

# Biogas Plant, Adjacent to Building 568, Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham, Suffolk; An Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report

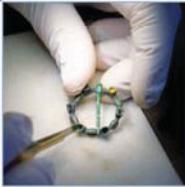
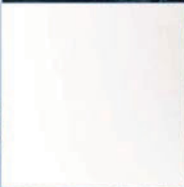
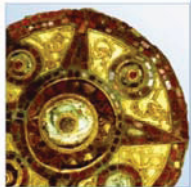
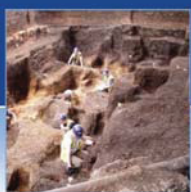
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# **Biogas Plant, Adjacent to Building 568, Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham, Suffolk: An Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment Report**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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## Non-Technical Summary

*Between the 28<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009 a programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham, Suffolk, National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 3570 5320 on behalf of Agri-Gen Limited. The work was carried out ahead of a proposed development for the construction of a Biogas Plant, adjacent to building 568 at Bentwaters Park.*

*The earliest phase of activity identified on site occurred during the Early Neolithic, consisting of three refuse pits located in the southwest area of site. A small to moderate sized finds assemblage was recovered from the small pits, comprising of Early Neolithic pottery, worked flint and fired clay. No further activity was detected on site until the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century, represented by a refuse pit and an isolated posthole. Numerous other features were identified during the course of the archaeological investigations, but due to a lack of dating evidence, they could not be assigned to any one period of activity. The undated features included a possible boundary ditch and fence line.*

*Overall, a low density of archaeological features was identified during the course of the evaluation and excavation deriving from the Early Neolithic and post-medieval/modern periods. As a whole, the site is thought to be of regional significance, this is due to the presence of Early Neolithic activity which may be able to inform on how the regional landscape was being utilised at this time.*

*This report presents an assessment of the archaeological investigations undertaken at the Bentwaters Park site, summarising the stratigraphical sequence of archaeological remains, and describes the work undertaken on the archive. The principle objective of this report is to refine the research objectives of the project in light of the findings, assess the potential of the archive to address these research objectives, and create an updated project design.*

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The Site

- 1.1.1 The Biogas Plant development is located in the eastern area of Bentwaters Industrial Park, immediately to the east of Rendlesham village, Suffolk. The proposed development is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 3570 5320 (Figures 1 & 2). The site is diamond shape in plan and is bounded on all sides by various facilities associated with the Industrial park. The area affected by the development covers a total area of approximately 2.4ha.

### 1.2 The Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 This document aims to summarise the results of the archaeological excavation, conducted by AOC Archaeology Group, at Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham, Suffolk, on behalf of Agri-Gen Ltd.
- 1.2.2 The site work was allocated the site code WNN 023. The research aims outlined prior to fieldwork are discussed with reference to the results and the further work to enable full interpretation and dissemination. Quantification of the resources needed to fulfill this work has been undertaken in the light of the revised research objectives.

### 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The local planning authority is Suffolk County Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by the Suffolk Archaeological Officer.
- 1.3.2 The development consists of the construction of a Biogas Plant, which will involve ground reduction of the localised deposits.
- 1.3.3 A planning application for the above development was made by Agri-Gen Ltd. in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990 (DoE, 1990) and the recommendations of the Suffolk Archaeological Officer, a condition on planning consent requires an archaeological investigation be carried out, in order to record any archaeological deposits and features exposed (Application No's.: C/08/2152/).
- 1.3.4 The archaeological condition attached to the planning consent specified:

*"No development shall take place within the area of the application site, until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval in writing".*

Reason: to ensure the proper recording of archaeological artefacts.

- 1.3.5 The programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation at Bentwaters Park was undertaken between 28<sup>th</sup> October and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009.
- 1.3.6 This assessment report conforms to the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
  - Institute of Field Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IFA 1994).

- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations (IFA 1994).
- Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).

## **2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.0.1 The archaeological and historical background is based upon the results of the Desk Based Assessment undertaken as part of the Environment Statement produced for the site by Agri – Gen Ltd in 2008 (Landscape Partnerships 2008) and the results of the archaeological evaluation (AOC 2009a).

### **2.1 Prehistoric (500,000BC – c. AD43)**

2.1.1 A single sherd of flint gritted pottery was found 600m to the west of the site.

### **2.2 Romano-British (c. AD43 – 410)**

2.2.1 No Romano-British sites or finds have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

### **2.3 Anglo-Saxon (410 - 1066)**

2.3.1 No Saxon sites have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

2.3.2 The place-name Wantisden is derived from the Old English for ‘the valley (denu) belonging to Want’.

2.3.3 The neighbouring parish of Rendlesham derives from the Old English meaning ‘the settlement (hām) belonging to ‘Rendle’ and was referred to as Mansio Rendili by Bede writing around 730 AD.

### **2.4 Medieval (1066 – 1485)**

2.4.1 The Domesday Survey of c. 1086 describes Wantisden as being largely held by the Abbot of Ely with smaller parcels of land held by Edwin, Aslack, Echild, Alwin, Alflæd, Ælfric, Bearhtric, Eadhild and Northman. A church is also recorded. Additionally, Rendlesham is noted as being held by Gilbert de Coleville, Eadric of Laxfield and Godgifu.

2.4.2 The 12<sup>th</sup> century Church of St John the Baptist which lies 400m east of the site comprises the only extant remains dating to the medieval period. The structure is Grade I Listed. The church was held by the nearby Butley Priory throughout the medieval period.

2.4.3 A discrete scatter of 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery along with a finger ring was found to the north-east of the church.

2.4.4 The site of a former moated area lies 650m to the south-west of the site. Formerly known as ‘Old Barn Yard’, it is uncertain if this was a manorial centre or farm yard. Buildings are shown at this location on an estate map of 1601.

### **2.5 Post-Medieval (1485 – 1900) To Modern (AD 1900 – Present)**

2.5.1 No post-medieval sites are recorded within 1km of the site in the Suffolk HER. Former Bentwaters cottages can be seen from cartographic evidence to be of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

- 2.5.2 The modern site was formerly occupied by RAF/USAF Bentwater which was opened in 1944 and closed during the 1990s. Elements of the earlier airfield, including bunkers and pill-boxes are recorded on the Defence of Britain database.

## **2.6 Previous Archaeological Investigation**

- 2.6.1 An 18 trench archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group in October 2009 which identified archaeological remains within five trenches (Figures 2 and 3). A single large shallow pit was found in the south of the site (Trench 9). It contained both pottery sherds and struck flints that have been provisionally dated to the late Bronze Age. Nine undated linear postholes were found in the centre of the site (Trench 16), suggesting the existence of a timber structure or boundary fence. Post medieval features in the form of a boundary ditch (Trench 8) and domestic waste pit (Trench 18), which were located in the north and east of the site.

## **3 Geology and Topography**

- 3.1 The Brief and Specification for Excavation (SCCAS 2009) indicates that the site is situated upon chalky till and glaciofluvial drift (deep loam).
- 3.2 The site is located approximately 2km west of the wooded area of Tunstall Park, on level ground. The site is at c. 24.80m Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 3.3 Although no geotechnical survey has been undertaken for the site, the British Geological Survey Map (Sheet 191) indicates the site is underlain by Coralline Crag beds.

## **4 Methodology**

- 4.1 The excavation methodology adhered to the Brief for excavation prepared by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS 2009). The programme of archaeological investigation at the Bentwaters Park site involved the excavation of two areas. Area 1 measured 24m by 24m, and was located to investigate the features identified in evaluation Trenches 9 and 10 (Figures 2 and 3). Area 2 measured 20m by 20m, and was located to investigate the features identified in evaluation Trench 16 (Figures 2 and 3). The excavation was conducted according to the written scheme of investigation (AOC 2009b).
- 4.2 A sampling strategy was defined in the written scheme of investigation, defining the minimum extent of excavation required for different categories of feature, such as structures, ditches, and postholes. In addition, the written scheme of investigation defined the environmental sampling strategy.
- 4.3 In this report cuts are shown in square brackets '[000]' and fills and layers are shown in rounded brackets '(000)'.
- 4.4 The number ascribed to each trench during the excavation was guided by previous archaeological investigations undertaken. The number sequences utilised run consecutively for those numbers allocated to Trench 9 and Trench 16.
- 4.5 The excavation was supervised by the author, monitored by Andy Leonard (Fieldwork Manager) for AOC Archaeology, and Jess Tipper for Suffolk County Council.

## 5 Original Research Aims

- 5.1 In general terms the original aim of the excavation was to mitigate the impact of the proposed development and preserve by record the archaeological remains impacted by the development. This applies to remains of all periods, and includes evidence of past environments.
- 5.2 The aims of the Excavation were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
  - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
  - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
  - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
  - To enable Jess Tipper, archaeology advisor to Suffolk County Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
  - To make the results of the investigation available to interested parties.
- 5.3 The specific objectives of the Excavation were to:
- Determine the presence of structural remains associated with the post holes revealed during the archaeological evaluation of the site.
  - Determine the extent of Bronze Age remains.
  - Determine whether remains associated with the medieval sites to the east are present within the excavation areas.
  - Determine the function of the features previously revealed during the evaluation.
- 5.4 The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## 6 Interim Summary of Results

During the course of the excavation at the Bentwaters Park site, five different periods of activity were recognised.

### 6.1 Period 1 – Natural Deposits

- 6.1.1 The same natural deposit was identified in all 18 evaluation trenches, and in both excavation Areas 1 and 2, identified as an orangey brown flinty sandy and recorded as contexts (103), (202), (302), (402), (503), (602), (703), (809), (904), (907), (1006), (1103), (1203), (1302), (1403), (1502), (1624), (1628), (1702) and (1804). The natural was recorded between a height of 23.98m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and 24.27m AOD. Variations in the natural were present, but these were restricted to isolated patches, with no overall discernable pattern.

### 6.2 Period 3 – Early Neolithic (4000 to 3000 BC)

- 6.2.1 During the course of the evaluation and excavation three features were identified as being associated with Period 2 due to the Early Neolithic pottery recovered from the fill of all three features. All three features are interpreted as pits [903], [909], and [1005], located in excavation Area 1 (Figure 4).
- 6.2.2 All three pits recorded in Area 1 were identified as cutting the natural deposits. The largest of the three features was pit [903], an oval shaped pit measuring 2.75m in length, by 2.20m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled by (902) a compact dark brown orange fine silty sand. Inclusions recorded within the pit included, worked flint, fired clay fragments, and a small assemblage of Early Neolithic pottery. There is a limited possibility that the fired clay derives from redeposited hearth material. The worked flint was the largest assemblage of worked flint found on site, consisting of 13 items, the majority of which were either blades or flakes.
- 6.2.3 Pit [1005] was sub-oval in plan measuring 1.50m in length, by 0.80m wide, and up to 0.25m deep. The fill (1004) was a medium dark brown sand with inclusions of flint, which contained several sherds of Early Neolithic pottery.
- 6.2.4 The smallest of the three features was pit [909] which was oval in shape, measuring 0.80m in length by 0.45m wide. The pit had a shallow concave profile, reaching a maximum depth of 0.20m. The fill (908) of pit [909] was a dark orangey brown, silty sand deposit, which contained multiple fragments of Early Neolithic pottery and worked flint, including an utilised flake.
- 6.2.5 All three pits appear to be cut for the purpose of waste disposal, associated with a phase of activity during the Early Neolithic, concentrated in the southwest area of the site.

### **6.3 Period 3 – Neolithic to Post-Medieval Soil Accumulation (3000 BC to AD 1485)**

- 6.3.1 Period 3 represents the undisturbed accumulation of soil horizons across the site from the Bronze Age through into the post-medieval to modern period (Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7).
- 6.3.2 Sealing the features in excavations Area 2, as well as evaluation Trenches 1, 5, 7, 11, 12 and 14, was a layer of orangey brown sand subsoil with flint inclusions (102), (502), (702), (1102), (1202), (1402), and (1627), up to 0.30m thick. This subsoil layer appears to be localised, as its presence was recorded intermittently across the site.
- 6.3.3 Overlying this first subsoil layer, and sealing all other features, was a darker orangey brown, sandy silt flinty subsoil deposit (101), (201), (301), (401), (501), (601), (701), (801), (901), (906), (1001), (1101), (1201), (1301), (1401), (1501), (1601), (1626), (1701), and (1801), measuring up to 0.25m thick. Context (906) contained two sherds of Early Neolithic pottery and several worked flints, but these were thought to be residual.

### **6.4 Period 4 – Post-Medieval to Modern (AD 1485 to present)**

- 6.4.1 Two features are associated with Period 4; pit [1803] and posthole [1613], both of which are located in the eastern area of site. Pit [1803] is assigned to this period due to the pottery recovered from the fill of the feature, whereas posthole [1613] has been assigned due to its stratigraphic position (Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7).
- 6.4.2 Truncating the upper subsoil horizon (1801) in evaluation Trench 18 was a sub-square pit [1803] measuring 1.10m in length, by 0.85m wide, and 0.25m deep. The pit was filled by (1802), dark grey sand containing four sherds of transfer printed and hand painted glazed earthenware, and five fragments of metal deriving from the same object. The pit appears to represent the disposal of domestic waste during the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- 6.4.3 Circular posthole [1613] was observed in evaluation Trench 13 as truncating subsoil (1601). The posthole measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.17m deep, and was filled by (1612) a dark grey sand with flint inclusions, but did not contain any finds.
- 6.4.4 A layer of dark greyish brown, silty sand topsoil (100), (200), (300), (400), (500), (600), (700), (800), (900), (905), (1000), (1100), (1200), (1300), (1400), (1500), (1600), (1625), (1700), and (1800), and was recorded as up to 0.30m thick. Occasional small fragments of ceramic building material were observed within this deposit, but were not retained.
- 6.4.5 Period 4 appears to represent occasional activity occurring within the boundary of the site, most likely domestic in origin, during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. This may be associated with the domestic activity known to be present of the same period, in close proximity to the site. Barring the development of the area as a military airfield, the undisturbed topsoil horizon indicates that the site has not been significantly disturbed during the past century.

## 6.5 Period 5 – Undated

- 6.5.1 Fifteen features were identified during the course of the excavation which have been designated as undated due to the lack of dating material associated with them. For this reason they have been assigned to Period 5 (Figures 4, 5, 6 & 7).
- 6.5.2 The features currently associated with Period 5 consist of: a pit [808]; a ditch [804]; an alignment of 10 postholes [1603], [1605], [1607], [1609], [1611], [1615], [1617], [1619], [1621], and [1630]; two isolated postholes [911] and [913]; and a feature of unknown function [1003]. These features are distributed across the full area of the site.
- 6.5.3 Three undated features were identified in evaluation Trench 8 truncating the natural, consisting of a pit [808], posthole [806], and ditch [804]. Pit [808] was sub-circular and measured 1.10m in length, by 0.95m wide, with a total depth of 0.27m. The pit was filled by (807), a medium reddish brown fine sand with occasional flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill. Adjacent to pit [808] was posthole [806]. The posthole measured 0.35m x 0.40m x 0.20m deep and was filled by (805) medium brown sand, and did not contain any inclusions. Located in the centre of Trench 8 was feature [804], an east-west linear ditch, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.55m deep. The lowest deposit within the ditch was recorded as (803), a 0.30m thick deposit of dry and compact light yellow sand with occasional flint and animal bone inclusions. The secondary fill was recorded as (802), a 0.25m thick deposit of dark medium brown fine sand with inclusions of charcoal and flint. This deposit was very similar to the overlying subsoil deposit (801) which made identification between the two deposits, as well as establishing correct level at which the ditch was cut from, very unclear.
- 6.5.4 Feature [1003] was identified at the eastern end of evaluation Trench 10. The feature was sub-rectangular in shape and measured 0.78m in length, by 0.14m wide, with a depth of 0.03m deep. The cut was filled by (1002), a compact medium brown sand with occasional inclusions of natural flint. No finds were recovered from feature [1003], and its function remains uncertain.
- 6.5.5 During the course of the evaluation a linear arrangement of nine small circular or sub-rectangular shaped postholes, [1603], [1605], [1607], [1609], [1611], [1615], [1617], [1619], and [1621] were recorded in evaluation Trench 16, travelling on a north-south alignment. The circular postholes had an average diameter of 0.30m, while the sub-rectangular postholes measured up to 0.95m in length. The maximum depth for all postholes was recorded at 0.15m. All of the postholes were filled with dark grey sand with occasional subangular flint, recorded as, (1602), (1604), (1606), (1608), (1610),



(1614), (1616), (1618) and (1620). Posthole [1630] was located at the northern extent of the alignment during the excavation of Area 2. Posthole [1630] was oval in shape with a steeply concave profile, and measured 0.40m in length by 0.30m wide, and up to 0.25m deep. The fill (1629) of posthole [1630] was a dark brown sandy deposit, similar to the fill of the other nine postholes. Posthole [1630] appears to be directly associated with the linear arrangement of postholes identified during the evaluation, forming a possible fence line. No inclusions or finds were recovered from the fills of any of the ten postholes.

6.5.6 Postholes [911] and [913] were located centrally in excavation Area 1. Posthole [911] was the larger of the two postholes measuring 0.75m long by 0.50m wide. Posthole [913] lay approximately 3m to the northeast of posthole [911] and was also oval in shape with a concave profile, measuring 0.60m in length by 0.40m wide, and up to 0.25m deep. The fills of postholes [911] and [913] were also similar, fills (910) and (912) respectively, consisting of a dark brown sandy deposit which did not contain any inclusions. Due to the lack of features associated with the two postholes, it is unlikely that the two postholes represent elements of a structure, but are more likely to have held isolated posts.

6.5.7 Due to the lack of dating evidence or immediate finds, very little interpretative value can be attributed to these features. The most notable features from this period, are the north-south aligned fence line consisting of 10 postholes identified in Trench 16/Area 2, and east-west aligned ditch [804] in Trench 8. Both of these features appear to represent possible localised boundary divisions.

## 7 Summary Of Site Archive And Work Carried Out

### 7.1 Stratigraphic Site Archive

Stratigraphic Site Archive	Quantity
Context Sheets	30
Context Register Sheets	2
Trench Record Sheets	19
Plans	14
Plan Register Sheets	1
Sections	10
Section Register Sheets	1
Levels Sheets	3
Photographic Register Sheets	5
Environmental Sample Register Sheets	0
Environmental Sampling Sheets	1
Environmental Recording Sheets	5
Matrix Sheets	2
Photographs, Black & White	21
Digital Photos	120

### 7.2 Work Carried Out On the Stratigraphic Archive

The site records have been completed and checked. A context register has been completed (Appendix A). The records from the original evaluation have been incorporated into the site stratigraphic archive. Contexts have been placed into preliminary phases using stratigraphic information and dating provided by specialists. Several illustrations have been constructed to accompany the results showing the location of the features that have been phased. The photographic archive has been checked, marked and referenced. The receiving body is to be the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

## 8 Summary Of Finds And Analysis Of Potential

### 8.1 Quantification of Finds

All of the finds have been washed, catalogued and marked where appropriate. The archive boxes have been ordered and prepared for deposition with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The evaluation/excavation archive has also been assessed by specialists in accordance with the guidance laid down in MAP 2 (EH 1991). All specialist assessments were undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group and NAU.

Find Type	Quantity
Prehistoric Pottery	69 sherds – 796g
Post-medieval/Modern Pottery	4 sherds
Fired Clay	7 pieces – 160g
Struck Flint	18 pieces
Ironwork	5 pieces
Environmental Samples	6 samples
Animal Bone	7 fragments

### 8.2 Finds (Appendix B)

#### 8.2.1 Prehistoric Pottery

A total of 169 sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 796g, were recovered from four individual contexts. The majority of the sherds are reasonably well preserved and of a moderate size. The pottery has been identified as dating to the Early Neolithic, consisting of plain bowl and Mildown Hall wares. Further work to detail and illustrate the assemblage has been recommended.

#### 8.2.2 Post-medieval/Modern Pottery

The post-medieval and modern pottery assemblage from the evaluation and excavation consisted of four sherds recovered from context (1802). All four sherds were identified as transfer printed or hand painted glazed earthenware, dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. The post-medieval and modern pottery assemblage has limited potential for further analysis.

#### 8.2.3 Fired Clay

Seven pieces of burnt clay of various sizes, weighing 160g, were retrieved from context (902). The function of the fired clay is unknown but it may be redeposited lining perhaps from a hearth. No potential for further analysis was identified.

#### 8.2.4 **Struck Flint**

A total of eighteen pieces of flint were recovered during the course of the evaluation and excavation, deriving from three different contexts. The assemblage primarily consists of knapped flakes, but does include four utilised blades or flakes. It is thought that the assemblage is predominately contemporary with the Early Neolithic pottery recovered. No potential for further analysis has been identified for the assemblage.

#### 8.2.5 **Metalwork**

Five fragments of the same incomplete object were retrieved from context (1802), which by means of associated pottery, is dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is no potential for further analysis.

#### 8.2.6 **Environmental Samples**

Six bulk environmental samples were taken during the fieldwork on site. A small number of finds were recovered during the wet sieving which were included in the relevant assemblages. No environmental evidence or charcoal was recovered during processing of the samples.

#### 8.2.7 **Animal Bone**

A total of seven animal bone fragments were recovered during the course of the archaeological investigation from contexts (802) and (803). Two pieces of medium size mammal bone were manually retrieved from (803), in addition five rodent/small animal bones which were recovered by means of sample sieving of context (802). The animal bone assemblage is highly fragmented in nature and derives from an undated context. For these reasons, there is no potential for further analysis.

## 9 **Significance Of The Data**

### 9.1 **Summary of Results**

9.1.1 During the course of the evaluation and excavation a low density of archaeological features were recorded across the full area of the site. The features excavated indicated on site activity during the Early Neolithic and post-medieval periods. A range of undated features was identified as well. Truncation caused by post-medieval and modern activity was limited, meaning the majority of features were found in a good state of preservation.

9.1.2 The earliest activity identified was associated with the Early Neolithic period in the form of three pits concentrated in the southwest area of the site. The pits are likely to have been for the purpose of waste disposal, and highlighted the possibility of settlement in the vicinity of the site at this time. Other finds associated with the Early Neolithic pits consist of knapped flakes, including several utilised flakes and blades, and a small number of generally undiagnostic fragments of fired clay. After the Early Neolithic there appears to be a hiatus of activity on site, represented by the accumulation of subsoil soil horizons.

- 9.1.3 Activity on site was renewed in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century, during which isolated activity in the form of a rubbish pit and a posthole was identified. The features are believed to be contemporary with domestic activity occurring at the former Bentwaters Cottages located 1km to the east of the site.
- 9.1.4 A range of undated features were recorded across the full area of the site, which included an east-west aligned ditch and north-south fence line represented by a series of postholes. Both the ditch and fence line are thought to represent previous boundary divisions in the immediate landscape. Unfortunately, due to the lack of dating evidence, no significant interpretation can be associated with these features.

## **9.2 Discussion of Significance**

### **9.2.1 Early Neolithic**

The earliest period of activity identified on site relates to the Early Neolithic in the form of three rubbish pits. Evidence in this form potentially represents a level of settlement activity either on site, or in close proximity of the site. There is good potential that the site may be able to inform on the utilisation of the Suffolk landscape during this period of prehistory. Due to the limited evidence for prehistoric activity in this area, especially relating to the Neolithic period the site could be considered to be of regional significance.

### **9.2.2 Early Neolithic Finds**

The Early Neolithic finds assemblage consists of pottery, worked flint, and fired clay. It is of small size, but is of regional significance due to its potential to inform on activity within the landscape surrounding the site.

The pottery assemblage for this period is of great interest. The assemblage contains several forms of diagnostic interest, although due to a limited number of similar assemblages being published in the area there is potential for the assemblage to increase our knowledge associated with activity of this period. Recent works has demonstrated the great research potential for earlier Neolithic pit sites and as few have been excavated in the area under recent conditions and even less have been published.

The Early Neolithic worked flint assemblage consisted of numerous small fragments, and several utilised flakes or blades. The assemblage is small, contains limited forms, and no formal tools. On this basis they are all classified as being of site significance only.

The fired clay assemblage is of limited local significance as it contains very limited diagnostic qualities. Otherwise, the assemblage potential suggests the present of a possible hearth in the vicinity of the site.

### **9.2.3 Post-Medieval/Modern**

During the excavation two post-medieval or modern features were also identified on site. The most diagnostic of these features was a domestic rubbish pit, supporting the presence of contemporary domestic activity in proximity of the site. Domestic activity of this period, close to the site, is well attested to, indicating that this activity is of site significance only.

#### 9.2.4 Post-Medieval Finds

The remaining assemblages of post-medieval/modern pottery and metalwork, are both small, lacking in strong diagnostic elements. On this basis they are all classified as being of site significance only.

#### 9.2.5 Significance

In summary, assessment of the evaluation and excavation results from the Bentwaters Park site has shown that the results have potential for further work. Even though the diversity and scale of results has been limited, the site has a strong potential to be able to increase our understanding of the regional utilisation of the landscape during the Early Neolithic period. This is primarily due to the lack of previously published archaeological work associated with this period in the region. This, taken in combination with the potential for further analysis identified in the Early Neolithic pottery assemblage, indicates that the site as a whole has regional significance.

### 10 Realisation of the Original Research Aims

- 10.1 This section examines the extent to which preliminary assessment of the results of the excavation indicates that the original research aims outlined in the written scheme of investigation (AOC 2009b) have been or can be answered.

- 10.2 *Determine the presence of structural remains associated with the post holes revealed during the archaeological evaluation of the site.*

No structural remains were identified as being associated with the alignment of postholes in Trench 16. It was determined that the postholes once formed part of a fence line.

- 10.3 *Determine the extent of Bronze Age remains.*

No evidence for Bronze Age remains were identified on site. The pottery recovered during the evaluation and provisionally dated to the Bronze Age, when analysed, was determined to be Early Neolithic in date.

- 10.4 *Determine whether remains associated with the medieval sites to the east are present within the excavation areas.*

No evidence for features associated with the medieval period was identified during the course of the archaeological investigations.

- 10.5 *Determine the function of the features previously revealed during the evaluation.*

The objective of the excavation in Area 1 was to determine the function of features previously identified in Trenches 9 and 10 of the evaluation. During the excavation these features were re-excavated in addition to a third feature observed. All three features due to their character and the finds assemblage collected, were determined to be Early Neolithic rubbish pits.

## 11. Revised Research Aims

11.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork and the initial post-excavation assessment of the site, a number of additional research questions and aims can be identified. These will be addressed as part of the work that will be undertaken in preparation for the dissemination/publication of the site results.

### 11.2 Period 2 – Early Neolithic (4000 to 3000 BC)

The Early Neolithic period is represented by three rubbish pits located in the southwest area of the site, which contained a small finds assemblage that included a range of Early Neolithic pottery, worked flint, and fragments of fired clay. This suggests that Early Neolithic settlement was occurring in close proximity to the site. Additional/revised research aims for Period 3 are:

- *How does the Early Neolithic activity recognised on site relate to other contemporary activity occurring within the Suffolk region at this time?*
- *Can the Early Neolithic features on site fully determine the type of activity taking place?*
- *Is there any pattern in the distribution of the Early Neolithic pottery? What is the possible function of such vessels? Are there any regional parallels?*

## 12 Summary Of Further Work

Task	Description	Resource	Days
<b>General</b>			
1	Documentary Research	CJC	1
<b>Analysis</b>			
2	Prehistoric Pottery- Fully integrate pottery catalogue	NAU	0.5
3	Prehistoric Pottery- Additional report writing	NAU	0.5
4	Prehistoric Pottery- Illustration	AOC	0.5
<b>Report, Publication and Archiving</b>			
5	Completion of Figures for Publication	JM	1
6	Preparation of Publication Text	CJC	1.5
7	Proof Reading	MM	0.5
8	Project Management	MM	0.5

## 13 Catalogue Of Further Work

### 13.1 Documentary Research

Research of primary sources and documents concerning the site, including cartographic evidence. Research into possible comparison sites and Regional Research Frameworks (SCCAS 2009).

### 13.2 Specialist Analysis

#### 13.2.1 Prehistoric Pottery

- Incorporate the full context data and group or phase information into the pottery catalogue.
- Write a short note describing the fabrics, forms and distribution/deposition of the pottery, including a discussion of function, dating and regional parallels.
- Illustration of four feature sherds.

### 13.3 Overall Publication, Archiving and Project Management

Following specialist analysis, the reports will be integrated into the publication report. Time has been allocated for consultation and amendments to be made during this phase of work, involving both the editor and specialists. The digitised site plans will be used to produce publication illustrations. These will accompany the site narrative, being annotated to identify the features discussed in the text, at an appropriate scale.

Time has been allocated for proof reading and editing of the publication report prior to submission. Time has been allocated for liaison with the publication editor with regard to, submission of material and a summary of content.

Upon completion of the report, the documentary, physical and digital archives will be prepared, including microfiche, for accessioning with Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service. A site summary will be published in the Suffolk Regional Round-up, and a digital copy of the report lodged in association with the online OASIS form (Appendix C).

The management of the project includes monitoring task budgets, programming tasks, editing drafts production of the final report and publication for submission, and liaison with all members of the project team.

#### 13.3.1 Potential for Publication

It is anticipated that a note of approximately 3-4 pages will be produced, including site drawings, site location, plan of excavation area showing the main features with additional illustrations where needed. The publication will be submitted to the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology and History. Publication of the site data will also be made through the Archaeological Data Service OASIS form (Appendix D).

## 14 Bibliography

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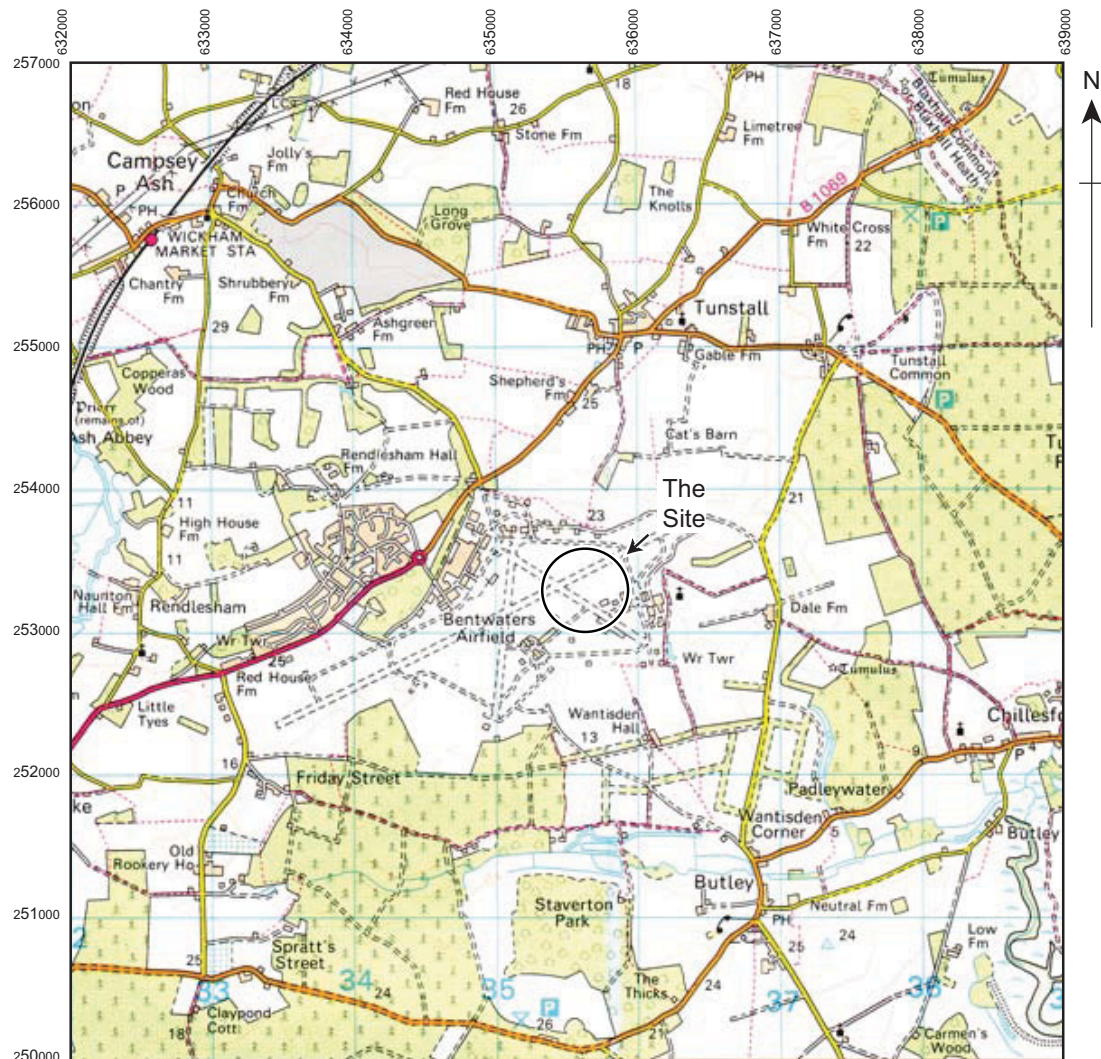
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Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 2009. Brief and Specification for Excavation. Biogas Plant, Adjacent to Building 568, Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham (C/08/2152).

BIOGAS PLANT, ADJACENT TO BUILDING 568, BENTWATERS PARK, RENDLESHAM, SUFFOLK; AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

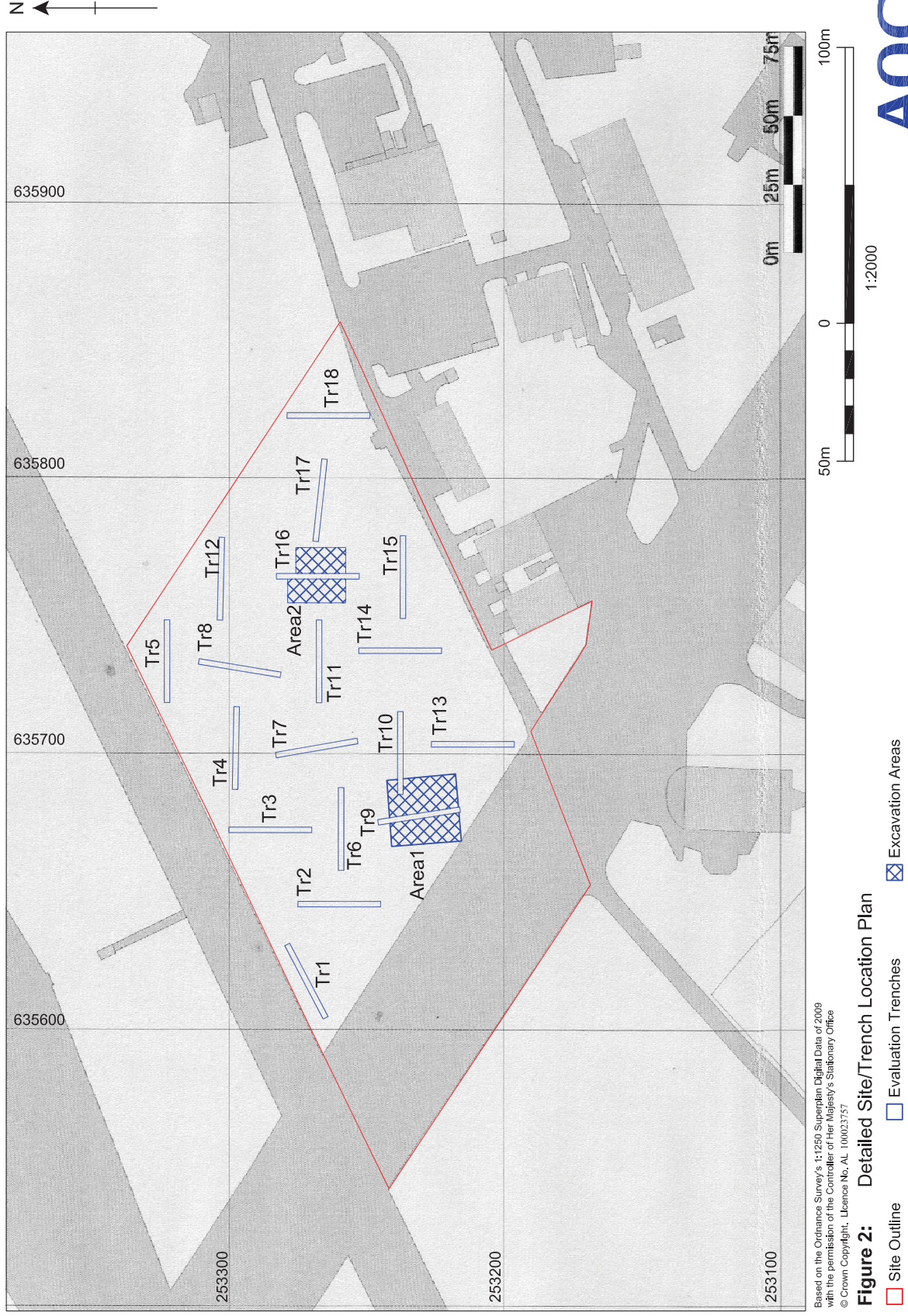


Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 1996  
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**Figure 1:** Site Location



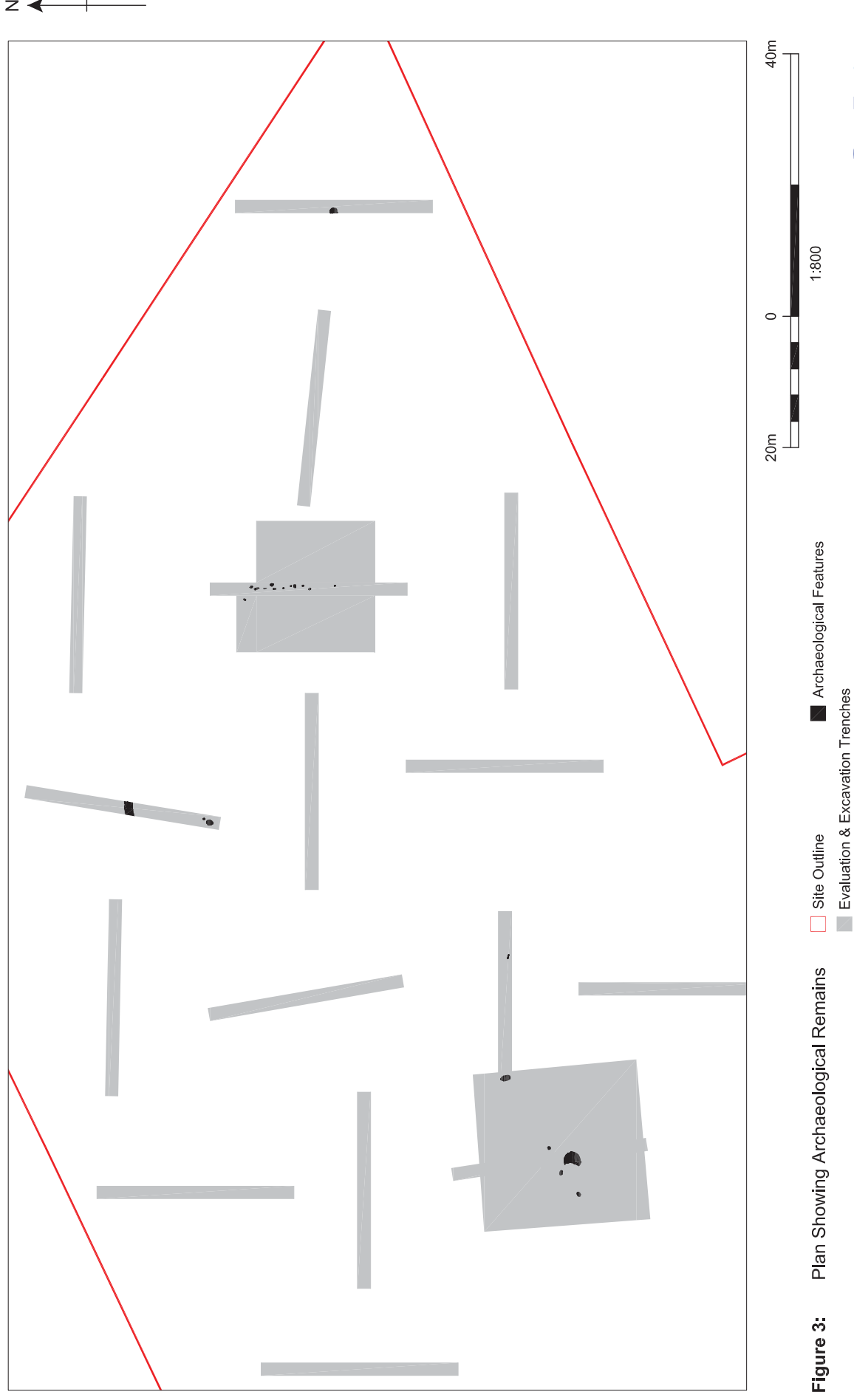


Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:250 Superplan Digital Data of 2009 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 100023757

Figure 2: Detailed Site/Trench Location Plan

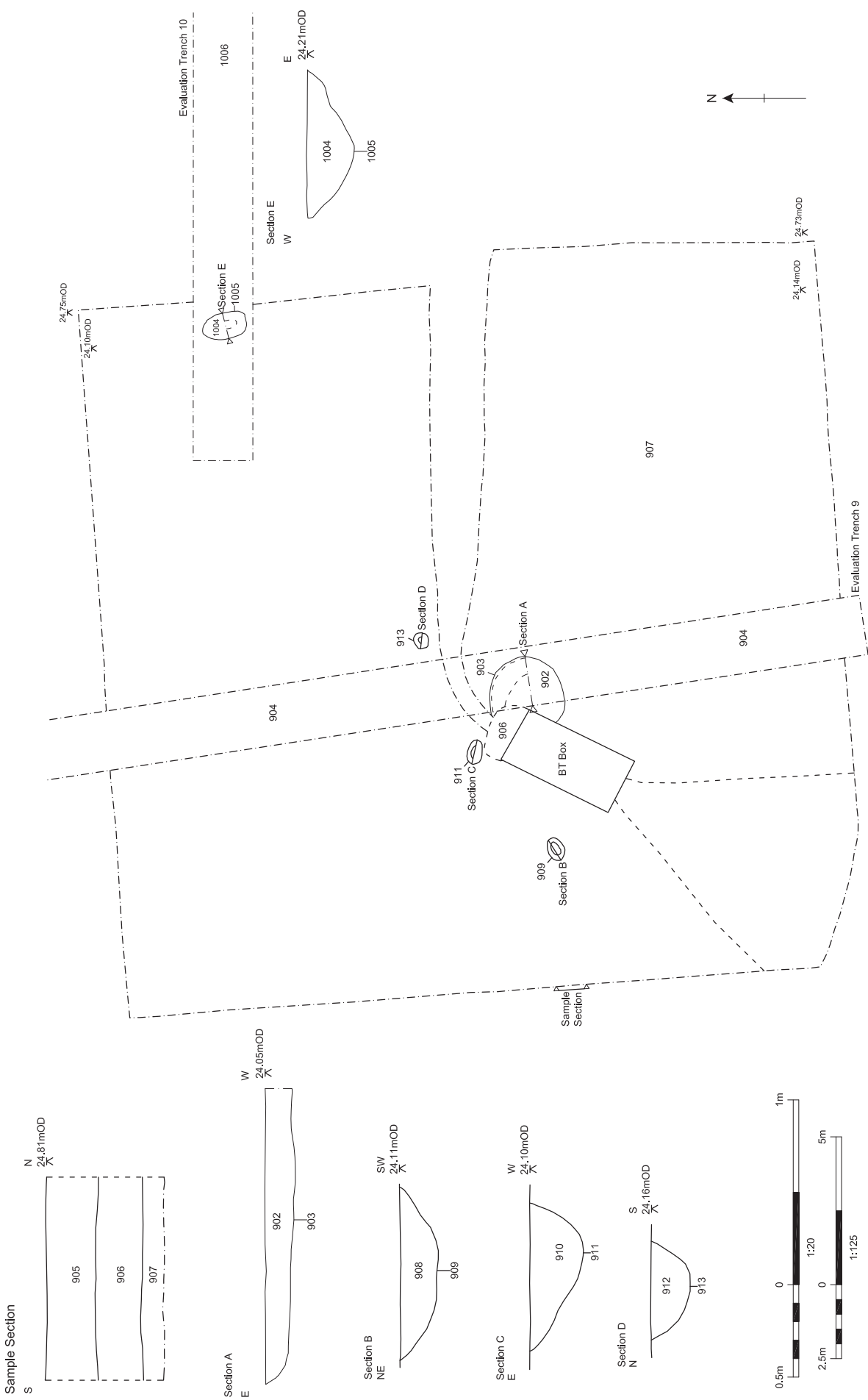
Site Outline Evaluation Trenches Excavation Areas

BIOGAS PLANT, ADJACENT TO BUILDING 568, BENTWATERS PARK, RENDLESHAM, SUFFOLK; AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

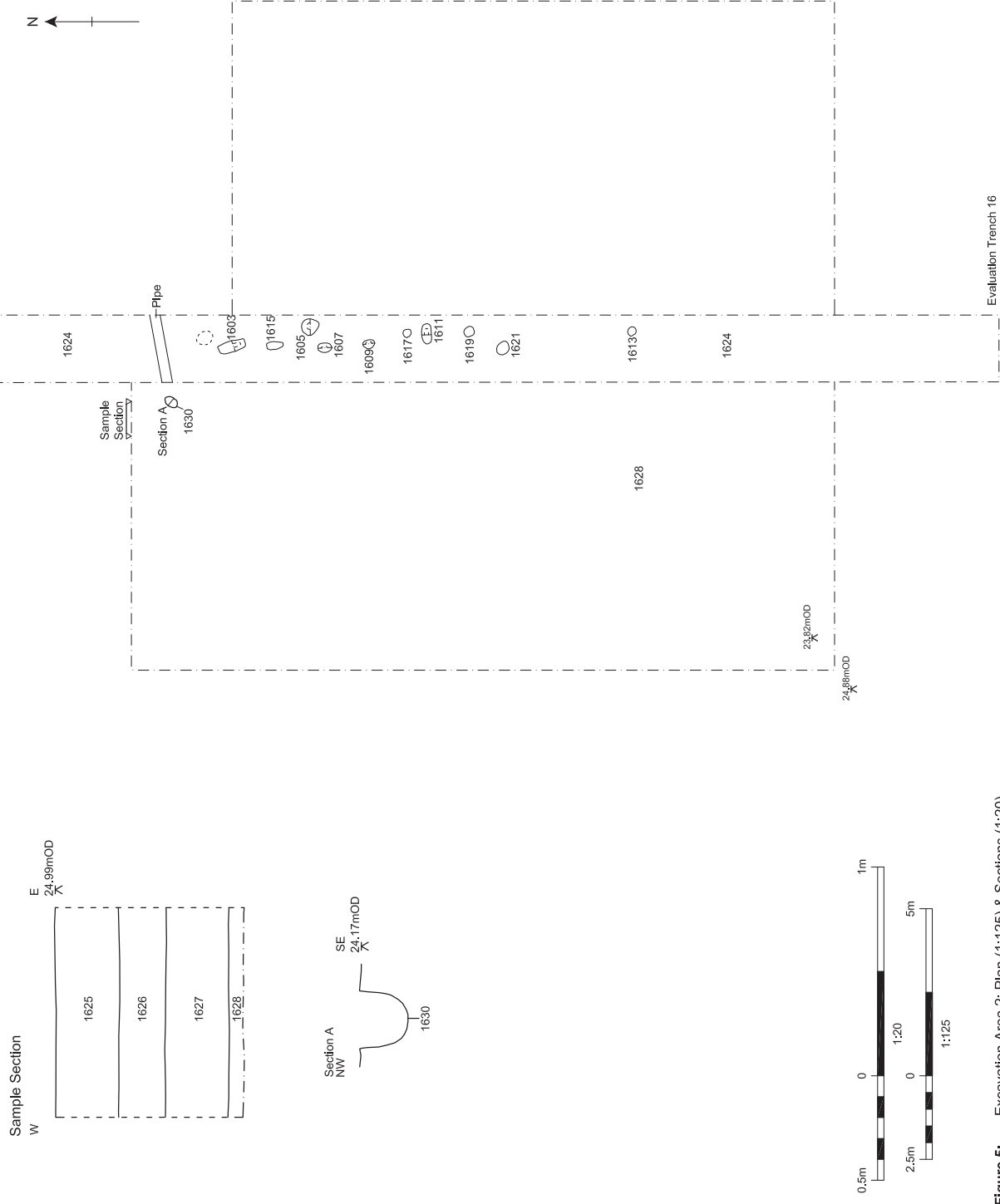


**Figure 3:** Plan Showing Archaeological Remains

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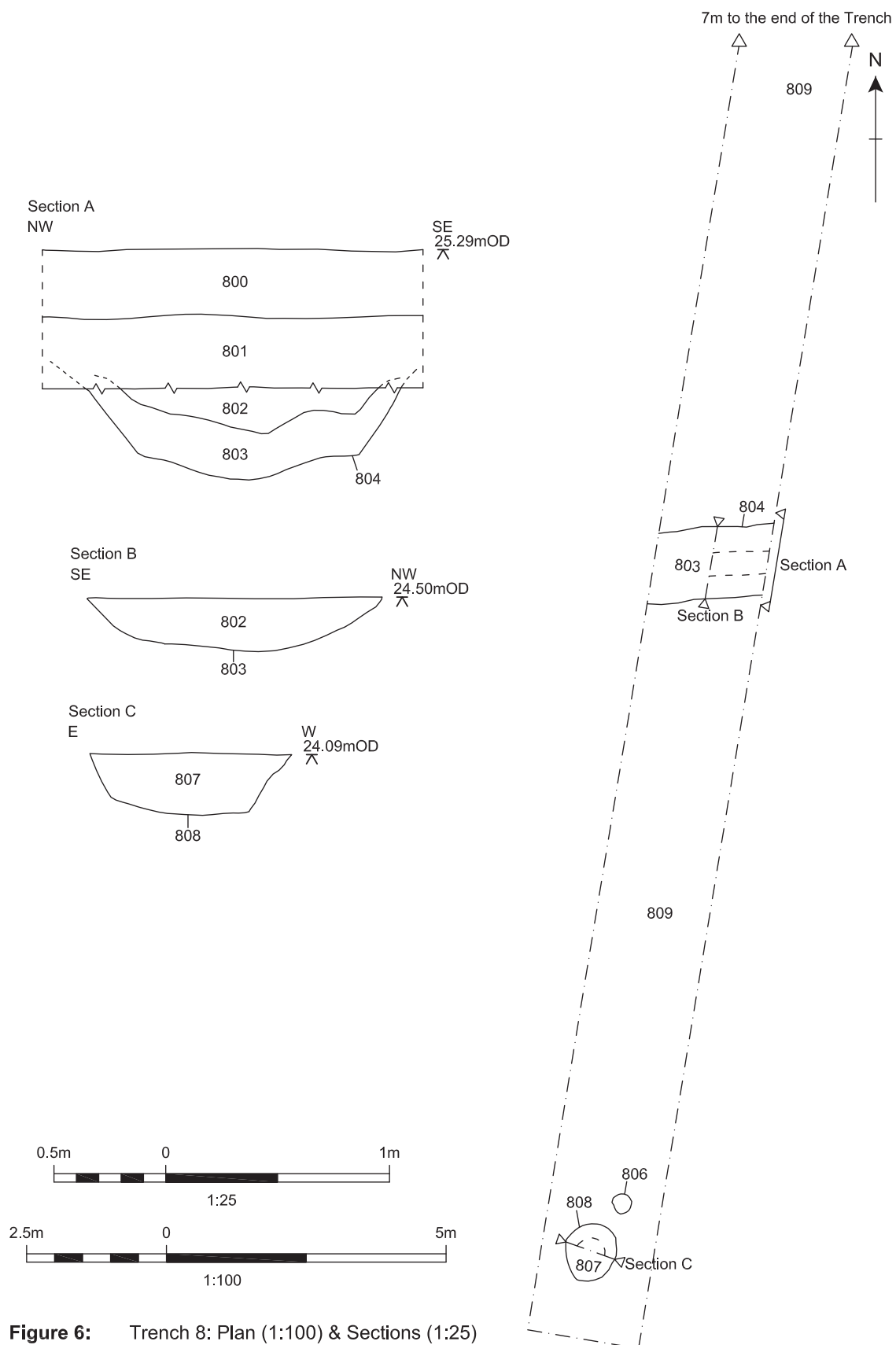


**Figure 4:** Excavation Area 1: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:20)



**Figure 5:** Excavation Area 2: Plan (1:125) & Sections (1:20)

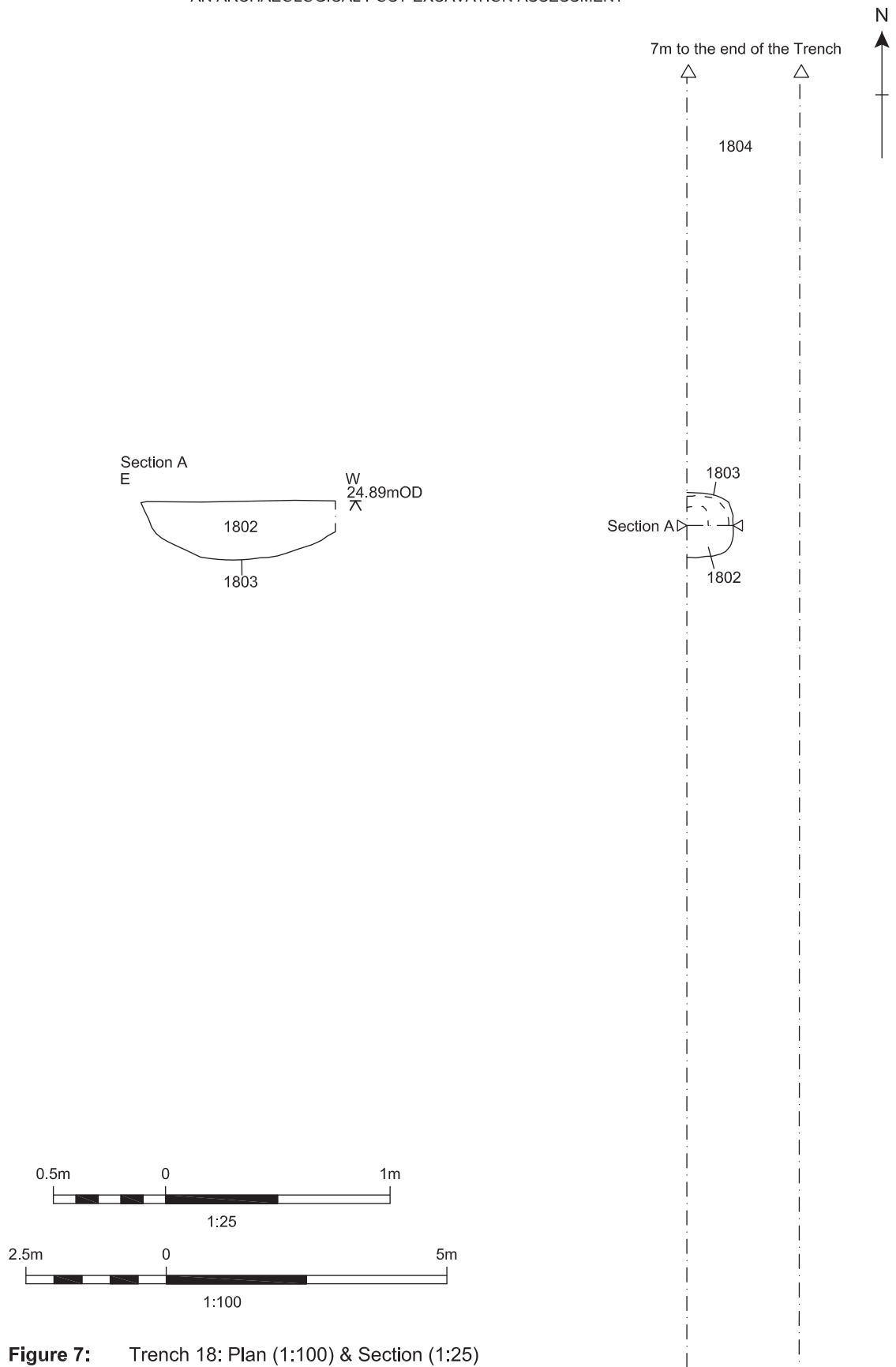
BIOGAS PLANT, ADJACENT TO BUILDING 568, BENTWATERS PARK, RENDLESHAM, SUFFOLK;  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT



**Figure 6:** Trench 8: Plan (1:100) & Sections (1:25)



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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT



**Figure 7:** Trench 18: Plan (1:100) & Section (1:25)

## Appendices

## Appendix A – Context Register

Context	Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
100	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.15m
101	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.15m
102	Medium Orange brown sand with flint inclusions. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.22m
103	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.24m+
200	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
201	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
202	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.08m+
300	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.14m
301	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.16m
302	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.22m+
400	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.12m
401	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.24m
402	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.40m
500	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
501	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
502	Medium Orange brown sand with flint inclusions. Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
503	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
600	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
601	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.23m
602	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.24m
700	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
701	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
702	Medium Orange brown sand with flint inclusions. Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
703	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.40m
800	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
801	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.32m
802	Dark medium brown fine sand. Ditch Fill	2.00m	1.30m	0.25m
803	Light compact yellow sand. Ditch fill	2.00m	1.30m	0.25m
804	Cut of ditch	2.00m	1.30m	0.55m
805	Medium brown fine sand, posthole fill	0.40m	0.35m	0.20m
806	Posthole cut	0.40m	0.35m	0.20m
807	Medium reddish brown fine sand. Pit fill	1.10m	0.95m	0.20m
808	Circular pit cut	1.10m	0.95m	0.20m
809	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.08m
900	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
901	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.25m
902	Dark brown orange fine sandy silt. Pit fill.	2.40m	1.60m	0.14m
903	Sub oval pit cut.	2.40m	1.60m	0.14m

Context	Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
904	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.08m+
905	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	25.00m	25.00m	0.28m
906	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	25.00m	25.00m	0.25m
907	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	25.00m	25.00m	0.10m+
908	Dark orange brown silty sand. Fill of pit.	0.82m	0.45m	0.25m
909	Cut, of pit: oval	0.82m	0.45m	0.25m
910	Soft dark brown sand. Fill of posthole.	0.75m	0.52m	0.28m
911	Cut, of posthole: oval	0.75m	0.52m	0.28m
912	Soft dark brown sand. Fill of pit.	0.58m	0.38m	0.24m
913	Cut, of posthole: oval	0.58m	0.38m	0.24m
1000	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.23m
1001	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.35m
1002	Medium brown fine sand. Possible animal run.	0.78m	0.14m	0.05m
1003	Cut for possible animal run	0.78m	0.14m	0.05m
1004	Medium dark brown fine sand. Pit fill.	1.50m	0.80	0.25m
1005	Sub oval pit cut.	1.50m	0.80m	0.25m
1006	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.05m+
1100	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.22m
1101	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.28m
1102	Medium Orange brown sand with flint inclusions. Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.12m
1103	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.08m
1200	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.25m
1201	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
1202	Medium Orange brown sand with flint inclusions. Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
1203	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.15m
1300	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.28m
1301	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.26m
1302	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.14m
1400	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
1401	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
1402	Medium Orange brown sand with flint inclusions. Subsoil	30.00m	2.00m	0.18m
1403	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.12m
1500	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.20m
1501	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.36m
1502	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.14m
1600	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.46m
1601	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.32m
1602	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.95m	0.30m	0.15m
1603	Oblong shaped post hole cut	0.95m	0.30m	0.15m
1604	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.50m	0.50m	0.10m
1605	Sub circular shaped post hole cut	0.50m	0.50m	0.10m

Context	Description	Length/m	Width/m	Depth/m
1606	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.42m	0.32m	0.10m
1607	Sub-oval shaped post hole cut	0.42m	0.32m	0.10m
1608	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.28m	0.27m	0.27m
1609	Sub circular shaped post hole cut	0.28m	0.27m	0.27m
1610	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.49m	0.32m	0.15m
1611	Sub-oval shaped post hole cut	0.49m	0.32m	0.15m
1612	Dark grey sand with flints	0.25m	0.25m	0.17m
1613	Circular shaped post hole cut	0.25m	0.25m	0.17m
1614	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.50m	0.25m	0.13m
1615	Sub-oval shaped post hole cut	0.50m	0.25m	0.13m
1616	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.24m	0.26m	0.10m
1617	Sub circular shaped post hole cut	0.24m	0.26m	0.10m
1618	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.30m	0.23m	0.10m
1619	Sub circular shaped post hole cut	0.30m	0.23m	0.10m
1620	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.40m	0.33m	0.07m
1621	Sub circular shaped post hole cut	0.40m	0.33m	0.07m
1622	Dark grey sand with occasional flint.	0.46m	0.44m	0.08m
1623	Sub circular shaped post hole cut	0.46m	0.44m	0.08m
1624	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.06m+
1625	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	20.00m	20.00m	0.30m
1626	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	20.00m	20.00m	0.23m
1627	Medium Orange brown sand with flint inclusions. Subsoil	20.00m	20.00m	0.30m
1628	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	20.00m	20.00m	0.10m+
1629	Soft dark brown sand. Fill of posthole.	0.43m	0.28m	0.23m
1630	Cut, of posthole: oval	0.43m	0.28m	0.23m
1700	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.25m
1701	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
1702	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.25m
1800	Dark medium brown sandy silt with inclusions of flint. Topsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.30m
1801	Medium brown fine sandy silt. Subsoil.	30.00m	2.00m	0.27m
1802	Dark grey sand with occasional flint, metal and pottery	1.10m	0.85m	0.25m
1803	Sub-circular pit cut	1.10m	0.85m	0.25m
1804	Yellow orange sand. Natural.	30.00m	2.00m	0.08m

## Appendix B – Specialist Reports

### Prehistoric Pottery and Fired Clay

by Sarah Percival  
NAU Archaeology

A total of 69 sherds weighing 796g were recovered from four excavated contexts by hand collection and from sieved samples. All the sherds are from undecorated bowls with simple rims and a 'pseudo' carination low on the body of the vessel (Cleal 2004, 181) and are of earlier Neolithic date and are similar to the undecorated, round based, slack-shouldered bowls characteristic of assemblages from regional type sites at Broom Heath, Norfolk (Wainwright 1972) and Hurst Fen Mildenhall (Longworth 1960) and the recently excavated site at Kilverstone Norfolk (Garrow *et al.* 2005, 154). A single decorated rim is from a Mildenhall Ware vessel of similar date.

Both plain bowl and Mildenhall Ware were found at Kilverstone where a series of radiocarbon determinations dated the assemblage to 3650–3350 BC (Garrow *et al.* 2005, 154). The small assemblage is reasonably well preserved with an average sherd weight of 11g. Some sherds are burnt and others heavily abraded, this mix of sherds in varying states of preservation is typical of earlier Neolithic pottery which is often found in pits but appears to have spent some time before deposition there in 'pre pit' surface deposits or middens (Garrow 2006).

#### Methodology

The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 1992; 1997). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion type: F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was also recorded: R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. Rims were classified using the rim typology developed by Longworth (1960, 228) and used more recently by Healy (1988). The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are currently curated by AOC Archaeology.

#### Earlier Neolithic

##### Nature of the Assemblage

Rims were recovered from eight vessels, all in flint tempered fabrics. Five fabrics were identified all containing crushed, white to greyish burnt flint in pieces up to 10mm long (Appendix 1). The use of flint tempered fabrics is typical of earlier Neolithic pottery from East Anglia (Healy 1988, 64) and corresponds with the 'gritty' fabric group identified at the Hurst Fen type site (Longworth 1960, 228).

The plain bowl exhibits four different rim types. These were simple rounded, out-turned, folded or rolled and externally thickened. The dominance of externally thickened and out-turned rims is similar to both Hurst Fen (Longworth 1960, fig.19) and Spong Hill (Healy 1988, fig.57). No reconstructable profiles were found but a number of body sherds with slack or embellished shoulders are present. This suggests that the majority of the bowls were not true carinated forms but were instead 'pseudo carinated' bowls (Cleal 2004, 171), similar to examples found at Hurst Fen (Longworth 1960 plate XXIII P37).

The Mildenhall Ware bowl has an out turned rim with external lip and is decorated with incised grooves or channels running vertically from the rim edge and over the neck of the vessel. Vessels with similar decoration have been found at Hurst Fen (Longworth 1960), Spong Hill (Healy 1988, fig. 73, P167) and Kilverstone (Garrow *et al* 2006, fig.2.29, P4).

The pottery was recovered from the fills of a small pit. Garrow, in his recent analysis of depositional practice in Neolithic and Bronze Age East Anglia, notes that deposition in pits is typical of sites producing earlier Neolithic plain bowl and Mildenhall Ware assemblages (Garrow 2006, 58). The fills of these pits often exhibit characteristics of having been 'deliberately and rapidly filled' frequently with curated occupation debris (Healy 1995, 174; Thomas 1991, 62).

#### **Statement of Potential**

The small quantity of pottery recovered suggests occupation at the site in the Earlier Neolithic. As the pit was found in an evaluation trench, however, it is uncertain as to the extent of this occupation. Little earlier Neolithic pottery has been published from the immediate area of the site. A moderately large assemblage was excavated at Sutton Hoo some 6k south west of the proposed development site where three discrete pit clusters were found containing a mix of plain bowl of similar form to those found at Rendlesham along with a quantity of Mildenhall Ware (Hummler 2005, 396). A single sherd of possible earlier Neolithic date was also found at Barnham some 65k north west of Rendlesham (Martin 1993, 15). Garrow's recent work at Kilverstone has demonstrated the great research potential for earlier Neolithic pit sites and as few have been excavated in the area under recent conditions and even less have been published the chance to investigate an earlier Neolithic assemblage from a pit site in Suffolk should not be overlooked.

#### **Recommendations for Further Work**

- Incorporate the full context data and group or phase information into the pottery catalogue.
- Write a short note describing the fabrics, forms and distribution/deposition of the pottery, including a discussion of function, dating and regional parallels.

#### **Recommendations for Illustration**

Four sherds have been recommended for illustration, one from each of the rim forms found. An illustrated sherd catalogue is required.

#### **Fired Clay**

Seven pieces of fired clay weighing 160g were recovered from a single pit which also contained earlier Neolithic pottery. The pieces have one surviving flattened surface and are made of poorly-mixed, sandy fabric with occasional sub-angular flint and rounded gravel-sized quartz inclusions. The function of the fired clay is unknown but it may be redeposited lining perhaps from a hearth.



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		Data				
form	rim type	Quantity	% Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight	Count of NV
Carinated Bowl	ext thickened	2	2.9%	20	2.5%	1
	folded	1	1.4%	66	8.3%	1
	out turned	1	1.4%	4	0.5%	1
	rolled	1	1.4%	19	2.4%	1
	simple rounded	2	2.9%	21	2.6%	2
	(blank)	61	88.4%	651	81.8%	1
Carinated Bowl Total		68	98.6%	781	98.1%	7
Mildenhall Ware	ext lip	1	1.4%	15	1.9%	1
Mildenhall Ware Total		1	1.4%	15	1.9%	1
Grand Total		69	100.0%	796	100.0%	8

*Table 1. Pottery Quantification*

#### Appendix 1: Fabric Descriptions

<b>Fabric Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
F1	Common, crushed sub-angular flint, up to 4mm, white, grey and banded. Occasional quartz sand with rounded clear white and orange grains. Burnished finish. Fine fabric. Speckled appearance.
F2	Moderate, crushed sub-angular flint, up to 8mm, white, grey and banded. Occasional quartz sand with rounded clear white and orange grains. Medium fabric.
F3	Moderate, crushed sub-angular flint, up to 5-10mm, white, grey and banded. Occasional quartz sand with rounded clear white and orange grains. Coarse fabric.
F4	Common, crushed sub-angular flint up to 8mm, white, grey and banded. Occasional quartz sand with rounded clear white and orange grains. Medium fabric.

<b><i>Fabric Code</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
F5	Sparse crushed sub-angular flint, up to 5-10mm, white, grey and banded. Occasional quartz sand with rounded clear white and orange grains. Burnished finish. Fine fabric.

## Worked Flint

by Sarah Bates  
 NAU Archaeology

A total of eighteen pieces of flint were recovered from a pit and the subsoil. Two or three blades may be of earlier date, but the irregular nature and quite sharp condition of much of the material suggest that it is probably contemporary with the Bronze Age pottery found alongside it.

### Methodology

Each piece of flint was examined and recorded by context in an ACCESS database table. The material was classified by *category* and *type* (see archive) with numbers of pieces and numbers of complete, corticated, patinated and hinge fractured pieces being recorded and the condition of the flint being commented on. Additional descriptive comments were made as necessary. The flint and archive are curated by AOC Archaeology Group.

### The Assemblage

The flint is mostly mid grey in colour with a few darker grey or patinated paler coloured pieces. Cortex is mostly a dirty cream colour, some of it quite thick. Some patinated cortex or patinated former flint surfaces also occur. The flint is summarised by type in Table 1 and listed by context in Appendix 1. A full catalogue is included as part of the archive.

Table 1: Summary of flint by type

Type	Number
shatter	1
flake	1
flake	6
blade-like flake	1
blade	4
spall	1

Type	Number
utilised blade	1
utilised flake	2
utilised fragment	1
Total	18

A shattered fragment [902] is sharp and may be debris from knapping; it has been battered or hit, perhaps deliberately, on one side.

Nine flakes were found. They are mostly small and irregular, one has a cortical platform and one has a hinge fracture at its distal end. These attributes suggest a lack of care during the knapping process. A blade-like flake [902] has slight abrasion of its platform so, in this instance, some core preparation occurred.

Four pieces are classified as blades [902]. They are all quite small and are slightly irregular although one thin blade has an abraded platform.

A single spall is also present.

Four utilised pieces are present. A small squat flake with a cortical platform is slightly utilised along both sides of its slightly 'spurred' right/distal edge [908] and a patinated thermal fragment from the same context has slight crushing/wear of one long edge. A blade-like flake with very slightly abraded platform has slight utilisation of its right edge and cortex along its left side [902]. A small 'blade' [906] has thick cortex along its steep right side and this probably acted as natural backing; its left edge being utilised.

### Flint By Context

Fifteen of the flints were found in two fills of a pit which also contained Bronze Age pottery [902] and [908]. The irregular nature of most of the flint suggests that it could be contemporary with the pottery recovered. However, there are also two or three small blade type pieces with abraded platforms which seem to have been struck from prepared cores. These are likely to be earlier in date; they probably date to the earlier Neolithic period.

Two flints were found in the subsoil [906].

### Discussion

Most of the flint was recovered from an isolated pit which is provisionally dated by ceramics to the Bronze Age (AOC 2009a).

Two or three small blade type pieces with abraded platforms may represent a residual earlier element to the assemblage as this technique indicates core preparation and is usually associated with knapping during the Mesolithic or earlier Neolithic periods (Butler 2005, 84, 121).

The irregular nature of most of the flint, however, the use of some already patinated flint, the general lack of care and skill in its knapping, the absence of any formal tools and the utilised thermal fragment are all consistent with its being contemporary with the pottery and representing the gradual decline of flint-working during the Bronze Age (Ford *et al.* 1984). The sharpness of the flint suggests that it may have entered the pit, with the pottery, soon after knapping/use.

*No further work on the flint will be required.*

*No illustrations are required*

## References;

Butler, C. 2005      *Prehistoric Flintwork*. Stroud: Tempus.

Ford, S., Bradley, 'Flint-working in the metal age', *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 3:2, 157-  
R., Hawkes, J. and 173

Fisher, P., 1984

## Appendix 1: Flint by context

Context	Cat.	Type	Quantity
902	blad	blade	4
902	flak	blade-like flake	2
902	flak	flake	6
902	flak	shatter	1
906	flak	flake	1
906	flak	spall	1
906	utbl	utilised blade	1
908	utfl	utilised flake	1
908	utfl	utilised fragment	1

## **An Assessment of the Finds**

*by* Paul Fitz  
AOC Archaeology

### **Ironwork**

Five fragments of the same incomplete object, possibly a blade, were retrieved from context (1802), a post-medieval pit fill, and are likely to be of a 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century date.

### **Animal Bone**

Seven pieces of animal bone were retrieved from two contexts (802) and (803). Both of these deposits are fills of ditch [804].

Two pieces of medium size mammal bone were manually retrieved from (803) whilst five rodent/small animal bone were found through sample sieving of context (802)

### **Recommendations**

Some of the ceramic needs to be separated and wrapped in acid-free tissue to help protect its fragile nature.

The four sherds of post medieval pottery and iron pieces are of probable Victorian date and only require proper packing and storing to the relevant museum's guidelines for deposition.

The animal bone from the undated ditch is too small an assemblage to warrant further work

## Appendix C – OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: aocarcha1-65856**

### Project details

Project name      Biogas Plant, Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham, Suffolk

Short description of the project      A programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group. The work was carried out ahead of a proposed development for the construction of a biogas plant, adjacent to building 568 at the Bentwaters Park. The earliest phase of activity identified on site occurred during the Early Neolithic, consisting of three rubbish pits located in the southwest area of site. A small to moderate sized finds assemblage was recovered from the small pits, comprising of Early Neolithic pottery, worked flint and fire clay. No further activity was detected on site until the 19th or 20th century, represented by a rubbish pit and an isolated posthole. Numerous other features were identified during the course of the archaeological investigations, but due to a lack of dating evidence, they could not be assigned to any one period of activity. The undated features included a possible boundary ditch and fence line. Overall, a low density of archaeological features was identified during the course of the evaluation and excavation deriving from the Early Neolithic and post-medieval/modern periods. As a whole, the site is thought to be of regional significance, this is due to the presence of Early Neolithic activity which maybe able to inform on how the regional landscape was being utilised at this time.

Project dates      Start: 28-10-2009 End: 16-12-2009

Previous/future work      Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes      WNN 023 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes      30576 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes      30618 - Contracting Unit No.



codes

Any associated C/08/2152 - Planning Application No.  
project reference  
codes

Type of project      Recording project

Site status            None

Current Land use    Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

Monument type      DITCH Uncertain

Monument type      PIT Early Neolithic

Monument type      PIT Post Medieval

Monument type      POSTHOLES Post Medieval

Monument type      PIT Uncertain

Monument type      POSTHOLES Uncertain

Significant Finds    CERAMICS Early Neolithic

Significant Finds    FLINT Early Neolithic

Significant Finds    FIRED CLAY Early Neolithic

Significant Finds    POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds    METALWORK Post Medieval

Significant Finds    ANIMAL BONE Uncertain

Investigation type    'Part Excavation'

Prompt                Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

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### Project location

Country                England

Site location            SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL RENDLESHAM Biogas Plant, Bentwaters Park,  
Rendlesham, Suffolk

Postcode                IP12 2TW

Study area                2.40 Hectares

Site coordinates        TM 3570 5321 52.1262677662 1.443882976320 52 07 34 N 001 26 37 E Point

Height OD / Depth    Min: 23.98m Max: 24.27m

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### Project creators

Name                    of AOC Archaeology Group  
Organisation

Project                brief Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service  
originator

Project                design AOC Archaeology Group  
originator

Project                    Andy Leonard  
director/manager

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

Name of Agri-Gen Ltd  
sponsor/funding  
body

### Project archives

Physical Archive Suffolk County Council  
recipient

Physical Archive WNN023  
ID

Physical Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal'

Digital Archive Suffolk County Council  
recipient

Digital Archive ID WNN023

Digital Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Stratigraphic'

Digital Media 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'  
available

Paper Archive Suffolk County Council  
recipient

Paper Archive ID WNN023

Paper Contents 'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Environmental','Metal','Survey'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Map','Matrices','Microfilm','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Biogas Plant, Adjacent to building 568, Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham, Suffolk.  
Evaluation Summary Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Edwards, C

Date 2009

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology Group

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology London

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### Project bibliography 2

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Biogas Plant, Adjacent to Building 568, Bentwaters Park, Rendlesham, Suffolk: A  
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Harris, P.

Date 2009

Issuer or AOC Archaeology  
publisher

Place of issue or London  
publication

Description A4 text, 2 illustrations, 22 pages bound between plastic covers

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### **Project bibliography 3**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Biogas Plant, Adjacent to Building 568, Bentwaters Parks, Rendlesham, Suffolk:

Author(s)/Editor(s) Clarke. C.

Date 2009

Issuer or AOC Archaeology  
publisher

Place of issue or London  
publication

Description A4 text, 6 illustrations, 35 pages bound between plastic covers

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### **Project bibliography 4**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Biogas Plant, Adjacent to building 568, Bentwaters park, Rendlesham, Suffolk; A  
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Harris, P.

Date 2009

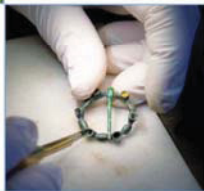
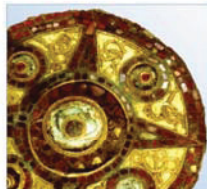
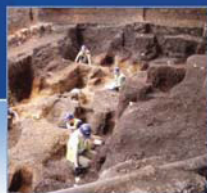
Issuer or AOC Archaeology  
publisher

Place of issue or London  
publication

Description A4 text, 2 illustrations, 17 pages bound between plastic covers

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