

**LAND AT HARPS HALL ROAD,
WALTON HIGHWAY,
NORFOLK**

NGR REF: TF 50743 09770



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

MARCH 2015

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants between 4-6 March 2015 for the construction of two new wind turbines on land at Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the fieldworks, although archaeological features and deposits are known from the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site was located on land at Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk (NGR: TF 50743 09770) (Figure 1-2). The area affected by the development was ca. 30 000m², but the two monitoring trenches covered together only 98m², or ca. 0.032% of this area. The reason for this was that only the two concrete foundations for the new wind turbines were included in this step of archaeological work.
- 1.2 The project was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001), as well as discussions with Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Team. The project was based on a WSI, which complies with the principles of NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework 2012).
- 1.3 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the Code of Conduct issued by the IfA. All relevant IfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (14/01588/F) for a new development at Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk. The development comprised the construction of two new wind turbines with access drive and service trenches for power cables.
- 2.2 The site was located in a rural area some 3 km east of Wisbech in Norfolk. It enclosed an area of some 30 000m² at an average height of about 1m AOD. The site was located on the south side of Harps Hall Road, close to its junction with Cow Lake Drove and Station Road. The site could be accessed from Long Lots Drove.
- 2.3 The site was within an area designated as “Countryside”, as defined on the Local Plan Maps for the area and was classified as Grade 2 agricultural land. There were sporadic housing and farm buildings in the vicinity; essentially the area surrounding the site was rural in character. The geology of the area

comprised Tidal Flat Deposits of Clay and Silt over Ampthill Clay Formations (British Geological Survey).

- 2.4 The site was situated within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by Norfolk HER. Therefore, a program of archaeological monitoring was required prior to any construction within the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, and was in line with standards described in *NPPF* (2012).

3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed wind turbines will be located in an area which has produced an assemblage of Roman pottery and briquetage. Briquetage is a form of coarse ceramic material used during the process of extracting salt from seawater and its presence suggests that this form of industrial activity may have been present in the area during the Roman period, when the landscape was considerable different to today.
- 3.2 In addition a large complex of crop marks have been recorded to the north east of the proposed development site, which may indicate the presence of below ground features related to the artefactual evidence. These are currently undated but include a number of linear features and a possible track way.
- 3.3 Consequently there is potential that significant heritage assets of archaeological interest (buried archaeological deposits) may be present within the area, and that these could be affected by the proposed development.
- 3.4 The planned construction may have an impact upon archaeological deposits present. This does not, however, represent an over-riding constraint on the development provided that adequate provision is made for the investigation and recording of any remains that are affected.
- 3.5 The proposed development site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the Roman period. This did not, however, prejudice the investigation against features and finds relating to other periods.

Land at Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk: Archaeological Monitoring

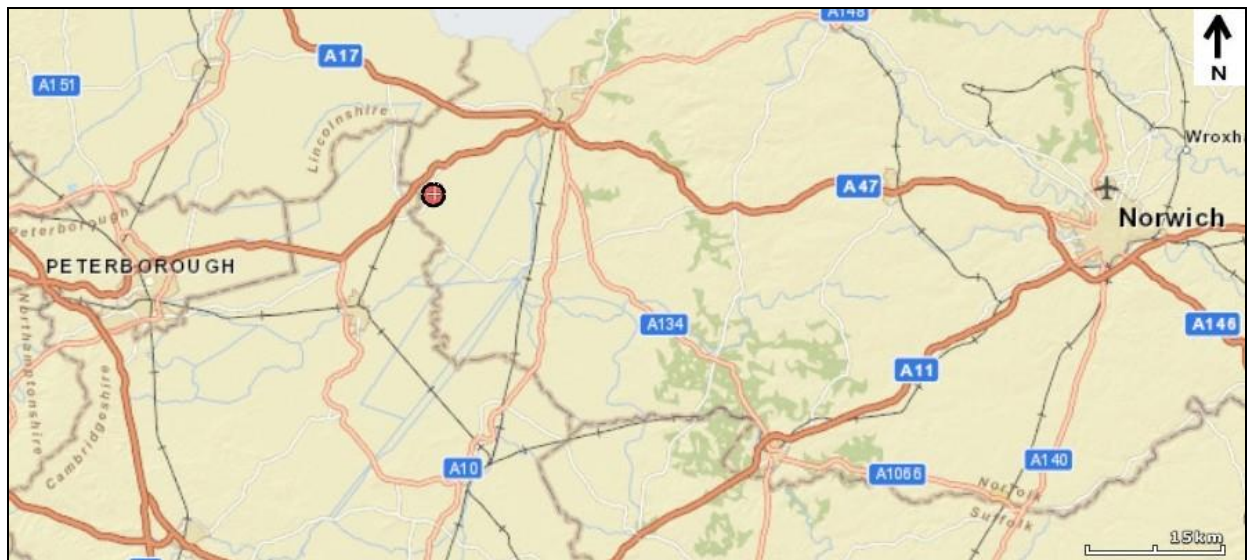


Figure 1 Site Location



Figure 2 Trench Locations

4 AIMS

4.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- i) to gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development area;
- ii) to provide detailed information regarding the date, nature, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets,
- iii) to inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
- iv) to mitigate potential threats,
- v) to inform proposals for further archaeological investigations (namely targeted area excavations) within the ongoing programme of research;
- vi) to define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains;
- vii) to interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

4.2 The project also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: *East Anglian Archaeology. Occasional Papers 14, Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010* (English Heritage 2005) and *Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology. Occasional Paper No. 24* (Ed. Medlycott 2011).

4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:

- *characterisation of the sites in the broader landscape;
- *characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
- *characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trenches, both 7m x 7m large, were opened up within the proposed development area. The two trenches were located at the exact locations of the new concrete foundations for the wind turbines. This was achieved using a

very accurate GPS-receiver (RTK). Both trenches were between 0.8m-0.9m deep and were dug down to natural deposits.

- 5.2 The mechanical excavator was equipped with a toothless grading bucket and the trenches were opened up during constant archaeological supervision. Thereafter all cleaning and excavation of the trenches was conducted by hand. The site archaeologist was granted the opportunity to clean and record all exposed deposits.
- 5.3 All groundwork was carried out in a way that allowed early identification of archaeological features. All deposits were cleaned and recorded sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character and relationship with other features in the surrounding landscape. No features suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.
- 5.4 Through metal detector sweeps of exposed deposits and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process.
- 5.5 Deposits and layers (including buried horizons) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. Thereafter, mechanical removal and visual scanning for artefacts was accepted.

6 RECORDING

- 6.1 Each context was recorded separately by means of a written description. The stratigraphic relationships of each context were also recorded. Independent Archaeology Consultant's *pro forma* record sheets were used throughout. An index was kept of all record types and the trenches were described through written and photographic recording, even where no archaeological deposits were identified.
- 6.2 Each deposit was recorded by means of a measured plan at an appropriate scale. All trenches, plans and sections were accurately referenced to the Ordnance Survey grid and given spot heights related to Ordnance Datum.
- 6.3 Sections were recorded by means of a measured drawing at an appropriate scale. The locations of all sections were recorded on the site plan.
- 6.4 All drawn records were clearly marked with a unique site number, and was individually identified. The scale of the plan was recorded and all drawings were made on dimensionally stable media.
- 6.5 A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos formed part of the site record. Each excavation context was recorded photographically prior to removal. Every photo contains an appropriately sized scale and a north arrow.

7 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 7.1 Underlying all other deposits in Trench 1 was the light grey, firm natural clay with occasional stones, which once formed the bottom of a lake when this part of England was still flooded. Overlying the natural was a 0.30m thick layer of greyish, plastic clay with occasional roots (103). This thick layer of clay contained no traces of human activity what so ever, and has probably built up over the centuries due to continuous flooding in the area.
- 7.2 Overlying (103) was the 0.30m thick subsoil of dark yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional roots (102). The uppermost layer in Trench 1 was the 0.30m thick topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots (101). Neither the topsoil nor the subsoil contained any archaeological features or artefacts.

Trench 2

- 7.3 Underlying all other deposits in Trench 2 was the light grey, firm natural clay with occasional stones, which once formed the bottom of a lake when this part of England was still flooded. Overlying the natural was a 0.20m thick layer of greyish, plastic clay with occasional roots (203). This thick layer of clay contained no traces of human activity what so ever, and has probably built up over the centuries due to continuous flooding in the area.
- 7.4 Overlying (203) was the 0.40m thick subsoil of dark yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional roots (202). The uppermost layer in Trench 2 was the 0.30m thick topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots (201). Neither the topsoil nor the subsoil contained any archaeological features or artefacts.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the archaeological monitoring on the land at Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk.
- 8.2 The surrounding area, however, contains well preserved remains, predominately dating from the Bronze Age and Roman periods. Future investigations can therefore hopefully contribute to a better understanding of the development of the cultural landscape in this part in Norfolk.
- 8.3 As the proposed development site was located in an area of known archaeological interest further investigations in the surroundings would be of great scientific interest. Even if no archaeological remains were found during the monitoring in March 2015 the area is likely to contain rich archaeological deposits.

9 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

Paper Record

The project brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The photographic and drawn records

The project report

The primary site records

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.
The archive will be transferred to:

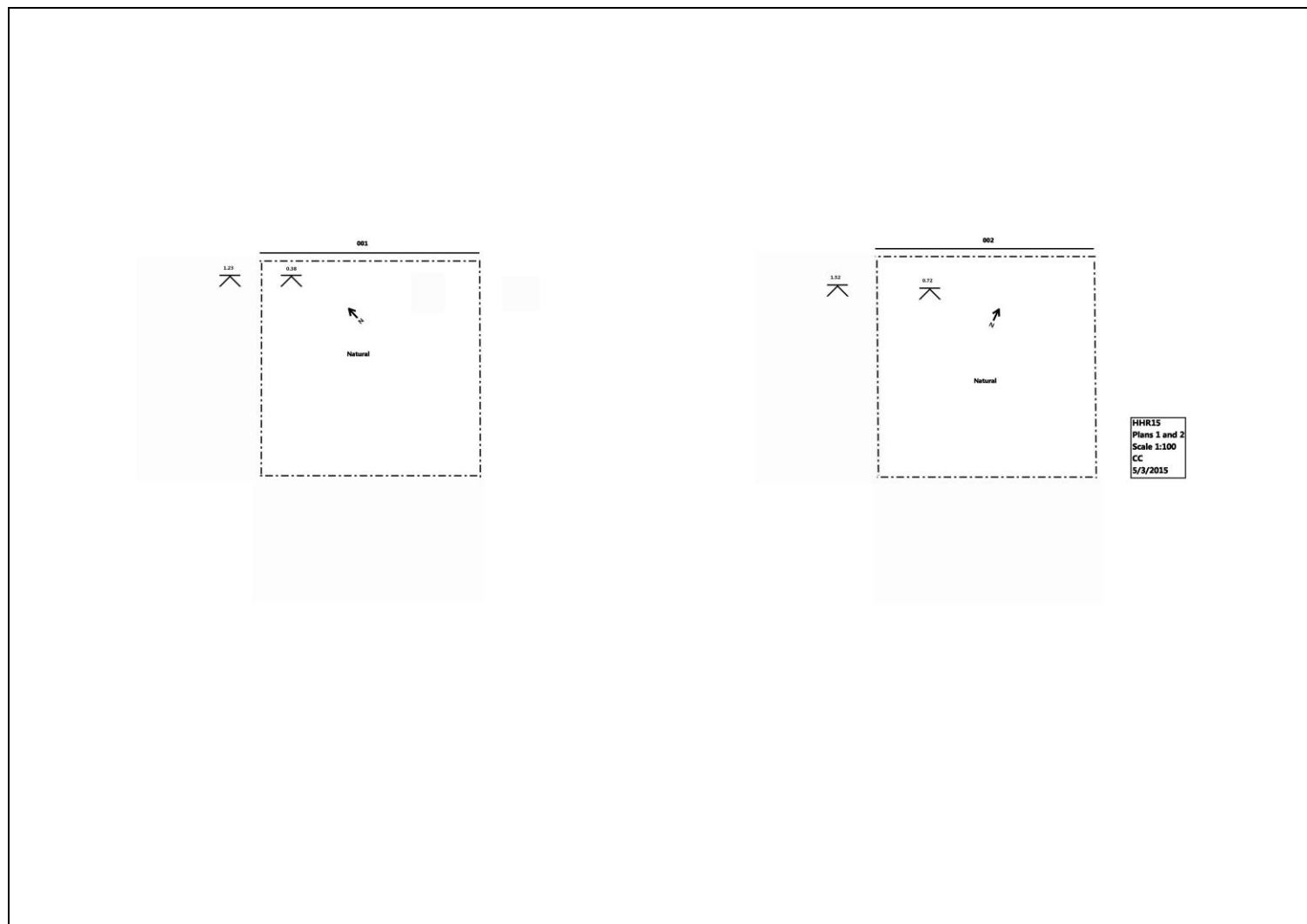
The Archaeological Collections for Norfolk County Council

APPENDICES

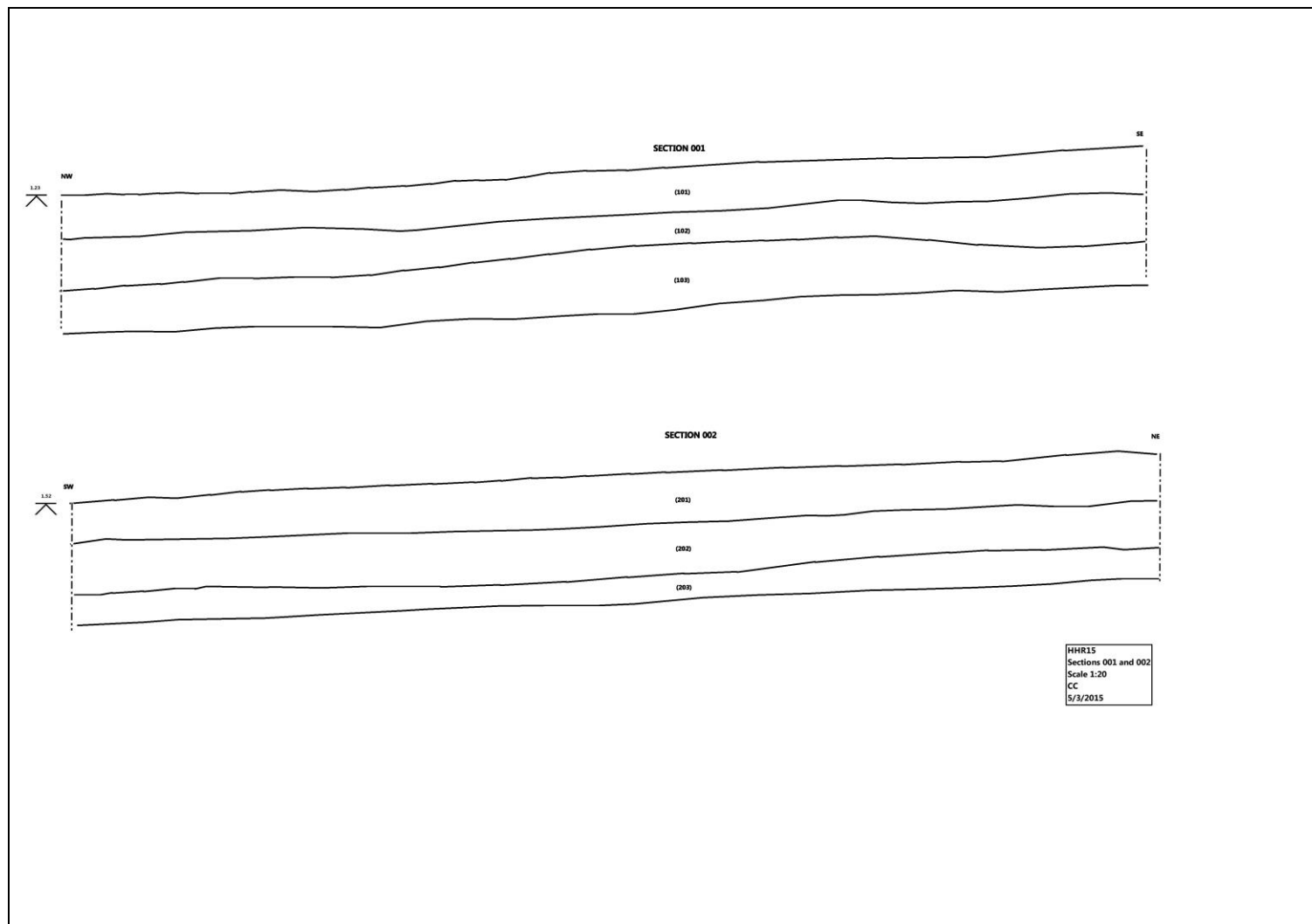
CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
		Trench 1 (7m by 7m)		
(101)	0.30	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots.	(102)	-
(102)	0.30	Subsoil of dark yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional roots.	(103)	(101)
(103)	0.30	Greyish, plastic clay with occasional roots.	Natural	(102)
Natural	-	Light grey, firm clay with occasional stones.	-	(103)
		Trench 2 (7m by 7m)		
(201)	0.30	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots.	(202)	-
(202)	0.40	Subsoil of dark yellow, plastic silty clay with occasional roots.	(203)	(201)
(203)	0.20	Greyish, plastic clay with occasional roots.	Natural	(202)
Natural	-	Light grey, firm clay with occasional stones.	-	(203)

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OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: independ1-205095

Project details

Project name	Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk
Short description of the project	Archaeological Monitoring for the construction of two new wind turbines, with power cables and access roads.
Project dates	Start: 04-03-2015 End: 30-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	14/01588/F - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	HHR15 – Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Woodland 2 - Deciduous introduced

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Monument type	N/A Uncertain
Monument type	N/A Uncertain
Significant Finds	CL Roman
Significant Finds	CL Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Documentary Search","Environmental Sampling","Fieldwalking","Metal Detectors","Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches","Visual Inspection"
Development type	Wind farm developments
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK WEST WALTON Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk

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Postcode	PE14 7DL
Study area	30000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 50743 09770 52.6642786084 0.229309769982 52 39 51 N 000 13 45 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.00m Max: 1.50m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Rishi Chandarana

Land at Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk: Archaeological Monitoring

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk. Archaeological Evaluation

Land at Harps Hall Road, Walton Highway, Norfolk: Archaeological Monitoring

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