

Report



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex, 33kV Cable Replacement

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Quality Assurance

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CEN3050 - Friar's Farm, Tindon End	2016.26	N/A	N/A	Adasuklt1-262035	N/A

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

In September 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for UK Power Networks for groundworks for a new 33kV underground electricity cable development on land at Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks for the new cable trench between Pole 11 (TL 61358, 33889) and Pole 6 (TL 61629, 33317) (Figure 1).

The cable trench was located adjacent to the Medieval moated manor of Friar's Farm, which itself lay in close proximity to other Medieval and Post-medieval manors.

Despite the potential for buried archaeological deposits and artefacts to be present in the vicinity of the Medieval manorial centre, no features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the cable trench within the watching brief area.

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by UK Power Networks, and thanks are due in this regard. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury, and checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

1 Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1.1 In September 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for UK Power Networks of groundworks required for a new 33kV underground electricity cable development on land at Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks for the cable trench works between TL 61358, 33889 and TL 61629, 33317 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of UK Power Networks under the Electricity Act 1989, and therefore were not subject to a planning application. However, a cultural heritage constraints report (ADAS 2016) indicated that the cable route was located within an area of archaeological potential and archaeological monitoring of the groundworks was recommended.
- 1.1.3 Following consultation with the Local Authority the scope of archaeological work was agreed and a brief for archaeological monitoring and recording was supplied by Mr Richard Havis MCifA, FSA, the Historic Environment Advisor for Essex County Council. ADAS subsequently prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to carry out the required archaeological works in accordance with Mr Havis' brief (ADAS 2016).
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CifA 2014), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).
- 1.1.5 In carrying out this work UK Power Networks complied with their obligations to the historic environment, as outlined in Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.1.6 The proposed works comprised the excavation of a new 800m long trench for underground 33kV electricity cables at Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex.
- 1.1.7 The underlying geology of this site was recorded as chalk of the Lewes, Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of Lowerstoft Formations (BGS 2016). A borehole survey carried out in the vicinity of the site recorded 0.3m of topsoil overlaying 0.5m of firm yellow brown sandy clay. This layer overlay a stiff yellow brown boulder clay layer 2.2m thick (TL63SW56 – Friars Barn Tindon End Wimbish).

2 Objectives

Aims and Scope

2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:

- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
- *To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;*
- *To record and analyse any archaeological remains that were revealed during the course of the works;*
- *The specific aim of the fieldwork was to establish whether any archaeological remains that may be associated with the Medieval manor of Friar's Farm were impacted by the development;*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of the East Anglian Archaeology: Regional Research Frameworks (Brown 2000; Medlycott 2011);*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

4.1.1 The groundworks comprised excavation of a new cable trench for underground 33kV electricity cables on land at Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex. The development works were carried out between TL 61358, 33889 and TL 61629, 33317 (Figure 1).

- 4.1.2 A cultural heritage constraints report (ADAS 2016) was produced which assessed the historic environment potential of the land along the Route and a 1km Study Area around the development. The results of this assessment are summarised below.
- 4.1.3 There were five designated heritage assets recorded by Historic England within 1km of the proposed development. These heritage assets comprised of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Terriers Farm (HER No. 1474), the Grade II* listed building of Goddard's Farmhouse (Her No. 37640) and twelve Grade II Listed buildings. The closest of these to the development is Friar's Farmhouse (HER No. 36212) which lies 120m to the west of the development. The remaining designated heritage assets are located more than 500m from the development (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.4 The Essex HER records thirty-nine non-designated heritage assets within the 1km of the development. There are no recorded heritage assets along the proposed cable route and no visible remains of archaeological significance were identified along the cable route during the field inspection, apart from a pond which may represent part of the Medieval moat or a Medieval fishpond. The present Grade II Listed Farmhouse at Friar's Farm is recorded as being located on the site of an original 13th century manor house (HER No. 45144). The remains of a moat are located in the garden to the southwest and field boundaries which have been interpreted as Medieval in date lie to the east. The field to the southwest of the farmhouse also thought to be the location of the Chapel of St John in court of Knight's Hospitalliers (HER No. 1536) (Essex HER 2016).
- 4.1.5 In the wider landscape the earliest evidence for human settlement activity is a Neolithic polished axehead (HER No. 1555), which was found at Market Farm to the north of the development. At least three areas of cropmarks within 1km of the development have been tentatively interpreted as Prehistoric enclosures (HER No. 13402, 17140, 46600), which suggests that the surrounding landscape may have seen more sustained settlement only in the later Prehistoric period (ADAS 2016)
- 4.1.6 Three sections of possible Roman Road (HER No. 1452, 7337, 7338) have been identified within 1km of the development, and artefacts recovered in the vicinity of these roadways (HER 16210) indicate that the landscape has further potential for Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement remains which may be masked by the later Medieval settlement landscape (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.7 The area within 1km of the development contains several other farmsteads, many of them moated, which were focal points for settlement during the Medieval Period. The number of Medieval moated sites recorded in the Study Area suggest that the landscape surrounding the

cable route development was densely populated and was intensively farmed during the later Medieval period.

- 4.1.8 The Essex HER records five previous archaeological events within 1km of the development. The closest of which comprised an archaeological evaluation at Friars Farm (Miciak 2011) which revealed the presence of a modern brick wall and a ditch filled medieval or post medieval tiles. Further work has been carried out in the form of a metal detecting survey (HER No. 7335) carried out at the Scheduled Monument at Terrier's Farm. The remaining three records relate to field visits to Tindon Manor, Terrier's Farm and Tilehurst Farm (Essex HER 2016)
- 4.1.9 Historic mapping analysis suggests that there has been a high degree of continuity in land use and field boundary arrangement in the immediate vicinity of the cable route since the late 19th century. Notable changes included the removal of two 19th century farm trackways. These trackways may represent former Medieval route ways into the manor (ADAS 2016).

5 Methodology

Introduction

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (ADAS 2016). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to excavate the new cable trench within the watching brief area.
- 5.1.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2014*.

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

- 5.1.3 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. No archaeologically significant deposits were disturbed by the groundworks, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

Post-Excavation Analysis

- 5.1.4 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no post-excavation analysis was required.

Archives and Deposition

- 5.1.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum. A paper archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum within six months of

the completion of the fieldwork under the accession number 2016.26. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID reference adasuklt1-262035 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion.

ADAS Project Team

5.1.6 Fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury. The report was written by James McNicoll-Norbury. The illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by James McNicoll-Norbury. The project was managed for ADAS by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

6 Results

6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

6.1.2 The watching brief area followed the proposed route for the new underground 33kV Line (Figure 2; Plates 1 - 6). The ground works consisted of the digging of a cable trench from Pole 11 to Pole 6. The groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed 0.75m bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The works were completed over five days (Tuesday 27th to Thursday 29th September and Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th October). The weather generally consisted of sunshine and clouds (Plates 1 - 8).

6.1.3 An easement trench was dug in advance of Trench 1 in the fields to the south of Friar's Farm (Figure 2). The trench measured 192m in length, 4.00m wide and was dug through the topsoil (101) up to 0.20m deep. The trench was dug using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed 1.2m bucket under constant archaeological supervision (Plate 2).

6.1.4 A modern linear previous ground disturbance was identified close to the cable route in the field to the north of Friar's farm (Plate 8). The disturbance was not cut by the cable trench.

Trench 1

6.1.5 Trench 1 (the cable trench) measured 800m in length by 0.75m in width and was 1.5m deep. The topsoil (101) was approximately 0.2m deep and consisted of dark brown sandy clay. To the south of the farm this overlay mid-grey brown chalky clay (102) up to 1.3m thick which was interpreted as the undisturbed natural substrate. In the area closest to the farm the topsoil was found to overlay a possible subsoil horizon (103), approximately 0.3m thick, which consisted of a darker greyish brown sandy clay with root disturbance. The possible subsoil horizon (103) in turn overlay

a layer of mid-grey brown sandy clay with chalk inclusions 1.0m thick (104), which was interpreted as the undisturbed natural substrate.

6.1.6 The cable trench cut through a pre-existing ditch (105) which measured 3.00m wide and up to 1.6m in depth (Plate 4). The base deposit of the open ditch comprised of grey brown sandy clay (106) and contained modern drainage pipes. The ditch corresponds with boundaries depicted on the 19th century mapping of the area (Old Maps 2016).

6.1.7 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the new cable trench within the watching brief area.

7.1.2 The area of modern ground disturbance in the northernmost field is likely to represent an underground service trench which was recently installed as the disturbance is not shown on historic maps of the site (Old Maps 2016).

7.1.3 Previous archaeological evaluation trenching carried out in the area (Miciak 2011) demonstrated the presence of probable Medieval or Post-medieval ditch close to Friar's Farm and the area is well documented as being heavily settled during the Medieval and Post-medieval periods (ADAS 2016). The archaeological monitoring indicated that the garden and fields to the north and east of the farmhouse may have been landscaped or levelled. The monitoring suggests with a high degree of certainty that the cable trench did not impact on any archaeological remains associated with the adjacent Medieval manor.

8 References

ADAS 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Monitoring and Recording; Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex*. Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation.

Brown, N Glazebrook, J (eds), 2000 '*Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy*', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8*

CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief*.

English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2*.

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Online Resources

(BGS 2016) British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> [accessed October 2016].

(NLS 2016) National Library of Scotland Ordnance Survey Maps-Six-inch England and Wales 1842-1952. Available at: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/> [accessed October 2016].

(Historic England Listing 2016) Historic England National Heritage List 2016. Available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005678> [accessed October 2016].

(Old Maps 2016) Oldmaps.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/564500/30350.html> [accessed October 2016].

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Topsoil	800	0.75	0.2	n/a
102	Layer	Grey brown chalky clay (Natural substrate)	800	0.75	1.3	n/a
103	Layer	Dark grey brown sandy clay with root disturbance (Subsoil)	450	0.75	0.3	n/a
104	Layer	Grey brown sandy clay with chalk inclusions (Natural Substrate)	450	0.75	1.00	n/a
105	Cut	Boundary Ditch		3.00	1.60	n/a
106	Deposit	Grey brown sandy clay		3.00	1.60	n/a

Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: adasuklt1-262035

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex
Short description of the project	In September 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for UKPN for ground works for the replacement of part of an existing 33kV overhead line at Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks for the new cable trench. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the cable trench within the watching brief area.
Project dates	Start: 27-09-2016 End: 06-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2016.26 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	FFTE16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	Adasuklt1-262035 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	MANOR Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None

Investigation type Watching Brief

Prompt Electricity Act 1989 Section 36

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX UTTLESFORD THAXTED Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 616290 333170 51.974316576185 0.353414943815 51 58 27 N 000 21 12 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 98.75m Max: 107.28m

Project creators

Name of Organisation ADAS UK Ltd

Project brief originator ADAS UK Ltd

Project design originator ADAS UK Ltd

Project director/manager Diarmuid O Seaneachain

Project supervisor James McNicoll-Norbury

Project archives

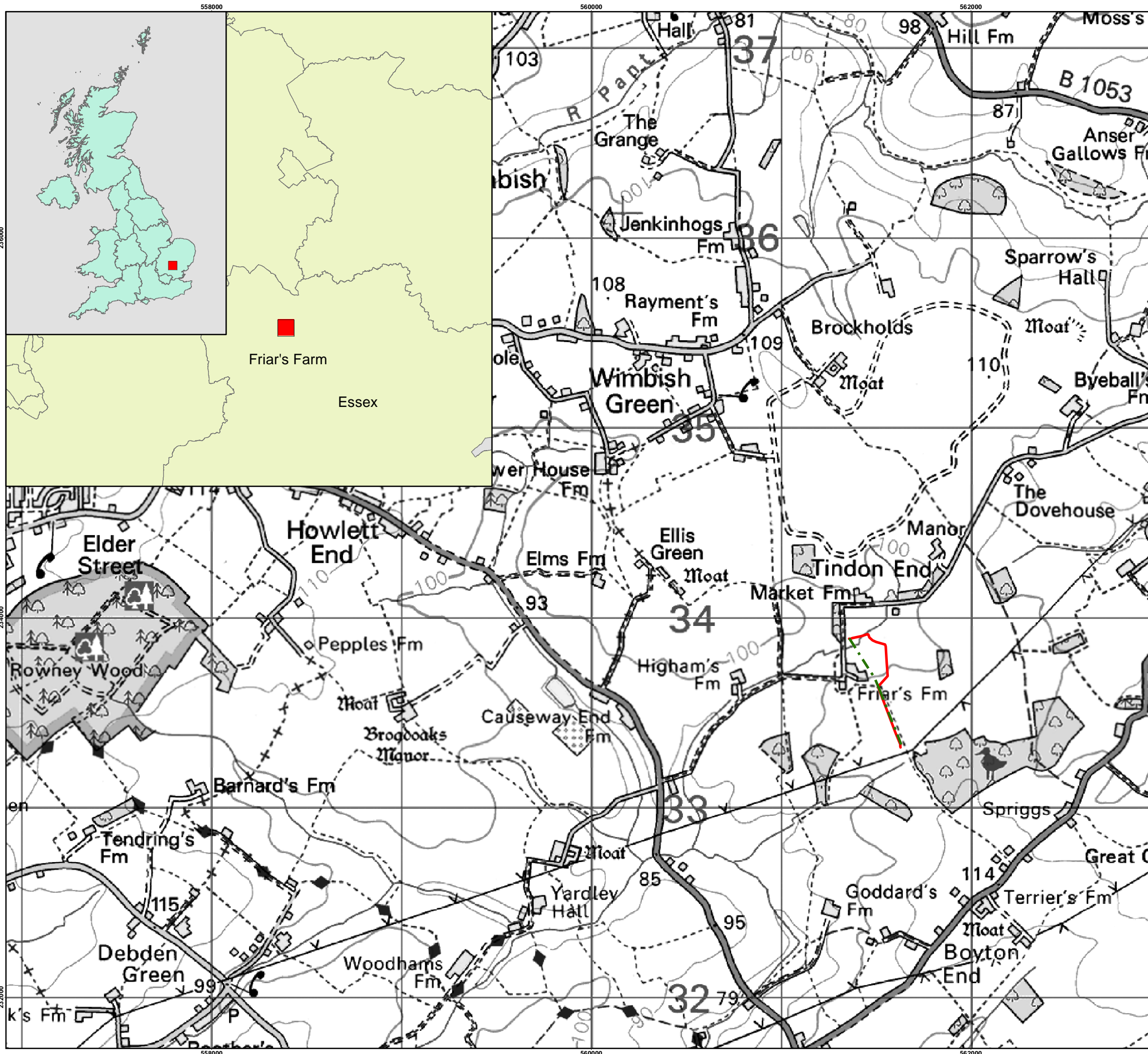
Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Digital Archive ID	2016.26
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	2016.26
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Photograph", "Report", "Survey "

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief, Friar's Farm, Tindon End, Thaxted, Essex, 33kV Cable Replacement Trench
Author(s)/Editor(s)	James McNicoll-Norbury
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	ADAS
Place of issue or publication	Essex HER



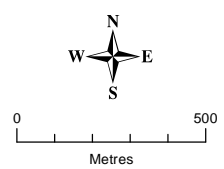
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Friar's Farm, Tindon End,
Thaxted, Essex,
33kV Cable Replacement

Figure 1: Site Location

- - - Existing 33kV Overhead Line
- 33kV Cable Route

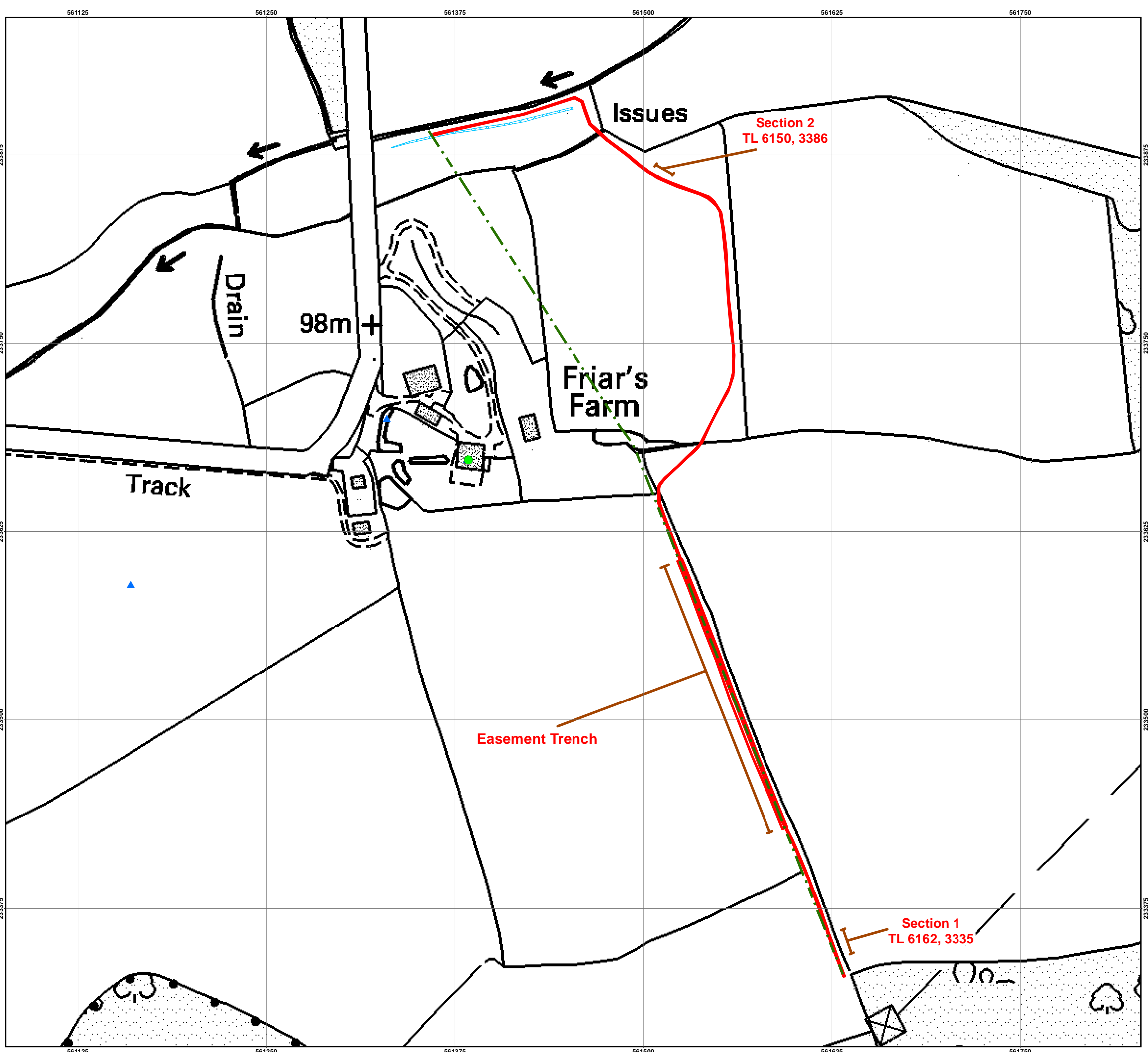
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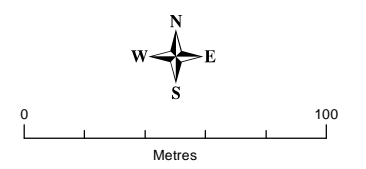
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Friar's Farm, Tindon End,
Thaxted, Essex,
33kV Cable Replacement

Figure 2: Location of Groundworks

- - - Existing 33kV Overhead Line
- Cable trench
- Grade II Listed Building
- ▲ HER Heritage Asset Point
- Modern Disturbance

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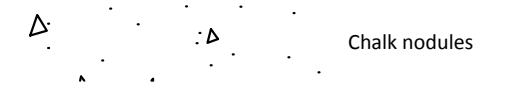


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Friar's Farm, Tindon End,
Thaxted, Essex,
33kV Cable Replacement

Figure 3: Representative Sections

Legend



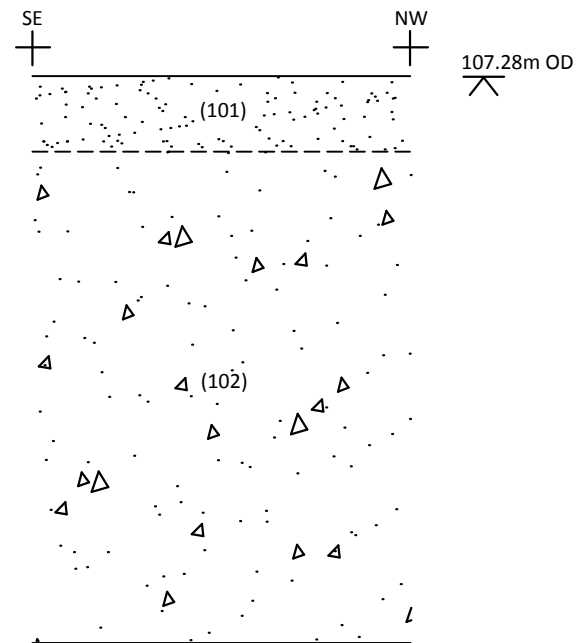
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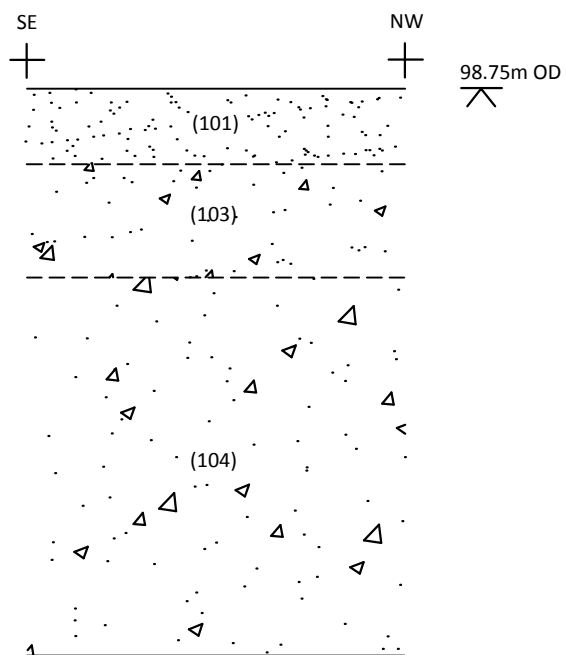
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Section 1: North-east facing section of Trench 1



Plate 3: View of the north-east facing section of the Trench 1 looking south-west



Section 2: North-east facing section of Trench 1



Plate 6: View of north-east facing section of Trench 1, looking south-west

Plates





Plate 2: General shot of the easement trench to the south of Friar's Farm, looking north-west.



Plate 3: View of the north-east facing section of Trench 1, looking south-west.



Plate 4: View of the Trench 1 where it crosses ditch (105) south of Friar's Farm, looking south-west.



Plate 5: View of the Trench 1 being excavated to the north-east of Friar's Farm, looking west.



Plate 6: View of north-east facing section of Trench 1, looking south-west.



Plate 7: General shot looking north-west of the area north of Friar's Farm.



Plate 8: General shot of previous modern ground disturbance north of Friar's Farm, looking west.