



LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, 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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Site Code	MNL787	NGR	TL 690 776
Planning Ref.	DC/14/0506/FUL	OASIS	britanni1- 291571
Event Code	ESF25699	HER Inv. No.	9203510
Approved By:		Date	October 2017

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Abstract

On the 28th September 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenching at Land Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk prior to the construction of two dwellings (TL 690 776). The requirement for the evaluation consisted of linear trial trenching to sample the proposed development area. This took the form of two trenches, the first measuring 10.00m x 1.80m and the second measuring 8.00m x 1.80m.

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there would be a moderate to high potential for encountering features and finds relating to the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods, as well as a moderate to high potential for encountering features and finds relating to the medieval settlement core of Beck Row.

Despite this, the archaeological evaluation only encountered features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. Features located in trench 1 consisted of pits relating to Victorian backyard rubbish pitting associated with former buildings adjacent the site.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 28th September 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenching at Land Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk prior to the construction of two dwellings (TL 690 776 – Fig.1). The requirement for the evaluation consisted of linear trial trenching to sample the proposed development area. This took the form of two trenches, the first measuring 10.00m x 1.80m and the second measuring 8.00m x 1.80m.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located in the southern bounds of the village of Beck Row, Suffolk south of the east west running St Johns Street. Directly to the sites east are agricultural fields and some 350m further east is the village of Holywell Row.

The bedrock geology is described West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation – Chalk. It is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas.

Superficial deposits at the site are described as River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) – Sand and Gravel. Superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The local environment was previously dominated by rivers.

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 (Figs. 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) (500m 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& 3).

The SHER search returned 10 entries dating to the prehistoric period. The most significant records returned from this period were those relating to the substantial phase of Bronze Age to Iron Age occupation in the northern area of the search consisting of ditch systems, enclosures, and structures which continued into the Roman period (MNL 201, MNL 502, MNL 598, MNL 570). The edge of this area of occupation is c. 200m east of the site where a small number of prehistoric (to Roman) features were identified on the fringe of the main



settlement (MNL 619). The closest records of prehistoric date to the site are fragmentary evidence of early Bronze Age occupation c.250m from site (MNL 564) and a series of Iron Age enclosures c.100m SW of the site (MNL 682). MNL 608 refers to an Early Bronze Age Inhumation found c.230m north-west of the site found with associated beaker pottery. The area around this site was further excavated and revealed more evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation in the form of enclosures, a possible Iron Age roundhouse, and possible Iron Age raised storehouse (MNL 618). On the periphery of the search area c.450m north east of the site, a bronze socketed axe head with loop which was plain with a worn cutting edge was discovered (MNL 120).

The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for the wider area with Colchester becoming the Roman Capital of Britannia. Beck row is located approximately 120km north of Colchester. 10 monument records of Roman date were returned by the SHER search the most significant of which is the substantial phase of Roman occupation in the form of domestic and agricultural activity (a continuation of the prehistoric occupation detailed above) situated across the northern part of the search area (MNL 201, MNL 502, MNL 598, MNL 638, MNL 619). A Roman field system found c.80m north of the site (MNL 589) is an extension of this occupation area. The closest record to the site is MNL 243 a Roman inhumation with a glass bead necklace and 2 bronze finger rings found c.70m north-east. Some fragmentary evidence of Roman occupation in the form of a ditch is located c.100m south-west of the site (MNL 564). In addition, 2 scatters of Roman pottery sherds have been found c.400m west of the site (MNL 094) and c.250m north-west of the site (MNL 507).

The medieval period is represented by the SHER search with two records in the search radius. The most significant record returned by the search (MNL675) relates to the indicative area of the medieval historic settlement core of Beck Row, Holywell Row and Wilde Street. The site lies within the western area of the historic settlement core. Other medieval finds encountered nearby (MNL577) indicate a concentration of medieval activity in this area.

The post-medieval period returned 3 monument records from the SHER search. The closest record of this date was MNL 779 located c.270m north-west of the site featuring a post-medieval wall and 6 animal burials. Evidence of a post-medieval field boundary and finds of post-medieval pottery sherds and architectural fragments were found c.350m north-west of the site (MNL 502) as well as a post-medieval chalk quarry pit c.300m to the west.

The SHER returned 7 undated records. These mostly refer to undated ditches and pits found in the area (MNL 540, MNL 645, MNL 508, and MNL 577). Given the form of these features it has been surmised that these were likely pre-modern but more precise dating was not possible. 3 of these records indicated that no archaeological features were found (MNL 654, MNL 720, MNL 566).

The SHER returned 4 listed building entries within the 500m search area none of which were in the immediate vicinity of the site.



Given the above records the site had a **moderate to high** potential for features and finds relating to the **prehistoric** and **Romano-British** occupation of the area and a **moderate to high** potential for features and finds relating to the **medieval** historic settlement core of Beck Row.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief stated that the evaluation should aim to address the following points (Abraham, R. Brief, Section 4.2).

- 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.

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving will be undertaken in accordance with the *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2017 (SCCAS/CT)*, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, D. 2003) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CifA. 2014).

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 fieldwork for the evaluation portion of the project was undertaken on the 28th of September 2017. The SCCAS/CT brief required the excavation of 20.00 meters of trial trenching in advance of the construction of the houses and associated works. The trenching is to cover 5% of the site area with the trenches arranged in a systematic grid array. This comprised of 2 trenches, trench 1 measured 10.0m x 1.80m orientated north to south. Due to on site constraints, and upon agreement with SCCAS/CT, trench 2 had to be reduced in length by 2.00m..



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

The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings and appropriate photographs were also taken (Fig. 6 – 7).

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 6 – 7)

The evaluation consisted of linear trial trenching to sample the proposed development area. Two trenches were cut, measuring 18.00m in total. A reduction in the total length of the trench 2 was required due to onsite constraints. The features encountered in the trenches were pits, which are discussed below:

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 10.00m x 1.80m, orientated north to south, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m and contained three features.

Pit **1004** (0.50m x 0.56m x 0.07m) which was circular in plan with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Pit **1004** contained a single fill **1005**, consisting of a dark brown grey, compact, sandy silt, with frequent inclusions of chalk pebbles. No finds were present within the feature.

Pit **1006** (0.50m x 0.43m x 0.04m) which was circular in plan with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Pit **1006** contained a single fill **1007** which was a dark brown grey, compact, sandy silt with frequent inclusions of chalk pebbles. No finds were present within the feature.

Pit **1008** (0.92m x 1.16m x 0.36m) was oval in plan, with steep sloping sides and a flat base. Pit **1008** contained a single fill **1009** which was a dark brown grey, compact, sandy silt with frequent inclusions of chalk pebbles. A single shattered and abraded sherd of glazed red earthenware dated from the 16th to 18th century. The level of wear on pottery suggests that it is not in its original place of deposition. Two stem fragments of clay pipe were recovered from fill **1009**, dated from mid 19th to early 20th century (1850 – 1910). Due to the heavy abrasion on the pottery it is likely that the date provided by the clay pipe stem fragments is more reliable.

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 8.00m x 1.80m, orientated east to west, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.22m, containing two large modern features. Both of these modern features cut through sub soil layer **1001**, which can be seen in sample section 2 (Fig.7). Both features contained barbed wire, oil cans, rubble sacks and other modern waste. These features comprised the majority of the trench and were reduced until natural



geology was encountered. After discussion with SCCAS/CT it was deemed no further excavation of the modern features was necessary.

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs. 6 - 7)

The deposit model was inconsistent across the site. This was demonstrated by the varying compositions of the natural geology in both trenches given the relatively close distance between them. However, other excavations nearby both in Beck Row and Mildenhall have also noted such a sudden change between the two deposits.

Made ground layer **1000** was a dark brown black, loose, sandy silty clay with infrequent inclusions of sub-angular flint stones. This layer was at the top of the stratigraphic sequence in all sample sections. It was present to a maximum depth of 0.33m in sample section 1.

Beneath made ground layer **1000** was subsoil layer **1001**, which consisted of a light grey brown, loose sandy silt, with infrequent inclusions of sub-angular flint stones. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 1.13m in sample section 2.

The base of the stratigraphic sequence in trench 1 was natural geology **1002** which was a grey white, compact chalk natural, with frequent degraded chalk fragments on its surface. The base of the stratigraphic sequence in trench 2 was natural geology **1003**, which consisted of a light yellow orange, loose, sand.

10 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there would be a moderate to high potential for encountering features and finds relating to the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods, as well as a moderate to high potential for encountering features and finds relating to the medieval settlement core of Beck Row.

Despite this, the archaeological evaluation only encountered features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. The two large pits identified in trench 2 were modern in date, this was based on large amounts of modern rubbish present in their fills.

Pit **1008** located in trench 1, had been dated from the late 19th to early 20th century (AD1850 – 1910), based on two stem fragments of clay pipe recovered from its fill. The fill also contained a shattered and abraded sherd of glazed red earthen ware dated from the 16th to 18th century. However, due to the sherd showing abrasion it is likely that pit **1008** is not its original place of deposition. Therefore, the later date provided by the clay pipe fragments is more likely for the feature. Two further pits were identified within trench 1, these did not contain any finds and therefore undated. The features present within trench 1 most likely represent Victorian rubbish pits, relating to backyard rubbish pitting associated with former buildings adjacent the site.



11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr Stewart Harrison of E & P Building Design for commissioning and funding the works.

We would also like to thank Rachael Abraham of SCCAS/CT for her help and advice throughout.

The site was excavated by Dan McConnell and Martin Brook 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



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Sample Section 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height aOD	Shot No
1	N-S	6.02m	DP 2
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	N End	E Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.33m	Made Ground Layer – dark brown black, loose, silty sandy clay.	
1001	0.33-0.48m	Subsoil layer – light grey brown, loose, sandy silt with infrequent sub-angular flint stone inclusions.	
1002	0.48m+	Natural – grey white, compact, chalk	

Sample Section 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height aOD	Shot No
2	E-W	6.13m	DP 7
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2	E End	S Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.26m	Made Ground Layer – dark brown black, loose, silty sandy clay.	
1001	0.26-1.13m	Subsoil layer – light grey brown, loose, sandy silt with infrequent sub-angular flint stone inclusions.	
1003	1.13m+	Natural – light yellow orange, loose, sand.	



APPENDIX 2 – CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

FEATURE CONTEXT	FEATURE TYPE	LAYER/FILL CONTEXT	LAYER/FILL DESCRIPTION	SPOT DATE	POTTERY /g (sherds)	OTHER /g(number)
1008	PIT	1009	PIT FILL	LATE POST-MEDIEVAL TO EARLY MODERN	2(1)	CLAY PIPE STEMS - 6g(2)



APPENDIX 3 – SPECIALIST REPORTS

The post-medieval pottery from Beck Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk (MNL 787): An assessment report

Andy Fawcett

A single body sherd of Glazed red earthenware (GRE) was retrieved from Pit fill 1009. It is small (2g), shattered and abraded, although the remains of a clear glaze on its outer surface can still be observed. In general this style of pottery is quite high fired and its level of wear therefore, suggests that it is not in its original place of deposition. Glazed red earthenwares of this type are dated from the 16th to 18th century.

The sherd has been fully identified and no further examination of it will be required.



CLAY PIPE

By Dan McConnell - Britannia Archaeology Ltd

1. THE FINDS

Introduction

Two clay pipe fragments were recovered from pit fill 1009 (Pit 1008).

Methodology

The pipe stem fragments were analysed using the techniques recommended in *Dating Stem Fragments of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Clay Tobacco Pipes* (Harrington, J.C., 1978) and *London Clay Tobacco Pipes* (Atkinson, D. & Oswald, A., 1969).

Results

Fill 1009 produced a two pipe stem fragments.

The first and larger stem fragment appears to be broken just back from the spur/heel of the bowl although no part of the spur/heel (if it were present) survives on the fragment. A small amount of [SB] moulded decoration survives in the form of a rounded collar (0.2cm width) leading in to a dotted diamond pattern towards to bowl end. Some 38mm along the stem away from the collar is a small (0.2cm x 0.2cm) embossed square, this usually would be the location of a makers stamp; in this case it is more than likely a blemish in the mould used to form the pipe. It is made from typical local non-glaze plain earthenware.

This stem fragment measures 9.2cm in length and 0.6cm in diameter, with a 0.2cm, 1/16" bore diameter and weighs 5g.

The second smaller stem fragment is broken medially from the pipe stem, and has no attached flare or fine tapering associated with being adjacent to a bowl or mouthpiece. It is made from typical local non-glaze plain earthenware.

This stem fragment measures 1.5cm in length and 0.6cm in diameter, with a 0.2cm, 1/16" bore diameter and weighs 1g.

Discussion

The stem fragments from fill 1009 can be dated to the mid 19th to early 20th century (1850 – 1910).

Dating pipe stem by hole bore is not exhaustive, ideally pipe bowl fragments should be used to accurately date clay pipes. No further work is recommended.

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Archaeological Evaluation
P1198

Harrington, J.C., 1978. *Dating Stem Fragments of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Clay Tobacco Pipes*. In Schuyler, R. (ed.). *Historical Archaeology: A Guide to Substantive and Theoretical Contributions*. Farmingdale, New York: Baywood, pp. 63-5.

APPENDIX 4 – OASIS FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

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OASIS ID: britanni1-291571

Project details

Project name	Land Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk
Short description of the project	On the 28th September 2017, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenching at Land Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk prior to the construction of two dwellings (TL 690 776). The requirement for the evaluation consisted of linear trial trenching to sample the proposed development area. This took the form of two trenches, the first measuring 10.00m x 1.80m and the second measuring 8.00m x 1.80m. The archaeological background for the site suggested that there would be a moderate to high potential for encountering features and finds relating to the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods, as well as a moderate to high potential for encountering features and finds relating to the medieval settlement core of Beck Row. Despite this, the archaeological evaluation only encountered features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. Features located in trench 1 consisted of pits relating to Victorian backyard rubbish pitting associated with former buildings adjacent the site.
Project dates	Start: 16-08-2017 End: 16-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MNL787 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE STEM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF



OASIS FORM - Print view

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

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 Land at Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk
Postcode IP28 8DH
Study area 597.65 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 690 776 52.369913637398 0.482694874856 52 22 11 N 000 28 57 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 4.9m Max: 5.54m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Lousia Cunningham
Project director/manager Martin Brook
Project supervisor Martin Brook
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body E & P Building Design

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Physical Archive ID MNL787
Physical Contents "other","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Digital Archive ID MNL787
Digital Contents "Ceramics","other"
Digital Media available "Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID MNL787
Paper Contents "Ceramics","other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "



OASIS FORM - Print view

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baker, M.
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APPENDIX 5 – APPROVED WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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/14/0506/FUL, in advance of the erection of 2 single storey dwelling with attached garages.

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 of Land Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk (NGR TL 569041, 277674). A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) (Abraham, R. dated 19th June 2017) requires a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened available area. This will comprise of 2 trial trenches measuring 10.00m x 1.80m, excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

SCCAS/CT may require further mitigation work based on the results of this evaluation and this will be subject to an additional Brief and WSI.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located in the southern bounds of the village of Beck Row, Suffolk south of the east west running St Johns Street. Directly to the sites east are agricultural fields and some 350m further east is the village of Holywell Row.

The bedrock geology is described West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation – Chalk. It is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas.

Superficial deposits at the site are described as River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) – Sand and Gravel. Superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. The local environment was previously dominated by rivers.

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) (500m 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, 3 & 4).



The SHER search returned 10 entries dating to the prehistoric period. The most significant records returned from this period were those relating to the substantial phase of Bronze Age to Iron Age occupation in the northern area of the search consisting of ditch systems, enclosures, and structures which continued into the Roman period (MNL 201, MNL 502, MNL 598, MNL 570). The edge of this area of occupation is c. 200m east of the site where a small number of prehistoric (to Roman) features were identified on the fringe of the main settlement (MNL 619). The closest records of prehistoric date to the site are fragmentary evidence of early Bronze Age occupation c.250m from site (MNL 564) and a series of Iron Age enclosures c.100m SW of the site (MNL 682). MNL 608 refers to an Early Bronze Age Inhumation found c.230m north-west of the site found with associated beaker pottery. The area around this site was further excavated and revealed more evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation in the form of enclosures, a possible Iron Age roundhouse, and possible Iron Age raised storehouse (MNL 618). On the periphery of the search area c.450m north east of the site, a bronze socketed axe head with loop which was plain with a worn cutting edge was discovered (MNL 120).

The Romano-British period marked a significant change in development for the wider area with Colchester becoming the Roman Capital of Britannia. Beck row is located approximately 120km north of Colchester. 10 monument records of Roman date were returned by the SHER search the most significant of which is the substantial phase of Roman occupation in the form of domestic and agricultural activity (a continuation of the prehistoric occupation detailed above) situated across the northern part of the search area (MNL 201, MNL 502, MNL 598, MNL 638, MNL 619). A Roman field system found c.80m north of the site (MNL 589) is an extension of this occupation area. The closest record to the site is MNL 243 a Roman inhumation with a glass bead necklace and 2 bronze finger rings found c.70m north-east. Some fragmentary evidence of Roman occupation in the form of a ditch is located c.100m south-west of the site (MNL 564). In addition, 2 scatters of Roman pottery sherds have been found c.400m west of the site (MNL 094) and c.250m north-west of the site (MNL 507).

The medieval period is represented by the SHER search with two records in the search radius. The most significant record returned by the search (MNL675) relates to the indicative area of the medieval historic settlement core of Beck Row, Holywell Row and Wilde Street. The site lies within the western area of the historic settlement core. Other medieval finds encountered nearby (MNL577) indicate a concentration of medieval activity in this area.

The post-medieval period returned 3 monument records from the SHER search. The closest record of this date was MNL 779 located c.270m north-west of the site featuring a post-medieval wall and 6 animal burials. Evidence of a post-medieval field boundary and finds of post-medieval pottery sherds and architectural fragments were found c.350m north-west of the site (MNL 502) as well as a post-medieval chalk quarry pit c.300m to the west.

The SHER returned 7 undated records. These mostly refer to undated ditches and pits found in the area (MNL 540, MNL 645, MNL 508, and MNL 577). Given the form of these features it has been surmised that these were likely pre-modern but more precise dating



was not possible. 3 of these records indicated that no archaeological features were found (MNL 654, MNL 720, MNL 566).

The SHER returned 4 listed building entries within the 500m search area none of which were in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Given the above records the site has a **moderate to high** potential for features and finds relating to the **prehistoric** and **Romano-British** occupation of the area and a **moderate to high** potential for features and finds relating to the **medieval** historic settlement core of Beck Row.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief states that the evaluation should aim to address the following points (Abraham, R. Brief, Section 4.2).

- 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.

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving will be undertaken in accordance with the *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2017 (SCCAS/CT)*, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, D. 2003) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CifA. 2014).

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 20.00 meters of trial trenching in advance of the construction of the houses 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 of 2 10.0m 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. 4).

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 named, experienced metal detector user will be used to scan the area before the trenches are stripped, 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 Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer, within 14 days. 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* (2017).

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 mid September 2017 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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Websites:

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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>

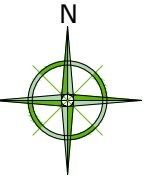
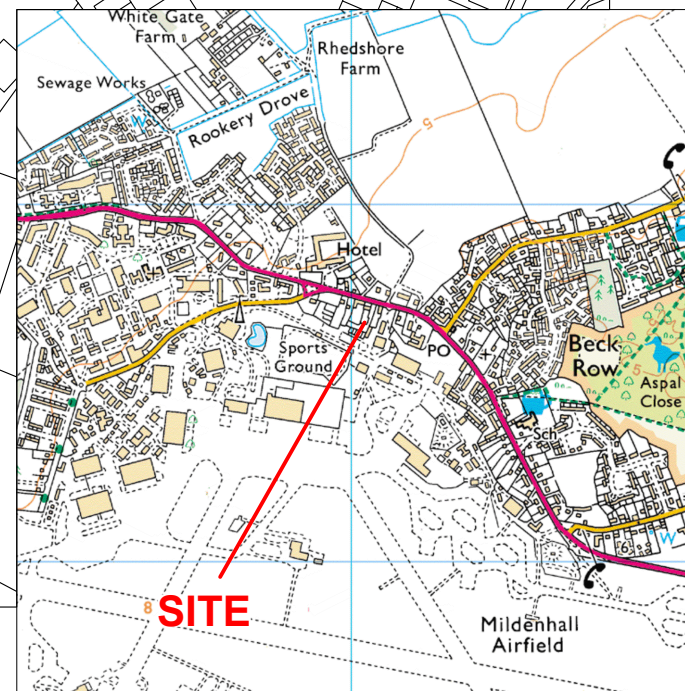
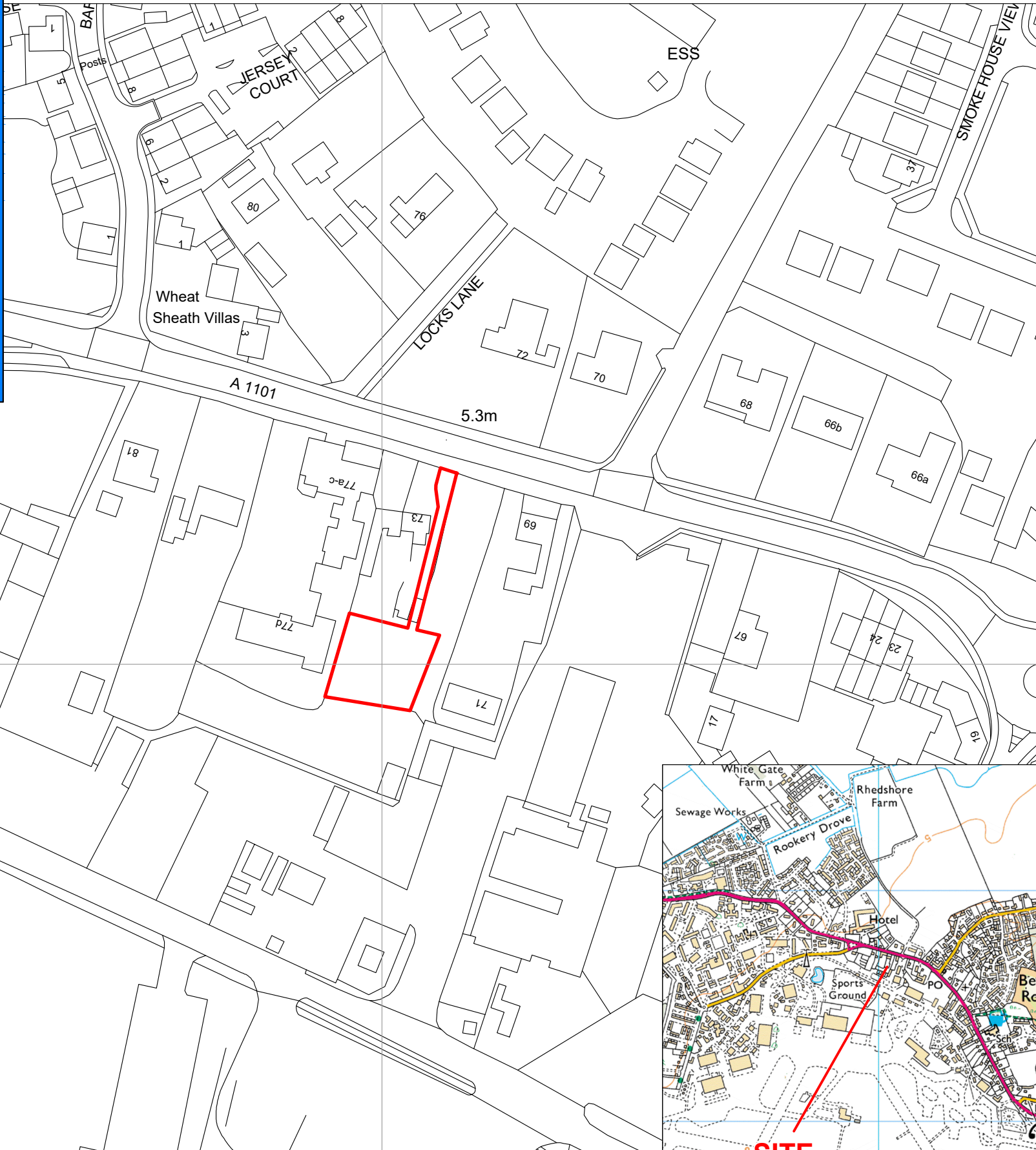
Historic England National List for England

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



Land Rear of 75 The Street, Beck Row, Suffolk
Archaeological Evaluation
P1198

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



Site Boundary

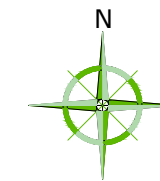
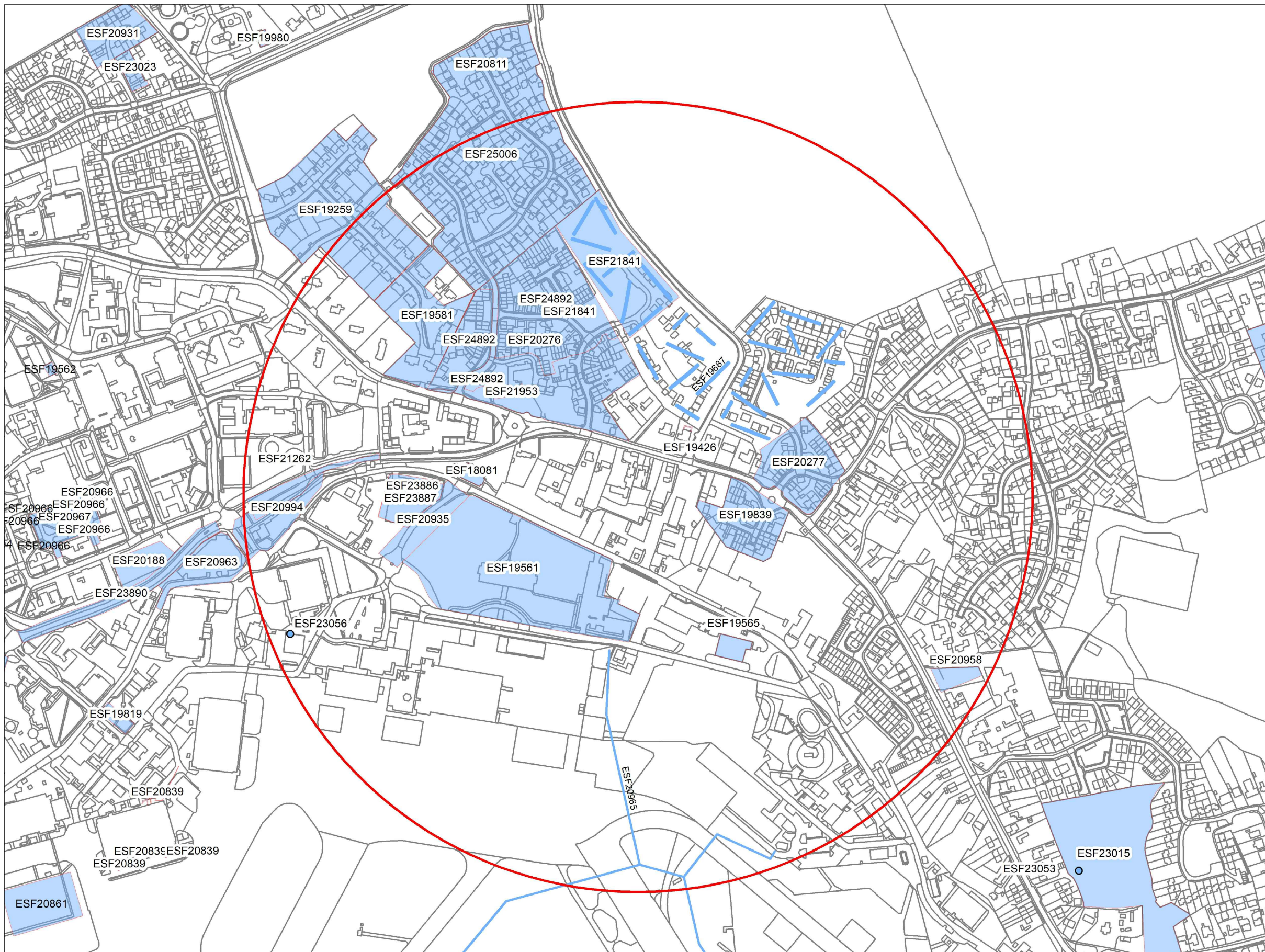
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PROJECT:	LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION:	GENERAL LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:	E & P BUILDING DESIGN		
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD			
			
UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP33 3PH			
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DATE:	OCT 2017	PLOT:	A3
VERSION:	2	AUTHOR:	DPM
APPROVED:	MB	FIGURE:	1



-  HER Search Area
-  Archaeological Event
-  Site Boundary

NGR: 569041 277674 REF: P1198

PROJECT: LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: SHER DATA: EVENTS

CLIENT: E & P BUILDING DESIGN

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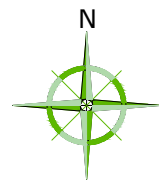
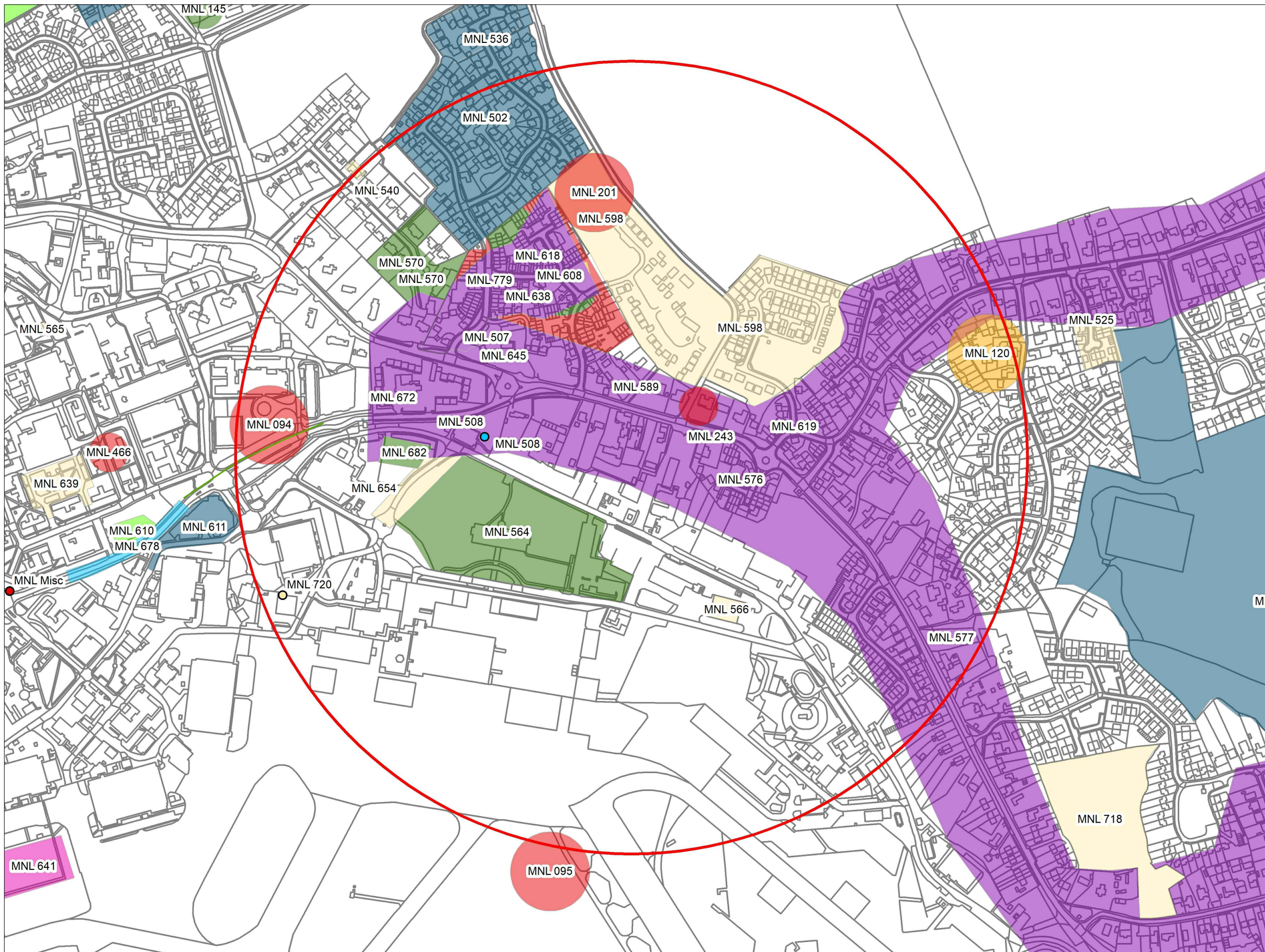
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DATE: OCT 2017 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 2

AUTHOR: DPM
APPROVED: MB

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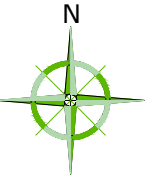
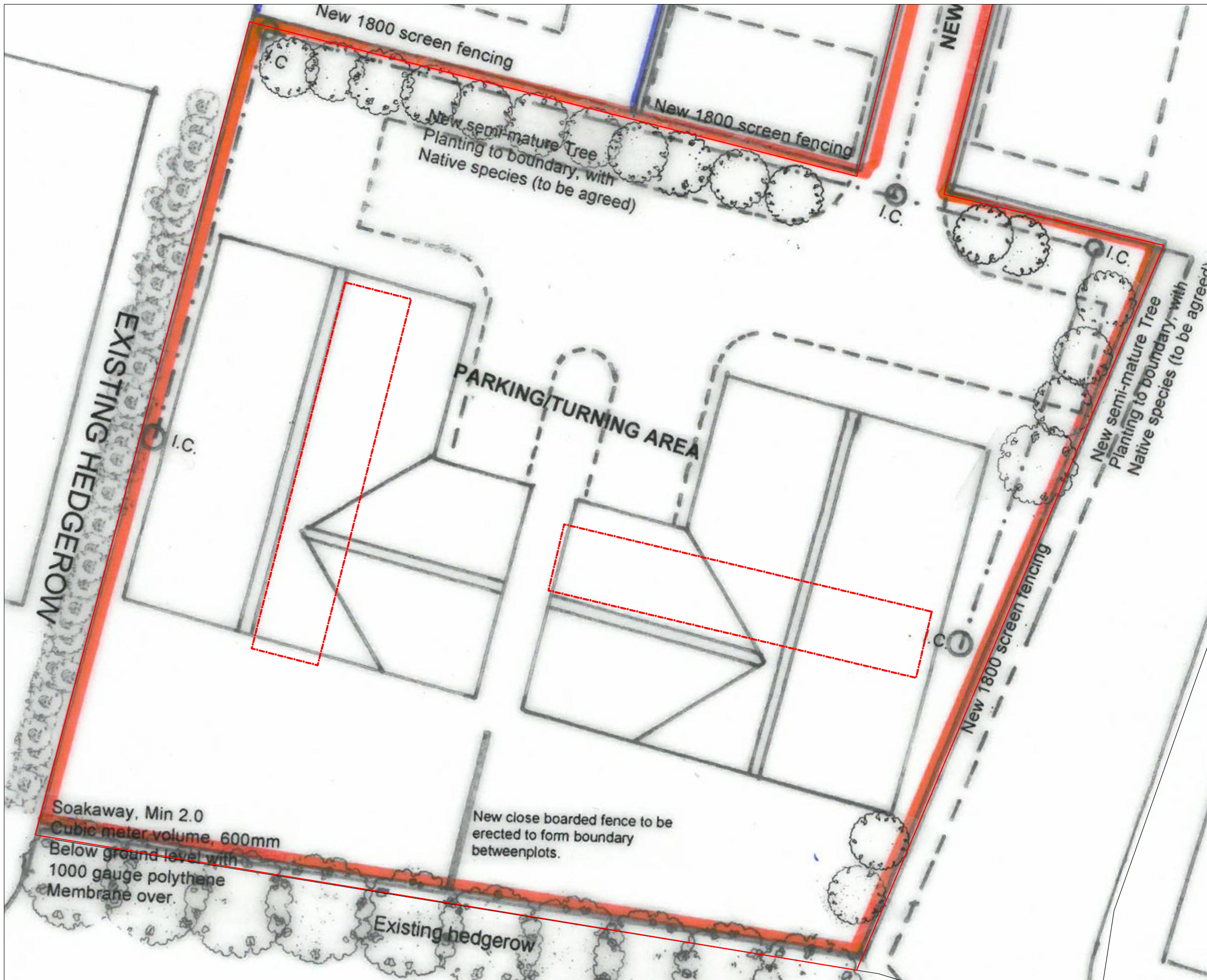


- HER Search Area
- Undated Record
- Multiperiod Record
- Modern Record
- Post-medieval Record
- Medieval Record
- Anglo Saxon Record
- Roman Record
- Iron Age Record
- Bronze Age Record
- Neolithic Record
- Mesolithic Record
- Palaeolithic Record
- Site Boundary

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PROJECT:	LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION:	SHER DATA: MONUMENTS		
CLIENT:	E & P BUILDING DESIGN		
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AUTHOR:	DPM	VERSION:	2
APPROVED:	MB	FIGURE:	3



- Trench
- Site Boundary

NGR: 569041 277674 REF: P1198

PROJECT: LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED TRENCH PLAN OVER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

CLIENT: E & P BUILDING DESIGN

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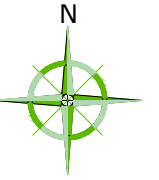
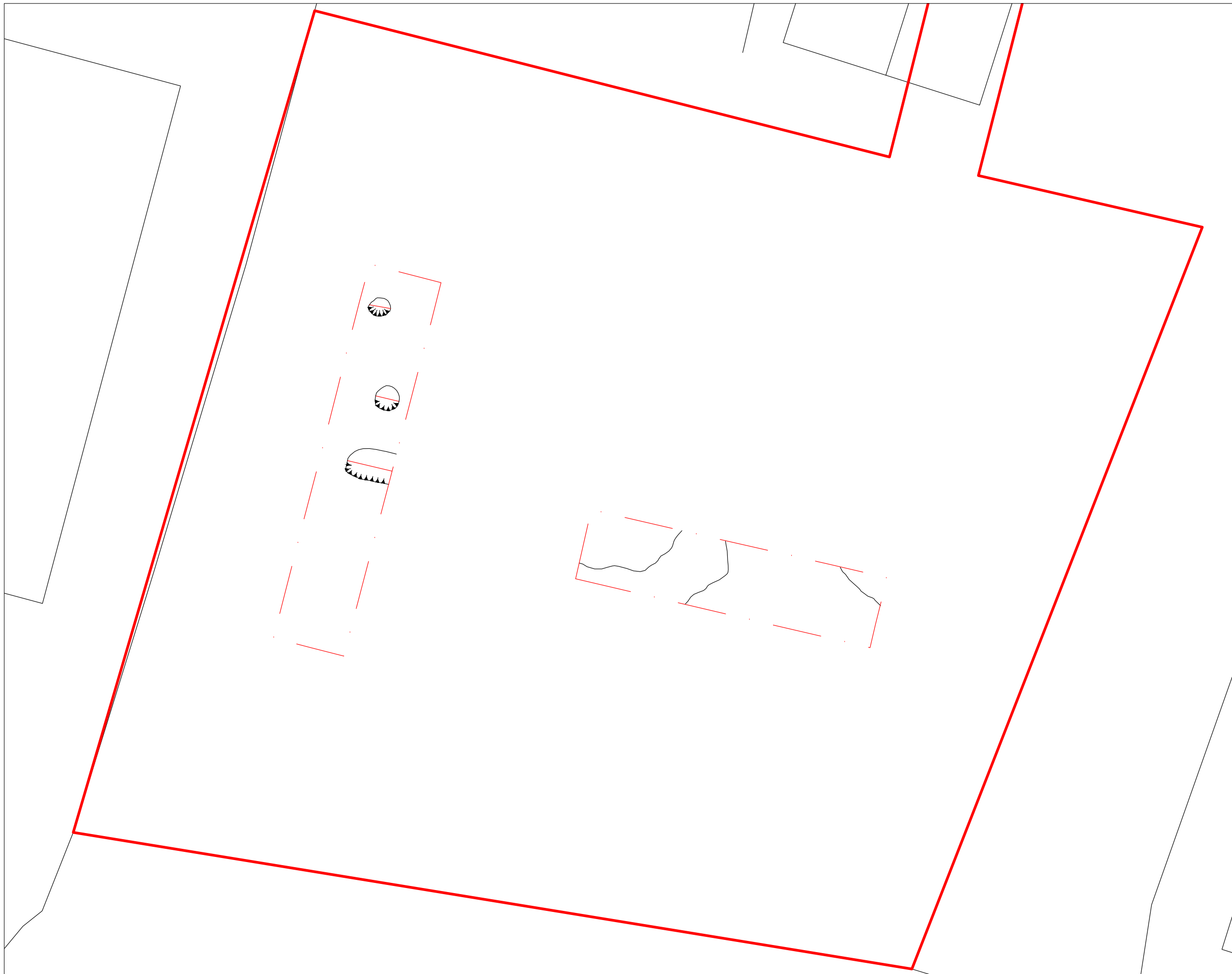
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APPROVED: MB

FIGURE: 4

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-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench
-  Site Boundary

NGR: 569041 277674 REF: P1198

PROJECT:
LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW,
SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION:
TRENCH PLAN

CLIENT:
E & P BUILDING DESIGN

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD



UNIT 2
THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE
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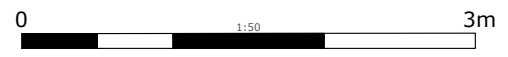
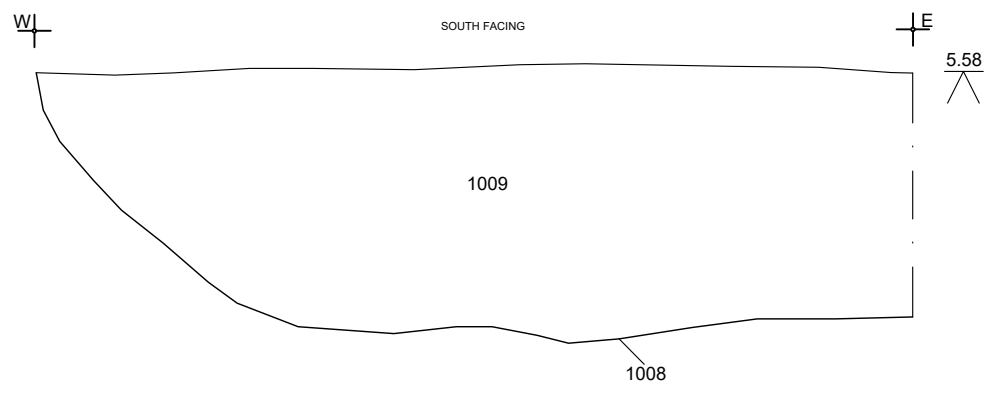
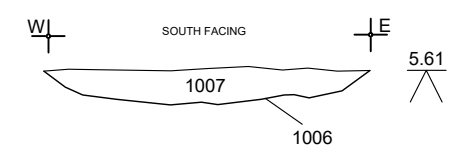
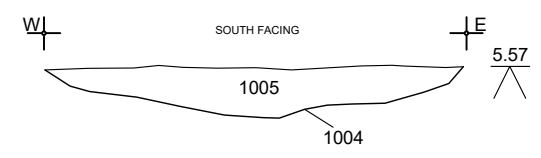
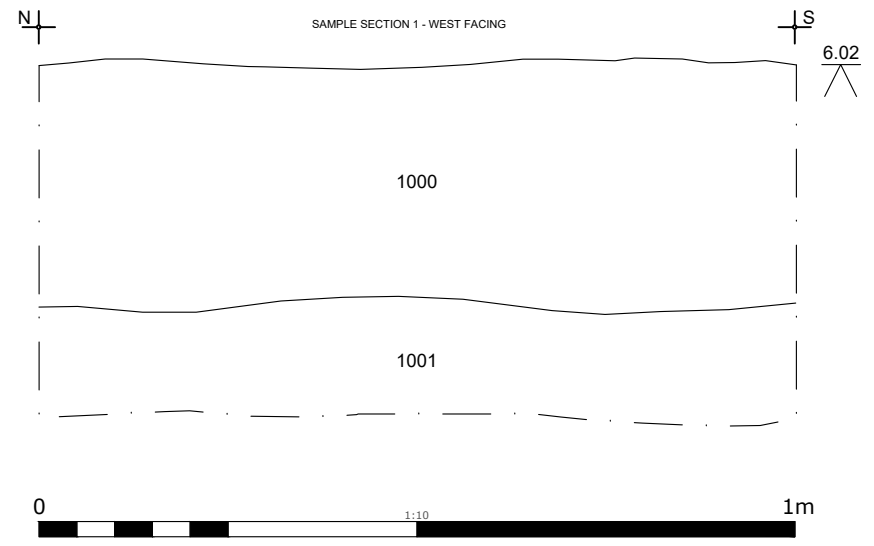
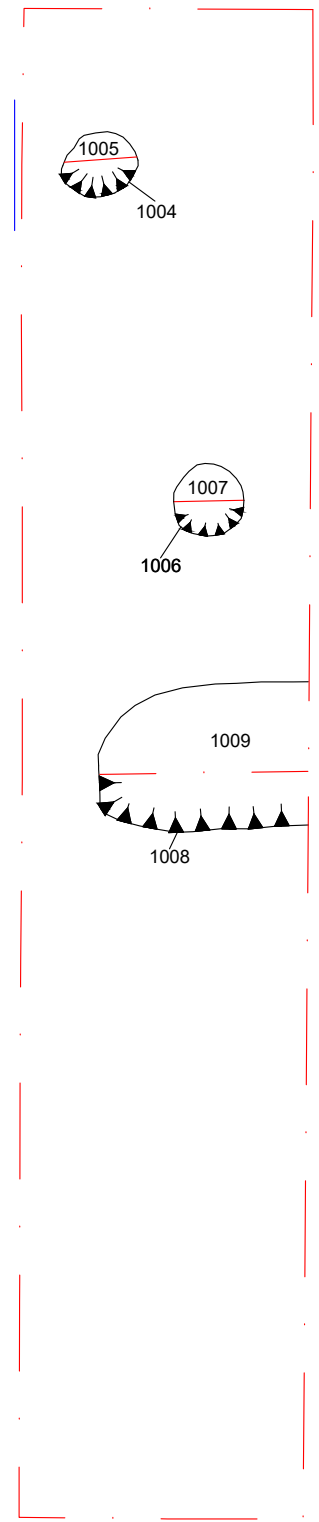
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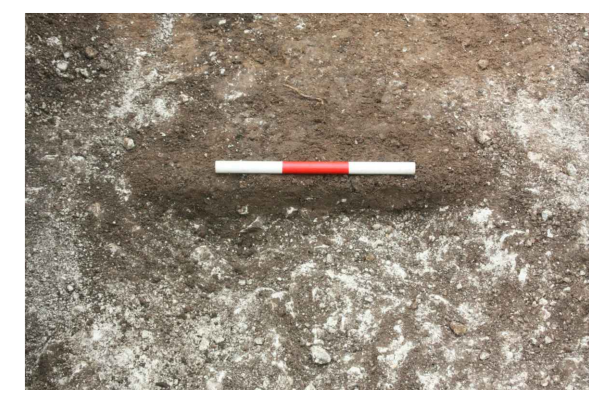
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AUTHOR: MJB
APPROVED: MB

FIGURE:
5



DP 2 - Sample Section 1



DP 3 - 1004



DP 4 - 1006



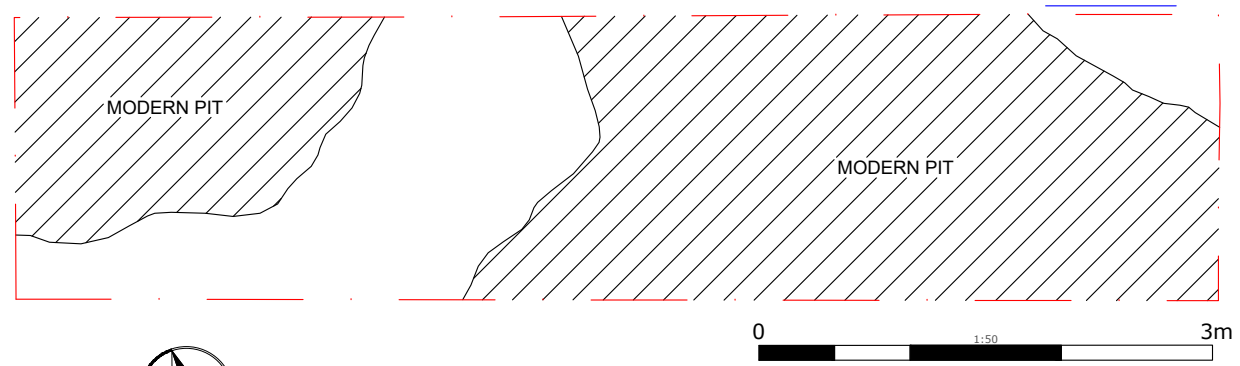
DP 5 - 1008



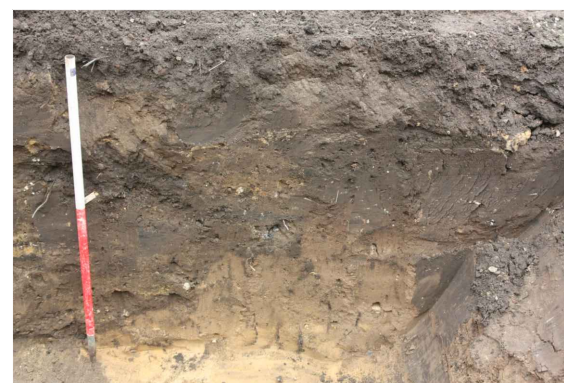
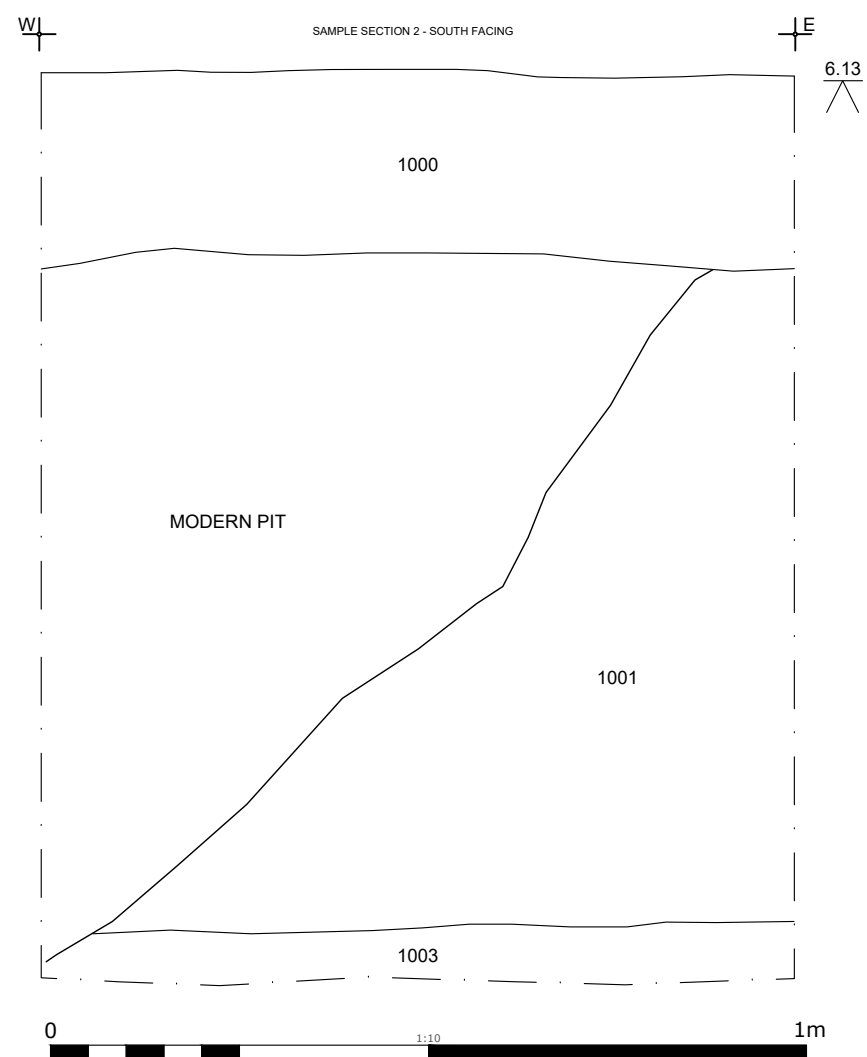
DP 1 - Trench 1 Post Excavation

- Sample Section
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature
- Trench





(NGR): 569041 277674	(REF): P1198
PROJECT: LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK	
DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 1 PLAN, SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS	
CLIENT: E & P BUILDING DESIGN	
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DATE: OCT 2017	PLOT: A3
VERSION: 1	
AUTHOR: MJB	FIGURE: 6
APPROVED: DPM	



DP 6 - Trench 2 Post Excavation



DP 7 - Sample Section 2

-  Sample Section
-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature
-  Trench

NGR: 569041 277674 REF: P1198

PROJECT:
LAND REAR OF 75 THE STREET, BECK ROW,
SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION:
TRENCH 2 PLAN, SECTION &
PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT:
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APPROVED: DPM

FIGURE:
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