



THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1144

October 2016



THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK


ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared on behalf of:
E & P Building Design
The Gables
Field Walk
Mildenhall
Suffolk
IP28 7AH

By:

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October 2016

Site Code	MNL 767	NGR	TL 679 781
Planning Ref.	DC/16/0466/FUL	OASIS	britanni1-249402
Event Code	ESF23893	HER Inv. No.	9186314
Approved By:		Date	October 2016



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Abstract

From the 4th to the 5th of October 2016, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at The Chestnuts, Stock Corner, Beck Row, Suffolk (TL 679 781), as part of a scheme of pre-planning archaeological works in advance of a housing development and associated works. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) required an evaluation comprising of 5 trenches each measuring 25.00m x 1.80m.

Background research for the project indicated that evidence for Roman and prehistoric activity was most likely to be encountered, with a slightly smaller chance of encountering post-medieval archaeology. A single undated ditch was encountered during the trenching, and is thought to represent a field boundary ditch.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

From the 4th to the 5th of October 2016, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on The Chestnuts, Stock Corner, Beck Row, Suffolk (TL 679 781), (Fig. 1) as part of a scheme of pre-planning archaeological works in advance of the construction of 15 houses and associated works. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) (Abraham, R. dated 17th December 2015) required an evaluation comprising of 5 trenches each measuring 25.00m x 1.80m.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the north western bounds of the village of Beck Row, Suffolk east of the north south running Mildenhall Drove. Directly to the east of site are agricultural fields and to the west of site is the West Suffolk Golf Centre.

The bedrock geology is described as Grey Chalk Subgroup. This marley chalk bedrock is comprised of both West Melbury Chalk and Zig Zag Chalk and formed during the Cenomanian Age (BGS, 2016).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as River Terrace Deposits 1 and 2. These superficial gravel (with lenses of slits and clays) deposits formed during the Flandrian Age when the local environment previously dominated by shorelines, (BGS, 2016).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following 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 framework is the *Forest Heath Local Plan, (Policy 8.20, 1995)*.



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2). There are 96 monument entries and 38 events within and just outside the 1km search radius. Due to the large number of records returned from the search only those within 500m of the site and directly related have been considered. No Listed Buildings were present within the search radius.

The SHER search returned six entries dating to the prehistoric period within 500m of the site. One of these entries, (MNL 150) located 150m to the south west relates to Neolithic activity. Flints were discovered including a half flint axe, broken arrow-heads and flakes. Bronze Age activity has been noted 250m to the North West at Mildenhall Drove where a scatter of worked flint, including 2 barbed and tanged arrowheads and one sherd of pottery were found on the field surface. Iron Age activity is located north of the site 300m away MNL 123 refers to the discovery of two sherds of pottery dating from this period. Further Iron Age activity is located 320m and 400m north of the site (MNL 139 and MNL 116 respectively). MNL 139 refers to the discovery of pottery sherds which were mainly undiagnostic while MNL 116 relates to a pot sherd from the rim of large vessel with very hard fabric and a burnt flint filler.

Only one monument record of Roman date was returned by the SHER search. MNL 728 is located 120m to the north east of the site where a Roman pottery scatter which included eleven sherds of Nene Valley ware, a samian foot ring and two roman roof tile fragments was discovered.

The post-medieval period is represented by a number of records within 500m of the site. MNL 515 which is located on the periphery of the 500m radius to the north east. It refers to evaluation trenching cut in advance of a housing development. The work revealed that the upper part of the soil profile was completely disturbed and reworked across the site. A narrow gully thought to be a post-medieval drainage ditch and an undated pit were the only features. MNL 551, located 250m to the south east of the site refers to a monitoring



exercise where footing trenches revealed a buried soil layer dated to the post medieval period.

The SHER returned three undated records within 500m of the site. These mostly refer to undated ditches and gullies found in the area. The most significant record relating to the site is MNL 537 where the monitoring of footing trenches revealed two small undated pits and one undated ditch (all possibly prehistoric) and areas of a preserved former subsoil.

Given the above records the site was adjudged to have a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the Prehistoric and Roman period and a low to moderate potential for features and finds relating to the post medieval period.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief (Abraham, R., Brief, Section 4.2) stated that the evaluation's aims were to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- Determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3 (SCCAS/CT). All aspects of the evaluation were undertaken in accordance with the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2015*.



6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project were in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24* (Medlycott, 2011).

The brief also states that the project will need to consider the following objectives:

- To provide for the absolute dating of critical contacts.
- To make the results of the investigation available through suitable reportage.

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the SCCAS/CT brief 125.00 meters of trial trenching was excavated in advance of the construction of a housing development and associated works, covering 5% of the site area, with the trenches arranged in a systematic grid array. This resulted in 5 trenches measuring 25.00m x 1.80m (Fig. 3), excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. These trenches were excavated down to the first archaeological horizon after which all excavation was undertaken by hand.

The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings. Appropriate photographs were taken.

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figures 3 - 9)

The trenches were located to systematically evaluate the proposed development area (Fig. 3).

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were parallel and were orientated north-east to south-west with trench 1 being the northernmost and trench 3 being the southernmost. Trenches 4 and 5 were orientated north-west to south-east with trench 4 located adjacent to the A1011 and the south-west edge of the site area. Trench five was located adjacent to the fence comprising the north-eastern edge of the site area. All trenches measured 25.00 x 1.80m.



8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.34m. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

Top Soil **1000** was present to a maximum depth of 0.31m. This layer overlay Natural **1001**, which was present from a depth of 0.31m.

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.38m. In Trench 2, Top Soil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.32m. This layer overlay Natural **1001**, which was present from a depth of 0.27m.

A single feature, Ditch **1002**, was present in Trench 2 and was 2.11m in width and 0.35m in depth, 1.00m of the length of the ditch was excavated (Fig. 6). The ditch was linear in plan, with a north-south alignment, had gently sloping sides and contained two fills. Fill **1003** (basal) comprised loose mid grey-brown silty sand present to a depth of 0.32m, while Fill **1004** (secondary) was comprised of a loose light grey-brown silty sand present to a depth of 0.15m. Both fills contained occasional sub-angular flint pebbles. Upper fill **1004** also contained mineralization.

8.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated north-east to south-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.61m. At the top of the deposit model in Trench 3 was Re-deposited Soil **1005**, consisting of a loose mid grey-brown silty sand with moderately frequent modern debris including glass, CBM and modern litter. This layer overlay Buried Soil Layer **1006**, a loose, dark grey-brown silty sand present up to 0.33m thick and to a maximum depth of 0.63m; this layer was consistent with Topsoil **1000**. Below Buried Soil Layer **1006** was Natural **1001**, which was present from a depth of 0.63m.

A single feature, Ditch **1007**, was present in the trench, running on a north to south alignment. It was 3.01m in width and 0.43m in depth, 1.00m of the length of the ditch was excavated (Fig. 6). The ditch was linear in plan and had gently sloping sides with a



flat base. The ditch contained three fills. **1008**, a basal fill, consisted of a loose dark grey-brown silty sand present to a thickness of 0.08m, covering the base of the feature to a width of 0.87m. **1009**, characterized as a secondary slump fill, consisted of a mid yellow-grey-brown loose silty sand, and was present to a width of 0.82m from the eastern bank of the ditch, to a maximum depth of 0.37m. Upper fill **1010** consisted of a loose, mid grey-brown silty sand with infrequent sub-angular flint pebbles and mineralization present to a width of 2.76m and a depth of 0.35m. Ditch **1007** is on the same orientation as Ditch **1002** and almost certainly represents a continuation of the same feature.

8.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated north-west to south-east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m. Topsoil layer **1000** was present in trench 4 to a depth of 0.28m. This layer overlay Natural **1001** which was present from a depth of 0.23m.

No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

8.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated east to west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.39m. Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a depth of up to 0.36m in trench 5. This layer overlay Natural **1001** which was present from a depth of 0.33m.

No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figures 4 & 5)

The deposit model was consistent across trenches 1-2 and 4-5, while Trench 3 was an exception due to modern activity.

In trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, the top of the stratigraphic sequence was Topsoil Layer **1000**, comprising of loose, dark grey-brown, silty sand present to a maximum thickness of 0.36m in Sample Section 5. This layer represents a modern garden soil. Beneath Topsoil **1000** was Natural **1001**, comprising of very loose, light yellow-brown or light yellow-white, firm



sandy silt, with occasional small chalk inclusions. This layer was present from a minimum depth of 0.28m in sample section 4.

At the top of the deposit model in Trench 3 was Redeposited soil **1005**, consisting of a loose mid grey-brown silty sand with moderately frequent modern debris including glass, CBM and modern litter. The soil associated with this layer was brought in originally to infill a large pond (*pers. comm.*, the landowner) which was subsequently re-excavated in the 21st Century with the resultant spoil spread over the southern portion of the site area to form the aforementioned layer **1005**. This layer overlay Buried Soil Layer **1006**, a loose, dark grey-brown silty sand present up to 0.33m thick and to a maximum depth of 0.63m in Sample Section 3. This layer was consistent with Topsoil **1000**. Below Buried Soil Layer **1006** was Natural **1001**, present from a minimum depth of 0.63m in Sample Section 3.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background suggested that the site had a moderate potential for finds and features dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods with a low potential for finds relating to the post-medieval period. Despite this archaeological potential, a total of just two undated archaeological features were identified in separate trenches which are likely to represent the same feature: Ditches **1002** and **1007**.

The broadly north-south alignment of the ditch, consisting of **1002** and **1007**, does not lie parallel with the current field boundaries (defined on the site's western boundary by a modern road), however, this does not preclude the ditch having functioned as a field boundary prior to a post-medieval remodelling of the agricultural landscape. Both ditch slots contained mineralization indicative of standing water, while **1007** contained a dark grey-brown basal fill consistent with waterlogged deposits. The ditch is also of a profile fitting for purposes of demarcation and drainage. With the site located to the north of the historic core of Beck Row and the lack of material culture within its fills, an agricultural boundary/drainage would seem to be the original function of the ditch.



11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr Stuart A C Harrison of E and P Building Design for commissioning the project.

We would also like to thank Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services/Conservation Team for her advice and assistance on the project.

The site was excavated by Matt Adams, Daniel McConnell and Adam Leigh of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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



English Heritage National List for England

www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

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



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

Trench No 1	Orientation NE-SW	Height AOD 4.04m	Shot ID Sample Section 1
Sample Section No 1	Location S Side W End	Facing SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.31m	Topsoil: Dark grey brown, loose, silty sand.	
1001	0.31m+	Natural: Light yellow-brown/Light yellow-white, loose sand.	

TRENCH 2

Trench No 2	Orientation NE-SW	Height AOD 4.05m	Shot ID Sample Section 2
Sample Section No 2	Location S Side W End	Facing SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.32m	Topsoil: Dark grey brown, loose, silty sand.	
1001	0.32m+	Natural: Light yellow-brown/Light yellow-white, loose sand.	

Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)	Other
1002	Ditch (1.00m+ x 2.11m+ x 0.35m) Linear in plan, gently sloping sides with a flat concave base	1003	Mid grey-brown, loose silty sand, infrequent sub-angular flint pebbles			
		1004	Light grey-brown, loose, silty sand, occasional sub-angular flint pebbles			

TRENCH 3

Trench No 3	Orientation NE-SW	Height AOD 4.07m	Shot ID Sample Section 3
Sample Section No 3	Location S Side Middle	Facing SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1006	0.00-0.31m	Redeposited Soil: Mid grey-brown, loose, silty sand	
1005	0.31-0.58m	Buried Soil: Dark grey brown, loose, silty sand.	
1001	0.58m+	Natural: Light yellow-brown/Light yellow-white, loose sand.	



Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)	Other
1007	Ditch (1.00m+ x 3.01m+ x 0.43m) Linear in plan, gently sloping sides with a flat concave base	1008	Dark grey-brown, loose silty sand			
		1009	Mid yellow-grey-brown, loose silty sand			
		1010	Mid grey-brown, loose silty sand, infrequent sub-angular chalk pebbles			

TRENCH 4

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
4	NW-SE	4.02m	Sample Section 4
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
4	E Side N End	NE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.28m	Topsoil: Dark grey brown, loose, silty sand.	
1001	0.28m+	Natural: Light yellow-brown/Light yellow-white, loose sand.	

TRENCH 5

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
5	NW-SE	4.01m	Sample Section 5
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
5	E Side N End	NE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.36m	Topsoil: Dark grey brown, loose, silty sand.	
1001	0.36m+	Natural: Light yellow-brown/Light yellow-white, loose sand.	



APPENDIX 2 – OASIS SHEET

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: [britann1-273373](#)

Project details

Project name	THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK
Short description of the project	From the 4th to the 5th of October 2016, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at The Chestnuts, Stock Corner, Beck Row, Suffolk (TL 679 781), as part of a scheme of pre-planning archaeological works in advance of a housing development and associated works. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) required an evaluation comprising of 5 trenches each measuring 25.00m x 1.80m. Background research for the project indicated that evidence for Roman and prehistoric activity was most likely to be encountered, with a slightly smaller chance of encountering post-medieval archaeology. A single undated ditch was encountered during the trenching, and is thought to represent a field boundary ditch.
Project dates	Start: 04-10-2016 End: 05-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MNL767 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	



SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH BECK ROW, HOLYWELL ROW AND KENNY HILL From the 4th to the 5th of October 2016, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at The Chestnuts, Stock Corner, Beck Row, Suffolk (TL 679 781), as part of a scheme of pre-

Postcode IP28 8DR
Study area 0 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 679 781 52.374744417503 0.466801977972 52 22 29 N 000 28 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum Unknown
Height OD / Depth Min: 4.01m Max: 4.07m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Dan McConnell
Project director/manager Dan McConnell
Project supervisor Matthew Adams
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Digital Archive ID MNL767
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "GIS","Spreadsheets","Survey","Database","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID MNL767
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"

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APPENDIX 3 – WSI

**THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK
ROW, SUFFOLK**

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



Project Number: 1151

April 2016



THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Prepared on behalf of:

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By:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) on behalf of E & P Building Design as a condition of planning application reference DC/16/0466/FUL, in advance of the erection of six dwellings, associated garaging, new access and ancillary works.

This WSI presents a programme of archaeological investigation by means of archaeological trial trench evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site, and to determine the need for any future site investigations The Chestnuts, Stock Corner, Beck Row, Suffolk (NGR TL 679 781). A design brief issued by Suffolk County Councils Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) (Abraham, R. dated 17th December 2015) requires a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened available area. This will comprise five trial trenches each measuring 25.00m x 1.80m (for a total of 125m), and will be excavated using a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located in the north western bounds of the village of Beck Row, Suffolk east of the north south running Mildenhall Drove. Directly to the sites east are agricultural fields and to the sites west is the West Suffolk Golf Centre.

The bedrock geology is described as Grey Chalk Subgroup. This marley chalk bedrock is comprised of both West Melbury Chalk and Zig Zag Chalk and formed during the Cenomanian Age (BGS, 2016).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as River Terrace Deposits 1 and 2. These superficial gravel (with lenses of slits and clays) deposits formed during the Flandrian Age when the local environment previously dominated by shorelines, (BGS, 2016).

3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following 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 framework is the *Forest Heath Local Plan, (Policy 8.20, 1995)*.

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;
- 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 Forest Heath Local Plan, (Policy 8.20, 1995)

Forest Heath's local plan development plan was adopted in 1995 and has undergone some revision since. A Core Strategy was released in 2010 and an updated assessment of their Heritage Policy is pending. The Council's position on heritage assets is summarised as follows:

- The District Council will seek provision to be made for the evaluation of archaeological sites of unknown importance and areas of high potential prior to the determination of development proposals. Where nationally or locally important sites, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are effected by proposed development, there will be a presumption in favour of their preservation. On sites where there is no overriding case for preservation, development will not normally be permitted unless agreement has been reached to provide either for their preservation or for their recording and, where desirable, their excavation prior to development.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2). There are 96 monument entries and 38 events within and just outside the 1km search radius. Due to the large number of records returned from the search only those within 500m of the site and directly related have been considered. No Listed Buildings were present within the search radius.



The SHER search returned six entries dating to the prehistoric period within 500m of the site. One of these entries, (MNL 150) located 150m to the south west relates to Neolithic activity. Flints were discovered including a half flint axe, broken arrow-heads and flakes. Bronze Age activity has been noted 250m to the North West at Mildenhall Drove where a scatter of worked flint, including 2 barbed and tanged arrowheads and one sherd of pottery were found on the field surface. Iron Age activity is located north of the site 300m away MNL 123 refers to the discovery of two sherds of pottery dating from this period. Further Iron Age activity is located 320m and 400m north of the site (MNL 139 and MNL 116 respectively). MNL 139 refers to the discovery of pottery sherds which were mainly undiagnostic while MNL 116 relates to a pot sherd from the rim of large vessel with very hard fabric and a burnt flint filler.

Only one monument record of Roman date was returned by the SHER search. MNL 728 is located 120m to the north east of the site where a Roman pottery scatter which included eleven sherds of Nene Valley ware, a samian foot ring and two roman roof tile fragments was discovered.

The post-medieval period is represented by a number of records within 500m of the site. MNL 515 which is located on the periphery of the 500m radius to the north east. It refers to evaluation trenching cut in advance of a housing development. The work revealed that the upper part of the soil profile was completely disturbed and reworked across the site. A narrow gully thought to be a post-medieval drainage ditch and an undated pit were the only features. MNL 551, located 250m to the south east of the site refers to a monitoring exercise where footing trenches revealed a buried soil layer dated to the post medieval period.

The SHER returned three undated records within 500m of the site. These mostly refer to undated ditches and gullies found in the area. The most significant record relating to the site is MNL 537 where the monitoring of footing trenches revealed two small undated pits and one undated ditch (all possibly prehistoric) and areas of a preserved former subsoil.

Given the above records the site was adjudged to have a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the Prehistoric and Roman period and a low to moderate potential for features and finds relating to the post medieval period.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief states that the evaluation should aim to (Abraham, R. Brief, Section 4.2). Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving will be undertaken in accordance with the Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.3 (SCCAS/CT).

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

The brief also states that the project will need to consider the following objectives:

- To provide for the absolute dating of critical contacts.
- To make the results of the investigation available through suitable reportage.

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The SCCAS/CT brief requires the excavation of 125.00 meters of trial trenching in advance of the construction of the housing development and associated works. The trenching is to cover 5% of the site area with the trenches arranged in a systematic grid array. This will comprise five 25.0m x 1.80m trenches.

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket will be used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation work will be undertaken by hand (Fig. 3).

The archaeology will be recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings and appropriate photographs will also be taken.



In the event that important archaeological remains are identified, a site meeting will be held with the client and the SCCAS/CT planning archaeologist to discuss the significance of the remains and decide on the scope of further excavation and recording. **The client is aware of the need for contingency funding to cover additional works if necessary.**

7.1 Site Plans

A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map and indicating site north will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a site plan showing the area of investigation in relation to the proposed development.

A pre-excavation base plan accurately plotting all features will be produced using a Total Station (TS) or Real Time Kinetic Global Positioning System (RTK). The final post-excavation plan will be based on this. All drawings will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

7.2 Mechanical Excavation

The location of electricity, gas, water, sewage and telephone services will be identified from information supplied by the client or relevant authorities prior to machining. Care will be taken when operating machinery in the vicinity of overhead services. All staff are trained in the use of CAT scanners that will be employed before the bucket breaks the ground.

Topsoil and any sterile subsoil layers shall be removed by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of a professional archaeologist. The exposed archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

No excavators or dumpers will be driven over the excavated surface. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately to aid the reinstatement of agricultural land.

The machine operator will have the relevant experience and appropriate documentation; will maintain the appropriate inspection register, Form F91 Part 1, Section C, either on the machine or at the depot. The operator must produce a clean, flat surface at precisely the correct level.

7.3 Hand Excavation

All archaeological features will be excavated by hand, in the appropriate way detailed below, where it is safe to do so.



7.4 *Metal Detector*

A professional metal detector will be used to scan spoil heaps, exposed surfaces and any features. The finds will be recovered and recorded in the proper way. The machined spoil heaps will also be scanned, however demonstrably modern finds will not be retained. The metal detector will not be set to discriminate against iron.

7.5 *Excavation of Stratified Sequences*

All archaeological remains will be excavated by phase, from the most recent to the earliest, excluding those of obvious later 20th century origin. The phasing of the features will be distinguished by their stratigraphic relationships, fills and finds.

7.6 *Excavation of Buildings*

Following assessment of any structural remains encountered, a strategy for recording these will be implemented, and it may be that further mitigation will be required to allow the full recording of these remains. It may also be the case that any remains may best be left *in situ*. Any excavated building structures and associated features (e.g. stakeholes, postholes, sill-beams, gullies, masonry walls and possible floors) will be excavated in stratigraphic sequence.

7.7 *Ditches*

Ditch segments will be positioned to provide a total coverage of 25% and to ascertain relationship information and will be a minimum of 1.00m in length (dependant on the total length of ditch visible).

7.8 *Discrete Features*

All discrete features will be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants providing for a minimum 50% sample.

7.9 *Full Excavation*

Industrial remains and intrinsically interesting features e.g. hearths, kilns etc. may merit full excavation in agreement with the SCCAS/CT planning archaeologist.

7.10 *Burials*

Any articulated human remains shall receive minimal excavation to define the extent and quality of their preservation. A decision will then be made on their future treatment in consultation with the client and the SCCAS/CT planning archaeologist. The coroner and the Ministry of Justice will be informed. Any removal of human remains will be carried out under a licence issued by the Ministry of Justice under section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 and in accordance with *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains*



excavated from Christian burial grounds in England' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005).

7.11 *Written Record*

All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered will be fully recorded on *pro forma* context, finds and sample forms, using a single context recording system.

7.12 *Photographic Record*

All features will be photographed as appropriate. This record will comprise high quality digital photographs (jpg). Where appropriate black and white prints (35mm) and colour slides (35mm) will be utilised. All photographs will be listed, indexed and archived.

7.13 *Drawn Record*

All drawings will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid, plans will be initially hand drawn at a scale of 1:20 and the sections at 1:10 on drafting film (permatrace). The height AOD of all features and principal strata will be written on the appropriate plans and sections.

7.14 *Finds and Environmental Remains*

All finds recovered from sealed contexts will be retained. A sample of those found in the topsoil and subsoil will be taken to characterise the assemblage. Finds will be identified, by a unique site code and context number.

All finds will be processed according to BA standards and to the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials, 2014*. Important, rare or unusual finds will also be assigned a small finds number and sent away for specialist analysis.

Bulk samples will also be taken for retrieving artefacts and biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations) to be processed and analysed by the University of Leicester Archaeology Service, (ULAS). These samples will be taken from well-stratified datable deposits and specifically targeted areas of interest (e.g. undated sealed primary ditch fills) and will be a minimum of 40 litres where appropriate. The suitability of deposits for analysis will be discussed with CBC, Dr Boreham and Dr Mark Ruddy where appropriate.

Preserved wood will be sampled for potential dating via dendrochronology and Carbon 14 methods and will be assessed by Dr Roderick Bale (University of Wales Trinity St David). Prior to recovering timbers, suitability for dating will be assessed in conjunction with Dr Bale, CBC, Dr Mike Bamforth and Dr Mark Ruddy where appropriate.



Each deposit retained will be identified by context and a unique sample or timber number. For a full list of specialists see Appendix 2.

7.15 *Artefact Recovery*

A programme of bucket sampling will be conducted, whereby 90 litres of spoil will hand sorted for each soil horizon encountered. Bucket sampling points will occur at each end of trench. Unstratified artefacts will be sought and recovered from trench spoil heaps.

7.16 *Finds classed as Treasure*

It is the responsibility of the project manager for the site, after consultation with the relevant finds specialist, to submit any items falling under the provisions of the Act to the local coroner via the treasure co-ordinator (currently the Portable Antiquities Officer at the British Museum). See below for details of the act:

The Treasure Act

The Treasure Act of 1996 defines objects that qualify as Treasure and includes any metallic object other than coin that is made up of more than 10% gold or silver and is over 300 years old, any group of two or more metallic objects of prehistoric date that come from the same find, coin hoards that have been deliberately hidden, smaller groups of coins, votive or ritual deposits, any object from the same place as Treasure. Objects that are less than 300 years old made mainly of gold or silver, which have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery, and whose owners or heirs are unknown would also be classed as Treasure.

8.0 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

A report will be prepared on the conclusion of the evaluation and will be completed 4 weeks after the field work ends (no further work required) or a maximum of 6 months from the end of fieldwork (further fieldwork is required). Resourcing of the post-excavation phase is dependent on findings. Where further publication is required a detailed publication programme will be provided within 4 weeks of completion of fieldwork, and a publication report will be programmed for completion within 6 months. The prepared client/archive report will be commensurate with the results of the fieldwork, and will be consistent with the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015)* and contain the following:

- *Summary.* A concise summary of the work undertaken and the results;
- *Introduction.* Introduction to the project including the reasons for work, funding, planning background;
- *Background.* The history, layout and development of the site;



- *Aims and Objectives;*
- *Methodology.* Strategy and technique for site excavation;
- *Results.* Detailed description of findings outlining the nature, location, extent, date of any archaeological material;
- *Deposit Model.* Description of events behind the archaeological stratigraphy and geological deposition;
- *Specialist Reports.* Description of the artefactual and ecofactual remains recovered;
- *Discussion and Conclusions.* A synopsis interpreting the archaeological deposits and artefacts, including details of preservation, impact assessment, wider survival, condition and relative importance of the site and its component parts in local, regional and national context;
- *Bibliography;*
- *Appendices.* Context Descriptions, Finds Concordance, Project Archive Contents and Archive Deposition, HER/OASIS Summary Sheet;
- Illustrative material including maps, plans, drawings and photographs.

Digital and paper report copies will be supplied to the client and SCCAS/CT (one copy and a .pdf copy on CD). An OASIS entry will be completed and a summary included with the report. A .pdf file of the report will be uploaded to the ADS. A digital vector plan will be included with the report, which will be compatible with MapInfo GIS software which will also be made available on request subsequent to the report being issued.

It is understood that, if substantial archaeological remains are recorded during the project, it will be necessary to undertake a full programme of analysis and publication in accordance with the guidelines of *MoRPHE*. The project report will contain recommendations as to whether this will be appropriate. Provision has been made for a summary publication within the annual Proceedings of the Suffolk Archaeology and History should the evaluation prove positive.

9.0 PROJECT ARCHIVE AND 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. Deposition will be with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archives in accordance with the *Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition* (2015).



Any items requiring treatment will be conserved. Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with the relevant museum, subject to agreement with the legal landowner where finds are concerned.

The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The material will be catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No.2* and the Archaeological Archives Forum's *Archaeological Archives, A guide to best practice, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown, 2007).

10.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

BA operates a comprehensive Health and Safety Policy in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive. BA bases their H&S procedures on the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) Health and Safety Field Manual, which is regularly updated by supplements.

BA holds employer's liability; public liability and professional indemnity insurance arranged through Towergate Insurance (see Appendix 3).

10.1 Code of Practice, Risk Assessment and Site Induction

BA's Code of Practice covers all aspects of excavation work and ensures all risks are adequately controlled. A site visit has been undertaken and an assessment of the potential risks has been highlighted. A full site risk assessment will be produced using this information. The assessment of risk is an on-going process and this document can be updated if any change in risk occurs on site. A copy of the Risk Assessment is kept on site, read and countersigned by all staff and visitors during the BA site induction.

11.0 RESOURCES

The archaeological works are undertaken by a team of professional archaeologists, qualified to undertake this type of work (Appendix 1). Full CV's are available on request.

All site work will be undertaken by a Projects Officer (with a field team if required) in close communication with a Project Manager. This project officer will also be responsible for post-excavation and publication in liaison with the relevant specialists (Appendix 2).

Other specialists may be consulted and will be made known to the SCCAS/CT planning archaeologist for approval prior to their engagement. Any changes to the specialists documented in Appendix 2 will be made known to the SCCAS/CT immediately.



12.0 TIMETABLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

The evaluation fieldwork is potentially likely to begin in late April/early May 2016 pending approval of this written scheme of investigation by SCCAS/CT. Two members of staff will be on site to undertake the evaluation. Provision has been made for additional contingency days should any unexpected remains be encountered.

The client is aware of the working methods and provision has been made to allow access to undertake trenching as required by the design brief.

The production of the report will take either a maximum of 4 weeks from the end of fieldwork (no further fieldwork required) or a maximum of 6 months from the end of fieldwork (further fieldwork is required). Resourcing of the post-excavation phase is dependent on findings. Where further publication is required a detailed publication programme will be provided within 4 weeks of completion of fieldwork, and a publication report will be programmed for completion within 6 months.

13.0 MONITORING

SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. Any variations to the specification will be agreed with the SCCAS/CT monitoring officer prior to work being carried out. The monitoring officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project.



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English Heritage PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

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

English Heritage National List for England
www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

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

Historic England National List for England

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>



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

APPENDIX 1 STAFF

The following members of staff have the skills and experience necessary to undertake the archaeological work required in the brief. All have a wide range of experience on a variety of site types.

Supervisor Adam Leigh BA (Hons)

Qualifications: University of Reading, BA (Hons) History (2008-2011)

Experience: Adam joined Britannia Archaeology in early 2015 as an Archaeologist and has four years' experience within commercial archaeology. After graduating from Reading with First Class Honours, Adam began his career in archaeology processing finds recovered from sites across East Anglia. In 2012 he became responsible for supervising the processing of finds and working with specialists to produce post excavation assessments. Adam has also worked closely with archivists and has experience in preparing archives for deposition across the region. In his time within commercial archaeology he has learned a wide range of fieldwork skills on numerous sites within and beyond the East Anglia. Adam's main research interests lie in the archaeology and history of the medieval period that stemmed from his higher education studies.

Director Dan McConnell BSc (Hons)

Qualifications: University of Bournemouth, BSc (Hons) Archaeology (1995-1998)

Experience: Dan is a Director at Britannia Archaeology and has seventeen years' commercial archaeological experience. He took part in several archaeological projects in the north of England from the late 1980's onwards, including the Wharram Percy Research Project and Mount Grace Priory excavations. Within commercial archaeology he has been involved with many small to large scale archaeological projects in the United Kingdom and Ireland including major infrastructure schemes. Since relocating to East Anglia in 2004 he has carried out and managed several small to large scale excavations across the south and east of England. In 2008 Dan became a County Archaeologist for the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team before joining Britannia in 2014. His main research interests focus on the early pre-historic period (in particular the Neolithic) of the British-Isles and late post-medieval archaeology.

Director Martin Brook BA (Hons) PCIfA

Qualifications: University of Leicester, BA (Hons) Archaeology (2003 – 2006)



APPENDIX 2 - SPECIALISTS

Prehistoric Pottery:	Andrew Fawcett (Independent)
Roman Pottery:	Andrew Fawcett (Independent)
Saxon and Medieval Pottery:	Andrew Fawcett (Independent)
Post Medieval Pottery:	Andrew Fawcett (Independent)
Flint:	Dan McConnell (BA)
Animal Bone:	Julie Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human Bone:	Dr Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd) Dr Steph Leach (Independent)
Environmental:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Pollen and Seeds:	Dr Steve Boreham (University of Cambridge)
Charcoal and Wood:	Dr Roderick Bale (University of Trinity St David) Mike Bamforth (Independent)
Soil Micromorphology:	Dr Steve Boreham (University of Cambridge)
Carbon-14 Dating:	Beta Analytic Inc
Conservation:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Metalwork and Leather:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Glass:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Small Finds:	University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)
Illustration:	Dave Watt (Independent)
Slag:	Jane Cowgill (Independent)
Geophysical Consultant:	Dr Dave Bescoby
Air Photographic Assessments:	Alison Deegan (BSc)
Topographic Survey:	Matt Adams (BA)
CAD:	Dan McConnell & Mr Matt Adams (BA)
Coins & Medals:	British Museum, Department of Coins & Medals or University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS)

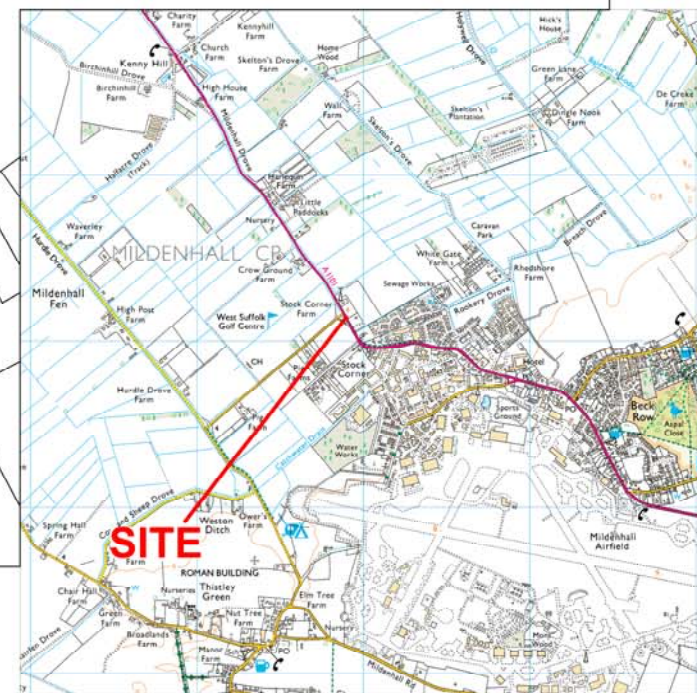


APPENDIX 3 – INSURANCE DETAILS

	Employers Liability Insurance	Public Liability	Professional Indemnity
Insurer	Towergate Insurance	Towergate Insurance	Towergate Insurance
Extent of Cover	£10,000,000	£5,000,000	£5,000,000
Policy Number	000436	000436	201101352/1236

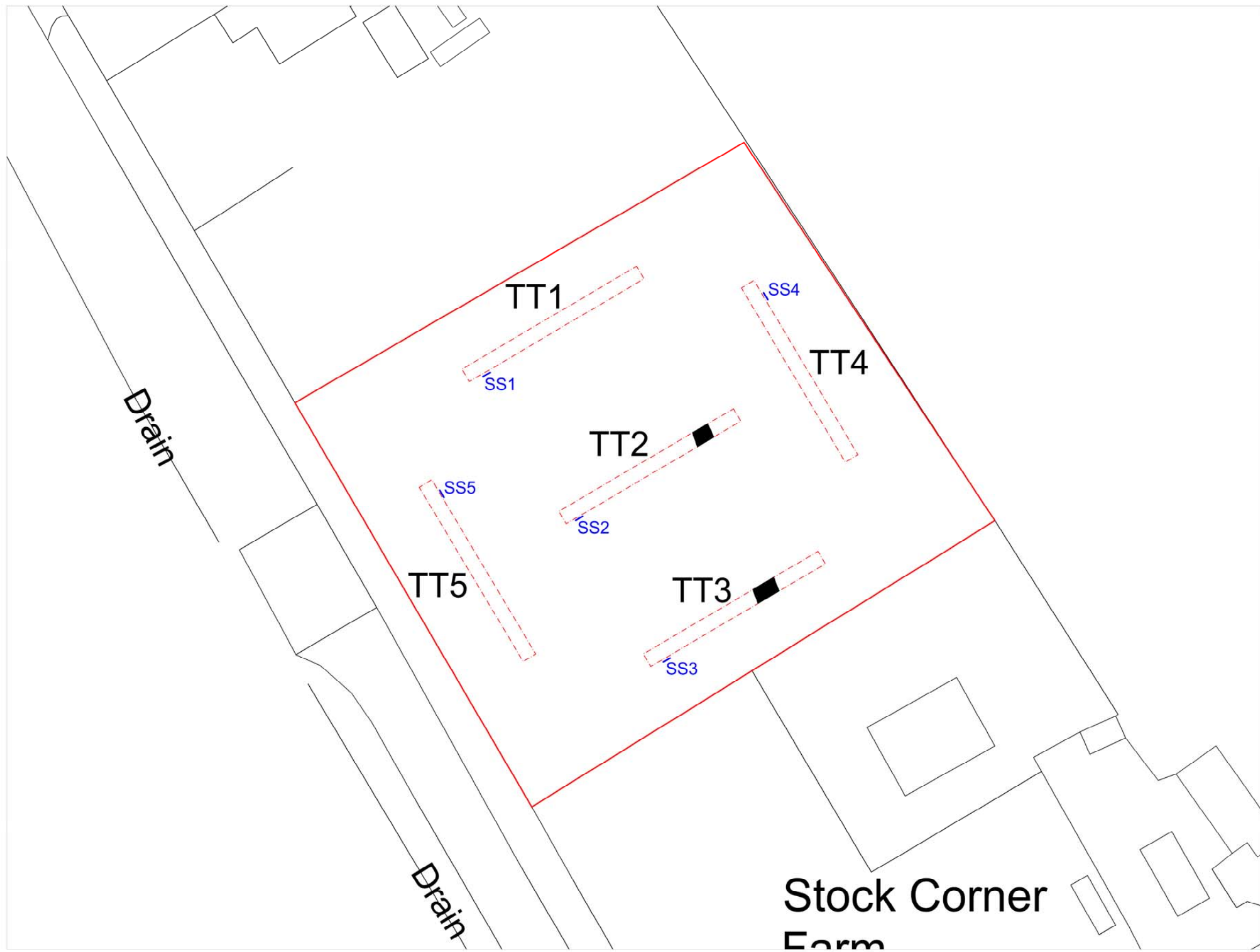






 Site Boundary



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PROJECT:	THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION:	GENERAL LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:	E and P Building Design		
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:	OCT 2016	FLOT:	A3
VERSION:	2		
AUTHOR:	DPM	FIGURE:	1
APPROVED:	MB		



-  Sample Section
-  Archaeological Feature
-  Trench
-  Site Boundary

NGR: 567921 278176 REF: R1144

PROJECT: THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH, SECTION & FEATURE LOCATION PLAN

CLIENT: E and P Building Design

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DATE: OCT 2016 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 2

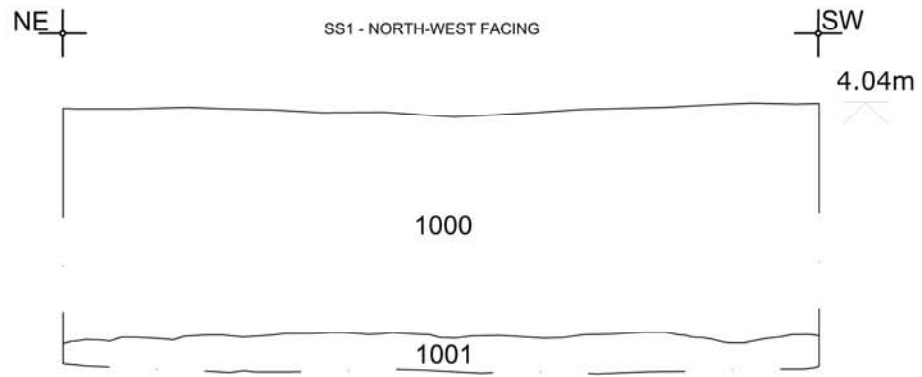
AUTHOR: DPM
APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 3

1:500 0 1:500 30m

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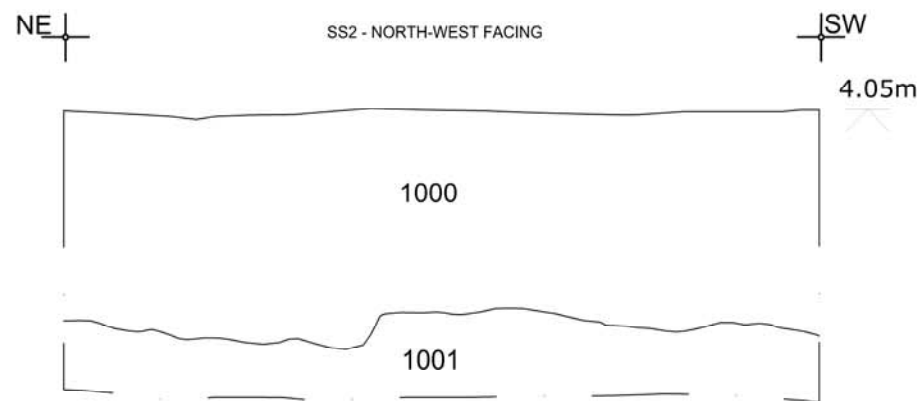
Stock Corner Farm



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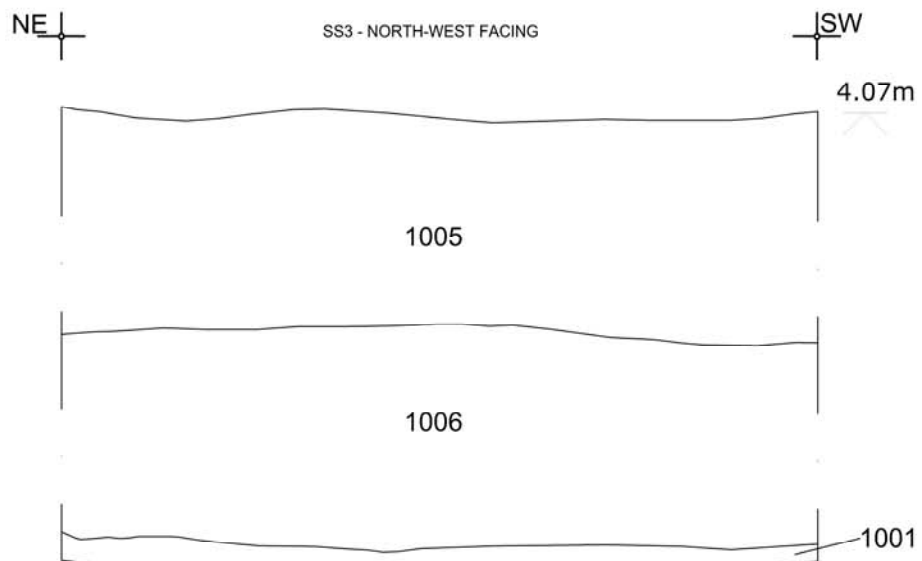
DP1 - VIEW SE - SITE SECTION 1



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DP3 - VIEW SE - SITE SECTION 2



1:10 0 50cm



DP6 - VIEW SE - SITE SECTION 3



NGR: 567921 278176 REF: R1144

PROJECT: THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: SITE SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT: E and P Building Design

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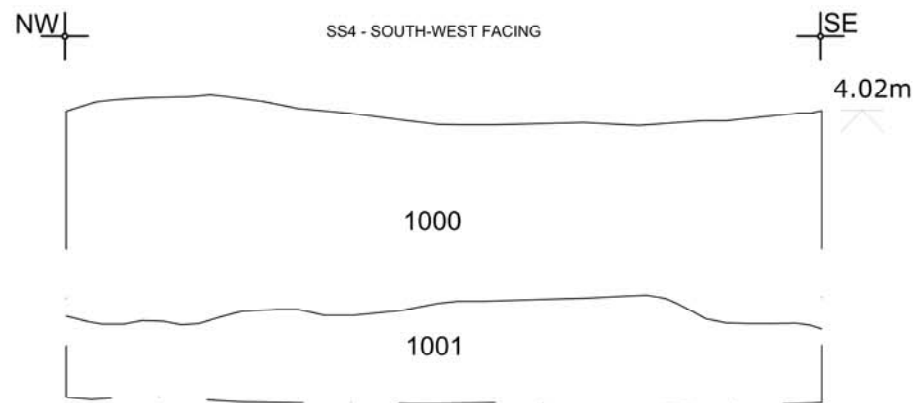
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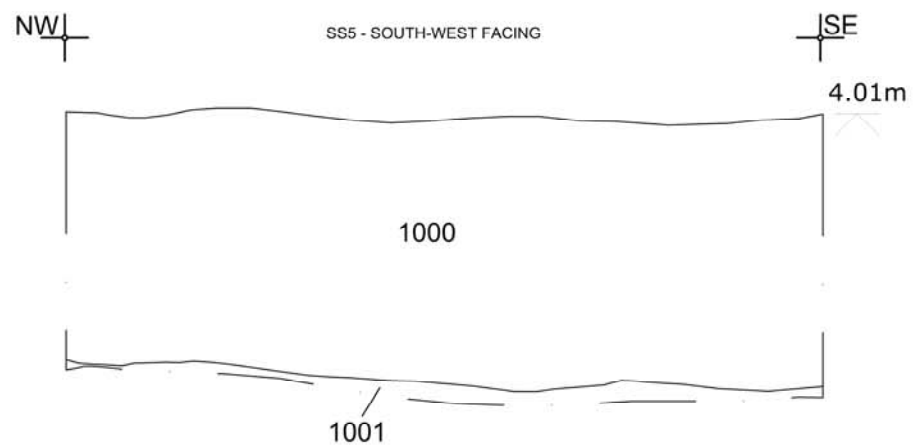
FIGURE: 4



1:10 0 50cm



DP10 - VIEW NE - SITE SECTION 4



1:10 0 50cm



DP8 - VIEW NE - SITE SECTION 5

NGR: 567921 278176 REF: R1144

PROJECT: THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

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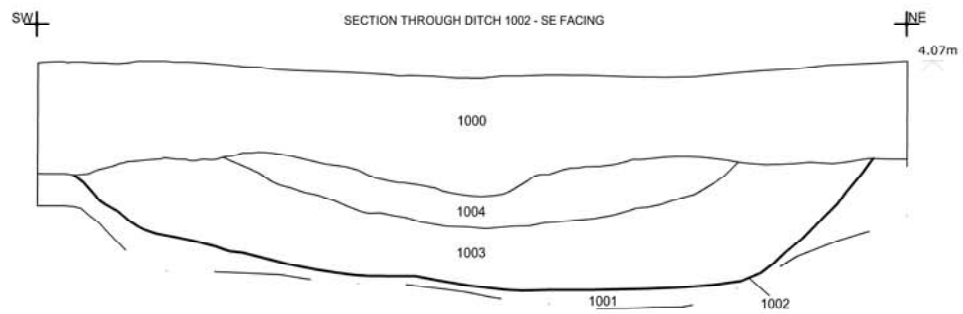
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AUTHOR: DPM FIGURE: 5

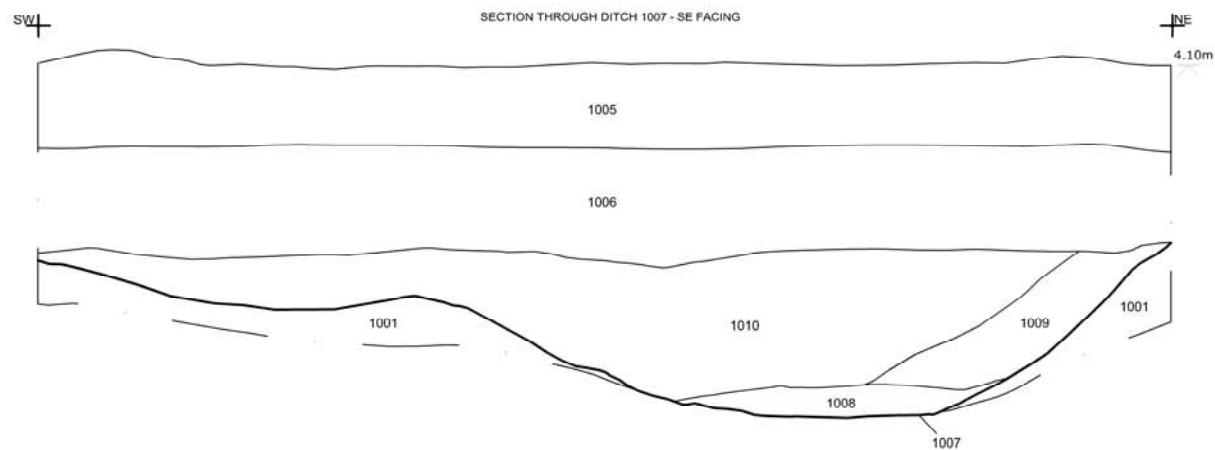
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1:20 0 1:20 1m



DP4 - VIEW NW - DITCH 1002



1:20 0 1:20 1m



DP11 - VIEW NW - DITCH 1007

NGR: 567921 278176 REF: R1144

PROJECT: THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: FEATURE SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT: E and P Building Design

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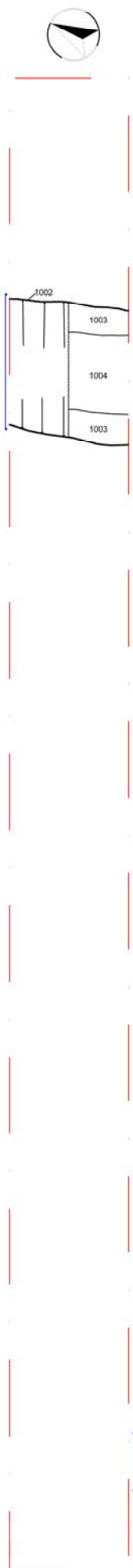
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AUTHOR: DPM FIGURE: 6

APPROVED: MB

TRIAL TRENCH 2



DP5 - VIEW NE - TRIAL TRENCH 2

1:100 0 1:100 5m

NGR:	567921 278176	REF:	R1144
PROJECT:	THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION:	TRENCH PLANS & PHOTOGRAPHS		
CLIENT:	E and P Building Design		
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VERSION:	1		
AUTHOR:	DPM	FIGURE:	7
APPROVED:	MB		

TRIAL TRENCH 3



DP12 - VIEW NE - TRIAL TRENCH 3

1:100 0 1:100 5m

NGR: 567921 278176 REF: R1144

PROJECT: THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH PLANS & PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT: E and P Building Design

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FIGURE: 8



DP2 - VIEW NE - TRIAL TRENCH 1



DP9 - VIEW SE - TRIAL TRENCH 4



DP7 - VIEW SE - TRIAL TRENCH 5

NGR: 567921 278176	REF: R1144	
PROJECT: THE CHESTNUTS, STOCK CORNER, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION: TRENCH PHOTOGRAPHS		
CLIENT: E and P Building Design		
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