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# LAND OFF BACK ROAD, MIDDLETON, SUFFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: R1282

November 2020

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## LAND OFF BACK ROAD, MIDDLETON, SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Prepared on behalf of:

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## **Abstract**

*From the 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land off Back Road, Middleton, Suffolk (NGR (TM 4328 6758) on behalf of Hastoe Homes.*

*There was a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods while there was a low potential for finds and features dating to all other periods.*

*Despite the above potential, the evaluation encountered only a single archaeological feature, likely relating to a formal field boundary. Given the lack of dating evidence it cannot be phased but based on the known expansion of the settlement it would be fair to assume that this subdivision of the field occurred in the post-medieval period.*

*It is highly likely the plot has remained agricultural in nature throughout the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The absence of any finds within the topsoil is suggestive of the site having never being utilised for night soiling.*



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

From the 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land off Back Road, Middleton, Suffolk (NGR (TM 4328 6758) on behalf of Hastoe Homes. The archaeological works were required as a condition of application DC/19/1511/FUL; a hybrid application for 5 affordable units and 1 open market unit and outline planning consent for 2 self-build plots (Fig. 1).

A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) (Baker, M. 16th January 2020) requires a programme of linear trial trenching to sample 5% of the area threatened by development. This will be achieved by excavating 130m x 1.80m of trenching. The trenches will be excavated using a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.



## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located to the south of Back Road, Middleton, Suffolk, directly west of Lilac Cottage. The site is currently a cultivated field on the south-east edge of the village.

### 2.1 *Site Geology*

The bedrock geology is recorded as Crag Group - Gravel. These sand, gravels, silts and clays were formed approximately 2.588 to 1.806 million years ago in the Pliocene Era (BSG, 2020).

The Superficial geology is recorded as Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. These Superficial Deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions (U) (BSG, 2020).





### **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 *Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2019)*.



## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2-3)

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](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)), and the Archaeological Data Service ([www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)) (ADS) (Fig. 2 and 3).

### 4.1 *Prehistoric*

Evidence of prehistoric activity is sparse within the search radius. A single Bronze Age metal engraved sheet was discovered some 575m to the west of the current site (DUN 151).

### 4.2 *Roman*

In a similar vein to the prehistoric period above, there is on a single reference to the Roman period within the search radius. A single sherd of Roman pottery was unearthed during an evaluation 580m to the west of the site (MDD 020) from within a layer also containing later pottery and is therefore likely residual in nature.

### 4.3 *Saxon*

A single record dating to the Saxon period is present within the search area. The church of Holy Trinity (MDD 003) was mentioned in Domesday and is thought to be located 350m north of the current site.

### 4.4 *Medieval*

During an archaeological evaluation some 295m to the north of the site, medieval ditches were unearthed (MDD 012). A find spot of medieval pot sherds were discovered some 575m to the west of the site (DUN 178). The site of a Deserted Medieval Village is located 460m to the north of the site named Fenstreet (WLN 053).



#### 4.5 *Post-medieval and modern*

By far the most prevalent period within the search radius is that of the post-medieval and modern. Manor Farm (MDD 037) some 300m to the south-east dates to the 17th century, with the later 19th century Reckford Farm (MDD 036) some 250m to the east of the site. In addition, 295m to the north-west of the site, during archaeological evaluation, several post-medieval ditches and pits were found (MDD 012).

#### 4.6 *Archaeological Potential*

Given the above records the site had a **moderate** potential for features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. There was a **low** potential for finds and features dating to all other periods.



## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS brief (Baker, M. 2020) 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 report/archiving have been undertaken in accordance with *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, 2014*, and the *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation, 2019* (SCCAS).

This comprised 130m x 1.80m of trenching set out in a grid array across the area threatened by development.

All aspects of the trial trenching were 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 were 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 were considered:

- 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 was ready to be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention was to 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: *e.g.* the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts

The evaluation should also carefully considered 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 brief requires a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the site ahead of the construction of houses. This will be achieved by excavating trenches laid out in a systematic grid array across the site, totalling 130m x 1.80m of trenching. This comprised of 3 x 30.00m trenches and 2 x 20.00m trenches.

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the *SCCAS Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2020)* as well as with the relevant CIfA and Historic England guidance documents.

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



## 8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig. 3 - 6)

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 at the western end of site, on a NE-SW alignment. It contained no archaeological features or finds.

### 8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the north-west of the site, on an NW-SE alignment. It contained no archaeological features or finds.

### 8.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the centre of the site, running N-S. It contained a single ditch, no other archaeological features or finds were present.

Ditch **1004** (1.80m+ x 1.10m x 0.52m) was located at the northern end of Trench 3 on a NE to SW alignment. The ditch was linear in plan and had moderately sloping sides with a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill (**1005**) which comprised a mid-yellowish brown, loose, silty sand. No finds were recovered from the feature.

### 8.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the north east area of the site, running NW-SE. It contained no archaeological features or finds.

### 8.5 Trench 5

Trench 4 was located in the north east area of the site, running NW-SE. It contained no archaeological features or finds.



## 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 4 - 6)

The deposit model was consistent across the site.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence in all trenches was topsoil **1000**, which was present to a maximum depth of 0.45m in Sample Section 5. It comprised a dark-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones. This layer represents the current plough soil across the field.

Beneath topsoil **1000** was subsoil **1001**, which was present to a maximum depth of 0.75m in Sample Section 5. This layer comprised of a mid-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones. This layer represents the former agricultural plough soil on the site, and while there was a paucity of dating evidence it is most likely post medieval in origin based on what is known of the settlement expansion in that period.

The next layer in the stratigraphic sequence was colluvial layer **1002**. The site slopes down towards the north and Back Lane so it is not surprising that a colluvial hill wash is present. This layer comprised a mid-orangish brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub angular stones. This layer was present to a maximum depth of 1.03m in Sample Section 5.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was natural geology **1003** which comprised a light orangish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.





## 10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

There was a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods while there was a low potential for finds and features dating to all other periods.

Despite the above potential, the evaluation encountered only a single archaeological feature. Ditch **1004** was encountered in Trench 3 and likely relates to a formal field boundary. Given the lack of dating evidence it cannot be phased but based on the known expansion of the settlement it would be fair to assume that this subdivision of the field occurred in the post-medieval period.

The evaluation revealed a deposit sequence of topsoil (**1000**) overlaying sub-soil (**1001**) in turn overlaying colluvial (**1002**) and then natural sub-soil (**1003**).

It is highly likely the plot has remained agricultural in nature throughout the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The absence of any finds within the topsoil is suggestive of the site never being utilised for night soiling.



## **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 Potter Raper Partnerships for commissioning the project and Hastoe Homes for funding the work.

We would also like to thank Matt Baker from SCCAS for his advice and assistance on the project.

We would like also to thank Mr Steve Clarkson for his specialist services in metal detection at the site.

The site was excavated by Dan McConnell, Matthew Selfe and Alice Schute of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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English Heritage PastScape [www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) [www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)

English Heritage National List for England

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england)

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



## APPENDIX 1 – DEPOSIT TABLES

### Deposit Tables

#### TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
1	NE-SW	9.15m	1
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
1	SE Side, SW End	NW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.23m	Topsoil: dark-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1001	0.23-0.38m	Subsoil: mid-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1002	0.38-0.67m	Colluvial: mid-orangish brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	
1003	0.67m+	Natural: light orangish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	

#### TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
2	NW-SE	8.10m	3
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
2	SW Side, SE End	NE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.23m	Topsoil: dark-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1001	0.23-0.35m	Subsoil: mid-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1002	0.35-0.87m	Colluvial: mid-orangish brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	
1003	0.87m+	Natural: light orangish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	

#### TRENCH 3

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
3	N-S	7.62m	5
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
3	W Side, N End	E	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.36m	Topsoil: dark-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1001	0.36-0.74m	Subsoil: mid-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	



1002	0.74-0.99m	Colluvial: mid-orangish brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.
1003	0.99m+	Natural: light orangish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description	Spot Date	Finds /g (sherds or number)
1004	Ditch (1.80m+ x 1.10m+ x 0.52m) linear in plan and had moderately sloping sides with a concave base	1005	Primary Fill. mid-yellowish brown, loose, silty sand. No finds were recovered from the feature.	-	-

#### TRENCH 4

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
4	NW-SE	7.46m	8
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
4	NE Side, Centre	SW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.42m	Topsoil: dark-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1001	0.42-0.62m	Subsoil: mid-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1002	0.62-0.81m	Colluvial: mid-orangish brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	
1003	0.81m+	Natural: light orangish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	

#### TRENCH 5

Trench No	Orientation	Height AOD	Shot ID
5	NW-SE	6.95m	11
Sample Section No	Location	Facing	
5	NE Side, Centre	SW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description	
1000	0.00-0.37m	Topsoil: dark-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1001	0.37-0.56m	Subsoil: mid-greyish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional subangular stones.	
1002	0.56-0.94m	Colluvial: mid-orangish brown, compact silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	
1003	0.94m+	Natural: light orangish brown, compact, silty sand with occasional sub angular stones.	



## **APPENDIX 2 – Compliance (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 Nicky Silvey, Potter Raper Ltd. The archaeological works are required as a condition of application DC/19/1511/FUL; a hybrid application for 5 affordable units and 1 open market unit and outline planning consent for 2 self-build plots at Land off Back Road, Middleton, Suffolk (TM 4328 6758) (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 (SCCAS) (Baker, M. 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020) requires a programme of linear trial trenching to sample 5% of the area threatened by development. This will be achieved by excavating 130m x 1.80m of trenching. The trenches will be excavated using a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.





## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located to the south of Back Road, Middleton, Suffolk, directly west of Lilac Cottage. The site is currently a cultivated field on the south-east edge of the village.

### 2.1 Site Geology

The bedrock geology is recorded as Crag Group - Gravel. These sand, gravels, silts and clays were formed approximately 2.588 to 1.806 million years ago in the Pliocene Era (BSG, 2020).

The Superficial geology is recorded as Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. These Superficial Deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions (U) (BSG, 2020).



### 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 *Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2019)*.

#### 3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG February 2019)

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 Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2019)

- Policy SCLP11.7: Archaeology: An archaeological assessment proportionate to the potential and significance of remains must be included with any planning application affecting areas of known or suspected archaeological importance to ensure that provision is made for the preservation of important archaeological remains. Where proposals affect archaeological sites, preference will be given to preservation in situ unless it can be shown that recording of remains, assessment, analysis report and/or deposition of the archive is more appropriate. Archaeological conditions or planning obligations will be imposed on consents as appropriate. Measures to disseminate and promote information about archaeological assets to the public will be supported.



## 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](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)), and the Archaeological Data Service ([www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)) (ADS) (Fig. 2 and 3).

### 4.1 Prehistoric

Evidence of prehistoric activity is sparse within the search radius. A single Bronze Age metal engraved sheet was discovered some 575m to the west of the current site (DUN 151).

### 4.2 Roman

In a similar vein to the prehistoric period above, there is on a single reference to the Roman period within the search radius. A single sherd of Roman pottery was unearthed during an evaluation 580m to the west of the site (MDD 020) from within a layer also containing later pottery and is therefore likely residual in nature.

### 4.3 Saxon

A single record dating to the Saxon period is present within the search area. The church of Holy Trinity (MDD 003) was mentioned in Domesday and is thought to be located 350m north of the current site.

### 4.4 Medieval

During an archaeological evaluation some 295m to the north of the site, medieval ditches were unearthed (MDD 012). A find spot of medieval pot sherds were discovered some 575m to the west of the site (DUN 178). The site of a Deserted Medieval Village is located 460m to the north of the site named Fenstreet (WLN 053).



#### 4.5 Post-medieval and Modern

By far the most prevalent period within the search radius is that of the post-medieval and modern. Manor Farm (MDD 037) some 300m to the south-east dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with the later 19<sup>th</sup> century Reckford Farm (MDD 036) some 250m to the east of the site. In addition, 295m to the north-west of the site, during archaeological evaluation, several post-medieval ditches and pits were found (MDD 012).

#### 4.5 Archaeological Potential

Given the above records the site has a **moderate** potential for features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods. There is a **low** potential for finds and features dating to all other periods.



## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS brief (Baker, M. 2020) 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, 2019* (SCCAS).

This will comprise of 130m x 1.80m trenching in a grid array across area threatened by development.

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: *e.g.* 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 brief requires a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the site ahead of the construction of houses. This will be achieved by excavating trenches laid out in a systematic grid array across the site, totalling 130m x 1.80m of trenching. This comprised of 3 x 30.00m trenches and 2 x 20.00m trenches.

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the SCCAS Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (2019) as well as with CIfA and Historic England guidance documents.

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

### 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 detectorist (see specialist list) will scan spoil heaps, exposed surfaces and any features. The finds will be recovered and recorded in the proper way. The machined spoil heaps will also be scanned, however demonstrably modern finds will not be retained. The metal detector will not be set to discriminate against iron.

### 7.5 Excavation of Stratified Sequences

All archaeological remains will be excavated by phase, from the most recent to the earliest, excluding those of obvious later 20th century origin. The phasing of the features will be distinguished by their stratigraphic relationships, fills and finds.

### 7.6 Excavation of Buildings

Following assessment of any structural remains encountered, a strategy for recording these will be implemented, and it may be that further mitigation will be required to allow the full recording of these remains. It may also be the case that any remains may best be left *in situ*.



Any excavated building structures and associated features (e.g. stakeholes, postholes, sill-beams, gullies, masonry walls, 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 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 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 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.



## 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 within four weeks of the completion of site works unless there are reasonable grounds for more time.

Digital and paper report copies will be supplied to the client and SCCAS (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 be 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 Team will be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Provision has been made for a summary in the annual PSIAH roundup if positive results are drawn from the evaluation.



## 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, 2019).

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 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.

Provision for security/barrier fencing will be made where necessary.





## 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 Project 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 planning archaeologist for approval prior to their engagement. Any changes to the specialists documented in Appendix 2 will be made known to the SCCAS planning archaeologist immediately.



## 12.0 TIMETABLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK

The archaeological evaluation fieldwork is scheduled to begin in April 2020, pending approval of this Written Scheme of Investigation by SCCAS. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take 3 days with 2 members of staff onsite. 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 Archaeologist will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. The SCCAS archaeologist will be kept updated with developments both on site and in the post excavation process. A monitoring visit will be booked with SCCAS prior to works commencing on site.

Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the SCCAS Archaeologist prior to work being carried out. The monitoring officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project. SCCAS will be given a minimum of 10 days' written notice of the commencement of work so as to make arrangements for monitoring prior to the commencement of work. The trenches will not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS. 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: britanni1-385419**

### Project details

Project name	Land off Back Road, Middleton
Short description of the project	From the 18th - 20th November 2020, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation at Land off Back Road, Middleton, Suffolk (NGR (TM 4328 6758) on behalf of Hastoe Homes There was a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the post-medieval and modern periods while there was a low potential for finds and features dating to all other periods. Despite the above potential, the evaluation encountered only a single archaeological feature, likely relates to a formal field boundary. Given the lack of dating evidence it cannot be phased but based on the known expansion of the settlement it would be fair to assume that this subdivision of the field occurred in the post-medieval period. It is highly likely the plot has remained agricultural in nature throughout the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. The absence of any finds within the topsoil is suggestive of the site never being utilised for night soiling.
Project dates	Start: 18-11-2020 End: 20-11-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MDD 045 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
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
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL MIDDLETON Land off Back Road, Middleton
Postcode	IP17 3NZ
Study area	0.46 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 43292 67598 52.252072394491 1.564909449252 52 15 07 N 001 33 53 E Point



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 Dan McConnell  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
Name of sponsor/funding body Hastoe Homes

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Digital Archive ID MDD 045  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER  
Paper Archive ID MDD 045  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Land off Back Road, Middleton, Suffolk  
Author(s)/Editor(s) M. Brook  
Other bibliographic details R1282  
Date 2020  
Issuer or publisher Britannia Archaeology Ltd  
Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds  
Description A4 bound report with A3 pullout figures  
URL [www.britannia-archaeology.com](http://www.britannia-archaeology.com)



OASIS FORM - Print view

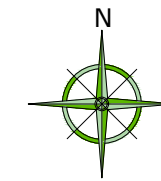
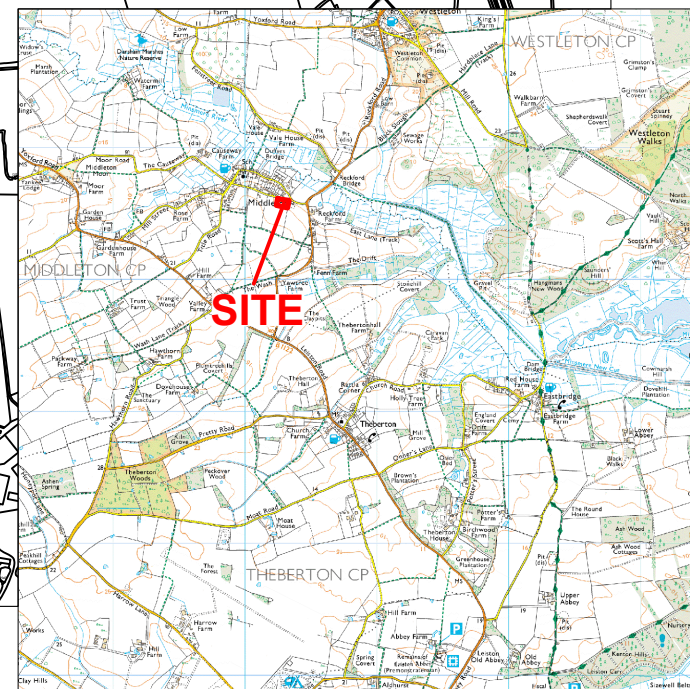
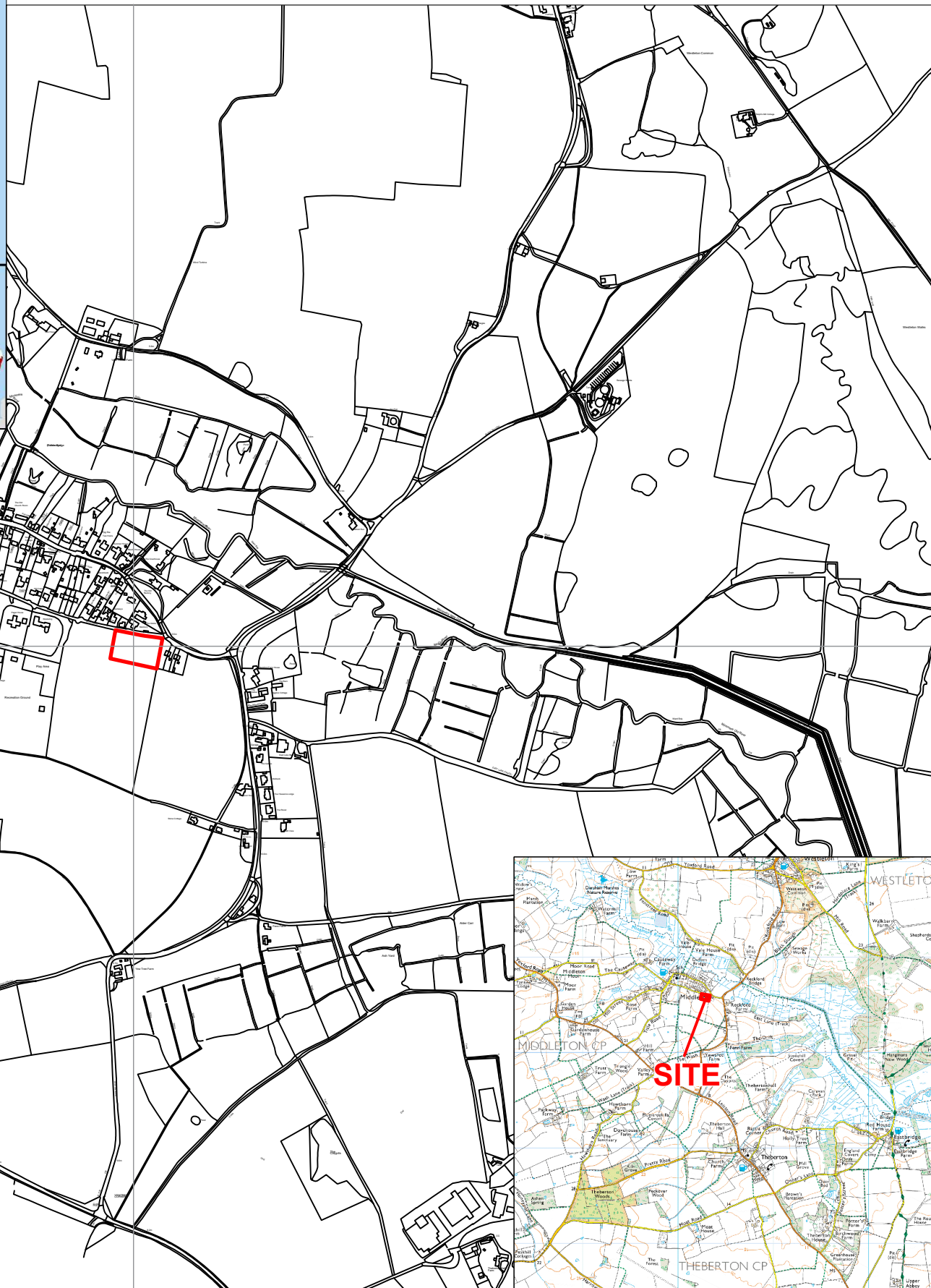
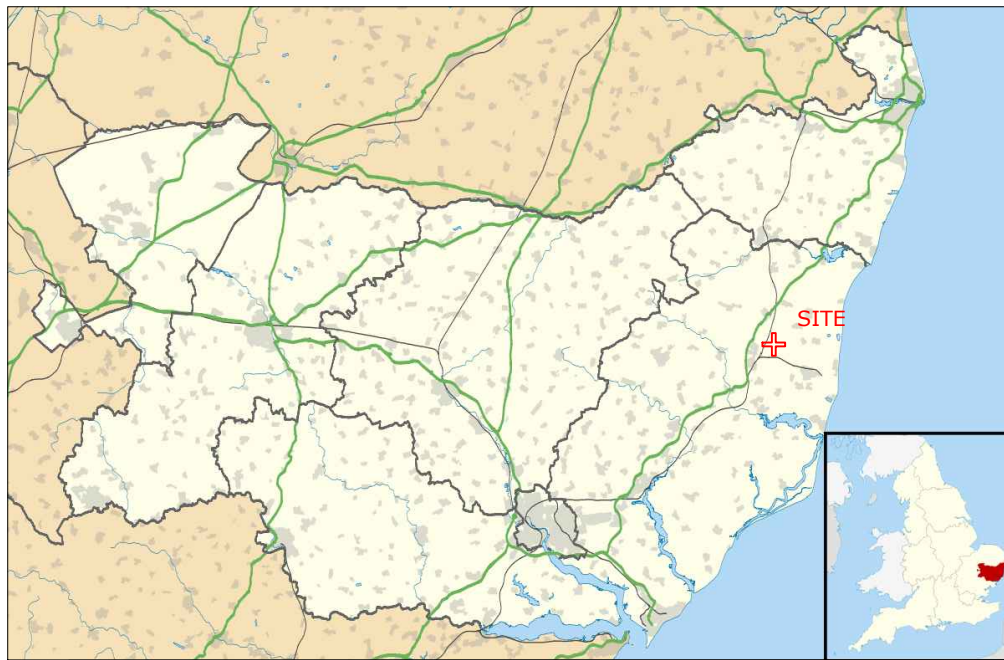
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Entered by Martin Brook (martin@brit-arch.com)  
Entered on 25 November 2020

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:Historic England) for OASIS help and advice  
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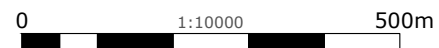
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Site Boundary

267598

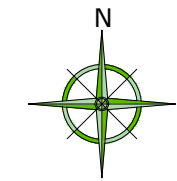
643292



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NGR:	643292 267598	REF:	R1282
PROJECT:	LAND OFF BACK ROAD, MIDDLETON		
DESCRIPTION:	GENERAL LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:	POTTER RAPER LTD		
<b>BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b>			
 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 2020			
DATE:	NOV 2020	PLOT:	A3
AUTHOR:	HG	VERSION:	1
APPROVED:	DPM	FIGURE:	1



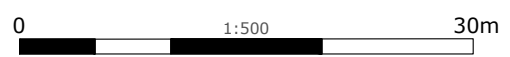


- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Archaeological Features
- Sample Section
- Section Line
- Excavated Feature

NGR:	643292 267598	REF:	R1282
PROJECT:	LAND OFF BACK ROAD, MIDDLETON		
DESCRIPTION:	TRENCH LOCATION PLAN		
CLIENT:	POTTER RAPER		
<b>BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD</b>			
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DATE:	NOV 2020	PLOT:	A3	VERSION:	1
AUTHOR:	HG				
APPROVED:	DPM				
FIGURE:	3				

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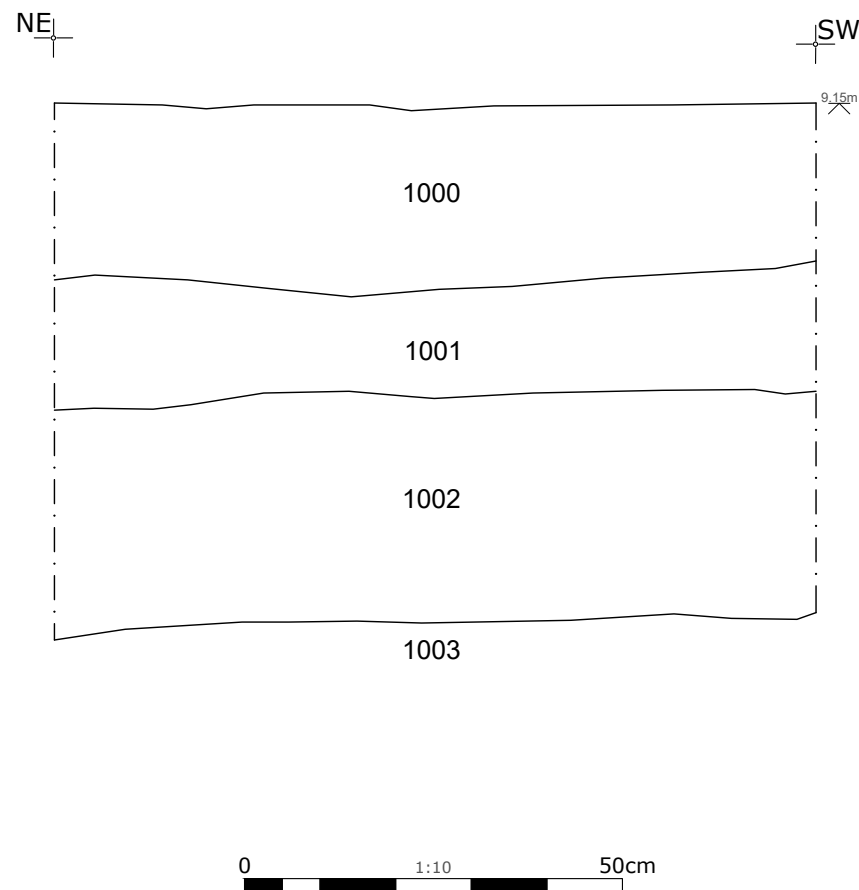




DP2 - TRENCH 1 - VIEW E



TRENCH 1 - SAMPLE SECTION 1



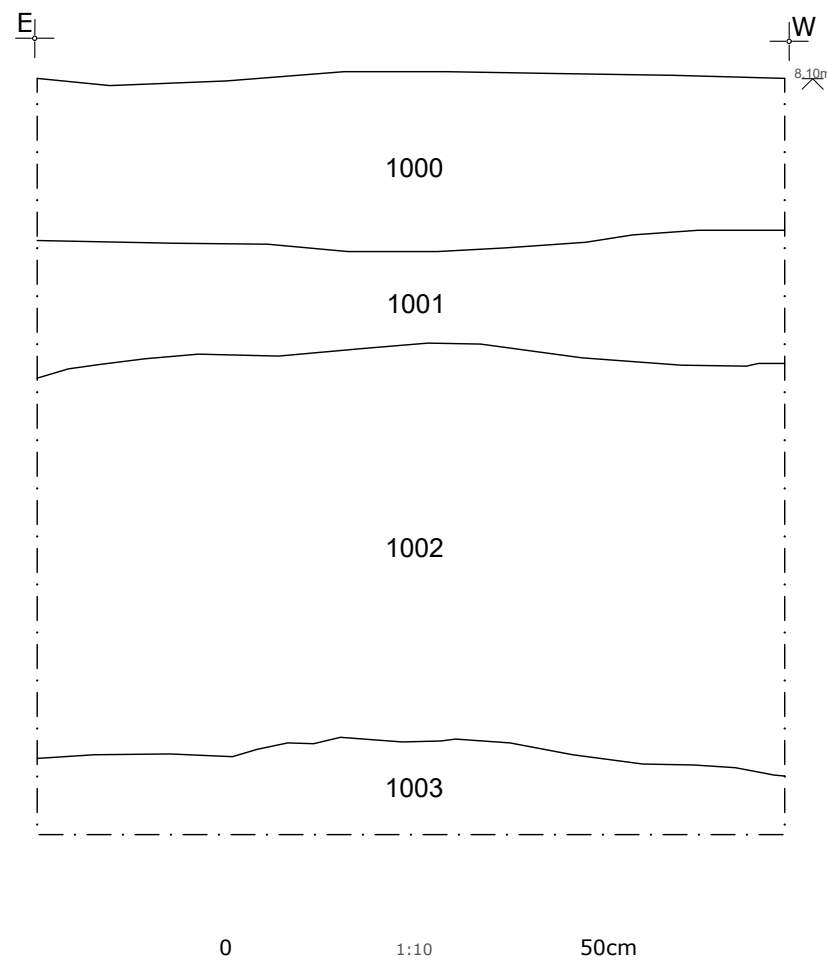
DP1 - SAMPLE SECTION 1 - VIEW SW



DP4 - TRENCH 2 - VIEW W



TRENCH 2 - SAMPLE SECTION 2



DP3 - SAMPLE SECTION 2 - VIEW S



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PROJECT: LAND OFF BACK ROAD, MIDDLETON

DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 1 AND 2 - SECTIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

CLIENT: POTTER RAPER

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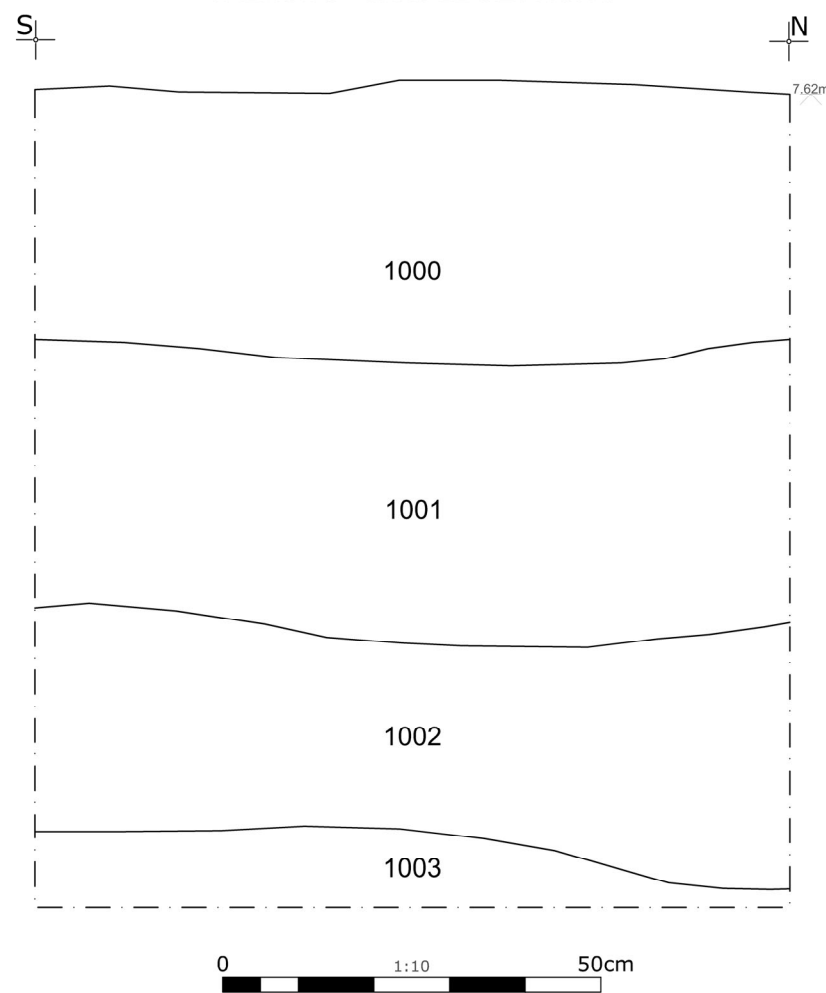
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AUTHOR: HG	FIGURE: 4	
APPROVED: DPM		



DP7 - TRENCH 3 - VIEW S







TRENCH 3 - SAMPLE SECTION 3

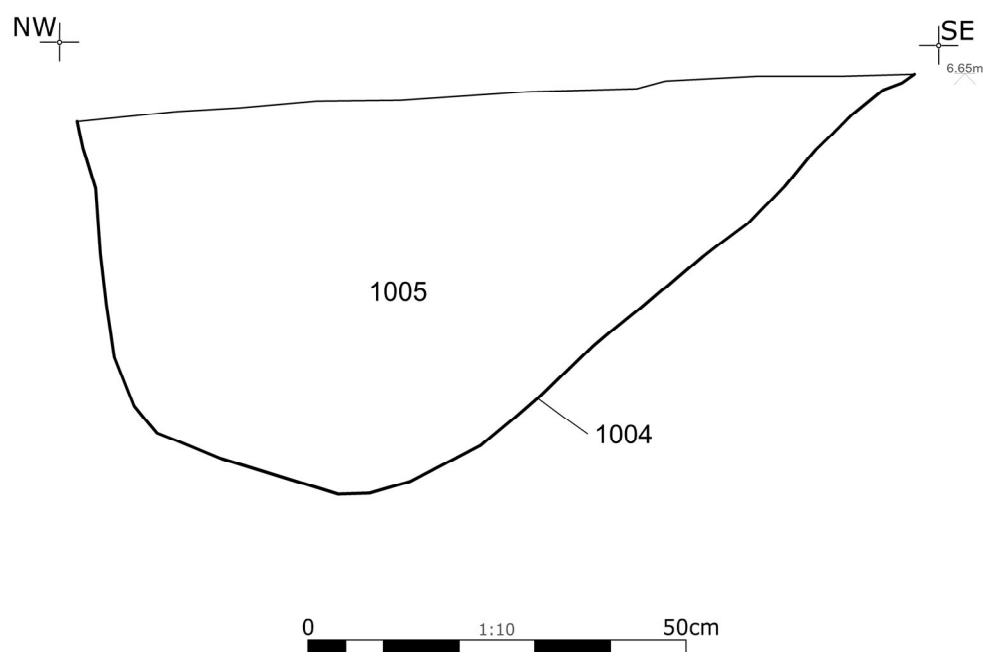


DP5 - SAMPLE SECTION 3 - VIEW W



-  Trench
-  Sample Section
-  Section Line
-  Excavated Feature

TRENCH 3 - DITCH 1004



DP6 - DITCH 1004 - VIEW NE



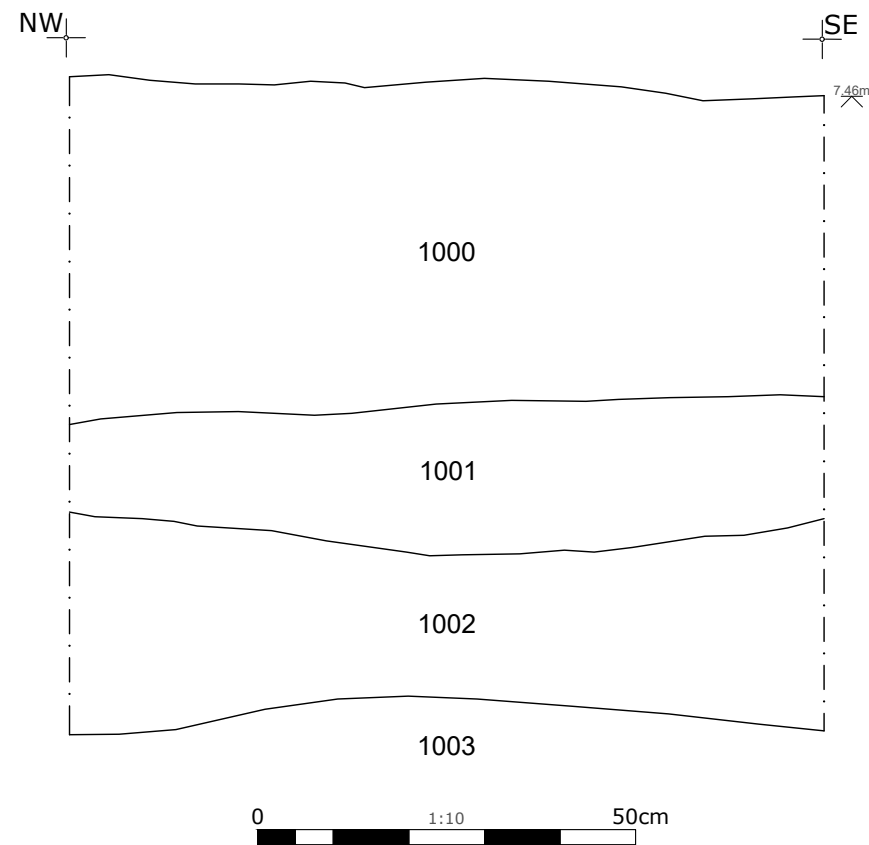
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DESCRIPTION: TRENCH 3 - PLANS, SECTIONS AND PHOTOGRAPHS	
CLIENT: HASTOE HOMES	
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DATE: NOV 2020	PLOT: A3	VERSION: 1
AUTHOR: HG	FIGURE: 5	
APPROVED: DPM		

DP9 - TRENCH 4 - VIEW SE



TRENCH 4 - SAMPLE SECTION 4



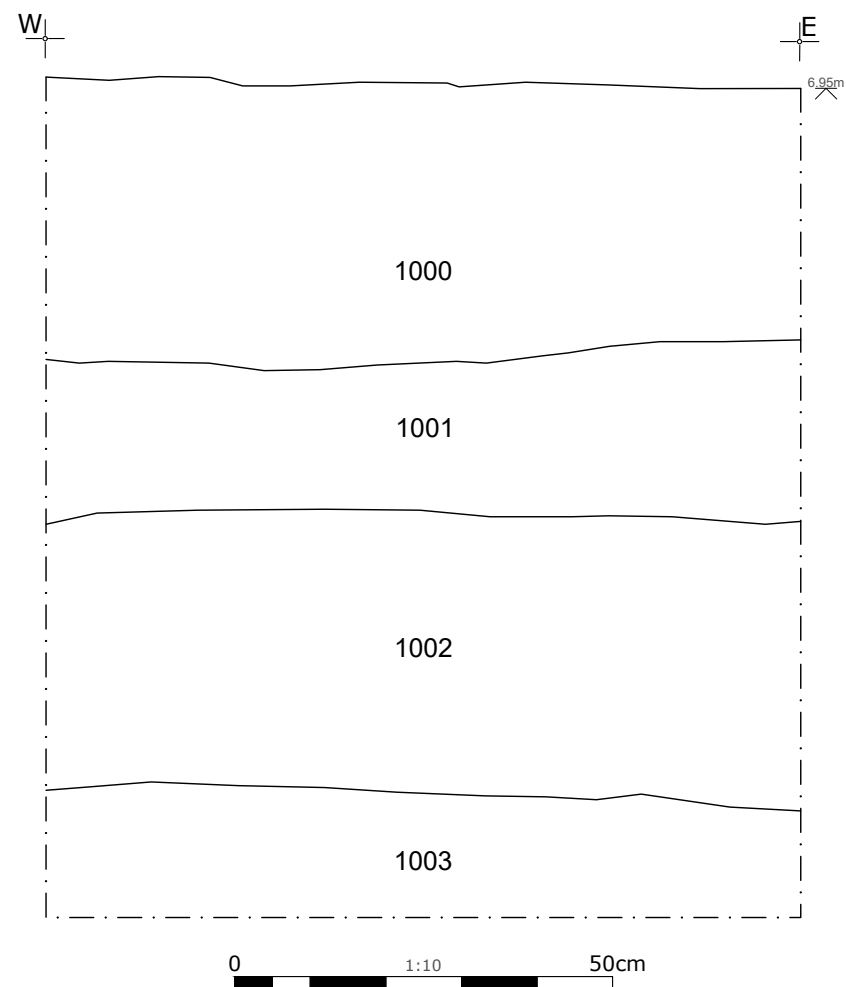
DP8 - SAMPLE SECTION 4 - VIEW NE



DP10 - TRENCH 5 - VIEW E



TRENCH 5 - SAMPLE SECTION 5



DP11 - SAMPLE SECTION 5 - VIEW N



NGR: 643292 267598 REF: R1282

PROJECT: LAND OFF BACK ROAD, MIDDLETON

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APPROVED: DPM

FIGURE: 6