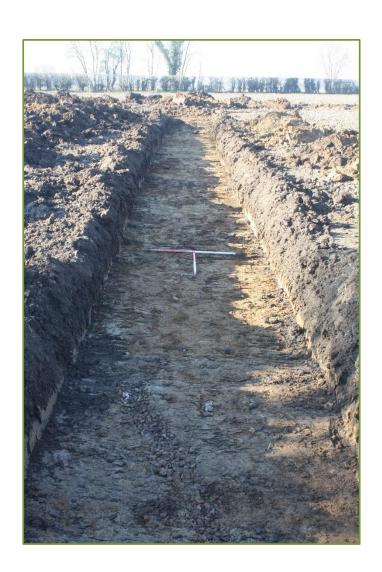


# LAND SOUTHWEST OF 1 STRAIGHT FURLONG, PYMOOR, DOWNHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1226 February 2019



# LAND SOUTHWEST OF 1 STRAIGHT FURLONG, PYMOOR, DOWNHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Prepared on behalf of:

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#### Version 1.1

Site Code	ECB5805	NGR	TL 4964 8642
Project No.	P1263	Museum Acc.	-
Planning Ref.	16/00709/OUT	OASIS	britanni1-339116
Approved By:	24	Date	February 2019



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Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 CHER Data

Figure 3 Trench Plan

Figure 4 Plans, Sections and Photographs



#### **Abstract**

On 25th February 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land Southwest of 1 Straight Furlong, Pymoor, Downham, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4964 8642) ahead of the proposed erection of three detached two storey dwellings.

The site had a low - moderate potential for finds and features from the early prehistoric period. There is a moderate potential for remains on the site relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. There was a low potential for all remaining periods.

Despite the potential for archaeological features, particularly from the prehistoric and postmedieval periods, none were identified during the evaluation.



#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land Southwest of 1 Straight Furlong, Pymoor, Downham, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4964 8642) on behalf of Dale Parsons ahead of the proposed erection of three detached two storey dwellings (Fig. 1).

The evaluation was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Stewart. G. 25th September 2018) which required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the threatened available area.

Two trenches measuring  $25.00m \times 1.80m$  were located over the new building footprints and were excavated using a 3600 tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.



#### 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located to the west of Straight Furlong, opposite the junction with Pymoor Lane in the south of the village of Pymoor. Residential properties are located north, east and south of the site.

#### 2.1 Site Geology

The natural bedrock geology is described as Ampthill Clay Formation – Mudstone, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 157 to 164 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BGS, 2018).

The superficial deposits are described as Oady Member Diamicton – a grey, weathering brown sand, gravel clay and silt with frequent chalk and flint fragments formed during the Anglian Stage some 478,000 to 424,000 years ago (BGS, 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 2018). The relevant local development framework is the East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (S 6.16.4; 2015).

#### 3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG July 2018)

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 East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 6.16.4 (2015)

The local plan for East Cambridgeshire deals with the development on archaeological sites in section 6.16.4, this states the following:

Where permission for development is granted that would harm assets of archaeological interest, a programme of conservation appropriate to their significance should be undertaken. Their in-situ preservation is preferred, but where this is not feasible, provision should be made for a programme of archaeological excavation, recording and public presentation (where appropriate) to take place before development commences. The analysis, reporting and publication of the evidence should take place thereafter. This will be secured by a planning condition, the discharge of which will be agreed in conjunction with the County Council Historic Environment Team. All works will be guided by national planning policy, government advice and that issued by English Heritage.



#### 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Fig. 2).

#### 4.1 Prehistoric

Mesolithic and Bronze Age records are reported to the south east of the site.

Early Mesolithic to Bronze age finds were found approximately 500m to the south east (MCB23961) which included a Wide range of material from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age. A total of 465 items were recovered from the site. The scatter consisted of waste blades, scrapers, cores, lead arrowheads, blades, microliths and one sherd of pottery. Further Bronze Age activity was noted at Frith Head Drove another 150m to the south east where a Bronze Age Rapier was recovered (07130). Finally a c. 35m circumference ring ditch has been identified 800m south east of the site and dated to the Bronze Age.

#### 4.3 Post-medieval and Modern

The main settlement of Pymoor developed in this period with an increase in the number of dwellings represented by the number of buildings located in the village core dating to this period. The closest associated record (ECB23325) from to the site also dates from this period and relates to the site of a blacksmiths workshop illustrated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dated to 1885. Further records nearby also relate to the site of Denmark Farm (MCB23326), Knife and Steel beer house (MCB23324) and the site of a Mission School Room (23328),

#### 4.4 Archaeological Potential

Given the above, there was a **low - moderate** potential for finds and features from the early prehistoric period. There was a **moderate** potential for remains on the site relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. There was a **low** potential for all remaining periods.



#### 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

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

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving will be undertaken in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2014.

Two trenches measuring 25.00m  $\times$  1.80m were to be excavated to achieve these aims (Fig. 3).

All aspects of the trial trenching will be undertaken in accordance with the *CIfA Standard* and *Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, 2014 and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, 2003.



#### 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).

Particular study of the following should occur:

- presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits,
- the character of deposits and their contents within negative features
- palaeochannels
- site formation processes generally.

An assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits must also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid:

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

The evaluation should also carefully consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial or economic evidence to assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence and in the development of future mitigation strategies.



#### 7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The CHET brief required a programme of linear trial trenching in advance of the construction of the houses and associated works. The trenching will comprise two  $25.00m \times 1.80m$  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 was undertaken by hand (Fig. 3).

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



#### 8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 4)

A professional metal detector was used to scan the trenches locations prior and post excavation along with the spoil heaps. Only demonstrably modern finds were recovered and therefore was not retained.

Bucket sampling was undertaken at the end of each trench where 90L of each layer was hand sieved. Only demonstrably modern finds were recovered and therefore was not retained.

#### 8.1 Trench 1 (Fig.4)

Trench 1 was located in the north east end of the site. It was orientated northeast to southwest and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.43m in sample section 1. The trench contained no archaeological features.

Plough soil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.40m. This overlay natural geology **1001**.

#### 8.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)

Trench 1 was located at the south western end of site, was orientated northwest to southeast and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m in sample section 1. The trench contained no archaeological features.

Plough soil **1000** was present to a depth of 0.40m. This overlay natural geology **1001**.



#### 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 4)

The deposit model was consistent across the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was Plough soil **1000**, which was present to a depth 0.43m in sample section 1. This comprised dark grey black, loose silty clay. This layer represents the current agricultural plough soil across the field.

Natural superficial geology **1002**, comprising light grey brown, very compact silty clay was present below Plough soil **1000**.



#### 10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The site had a low - moderate potential for finds and features from the early prehistoric period. There is a moderate potential for remains on the site relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. There was a low potential for all remaining periods.

The evaluation did not encounter any archaeological features within the trenches. A modern plough soil was encountered across the site. No sub soil was present. It was evident that this part of the field had been subject to landscaping most likely in relation to the infilling of drainage ditches nearby that are adjacent to the road.

The lack of archaeological remains could be explained by the relative recent date that the land was turn over to agriculture after been reclaimed from the fen land in the post medieval period.

#### Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological features, particularly from the prehistoric and postmedieval periods, none were identified during the evaluation.



#### 11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The final archive will be deposited following the acquisition of the transfer of title. The deposition will be made with the Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CCC HET). The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



#### 12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr Dale Parsons for commissioning and funding the project.

We would also like to thank Gemma Stewart of CCC HET for all her help and advice throughout the project.

The site was excavated by Martin Brook and Matthew Selfe of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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English Heritage PastScape <a href="www.pastscape.org.uk">www.pastscape.org.uk</a>

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

English Heritage National List for England <a href="https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england">www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england</a>



DEFRA Magic <a href="http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic">http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic</a>



#### **APPENDIX 1 - DEPOSIT TABLES**

#### TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation			Height AOD		Shot ID
1		NE-SW		2.01m		1
Sample Section No	Location		n		Facing	
1		NE End, N		NW Side	SE	
Context No	Depth	Depth Deposit Description				
1000	0.00-0.4	0.00-0.40m Plo		Plough Soil: Dark Grey Black, Loose, Silty Clay.		
1001	0.40m -	Natural Superficial Geology: Light grey brown, Very Compa			grey brown, Very Compact	
			Silty Clay.			

#### **TRENCH 2**

Trench No	Orientation NW-SE			Height AOD 1.99m		Shot ID	
Sample Section No	Location		n	Facing			
2	9		SE End,	, NE Side SW		SW	
Context No	Depth	Depth Deposit Des			Description		
1000	0.00-0.40m Plo		Plough	Plough Soil: Dark Grey Black, Loose, Silty Clay.			
1001	0.40m +	+	Natural Silty Cla	Superficial Geology: Light grey brown, Very Compact ay.			



#### **APPENDIX - 2 OASIS SHEET**

# 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: britanni1-339116

Project details

Project name LAND SOUTHWEST OF 1 STRAIGHT FURLONG, PYMOOR, DOWNHAM,

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Short description of the project On 25th February 2019 Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land Southwest of 1 Straight Furlong, Pymoor, Downham, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 4964 8642) ahead of the proposed erection of three

detached two storey dwellings. The site had a low - moderate potential for finds and features from the early prehistoric period. There is a moderate potential for remains on the site relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. There was a low potential for all remaining periods. Despite the potential for archaeological features, particularly from the prehistoric and post-medieval periods, none were

identified during the evaluation.

Project dates Start: 28-01-2019 End: 29-01-2019

Previous/future

Work

No / Not known

Any associated ECB5805 - Sitecode

project reference codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status

None

Current Land

Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined

Monument type NONE None Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches"

Development

type

Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF Position in the

planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### **Project location**

Country England



CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DOWNHAM LAND SOUTHWEST OF 1 STRAIGHT FURLONG, PYMOOR, DOWNHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE Site location

Postcode

Study area 1784 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 549629 286419 51.934216414852 0.254326895738 51 56 03 N 000 15 15 E

Point

Height OD /

Depth

Min: 0m Max: 0m

#### **Project** creators

Name of Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Organisation

Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body Project brief originator

Project design

originator

Dan McConnell

Project Martin Brook

director/manager

Martin Brook

Project supervisor

Type of sponsor/funding

body

developer

Name of

sponsor/funding

body

Dale Parson

#### **Project** archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Digital Archive

recipient

Cambridge HER

Digital Archive

ECB5805

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available

"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Moving image"

Paper Archive

Cambridge HER

recipient

Paper Archive ID ECB5805

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media

"Context

available

sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey

#### **Project** bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type



Title Land Southwest of 1 Straight Furlong, Pymoor, Downham, Cambridgeshire

Author(s)/Editor M. Brook

(s)

Other R1226

bibliographic

details

2019 Date

Issuer or publisher Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or Bury St Edmunds

publication

Description A4 Bound Report with A3 pull-out figures

URL www.britannia-archaeology.com

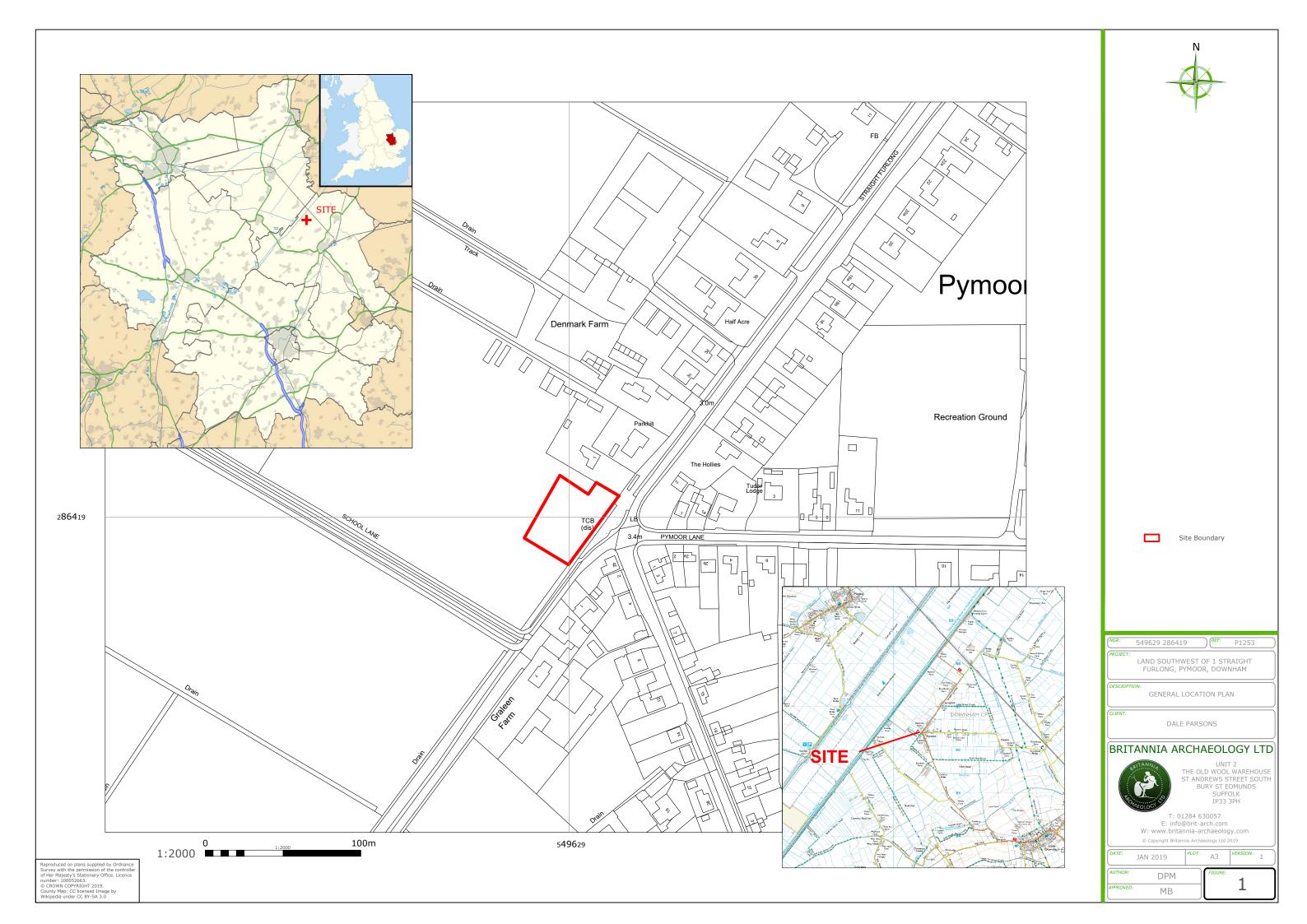
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Entered on 1 March 2019

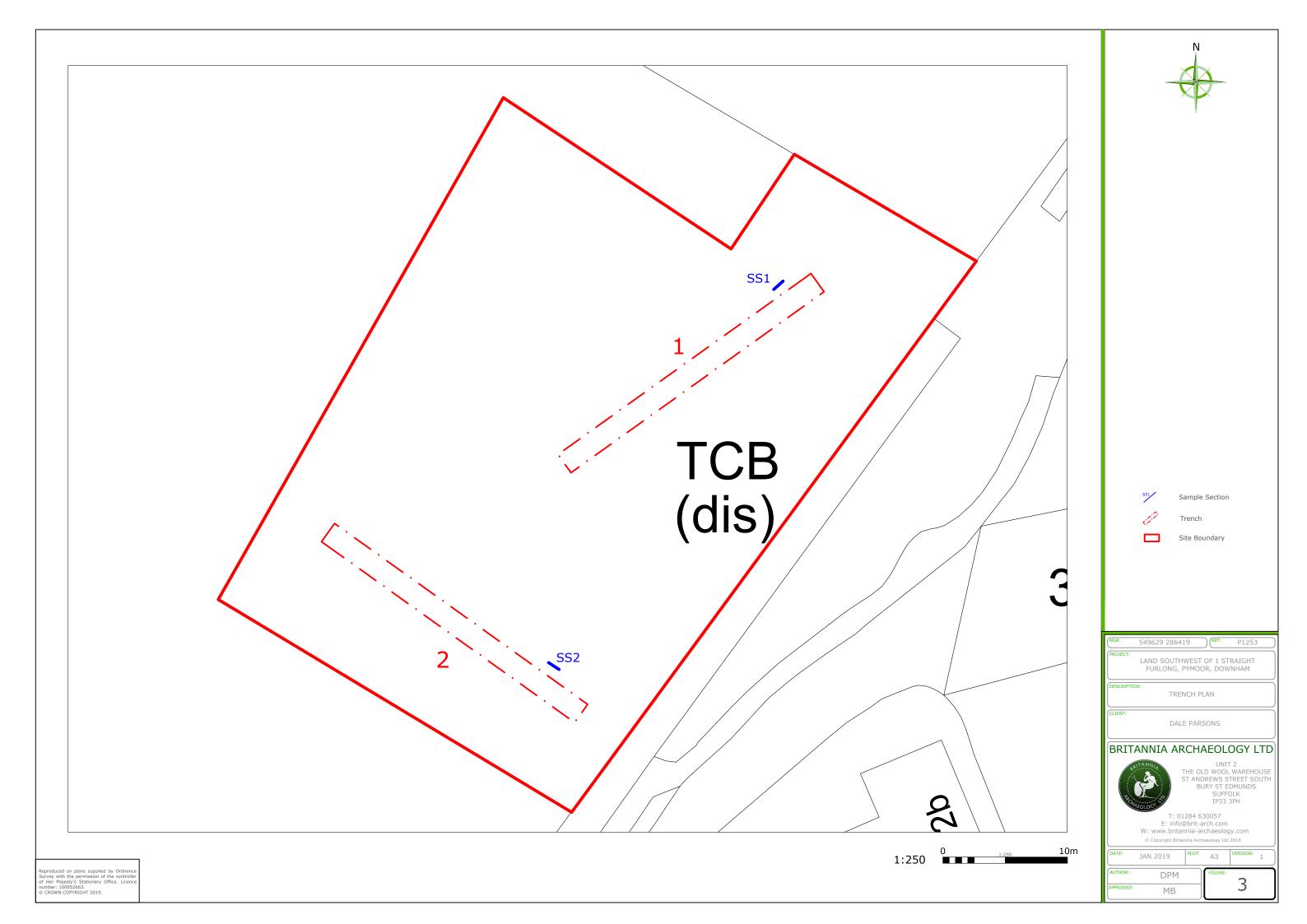
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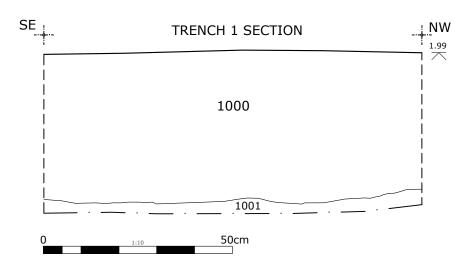
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DP 2 - Sample Section 1 - View NW



DP 1 - Trench 1 Post Excav - View NE



DP 3 - Trench 2 Post Excav - View NW



DP 4 - Sample Section 2 - View NE

