



THE MALTING, WHATFIELD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION





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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared on behalf of:

Craig Lister
Gracewood Housing Ltd
8 Bennett's Lane
North End
Glensford
Great Dunmow
CM6 3PG

By:

Matthew Adams, BA (Hons) MCIFA (Report)

Britannia Archaeology Ltd

Unit 2, The Old Wool Warehouse
St Andrews Street South
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3PH


T: 01284 630057

info@brit-arch.com

www.britannia-archaeology.com

Registered in England and Wales: 7874460

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Abstract

On 8th April 2019, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at The Malting, Whatfield Road, Elmsett, Suffolk (NGR TM 05290 46630) on behalf of Mr Craig Lister and as part of a planning application (B/16/00447) ahead of residential development of the site and associated works.

The site had potential for features and finds dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods and moderate to low potential for all other periods.

The evaluation revealed no finds or features.

Historic mapping dating from 1842 (Tithe) onwards shows the site to be clear of buildings and aerial photographs dating from the 1940s onwards also show the site free of development and unusually it appears unploughed.

The topsoil and subsoil was also unusually free from finds of any type.

Given the results of the evaluation, the development is highly unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 8th April 2019, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at The Malting, Whatfield Road, Elmsett, Suffolk (NGR TM 05290 46630) on behalf of Mr Craig Lister and as part of a planning application (B/16/00447) ahead of residential development of the site and associated works.

The work was undertaken in response to a design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) (Cutler, H. 22nd December 2017). Seven linear trial trenches measuring 15.00m x 1.80m were excavated (Fig. 3).

The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological features and layers were excavated by hand.



2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located within the village of Elmsett, Suffolk. Elmsett is located approximately 12.5km west of Ipswich and is within the Babergh District Council administrative area.

The site comprises a parcel of land, south of Whatfield Road, Elmsett, within the western bounds of the village. (Fig.1). The site is bound to the east and west by residential housing, and to the south by commercial properties.

2.1 *Site Geology*

The superficial geology is described as Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. 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, (BGS, 2019).

The underlying geology is described as Newhaven Chalk Formation - Chalk. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 86 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas. (BGS, 2019).



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 2019). The relevant local development framework is the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (Policy HB14; 1998).



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

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

The SHER returned 20 monument entries, 4 events and 13 listed buildings within the 1km search area.

4.1 Prehistoric

Evidence of pre-historic activity is very sparse within the SHER search area.

The earliest record identifies Bronze activity 550m to the current sites east, in the form of two worked pieces of flint found within topsoil deposits during an archaeological evaluation at Hazelwood, The Street (ETT022).

4.2 Roman

No evidence dating to the Romano-British period was found within the SHER search area.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon

There is limited evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity record in the SHER search area, however the modern settlement likely has its roots within the Saxon period. Elmsett was recorded in Domesday (1086AD) as *Ylmesaeton*, the etymology being derived from Old English *Ylme* and *Saeten* meaning 'Elm' and 'Dwellers' respectively (Mills, 2003). It was located within the Cosford Hundred, and had 14 households, with a tax assessment of 6.5 gelds.

Two records (ADH011 and ETT010) were noted within the SHER search area and identify find spot locations some 1000m south of the current site and 200m north-west respectively. Both record small finds recovered during metal detecting.



4.4 *Medieval*

At the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, the lordship of Elmsett was held by Tovi and 14 free men. By 1086 the lordship had passed to a Norman Lord named Roger of Auberville, with the settlement containing two villagers and 12 smallholders. This population made Elmsett a medium sized settlement for the time, however the tax assessment for Elmsett was 6.5 gelds, a reasonably high amount.

The Church of St Peter (ETT008) lies 850m to the north east of the current site and its origins can be dated to at least the 12th century. Directly adjacent to the church, is Church Farm (ETT003), a 16th century timber framed dwelling set within a possibly earlier moat. Other moated sites within the SHER search radius comprise Mill Farm (levelled and built upon in 1969 – ETT001) some 390m south of the current site, and the scheduled Old Rectory (ETT002). The Old Rectory is formed by a half ellipse moat with an associated late 15th century dwelling, and is located 150m to the north east of the current site.

The site of a former green (ETT018), directly north east of the current site and still visible on the 1880 6" OS map, may hint at a refocus of the medieval settlement in the later medieval period to around and to the east of the land in which the current investigation area lies.

Archaeological evidence for medieval activity is represented in the SHER data by a single evaluation at Hazlewood, The Street, Elmsett (ETT022). This evaluation revealed 12th through 14th century ditches and gullies possibly associated with agricultural boundaries, and were located some 550m to the east of the current site.

4.5 *Post-medieval*

Post-medieval activity within the SHER search area is mainly represented by Grade II listed buildings. Two notable ones due to their proximity to the current investigation area are a row of 17th to 18th century timber framed cottages (now a single dwelling) located 60m to the north east (DSF3188), and a 17th to 18th century timber framed dwelling some 100m to the west.



In addition to the listed buildings, a 'Friends' or Quaker burial ground (ETT017) is noted on the 1842 tithe map of Elmsett located some 30m to the south west of the current site.

The 1st Edition OS map (1886) shows the site as a large field, directly adjacent (to the west of) to a building titled 'The Malting', which may hint at the adjacent site being used as part of the brewing process in the 19th century.

Given the above, the site had a **low** potential for pre-historic activity. There was a **moderate** potential for medieval and post-medieval activity and a **low** potential for all other periods.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief (Cutler, H. Section 4.2) stated that the evaluation should aim to:

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

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving has been undertaken in accordance with CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, 2014, and 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).

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

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

Particular study of the following was considered during the project:

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



7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The SCCAS/CT brief required the excavation of trenching in advance of the construction of dwelling and associated works. **Seven** trenches measuring **15.00m x 1.80m** were excavated (Fig.3).

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 (Fig.3).

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



8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 3 - 7)

A summary of the features and layers encountered is summarised below. Full context descriptions can be found at Appendix 1.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the eastern side of the site aligned NNW to SSE. No archaeological features or finds were present.

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located on the north-eastern side of the site aligned ENE to WSW adjacent to Whatfield Road. No archaeological features or finds were present.

8.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located on the south-eastern side of the site aligned ENE to WSW. No archaeological features or finds were present.

8.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the centre of the site of the site aligned NNW to SSE. No archaeological features or finds were present.

8.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the central south-western side of the site aligned ENE to WSW. No archaeological features or finds were present.



8.6 *Trench 6*

Trench 6 was located on the south-western side of the site aligned NNW to SSE. No archaeological features or finds were present.

8.7 *Trench 7*

Trench 7 was located on the north-western side of the site aligned ENE to WSW adjacent to Whatfield Road. No archaeological features or finds were present.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs. 4-6)

The deposit model was consistent across the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was topsoil layer **1000**, which was present to a maximum depth 0.32m. It was a mid black, loose silty clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions. The depth and formation of this layer is most likely associated with post-medieval/modern ploughing, however it is shown as scrub land and for housing pigs from at least the 1940s on aerial photographs. It is currently scrubland

Beneath topsoil layer **1000**, was subsoil **1001**, which was present to a maximum depth of 0.73m, and was 0.54m thick in sample section 6. This layer comprised a mid brown-yellow orange, compact clay silt with occasional small stone inclusions. The form and substance of this layer suggests it was an earlier plough soil.

The base of the archaeological sequence was natural geology **1002** which comprised a light orange yellow, compact silt clay with moderate chalk fleck inclusions and was present from a depth of between 0.35m and 0.73m.



10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The site had potential for features and finds dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods and moderate to low potential for all other periods.

The evaluation revealed no finds or features.

Historic mapping dating from 1842 (Tithe) onwards shows the site to be clear of buildings and aerial photographs dating from the 1940s onwards also show the site free of development and unusually it appears unploughed.

The topsoil and subsoil was also unusually free from finds of any type.

Conclusion

The evaluation showed archaeological feature and finds to be absent from the site. While absence of archaeological evidence cannot always be considered evidence for absence of archaeological activity, it is highly unlikely that the proposed development will have an impact on any buried heritage assets.

The site appears to have remained on the periphery of settlement activity in Elmsett since at least the Anglo-Saxon period, to when the origins of the modern village can be traced.



11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archives subject to agreement with the legal landowner where finds are concerned. The digital archive will be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Mr Craig Lister for commissioning and funding the work.

We would also like to thank Dr Hannah Culter from SCCAS/CT for her advice and assistance on the project.

The site was excavated by Martin Brook, Matt Self and Dan Hills of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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

English Heritage National List for England

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

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

Historic England National List for England

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

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

St Edmundsbury chronicle

<http://www.stedmundsburychronicle.co.uk/gas/gashistory.htm>



APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

Deposit Tables

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	S-N	66.81	2
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	W Side, S End	E	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.19m	Topsoil: Mid black brown, loose silty clay.	
1001	0.19-0.46m	Subsoil: Mid brown yellow orange, compact clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint.	
1002	0.46m+	Natural: Light orange yellow, compact silty clay with moderate flexes of chalk.	

TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
2	W-E	66.12	4
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2	N Side, E End	S	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.17m	Topsoil: Mid black brown, loose silty clay.	
1001	0.17-0.39m	Subsoil: Mid brown yellow orange, compact clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint.	
1002	0.39m+	Natural: Light orange yellow, compact silty clay with moderate flexes of chalk.	

TRENCH 3

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
3	E-W	67.74	6
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
3	S Side, W End	N Facing	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.34m	Topsoil: Mid black brown, loose silty clay.	



1001	0.34-0.57m	Subsoil: Mid brown yellow orange, compact clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint.
1002	0.57m+	Natural: Light orange yellow, compact silty clay with moderate flexes of chalk.

TRENCH 4

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
4	S-N	67.22	8
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
4	W Side, N End	E	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.24m	Topsoil: Mid black brown, loose silty clay.	
1001	0.24-0.40m	Subsoil: Mid brown yellow orange, compact clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint.	
1002	0.40m+	Natural: Light orange yellow, compact silty clay with moderate flexes of chalk.	

TRENCH 5

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
5	E-W	67.47	10
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
5	N side, E End	S	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.23m	Topsoil: Mid black brown, loose silty clay.	
1001	0.23-0.52m	Subsoil: Mid brown yellow orange, compact clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint.	
1002	0.52m+	Natural: Light orange yellow, compact silty clay with moderate flexes of chalk.	

TRENCH 6

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
6	S-N	67.33	12
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
6	W Side, S End	E	



Context No	Depth	Deposit Description
1000	0.00-0.24m	Topsoil: Mid black brown, loose silty clay.
1001	0.24-0.80m	Subsoil: Mid brown yellow orange, compact clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint.
1002	0.80m+	Natural: Light orange yellow, compact silty clay with moderate flexes of chalk.

TRENCH 7

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
7	W-E	67.33	14
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
7	N Side, W End	S	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00 -0.26m	Topsoil: Mid black brown, loose silty clay.	
1001	0.26m-0.70m	Subsoil: Mid brown yellow orange, compact clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flint.	
1002	0.70m+	Natural: Light orange yellow, compact silty clay with moderate flexes of chalk.	



APPENDIX 2 – COMPLIANCE - WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) on behalf of Craig Lister of Gracewood Housing Ltd. The archaeological work is required as one of the conditions attached to planning application B/16/00447, for the construction of seven houses and associated works at The Malting, Whatfield Road, Elmsett (TM 502 779) (Fig. 1).

This WSI presents a programme of archaeological investigation by means of an archaeological trial trench evaluation to assess the nature and potential of the site, and to determine the need for any future site investigations. A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) (Cutler, H. 22nd December 2017) requires a programme of linear trial trenching comprising a total of approximately 104.00m x 1.80m to be located across the proposed development site.

Should the results of this evaluation lead to further mitigation work, this will be subject to an additional Brief and WSI.

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located within the village of Elmsett, Suffolk. Elmsett is located approximately 12.5km west of Ipswich and is within the Babergh District Council administrative area.

The site comprises a parcel of land, south of Whatfield Road, Elmsett, within the western bounds of the village. (Fig. 1). The site is bound to the east and west by residential housing, and to the south by commercial properties.

2.1 Site Geology

The superficial geology is described as Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. 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, (BGS, 2019).

The underlying geology is described as Newhaven Chalk Formation - Chalk. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 72 to 86 million years ago in the



Cretaceous Period when the local environment was previously dominated by warm chalk seas. (BGS, 2019).

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 *Babergh Development Framework Core Strategy (2011-2031) Submission Draft*.

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 desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- Opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

The NPPF asks that in determining planning applications the local planning authorities should take account of:

- The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- The positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- The desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.



3.2 *Babergh Development Framework Core Strategy (2011-2031) Submission Draft*

The local development framework for Babergh states the following:

- Provide support and guidance to ensure that development which may affect historic assets and ensure new development makes a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (section 3.3.6).

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

The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) (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). The Suffolk HER preferred reference has been provided where possible.

The SHER returned 20 monument entries, 4 events and 13 listed buildings within the 1km search area.

4.1 *Prehistoric*

Evidence of pre-historic activity is very sparse within the SHER search area.

The earliest record identifies Bronze activity 550m to the current sites east, in the form of two worked pieces of flint found within topsoil deposits during an archaeological evaluation at Hazelwood, The Street (ETT022).

4.2 *Roman*

No evidence dating to the Romano-British period was found within the SHER search area.

4.3 *Anglo-Saxon*

There is limited evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity record in the SHER search area, however the modern settlement likely has its roots within the Saxon period. Elmsett was recorded in Domesday (1086AD) as *Ylmesaeton*, the etymology being derived from Old English *Ylme* and *Saeten* meaning 'Elm' and 'Dwellers' respectively (Mills, 2003). It was located within the Cosford Hundred, and had 14 households, with a tax assessment of 6.5 gelds.



Two records (ADH011 and ETT010) were noted within the SHER search area and identify find spot locations some 1000m south of the current site and 200m north-west respectively. Both record small finds recovered during metal detecting.

4.4 *Medieval*

At the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, the lordship of Elmsett was held by Tovi and 14 free men. By 1086 the lordship had passed to a Norman Lord named Roger of Auberville, with the settlement containing two villagers and 12 smallholders. This population made Elmsett a medium sized settlement for the time, however the tax assessment for Elmsett was 6.5 gelds, a reasonably high amount.

The Church of St Peter (ETT008) lies 850m to the north east of the current site and its origins can be dated to at least the 12th century. Directly adjacent to the church, is Church Farm (ETT003), a 16th century timber framed dwelling set within a possibly earlier moat. Other moated sites within the SHER search radius comprise Mill Farm (levelled and built upon in 1969 – ETT001) some 390m south of the current site, and the scheduled Old Rectory (ETT002). The Old Rectory is formed by a half ellipse moat with an associated late 15th century dwelling, and is located 150m to the north east of the current site.

The site of a former green (ETT018), directly north east of the current site and still visible on the 1880 6" OS map, may hint at a refocus of the medieval settlement in the later medieval period to around and to the east of the land in which the current investigation area lies.

Archaeological evidence for medieval activity is represented in the SHER data by a single evaluation at Hazlewood, The Street, Elmsett (ETT022). This evaluation revealed 12th through 14th century ditches and gullies possibly associated with agricultural boundaries, and were located some 550m to the east of the current site.

4.5 *Post-medieval*

Post-medieval activity within the SHER search area is mainly represented by Grade II listed buildings. Two notable ones due to their proximity to the current investigation area are a row of 17th to 18th century timber framed cottages (now a single dwelling) located 60m to the north east (DSF3188), and a 17th to 18th century timber framed dwelling some 100m to the west.



In addition to the listed buildings, a 'Friends' or Quaker burial ground (ETT017) is noted on the 1842 tithe map of Elmsett located some 30m to the south west of the current site.

The 1st Edition OS map (1886) shows the site as a large field, directly adjacent (to the west of) to a building titled 'The Malting', which may hint at the adjacent site being used as part of the brewing process in the 19th century.

Given the above, the site has a **low** potential for pre-historic activity. There is a **moderate** potential for medieval and post-medieval activity and a **low** potential for all other periods.

5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS/CT brief (Cutler, H. Section 4.2) states that the evaluation should aim to:

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

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving will be undertaken in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2014, and the *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation, 2017* (SCCAS/CT).

Seven trenches measuring **15.00m x 1.80m** will 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 dry-land palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: eg the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts

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 SCCAS/CT brief requires a programme of linear trial trenching in advance of construction of the new residential buildings and associated works. The trenching will comprise **Seven** trenches measuring **15.00m x 1.80m**.

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

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

In the event that important archaeological remains are identified, a site meeting will be held with the client and the SCCAS/CT planning archaeologist to discuss



the significance of the remains and decide on the scope of further excavation and recording. **The client is aware of the need for contingency funding to cover additional works if necessary.**

7.1 Site Plans

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

A pre-excavation base plan accurately plotting all features will be produced using a 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 in addition to the known gas pipeline 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.

Overburden 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 surfaces.

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 will produce a clean, flat surface at precisely the correct level.

7.3 Hand Excavation

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

7.4 Metal Detector



A professional metal detector will be used to scan the trenches prior to excavation, and subsequently the spoil heaps, exposed surfaces and any features identified. The finds will be recovered and recorded and located by GPS. 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, possible floors) will be excavated in stratigraphic sequence.

7.7 Ditches

Ditch segments will be positioned to provide a total coverage of 20% 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



Articulated human remains will usually receive minimal excavation to define the extent and quality of their preservation. However in circumstances of poor preservation or if required to meet the project objectives, human remains may require full excavation. A decision in consultation with the SCCAS/CT planning archaeologist and the relevant specialist will be made on the extent to which human remains are excavated during the trenching. The aim will be to inform the requirements for future treatment during subsequent Phases. Disarticulated human remains will be recorded and retained for assessment.

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 and deposits will be photographed in detail and general site and working shoots taken as part of the photographic record. This record will comprise high quality digital photographs saved in RAW/CR2 format and taken on an 11 Mega Pixel, Canon 450, DSLR. The RAW/CR2 files will be converted and stored in uncompressed .tiff at 8 bit. If for any reason acceptable digital photography cannot be undertaken, the primary record will be on 35mm black and white film. 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. 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 Dr Boreham and Dr Zoe Outram 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, SCCAS/CT and Dr Outram where appropriate. The project manager must ensure that the results of palaeoenvironmental investigation, industrial residue assessments/analyses & scientific analyses are included in a full evaluation report and sent to the Historic England Science Advisor.

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

7.16 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.

7.17 *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

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 an acceptable timeframe.

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.

One hard or digital copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, should be prepared and presented to SCCAS/CT within four weeks of the completion of site works unless there are reasonable grounds for more time. Provision will be made for a summary to be produced for the annual PSIAH round up should positive results be drawn from the evaluation.

Digital and paper report copies will be supplied to the client and SCCAS/CT (one copy and a .pdf copy). 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 ESRI or 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. The archaeological advisory and planning role of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service will be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.



If positive results are drawn from this project, a summary report will be prepared for the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

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, and in accordance with *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS Conservation Team, 2017).

Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with the appropriate receiving body, under an appropriate accession number and 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).

Arrangements for the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts will be agreed with the landowner and SCCAS/CT during the reporting stage. Transfer of title and the transfer of the ownership of the archive to the County Archive Facility will be arranged at this time, and the arrangements indicated in the evaluation report.

Where the project comprises multiple stages, the entire archive will be collated and deposited as a whole.

10.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

BA operates a comprehensive Health and Safety Policy in accordance with the Health and Safety Executive. This Policy is based on a Health and Safety system in line with 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 will be undertaken and an assessment of the potential risks be highlighted including the potential for toxins and contaminants. It will be the responsibility of the client/agent to undertake a full assessment of any toxins present and services present and provide Britannia Archaeology Ltd with a report detailing the results, prior to the commencement of any fieldwork. A full site risk assessment will be produced using this information and suitable tools and PPE will provided and used based on the results of any pre-project investigation.

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 will be 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 planning archaeologist immediately.

12.0 TIMETABLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

The archaeological evaluation fieldwork is scheduled to begin in April 2019, 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 last at least two 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 SCCAS/CT Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. The SCCAS/CT archaeologist will be kept updated with developments both on site and in the post excavation process.

Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the SCCAS/CT Archaeologist prior to work being carried out. The monitoring officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project. SCCAS/CT will be given a minimum of 1 week's written notice of the commencement of work so as to make arrangements for monitoring. The trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT. Further trenching or deposit testing may be a requirement of the site monitoring visit if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy.



APPENDIX 3 – OASIS SHEET

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: britanni1-346100

Project details

Project name	The Malting, Whatfield Road
Short description of the project	On 8th April 2019, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at The Malting, Whatfield Road, Elmsett, Suffolk (NGR TM 05290 46630) on behalf of Mr Craig Lister and as part of a planning application (B/16/00447) ahead of residential development of the site and associated works. The site had potential for features and finds dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods and moderate to low potential for all other periods. The evaluation revealed no finds or features. Historic mapping dating from 1842 (Tithe) onwards shows the site to be clear of buildings and aerial photographs dating from the 1940s onwards also show the site free of development and unusually it appears unploughed. The topsoil and subsoil was also unusually free from finds of any type. Given the results of the evaluation, the development is highly unlikely to have an impact on significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 01-04-2019 End: 03-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ETT 024 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Developmental 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
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH ELMSETT The Malting, Whatfield Road
Postcode	IP7 6LZ



OASIS FORM - Print view

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

Study area 0 Hectares
Site coordinates TM 05290 46630 52.079389731785 0.996294422331 52 04 45 N 000 59 46 E Point
Lat/Long Datum 0.00
(other)
Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator Martin Brook
Project director/manager Martin Brook
Project supervisor Martin Brook
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Gracewood Housing Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Digital Archive ID ETT 024
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID ETT 024
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title THE MALTING, WHATFIELD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK
Author(s)/Editor(s) M. Adams
Other bibliographic details R1231
Date 2019



OASIS FORM - Print view

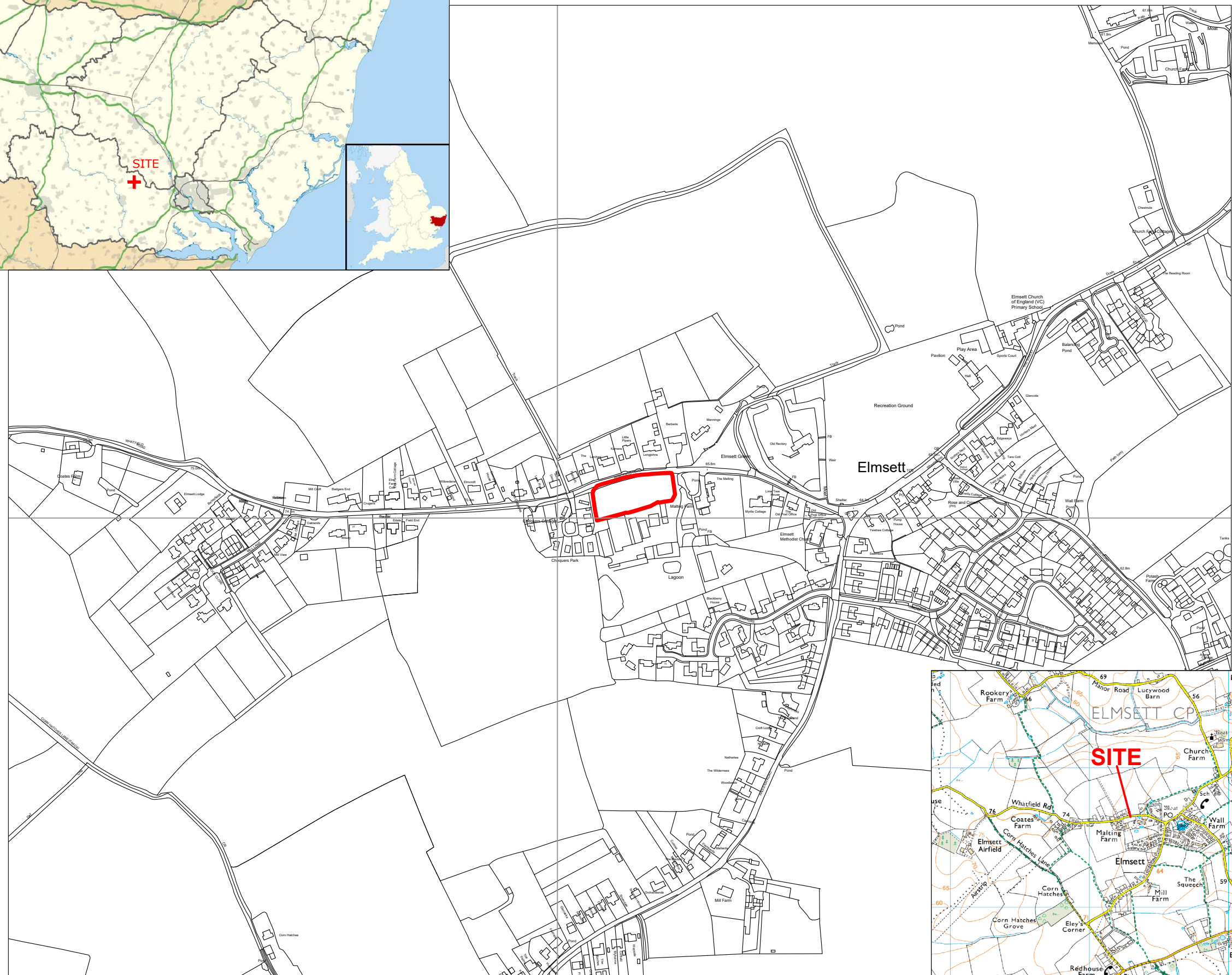
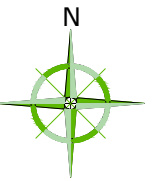
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Issuer or publisher	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bury St Edmunds
Description	A4 bound report with A3 pull out Figures
URL	www.britannia-archaeology.com
Entered by	Martin Brook (martin@brit-arch.com)
Entered on	5 February 2020

OASIS:

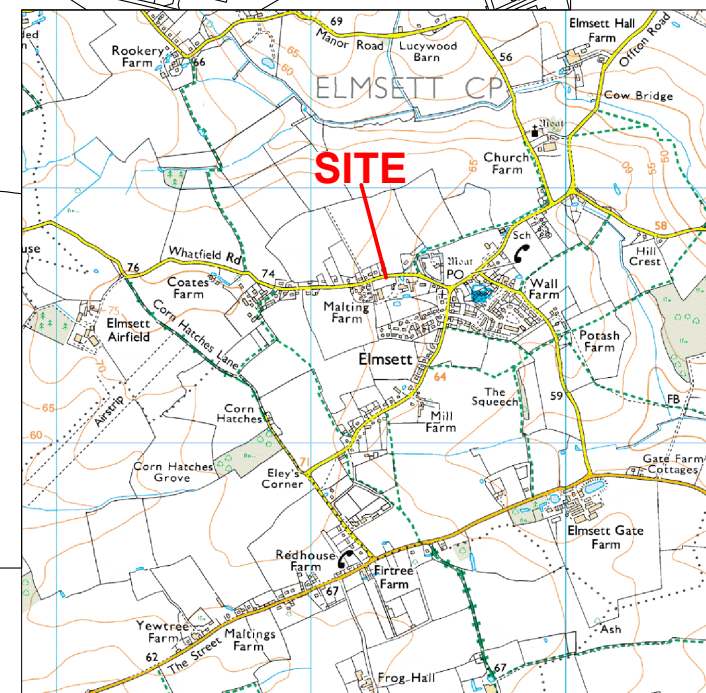
Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice
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246600

605200



Site Boundary

NGR: 605290 246630 REF: P1269

PROJECT: THE MALTING, WHATFIELD ROAD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: GENERAL LOCATION PLAN

CLIENT:

BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

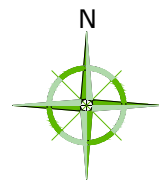
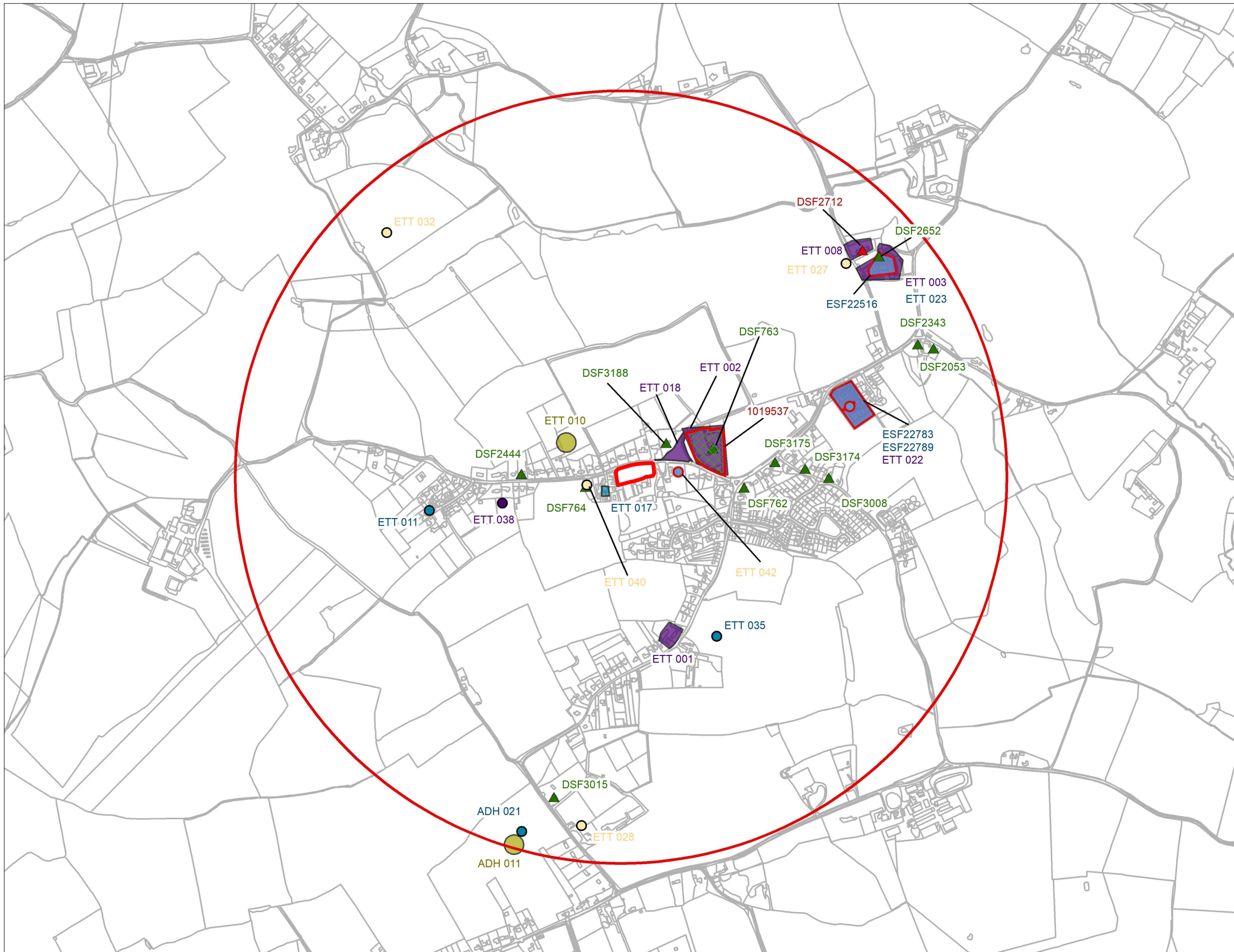
UNIT 2
THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE
ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH
BURY ST EDMUNDS
SUFFOLK
IP33 3PH

T: 01284 630057
E: info@brit-arch.com
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DATE: APR 2019 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 1

AUTHOR: MCA APPROVED: DPM **FIGURE: 1**

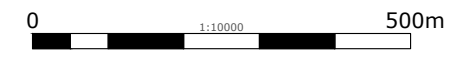
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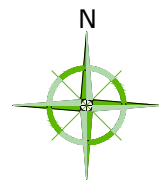
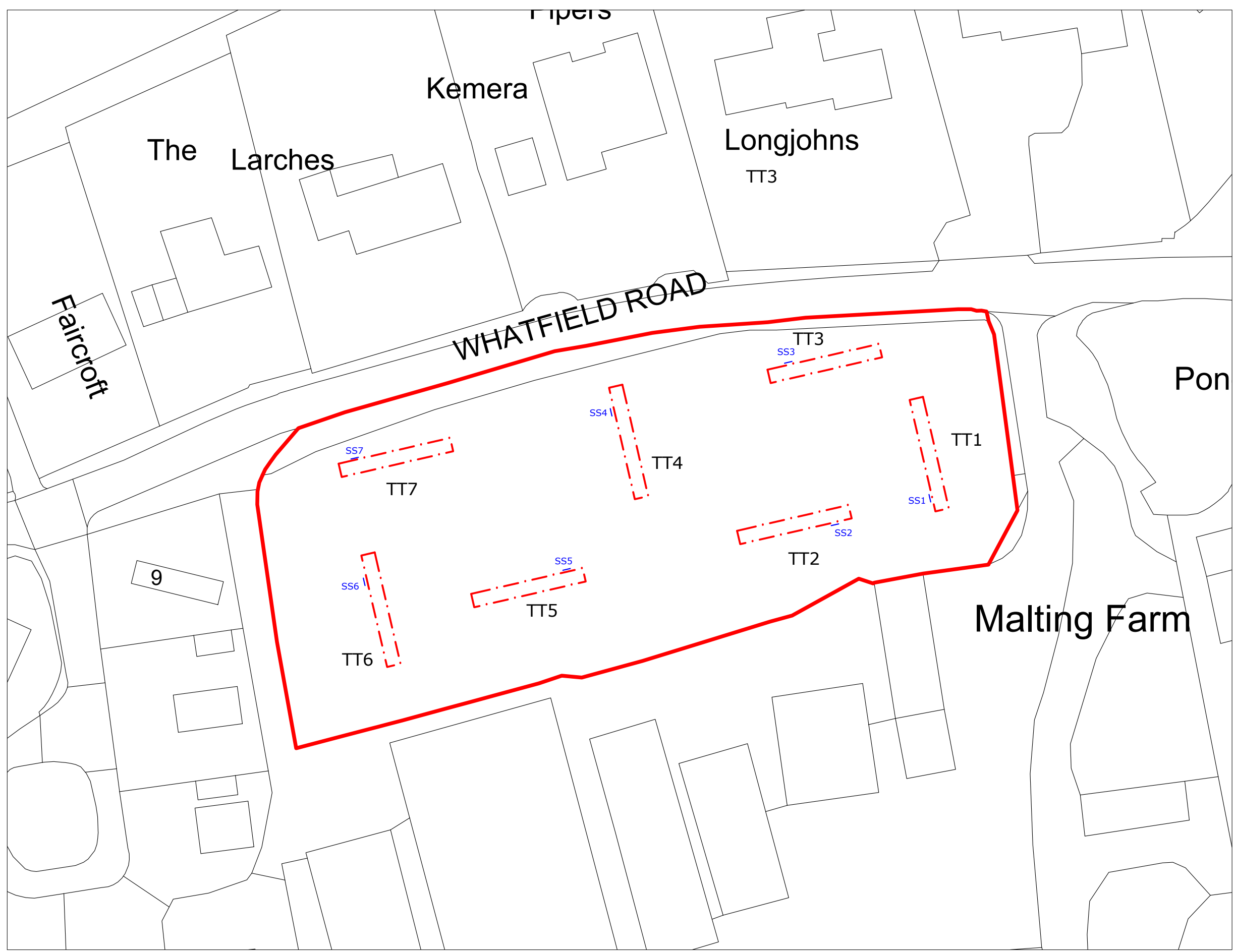


- HER Search Area
- ▲ Grade I
- ▲ Grade II*
- ▲ Grade II
- Archaeological Event
- Scheduled Monument
- Undated Record
- Multiperiod Record
- Modern Record
- Post-medieval Record
- Medieval Record
- Anglo Saxon Record
- Roman Record
- Iron Age Record
- Bronze Age Record
- Neolithic Record
- Mesolithic Record
- Palaeolithic Record
- Site Boundary

(NGR):	605290 246630	(REF):	P1269
PROJECT:	THE MALTING, WHATFIELD ROAD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION:	SHER DATA - MONUMENTS, EVENTS, LISTED BUILDINGS, SCHEDULED MONUMENTS		
CLIENT:			
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD			
UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP33 3PH			
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(DATE):	MAR 2019	(PLOT):	A3
		(VERSION):	1
(AUTHOR):	MCA	(FIGURE):	2
(APPROVED):	DPM		

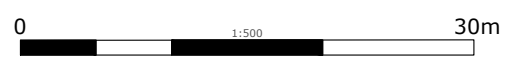
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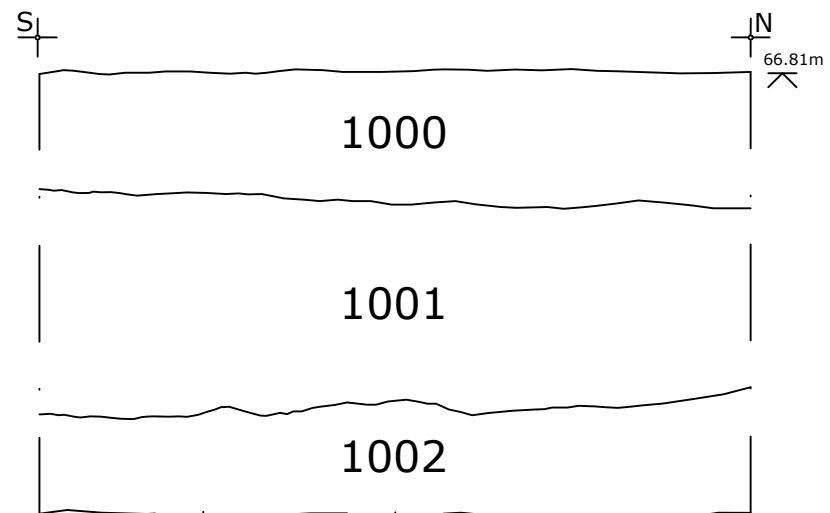
- Trench
- Site Boundary

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PROJECT:	THE MALTING, WHATFIELD ROAD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION:	TRENCH LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:			
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD			
UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP33 3PH T: 01284 630057 E: info@brit-arch.com W: www.britannia-archaeology.com © Copyright Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2019			
DATE:	APR 2019	PLOT:	A3
AUTHOR:	MS	VERSION:	2
APPROVED:	DPM	3	



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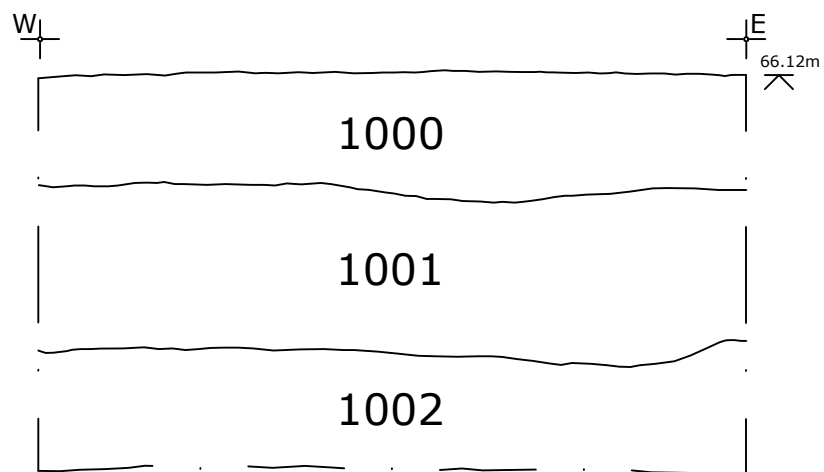


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DP2 - SS1 - VIEW W

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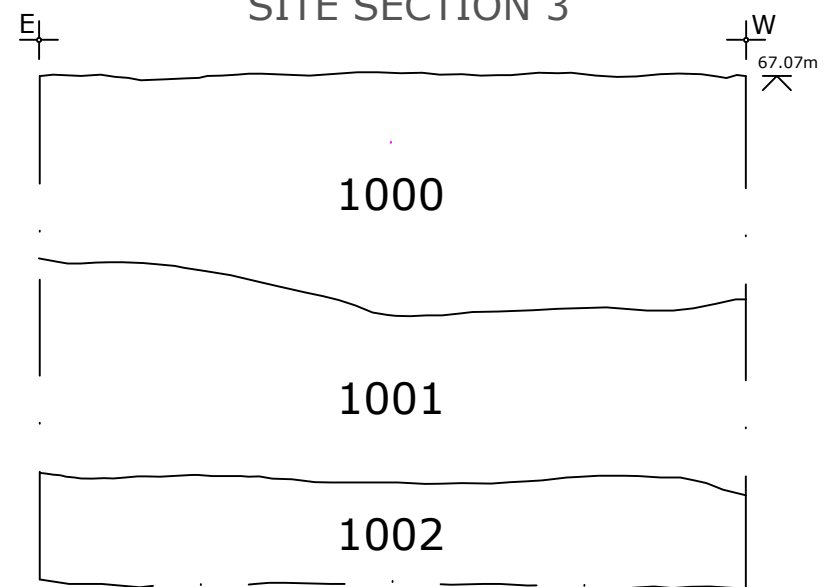


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SITE SECTION 3



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NGR: 605290 246630 REF: R1228

PROJECT: THE MALTING, WHATFIELD ROAD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: SITE SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT: GRACEWOOD HOUSING

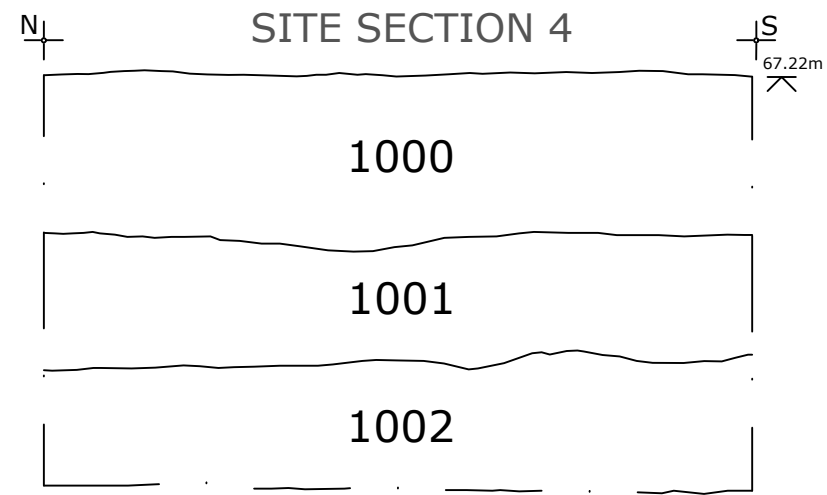
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THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE
ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH
BURY ST EDMUNDS
SUFFOLK
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DATE: APR 2019 PLOT: A3 VERSION: 1

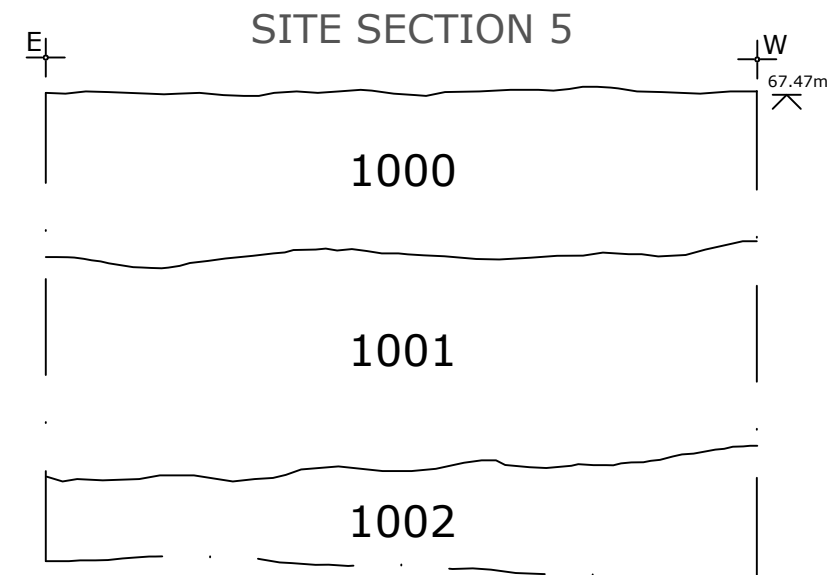
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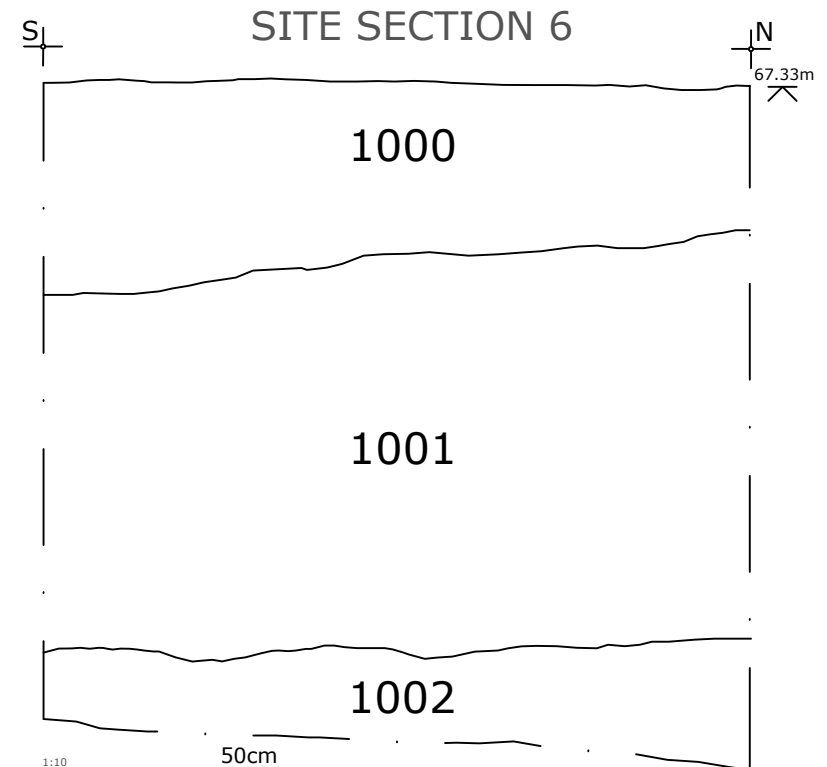
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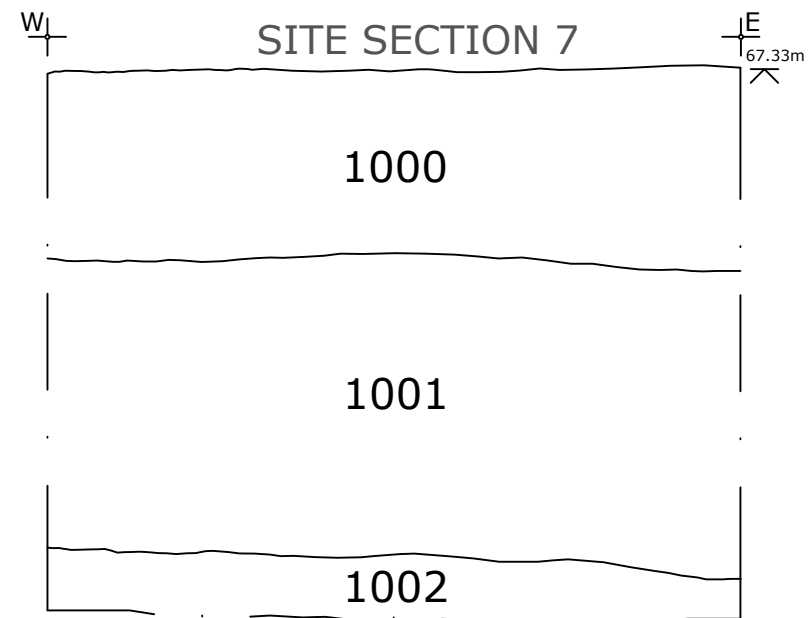


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CLIENT: GRACWOOD HOUSING		
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AUTHOR: MS	FIGURE: 5	
APPROVED: DPM		



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PROJECT: THE MALTING, WHATFIELD ROAD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK

DESCRIPTION: SITE SECTIONS & PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT: GRACEWOOD HOUSING

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ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH
BURY ST EDMUNDS
SUFFOLK
IP33 3PH

T: 01284 630057
E: info@brit-arch.com
W: www.britannia-archaeology.com

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AUTHOR: MS
APPROVED: DPM

FIGURE: 6



DP1 - TT1 - VIEW N



DP7 - TT4 - VIEW S



DP3 - TT2 - VIEW W



DP13 - TT7 - VIEW E

NGR:	605290 246630	REF:	R1228
PROJECT:	THE MALTING, WHATFIELD ROAD, ELMSETT, SUFFOLK		
DESCRIPTION:	TRENCH PHOTOGRAPHY		
CLIENT:			
BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD 			
UNIT 2 THE OLD WOOL WAREHOUSE ST ANDREWS STREET SOUTH BURY ST EDMUNDS SUFFOLK IP33 3PH T: 01284 630057 E: info@brit-arch.com W: www.britannia-archaeology.com © Copyright Britannia Archaeology Ltd 2019			
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