Land South of Eye Airfield, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

Client: Eye Town Council

AB Heritage Project No:60122

Site Code: EYE 139

HER Event: ESF25877

Date: 27/11/2017

Land South of Eye Airfield, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

Client	**Eye Town Council**
Project Number	**60122**
Prepared By	**Zoe Richardson & Mark Harrison**
Approved By	**Daniel Dodds**

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Enquiries To:

AB Heritage Limited (Head Office)

Jarrow Business Centre, Rolling Mill Road

Jarrow, South Tyneside, NE32 3DT

Email: info@abheritage.co.uk

Tel: 03333 440 206

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Land South of Eye Airfield, Eye, Suffolk. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. This report has been prepared by Zoë Richardson of L-P: Archaeology on behalf of AB Heritage Ltd.

The site is located to the northwest of the centre of the town of Eye, Suffolk. Previous archaeological work had been undertaken on the land to the west and east and on the land of Hartismere School to the south. A possible Early Neolithic settlement site was recorded as well as a group of three graves of Anglo-Saxon dating, which may be related to a nearby Anglo-Saxon settlement site. To the north of the site is Brome/Eye airfield which was opened in 1944 and closed in 1945.

The objectives of the evaluation were to identify and record any archaeological remains preserved on the site.

The trial trenching uncovered features likely corresponding with those found in the land to the west and east with archaeological features appearing primarily on the western border of site, in trenches 2 and 4. Features found in trenches 7, 8, 10, 11, and 16 appeared Post Medieval or modern in date. No archaeological features were evident in the remaining trenches. Four trenches were unable to be opened due to the presence of working allotments on the area.

Further work is likely due to the presence of possible Anglo-Saxon graves and will likely take the form of mitigation by design or further archaeological work or a combination of the two.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeological investigations were undertaken by AB Heritage Limited (hereafter AB Heritage) using their elected contractor, L-P: Archaeology.

1.1.2 This evaluation report has been prepared by Zoë Richardson of L-P: Archaeology on behalf of AB Heritage Ltd.

1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out by Zoë Richardson and Charlie Scovell of L-P: Archaeology between 4th to the 10th November 2017.

1.1.4 The evaluation was instigated due to potential for archaeological remains on the site in order to help inform on planning decisions.

1.1.5 The work was carried out in accordance with the written scheme of investigation prepared by John Duffy of L-P: Archaeology (Duffy, 2017).

1.2 Site Location & Description

1.2.1 The site is located in Eye at Land South of Eye Airfield, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The National Grid Reference is 613830, 274390.

1.2.2 The site code allocated by Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) is EYE 139 and the event number is ESF25877.

1.2.3 The field was in use as agricultural cultivation, with the top soil across site heavily disturbed by rooting and ploughing.

1.2.4 Mapping from the 1990s show allotments on proposed area. A small derelict shed lies at the northwest corner of site and is still extant, whilst being in a ruinous state.

1.3 Geology & Topography

1.3.1 The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on a bedrock formation of Crag Group (sand) with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (British Geological Survey 2017). This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data.

1.3.2 During excavation, the undisturbed natural soil was largely a yellow/orange sand, with large pockets of yellow clay consistently throughout the site. The level of natural deposit ranged from 39.5 mOD to 40 mOD.

1.3.3 The site is located to the north west of the centre of the town of Eye, Suffolk. The site slopes to the south towards the River Dove, a tributary of the River Waveney and facing towards the town.

1.3.4 The site area consists of open land and allotments and measures 1.4ha.

1.4 The site lies at approximately 40 mOD.

1.5 Planning Background

1.5.1 The evaluation was conducted prior to any planning application. The evaluation was conducted to test the viability of the site for development given its high archaeological potential. No previous archaeological work has been undertaken within the site boundaries.

1.5.2 The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings. However, the site is located within an archaeologically sensitive landscape, with significant archaeological finds recorded from land adjacent to the site in recent years (EYE 083, 123).

1.5.3 The local planning authority for this project is the Mid Suffolk District Council.

1.5.4 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, Mid Suffolk District Council, must consider the Policies HB13 (Protecting ancient monuments) and HB14 (Ensuring archaeological remains are not destroyed) of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998) saved policies (2007). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Mid Suffolk District Council take impartial advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).

1.5.5 Eye Town Council and Mid Suffolk District Council have agreed the methodology for these works in the written scheme of investigation (Duffy 2017). The written scheme of investigation (Duffy 2017) was based on a brief provided by SCCAS who also provided advice throughout this project.

1.6 Archaeological Background

1.6.1 The evaluation site is in a landscape that has been shown to be archaeologically sensitive. Evaluations to the east and west and to the south have uncovered rich evidence from the Neolithic period through to the post medieval period. The local landscape has revealed nationally important remains of the early Anglo-Saxon period.

1.6.2 The areas to the east and west of site were archeologically evaluated in 2015 by Oxford Archaeology (EYE 123).

1.6.3 During the work conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (EYE 123) a pair of ditches, running parallel, and determined to be an Iron age trackway, were uncovered. A metalled surface was also recorded. Two postholes containing worked flint and pottery assigned to the Neolithic to Bronze age dating were also revealed, with the suggestion that these postholes formed part of a structure. In the area local to site, a tranverse arrowhead of nearly Neolithic dating (EYE 026) was recovered as a spot find, supporting evidence of occupation and activity in the area. To the east of the site, investigations at the airfield revealed pits with Iron Age material.

1.6.4 A ditch from the Roman period was revealed during the 2015 evaluation (Oxford Archaeology East 2015), with a pit containing metal working debris of Roman date, suggesting possible metalworking in the area.

1.6.5 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was identified during an evaluation (Oxford Archaeology East 2015), with three identified graves and four possible graves. Whilst no grave goods were recovered, only a portion of the graves were revealed, with very little excavation occurring. However, human bone was recovered from the features identified as graves, and the possible

graves were identified based on similar plan form and fills. A horse burial was identified which may also be of Anglo-Saxon derivation. Due to metal detecting of Anglo-Saxon finds in the area (EYE 051) (EYE 053) (EYE 052), this date was given to the graves.

1.6.6 During geophysical survey in 2015, a rectangular field boundary was revealed, whilst excavation during evaluation (Oxford Archaeology East 2015) provided a Medieval date for the ditch, thus suggesting a field boundary was in use during the Medieval period.

1.6.7 To the south of the site lies Hartismere High School where an archaeological excavation was undertaken on the playing fields in 2007 (EYE 083). The excavation identified previously unknown evidence of occupation from the Earlier Neolithic until the post-medieval periods, of which the most significant was evidence of an early Anglo-Saxon settlement, including at least 18 sunken feature buildings with two associated posthole buildings. The Anglo-Saxon evidence uncovered during that work is considered to be nationally important, and included a very rare continental style long house. It is possible the burials described above may form a cemetery associated with that settlement.

1.6.8 South of the site the structural remains of a windmill built in 1779 and in use until the 1930s, prior to its collapse in 1955 still stand (EYE 032).

1.6.9 Brome Airfield was in use on the area from 1944 to 1945 (EYE 072) before passing into disuse, with agricultural work on the area in the 1970s.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Works

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will include a comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- To assess the anticipated impact of any development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- To assess whether the Anglo-Saxon burials discovered in 2015 are part of a larger burial group.

2.1.2 The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

2.2 Methodology of Work

2.2.1 For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the written scheme of investigation (Duffy, 2017).

2.2.2 16 trenches were laid out on northwestern by southeastern, and northeastern by southwestern axes. These trenches were 20m in length and 1.8m in width (Plate 1).

2.2.3 The written scheme of investigation proposed 20 trenches (Fig. 2). However, the four southern-most trenches, Trenches 17 to 20, were unable to be opened due to a working allotment on the proposed area.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Results are given below trench by trench, with consecutive blank trenches listed together. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Due to limited finds recovery, information about finds are with the corresponding trenches.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 A thick silty clay, mid greyish brown topsoil (101) of 0.3m thick was identified along the entire length of the trench. Below this was a dark reddish brown silty sand subsoil with manganese flecks (102) across the trench.

3.2.2 The natural deposit was a light brownish yellow clay with yellow sand inclusions (103) throughout the trench.

3.2.3 No archaeological deposits were identified in the trench.

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 The trench was excavated to the north of Trench 1.

3.3.2 The profile of Trench 2 was similar to that of Trench 1, with a topsoil (201), 0.25m thick, over a 0.15m thick dark reddish-brown subsoil. The natural below this (203) was a dark brownish yellow sand with patches of yellow clay throughout the length of the trench.

3.3.3 A small hand dug sondage measuring 0.5m by 0.5m was dug at the northern end of the trench to determine natural.

3.3.4 A linear feature [205] was identified at the northern end of the trench (Plate 2). In plan, the feature was a regular linear and ran east – west across the trench. It measured 1.8m in length from both limits of excavation, and was 0.7m wide with a depth of 0.27m. It was filled with a light greyish brown silty sand (204) and contained frequent irregular stones, and one piece of flint debitage. No corresponding linear was discovered in the remaining trenches, however, [205] appears to follow an alignment with an Iron Age ditch found in the excavations to the north and east of site (Oxford Archaeology East 2015) and may have been part of an enclosure.

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 A thick silty clay, mid greyish brown topsoil (301) of 0.3m thick was identified along the entire length of the trench. Below this was a dark reddish brown silty sand subsoil with manganese flecks (302) spanning across the trench at 0.2m depth.

3.4.2 The natural deposit was a light brownish yellow clay with yellow sand inclusions (303) throughout the trench.

3.4.3 No archaeological deposits were identified in the trench.

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 A thick sandy silt, mid greyish brown topsoil (401) of 0.32m thick was identified along the entire length of the trench and was disturbed by frequent root activity. Below this was a dark reddish-brown clay sand subsoil with small rounded stones (402) across the trench.

3.5.2 The natural deposit was a light reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded stone inclusions (403) throughout the trench.

3.5.3 Three features were identified as potential archaeological deposits [404], [406], [408]. Due to their similarity to features identified as Anglo-Saxon graves (Oxford Archaeology East 2015), these features were not excavated but were photographed (Plate 3) and planned (Figure 3).

3.5.4 Feature [404] was a rectilinear cut 0.6m wide, and 1.35m in length to the edge of trench, on a North-eastern by South-western alignment. It was filled with a mid-reddish-brown clay sand (405) with no visible inclusions.

3.5.5 Feature [406] was similar to [404], of a sub-circular shape and spanning 1.2m in width and 0.7m to the western limit of excavation. Like [404], the fill was a mid-reddish brown sandy clay (407).

3.5.6 Feature [408] was a rectilinear possible terminus of a sub ovoid feature, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.8m in length to the limit of excavation. Like the other features in the trench, the fill (409) consisted of a mid-reddish brown sandy clay, with no obvious inclusions visible (Plate 4).

3.5.7 All features were investigated by the metal detector and brought up no metal signals.

3.5.8 The form and fill of the features, as well as the lack of metal signals, provide support for features [404], [406], and [408] to be part of the Anglo-Saxon burial complex excavated in 2015 (Oxford Archaeology East 2015).

3.6 Trench 5 and Trench 6

3.6.1 Trenches 5 and 6 were similar in their topsoil and subsoil deposits. Both consisting of a thick mid greyish brown silty clay disturbed by plough activity, and a reddish brown silty sand subsoil with manganese inclusion.

3.6.2 The natural on both trenches was of a dark orangey yellow sandy clay with yellow clay patches.

3.6.3 The topsoil (501) of Trench 5 was 0.25m, whilst the topsoil of Trench 6 (601) was 0.30m thick, spanning the extent of each trench. The subsoil of trench 5 (502) was 0.2m thick, whilst that of trench 6 (601) was 0.25m in thickness.

3.6.4 Neither trench contained any evidence of archaeology features.

3.7 Trench 7

3.7.1 A thick mid greyish brown silty clay of 0.2m thickness (701) was identified along the length of the trench, with a reddish brown silty sand subsoil (702) beneath, of 0.2m in thickness.

3.7.2 The natural deposit (703) was a light brownish yellow sand with light yellow clay inclusions throughout the extent of the trench.

3.7.3 At the eastern end of the trench, a feature was recognised [705], a square cut with sharp, distinguished edges, and a dark blackish brown silty sand fill containing pieces of scrap metal (704). The feature measured 2m across and 0.5m to the limit of excavation. Due to the similarity to feature [805], which contained asbestos, the decision was made to not excavate feature [705]. It seemed likely that [705] was used in the 20th century as a pit to dump rubble and waste.

3.8 Trench 8

3.8.1 A thick greyish brown silty clay ploughed topsoil (801) covered the extent of the trench at 0.4m depth. Below this was a subsoil (802) of a reddish brown silty sand at 0.2m thickness.

3.8.2 The natural deposit (803) was an orangey yellow sandy clay spanning the extent of the site.

3.8.3 In the middle of the trench was a square feature [805], with a fill of dark blackish brown sandy clay (804) (Plate 1). The feature was partially removed by the machine, and revealed scrap metal, glass, and slabs of asbestos, so the decision was made to record the trench and immediately backfill without investigating feature [805].

3.9 Trench 9 and Trench 10

3.9.1 Trench 9 and 10 were of a similar nature, in the centre of the site. Both trenches consisted of a greyish brown sandy silt, disturbed by root and plough activity, both (901) and (1001) were 0.25m in depth. Beneath was a subsoil, (902) and (1002), consisting of a reddish brown sandy clay of 0.18m depth in trench 9 and 0.25mm in depth in Trench 10.

3.9.2 The natural deposit for both trenches was a light-yellow brown sandy clay with frequent large stones and flints (903) and (1003), spanning the length of the trenches.

3.9.3 No archaeological deposits were identified in either trench.

3.10 Trench 11

3.10.1 Trench 11 was at the southernmost end of the opened area of site. A thick, silty-clay topsoil with root disturbance (1101) of 0.32m in thickness was identified along the length of the trench, with a reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (1102) beneath.

3.10.2 The natural deposit (1103) consisted of a light-yellow clay with yellow sandy inclusions.

3.10.3 One archaeological feature was identified at the eastern end of Trench 11 (Plate 5). A small pit was evident against the southern limit of excavation [1105], and contained a dark brownish grey silty clay with flecks of charcoal (1104). Only 0.2m of the feature was evident in length and 0.4m in width, with a depth of 0.07m was exposed of the feature. Due to the limited remains, it is difficult to determine the date or use of feature [1105].

3.11 Trench 12

3.11.1 The topsoil consisted of greyish brown silty clay (1201) measuring at a thickness of 0.4m, above a thin reddish brown silty sand subsoil (1202) of 0.1m thickness.

3.11.2 The natural deposit (1202) was a light brownish yellow sand that spanned the extent of the trench.

3.11.3 One archaeological feature was recorded at the southern end of the trench. A linear [1205] running on an east-west alignment was not seen in another other trench (Plate 6). The fill was a dark brownish grey silty clay (1204) and contained glass bottle fragments and pottery of Post Medieval date, suggesting a modern use of the feature. The feature was over 1.8m in length, and 0.78m in width, with a depth of 0.4m. The sides of the linear were vertical, with a moderate slope to the upper break of slope before a sharp lower break of slope.

3.12 Trench 13, Trench 14 and Trench 15

3.12.1 Trenches 13, 14, and 15 were similar in nature, and situated on the eastern edge of site.

3.12.2 The topsoil of all three trenches consisted of a greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent root activity and small stone and flint inclusions (1301), (1401), (1501) all with the thickness of 0.3m. A consistent subsoil was evident in all three trenches, a reddish brown sandy clay (1302), (1402), (1502) and was quite thin in trenches trench 13 and 14, measure in at 0.1m and 0.2m respectively, whilst (1502) was 0.3m thick.

3.12.3 The natural was similar throughout all three trenches, consisting of a light yellowish brown sandy clay (1303), (1403), and (1503).

3.12.4 No features were identified in any of the three trenches.

3.13 Trench 16

3.13.1 A thick greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (1601) of 0.34m thickness was identified along the entire length of the trench. Below this was a reddish brown sandy clay with manganese deposits (1602).

3.13.2 The natural (1603) consisted of a reddish brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large stones and flints.

3.13.3 A deep, steep sided feature [1604] running northeast-southwest within the centre of the trench was excavated to the depth of 1.1m. The feature was 1.10m in width and extended the 1.8m of the trench (Plate 7). The fill consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy silt with patches of yellow clay with modern glass, iron, and wire being recovered (1605). As such, the feature was deemed modern and no further work was done in regard to taking samples or recording finds.

3.14 Surface Metal Detection

3.14.1 A local metal detectorist, Paul Kemp, was agreed with by SCCAS and L-P: Archaeology to provide metal detection for the site. Mr Kemp surveyed the trenches prior to opening, then again once they were open, as well as top and subsoil deposited by the machine. Finds were only recovered in the topsoil, with nothing recovered in the subsoil, and all trenches bar Trench 1 had recorded metal finds. A coin found in the topsoil of Trench 13 (1301) appeared to be hammered silver, showing a king likely to be Edward II or Edward III. All other finds were of Post Medieval date.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1.1 A site at land south of Eye Airfield is being considered for redevelopment. The archaeological remains identified on site will be considered when assessing the potential for redevelopment.

4.1.2 Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.

4.2 Conclusion

4.2.1 Anglo-Saxon artefacts recovered by metal detectorists on previous occasions, as well as examination of graves found in 2015, demonstrates that the Anglo-Saxon cemetery remains identified on this site, are a continuation of those funerary remains identified previously on the immediately surrounding land, including Hartismere School and the Airport. Iron Age features and enclosure ditch also suggest Iron Age activity in the proposed area.

4.2.2 The results of trial trenching revealed further potential Anglo-Saxon graves and a possible continuation of an Iron Age enclosure ditch though these features were confined to Trenches 2 and 4, both running Northeast by Southwest along the western perimeter of site (Fig. 5).

4.2.3 The potential cemetery site sits within a high point in the landscape with the land dropping to the east and south of the site. The archaeological features appear to be focused around this high point in the landscape. The Anglo-Saxon settlement to the south lies further down the slope into the river valley.

4.2.4 Trenches 11 and 12 contained features of Post Medieval date, which may indicate activity on the site. Trenches 7, 8, and 16 revealed similar features containing modern waste, with an exploratory slot dug into feature [1604] and suggests a series of similar features in the area, potentially associated with the 1990s use of the site. These features do not appear to be of archaeological interest, and evidence of asbestos was seen in Trench 8.

4.2.5 Due to the presence of features likely to be graves of Anglo-Saxon date, it is advised that the western edge of the site be earmarked as a no dig zone which is consistent with the proposals for the cemetery area to the west. There is also the potential for further archaeological remains to be present on the site, including further Anglo-Saxon burials and Prehistoric features, although this appears to be focused in the western area of the site. The area to the south of site currently containing allotments will need to be investigated should further work be carried out in the area.

5. PLATES

Plate 1. Trench 8 looking north-west, with 1m and 2m scales.

Plate 2. Feature [205] looking north-east, with 1m scale.

Plate 3. Features [404] and [408] looking south-west, with 1m scale.

Plate 4. Feature [408[looking south-west, with 1m scale.

Plate 5. Feature [1105] looking south-east, with 1m scale.

Plate 6. Feature [1205] looking south-west, with 1m scale.

Plate 7. Feature [1604] looking north-east, with 1m scale.

6. ARCHIVE

6.1.1 The paper archive consists of:

- 6x Trench sheets
- 4x Context sheets
- 15x JPEG photo files
- 15x CR2 photo files

6.1.2 The finds archive consists of:

- Box artefacts as described in Section 5

6.1.3 The archive is to be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store.

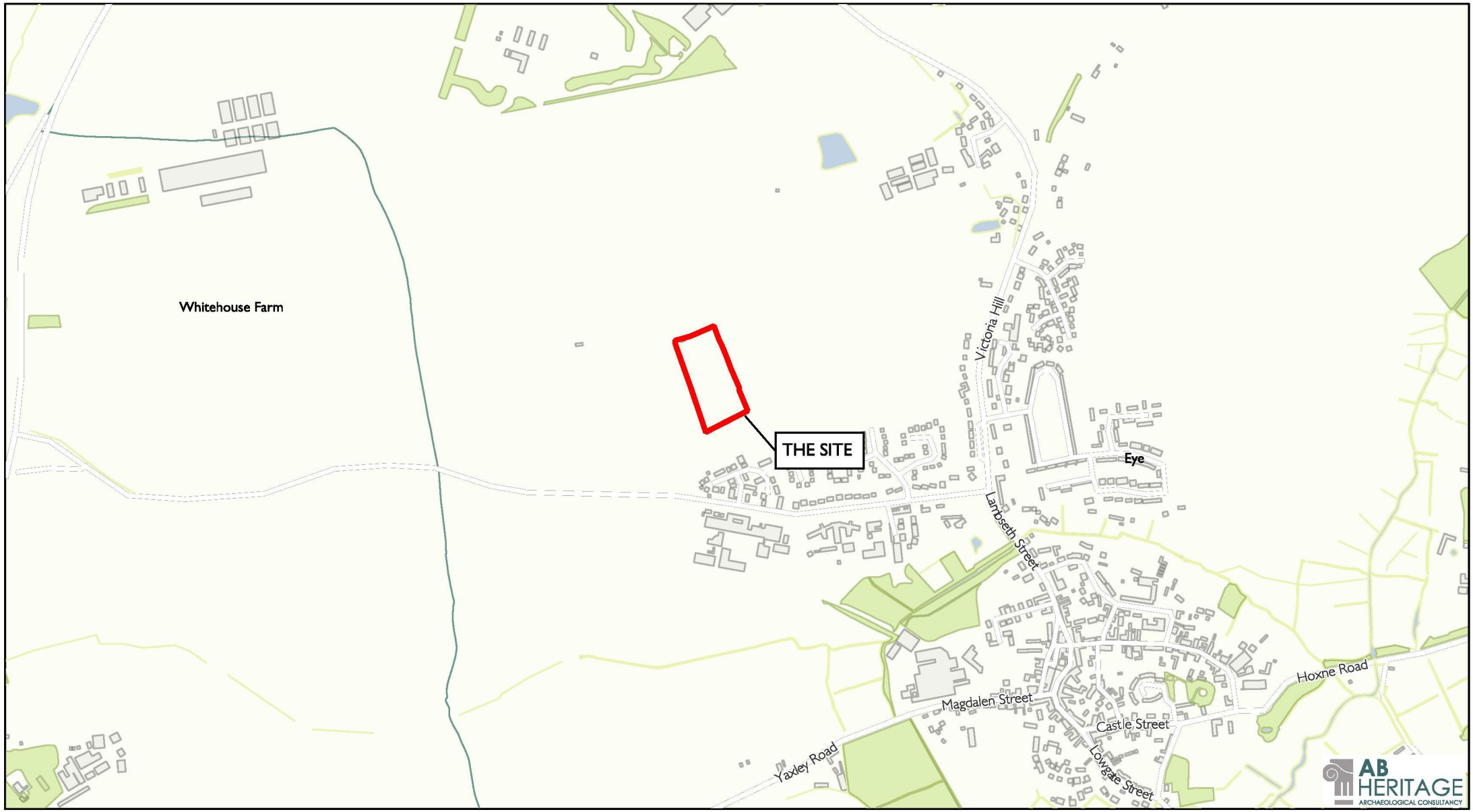
7. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, 2017. 'British Geological Survey GeoIndex'. Available at: www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex.

Duffy J., 2017. Written Scheme for Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation, Land South of Eye Airfield. L-P: Archaeology. Doc Ref: LP2596E-SAE-v1.1

Oxford Archaeology East, 2015. Multi-period Remains at Eye Airfield, Parcels 13-15, Eye, Suffolk.

FIGURE 1 // Site Location



0 500 m

N

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DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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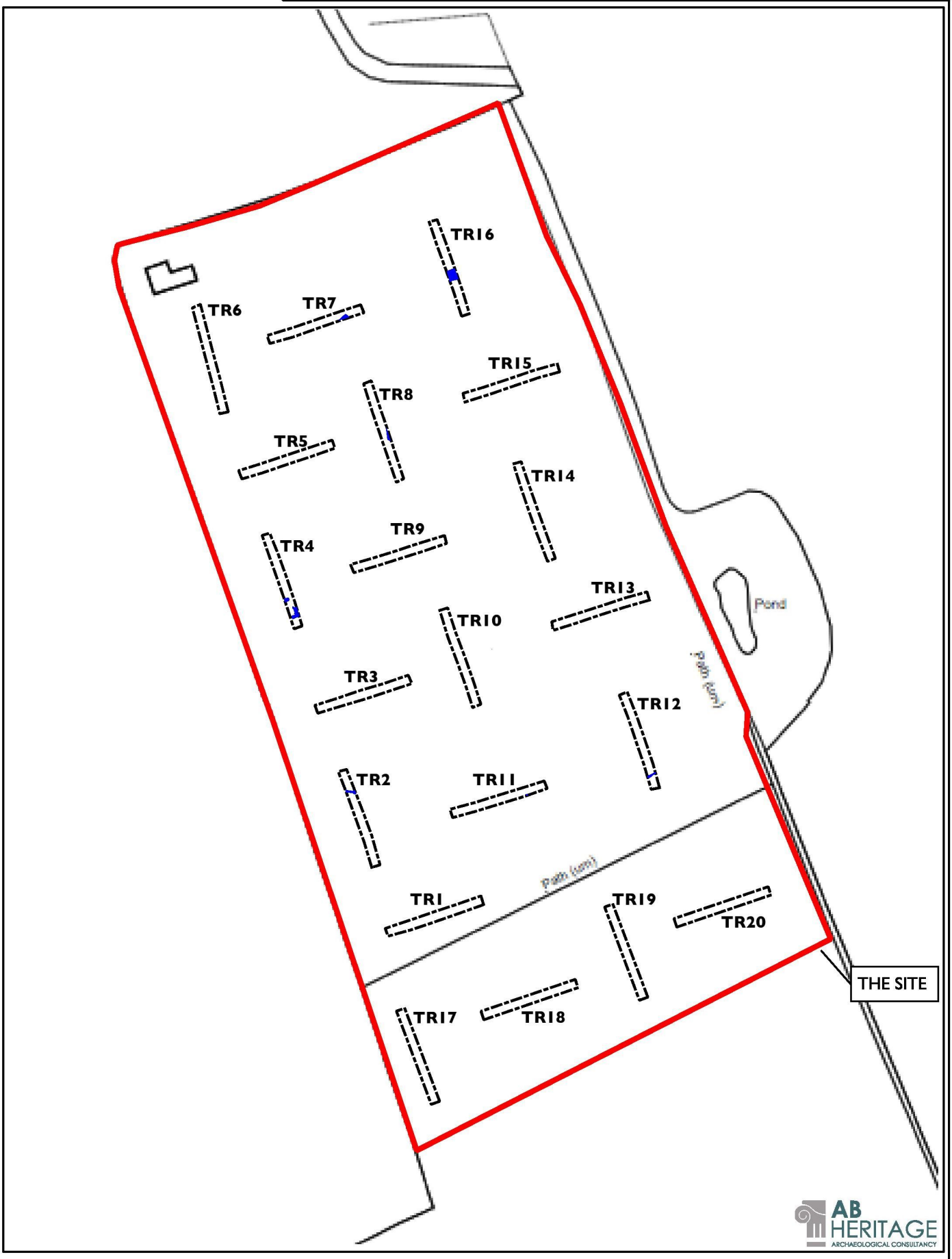
L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Trench Plan



0 50 m

N

PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

DESCRIPTION // Trench Plan

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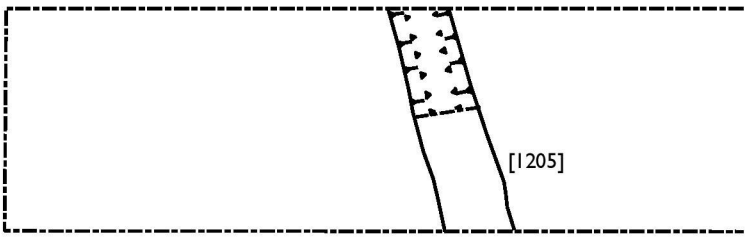
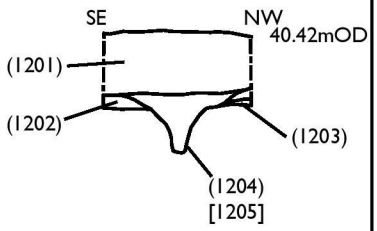
L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

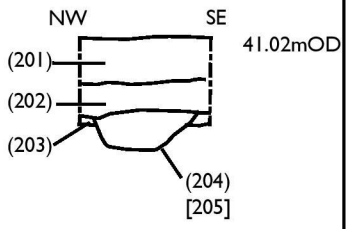
FIGURE 3 // Plans and Sections



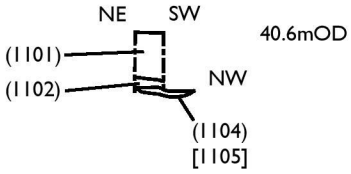
Plan of [1205]
Trench 12

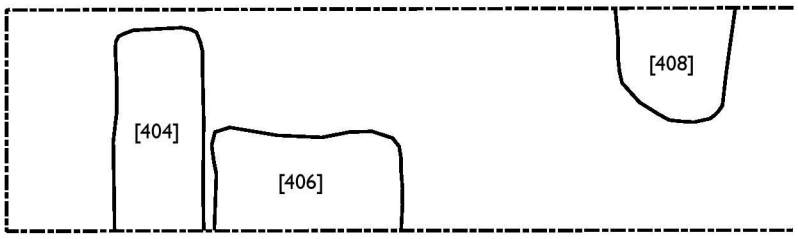


Plan of [205]
Trench 2



Plan of [1105]
Trench 11





Plan of potential graves
Trench 4

0 2 m

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DESCRIPTION // Plans and Sections

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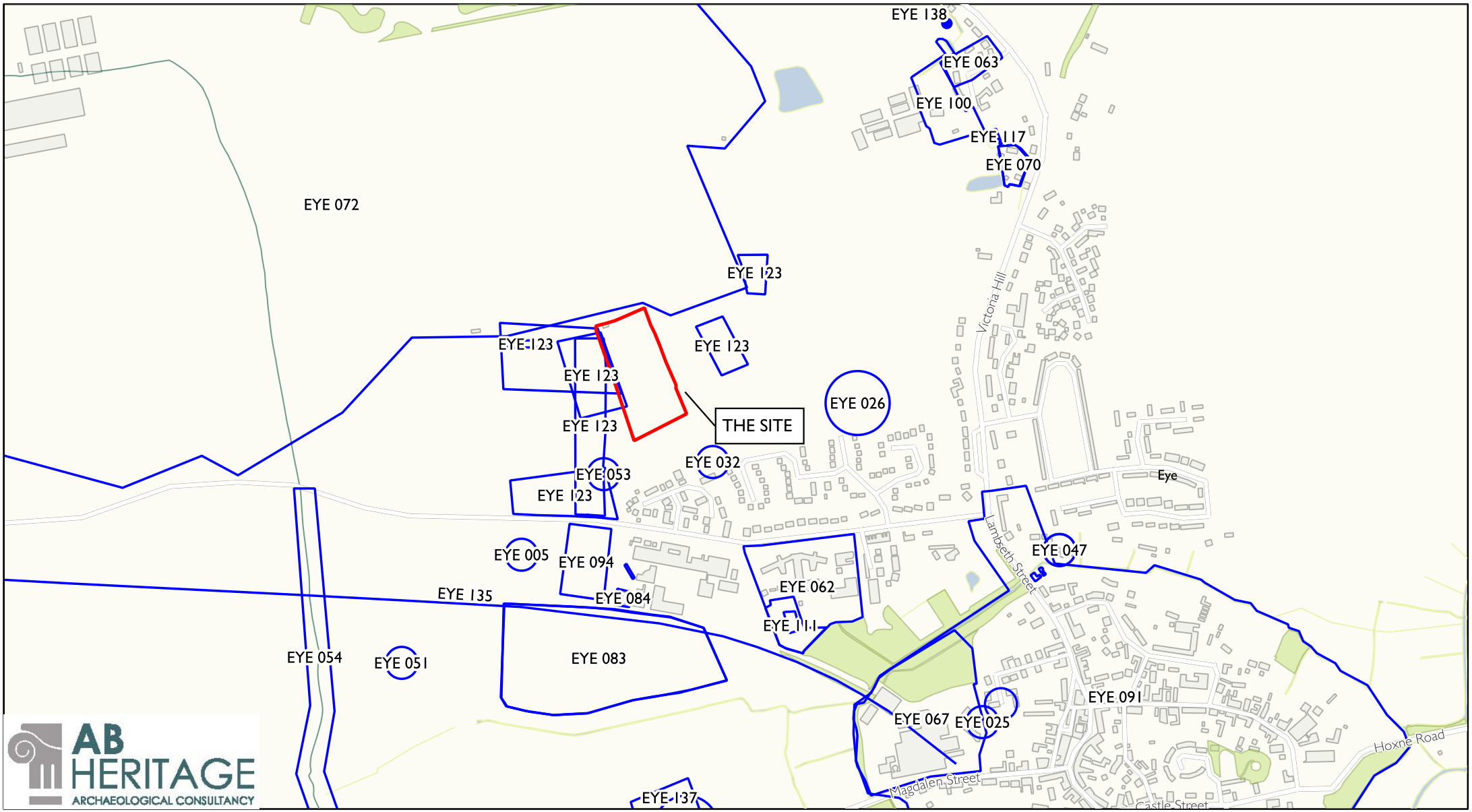
L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 4 // HER Data



0 500 m

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PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

DESCRIPTION // HER Data courtesy of Suffolk Historic Environment Record

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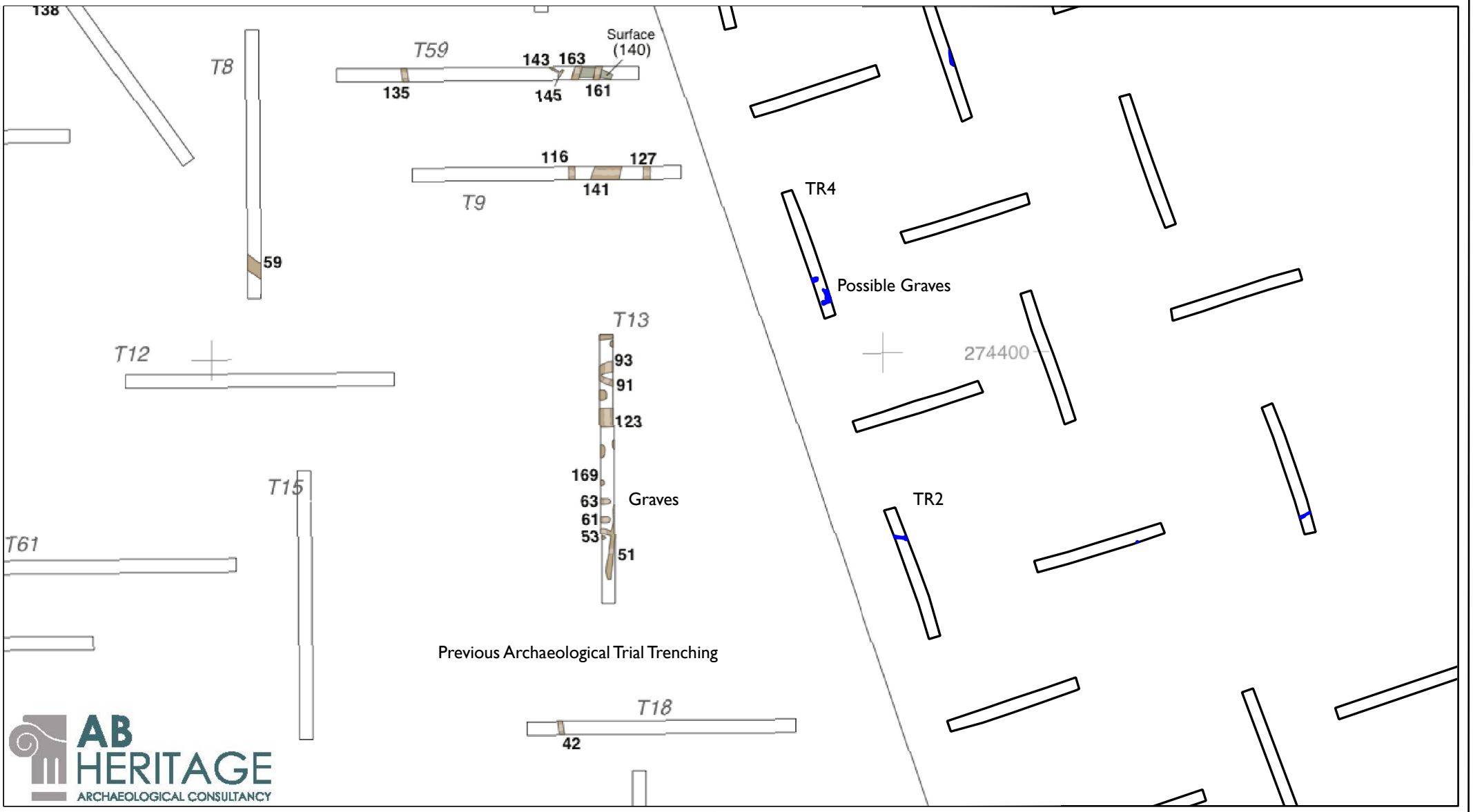
FIGURE 5 // Identified Archaeological Features



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PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

DESCRIPTION // Archaeological features

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

Printable version

OASIS ID: lparchae1-296741

Project details

Project name	Land South of Eye Airfield
Short description of the project	A trial trench evaluation on an agricultural field and allotments.
Project dates	Start: 03-10-2017 End: 10-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	EYE 139 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ESF25877 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	GRAVE Early Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	'''Sample Trenches'''
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK EYE Land South of Eye Airfield
Postcode	IP23 7DE
Study area	1.44 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 13830 74390 52.325366975249 1.138267113234 52 19 31 N 001 08 17 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 39.5m Max: 41.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	John Duffy
Project supervisor	John Duffy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Town Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	Eye Town Council

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Physical Archive ID	EYE 139
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Digital Archive ID	EYE 139
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Archive ID	EYE 139
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Entered by	Zoe Richardson (z.richardson@lp-archaeology.com)
Entered on	18 October 2017

OASIS:

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Land South of Eye Airfield

WSI for Archaeological Evaluation

Client: EYE TOWN COUNCIL

AB Heritage Project No:60122

Accession Number: TBC

Date:26/09/2017

Land South of Eye Airfield

WSI for Archaeological Evaluation and Investigation

Client	**Eye Town Council**
Project Number	**60122**
Prepared By	**John Duffy**
Illustrated By	**LP Archaeology**
Approved By	**Daniel Dodds**

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1.0	DRAFT	JD	DD	22/09/2017
1.1	DRAFT	JD	DD	26/09/2017
1.2	DRAFT	JD	DD	26/09/2017

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Enquiries To:

AB Heritage Limited (Head Office)

Jarrow Business Centre,

Jarrow, South Tyneside, NE32 3DT

Email: info@abheritage.co.uk

Tel: 03333 440 206

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FIGURES

Figure 1 Site Location
Figure 2 Trench Location Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited (hereafter AB Heritage) has been commissioned by Eye Town Council to undertake archaeological evaluation at land south of Eye Airfield, Suffolk (centred on National Grid reference 613830 274390). The work will be carried out by LP: Archaeology, who have been contracted by AB Heritage as specialist field archaeologists.

1.1.2 This WSI is based on a Brief supplied by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS 2017a).

1.1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) document sets out the detailed methods to be employed for the trial trench evaluation. The project will be carried out in line with the Standards and Guidance laid down by the Institute of Archaeologists – in particular those relating directly to Archaeological Evaluation (CIfA, 2014).

2. SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Planning

2.1.1 In March 2012, the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.

2.1.2 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, Mid Suffolk District Council, must consider the Policies HB13 (Protecting ancient monuments) and HB14 (Ensuring archaeological remains are not destroyed) of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998) saved policies (2007). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Mid Suffolk District Council take impartial advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

2.1.3 The site lies to the west of Eye town centre and to the south of Eye Airfield and is currently an agricultural field.

2.2 Site Location, Geology & Topography

2.2.1 The site is located to the north west of the centre of the town of Eye, Suffolk. The site slopes to the south towards the River Dove, a tributary of the River Waveney and facing towards the town (Figure 1).

2.2.2 The site area consists of open land (Figure 2). The site lies at approximately 40mOD.

2.2.3 The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on a bedrock formation of Crag Group (sand) with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (British Geological Survey 2017).

2.3 Archaeological History

2.3.1 The site is located c800m to the west of Eye town centre (Eye091) in an area of known archaeological interest. The town is recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086AD and was the third or fourth most heavily populated town in Suffolk at that time and it had a market (Eye091).

2.3.2 Geophysical survey and trial trenching has been previously undertaken on the land to the west and east of the current site (Oxford Archaeology East 2015). The results indicate that a possible Early Neolithic settlement site was located to the west of the site where postholes were excavated. Further later Prehistoric and Early and Middle Iron Age features, including a probable trackway, were also recorded (Eye123).

2.3.3 A group of three graves and a horse burial were also recorded and dated as Anglo-Saxon (Eye123). These remains maybe the remains a of small burial ground for a family group (Oxford Archaeology 2015) and maybe associated with the settlement site located at Hartismere School to the south (Eye 083). The burial group was identified close to the western boundary of the site and further burials may survive in the current site boundary. Later Medieval field boundaries were also recorded on the site.

2.3.4 Located to the north of the site is Brome/Eye Airfield (Eye 072) which was a World War Two airfield originally part of an American families Cornwall estate. It was opened in 1944 and was closed in 1945.

3. AIMS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

3.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation are:

- To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will include a comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- To collect enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, and presented in an updated WSI if required.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site Work – Archaeological Monitoring

4.1.1 AB Heritage have appointed LP: Archaeology as their elected fieldwork specialists.

4.1.2 A total of 20 trenches measuring 30m x 1.8m will be excavated across the site in order to fulfil the aims of the evaluation as outlined above (Figure 2). The site area is approximately 1.4ha and the trenching forms a 5% sample of the total area.

4.1.3 The trenches will be excavated by a suitably sized 360 mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.1.4 The trench locations are subject to reasonable change by the field officer dependent on conditions on site, to avoid services or obstructions. No changes will be made that affect the aims of the project. Any changes to the trench locations will only be made after agreement with SCCAS.

4.1.5 The trench locations will be accurately surveyed using DGPS prior to excavation and related to the National Grid.

4.1.6 Once the trenches are open a site meeting will be held with SCCAS, AB Heritage and a representative of Eye Town Council, to assess the significance of the deposits and to decide on a strategy for sampling them to provide sufficient data for a useful assessment or subsequent mitigation strategy.

4.1.7 Once a strategy has been agreed examination and cleaning of archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section. The objective will be to define remains rather than totally remove them. Features will be investigated in order to fulfill the aims of the project. As a minimum guideline however, discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance; linear features will be sampled at a minimum of 10% along their length. Where features intersect or terminate, these points will be excavated to ensure the stratigraphic sequence is understood.

4.1.8 A metal detector survey will be undertaken at all stages of the evaluation. This will include prior to the opening of the trenches, and at stages throughout the investigation backfilling including the survey of the spoil heaps before backfilling.

4.1.9 The metal detector equipment shall not discriminate against ferrous responses. All finds will be located by GPS.

4.1.10 The metal detector survey will be carried out by an individual know to and approved SCCAS, in particular known to the Suffolk Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). It is hoped that the project will be able to retain the services of Paul Kemp. In the event that Mr Kemp is unavailable, advice will be sought from the Suffolk PAS officer, Faye Minter prior to the project commencing.

4.1.11 Backfilling of trenches will only be carried out with SCCAS approval.

4.1.12 All works will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The project team will abide by the CIfA's code of

approved practice, the CIfA's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014), the Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the document Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2017b).

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the archaeological advisor to the local authority.

4.2.2 The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store.

4.2.3 Marking of finds will follow the requirements of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same details

4.2.4 All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England (amended 2001) and Wales will be reported to the Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer, who will report to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.

4.2.5 Any human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. In the event that burials are at imminent risk of damage, then they will be excavated. The relevant licence - Authority to Exhume Buried Human Remains for Archaeological Purposes' will be sought from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to cover such circumstances.

4.2.6 Should finds that require immediate conservation be encountered, they will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation "Conservation Guideline No. 2" (UKIC 1983). Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992)" and the current CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c) will also be followed. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds' (Leigh1998). Any necessary conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.

4.3 Environmental Sampling

4.3.1 Environmental sampling during the evaluation will target a representative range of contexts from each identified phase and examine the survival of material and key archaeological contexts. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered, they will be taken and processed in line with English Heritage guidelines (Campbell et al. 2011).

4.3.2 Provision will be made for the requirement of the following samples:

- Bulk samples of 40-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for process using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'flot' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues.

- Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- Bulk samples of 100 litres for coarse sieving on site for specific artefacts such as animal bone.
- Samples of 2 litres for mollusc analysis, with associated continuous column samples.
- Monolith samples which may be sub-sampled for diatom, spore or pollen analysis.
- Monolith samples for soil micromorphology.

4.3.3 All environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analysis by an environmental specialist.

4.3.4 Bulk samples will be processed as soon as possible or discarded with the agreement of the SCCAS. Residues will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

4.3.5 4.3.4. Further guidance will be used as appropriate and will include Waterlogged Organic Artefacts (English Heritage 2012), Investigative Conservation (English Heritage 2008), and Waterlogged Wood (English Heritage 2010).

4.4 Scientific Dating

4.4.1 Where appropriate, samples for scientific dating will be taken. Provision will be made for:

- Dendrochronological analysis from timbers.
- C14 dating from organic material, which may be taken as sub-samples from bulk or monolith samples.
- Archaeomagnetic dating from hearths or other suitable deposits.

4.5 Recording System

4.5.1 The site code will be allocated by SHER prior to fieldwork commencing. This code will be used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.

4.5.2 The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (Spence 1994). Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the evaluation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide (Spence 1994).

4.5.3 A site location plan will be prepared in GIS showing investigation area and development site in relation to the surrounding locality and related to the National Grid.

4.5.4 Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:50 or 1:20.

4.5.5 The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan.

4.5.6 Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.

4.5.7 Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.

4.5.8 An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains, including photographs of sections. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate the general nature of the archaeological works. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.

4.5.9 A Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked per trench.

4.6 Community Involvement

4.6.1 On site staff will be allowed to answer questions from members of the public regarding the archaeology of the area and the purpose of the investigation as part of the pre-planning process.

4.6.2 Detailed inquiries from members of the public regarding the results of the works, or sensitive information, will be directed to the project manager who will answer any appropriate questions but will not discuss any sensitive information as outlined by AB Heritage Ltd and Eye Town Council.

4.6.3 Given the nature and scale of the works information boards, site tours and other community involvement activities are not considered appropriate.

5. REPORT & DISSEMINATION

5.1 General

5.1.1 A formal report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared on completion of the fieldwork. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014b) and the Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and will include:

- A non-technical summary (abstract)
- Introductory statements and site background
- The aims and methods adopted during the evaluation.
- A description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits recorded during the works, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- A catalogue of finds, including any specialist reports.
- A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance.
- An index of the contents and location of the archive.
- Sources consulted.
- A copy of the OASIS record sheet.

5.1.2 A draft report in .pdf format will be provided to the SSCAS archaeologist for review and approval.

5.1.3 Following approval, one hard copy and a PDF copy of the report will be sent to the SHER within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork.

5.1.4 If required, a summary of the work will be prepared for the annual Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History (PSIAH).

5.1.5 A copy of any relevant spatial data, including feature distribution and phase plans where appropriate and registered to the National Grid, will also be sent to SHER in ESRI Shapefile format.

5.1.6 AB Heritage and L - P: Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority. Any information deposited in the Historic Environment Record can be freely copied without reference to the originator for research or planning purposes.

6. ARCHIVE

6.1.1 The site code allocated by SHER will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material during excavation.

6.1.2 The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store (SCCAS 2014) and with Archaeological Archives in Suffolk Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition (SCCAS 2017C). Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto pro-forma recording sheets. Relevant context, sample and photograph registers and environmental sample sheets will also be used.

6.1.3 On completion of finds analysis, the landowner will be asked to sign a Deed of Transfer transferring title of the finds to the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store.

6.1.4 The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will be curated (subject to the Deed of Transfer) by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992), and the “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993) will be followed in all circumstances.

6.1.5 The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment” (English Heritage 2009). It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.

6.1.6 United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (Walker 1990) will be followed. With consent of the landowner, arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store.

6.1.7 Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the SCCAS). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.

6.1.8 The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.

6.1.9 The Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store shall be granted licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, as long as such use is non-profit making and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulation 2003.

7. ACCESS AND SAFETY

7.1.1 Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for the Local Planning Authority and their archaeological advisor who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.

7.1.2 The archaeological advisor should be given notice of at least one working week prior to the commencement date of site works.

7.1.3 Before any site work commences, a full Risk Assessment will be produced. This document will be updated as necessary as site conditions evolve.

7.1.4 All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.

7.1.5 No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. The installation of temporary support work and other attendance will be provided as required.

8. STAFFING AND TIMETABLE

8.1.1 The Project Director will be Daniel Dodds (MCIfA) of AB Heritage, the evaluation manager is John Duffy of L - P: Archaeology. On site quality assurance and discussion on behalf of Eye Town Council will be undertaken by Chloe Smith of AB Heritage.

8.1.2 The phase of works described in this document is expected to begin on 2nd or 3rd October 2017.

8.1.3 Site work is expected to be completed within 1 week.

8.1.4 Specialists will be consulted based on the results of the trial trenching. All specialists will have knowledge of the area and will be acceptable to SCCAS.

8.1.5 The following specialists have been retained for this project:

Pottery, CBM, Small Finds	Lorraine Mepham	Wessex Archaeology
Animal Bone	Lorraine Higbee	Wessex Archaeology
Environmental Specialist	Matt Law	L-P: Archaeology
Human Remains	Tom Swannick	L-P: Archaeology

9. REFERENCES

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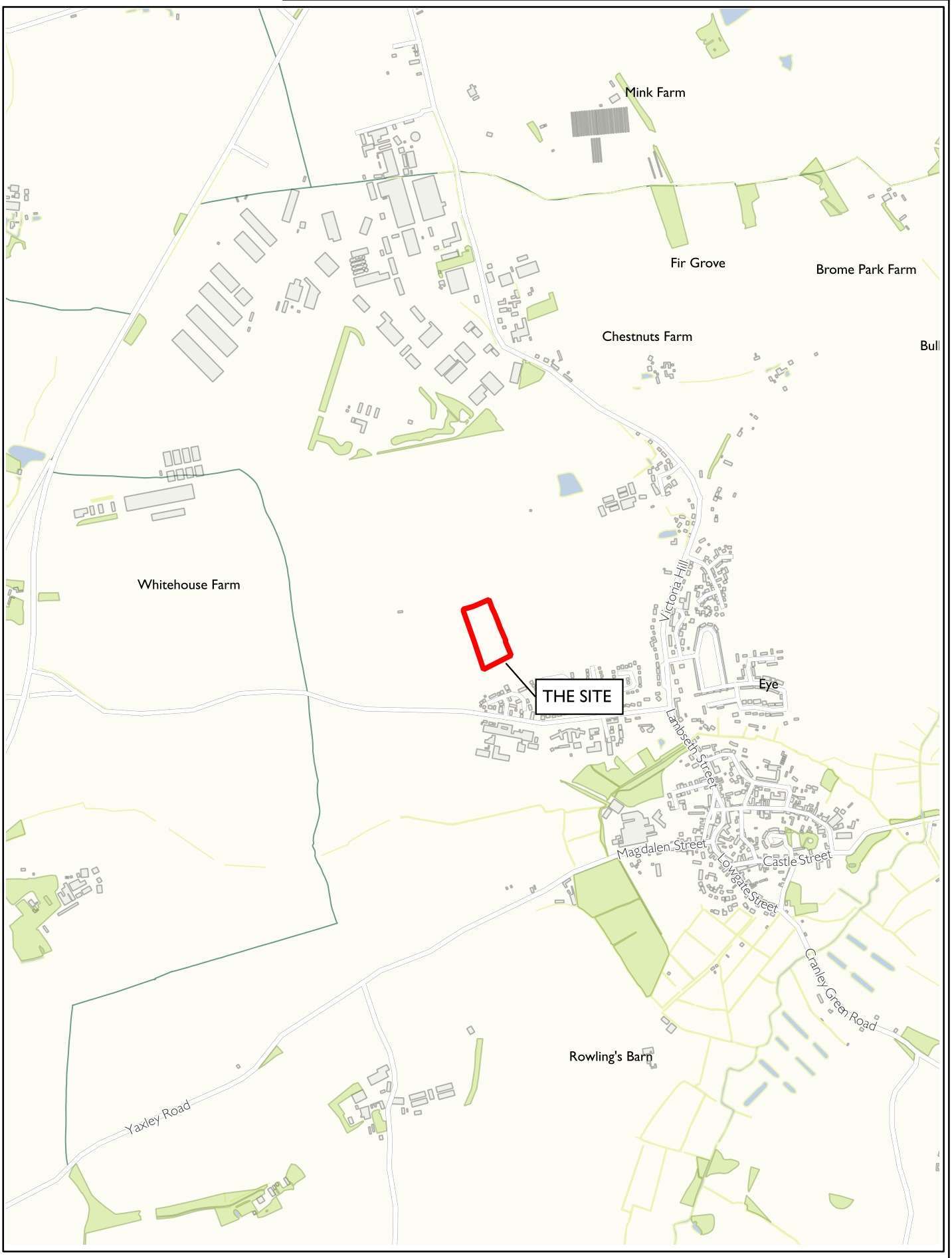
SCCAS, 2017B. Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation.

SCCAS, 2017C. Archaeological Archives in Suffolk Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition

Spence, C. ED., 1994. Archaeological Site Manual. London: Museum of London Archaeological Service.

Walker, K., 1990. Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage. UKIC Archaeology Section.

FIGURE 1 // Site Location



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PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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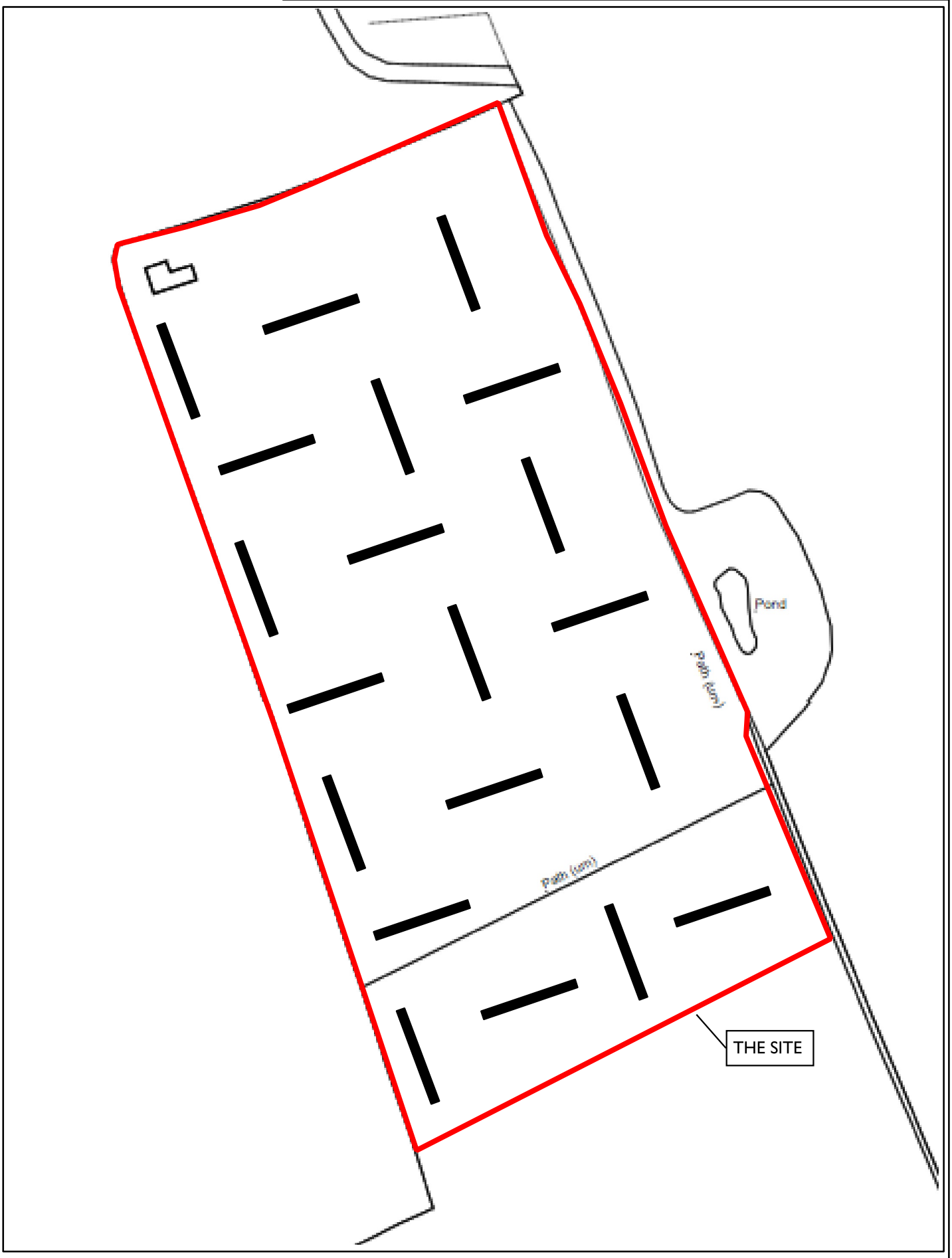
FIGURE 2 // Proposed Trenches



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PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

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AB Heritage Limited (Head Office)
Jarrow Business Centre, Jarrow,
South Tyneside, NE32 3DT
Tel: 03333 440 206
e-mail: info@abheritage.co.uk