

VALLEY FARM RESERVOIR, NEWTON, SUFFOLK

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation
Prepared for: Wright Farms (Middleton) Ltd.

HER Parish Number : **NEN 017**

SLR Ref: 401.08732.00001
Version 1
October 2018



BASIS OF REPORT

This document has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower, timescales and resources devoted to it by agreement with Wright Farms (Middleton) Ltd. (the Client) as part or all of the services it has been appointed by the Client to carry out. It is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment.

SLR shall not be liable for the use of or reliance on any information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document for any purpose by any person other than the Client. Reliance may be granted to a third party only in the event that SLR and the third party have executed a reliance agreement or collateral warranty.

Information reported herein may be based on the interpretation of public domain data collected by SLR, and/or information supplied by the Client and/or its other advisors and associates. These data have been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

The copyright and intellectual property in all drawings, reports, specifications, bills of quantities, calculations and other information set out in this report remain vested in SLR unless the terms of appointment state otherwise.

This document may contain information of a specialised and/or highly technical nature and the Client is advised to seek clarification on any elements which may be unclear to it.

Information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document should only be relied upon in the context of the whole document and any documents referenced explicitly herein and should then only be used within the context of the appointment.

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1 The Project	3
2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.....	4
2.1 Topography and Geology	4
2.2 Historical Background.....	4
3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
4.0 METHODOLOGY	7
4.1 Monitoring.....	7
4.2 Destination Museum	7
4.3 Reporting.....	7
5.0 RESULTS	8
6.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	17

DOCUMENT REFERENCES

FIGURES

Figure 1-1: Site Location	3
Figure 2-1 Site showing red line boundary and trench layout	5
Figure 5-1 Trench 1 looking north east	9
Figure 5-2 Section of Trench 1 looking south east	9
Figure 5-3 Trench 2 looking north east	10
Figure 5-4 Trench 3 looking east	10
Figure 5-5 Trench 4 looking east	11
Figure 5-6 Trench 5 looking south east	11
Figure 5-7 Section of Trench 5 looking south west	12
Figure 5-8 Trench 6 looking north east	12
Figure 5-9 Trench 7 looking north east	13
Figure 5-10 Trench 8 looking north west	13
Figure 5-11 Trench 9 looking south	14
Figure 5-12 Trench 10 looking south	14
Figure 5-13 Section of Trench 10 looking south	15
Figure 5-14 Trench 11 looking NNE	15
Figure 5-15 Trench 12 looking south east	16
Figure 5-16 Trench 13 looking north west	16

TABLES

Table 5-1 Trench summaries	8
----------------------------------	---

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Context Register	
------------------------------	--

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Project

Wright Farms (Middleton) Ltd. (the client), have received planning permission (Application DC/18/00187) to excavate an agricultural reservoir on land at Valley Farm, Newton, Suffolk (Figure 1-1). Condition 2, as appended to grant of consent, provides the relevant archaeological requirement.

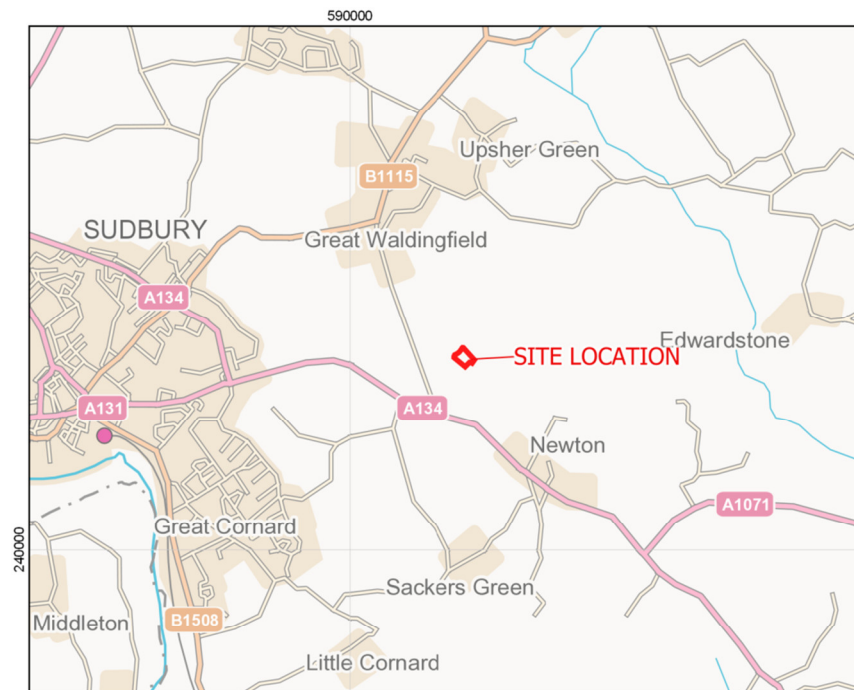
The condition requires an initial phase of evaluation trenching, to be followed, if required, by mitigation in the form of archaeological excavation and recording of any significant archaeological remains.

Rachel Abraham, Senior Archaeological Officer (SAO) for Suffolk County Council (SCC) has provided the following observation:

“The proposed reservoir is situated in an area of archaeological potential...Multi-period finds scatters are recorded within and around the site... As a result, there is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest in this area”.

Ms Adams requested that 560m of trenching, 1.8m wide, be excavated. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by SLR consulting outlining a methodology for these works and accepted by Abby Antrobus, Senior Archaeological Officer (SAO) in September 2018. The set out of the trenches was altered slightly due to obstructions in the field, and eventually comprised 1 x 53m trench, 7 x 50m trenches, 1 x 49.5m trench, 2 x 30m trenches 1 x 35m trenches and 1 x 17m trench (Figure 2-1). Each trench was excavated 2.1m wide.

Figure 1-1: Site Location



OpenData Mapping: Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

2.0 Archaeological Potential

2.1 Topography and Geology

The site is situated approximately 1.8km to the east of Sudbury and 1km north west of the village of Newton, Suffolk. It is located to the north east of the junction of Valley Road, and Sudbury Road and centred at approximately NGR: 591062, 241799 / TL 91062 41799 (Figure 1). The site covers an irregular rectangular area, c.2ha in extent (Figure 2-1), recently cleared of crop. The site slopes slightly from north to south at between 57m and 60m AOD.

The underlying solid geology comprises Crag Group sand. Above this, at the south of the site, a superficial deposit of Lowestoft Formation sand and gravel is recorded with Lowestoft Formation Diamicton at the north of the site¹.

2.2 Historical Background

The Brief for the WSI² states (2.1) that “...multi-period finds scatters are recorded within and around the site (COL 001, 073, COG 022, NEN Misc), which is located east of the line of a Roman Road (NEN 002). A number of cropmark features have also been recorded around the site (WFG 008, 029). As a result, there is high potential for encountering heritage assets of archaeological interest in this area”.

The Roman road, now followed by Valley Road (NEN002) lies approximately 330m to the west of the site, may have run from *Camulodunum* (Colchester) to *Villa Faustini* (Bury St Edmunds).

The Domesday Book records Newton as having been established by AD 1086. The settlement was located within the Hundred of Claydon, with 38 households (3 villagers, 20 smallholders, a slave and a free man) recorded, alongside a small quantum of arable farmland.

The site lies within the parish of Newton. The parish boundary (with Great Waldingfield) runs approximately 520m to the north of the site. The Grade II* Newton parish church is of Norman origin with alterations made in the 14th and 19th Centuries. It is located 930m south east of the site. The origins of Newton may well have begun around the church. Cropmarks, possibly representing the remains of a medieval moat, are recorded approximately 900m to the north west of the site.

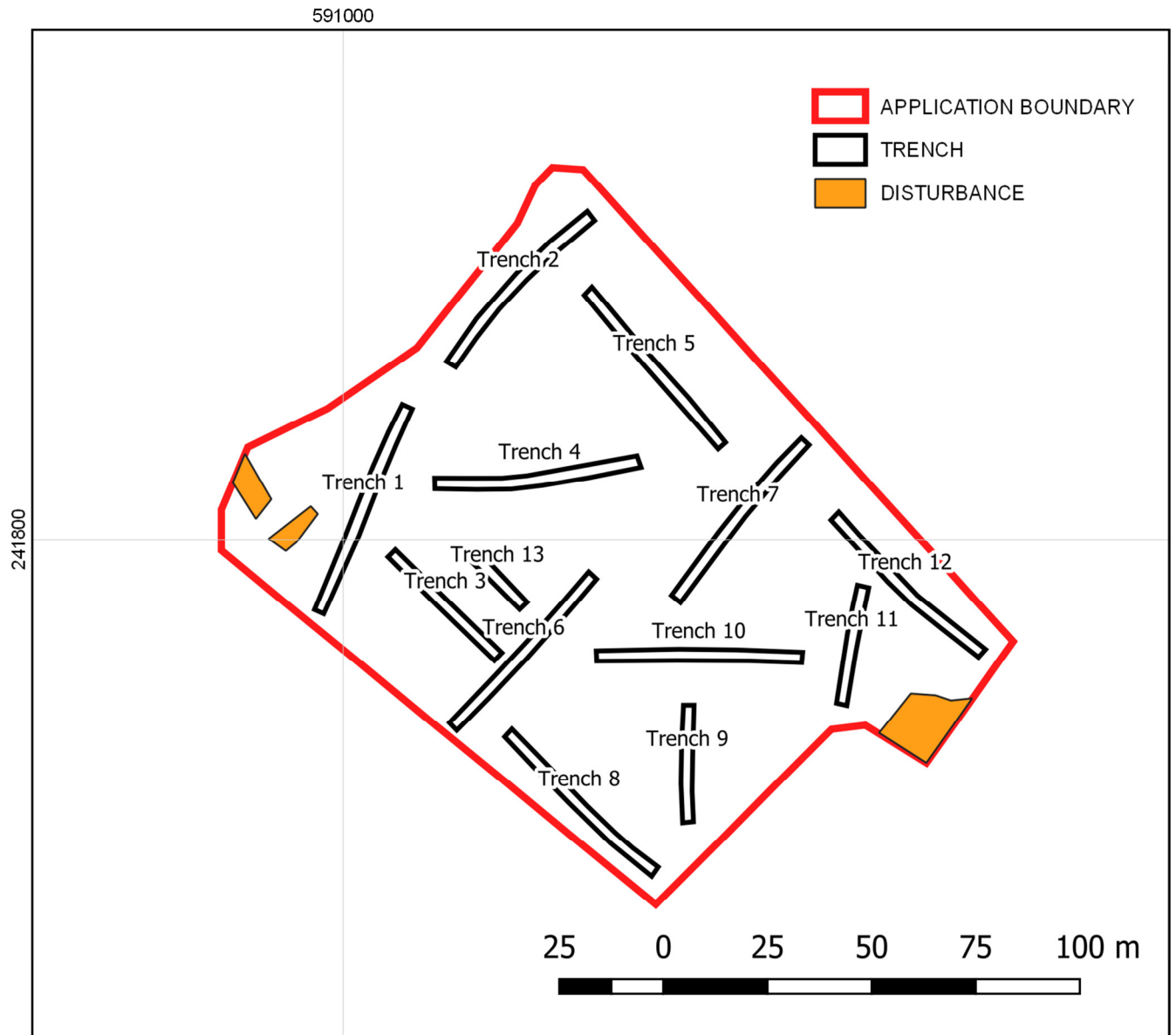
There are numerous Listed buildings of post-medieval date within proximity to the site, including The Grade II listed Newton Hall, which stands beside the church and retains 16th-century elements. The nearest Listed building to the site is Valley Farm itself, located approximately 300m to the south west; part of this farmhouse dates to the 18th Century, although it may have earlier origins, and some of the Listed buildings along Sudbury Road are known to date to the 17th Century. There are also numerous post-medieval agricultural features recorded within the wider site environs. The site is shown in agricultural use on all available mapping from the mid-19th Century to present.

It was agreed between SLR Consulting and the SAO on 28th September 2018 that, due to the negative results obtained, no inclusion of Historic Environment Record data was required in the production of this report.

¹ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

² Suffolk County Council 2nd May 2018: *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the North of Valley Farm, Valley Road, Newton*

Figure 2-1
Site showing red line boundary and trench layout



OpenData Mapping: Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

3.0 Aims and Objectives

The project aims and objectives were:

Aims

- to inform any subsequent mitigation strategy by identifying areas of archaeological survival / potential within the site, alongside any areas that can be considered free of archaeological remains and so that would not require inclusion in any subsequent mitigation strategy.

Objectives

- to establish the location, depth, extent and character of any archaeological features present within the trenches;
- to identify the extent of any areas apparently devoid of archaeological features; and
- to form an archive and report to be disseminated in an appropriate format as part of the wider reporting of archaeological works on the project.

4.0 Methodology

The location of the trenches was set out using a Trimble R4 survey grade GPS. The topsoil was removed within the trench areas by mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket down to the underlying naturally deposited stratum. Trenches were scanned with a metal-detector prior to excavation and spoil was scanned after excavation.

Fieldwork was carried out as outlined in the WSI for this work.³ The only variation from the methodology of the WSI was that Trenches 01 and 11 were realigned slightly to avoid areas that have been recently excavated, Trench 03 was shortened because of the realignment of Trench 01 and an extra trench, Trench 13, was excavated to make up for the shortening of Trench 3.

The supervising archaeologist was John Winfer of SLR Consulting Limited.

4.1 Monitoring

All archaeological work was monitored by Suffolk County Council Senior Archaeological Officer Abby Antrobus via telephone / email conversations with SLR and through a site visit on 26th September 2018.

4.2 Destination Museum

No artefacts or archaeological features were discovered during the fieldwork. This report will therefore be uploaded to the OASIS website and no physical archive deposited.

4.3 Reporting

Approved versions of this report will be circulated to:

- The Client;
- The Suffolk County Council SAO; and
- The Local Planning Authority.

³ SLR Consulting 2018: *Valley Farm Reservoir, Newton, Suffolk; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

5.0 Results

Trench lengths and deposit sequences are summarised in Table 5-1 and individual context records in Appendix 1.

Table 5-1
Trench summaries

Trench No	Trench Length (m)	Topsoil Thickness (m)	Topsoil Description	Natural Subsoil	Comments
1	53	0.25-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, flint pockets	Rooting and plough scrapes
2	50	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint, occasional pockets	None
3	35	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	None
4	50	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, small flint pockets	Plough scrapes
5	50	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, occ flint, large flint pocket at SE end	Plough scrapes
6	50	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint, occasional pockets	Plough scrape
7	50	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, 50% flint in 15m at SW	None
8	50	0.23-0.3	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, 50% flint pockets	Plough scrapes
9	30	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	None
10	50	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	None
11	30	0.25-0.4	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	None
12	50	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint, occasional pockets	None
13	17	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	None

Figure 5-1
Trench 1 looking north east



Figure 5-2
Section of Trench 1 looking south east



Figure 5-3
Trench 2 looking north east



Trench 3 was shorter than had been set out in the WSI due to the moving of Trench 1. The outstanding metres were made up by the digging of Trench 13.

Figure 5-4
Trench 3 looking east



Figure 5-5
Trench 4 looking east



Figure 5-6
Trench 5 looking south east



Figure 5-7
Section of Trench 5 looking south west



Figure 5-8
Trench 6 looking north east



Figure 5-9
Trench 7 looking north east



Figure 5-10
Trench 8 looking north west



Figure 5-11
Trench 9 looking south



Figure 5-12
Trench 10 looking south

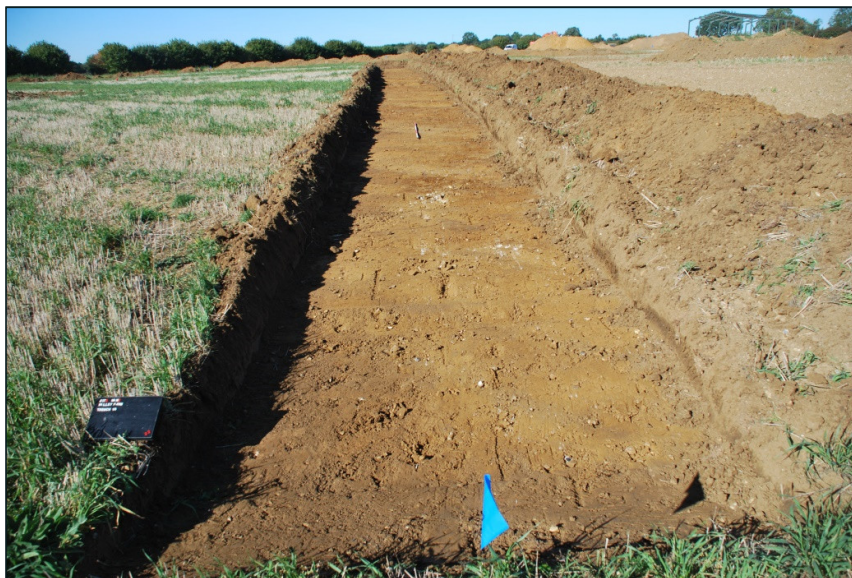


Figure 5-13
Section of Trench 10 looking south



It was not possible to locate Trench 11 as had been set out in the WSI due to a small quarry and associated spoil in the field and so the south of the trench was moved approximately 6m to the west.

Figure 5-14
Trench 11 looking NNE



Figure 5-15
Trench 12 looking south east



Trench 13 was not set out in the WSI but was excavated due to Trench 3 having been shortened and completed the area coverage requirement.

Figure 5-16
Trench 13 looking north west



6.0 Summary and Conclusions

Thirteen trenches were excavated at land at Valley Farm, Newton in order to establish the impact of the construction of a reservoir on potential buried archaeological remains.

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the works.

The stratigraphy identified across the site comprised a single homogeneous layer of mid-to dark brown clayey silt topsoil overlying the natural silt substrate which contained large pockets of fractured flint. The topsoil was between 0.25m and 0.4m thick.

Evidence of modern ploughing was observed across the site in the form of shallow linear grooves in the subsoil, filled with topsoil. They were orientated similarly to the current field boundaries. Any ephemeral features previously present may have been destroyed by long-term ploughing.

The evidence of the HER records quoted in the project Brief indicated only finds scatters located within and around the site and given the results of the current work it is quite likely that no archaeological features were ever present within the evaluated area.

The SAO confirmed in an email to SLR Consulting (27th September 2018) that:

Once the report is agreed with SCCAS and submitted to the planning authority, I would advise discharge of archaeological conditions on the reservoir consent”.

APPENDIX 01

Context Register

Context No	Trench No	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
101	1	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, flint pockets	Natural geology
200	2	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
201	2	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint, occasional pockets	Natural geology
300	3	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
301	3	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	Natural geology
400	4	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
401	4	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, small flint pockets	Natural geology
500	5	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
501	5	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, occ flint, large flint pocket at SE end	Natural geology
600	6	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
601	6	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint, occasional pockets	Natural geology
700	7	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
701	7	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, 50% flint in 15m at SW	Natural geology
800	8	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.23-0.3	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
801	8	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, 50% flint pockets	Natural geology
900	9	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
901	9	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	Natural geology
1000	10	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
1001	10	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	Natural geology

Context No	Trench No	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
1100	11	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.4	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
1101	11	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	Natural geology
1200	12	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
1201	12	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint, occasional pockets	Natural geology
1300	13	Deposit	Trench	Trench	0.3-0.35	Mid-dark brown clay silt	Topsoil
1301	13	Deposit	Trench	Trench	N/A	Brown yellow silt, frequent flint pieces	Natural geology

EUROPEAN OFFICES

United Kingdom

AYLESBURY

T: +44 (0)1844 337380

BELFAST

T: +44 (0)28 9073 2493

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

T: +44 (0)1225 309400

BRISTOL

T: +44 (0)117 906 4280

CAMBRIDGE

T: + 44 (0)1223 813805

CARDIFF

T: +44 (0)29 2049 1010

CHELMSFORD

T: +44 (0)1245 392170

EDINBURGH

T: +44 (0)131 335 6830

EXETER

T: + 44 (0)1392 490152

GLASGOW

T: +44 (0)141 353 5037

GUILDFORD

T: +44 (0)1483 889800

LEEDS

T: +44 (0)113 258 0650

LONDON

T: +44 (0)203 691 5810

MAIDSTONE

T: +44 (0)1622 609242

MANCHESTER

T: +44 (0)161 872 7564

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

T: +44 (0)191 261 1966

NOTTINGHAM

T: +44 (0)115 964 7280

SHEFFIELD

T: +44 (0)114 245 5153

SHREWSBURY

T: +44 (0)1743 23 9250

STAFFORD

T: +44 (0)1785 241755

STIRLING

T: +44 (0)1786 239900

WORCESTER

T: +44 (0)1905 751310

Ireland

DUBLIN

T: + 353 (0)1 296 4667

France

GRENOBLE

T: +33 (0)4 76 70 93 41