

# LAND AT MEADOW LANE, THURSTON, SUFFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



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## LAND AT MEADOW LANE, THURSTON, SUFFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Prepared on behalf of:

Laurence Homes (Eastern) Limited
14 Ruskin Close
Chilton Way
Stowmarket
Suffolk
IP14 1TY

By:

Martin Brook BA (Hons) MCIfA

Britannia Archaeology Ltd

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

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#### **Abstract**

From the 14th – 23rd March 2022, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trenching evaluation on behalf of Laurence Homes (Eastern) Limited ahead of the construction of a residential development of 64 dwellings and associated highway, car parking, and public open space at Land at Meadow Lane, Thurston, Suffolk (TL 9213 6559) (Fig. 1)

The site has a moderate to high potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. There was a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the Roman period. The potential for finds and features from all other periods was considered low.

Only a single archaeological feature was identified in the evaluation. Ditch 1005 in Trenches 18 and 23. While no dating evidence was recovered from this ditch it can be seen on the 1840 Tithe Map (Fig. 14). It is possible that there was a boundary present here for far longer however without and further dating evidence this is just speculation.

Overall, the evaluation was successful in assessing the archaeological potential of the site. Due to the lack of surviving features, paucity of finds from both the topsoil and subsoil, this area was likely an agricultural hinterland for the village of Thurston well into the post medieval period.



#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

From the 14<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trenching evaluation on behalf of Laurence Homes (Eastern) Limited. The archaeological work is required as a condition of application 4942/16, for the construction of a residential development of 64 dwellings and associated highway, car parking, and public open space at Land at Meadow Lane, Thurston, Suffolk (TL 9213 6559) (Fig. 1).

A design brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) (Stewart, G. 15th November 2019) required a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the area threatened by development for houses. This will be achieved by excavating 29 trenches across the site to assess the potential of the area. The trenches were excavated using a  $360^{\circ}$  tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.



#### 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located on the northern edge of the village of Thurston which lies approximately 5km east of Bury St Edmunds. The site is currently in use as open fields for animal grazing with agricultural fields to the east, and residential properties to the north, west, and the south.

## 2.1 Site Geology

The Bedrock geology is described as Crag Group - Sand. This Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 0 to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods when the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BSG, 2022).

The superficial deposits are recorded 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 (U). Superficial deposit of Cover Sand – Sand is also recorded partially on the site. These Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by wind-blown deposits (U) (BGS, 2022).



## 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 2021). The relevant local development framework is the *Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998)*.



## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figs. 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Heritage Explorer (within a 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). A full archaeological background using the results from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (1km search centred on the site) will be included in the report arising from the archaeological work.

#### 4.1 Prehistoric

Archaeological investigations adjacent to the east side of the site across the road found a small pit of Early Bronze Age – Middle Bronze Age date (THS 031). Activity of Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age date was also identified in the form of pits and post-holes as well as fragments of a previously disturbed inhumation burial likely of Iron Age – Roman date incorporated into two backfill deposits of a large quarry pit. No further burial evidence was found. A grave might have been disturbed by the quarry pit or the bone could have been deposited in the pit alongside other domestic waste including a large assemblage of animal bone. Finds and environmental evidence suggest the potential for settlement activity within the wider area during the Iron Age but not within the site itself.

Four worked prehistoric flints were found c.420m southwest of the site (THS 041). In addition Neolithic pits and ditches and Early Bronze Age pits were identified during excavations c.700m northwest of the site alongside evidence of a Roman Road (THS 030). A further c.60m to the northwest archaeological monitoring of road excavations through part of a large natural mound revealed a large quantity of Neolithic pottery and worked flints in ditches and pits (THS 011). A scatter of Bronze Age lithic implements was found c.890m southeast of the site (THS 018) and a collared Bronze Age urn with a large quantity of calcined bone was found c.780m northeast of the site (THS 003).

#### 4.2 Roman

Evidence of a Roman Road has been identified c.700m northwest of the site in the form of road-side ditches marking Pedlars Way, the roughly north-south Roman road linking Chelmsford and Ixworth (THS 030, THS 007). There was no evidence of nearby associated



settlement within the site. Sherds of Roman pottery were found at another point on the road c.8800m west of the site (THS 002).

#### 4.3 Medieval

A medieval horse harness pendant of 14<sup>th</sup> century date was found c.450m southeast (BSE 641) and the medieval church of St Peter is located c.810m southeast of the site although the church was largely rebuilt in 1861 (THS 006). The site of the former Pernal Green, a medieval common, presumed to have medieval housing surrounding the Green is situated c.990m northeast of the sites (THS 990). In addition the suggested site of medieval gallows is located c.990m northwest of the site on a mound which was possibly later reused as a windmill mound (THS 040). The possible location of Old Netherhall which burnt down down likely by 1448 is situated c.430m northeast of the site (THS 010). The hall is thought to have dated back to at least 1200.

#### 4.5 Post-medieval and Modern

A number of field boundary ditches were identified during excavations adjacent to the east side of the site and across the road which matched boundaries present on historical maps (THS 031). In addition the large quarry pit which contained fragments of a disturbed Iron Age – Roman inhumation is likely from this period. Further post-medieval quarry pits, some of which were visible on 19th and 20th century OS maps, have been found during excavations c.700m northwest of the site as well as a boundary ditch infilled in the 20th century (THS 030).

## 4.6 Archaeological Potential

Given the above records the site has a **moderate to high** potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. There is a **moderate** potential for features and finds relating to the Roman period. The potential for finds and features from all other periods is considered **low**.



#### 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS brief (Stewart, G. 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 Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2019 (SCCAS), CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations 2014, and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England 2003.



#### 6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Particular study of the following should occur:

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

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

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dryland palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: eg the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct 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 required a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the site ahead of the construction of a dwelling. Originally 26 trenches measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$  and 4 trenches measuring  $20.00m \times 1.80m$  were deemed sufficient to assess the site however once excavation started it became apparent that there were unmapped live services present. This consisted of multiple water mains including one high pressure main. With the agreement of SCCAS the trenching plan was altered to  $6 \times 20.00m$  trenches and a  $23 \times 30.00m$  trenches all 1.80m wide to accommodate the required assessment area and avid the required curtilage on the services.

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. 4).

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



## 8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 4 - 9)

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

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

#### 8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north-western portion of the site, on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the north-western area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00 \,\mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \,\mathrm{m}$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the north-western area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $20.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.4 Trench 4



Trench 4 was located in the western area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the north-western area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $20.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located in the northern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located in the northern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was located in the north-western area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

## 8.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in the centre eastern area of the site. The trench was on a northwest to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00 \,\mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \,\mathrm{m}$ . No archaeological features or



finds were present however Paleochannel **1007** ran on a north-east to south-west trajectory through the southern half of the trench.

#### 8.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was located in the north-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was located in the north-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $20.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was located in the eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present however Paleochannel **1007** ran on a north-east to south-west trajectory through the western half of the trench.

#### 8.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was located in the eastern area of the site. The trench was on a east - west orientation, measuring  $20.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was located in the eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-south orientation, measuring  $20.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.15 Trench 15

Trench 15 was located in the eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-south orientation, measuring  $20.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.



#### 8.16 Trench 16

Trench 16 was located in the centre-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present, however Paleochannel **1007** ran on a north-east to south-west trajectory close to the western end of the trench.

#### 8.17 Trench 17

Trench 17 was located in the centre of the site. The trench was on a north-west to southeast orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present, however Paleochannel **1007** ran on a north-east to south-west trajectory through the northern half of the trench.

#### 8.18 Trench 18

Trench 18 was located in the centre-western area of the site. The trench was on a northeast to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . The trench contained a single feature; Ditch **1005**. The ditch  $(1.80m + \times 0.90m \times 0.41m)$  was linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. The pit contained a single fill, **1006**, which was a mid-brownish orange, compact, silty sand. No finds were recovered from the feature. The feature likely relates the former field boundary visible on the 1840 Tithe map (Fig. 14).

#### 8.19 Trench 19

Trench 19 was located in the eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.20 Trench 20

Trench 20 was located in the south-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00 \,\mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \,\mathrm{m}$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.



#### 8.21 Trench 21

Trench 21 was located in the south-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present, however Paleochannel **1007** ran on a north-east to south-west trajectory through the southern half of the trench.

#### 8.22 Trench 22

Trench 22 was located in the south-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present, however Paleochannel **1007** ran on a north-east to south-west trajectory through the centre half of the trench.

#### 8.23 Trench 23

Trench 18 was located in the southern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . The trench contained a single ditch. This ditch was a continuation of Ditch **1005** in Trench 18 and with the agreement of SCCAS was not excavated. This ditch **r**elates the former field boundary visible on the 1840 Tithe map (Fig. 14).

#### 8.24 Trench 24

Trench 24 was located in the southern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.25 Trench 25

Trench 25 was located in the southern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.



## 8.26 Trench 26

Trench 26 was located in the south-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.27 Trench 27

Trench 27 was located in the southern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.28 Trench 28

Trench 28 was located in the south-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-east to south-west orientation, measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$ . No archaeological features or finds were present.

#### 8.29 Trench 29

Trench 29 was located in the south-eastern area of the site. The trench was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring  $30.00 \,\mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \,\mathrm{m}$ . A large, backfilled quarry pit was present in the southern part of the trench. The backfill contained large parts of a car and the fill contend large areas of hydrocarbon contamination as well as builders waste. The quarry pit (which appears on the 1840 Tithe map, Fig. 14) was backfilled in the 1960's (pers comm).



## 9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs. 4 - 9)

The site stratigraphy was broadly consistent across the site. Please see Appendix 1 for detailed context descriptions.

At the top of the sequence across the site was Topsoil **1000**. This comprised a light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.

Below this layer was Subsoil **1001** is a possible remnant of the former agricultural subsoil related to this area when it was previous cultivated in the post medieval period. This layer was comprised of a light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions. This subsoil was not present in trenches 1, 10, 11 and 12 in the northern half of the site where the site had been subject to alteration due to the developments adjacent to the site.

At the base of the stratigraphic sequence in all trenches was natural geology **1002** which comprised a light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.



## 10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The site has a moderate to high potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. There was a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the Roman period. The potential for finds and features from all other periods was considered low.

Only a single archaeological feature was identified in the evaluation. Ditch **1005** in Trenches 18 and 23. While no dating evidence was recovered from this ditch it can be seen on the 1840 Tithe Map (Fig. 14). It is possible that there was a boundary present here for far longer however without and further dating evidence this is just speculation.

Paleochannel **1007** ran through the site on a north-east to south west trajectory. This remnant of an inactive channel contained no evidence of later intervention.

The Quarry pit located in the south-eastern corner of the site appears to be at least post medieval in origin however the presence of modern contaminants meant that it could not safely be excavated.

Overall, the evaluation was successful in assessing the archaeological potential of the site. Due to the lack of surviving features, paucity of finds from both the topsoil and subsoil, this area was likely an agricultural hinterland for the village of Thurston well into the post medieval period.



## 11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will be prepared in line with the standards and guidance in *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS, 2022). 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 with be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



#### 12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Ian Baker from Laurence Homes (Eastern) Limited for commissioning and funding the project.

We would also like to thank Matt Baker of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for his advice and assistance on the project.

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The site was excavated by Martin Brook and Dan McConnell of Britannia Archaeology Ltd.



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English Heritage PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

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

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

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



## **APPENDIX 1 - DEPOSIT TABLES**

## TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orienta	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID	
1		NE-SW		51.73m		2	
Sample Section No		Location		Facing			
1		SW End		, SE Side	SE Side NW		
Context No	Depth	•	Deposi	eposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.27m	Topsoil:	opsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub			
			angular flint pebble inclusions.				
1002				atural: light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk			
			nodules	nodules and subangular flint inclusions.			

## TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 51.96m		Shot ID	
Sample Section No		Location			Facing	A114
2		Centr	e end of	trench, SE side		NW
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.21m		opsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional subngular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.21 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.35m+	0.35m+ Natura		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

Trench No	Orientation			Height AOD		Shot ID
3		NW-SE		51.80m		6
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing	
3		NW	end of tr	ench, NE side		SW
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000	-			Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001				Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002				Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		



Trench No	Orientation			Height AOD		Shot ID
4		SW-NE		52.03m		8
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing	
4		NE 6	NE end of trench, NW side SE		SE	
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000				Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.			
1002	0.55m+ Natura		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.			

## **TRENCH 5**

Trench No	Orienta	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID
5		NE-SW		51.69m		10
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing	
5		NW	end of tre	ench, SW side		NE
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	1 -		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.21 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.49m+	0.49m+ Natur		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

Trench No	Orienta	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID
6		SW-NE		50.90m		12
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing	
6		SW	SW end of trench, NW side		SE	
Context No	Depth	•	Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	l -		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.26 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.55m+	0.55m+ Natural		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		



Trench No	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID	
7		NW-SE		51.18m		14
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing	
7		SE end of trend		nch, SW side		NE
Context No	Depth		t Description			
1000				Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001				Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.59m+ Natur			Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

## **TRENCH 8**

Trench No	Orienta	Orientation		Height AOD		Shot ID
8		SW-NE		51.09m		16
Sample Section No		Locatio	n		Facing	
3		SW	end of tr	ench, SE side		NW
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.30m		opsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional subngular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.30 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.72m+			Itural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk dules and subangular flint inclusions.		

## **TRENCH 9**

Trench No	Orienta	Orientation NW-SE		Height AOD 51.01m		Shot ID
<b>Sample Section No</b> 9		<b>Location</b> SE end of tre		ench, NE side	Facing SW	
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.23m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		ry sand with occasional sub
1001	0.23 - 0	).42m		: light brown, orang Jular flint inclusions		act, silty sand with frequent
1002	0.42m+			: Light orange yel and subangular fli		sand with frequent chalk ons.

Trench No	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 50.97m		Shot ID	
Sample Section No		Locatio NE e		nch, NW side	Facing	SE
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.30m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		y sand with occasional sub
1002	0.30m+			: Light orange yel and subangular fli		sand with frequent chalk



Trench No	Orientation NW-SE		Height AOD 50.85m		Shot ID	
Sample Section No		<b>Locatio</b> NW		ench, NE side	Facing	SW
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.26m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		y sand with occasional sub
1002	0.26m+	0.26m+ Natural		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent ch nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

## **TRENCH 12**

Trench No 12	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 50.67m		Shot ID	
Sample Section No		Locatio NE e		ench, NW side	Facing	SW
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.33m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		y sand with occasional sub
1002	0.33m+	0.33m+ Natural		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

## **TRENCH 13**

Trench No	Orienta	tion NW-SE		Height AOD 50.83m		Shot ID 26
Sample Section No		Location SW end of trench, N		ench, NW side	Facing	SE
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.24m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		y sand with occasional sub
1001	0.24 - 0	).52m				ict, silty sand with frequent
1002	0.52m+	2m+ Natural		Light orange yel and subangular fli		sand with frequent chalk

Trench No	Orienta	tion NW-SE		Height AOD 50.96m		Shot ID
Sample Section No		<b>Location</b> SE end of trench, SW		nch, SW side	Facing	NE
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description	•	
1000	0.00 - 0	.23m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		ry sand with occasional sub
1001	0.23 - 0	).41m	41m Subsoil: light brown, orang sub angular flint inclusions			act, silty sand with frequent
1002	0.41m+			: Light orange yel and subangular fli		sand with frequent chalk ons.



Trench No 15	Orienta	tion NW-SE		Height AOD 51.04		Shot ID 30
Sample Section No		<b>Location</b> SE end of trer		nch, SW side	Facing	NE
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.25m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		ry sand with occasional sub
1001	0.23 - 0	.64m		: light brown, orang Jular flint inclusions		act, silty sand with frequent
1002	0.41m+			: Light orange yel and subangular fli		sand with frequent chalk ons.

## **TRENCH 16**

Trench No	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 51.37m		Shot ID 32	
Sample Section No		Location  NE end of trench, SE s		ench, SE side	Facing NW	
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.20m		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional su angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.20 - 0	).61m		: light brown, orang Jular flint inclusions		act, silty sand with frequent
1002	0.61m+	0.61m+ Natural		: Light orange yel and subangular fli		sand with frequent chalk ons.

## TRENCH 17

Trench No	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 51.48m		Shot ID 34	
Sample Section No 17		<b>Locatio</b> NW		ench, SW side	Facing	NE
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0			Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.25 - 0	).63m		light brown, orangular flint inclusions	· ·	act, silty sand with frequent
1004	0.63 - 0	).80m		annel fill: Pale gre t small subangular		e, compact, silty sand with sions
1003	0.20 – 0.63m Paleo			Paleochannel fill: light orange, brown, compact silty sand with frequent large sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.61m+	0.61m+ Natural		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

Trench No	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 51.84m		Shot ID 35	
Sample Section No		Location SW end of tre		ench, NW side	Facing	SE
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	0.27m Topsoil:		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional stangular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.27 - 0	0.27 - 0.55m Subsoil		Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sar ub angular flint inclusions.		ict, silty sand with frequent



1002	0.55m+	Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk
		nodules and subangular flint inclusions.

## **Context Descriptions**

Feature Context	Feature Type & Description (m)	Layer/Fill Context	Layer/Fill Description
1005	Ditch (1.80m+ x 0.90m+ x 0.41m) linear in plan with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	1006	Primary fill. Mid brownish orange, compact, silty sand.

## **TRENCH 19**

Trench No	Orientation NW-SE			Height AOD 52.34m		Shot ID 40
Sample Section No		<b>Location</b> SW end of tre		ench, NW side	<b>Facing</b> SE	
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.27m		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.27 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequen sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.55m+	0.55m+ Natural		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chal nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

## **TRENCH 20**

Trench No 20	Orientation NE-SW			Height AOD 52.66m		Shot ID 42	
Sample Section No 20		<b>Location</b> Centre of tre		ench, SE side	Facing NW		
Context No	Depth		Deposi	Deposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.20m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusion		ry sand with occasional sub	
1001	0.20 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequen sub angular flint inclusions.			
1002			Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chall- nodules and subangular flint inclusions.				

Trench No 21	Orientation NW-SE			Height AOD 53.99m		Shot ID 44	
Sample Section No 21	<b>Location</b> NW end of tre		ench, NE side	NE side Facing SW			
Context No	Depth		Deposi	eposit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.27m	Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.			ry sand with occasional sub	
1001	0.27 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequen sub angular flint inclusions.			
1002	0.55m+	0.55m+ Natura		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent cha nodules and subangular flint inclusions.			



Trench No 22	Orientation NW-SE		Height AOD 52.79m		Shot ID 46			
Sample Section No		Location SE end of tre		nch, SW side	Facing NE			
Context No	Depth		Deposi	posit Description				
1000	0.00 - 0	.15m	Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sul angular flint pebble inclusions.			ry sand with occasional sub		
1001	0.15 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequen sub angular flint inclusions.				
1002	0.35m+ Natura		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chalk nodules and subangular flint inclusions.					

## TRENCH 23

Trench No	Orienta	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 53.42m		Shot ID 48
Sample Section No		Location SE end of tre		nch, SW side	Facing NE	
Context No	Depth		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.35m		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional su angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.35 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with freque sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.65m+	0.65m+ Natural		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent cha nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

## **TRENCH 24**

Trench No 24	Orientation NW-SE			Height AOD 52.79m		Shot ID 50		
Sample Section No 24		<b>Location</b> SE end of tre		ench, NE side	Facing SW			
Context No	Depth		Deposi	posit Description				
1000	0.00 - 0	.15m	Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sul angular flint pebble inclusions.			ry sand with occasional sub		
1001	0.15 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequen sub angular flint inclusions.				
1002	0.35m+			atural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chall odules and subangular flint inclusions.				

Trench No 25	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 51.80m		Shot ID 52	
<b>Sample Section No</b> 25		Location NE end of tre		nch, NW side	<b>Facing</b> SE	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description				
1000	0.00 - 0	.25m		light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		y sand with occasional sub
1001	0.25 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.53m+			: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent and subangular flint inclusions.		



Trench No 26	Orienta	i <b>tion</b> NW-SE		Height AOD 51.93m		Shot ID 54	
Sample Section No 26		<b>Location</b> SE end of tre		ench, NE side	<b>Facing</b> SE		
Context No	Depth		Deposi	posit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0	.15m		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sub angular flint pebble inclusions.			
1001	0.15 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequent sub angular flint inclusions.			
1002	0.34m+			Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chanodules and subangular flint inclusions.			

## **TRENCH 27**

Trench No 27	Orienta	ition NW-SE		Height AOD 52.79m		Shot ID 56
<b>Sample Section No</b> 27		Location SW end of tre		ench, NW side	<b>Facing</b> SE	
Context No	Depth		Deposi	posit Description		
1000	0.00 - 0	.20m		Topsoil: light brown grey, loose, silty sand with occasional sul angular flint pebble inclusions.		
1001	0.20 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequer sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002	0.38m+	0.38m+ Natural		Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent cha nodules and subangular flint inclusions.		

## **TRENCH 28**

Trench No 28	Orientation NE-SW		Height AOD 50.97m		Shot ID 58		
Sample Section No		Location NE end of tre		nch, NW side	<b>Facing</b> SE		
Context No	Depth	Depth Deposit		posit Description			
1000	0.00 - 0			light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		ry sand with occasional sub	
1001	0.13 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequen sub angular flint inclusions.			
1002	0.33m+			Natural: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent chal nodules and subangular flint inclusions.			

Trench No 29	Orientation NW-SE		Height AOD 51.77m		Shot ID 60	
Sample Section No 29		Location SE end of tre		ench, NE side	<b>Facing</b> SW	
Context No	Depth	Deposit Description				
1000	0.00 - 0			light brown grey, flint pebble inclusi		ry sand with occasional sub
1001	0.20 - 0			Subsoil: light brown, orange, compact, silty sand with frequen sub angular flint inclusions.		
1002			al: Light orange yellow silty sand with frequent ches and subangular flint inclusions.			



## **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 Laurence Homes (Eastern) Limited. The archaeological work is required as a condition of application 4942/16, for the construction of a residential development of 64 dwellings and associated highway, car parking, and public open space at Land at Meadow Lane, Thurston, Suffolk (TL 9213 6559) (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) (Stewart, G.  $15^{th}$  November 2019) requires a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the area threatened by development for houses. This will be achieved by excavating 26 trenches measuring  $30.00 \, \text{m} \times 1.80 \, \text{m}$  and 4 trenches measuring  $20.00 \, \text{m} \times 1.80 \, \text{m}$ . The trenches will be excavated using a  $360^{\circ}$  tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation ONLY; this document alone will NOT result in the discharge of the archaeological condition.



# 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)

The site is located on the northern edge of the village of Thurston which lies approximately 5km east of Bury St Edmunds. The site is currently in use as open fields for animal grazing with agricultural fields to the east, and residential properties to the north, west, and the south.

# 2.1 Site Geology

The Bedrock geology is described as Crag Group - Sand. This Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 0 to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods when the local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (BSG, 2020).

The superficial deposits are recorded 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 (U). Superficial deposit of Cover Sand – Sand is also recorded partially on the site. These Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was previously dominated by wind-blown deposits (U) (BGS, 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 *Mid Suffolk Local Plan (Policy HB14; 1998).* 

# 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 Mid Suffolk Local Plan (Policy HB14; 1998)



# Policy HB14

Where there is an overriding case for preservation, planning permission for development that would affect an archaeological site or its setting will be refused.

Having taken archaeological advice, the district planning authority may decide that development can take place subject to either satisfactory measures to preserve the archaeological remains in situ or for the site to be excavated and the findings recorded. In appropriate cases the district planning authority will expect a legally binding agreement to be concluded or will impose a planning condition requiring the developer to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the archaeological remains.



## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Heritage Explorer (within a 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). A full archaeological background using the results from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (1km search centred on the site) will be included in the report arising from the archaeological work.

#### 4.1 Prehistoric

Archaeological investigations adjacent to the east side of the site across the road found a small pit of Early Bronze Age – Middle Bronze Age date (THS 031). Activity of Middle Iron Age – Late Iron Age date was also identified in the form of pits and post-holes as well as fragments of a previously disturbed inhumation burial likely of Iron Age – Roman date incorporated into two backfill deposits of a large quarry pit. No further burial evidence was found. A grave might have been disturbed by the quarry pit or the bone could have been deposited in the pit alongside other domestic waste including a large assemblage of animal bone. Finds and environmental evidence suggest the potential for settlement activity within the wider area during the Iron Age but not within the site itself.

Four worked prehistoric flints were found c.420m southwest of the site (THS 041). In addition Neolithic pits and ditches and Early Bronze Age pits were identified during excavations c.700m northwest of the site alongside evidence of a Roman Road (THS 030). A further c.60m to the northwest archaeological monitoring of road excavations through part of a large natural mound revealed a large quantity of Neolithic pottery and worked flints in ditches and pits (THS 011). A scatter of Bronze Age lithic implements was found c.890m southeast of the site (THS 018) and a collared Bronze Age urn with a large quantity of calcined bone was found c.780m northeast of the site (THS 003).

#### 4.2 Roman

Evidence of a Roman Road has been identified c.700m northwest of the site in the form of road-side ditches marking Pedlars Way, the roughly north-south Roman road linking Chelmsford and Ixworth (THS 030, THS 007). There was no evidence of nearby associated settlement within the site. Sherds of Roman pottery were found at another point on the road c.8800m west of the site (THS 002).



#### 4.3 Medieval

A medieval horse harness pendant of 14<sup>th</sup> century date was found c.450m southeast (BSE 641) and the medieval church of St Peter is located c.810m southeast of the site although the church was largely rebuilt in 1861 (THS 006). The site of the former Pernal Green, a medieval common, presumed to have medieval housing surrounding the Green is situated c.990m northeast of the sites (THS 990). In addition the suggested site of medieval gallows is located c.990m northwest of the site on a mound which was possibly later reused as a windmill mound (THS 040). The possible location of Old Netherhall which burnt down down likely by 1448 is situated c.430m northeast of the site (THS 010). The hall is thought to have dated back to at least 1200.

#### 4.4 Post-medieval and Modern

A number of field boundary ditches were identified during excavations adjacent to the east side of the site and across the road which matched boundaries present on historical maps (THS 031). In addition the large quarry pit which contained fragments of a disturbed Iron Age – Roman inhumation is likely from this period. Further post-medieval quarry pits, some of which were visible on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century OS maps, have been found during excavations c.700m northwest of the site as well as a boundary ditch infilled in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (THS 030).

# 4.5 Archaeological Potential

Given the above records the site has a **moderate to high** potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. There is a **moderate** potential for features and finds relating to the Roman period. The potential for finds and features from all other periods is considered **low**.



## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The SCCAS brief (Stewart, G. 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 Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2019 (SCCAS), CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations 2014, and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England 2003.



#### 6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Particular study of the following should occur:

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

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

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dryland palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: *eg* the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct 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 26 trenches measuring  $30.00m \times 1.80m$  and 4 trenches measuring  $20.00 \times 1.80m$ . The trenches will be set out in a systematic grid layout across the site.

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 or complex/unexpected deposits are identified, a site meeting will be held with the client and the SCCAS planning archaeologist to discuss the significance of the remains and decide on the strategy and scope of further excavation and recording. The brief (section 4.3) states that a minimum 100m contingency be available for judgemental trench use should the SCCAS planning archaeologist decide that further trenching or deposit testing is necessary if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy. **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 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.

# 7.17 Remote Monitoring Requirements

Due to the current government restrictions in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic only essential travel and contact with others is permitted. In response to this SCCAS have put in place requirements to enable the remote monitoring of sites until site visits can commence safely:

- All features present in the trenches, including presumed natural and geological features, are to be investigated as per this WSI.
- A GPS trench plan showing what is present in each trench (including context numbers) will be produced.
- A written text stating what finds were found (if any) in each context, with provisional dates, will be made available.
- Trench shots will be taken from each end of the trench and provided to SCCAS.
- Photographs of trench sections (bulk) will also be provided.
- Photographs of all features will be provided with context numbers.
- A diagram indicating the direction each photograph was taken from including the photograph number will be produced.
- Provision will be made for SCCAS to review the remote monitoring documents and for any queries to be resolved.



#### 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 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, 2021).

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.



## 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 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 likely to begin in April 2020, pending approval of this Written Scheme of Investigation by SCCAS. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take four days with one member of staff onsite to open the trenches, and an additional 10 days with three members of staff onsite to complete the fieldwork. 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.

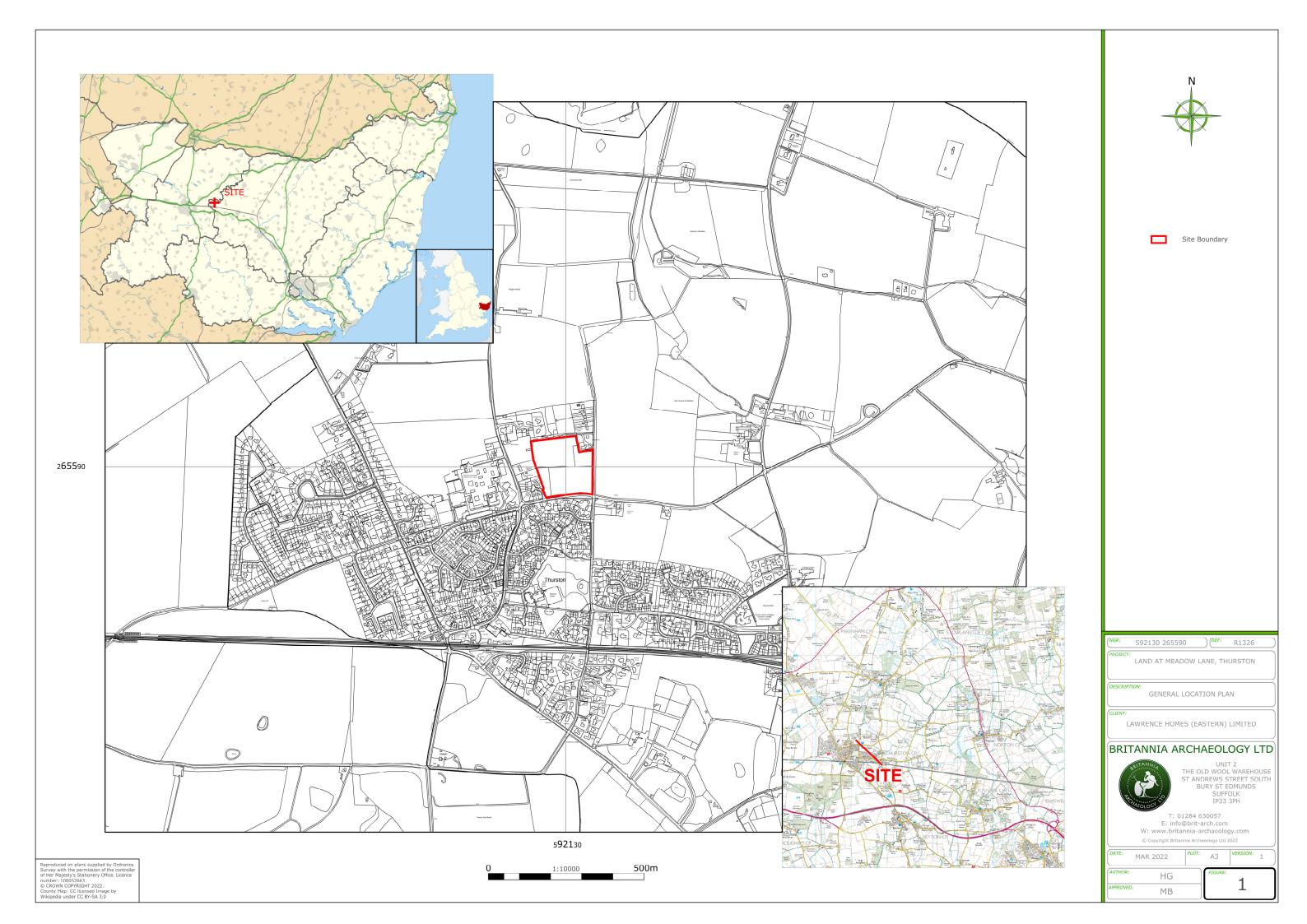
Any variations to the WSI will be agreed with the SCCAS Archaeologist prior to work being carried out. The monitoring officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project. SCCAS will be given a minimum of 10 days' written notice of the commencement of work so as to make arrangements for monitoring. 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.

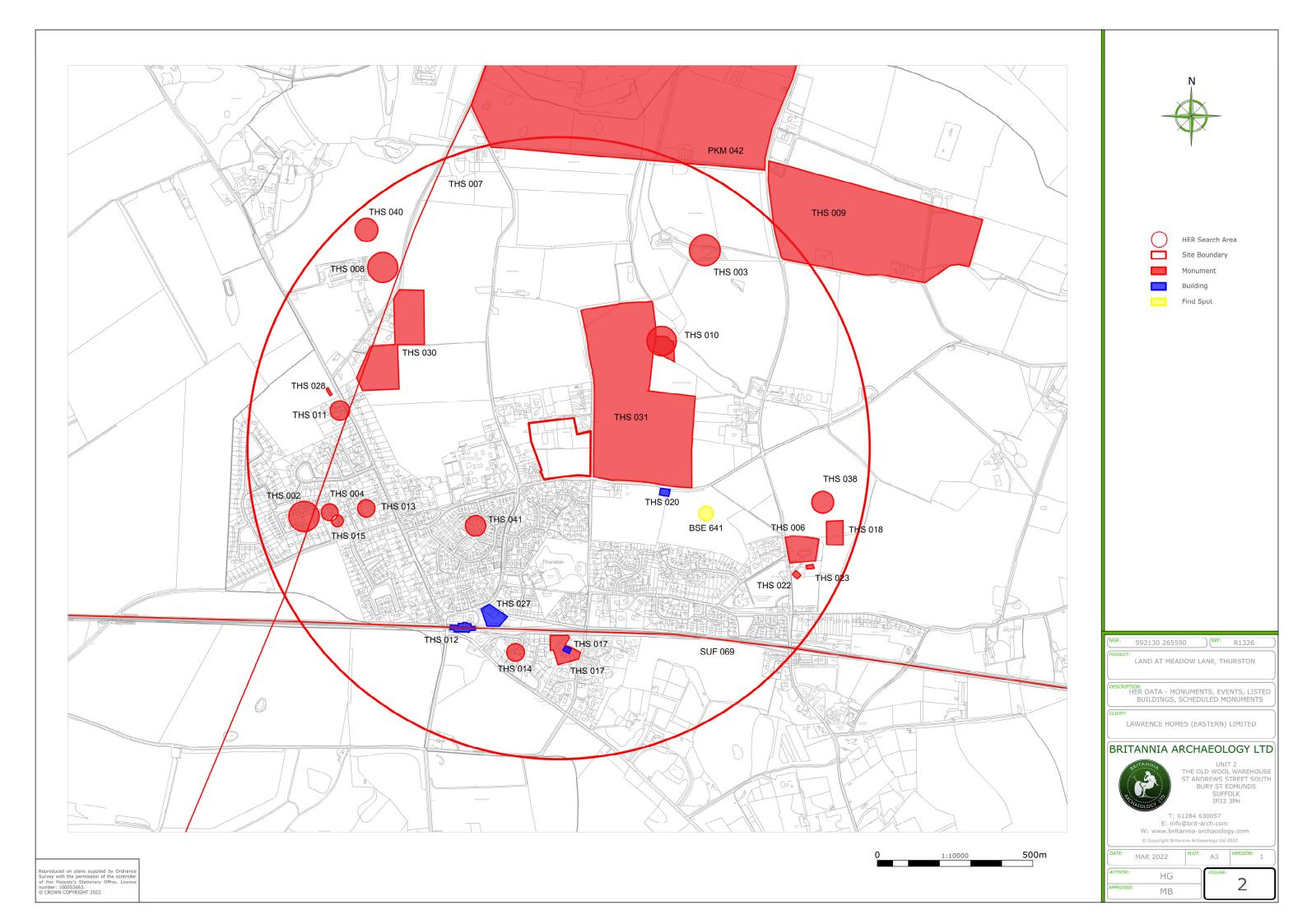


# **APPENDIX 3 - Oasis Sheet**

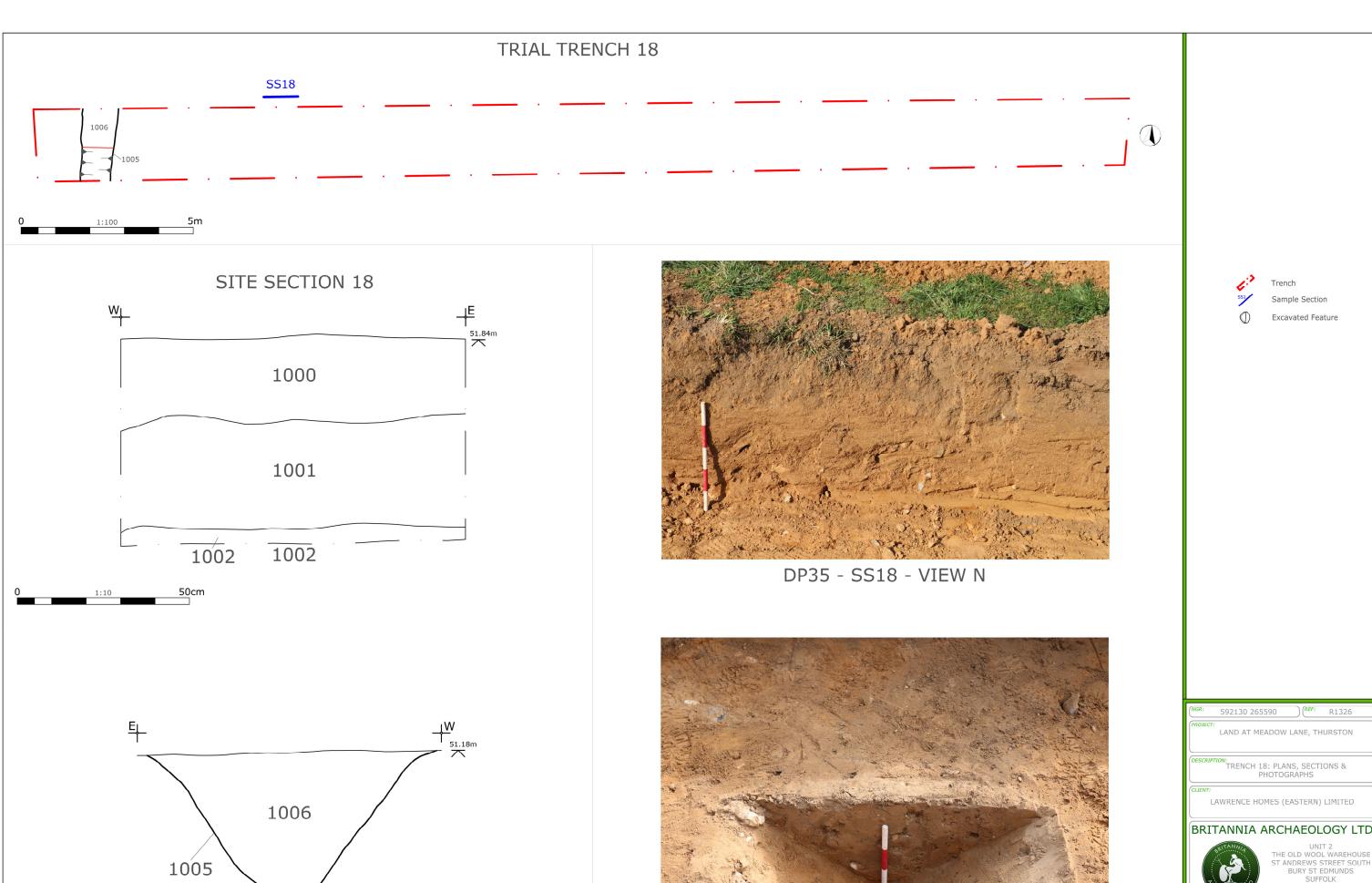
# Summary for britanni1-389015

OVER ID (IIID)	hritannid 20001E
OASIS ID (UID)	britanni1-389015 Land at Meadow Lane, Thurston
Project Name Sitename	Land at Meadow Lane, Thurston
Activity type	TRIAL TRENCH
Project Identifier(s)	P1307
Planning Id	11007
Reason For	Planning: Post determination
Investigation	3
Organisation Responsible for work	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	01-Apr-2020 - 10-Apr-2020
Location	Land at Meadow Lane, Thurston
	NGR : TL 92130 65590
	LL: 52.2549231696789, 0.813462509678352
	12 Fig : 592130,265590
Administrative Areas	Country : England
	County : Suffolk
	District : Mid Suffolk
	Parish : Thurston
Project Methodology	TT eval
Project Results	This wasFrom the 14th – 23rd March 2022, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trenching evaluation on behalf of Laurence Homes (Eastern) Limited ahead of the construction of a residential development of 64 dwellings and associated highway, car parking, and public open space at Land at Meadow Lane, Thurston, Suffolk (TL 9213 6559) (Fig. 1)
	The site has a moderate to high potential for features and finds relating to the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. There was a moderate potential for features and finds relating to the Roman period. The potential for finds and features from all other periods was considered low.
	Only a single archaeological feature was identified in the evaluation. Ditch 1005 in Trenches 18 and 23. While no dating evidence was recovered from this ditch it can be seen on the 1840 Tithe Map (Fig. 14). It is possible that there was a boundary present here for far longer however without and further dating evidence this is just speculation.
	Overall, the evaluation was successful in assessing the archaeological potential of the site. Due to the lack of surviving features, paucity of finds from both the topsoil and subsoil, this area was likely an agricultural hinterland for the village of Thurston well into the post medieval period.  not collected in OASIS IV when this record was originally created
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Brook
HER Identifiers	
Archives	



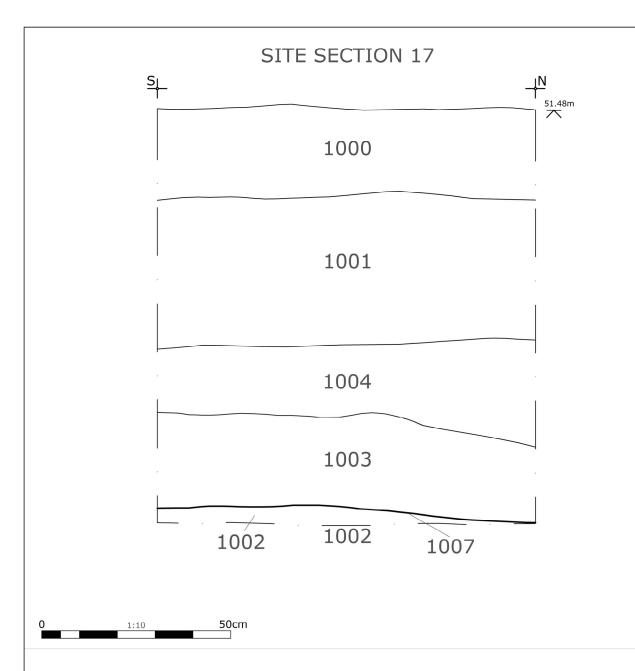






DP36 - DITCH 1005 - VIEW S



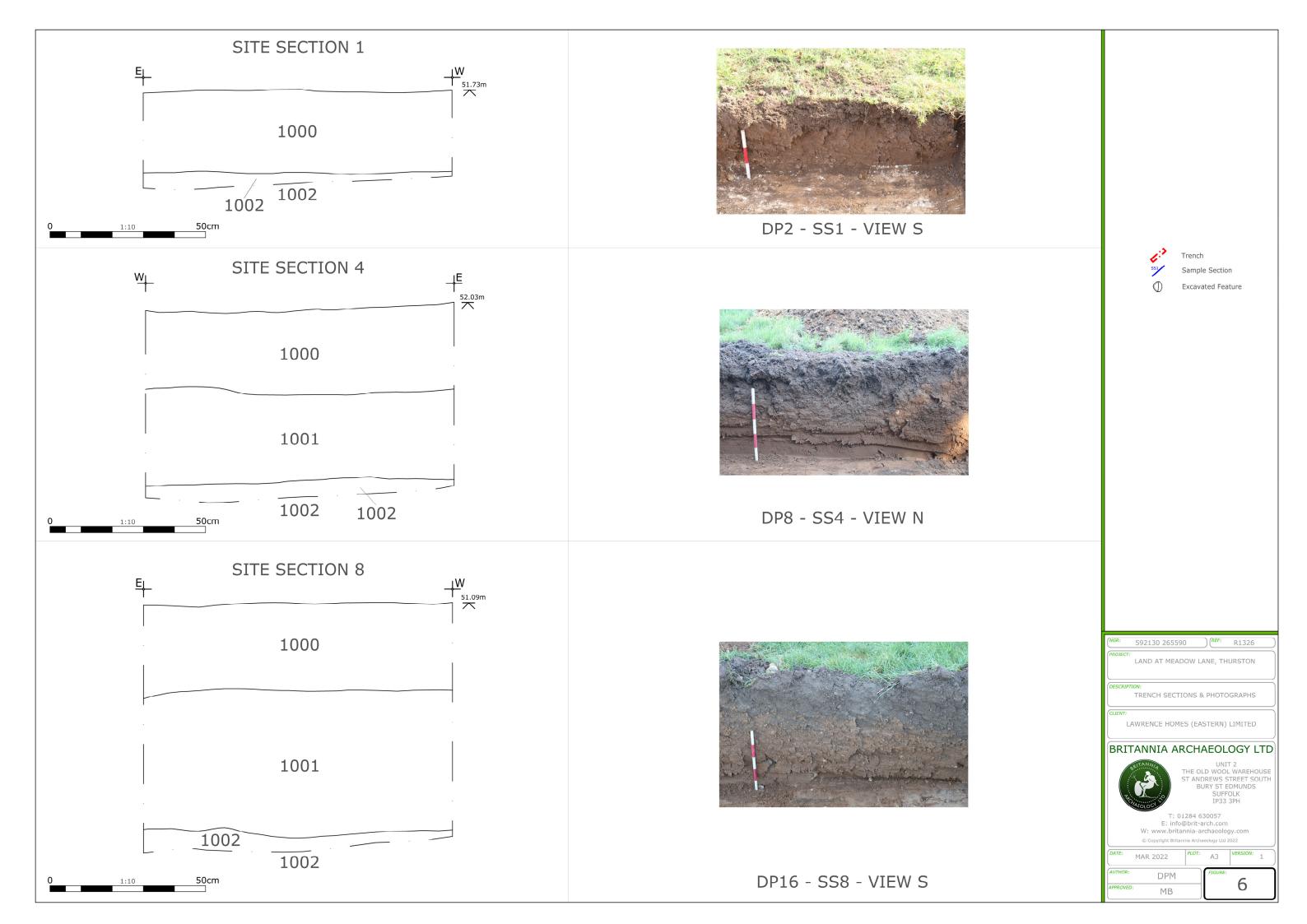


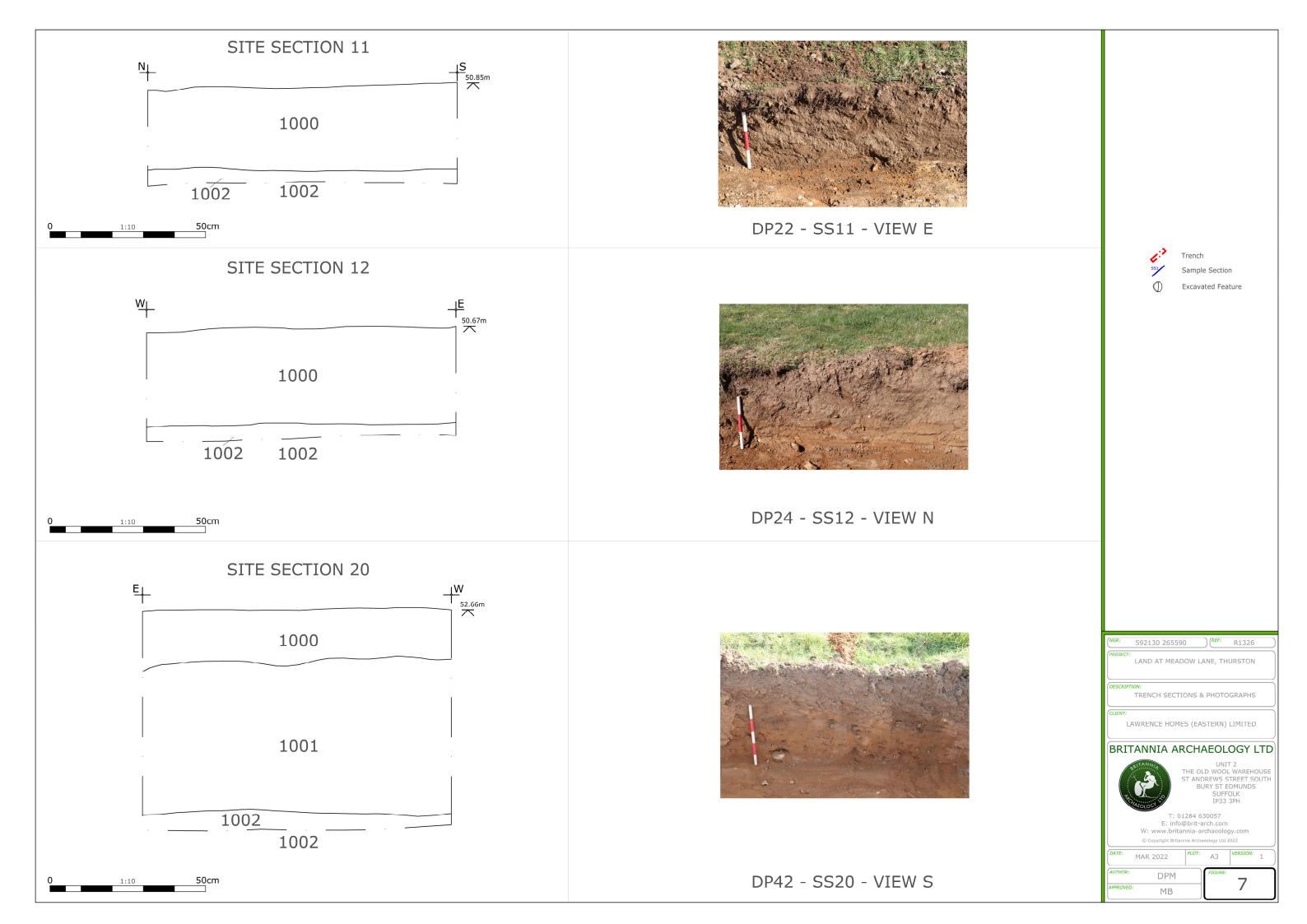


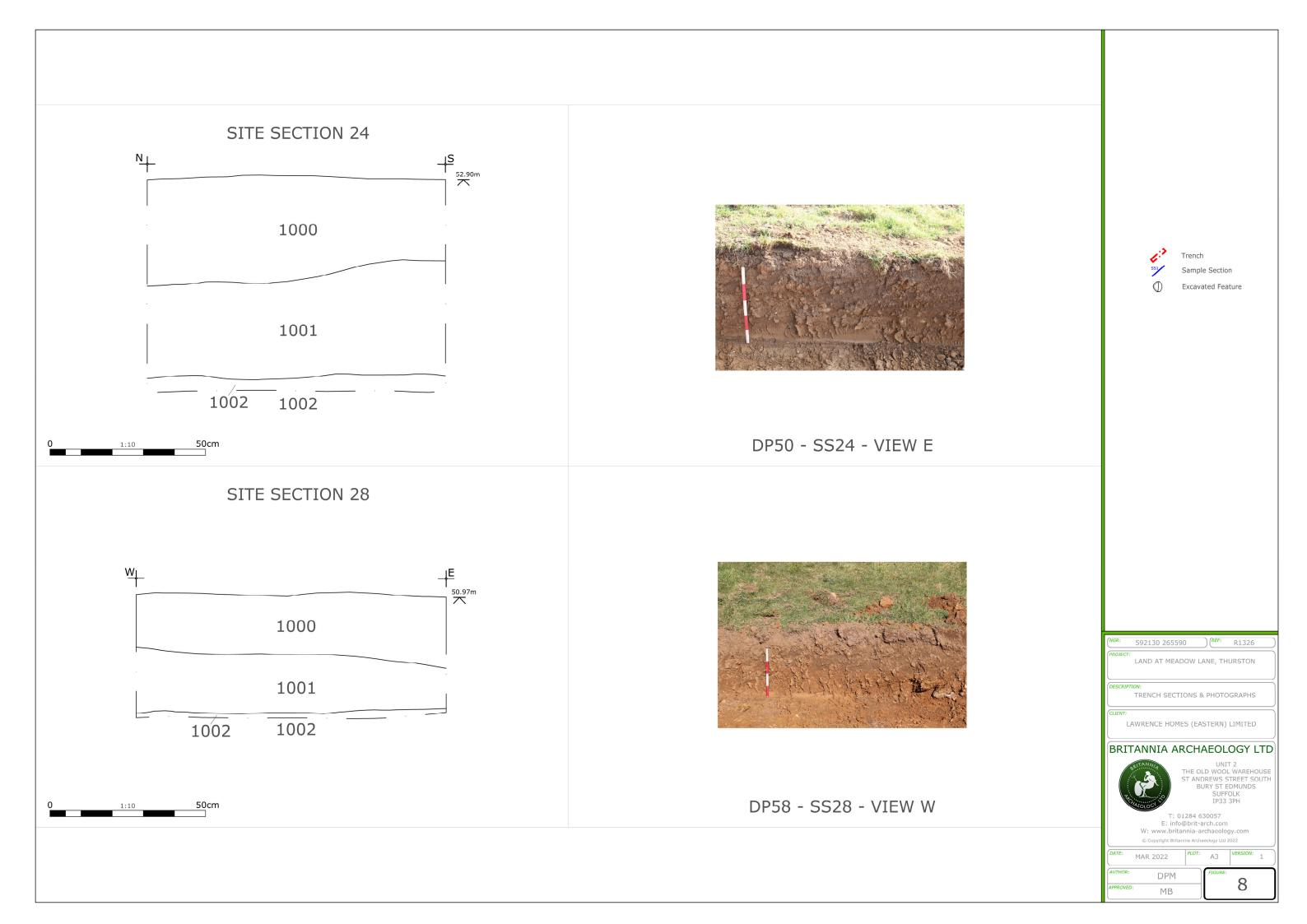
DP34 - SS17 SHOWING CHANNEL 1007 - VIEW W













DP1 - TT1 - VIEW E



DP7 - TT4 - VIEW W



DP15 - TT8 - VIEW E





DP21 - TT11 - VIEW N



DP23 - TT12 - VIEW W



DP37 - TT18 - VIEW E





DP41 - TT20 - VIEW E



DP49 - TT24 - VIEW N



DP57 - TT28 - VIEW S

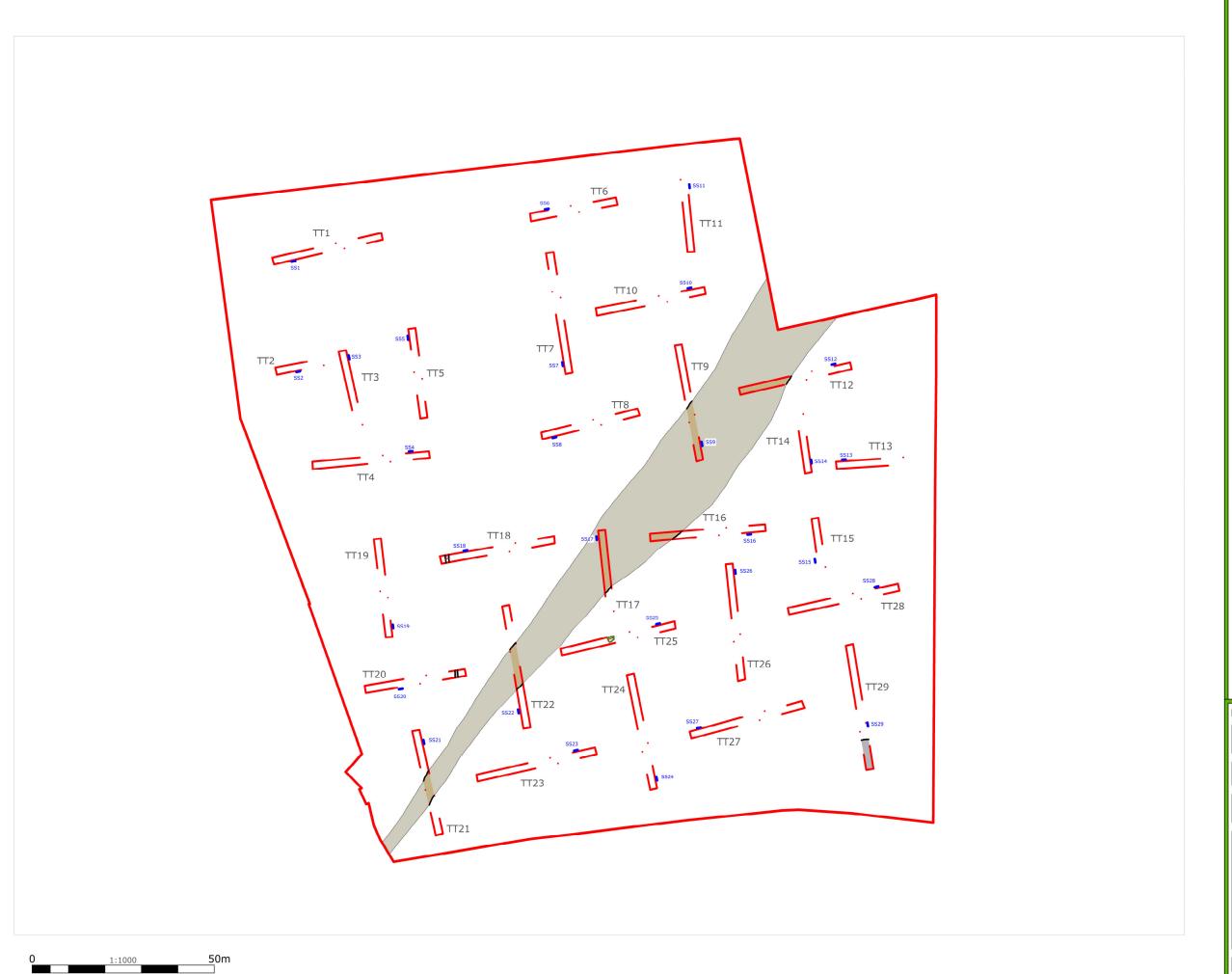




DP59 - TT29 - VIEW S



12





Site Boundary





Sample Section Projected Palaeochannel 1007

592130 265590 (*REF*: R1326

LAND AT MEADOW LANE, THURSTON

PALAEOCHANNEL 1007 PROJECTION

LAWRENCE HOMES (EASTERN) LIMITED

# 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

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