

LAND OFF CHILTON WAY, STOWMARKET SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1192

March 2018



LAND OFF CHILTON WAY, STOWMARKET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared on behalf of: Mr Ian Baker Laurence Homes (Eastern) Ltd 14 Ruskin Close Chilton Way Stowmarket Suffolk, IP14 1TY

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Registered in England and Wales: 7874460

Site Code	SKT 088	NGR		TM 0403 5974
Planning Ref.	DC/17/05065	OASIS		britanni1-311111
HER Inv. No.	9210533			
Approved By:	Æ		Date	March 2018

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CONTENTS

Abstract

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Site Description
- 3.0 Planning Policies
- 4.0 Archaeological Background
- 5.0 Project Aims
- 6.0 Project Objectives
- 7.0 Fieldwork Methodology
- 8.0 Description of Results
- 9.0 Deposit Model
- **10.0** Discussion & Conclusion
- 11.0 Acknowledgments

Bibliography

Appendix 1	Deposit Tables
Appendix 2	Concordance of Finds & Specialist Reports

- Appendix 3 OASIS Sheet
- Appendix 3 Approved Written Scheme of Investigation
- Figure 1General Location Plan1:2500Figure 2SHER Data: Monuments and Listed Buildings1:10000
- Figure 3 SHER Data: Archaeological Sites and Events 1:10000
- Figure 4 Trench Plan
- Figure 5 Site Sections and Photographs
- Figure 6 Site Sections and Photographs
- Figure 7Site/Feature Sections and Photographs
- Figure 8 Site/Feature Sections/Photographs and Trench 3 Plan
- Figure 9 Trench Photographs
- Figure 10 Trench Photographs

1:500



Abstract

On the 14th and 15th of March 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr Ian Baker of Laurence Homes in advance of the construction of 8 single storey, semi-detached residential buildings and ancillary works at land off Chilton Way, Stowmarket, Suffolk (Planning ref. DC/17/05065, NGR TM 0403 5974). Six trenches (1 x 40m trench, 2 x 20m trenches, 2x 15m trenches, 1x 10m trench) were considered suitable to achieve the required sample.

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there would be a high potential for Roman, Saxon and medieval activity associated with the activity noted on the adjacent site and a low to moderate potential for encountering Mesolithic finds and Bronze Age features.

Three archaeological features were encountered, all of which were located in Trench 3 on the east side of the northern area of the site. Ditch 1008 was dated to the Roman period and as ditch 1006 was on the same alignment and of a similar shape and size it is most likely that it is of the same date. These ditches were possibly field boundaries associated with the settlement identified during excavations north and east of the site (HG052 & HG055). Pit 1004 is in the same area and has a similar fill, it is likely also from the same period of activity. The small number of features likely indicates that this site is on the periphery of the large settlement to the east and north.

The second phase relates to the modern compound on the east side of the site and the associated demolition waste and made ground represented by layer 1000 in Trench 1. Topsoil 1002 which is spread across the site also contained waste material of a similar date and appears to have been recently levelled.

The evaluation successfully identified some features from the Roman period which are likely a continuation of the settlement previously identified to the north and east. Despite the high potential for features from the Saxon and medieval periods and a low to moderate potential for prehistoric activity, no archaeological features from these periods were encountered on the site. The only other phase of activity encountered was modern, associated with the compound on the site.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 14th and 15th of March 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr Ian Baker of Laurence Homes in advance of the construction of 8 single storey, semi-detached residential buildings and ancillary works at land off Chilton Way, Stowmarket, Suffolk (Planning ref. DC/17/05065, NGR TM 0403 5974) (Fig. 1). A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Abraham, R. dated 6th March 2018) required a programme of linear trial trenching to sample 5% of the area under threat from development. Six trenches (1 x 40m trench, 2 x 20m trenches, 2x 15m trenches, 1x 10m trench) were considered suitable to achieve the required sample (Fig.4).

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at the northern edge of Stowmarket within a large area undergoing significant residential development. It is a roughly rectangular parcel of land covering 5100m² to the north of Chilton Way. It is bounded to the east and west by modern residential housing and to the north by a narrow strip of grassland.

The site is currently covered in low grass, scrub and trees. A square area on the western side $(25m \times 23m)$ is significantly lower than the rest of the site where the ground level has been reduced for a small compound (see Fig. 1).

The bedrock geology is described as Crag Group - Sand. This is a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods when the local environment previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS, 2018).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as Lowestoft Formation - Sand and Gravel. These Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions (BSG, 2018).

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 replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). The site has been granted planning permission subject to the archaeological conditions. The relevant local planning policy is the *Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998)*.

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).

Significant records

The site lies adjacent to an area of know and extensive multi-period archaeological remains (HER: HG052 & HG055), identified during evaluation and subsequent archaeologic excavation (EVT22853 & 22395). These include prehistoric and Roman occupation features, a Saxon cemetery, Anglo-Saxon buildings, and Roman and medieval pottery kilns.

60m south of the site lies Grade II listed building, Chilton Hall (NHLE: 384951). The site was likely associated with the medieval moated complex (HER: SKS050) and the Hall is a later early post-medieval redevelopment of the medieval complex. Another moated site, Chilton Hall Farm (HER: SKT004) is located 375 to the south of the site and another lies 1km to the west at Chilton Leys (HER: ONS006).

Remaining Records

The remaining records identify an area of prehistoric finds spots located 650m to 1km to the south and south-east of the site. The earliest of these is dated to the Mesolithic period and records the location of a Thames Valley type pick (HER: SKT001), a Mace-head, Quartzite pebble, bored from both sides (HER: SKT Misc) at Cherry Tree Road and a Flint core and blade (5cm long) found in garden soil adjacent to Police Hostel, Beech Terrace (HER: SKTMisc). A Bronze Age beaker and stone battle axe were found 650m south of the site in circa 1960 (HER: SKTMisc).

Given the above, the site had a high potential for Roman, Saxon and medieval activity associated with the activity noted on the adjacent site. There was a low to moderate potential for encountering Mesolithic finds and Bronze Age features and a low potential for all other periods.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief stated that the evaluation should aim to (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).

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).

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The SCCAS/CT brief required a 5% sample of the development area to be investigated via trial trenching in advance of the construction of 8 dwellings, 1 office, a car park, and ancillary works. This consisted of six trenches ($1 \times 40m$ trench, $2 \times 20m$ trenches, $2 \times 15m$ trenches, $1 \times 10m$ trench) targeting the building footprints and ancillary works (Fig.4).

All work was carried out in accordance with *Standard And Guidance For Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014 CIfA) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, (Gurney, D. 2003. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14).

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation was undertaken by hand (Fig. 4). Trenches were signed off by SCCAS/CT prior to backfilling.

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

8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 4 – 10)

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured $20.00m \times 1.80m$, orientated northwest-southeast and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m. It contained no archaeological features but the southeast end contained a large dump of modern demolition waste which seems to have been used as made ground in association with the modern compound on the site.

At the southeast end of the trench Made Ground Layer **1000** was present to a depth of 0.58m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001.** At the northwest end of the trench Topsoil Layer **1002** was present to a depth of 0.30m with a thickness of 0.24m. This overlay Subsoil **1003** which was present to a depth of 0.54m, and overlay Natural Geology **1001**.



Trench 2

Trench 2 measured $15.00m \times 1.80m$, orientated northwest-southeast and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m. It contained one small modern pit which contained plastic and evidence of asbestos and was not excavated. The trench also contained part of a ditch which was a continuation of Ditch 1008 (in Trench 3) and was left unexcavated. One land drain was also encountered.

Topsoil Layer **1002** was present to a depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1003** present to a depth of 0.52m with a thickness of 0.27m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001.**

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 40.00m x 1.80m, orientated north-south and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.54m. The trench contained one pit, two ditches, and two land drains.

Pit **1004** ($0.75m \times 0.50m \times 0.25m$) was oval in plan with steep sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill, **1005**, which was a light grey-brown, friable, clay-silt. The pit was located at the south end of the trench on the east side and contained no finds.

Ditch **1006** (1.80m x 0.59m x 0.13m) was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flat base on an east to west orientation. It contained a single fill, **1007**, which was a light grey-brown, friable, clay-silt. The ditch was located in the south end of the trench, near pit 1004, and was on the same orientation as ditch 1008.

Ditch **1008** (1.80m x 1.25m x 0.42m) was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base, on an east to west orientation. It contained a single fill, **1009**, which was a light grey-brown, friable, clay-silt. Two sherds of Roman pottery were found in the fill and date to the mid 1^{st} -late 2^{nd} century AD. The ditch was located in the north end of the trench and was on the same orientation as ditch 1006. A portion of this ditch is also partially visible at the northwest end of Trench 2.

Topsoil layer **1002** was present to a depth of 0.26m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1003** present to a depth of 0.50m with a thickness of 0.24m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001.**

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 15.00m x 1.80m, orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m. It contained no archaeological features.

Topsoil Layer **1002** was present to a depth of 0.25m. This layer overlay Subsoil **1003** present to a depth of 0.45m with a thickness of 0.20m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001.**



Trench 5

Trench 5 measured $10.00m \times 1.80m$, orientated northeast-southwest and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m. It contained no archaeological features.

Topsoil Layer **1002** was present to a depth of 0.24m. This layer overlay Subsoil Layer **1003** present to a depth of 0.50m with a thickness of 0.26m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001.**

Trench 6

Trench 6 measured 20.00m x 1.80m, orientated east-west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.58m. It contained no archaeological features.

Topsoil Layer **1002** was present to a depth of 0.22m. This layer overlay Subsoil Layer **1003** present to a depth of 0.53m with a thickness of 0.31m. This overlay Natural Geology **1001.**

9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs. 5 - 10)

The deposit model was broadly consistent across the site. The only exception was Trench 1 which contained a large deposit of made ground/modern demolition waste at its southeast end.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence at the southeast end of Trench 1 was a large dump of modern made ground/demolition waste, **1000**, which comprised of a dark brown-black, loose silty clay with frequent CBM and concrete rubble. This layer appears to relate to the modern compound present just to the east of the trench. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.58m in Sample Section 1B.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence across all trenches (except in sample section 1A) was Topsoil **1002** a dark grey-brown, compact silty clay with frequent pieces of modern CBM and rubble. It was present to a maximum depth of 0.30m in sample section 1B. The topsoil appeared to have been recently levelled and contained material similar to the waste in layer 1000, and so was likely also associated with the compound on the east side of the site.

In all trenches beneath Topsoil **1002** was Subsoil **1003**, which was a mid grey-brown, compact silty clay. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 0.54m in sample section 1B.

The base of the stratigraphic sequence across all trenches was Natural Geology **1001** which was a light orange-yellow, compact clay.



10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The archaeological background for the site suggested that there would be a high potential for Roman, Saxon and medieval activity associated with the activity noted on the adjacent site and a low to moderate potential for encountering Mesolithic finds and Bronze Age features.

Three archaeological features were encountered, all of which were located in Trench 3 on the east side of the northern area of the site. Ditch **1008** was dated to the Roman period and as Ditch **1006** was on the same alignment and of a similar shape and size it is most likely that it is of the same date. These ditches were possibly field boundaries associated with the settlement identified during excavations north and east of the site (HG052 & HG055). Similar to the findings on the large site adjacent, it seems likely that this ditch is part of an area that would have been subject that the site was subject to enclosure from the early Romano-British period, (Bull, 2015). Pit **1004** is in the same area and has a similar fill, it is likely also from the same period of activity. The small number of features likely indicates that this site is on the periphery of the large settlement to the east and north. Unfortunately none of the above features could be directly linked to any from the adjacent excavation however the broader dating appears to be consistent with the primary phase of Roman occupation observed on that site.

The second phase relates to the modern compound on the east side of the site and the associated demolition waste and made ground represented by layer **1000** in Trench 1. Topsoil **1002** which is spread across the site also contained waste material of a similar date and appears to have been recently levelled.

The evaluation successfully identified some features from the Roman period which are likely a continuation of the settlement previously identified to the north and east.

Despite the high potential for features from the Saxon and medieval periods and a low to moderate potential for prehistoric activity, no archaeological features from these periods were encountered on the site. The only other phase of activity encountered was modern, associated with the compound on the site.

11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr Ian Baker of Laurence Homes (Eastern) Ltd for commissioning and funding the works.

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

The site was excavated by Louisa Cunningham and Martin Brook of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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English Heritage PastScape <u>www.pastscape.org.uk</u>

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) <u>www.ads.ahds.ac.uk</u>

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

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

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 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Trench 1

Sample Section 1A

Trench No	Orientation NW-SE	Height a	OD 43.58	Shot No DP 1	
Sample Section No 1A	Location SE end	Location SE end, SW side		Facing NE Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1000	0.00-0.58m	Made Ground- Dark brown-black, loose, sandy silt and clay, with frequent modern CBM rubbles			
1001	0.58m+	Natural – Light or	ange yellow, com	pact clay.	

Sample Section 1B

Trench No	Orientation	Height a	OD	Shot No	
1	NW-SE		43.57	DP 3	
Sample Section No	Location		Facing		
1B	NW end	d, SW side NE Facing			
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00-0.30m	Topsoil – Dark gre modern CBM rubb		ct silty clay, with frequent	
1003	0.30-0.54m	Subsoil – Mid grey brown, compact, silty clay			
1001	0.54m+	Natural – Light ora	ange yellow, com	pact clay.	

Trench 2

Sample Section 2

Trench No 2	Orientation NW-SE	Height a	OD 43.30	Shot No DP 4	
Sample Section No 2	Location SE end	l, NE side	Facing	SW Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00-0.25m	Topsoil – Dark gro modern CBM rubb		act silty clay, with frequent	
1003	0.25-0.52m	Subsoil – Mid grey brown, compact, silty clay			
1001	0.52m+	Natural – Light ora	ange yellow, com	ipact clay.	

Trench 3

Sample Section 3

Trench No 3	Orientation N-S	н	Height aC		Shot No DP 9	
Sample Section No 3	Location Midd	le, E side	e, E side		W Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit D	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00-0.26m		Topsoil – Dark grey brown, compact silty clay, with frequent modern CBM rubble			
1003	0.26-0.50m	Subsoil –	Subsoil – Mid grey brown, compact, silty clay			
1001	0.50m+	Natural –	Light ora	nge yellow, o	compact clay.	



Context Descriptions

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1004	Pit (0.75m+ x 0.50m x 0.25m) Oval in plan, steep sloping sides with a concave base.	1005	Light grey brown, friable clayey silt.		None
1006	Ditch (1.80m+ x 0.59m x 0.13m) Linear in plan, moderate sloping sides with a flat base. On an E-W orientation.	1007	Light grey brown, friable clayey silt.		None
1008	Ditch (1.80m+ x 1.25m x 0.42m) Linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. On an E-W orientation.	1009	Light grey brown, friable clayey silt.	Roman	Pot 20g (2)

Trench 4

Sample Section 4

Trench No 4	Orientation Height a E-W		aOD 43.48	Shot No DP 8	
Sample Section No 4	Location W End	, S side	Facing	N Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00-0.25m	Topsoil – Dark modern waste.	grey brown, firm,	clayey silt with frequent	
1003	0.25-0.48m		yellow-grey brow of CBM and charce	n, firm, clayey silt with pal.	
1001	0.48m+		ellow-brown and l it pieces of chalk.	olue-grey, compact chalky	

Trench 5

Sample Section 5

Trench No 5	Orientation NW-SE	Height a	OD 43.77	Shot No DP 10	
Sample Section No 5	Location SE End,	d, SW side Facing NE Facing			
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00-0.24m	Topsoil – Dark g modern waste.	rey brown, firm,	clayey silt with frequent	
1003	0.24-0.50m	Subsoil – Mid y occasional flecks of	5,	n, firm, clayey silt with bal.	
1001	0.50m+	Natural – Mid yel clay with frequent		olue-grey, compact chalky	



Trench 6

Sample Section 6

Trench No 6	Orientation E-W	Height aOD 43.77			Shot No DP 11
Sample Section No 6	Location W End	, S side		Facing	N Facing
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description			
1002	0.00-0.22m	Topsoil – Dark grey brown, firm, clayey silt with frequent modern waste.			
1003	0.22-0.53m	Subsoil – Mid yellow-grey brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional flecks of CBM and charcoal.			
1001	0.53m+			ow-brown and b pieces of chalk.	lue-grey, compact chalky



APPENDIX 2 – CONCORDANCE OF FINDS & SPECIALIST REPORTS

CONCORD FINDS	ANCE OF	8
SITE NAME: SITE	Land off Chilton Way, Stowamarket, Suffolk	PRCT.
CODE: P.	SKT 088	
NUMBER:	1227	

FEATURE	LAYER/FILL	Туре	Trial	SPOT	Pot	
CONTEXT	CONTEXT		Trench	DATE	No	Wgt/g
1008	1009	Ditch	3	mid 1st -late 2nd c	2	20
Totals					2	20

The Roman pottery from Land off Chilton Way, Stowmarket, Suffolk (SKT 088): An Assessment Report

Andy Fawcett

The assemblage

Two badly abraded body sherds of Roman pottery (20g) were recovered from Ditch fill 1009 in Trench 3. The sherds are both in fabric BSW (Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware) which is broadly dated from the mid 1st to the late 2nd century AD, a fabric that is gradually replaced over this period by true Roman sandy grey wares. The first sherd (12g) has a patchily oxidised surface and contains fine ill-sorted quartz alongside common ill-sorted brown grog. The second sherd (8g) is essentially a coarser version of the previous fabric, both of which are micaceous.

A previous assemblage recovered from an adjacent area to the current site revealed a considerable assemblage of Roman pottery of which 437 sherds (3823g) were allocated to this fabric group (Peachy 2015, 69). The fabric style of these BSW sherds suggests that they were locally produced.



Recommendations for further work

The sherds from Land off Chilton Way have been fully recorded and no further work on this small group will be required.

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APPENDIX 3 – OASIS FORM

OASIS FORM - Print view

https://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

Printable version

OASIS ID: britanni1-311111

Project details

Project name	Land Off Chilton Way, Stowmarket, Suffolk
Short description of the project	On the 14th and 15th of March 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook an archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mr Ian Baker of Laurence Homes in advance of the construction of 8 single storey, semi-detached residential buildings and ancillary works at land off Chilton Way, Stowmarket, Suffolk (Planning ref. DC/17/05065, NGR TM 0403 5974). Six trenches (1 x 40m trench, 2 x 20m trenches, 2x 15m trenches, 1x 10m trench) were considered suitable to achieve the required sample. The evaluation successfully identified some features from the Roman period which are likely a continuation of the settlement previously identified to the north and east. Despite the high potential for features from the Saxon and medieval periods and a low to moderate potential for prehistoric activity, no archaeological features from these periods were encountered on the site. The only other phase of activity encountered was modern, associated with the compound on the site.
Project dates	Start: 14-03-2018 End: 15-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P1227 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SKT 088 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	BODY SHERD Roman
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample 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)



OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK STOWMARKET Land Off Chilton Way,
Postcode	IP14 1GA
Study area	5100 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0403 5974 52.197575809055 0.98579921785 52 11 51 N 000 59 08 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 41m Max: 42m

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	Martin Brook
Project supervisor	Martin Brook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ian Baker/Laurence Homes (Eastern) Ltd

Project archives

SCCAS/CT
SKT 008
"Ceramics"
Suffolk HER
SKT 088
"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Suffolk HER
SKT 088
"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

2 of 3

11/04/2018, 12:02



OASIS FORM - Print view

https://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type	
Title	Land off Chilton Way, Stowmarket: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Louisa Cunningham
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APPENDIX 3 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 for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of 8 single storey, semi-detached residential buildings and ancillary works at land off Chilton Way, Stowmarket, Suffolk (Planning ref. DC/17/05065, NGR TM 0403 5974) (Fig. 1). It 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.

It has been prepared in response to a design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Abraham, R. dated 6th March 2018) which requires a programme of linear trial trenching to sample 5% of the area under threat from development. Six trenches (1 x 40m trench, 2 x 20m trenches, 2x 15m trenches, 1x 10m trench) are considered suitable to achieve the required sample (Fig.4).

This scope of this WSI does not cover any additional work required (excavation, monitoring, etc) following the results of this evaluation and for which a new brief will be issued if necessary.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located at the northern edge of Stowmarket within a large area undergoing significant residential development. It is a roughly rectangular parcel of land covering 5100m² to the north of Chilton Way. It is bounded to the east and west by modern residential housing and to the north by a narrow strip of grassland.

The site is currently covered in low grass, scrub and trees. A square area on the western side $(25m \times 23m)$ is significantly lower than the rest of the site where the ground level has been reduced for a small compound (see Fig. 1).

The bedrock geology is described as Crag Group - Sand. This is a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods when the local environment previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS, 2018).

Superficial deposits at the site are described as Lowestoft Formation - Sand and Gravel. These Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions (BSG, 2018).

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 replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for



the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). The site has been granted planning permission subject to the archaeological conditions. The relevant local planning policy is the *Suffolk Coastal District Plan (2013)*.

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 Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998)

The policies in the *Mid Suffolk Local Plan* that relate to archaeology and heritage are HB14 and HB15. This local plan is due to be replaced by a joint local plan with Babergh Council

Policy HB14 states that:

- Where there is an overriding case for preservation, planning permission for development that would affect an archaeological site or its setting will be refused.
- Having taken archaeological advice, the district planning authority may decide that development can take place subject to either satisfactory measures to preserve the archaeological remains in situ or for the site to be excavated and the findings recorded. In appropriate cases the district planning authority will expect a legally binding agreement to be concluded or will impose a planning condition requiring the developer to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the archaeological remains.



Policy HB15 states that:

• The district planning authority will support planning applications which seek to develop the educational, recreational and tourist potential of archaeological sites and monuments in a manner which provides for the proper interpretation, protection and management of the site.

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).

Significant records

The site lies adjacent to an area of know and extensive multi-period archaeological remains (HER: HG052 & HG055), identified during evaluation and subsequent archaeologic excavation (EVT22853 & 22395). These include prehistoric and Roman occupation features, a Saxon cemetery, Anglo-Saxon buildings, and Roman and medieval pottery kilns.

60m south of the site lies Grade II listed building, Chilton Hall (NHLE: 384951). The site was likely associated with the medieval moated complex (HER: SKS050) and the Hall is a later early post-medieval redevelopment of the medieval complex. Another moated site, Chilton Hall Farm (HER: SKT004) is located 375 to the south of the site and another lies 1km to the west at Chilton Leys (HER: ONS006).

Remaining Records

The remaining records identify an area of prehistoric finds spots located 650m to 1km to the south and south-east of the site. The earliest of these is dated to the Mesolithic period and records the location of a Thames Valley type pick (HER: SKT001), a Mace-head, Quartzite pebble, bored from both sides (HER: SKT Misc) at Cherry Tree Road and a Flint core and blade (5cm long) found in garden soil adjacent to Police Hostel, Beech Terrace (HER: SKTMisc). A Bronze Age beaker and stone battle axe were found 650m south of the site in circa 1960 (HER: SKTMisc).

Given the above, the site has a high potential for Roman, Saxon and medieval activity associated with the activity noted on the adjacent site. There is a low to moderate potential for encountering Mesolithic finds and Bronze Age features and a low potential for all other periods.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief states that the evaluation should aim to (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).

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).

7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The SCCAS/CT brief requires a 5% sample of the development area to be investigated via trial trenching in advance of the construction of 8 dwellings, 1 office, a car park, and ancillary works. This will consist of six trenches (1 x 40m trench, 2 x 20m trenches, 2x 15m trenches, 1x 10m trench) targeting the building footprints and ancillary works (Fig.4).

All work will be carried out in accordance with *Standard And Guidance For Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014 CIfA) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, (Gurney, D. 2003. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14).

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). Trenches will be signed off by SCCAS/CT prior to backfilling.

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 excavated by hand, in the appropriate way detailed below, where it is safe to do so.

7.4 Metal Detector

A professional metal detectorist (Steve Clarkson) will scan each trench prior to excavation, the resulting spoil heaps, exposed surfaces and any features. The finds will be recovered and recorded in the proper way and located by GPS. Demonstrably modern finds will not be retained and 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, SCCASCT, 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.

Treasure will be immediately reported to the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer who will in turn inform the coroner within 14 days.

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 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

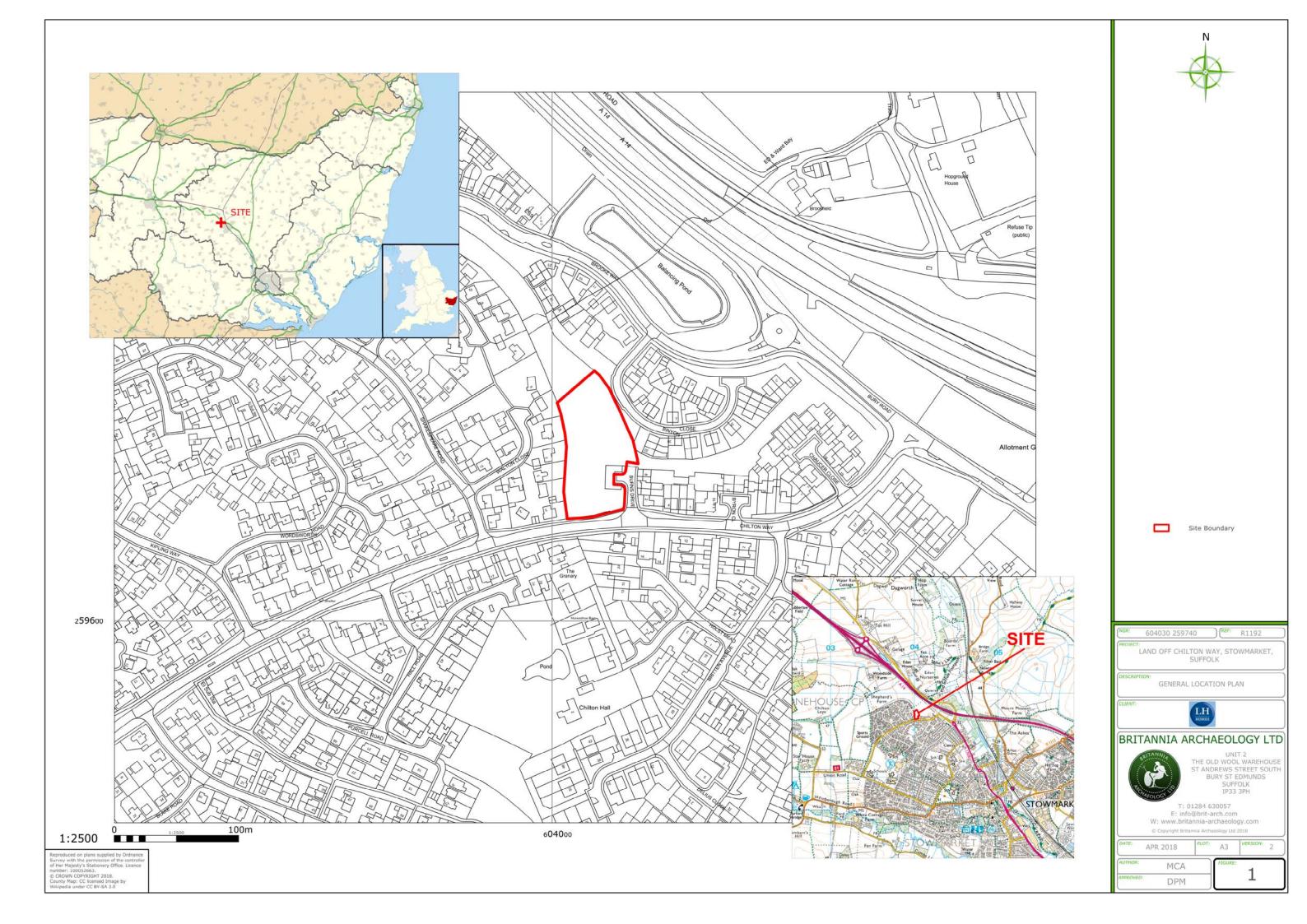
The evaluation fieldwork is scheduled to start on 14th March 2018 pending approval of this written scheme of investigation by SCCAS/CT. Two members of staff will be on site to undertake the evaluation which is expected to take 2 days. Provision has been made for additional contingency days should any 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.

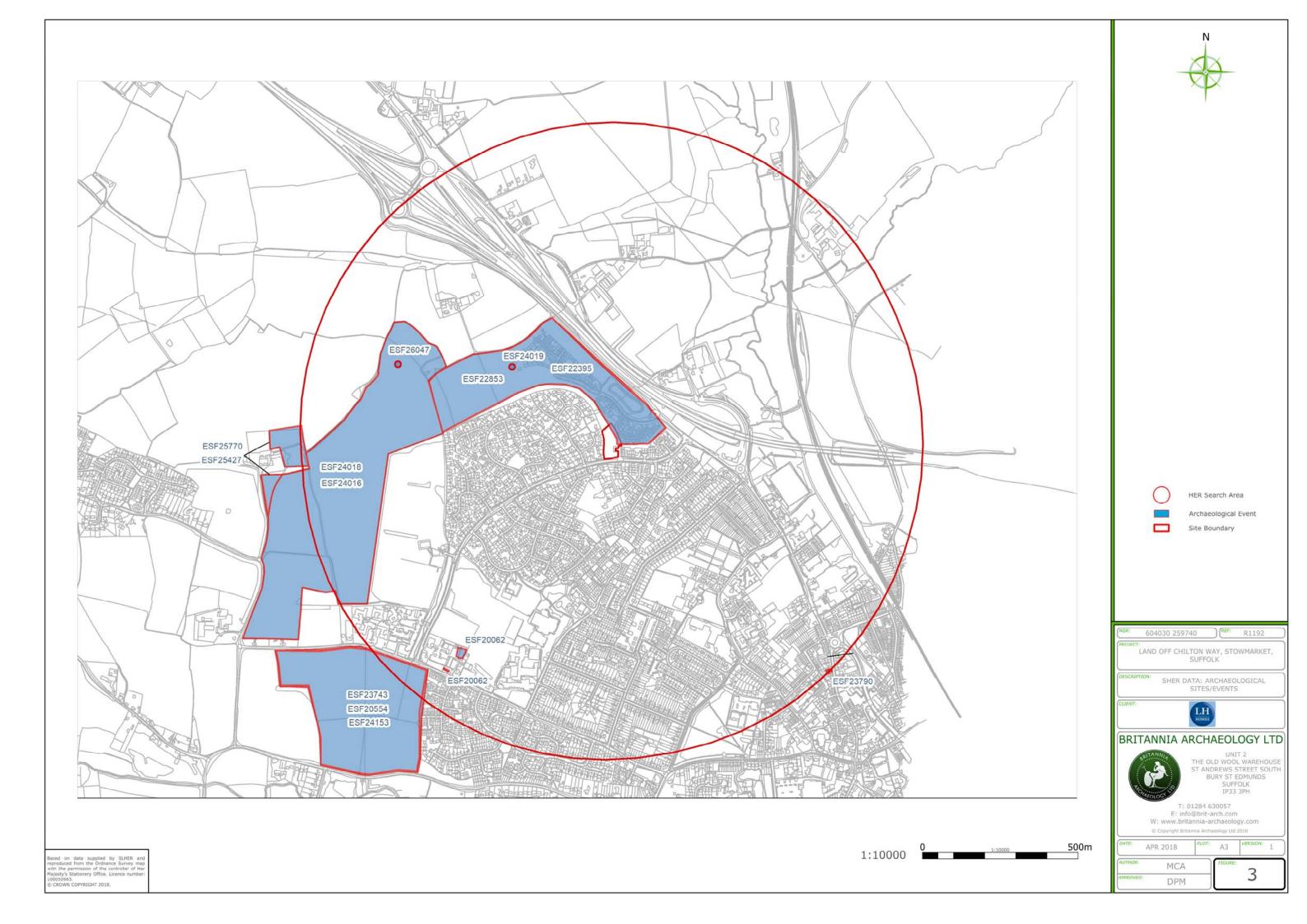
The production of the report will take either a maximum of 4 weeks from the end of fieldwork (no further fieldwork required) or a maximum of 6 months from the end of fieldwork (further fieldwork is required). Resourcing of the post-excavation phase is dependent on findings. Where further publication 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

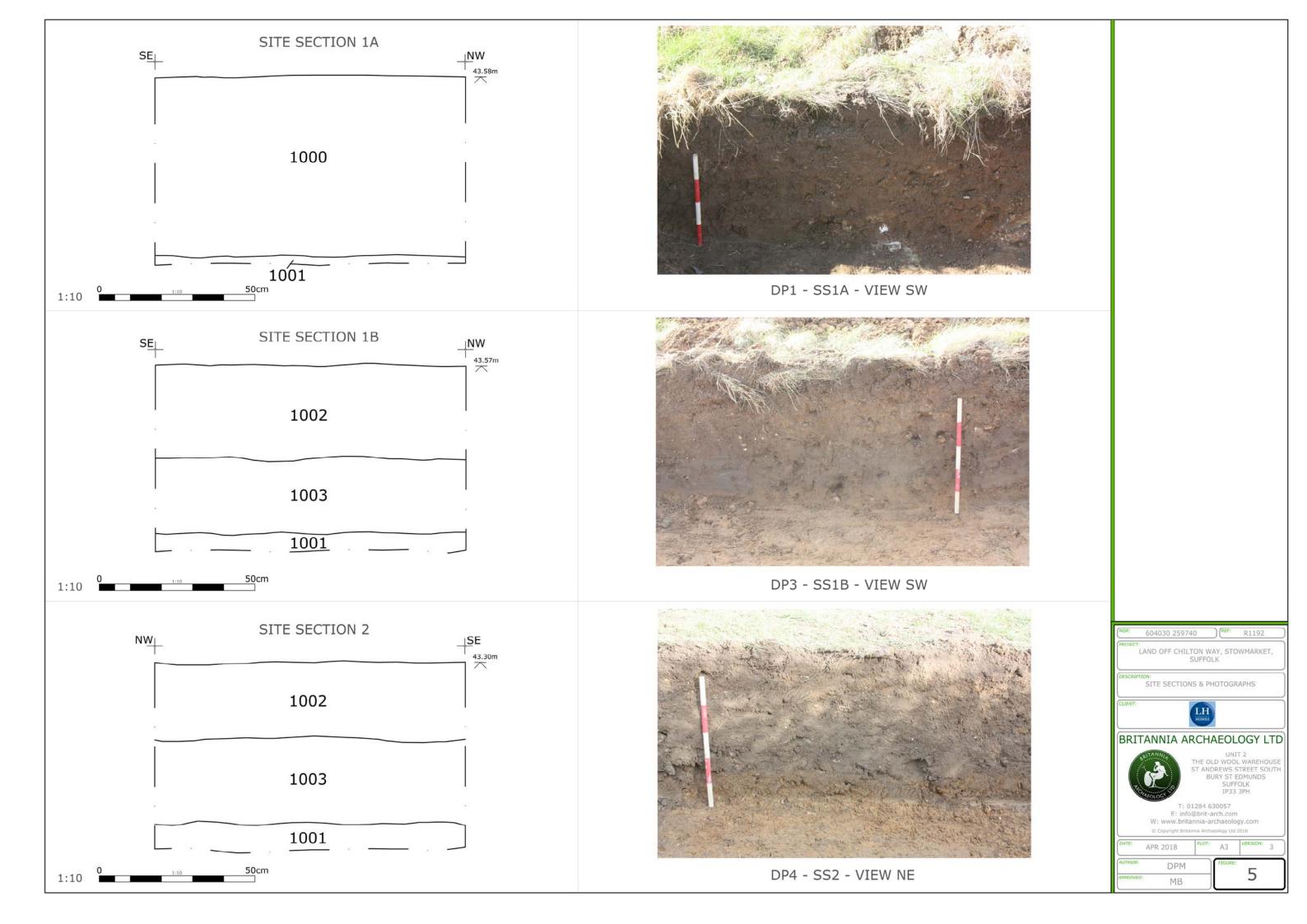
SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. Any variations to the specification will be agreed with the SCCAS/CT monitoring officer prior to work being carried out. The monitoring officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project. No trenches will be signed off without approval from SCCAS/CT.

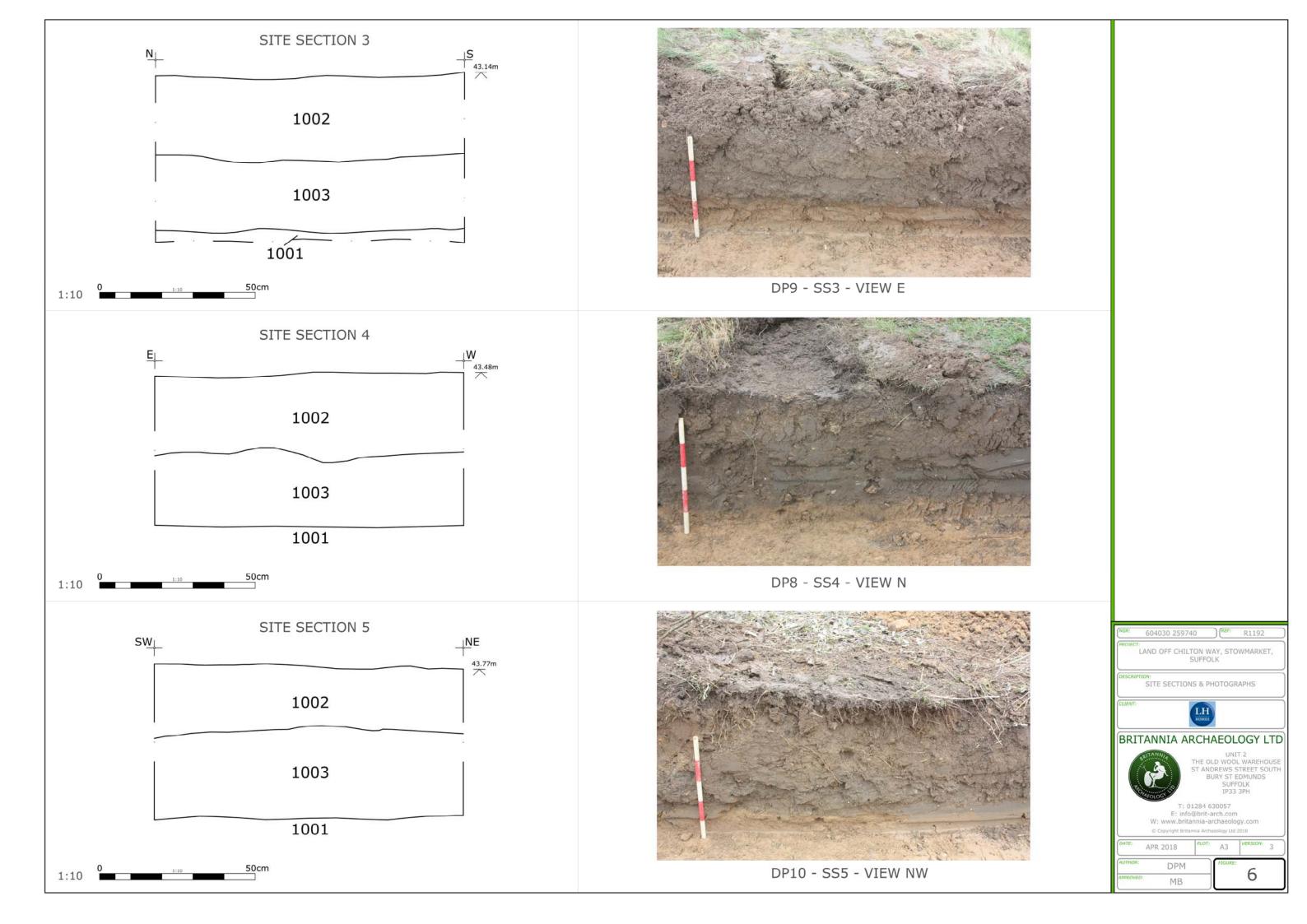


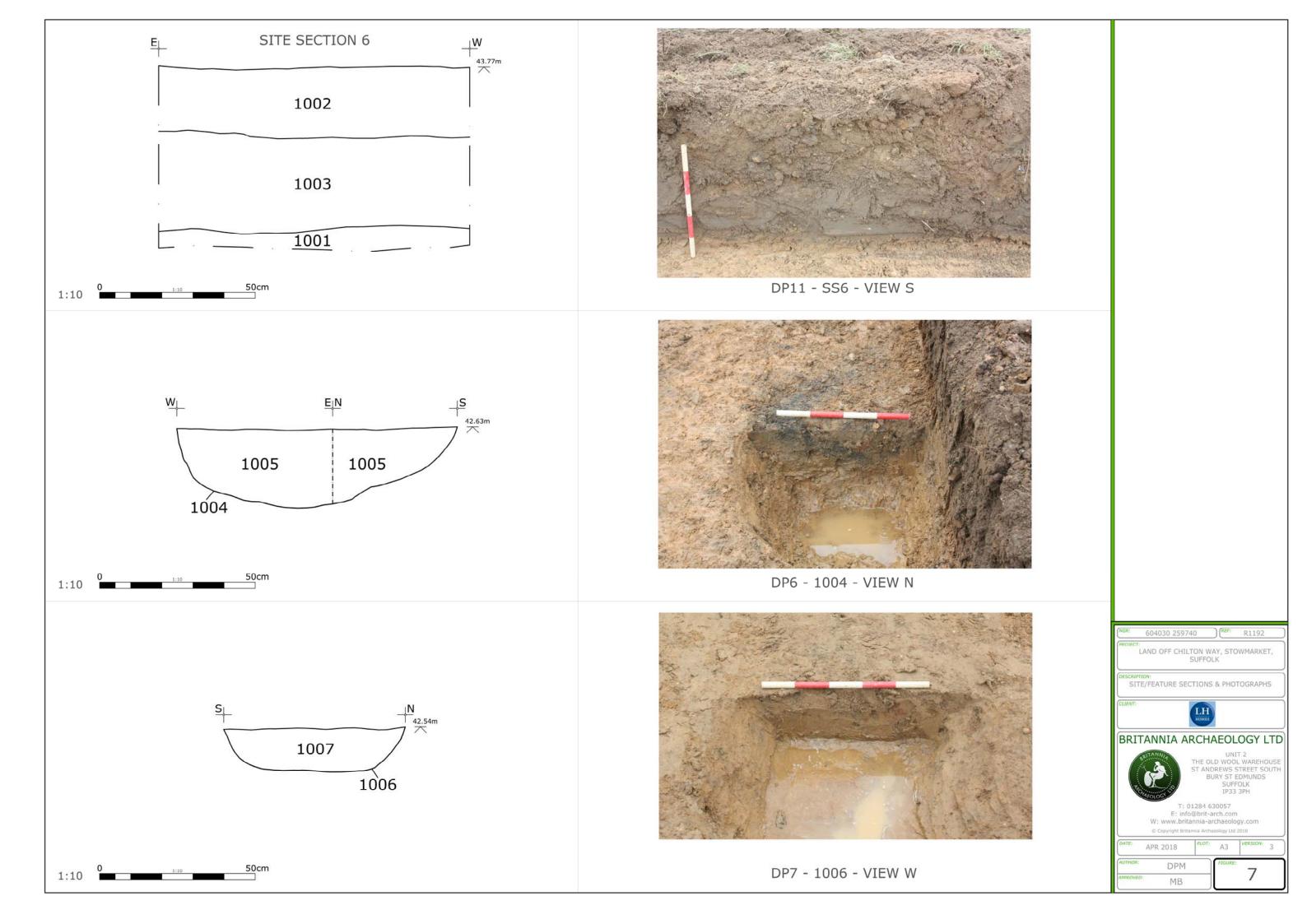


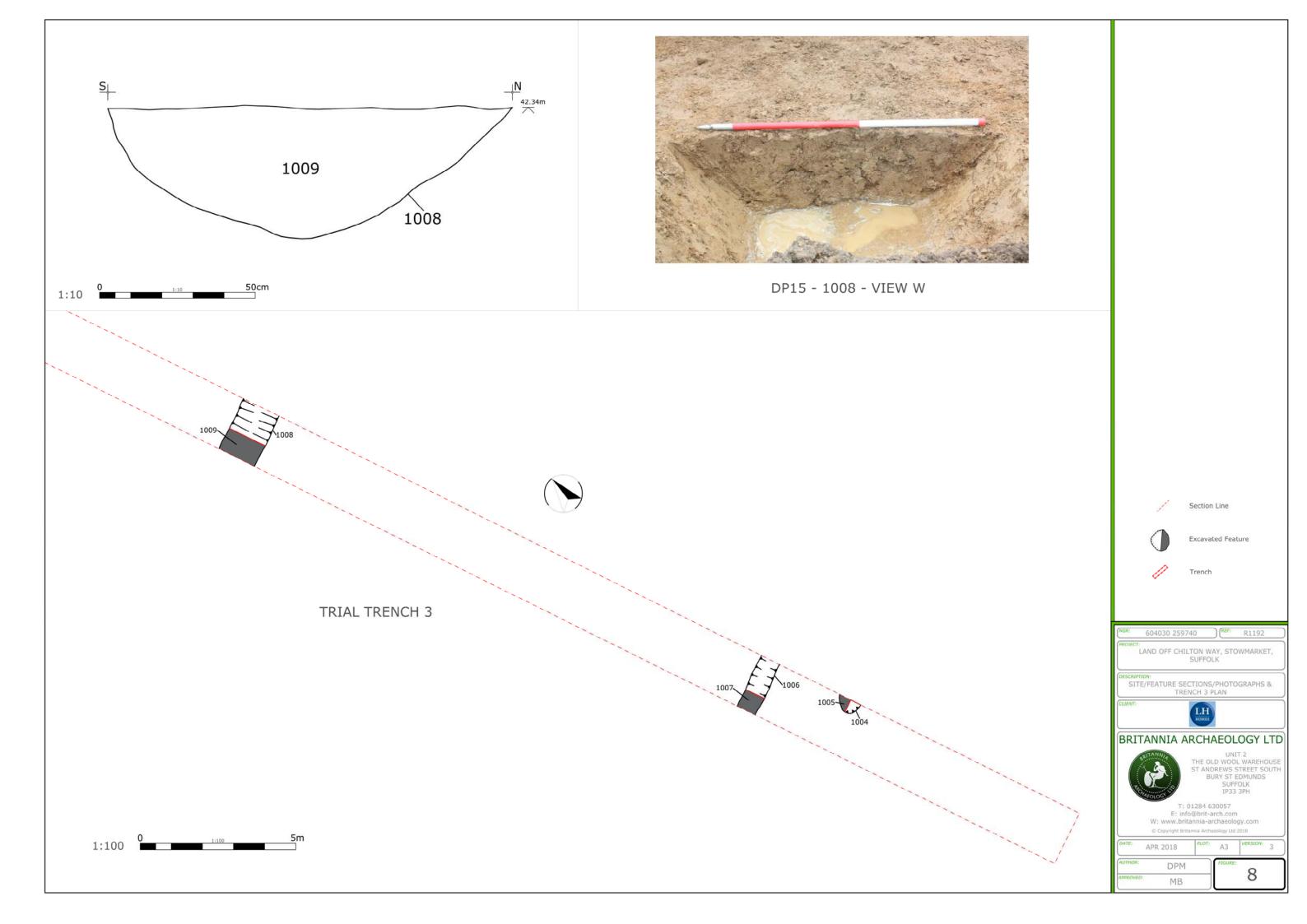














DP2 - TT1 - VIEW SW



DP5 - TT2 - VIEW SW



DP9 - TT3 - VIEW E



