additional structures.

The EHER search returned four records (MEX49982, MEX49983, MEX49984 and MEX49985) dating to the modern period. All of these were related to world war two infrastructures and all date from 1939 to 1945 AD. Two of the records (MEX49983 and MEX49985) refer to Road Barriers that were placed on the west side of Little Clacton approximately 1.10 km east of the assessment site. By 1946 these barriers had been removed and only slight evidence for their placement in aerial photos remained. One of the records (MEX49984) is for Anti-Tank Pimples (which have since been destroyed) that bridged the gap between the road barrier (MEX 19983) across London Road and the Vicarage itself. The final record (MEX49982) relates to a Pillbox, located just north of the centre of Little Clacton and 1.18 km north west of the assessment site. The pillbox is unusual, shaped square at its north west end and pointed at its south east end it constitutes a very substantial structure with 15 inch concrete walls and an entrance on its south west side. In each of the two walls that form the point there are loopholes which are 3'9" in width but only 11" high. They have no flaring but are formed square. This indicates that they are most likely for the placement of Vickers Machine Guns. The structure is sunk deep into the ground so that only 3'9" is above ground level with a further 6' below the surface.



The civil fortification of Little Clacton follows the very common trend for small settlements across the southern and eastern coast which was expected to be the first line of defence should the invasion from mainland Europe take place.

Importantly the ordnance survey map (Fig. 5) from 1974 shows that the structure that is present in the western section of the site and forms part of the Thorpe Road Chicken Farm was yet to be built securing this dwelling as modern in date.

4.6 Undated

The SHER search produced 11 undated records. Two of these records (MEX1034366 and MEX1042635) relate to undated findspots. MEX1034366 refers to the fieldwalking exercise undertaken at the Extension to Oakwood Business Park, the undated find is assumed to be the result of agricultural practice rather than any kind of settlement activity and no details or description of the object is given. The second undated findspot (MEX1042635) is located 450m east of the assessment site. No details on the find were recorded in the EHER.

The rest of the undated records (2917, 2977, 2979, 2980, 3155, 3659, 16987, 16988, 16989, 17245, 18345, 50944) returned by the EHER search all relate to cropmarks in the fields surrounding the assessment site. Some of these cropmarks are particularly interesting and have spurred investigations in the area before, for example south of the assessment site at the Extension to Oakwood Business Park. Once record (2980) returned by the EHER search relates to a series of cropmarks 100m west of the assessment site which appear to show the remains of an elaborate field system which includes linear features, a ring ditch as well as rectangular and oval enclosures. Another set of cropmarks (16987) are located just 150m to the north of the assessment site and appear to show the remains of relic field boundaries.

While there is a substantial amount of cropmarks in the surrounding area none are recorded on the assessment site and none of those which have been recorded appear to extend through the boundaries of the site.

4.7 Site Visit (Fig. 6)

A site visit was undertaken by the author on 5th November 2014 with the following aims:

- to determine the current state of the assessment area;
- to investigate the presence of any surface or potential subsurface archaeological remains; and
- to ascertain the current level of truncation.

The study area (Fig. 1) was not in use and could be described as been turned over to pasture. The boundaries to the north, east and west of the northern of the site are formed by young trees, hedge lines and a wooden fence. Part of the southern boundary is open looking into a recent development in the neighbouring property. The area of woodland in the south eastern part of the site continues all the way to the boundary where there is another wooden fence.



The structures associated with the now disused Thorpe Road Chicken Farm are located in the western section of the site. These consist of a 1980's modern dwelling and a series of wooden outbuildings formed in a row adjacent to the driveway, and were presumably for the storage of items associated with the chicken farm.

No obvious archaeological remains or structures were observed during the visit.

4.8 Previous Archaeological Work

Archaeological Fieldwalking and Desktop Surveys carried out by Lindsey Archaeological Services in 1997 and 1998 south of the Study area did not find anything significant. Overall there was a very low density artefacts recovered and these were not discovered in any specific concentrations, (Williams, M. 1998).

The monitoring exercise (MEX1040022) that was carried out on an EDF Energy Networks cable route east of the site did discover remains dating to the medieval period. Even though these are structural it is an isolated find and it is likely that the structure was temporary in nature.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Archaeological Potential

Information on the archaeology in the immediate area of the assessment site is relatively sparse, due mainly to a low level of archaeological investigation in the locality. The wider area has limited evidence for showing human activity within 1.25km from the Neolithic to the Saxon periods. The evidence suggests a relatively low level of activity in the area until the Saxon period when development began to take place as evidenced by the Domesday entry of 1086, which shows the area to be wealthy and prosperous. Substantial building development took place from the 17th century in Little Clacton and the surrounding area, as indicated by the listed buildings all dating to the same century. Following this development through to the late 19th century little really changed. Tendring District Council refers to the village of Little Clacton in the 19th century as still retaining its old rustic atmosphere with a population approaching 600 with most of its households being employed on the surrounding farms, (TDC. 1994). During the mid-20th century residential development adjacent to the main thoroughfares slowly increased the size of the village to its current limits.

The previous archaeological work and the associated finds in the vicinity of the site could be considered negligible. There is no evidence for any archaeological features or trends pertaining to these pieces of work extending from or into the study area.

Given the research results, there is a **low** potential for the presence of prehistoric features or finds.



Despite the presence of a singular Roman find to the immediate south, the potential for Roman finds or features on the assessment site is **low**.

The Anglo-Saxon origins of Clacton would suggest reasonable levels of activity in the wider area. Its entry in the Domesday survey of 1086 shows that at the time of the conquest Clacton was fairly wealthy and well established. No records were returned from this period in the search area and consequently there is a **low** potential for Anglo-Saxon finds and features on the assessment site.

Little Clacton remained a small, rural settlement during the medieval period. The layout of the village and the distribution of medieval buildings, features and finds from the SHER indicate that the assessment site was on the very periphery of settlement activity. The potential for finding archaeology of a medieval date is **low**.

Substantial residential development in the village is recorded from the 17th century onwards, with most of the listed buildings dating to this period. Only one other record for this period was returned by the EHER search and no other post-medieval finds or features have been recorded on or close to the site. The map regression shows the site has remained as agricultural fields since at least 1749. The potential for post-medieval and modern features is **low**. It should be noted that some residual modern finds will be present due to manuring. It should also be noted that the in-filled field boundary ditches present on the Tithe Map and subsequent OS Maps, will also be preserved and will likely contain post-medieval and modern material up to the 1970's .

5.2 Existing and Proposed Impact (Fig. 7)

Existing Impact

The field has been turned over to pasture and there is no evidence of any other development on the site except for the presence of the residence associated with the former Thorpe Road Chicken Farm which is due to be demolished. Should there be any buried archaeological remains, these are likely to be moderately well preserved, especially in the deeper deposits, however it is likely that any remains located in the vicinity of the structure (which is due to be demolished) have been adversely effected by its construction.

Proposed Impact

The newly proposed construction plans involve the construction 81 residential properties at the site along with an access road and all associated services.

Changes to the original plans include (Fig. 7):

- Bay windows added to house plans
- 6 additional visitors' parking spaces provided
- Private driveways adjusted to aid turning
- Bungalow plots 1 & 79 replaced with new four bedroom 1.5 storey houses



- Main access junction to allow left turn only

If industry standard foundation trenches and service runs are used then the development is likely to have impact on subsurface archaeology if any is present.

Impact on Setting

The construction of these residential properties will change the immediate nature of the site and its setting. The closest listed building to the site is Reedlands Farm (DEX21285) which lies 200m to the west. However it has no line of sight to the proposed development area, being screened by young and old trees along multiple boundaries. There is also no line of site to the other nearby listed buildings, Parkgate Farm and Oak House Farm. The proposed development plan (Fig. 7) shows that the boundaries intend to be maintained in their current state of vegetation with new vegetation being planted to fill in any gaps that may occur during construction. All but nine of the dwellings will be single storey with the remainder being two storeys. With the plan to keep the current hedgerows and trees along the boundary it is fair to say that the visual impact to the dwellings will be minimal which the two storey buildings along the northern boundary will only have a slightly more significant impact on the visual setting of the development as these will still for the most part be screened by trees.

There will therefore be a negligible impact on the setting of the surrounding historical listed buildings based on the updated development plans.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in Little Clacton and this is broadly consistent with settlement distribution patterns in prehistoric Essex. Little Clacton is typical of villages in the area which are characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, usually focused on the parish church but also scattered around the numerous greens and along country lanes, which have evolved since the late Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The assessment site lies on the periphery of this model and as such has undergone little in the way of development for the last 1500 years. The potential to encounter any archaeological remains dating to these periods is low. There is also a low impact on the setting of existing listed buildings.

6.2 Recommendations

The results of the assessment indicated a low potential for archaeological remains across the study area. Given these results, it is unlikely that further archaeological intervention would contribute to the archaeological record or be necessary to mitigate any significant potential; however, further consultation with Essex County Council is advised to discuss the nature of the development and any possible mitigation that might be required as a result of the design plan or further research recommendations.



7.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Britannia Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr M.Rockall of Sole Bay Developments LTD for commissioning the project. We would also like to thank Helen Saunders from the Essex Historic Environment Record Office for her help and assistance on the original project.

8.0 PROJECT ARCHIVE & DEPOSITION

A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken in accordance with guidance from the *Selection, Retention and Dispersion of Archaeological Collections*, Archaeological Society for Museum Archaeologists, 1993. Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with the relevant museum or the EHER Office.



Bibliography

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Cartographic Sources

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- Andre & Chapmans Map, 1777
- Fadens Map of Essex, 1804
- Greenwood, 1824



Tithe Map, 1839

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1884

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1904

Ordnance Survey Map, 1991

Websites:

The British Geological Survey (Natural Environment Research Council) – Geology of Britain Viewer - www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion2=1#maps

Historic England PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>



APPENDIX 1 – EHER DATA

Monument Records

PREFERRED REF	MONUMENT ID	DESIGNATION	NAME	SUMMARY	DATE RANGE	PERIOD	TYPE
2917	MEX10287	MON	Little Clacton	Barrow		Undated	Monument
2977	MEX10618	MON	Bonds Farm	Rectangular Enclosure, Ring Ditch	-	Undated	Monument
2979	MEX10628	MON	North of Burrsville Park	Pit, Ring Ditch, Site		Undated	Monument
2980	MEX10636	MON	South of Cook's green Farm	Linear Feature, Oval Enclosure, Rectangular Enclosure, Ring Ditch, Site	-	Undated	Monument
3155	MEX11513	MON	South East of 'Pig Street'	Trackway	-	Undated	Monument
3659	MEX13290	MON	Reedlands Farm	Pit, Site	-	Undated	Monument
16987	MEX1031366	MON	Little Clacton	Field Boundary, Site		Undated	Monument
16988	MEX1031010	MON	West of Oak House Farm	Field Boundary, Linear Feature, Pit?	-	Undated	Monument
17245	MEX1031765	MON	Little Clacton	Field Boundary, Linear Feature	-	Undated	Monument
18345	MEX1034366	FS	Extension to Oakwood business Park	Undated Finds	-	Undated	Findspot
50944	MEX1042635	MON	A PAS Findspot of Unknown Date	Findspot		Undated	Monument
18344	MEX1034365	FS	Extension to Oakwood Business Park	3 pieces of possibly worked flint, some later pottery	500000 BC - 701 BC	Lower Palaeolithic to Late Bronze Age	Find Spot
47187	MEX1040021	MON	EDF Energy Networks cable route, Little	Iron Age ditch with residual Iron Age loomweight fragment	700 BC - 42 AD	Iron Age	Monument



Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment
Project Number 1082

Clacton							
18342	MEX1034363	FS	Extension to Oakwood Business Park	Single sherd of Roman greyware	43 AD - 409 AD	Roman	Find Spot
16988	MEX1031010	MON	West of Oak House Farm	Field Boundary - Cropmark	1066 AD - 1539 AD	Medieval	Monument
16989	MEX1031366	MON	Clacton on Sea	Field Boundary - Cropmark	1066 AD - 1539 AD	Medieval	Monument
18343	MEX1034364	FS	Extension to Oakwood Business Park	Single sherd of C11-C12 cooking pot, 6 sherds of med pot and two sherds of C15-C16 pottery. 29 pieces of med tile.	1066 AD - 1539 AD	Medieval	Find Spot
47188	MEX1040022	MON	EDF Energy Networks cable route, Little Clacton	Ditch, Oven, Gully, Hearth, Structure, Ditch - small rectangular structure with burnt patch	1066 AD - 1539 AD	Medieval	Monument
47548	MEX1040578	Mon	Windmill Site at Foot;s Farm, little Clacton, demolished	Post Mill - Documentary Evidence	1540 AD - 1900 AD	Post - medieval	Monument
21247	MEX49982	MON	Pillbox, Animal Aid Centre, Little Clacton	Pillbox (variant) WWII modern defence building	1939 AD - 1945 AD	Modern	Monument
21248	MEX49983	MON	Road barrier (destroyed), London Road, Little Clacton	Road Barrier - Documentary evidence	1939 AD - 1945 AD	Modern	Monument
21249	MEX49984	MON	Anti-Tank Pimples (destroyed), The Vicarage, Little Clacton	Anti-Tank Pimples - Documentary evidence	1939 AD - 1945 AD	Modern	Monument
21250	MEX49985	MON	Road barrier (destroyed), Holland Road, Little Clacton	Road Barrier - Documentary evidence	1939 AD - 1945 AD	Modern	Monument



Event Records

PREFERRED REF	EVENT ID	ORGANISATION	NAME	DESCR
COB98	EEX53337	Lindsey Archaeological Services LTD	Clacton-on-Sea, Essex: Extension to Oakwood Business Park, Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey	A fieldwalking survey was carried out at the site, there was a very low density of artefacts recovered and there was also a lack of any real concentrations.

Listed Building Records

PREFERRED REFERENCE	Name	GRADE	DESIGNATED ID	PARISH
DEX21924	The Robert Burre	II	MEX1010107	Little Clacton
DEX21188	Willow Farmhouse	II	MEX1010111	Little Clacton
DEX21168	Oak House	II	MEX1010121	Little Clacton
DEX21154	Westbourn Cottage	II	MEX1010194	Little Clacton
DEX21285	Reedlands Farmhouse	II	MEX1010195	Little Clacton
DEX21937	Parkgate Farmhouse	II	MEX1010196	Little Clacton
DEX21872	Clacton Grove House	II	MEX1010201	Little Clacton
DEX21938	Barn approx 50m N of Clacton Grove House	II	MEX1010202	Little Clacton
DEX21288	Church of St James, Little Clacton	II*	MEX1010205	Little Clacton



APPENDIX 2 – OASIS FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: britanni1-245424

Project details

Project name	Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex
Short description of the project	Britannia Archaeology was commissioned by Sole Bay Developments Ltd to update an archaeological desk based assessment on Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex (NGR: TM 1809 1883). The original assessment was completed in December 2014. The assessment will support a planning application for the residential development of the site and the associated works. After undertaking research, consulting the EHER and visiting the site, the potential for finds or features dating to all periods is low. Little Clacton is typical of villages in rural Essex, which are characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, usually focused on or around the parish church or village greens. The assessment site lies on the periphery this model and as such has undergone little in the way of development for the last 1500 years. Historical maps show that the site has been given over to agricultural for at least the last 200 years and the only change has been a minor one to the internal field boundaries. If standard depths for residential builds in this area are used then the construction would impact on any subsurface archaeological remains if present. The impact on the character for any listed buildings in the search area is negligible.
Project dates	Start: 09-03-2016 End: 10-03-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Desk based assessment
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 1 - Heathland
Monument type	CHURCH Medieval
Monument type	PILLBOX Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search", "Visual Inspection"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England



OASIS FORM - Print view

Site location ESSEX TENDRING LITTLE CLACTON Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex
Postcode CO166RY
Study area 4.1 Hectares
Site coordinates TM 1809 1883 51.624884401663 1.165175171952 51 49 29 N 001 09 54 E Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min. 22m Max. 22m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.)
Project design originator Martin Brook
Project director/manager Martin Brook
Project supervisor Martin Brook
Type of sponsorfunding body Developer
Name of sponsorfunding body Sole Bay Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museums
Digital Archive ID britanni1-245424
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Database","GIS","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive Exists? No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Land off Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s) Brook, M
Other bibliographic details R1127

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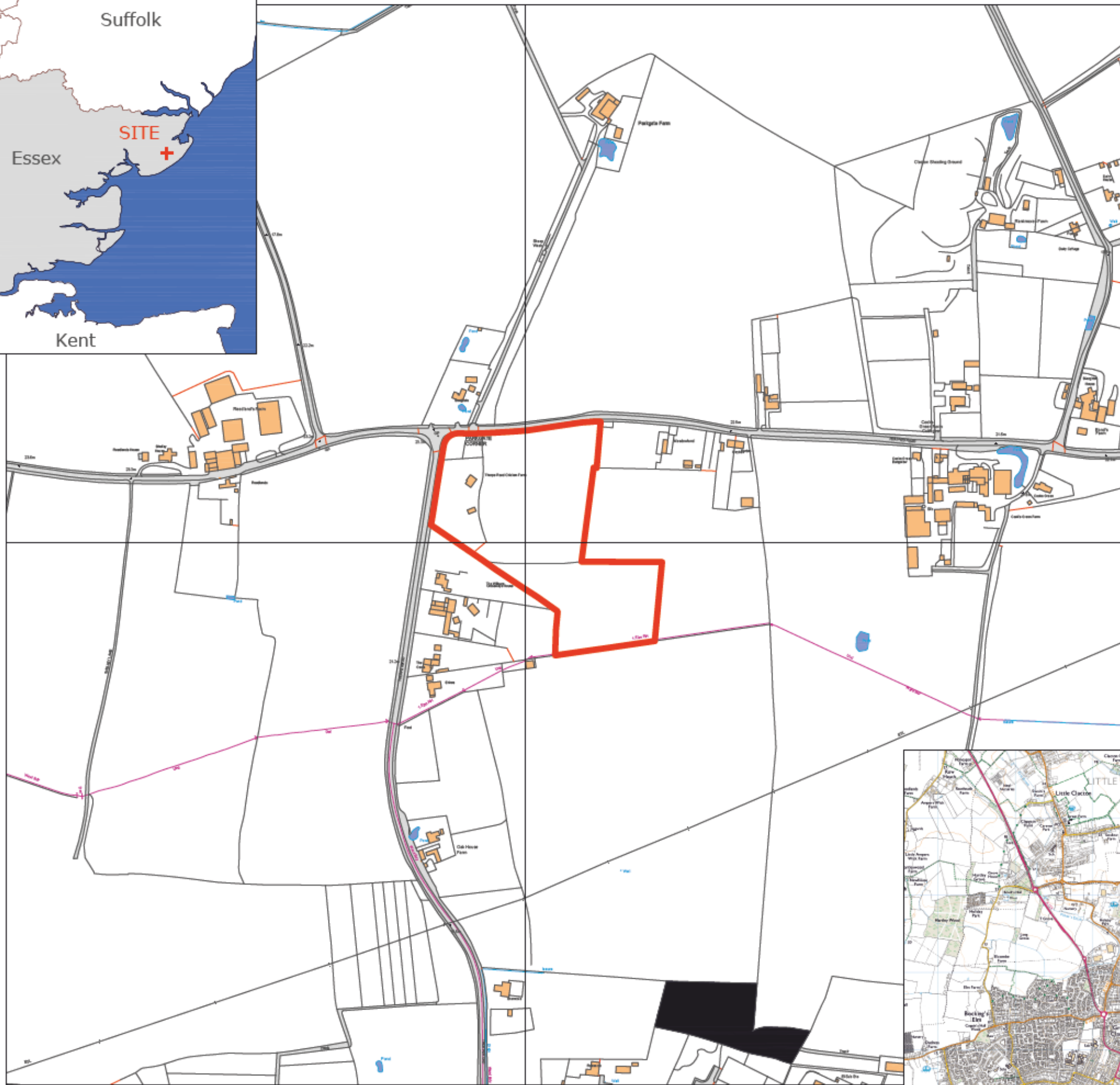
OASIS FORM - Print view

Date 2016
Issuer or publisher Britannia Archaeology LTD
Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds
Description A4 bound report with A3 pull-out figures
URL www.britannia-archaeology.com

Entered by Martin Brook (martin@brit-arch.com)
Entered on 10 March 2016

OASIS: Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:HistoricEngland) for OASIS help and advice
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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

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218800

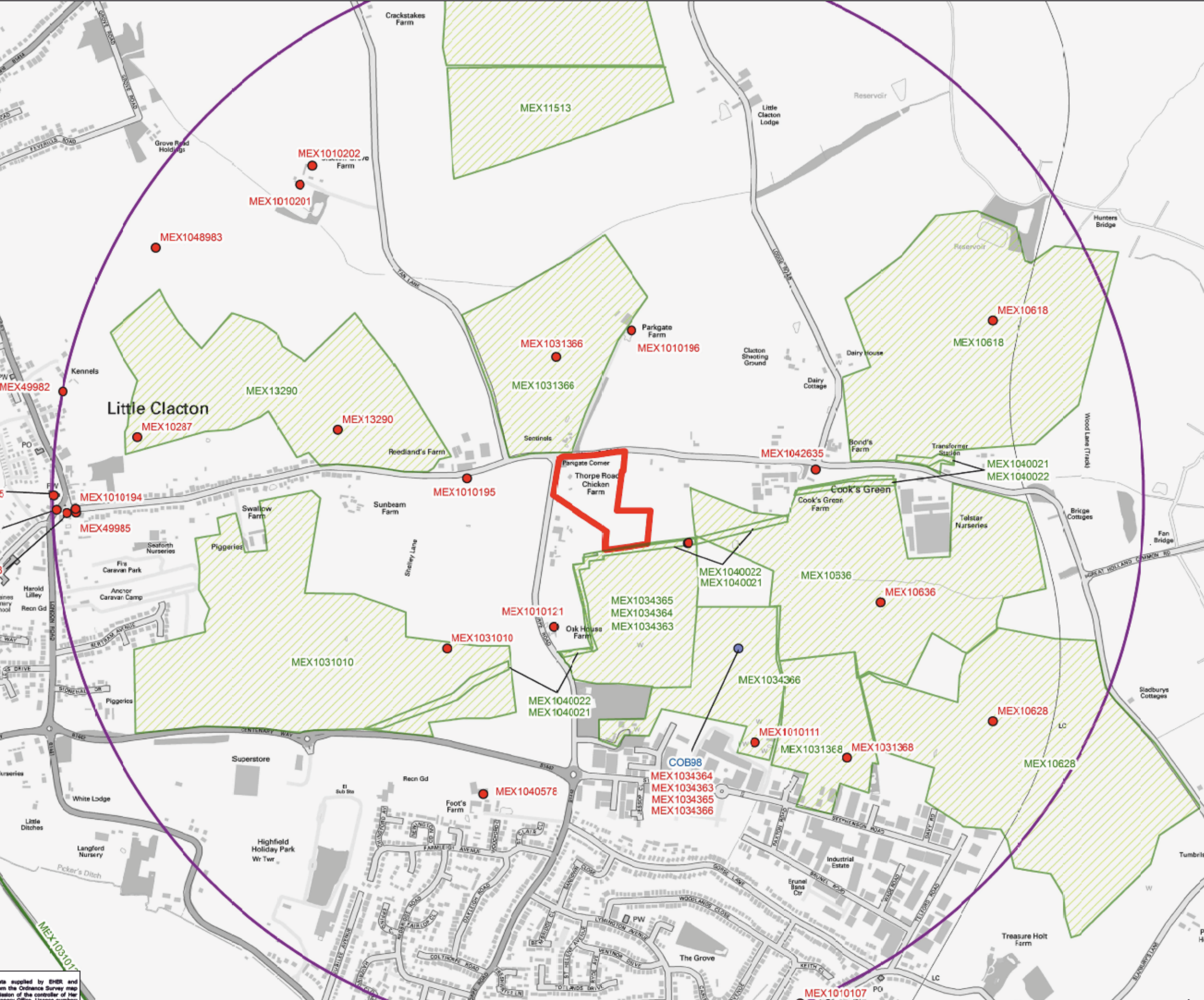
Site Boundary



618100

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WGR:	618100 218800	REF:	P1082
PROJECT:	LAND OFF THORPE ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON, ESSEX		
DESCRIPTION:	GENERAL LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:	SOLE BAY DEVELOPMENTS LTD		
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD			
 UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP33 3PH T: 01449 763034 E: info@britannia-archaeology.com W: www.britannia-archaeology.com © Copyright Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2016			
DATE:	MARCH 2016	PLOT:	A3
VERSION:	1		
AUTHOR:	MCA	FIGURE:	1
APPROVED:	MB		



- HER Search Area
- Archaeological Event
- ▨ Region Record
- Monument Record
- Site Boundary

NGR: 618100 218800 REF: P1082

PROJECT: LAND OFF THORPE ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON, ESSEX

DESCRIPTION: EHER MONUMENT DATA

CLIENT: SOLE BAY DEVELOPMENTS LTD

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DATE: MARCH 2016 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 1

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FIGURE: 2

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-  HER Search Area
-  Grade II*
-  Grade I
-  NMP Data
-  Site Boundary

NRG: 618100 218800 REF: P1082

PROJECT: LAND OFF THORPE ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON, ESSEX

DESCRIPTION: EHER DATA - NMP & LISTED BUILDING DATA

CLIENT: SOLE BAY DEVELOPMENTS LTD

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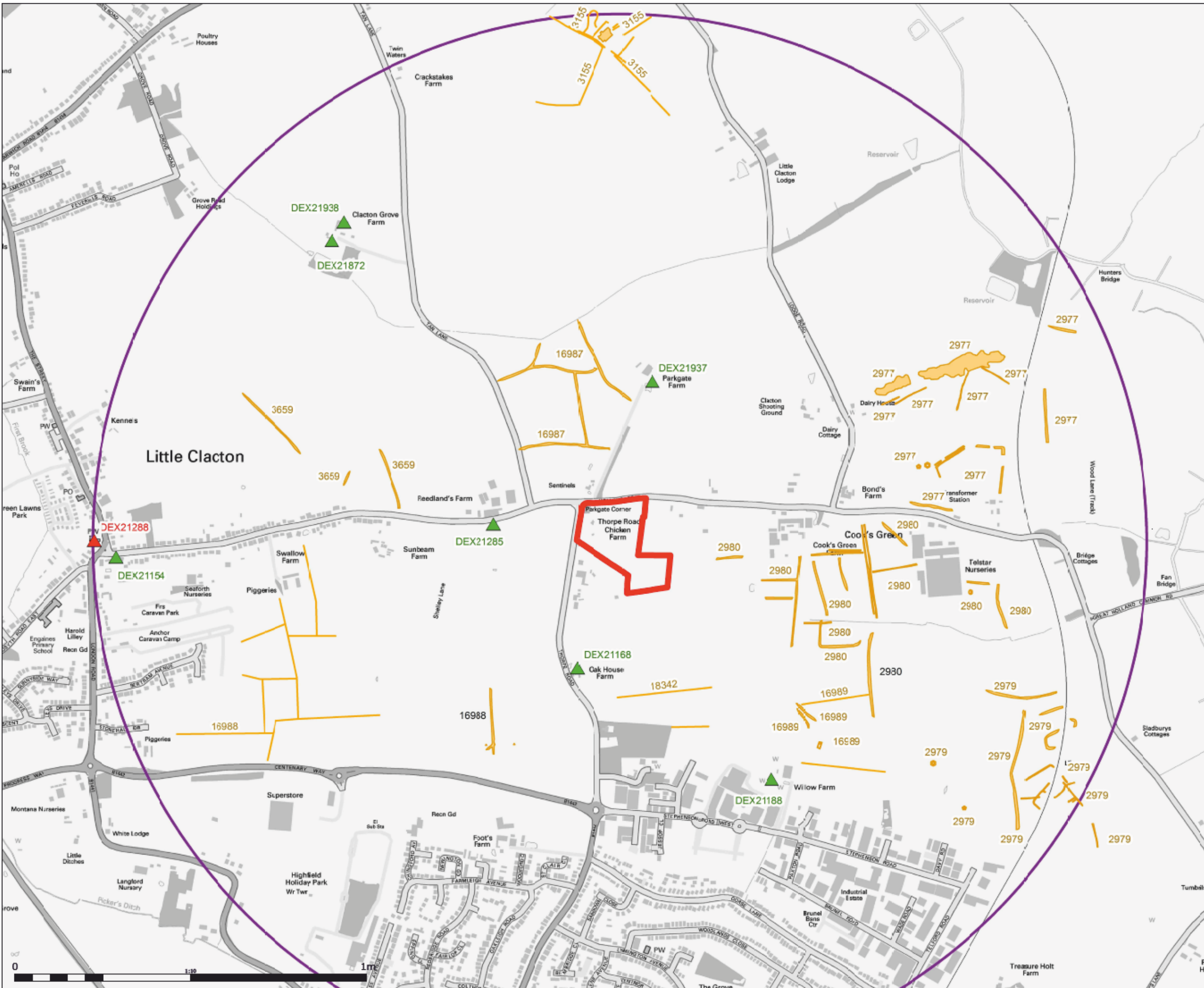
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FIGURE: **3**





Emmanuel Bowen 1749



Andre & Chapman 1777



Faden 1804



Greenwood 1824

Site Boundary

NGR: 618100 218800 REF: P1082

PROJECT: LAND OFF THORPE ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON, ESSEX

DESCRIPTION: CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

CLIENT: SOLE BAY DEVELOPMENTS LTD

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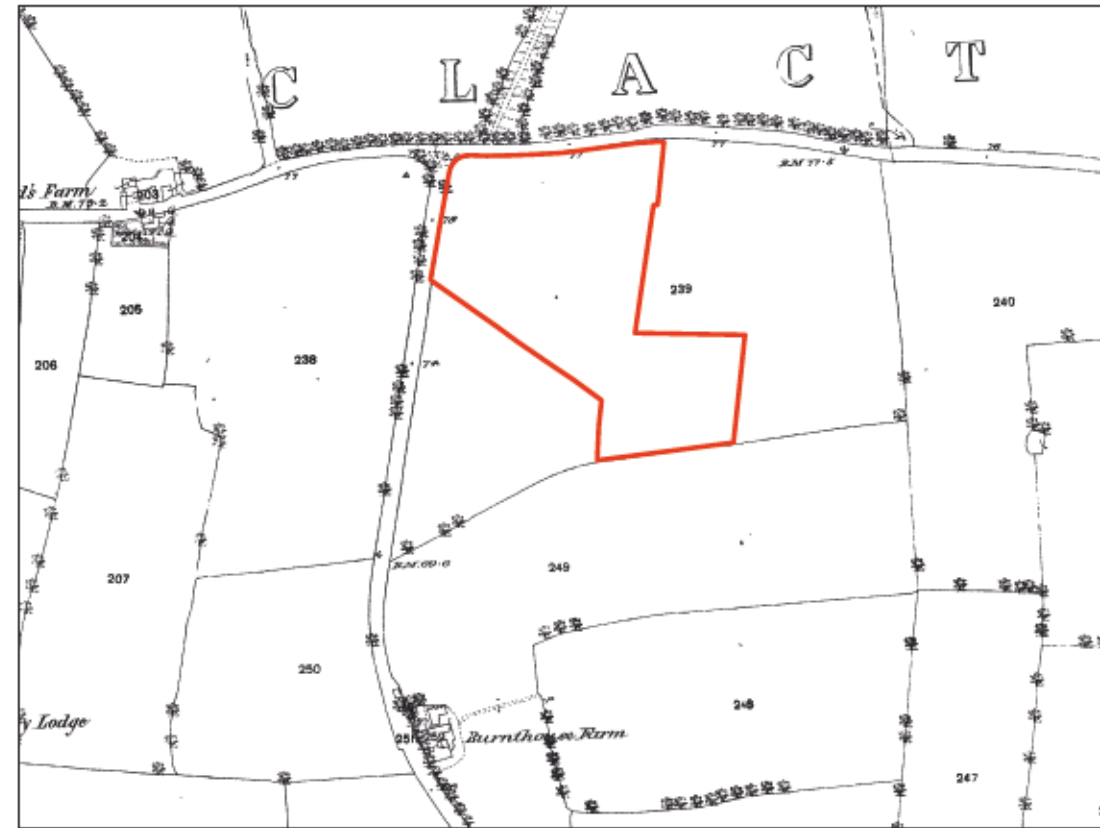
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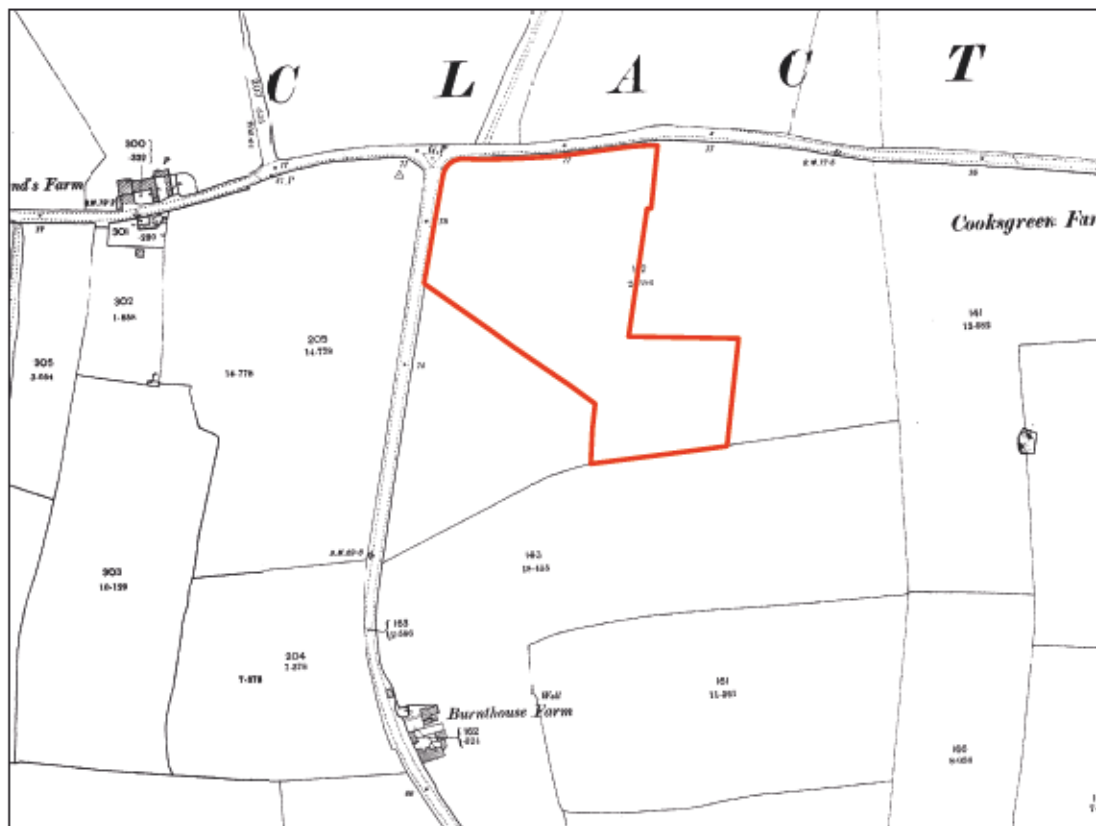
FIGURE: 4



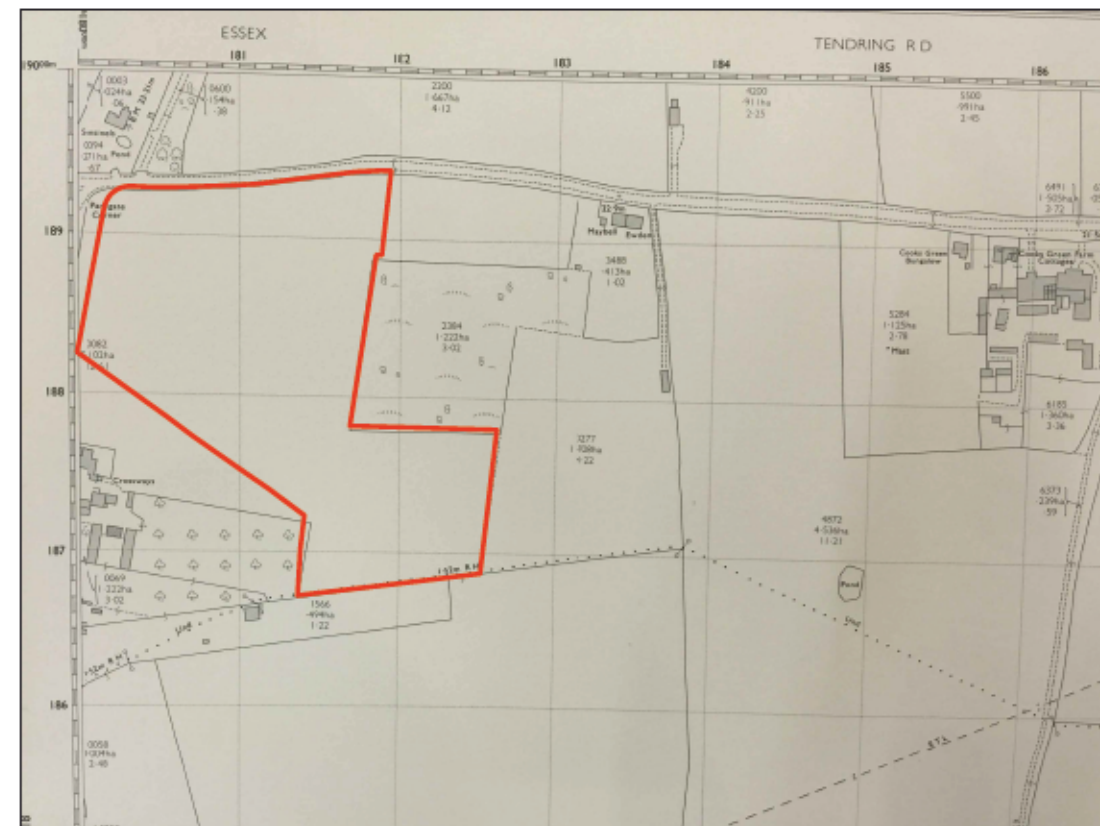
Tithe 1839



First Edition Ordnance Survey 1874



Second Edition Ordnance Survey
1897



Ordnance Survey 1974

Site Boundary

NGR: 618100 218800 REF: P1082

PROJECT:
LAND OFF THORPE ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON,
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DESCRIPTION:
CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES CONT'D

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FIGURE:
5



DP1- Site Access. View E



DP2- Northern Area. View NE



DP3- Northern Area. View SW



DP4- South Area. View N



DP5- South East Area. View N





DP6- Pond in SE Area. View SW

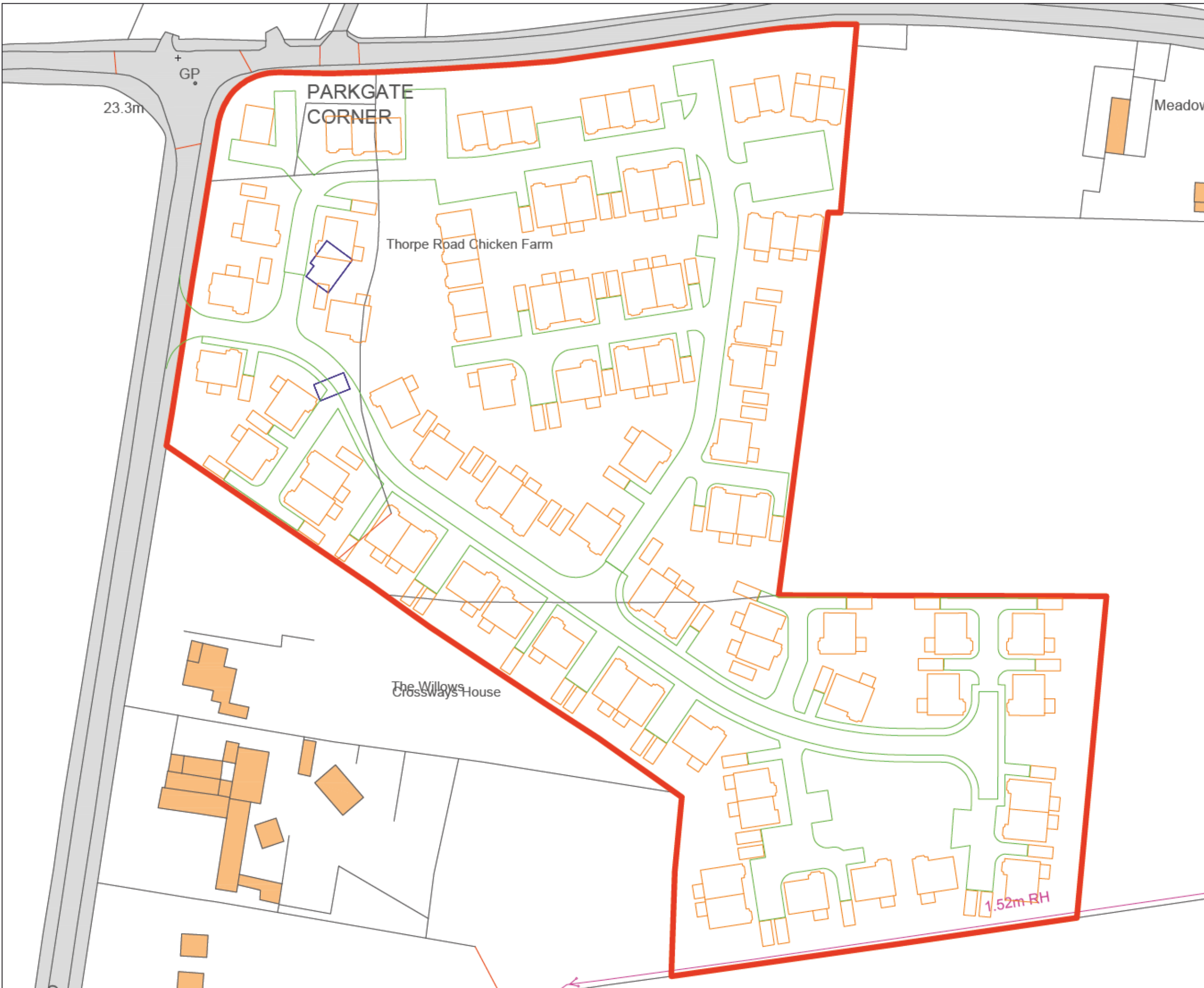


DP7- House in NW Area. View N



 Photo Direction & Number
 Site Boundary

NGR: 618100 218800	REF: P1082	
PROJECT: LAND OFF THORPE ROAD, LITTLE CLACTON, ESSEX		
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DATE: MARCH 2016	PLOT: A3	VERSION: 1
AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 6	
APPROVED: MB		



- ▬ Proposed Roads & Parking
- ▬ Proposed Buildings
- ▬ Existing Buildings
- ▬ Site Boundary

WGR: 618100 218800 REF: P1082

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FIGURE: **7**