



19 SAXON DRIVE, BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION


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Site Code	ECB4809	NGR	TL 59045 66466
Planning Ref.	15/00675/FUL	OASIS	britanni1-262884
Approved By:		Date	October 2016



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Abstract

On 10th October 2016, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on Land at 19 Saxon Drive, Burwell, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 59045 66466) , as part of a scheme of pre-planning archaeological works in advance of a housing development and associated works. A design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) required an evaluation comprising of a single trial trench measuring 15.00m x 1.80m.

Background research for the project indicated that there was a high probability of encountering archaeological remains dating to the Roman and Saxon Periods, as the site is located adjacent a site of a Roman settlement and Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery (CHER 06764a and 06764). However, no archaeological features or finds were present in the trial trenching evaluation.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 10th October 2016, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land at 19 Saxon Drive, Burwell, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 59045 66466), as part of a scheme of pre-planning archaeological works in advance of a housing development and associated works. A design brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart, G. dated 22nd August 2016) required an evaluation comprising of a single trial trench measuring 15.00m x 1.80m.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the southern half of the historic village of Burwell, Cambridgeshire at an average height of c.14m AOD. Burwell is a fen edge settlement lying on the south-eastern edge of the Fens, approximately 10km north-east of Cambridge.

The site covers an irregular area of 494m² to the rear of 19 Saxon Drive. The proposed development comprises one building and associated parking and landscaping.

The bedrock geology is described as Zig Zag chalk formation. This is a sedimentary rock formed in warm chalk seas during the Cretaceous period. No superficial deposits have been recorded at this location (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 *East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (S 6.16.4; 2015)*.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figures 2, 3 & 4)

The following archaeological background utilises the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER) (1km search centred on the site), Historic England PastScape



(www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2 & 4). The CHER preferred reference has been used.

The site is located in the village of Burwell, 10km north-east of the city of Cambridge. It is first mentioned as *burcwell* in 1060 and then later as *Buruuella* in Domesday in 1086. The name derives from Old English and means 'spring or stream by the fort' (*burh* + *wella*) (Mills, 2003).

The most significant records concerning the site relate to a known Roman settlement and Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery (CHER 06764a and 06764) located 26m to the north. The evidence for the Roman settlement comprised a large quarry pit backfilled with pottery, box and roof tiles and domestic waste material. The Saxon cemetery recorded 150 inhumations between 1925 and 1931, in shallow graves orientated east to west. There were no traces of coffins and finds were relatively sparse with 52 containing no grave goods at all, however four were richly furnished and 12 contained knives and a scramasax. The cemetery dated to the 6th and 7th century and seems to have contained predominately Christian inhumations.

4.1 Prehistoric (814,000BC – 43AD)

Evidence for pre-historic activity in the 1km search area is well documented. Find spots record limited Palaeolithic (01775B), and Mesolithic (06477) activity.

A larger concentration of Bronze Age activity is noted 300 to 60m south and south-west of the site and includes pits (MCB20331), a hoard (06769a) and a metal working site (MCB17444). This all indicates well established settlement activity.

A small Iron Age settlement is recorded 90m to the east (MCB17427) and comprised two large pits dating to the early to middle Iron Age and a group of smaller pits and postholes thought to be structures and fence lines. The dating suggests a certain level of settlement continuity from the Bronze Age.

4.2 Roman (43AD – 410AD)

A marked increase in activity is noted during the Roman period and the settlement identified to the north of the site (06764a) could extend to the proposed development area.



Finds scatters of Roman material are recorded to the south (06768, 06787, 06843 and 04663) and north-west (10953 and 06807) of the site suggesting widespread activity.

A dense concentration of features (11989) including a trackway and boundary ditched were uncovered during an excavation (ECB1435) at low road, 400m to the north-west.

The settlement location and outlying boundaries and track to the north-west suggest a small farming settlement or villa complex was present during the Roman period. This form of activity is common on fen edge sites and similar Roman activity is recorded in the nearby villages of Isleham, West Row and Beck Row.

4.3 *Anglo-Saxon (410AD – 1066AD)*

Burwell as a modern settlement has its origins in the Saxon period. The cemetery to the north of the site indicates a significant settlement in the 6th to 7th centuries. The village name also suggests that settlement was a *burh* or significant fortified settlement, however the location of this has yet to be positively identified, but might be under or close to the medieval castle to the south-west where two other Saxon find spots (CB14760 and 06768A) are recorded.

4.4 *Medieval (1066AD – 1540AD)*

Medieval activity is widely distributed across the search area. The remains of an unfinished 12th century castle is located 380m to the south-west (01775). This was constructed during the Anarchy period at the behest of King Stephen.

The medieval manor was located west of the castle and 400m south of the site (06493A) and St Mary's Church (Grade I; 48937) lies adjacent to it. The proximity of the castle, manor and church indicate the focus of medieval settlement activity was located around 400m south of the site.

The priory of St John (06864) and Burwell Hall (01122a) form a second focus of medieval activity around 500m west of the site and a scattering of earthworks and buildings are located 700m to the north-west (11380, 06733 and MCB17397)



The closest record (06721) lies 200m to the north-west and relates to an unsubstantiated reference as to the location of the ruined Church of St Andrew.

4.5 *Post-Medieval (1540AD – 1900AD)*

Stevens Mill is a Grade II* 18th century windmill (LB: 48963) and located 36m south of the site.

Eight further records are located within 250m of the site and relate to post-medieval buildings including another mill (06495), a Catholic Church (CB14872), two Inns (06476 and 06385) and a manor (06502). These tend to date to the 18th and 19th centuries suggesting a significant period of building activity from the 18th century onwards.

Given the above, the likelihood of encountering archaeological remains dating to the Roman and Saxon periods is **high**, based on the close proximity of 06764 and 06741a and the results of the excavation ECB615.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The CCC HET brief stated that the evaluation should aim to determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied (Stewart, G. Brief, Section 3.1).

6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives outlined in the brief stated that a particular importance be placed on:

- the amount of truncation to buried deposits,
- the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon,
- the preservation of deposits within negative features,
- site formation processes.

An assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable



deposits should also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid:

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: *eg* the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CCC HET Brief required an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened. The precedent exists whereby a 5% sample of a site is deemed to constitute an adequate representative sample. In this case a 15m x 1.80m trench located on a north-east to south-west alignment over the proposed building footprint and extending to the access road, was a suitable sample area.

A professional metal detector was used to scan the machined spoil heaps and exposed surfaces. A programme of Bucket sampling was conducted where 90 litres of spoil was hand sorted from each soil horizon at both ends of the single trench. Demonstrably modern finds were not retained.

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

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figure 6)

The trial trench, measuring 15m x 1.80m was located on a north-east to south-west alignment. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.48m. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

Topsoil layer **1000** was present to a maximum depth of 0.24m. This layer overlay Subsoil layer **1001** which was a maximum of 0.23m thick to a depth of 0.45m.



The results of the metal detecting survey and bucket sampling produced only modern find; Topsoil layer **1000** contained debris from modern garden use, including bricks, gravel, wooden boarder edges, garden waste, polybags and wire. No finds were present in Subsoil layer **1001**.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figure 5)

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was Topsoil layer **1000**, comprising a mid grey brown, firm clayey silt, with occasional small inclusions of chalk. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.24m.

Sealed by Topsoil **1000** was Subsoil layer **1001**, comprising a mid yellow-grey brown, compact clayey silt, with frequent small to medium inclusions of chalk. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.45m.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was Natural geology **1002**, comprising of compact light grey white chalk.

10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background suggested that the site had a high potential of encountering archaeological remains dating to the Roman and Saxon Periods, as the site is located adjacent a site of a Roman settlement and Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery (CHER 06764a and 06764). Unfortunately, no archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from the site. It is likely that no archaeology is present on the area of works.

11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The final archive will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CHET). The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr David Lock for commissioning the project.

We would also like to thank Gemma Stewart of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and assistance on the project.

The site was excavated by Matthew J. Baker of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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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>



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	SW - NE	26.84m	Sample Section 1
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	NW Side, NE End	SE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 – 0.24m	Topsoil: Mid grey brown, firm, clayey silt.	
1001	0.24 – 0.45m	Subsoil: mid yellow-grey brown, firm, clayey silt.	
1002	0.45m +	Natural: Light grey white, compact, chalk.	



APPENDIX 2 – OASIS FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view

<http://www.oasis.ac.uk/foia/foiaPrint.cfm>

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: **britanni1-262884**

Project details

Project name 19 Saxon Drive, Burwell
Short description of the project Single Trench Archaeological Evaluation
Project dates start: 19-09-2016 End: 19-10-2016
Previous/future work No / No
Any associated project reference codes P1161 -Contracting Unit No.
Type of project Field evaluation
Site status None
Current Land use Residential 1-General Residential
Monument type NONE None
Significant Finds NONE None
Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"
Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt National Planning Policy Framework- NPPF
Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE BURWELL 19 Saxon Drive
Postcode CB25 OHR
study area 500 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 59047 86467 52.272887360463 0.331350727115 52 16 22 N 000 19 52 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 26m Max: 27m

Project creators

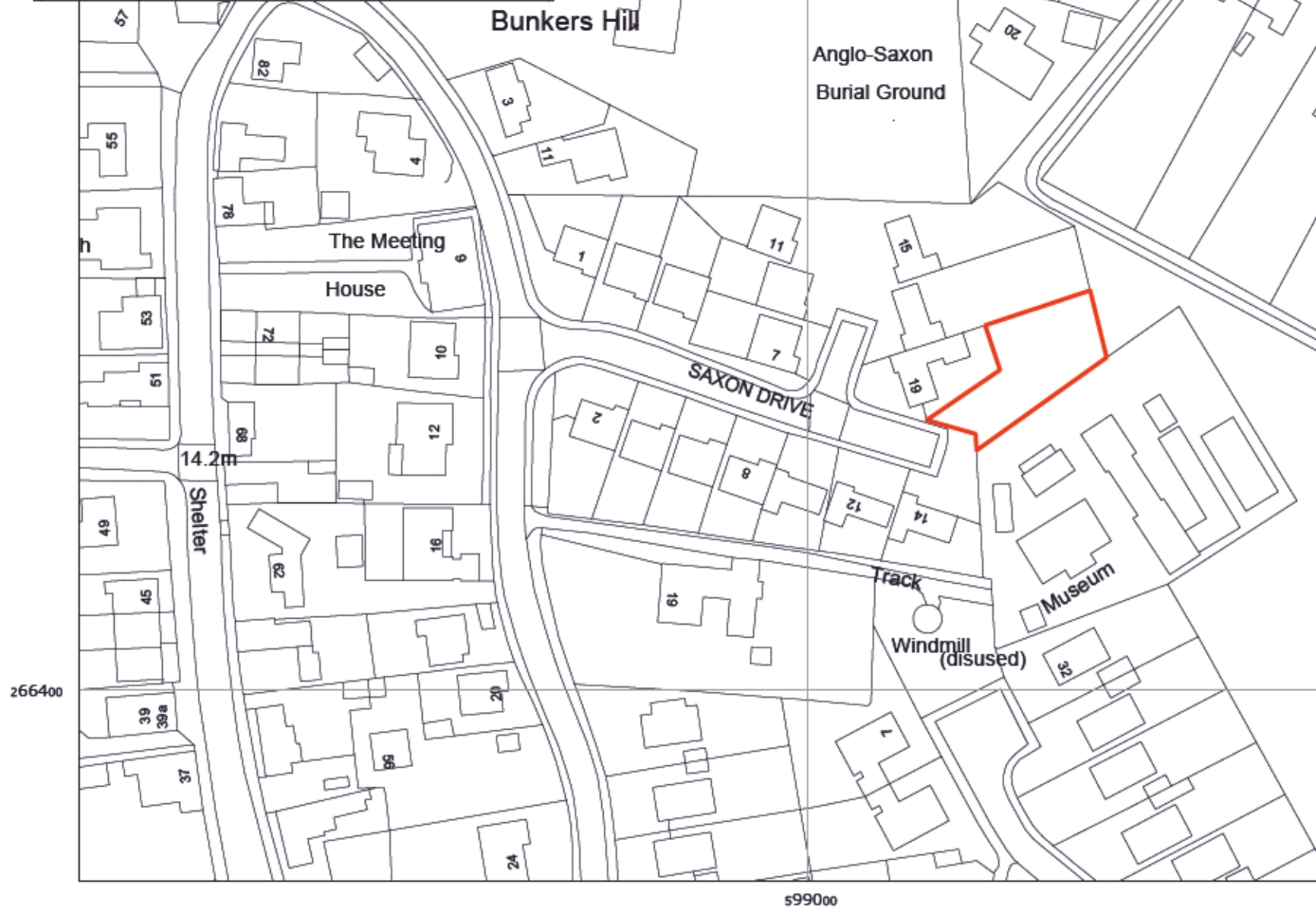
Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd



Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Matthew Adams
Project director/manager	Matthew Adams
Project supervisor	Matt Baker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lockmark Properties Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Digital Archive ID	ECB4809
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire HER
Paper Archive ID	EC84809
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	19 Saxon Drive. Burwell. Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baker, M. J.
other bibliographic details	R1142
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Description	A4 bound report with pullout A3 figures
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Site Boundary



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NGR:	559050 266470	REF:	P1168
PROJECT:	19 SAXON DRIVE, BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
DESCRIPTION:	GENERAL LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:	LOCKMARK PROPERTIES LTD		
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DATE:	SEP 2016	PLOT:	A3
AUTHOR:	MCA	VERSION:	1
APPROVED:	DPM	FIGURE:	1



- HER Search Area
- Undated Record
- Multi-period Record
- Modern Record
- Post-medieval Record
- Medieval Record
- Anglo Saxon Record
- Roman Record
- Iron Age Record
- Bronze Age Record
- Neolithic Record
- Mesolithic Record
- Palaeolithic Record
- Site Boundary

WGR:	559050 266470	REF:	P1168
PROJECT:	19 SAXON DRIVE, BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
DESCRIPTION:	CHER DATA - MONUMENTS		
CLIENT:	LOCKMARK PROPERTIES LTD		
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD			
			
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DATE:	SEP 2016	PLOT:	A3
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APPROVED:	DPM	FIGURE:	2



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- HER Search Area
- ▭ Archaeological Event
- ▭ Site Boundary

NGR: 559050 266470	REF: P1168
PROJECT: 19 SAXON DRIVE, BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE	
DESCRIPTION: CHER DATA - PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK	
CLIENT: LOCKMARK PROPERTIES LTD	
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DATE: SEP 2016	FIGURE: 3
AUTHOR: MCA	VERSION: 1
APPROVED: DPM	



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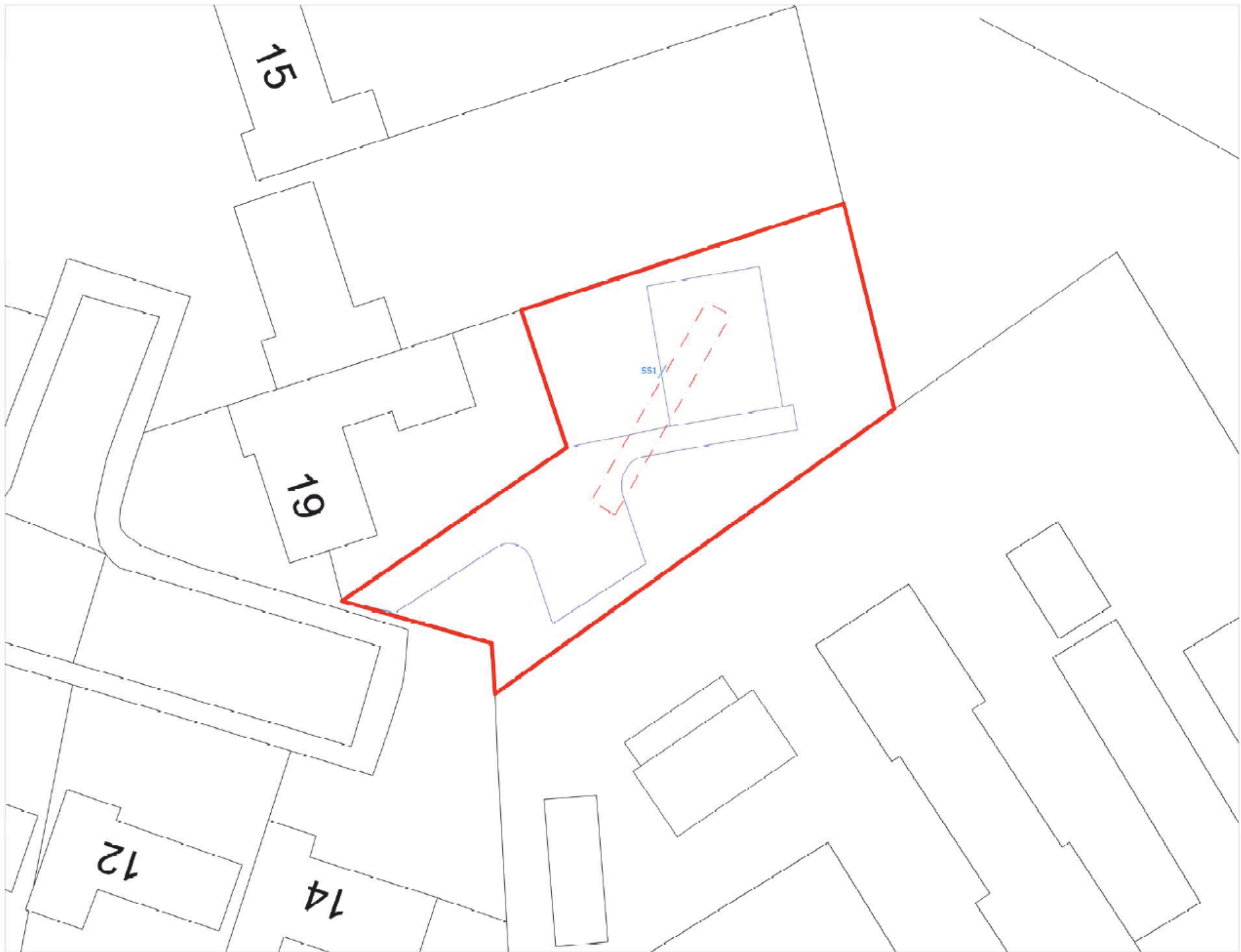


-  HER Search Area
-  Grade I
-  Grade II*
-  Grade II
-  Conservation Area
-  Site Boundary

WGR:	559050 266470	REF:	P1168
PROJECT:	19 SAXON DRIVE, BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE		
DESCRIPTION:	CHER DATA - LISTED BUILDINGS & SCHEDULED MONUMENTS		
CLIENT:	LOCKMARK PROPERTIES LTD		
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DATE:	SEP 2016	PLAT:	A3
AUTHOR:	MCA	VERSION:	1
APPROVED:	DPM	4	



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-  Sample Section
-  Proposed Development
-  Trench
-  Site Boundary

FIG: 559050 266470 REF: P1161

PROJECT: 19 SAXON DRIVE, BURWELL, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH LOCATION

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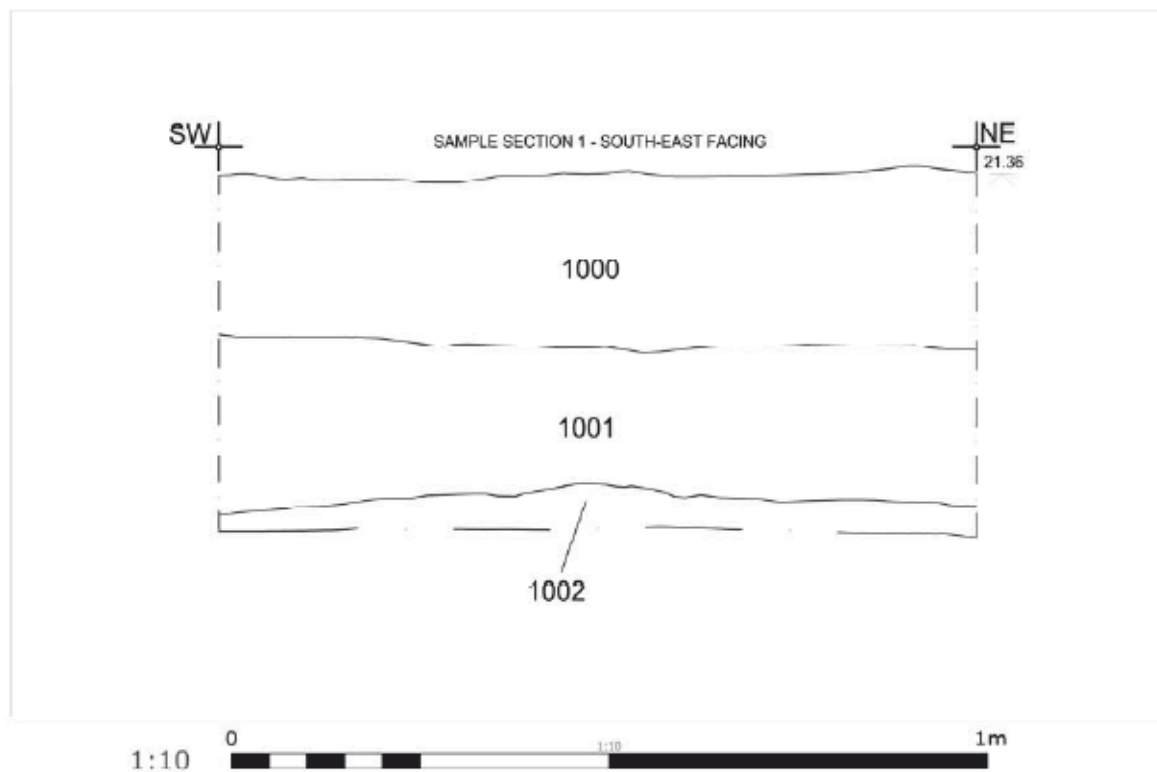
DATE: OCT 2016 PLAN: A3 VERSION: 2

DESIGNED: MJB
DRAWN: DPM

5



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SAMPLE SECTION - VIEW NW



TRIAL TRENCH - VIEW NE

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DATE: OCT 2016 PLAN: A3 VERSION: 1

ARCHAEOLOGIST: MJB PROJECT: 6

APPROVED BY: DPM