

# Land off Lord's Walk, Eriswell ERL 222

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2012/026**

**Client: Pelorus**

Author: Andrew Vaughan Beverton

02/2012



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Author: Andrew Vaughan Beverton

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## HER Information

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**Report Number:** 2012/026  
**Site Name:** Land off Lord's Walk  
**Planning Application No:** F/2011/0163/FUL  
**Date of Fieldwork:** 20/02/2012  
**Grid Reference:** TL 723 800  
**Client/Funding Body:** Pelorus  
**Curatorial Officer:** Judith Plouviez  
**Project Officer:** Andrew Vaughan Beverton  
**Oasis Reference:** 119157  
**Site Code:** ERL 222

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### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Andrew Vaughan Beverton  
Date: 03/2012

Approved By: John Craven  
Position: Project Officer  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

Three trial trenches were excavated on land off of Lord's Walk, Eriswell on the 20th of February 2012. The evaluation was conducted as a condition for planning application F/2011/0163 in advance of the construction of a new Bio-fuel plant. Previous excavations in the area have identified a wealth of archaeology in the vicinity that includes prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation and funerary activity.

A collection of three pits and three ditch features were identified in Trench 3 whilst a single outlying pit was also recorded in Trench 1. The finds assemblage is consistently Iron Age in origin and predominantly came from the features in Trench 3.



# Drawing Conventions

## Plans

- Limit of Excavation - - - - -
- Features - - - - -
- Break of Slope .....  
.....
- Features - Conjectured - - - - -
- Natural Features .....  
.....
- Sondages/Machine Strip - - - - -
- Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -
- Illustrated Section S.14 - - - - -
- Cut Number 0008
- Archaeological Features

## Sections

- Limit of Excavation - - - - -
- Cut - - - - -
- Modern Cut - - - - -
- Cut - Conjectured - - - - -
- Deposit Horizon - - - - -
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured - - - - -
- Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -
- Top of Natural - - - - -
- Top Surface - - - - -
- Break in Section - - - - -
- Cut Number 0008
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum  $\frac{18.45m}{\times}$  OD



## **1. Introduction**

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An archaeological evaluation comprising three trenches with a combined length of 75m was carried out on land just off of Lords Walk, Eriswell (Fig. 1) in advance of the construction of a new Bio-fuel generation plant. The evaluation took place on the 20th of February 2012. The work was carried out according to a brief and specification supplied by Judith Plouviez, SCCAS Curatorial Team as a condition for planning application F/2011/0163/FUL. The work was commissioned by Pelorus.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The development area lay on a gentle westward facing slope ranging from 10.76m AOD towards the north-east corner and 9.61m AOD in the north-west corner. The natural geology of the site was a slightly silty-sand which contained frequent, evenly spread gravels formed of both rounded and sub-angular flint and stone pebbles ranging from 0.01m to 0.04m in diameter. A ploughed soil between 0.3 and 0.4m in depth lay over the top of the undisturbed natural.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The site lies in an area of archaeological interest as recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. Its location puts it within a broad area of multi-period activity and occupation along the edge of the fenland basin.

RAF Lakenheath, to which the site is adjacent, contains a wealth of archaeological evidence ranging from Mesolithic through to Anglo-Saxon activity, whilst later medieval occupation is also accounted for at the core of Eriswell (ERL 011).

Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the development area includes a Neolithic to Bronze Age pit group to the south of the development area at ERL 120, two Early Bronze Age barrows (ERL 148 and 203) to the east, and an Iron Age pit group (ERL 147) to the south-east (Fig. 1).

Of particular relevance to this site is an east-west aligned Late Iron Age/Roman driveway which was identified to the south during excavations at ERL 120. This driveway is part of a larger system that has been found to extend further east (ERL 089) and to the south on the other side of Lord's Walk (ERL 147). Intensive Roman occupation deposits have been seen immediately to the east of the site during multiple monitoring projects covering Kennedy Street, Nato Place and Thunderbird Way. The site of a Roman structure resembling a small shrine is located 250m to the north-east (ERL 214).

Middle Anglo-Saxon burials were cut into the top of the Early Bronze Age ring ditch at ERL 203 and three early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries with associated occupation evidence have been excavated approximately 500m to the north-east.

St Peter's Chapel (ERL 011) is located 750m to the north-west in Eriswell and represents a possible medieval core of activity in the vicinity.

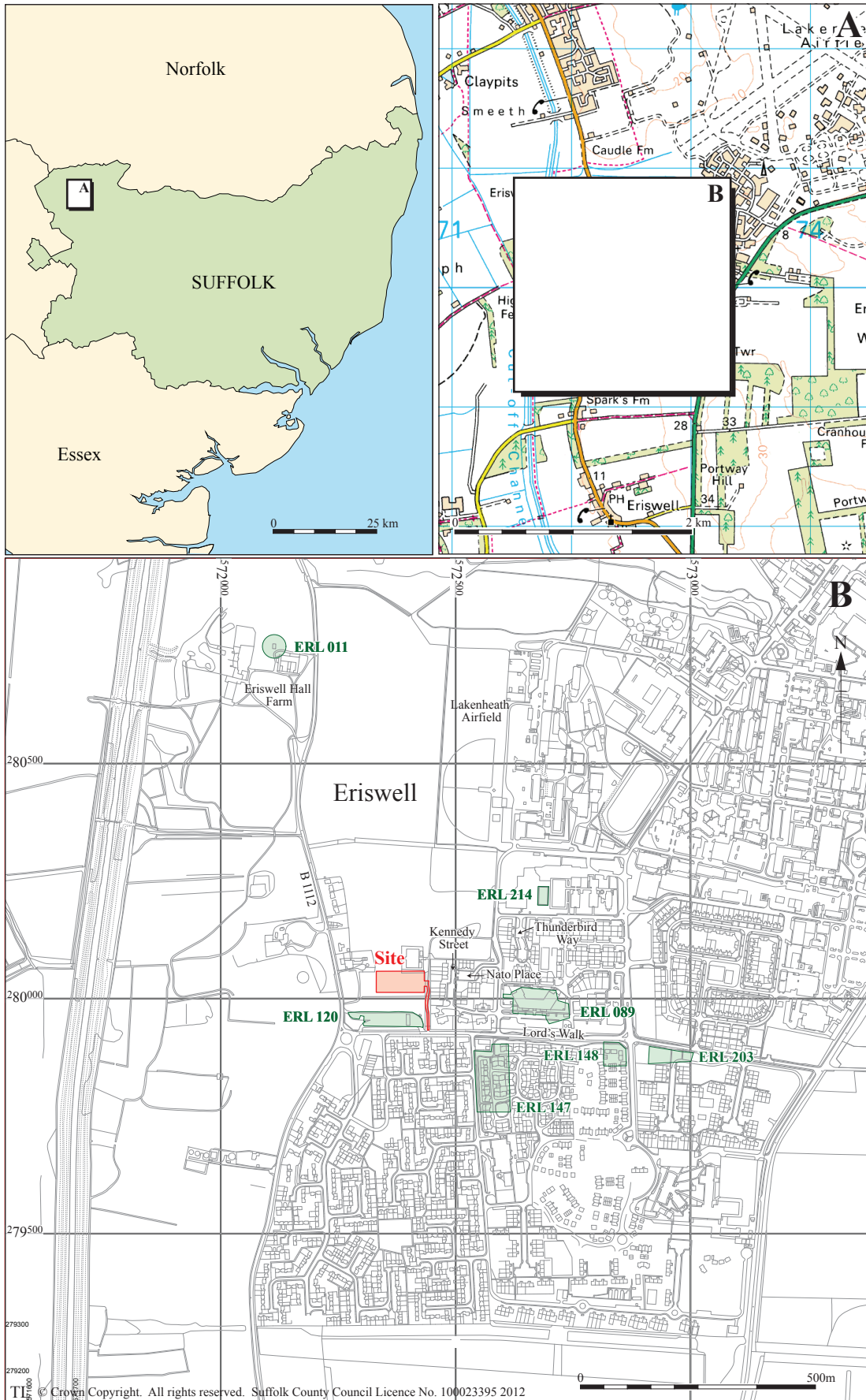


Figure 1. Location map, showing the development area (red) and selected HER entries mentioned in the text (green)

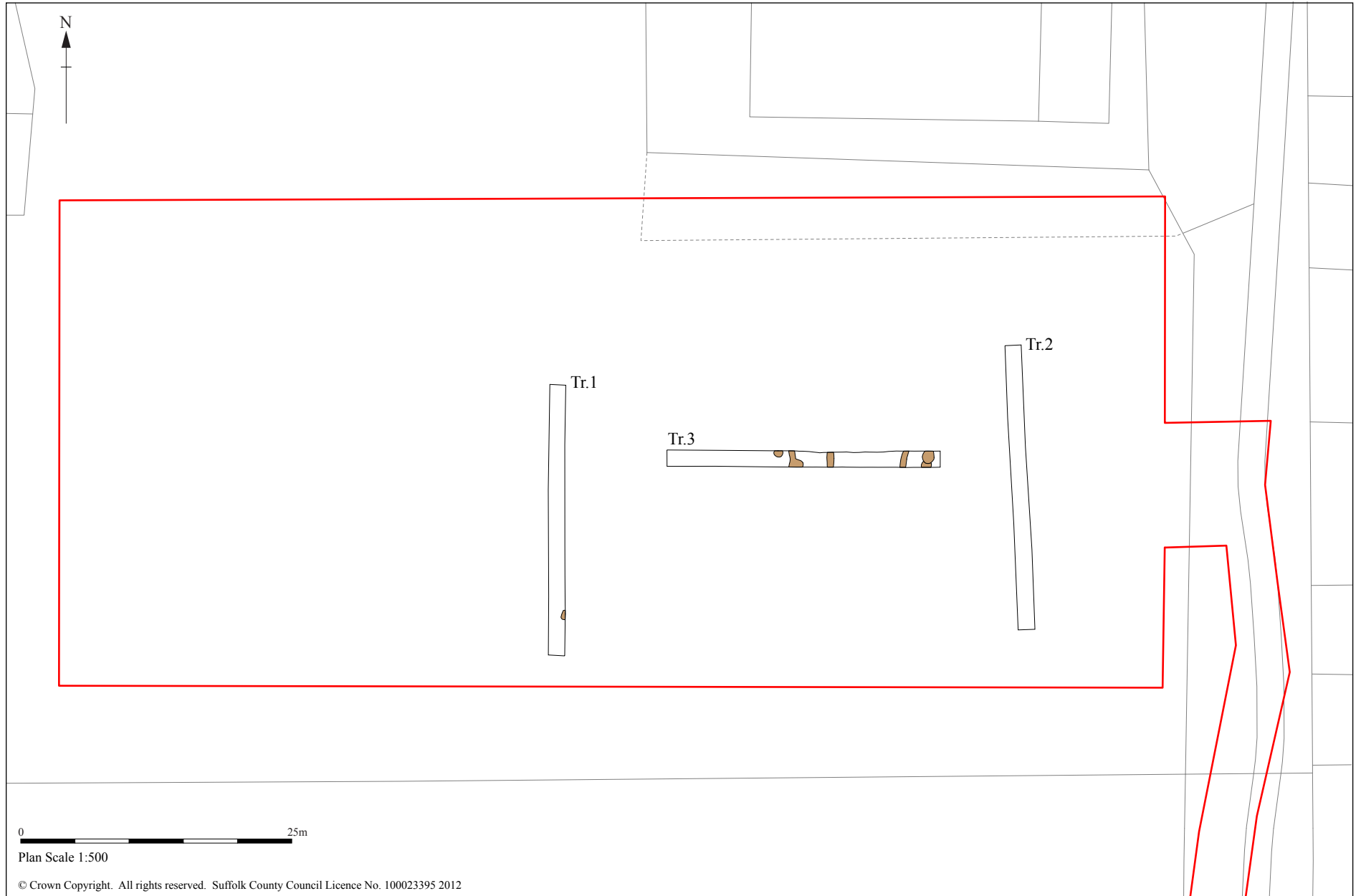


Figure 2. Trench locations



## **4. Methodology**

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The trenches were located using a Leica system 1200 GPS with a maximum error tolerance of 0.05m. Excavation of the trenches was carried out with a back-acting JCB fitted with a 1.5m wide ditching bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist. All archaeological features were excavated by hand whilst archaeological features and deposits were assigned unique context numbers and recorded according to the guidelines laid out by Gurney (2003). Sections of features were digitally photographed and recorded by hand at a scale of 1:20. Where these sections coincided with the trench walls the full trench profile was included within the hand drawn section (Fig. 3 and 4).

Trench locations and hand drawn plans were recorded using a Leica System 1200 GPS with a maximum error tolerance of 0.05m.

The specific locations of the trenches (Fig. 2) lie more towards the eastern end of the development area in order to avoid machining near a set of overhead power-lines that run near to the western end of the site.

## **5. Results**

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### **5.1 Introduction**

The evaluation recorded a collection of pits and ditch features concentrated at the eastern end of Trench 3. A single pit was also located away from the group towards the southern end of Trench 1. A full context list is supplied with this report as Appendix 2.

### **5.2 Trench results**

#### **Trench 1**

This trench measured 25m in length (north-south) by 1.5m in width (east-west) with a depth of 0.4m. The trench profile consisted of between 0.35 and 0.5m of plough soil lying on top of the natural geology. In places a thin layer of mid to pale yellowy greyish brown silty sand subsoil had survived in shallow hollows in the natural.

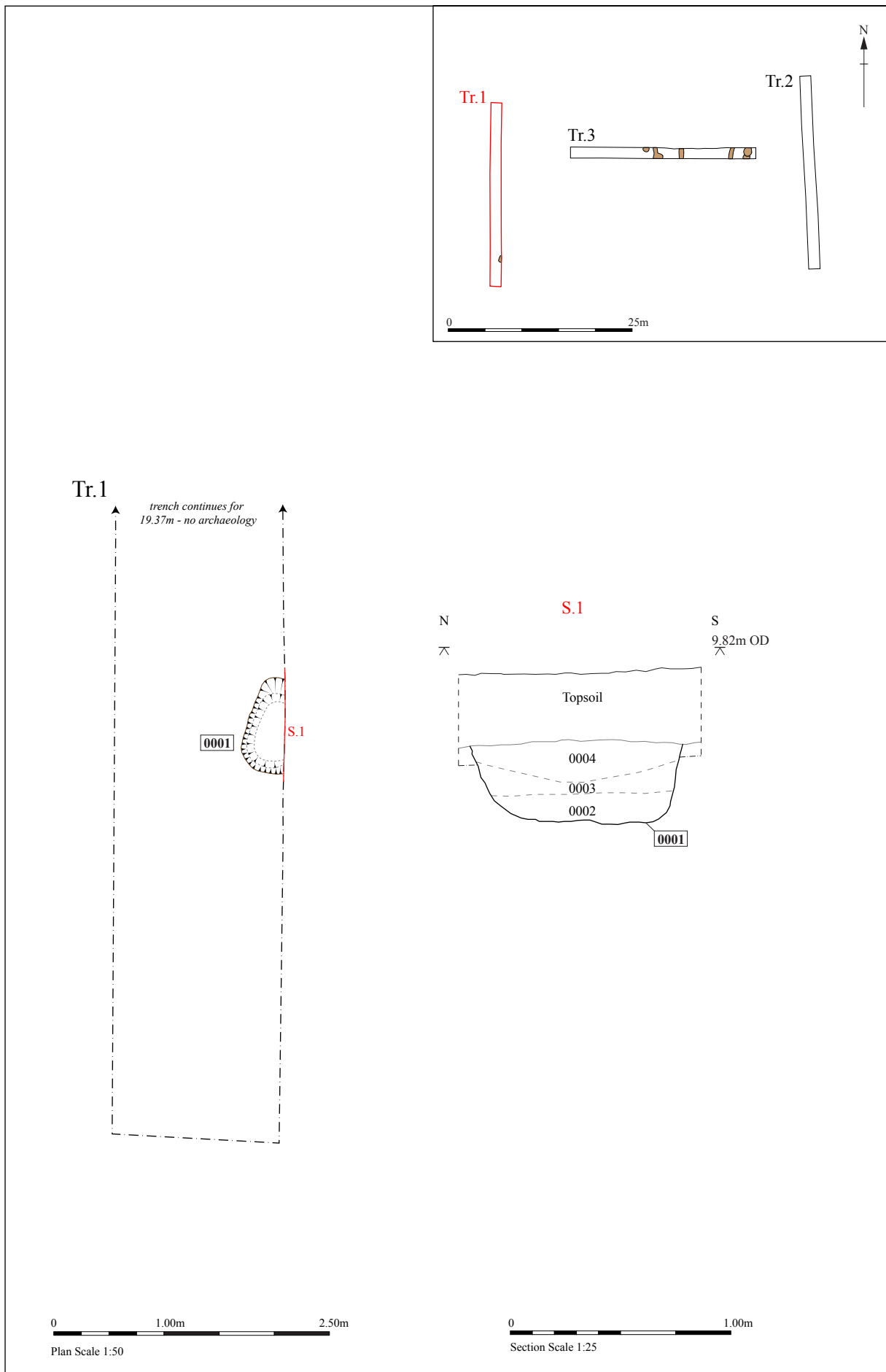


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section

### **Pit 0001**

A small sub-square pit was identified emerging from the eastern trench wall (Fig. 3). The pit contained three silty sand fills, the second of which (0003) had charcoal flecked inclusions whilst the top fill (0004) produced six sherds of hand-made pottery dated to the Iron Age. A sample from the top fill (0004) contained charcoal and various seeds but no chaff or other organic materials associated with grain-processing.

### **Trench 2**

Trench 2 measured 26.3m in length by 1.5m in width and ran north-south along the eastern end of the development area (Fig. 2). The soil profile consisted of the same plough soil with occasional subsoil traces observed across the rest of the development area but to a slightly greater depth of 0.45m. No archaeological horizon was present within this trench.

### **Trench 3**

The final trench ran for 25.3m east-west across the middle of the development area. The trench was 1.5m wide with a maximum depth of 0.3m. This trench contained the majority of features identified during the evaluation.

### **Ditch 0005**

A ditch with a concave profile ran through Trench 3 along a north-south alignment. The ditch contained two silty-sand fills but no dating evidence was present. It is possible that this ditch is contemporary with or was created for the same purpose as ditches 0012 and 0019 due to the same alignment. No dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

### **Pit 0008**

A sub-circular pit with a maximum diameter of 0.8m and a U-shaped profile was excavated towards the centre of Trench 3. The pit contained a layer of dark greyish brown sandy silt (0010) that included evidence of charcoal and a layer of moderately sized heat affected stones. Six sherds of pottery were recovered from pit fill 0010, all of which are broadly Iron Age in date.

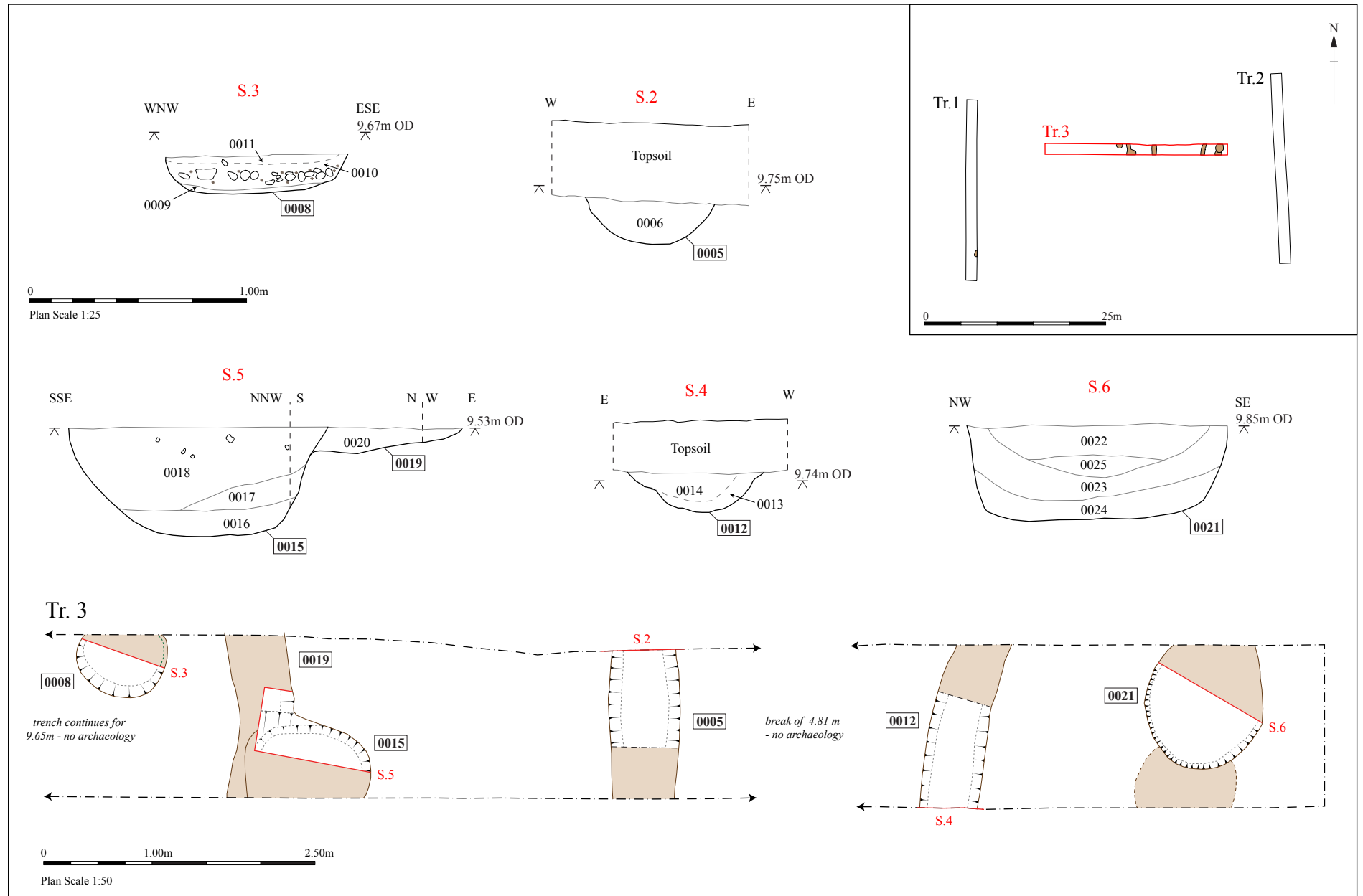


Figure 4. Trench 3, plan and sections

One of the sherds from the pit fill (0010) is a jar rim which has characteristics of Belgic style pottery that was in production during the late first century B.C and first century A.D. An environmental sample taken from fill 0010 contained a large amount of charcoal and both charred and uncharred weed seeds.



Plate 1. Pit 0008 facing north-east (1m scale).

### **Ditch 0012**

A fairly narrow ditch ran approximately north-south across the eastern end of Trench 3. In plan the ditch appeared to have a slight eastwards curve but this could not be stated with certainty due to the small proportion of the ditch visible in the footprint of the trench. The upper fill of the ditch (0014) had the same burnt dark greyish black silty sand characteristics as the top fill of pit 0021 found 1.4m to the east of this feature. It contained heat affected stones and a single small sherd of very abraded Iron Age pottery.

### **Pit 0015**

The full extent of this pit was not present within the trial trench but it appeared to have a sub-circular plan with a maximum diameter of approximately 1.2m. The pit contained several sandy fills of pale leached colour but no dating evidence was recovered. Unusually, this was the only pit feature not to contain evidence of burnt deposits. This pit was observed to be cutting ditch 0019 in section 5 (Fig. 4).

### **Ditch 0019**

The shallow remains of a north-south aligned ditch were identified on the west side of pit 0015 (Fig. 4). The ditch had a depth of 0.12m with a width of 0.5m and lay on the same axis as ditches 0005 and 0012 to the east. No finds were recovered from the reddish grey brown silty sand fill (0020). The ditch was cut by pit 0015 (Sec. 5 Fig. 4).

### **Pit 0021**

Pit 0021 was the eastern-most feature identified during the evaluation (Fig. 4). It had a sub-circular plan with a diameter of 1.2m. The pit had a U-shaped profile that contained four fills, two of which (0024 and 0022) displayed evidence of burning. A single sherd of relatively hard fired Iron Age pottery was recovered from the top fill (0022) of the pit. An environmental sample from fill 0024 was charcoal rich and contained charred wheat grains.



Plate 2. Trench 3, pit 0021 mid excavation (Looking east).

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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Andy Fawcett

### 6.1 Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected from two evaluation trenches (1 and 3). The finds were retrieved from the fills of four pits and one ditch although the majority of finds were located in Trench 3. Samples were also taken from pit fill 0004, 0010 and 0024 and the finds recovered from this process have been included in the final totals of Table 1. A detailed breakdown of the finds forms part of the site archive.

Context	Pottery		Worked flint		Burnt flint		Fired clay		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g		
0004	6	16	3	19	2	17				IA (E-M/?Later IA)
0010	12	69	3	32	42	332				M-Later IA
0014	5	2					3	1		?IA
0022	1	15	1	5						?LBA/IA
0024					3	7			2 @ 1g A.bone	
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>		

Table 1. Finds quantities

### 6.2 The Pottery

#### Introduction

A total of twenty-four sherds of pottery with an overall weight of 102g have been recorded from four contexts. All of the sherds are dated to the Iron Age and the majority were recorded in Trench 3. The condition of the greater part of the pottery assemblage may be described as being between abraded and slightly abraded. The average sherd weight is a low 4.25g, although this figure is slightly higher for the better preserved collection in pit fill 0010 (5.75g). This group also contains all of the diagnostic sherds (rims and bases) within the pottery assemblage as a whole.

#### Methodology

All of the pottery has been examined at x20 vision and divided into fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to these groups using the SCCAS fabric series. All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVE's). A full breakdown by context of the pottery can be seen in Appendix \*1.

## The assemblage

A single pit fill in Trench 1 (0004) contained six (mostly abraded) sherds of pottery (16g). These are all hand-made body sherds broadly dated to the Iron Age, although their likely date range is from the earlier to mid/later part of the period. Three fabric types are present within this small assemblage; they are all medium sandy (HMS) with either organics (HMSO) or sparse flint (HMF).

Three contexts within Trench 3 contained pottery. The fabrics encountered within these fills are similar to those already outlined in Trench 1. The largest group from pit fill 0010 contained two jar rims. The first of these has a patchy orange burnished exterior (HMSO). It also displays an upright but slightly everted rim with a somewhat flattened top. A similar type, although in a chalk based fabric, can be seen at Burgh (Martin 1988, 37; nos 19/20). In many respects the form and burnished exterior has more in common with the Belgic style of pottery produced from around the late 1st century BC onwards. The form might just pre-date this phase or be contemporary handmade ware copying the style of the 1st century B.C to 1st century A.D. It should be noted that similar hand-made profiles with burnished exteriors were also common place in the Anglo-Saxon period, and until further assemblages are recovered from the site caution should be employed (E. Martin pers.comm). However the presence of a small number of flint-tempered sherds alongside the sand based sherds indicates that the collection is more likely dated to the Iron Age. The second jar rim is in a medium sandy fabric (HMS) and has a simple bead/out-turned rim. The shoulder area appears to have some possible applied decoration. The two remaining sherds (one each in ditch fill 0014 and pit fill 0022) are also probably dated to the Iron Age.

### **6.3 Fired clay**

Three very abraded and small pieces of fired clay were recorded in ditch fill 0014 (Tr. 3). The pieces are oxidised and in a fine sandy fabric with calcite which is often streaked (fabric variant fsc). Very small and considerably abraded possible Iron Age pottery fragments are also present within the fill.



## **6.4 Worked flint**

Identified by Colin Pendleton

Five fragments of worked flint were recovered from three contexts. Pit fill 0004 (Tr.1) contained three flints. The first is a coarse grey small blade which is possibly patinated. It has limited edge retouch and is dated to the later prehistoric period. The second piece is an unpatinated squat flake. It has a hinge fracture and a broad striking platform with incipient cones of percussion. The flake is also hard hammer struck with a thick triangular cross section. It is dated to the later prehistoric period but within this, a Late Bronze to Iron Age date is more likely. Also dated to the same period is an unpatinated squat flake with a hinge fracture. Pit fill 0010 (Tr. 3) also contained three flints. Two are unpatinated squat flakes, one with a hinge fracture, the other has incipient cones of percussion on a broad striking platform. It is hard hammer struck and is mainly cortex on the dorsal face. The second piece is a snapped flake with a thick cross section. A single flint was noted in pit fill 0022 (Tr.3). It is an unpatinated squat flake with a hinge fracture and natural striking platform. All of the flints within Trench 3 are broadly dated to the later prehistoric period but are probably of a Late Bronze or Iron Age date. Contexts 0004, 0010 and 0022 all contained pottery dated to the Iron Age. The consistent presence of hinge fractures on the flint is indicative of a low standard of knapping which is associated with the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age.

## **6.5 Burnt flint/stone**

Three pit fills contained burnt flint/stone, 0004, 0010 and 0024. The largest collection was present in context 0010 (42 fragments @ 332g). It consists of a mixture of flints and stones which are predominantly a variable red colour. This indicates they were subject to some form of fire event, either natural or as a result of human activity, rather than being employed in the production or processing of food. Both context 0004 and 0010 contained pottery dating to the Iron Age.

## **6.6 Faunal remains**

Two very small and abraded fragments of animal bone were noted in pit fill 0024 (Tr.3). Neither of the pieces is identifiable and the only other find noted in the context is burnt flint.

## 6.7 Plant macrofossils

Anna West

### Introduction and methods

A total of six bulk samples were taken from features during the evaluation of land off Lords Walk, Eriswell. Initially three samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The samples were taken from the fills of three pits, two of which are most likely dated to the Iron Age.

Flots were obtained by the manual flotation of bulk samples carried out by the author using a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted in Table 2. Identification of plant remains is based on Butcher 1961 and the author's own reference collection.

### Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

### Results

The results of initial analysis by sample number and context can be seen below.

Sample number	Context	Feature No.	Feature type	Approximate date of deposit	Flot Contents
1	0004	0001	Pit	Iron Age	Charcoal ++, charred abraded grain # and weed seeds ++, fragmented insect remains +, snail shells +
2	0010	0008	Pit	Iron Age	Charcoal rich ++, charred and un-charred weed seeds ++, snail shells +, fragmented insects +, animal bone fragments +++
6	0024	0021	Pit	Unknown	Charcoal rich +, charred abraded wheat grains # and weed seeds ++, un-charred weed seeds +, fragments insect remains +

Table 2. Results of initial analysis of bulk samples

The preservation of the grain and a portion of the weed seeds are by charring and are generally fair to poor in condition. The charred grains are fragmented and/or abraded making identification difficult to impossible. Charred weed seeds were rare but consist of *Polygonaceae* and *Poaceae* species.

Un-charred weed seeds of *Chenopodiaceae*, *Leguminosae*, *Polygonaceae* and *Fumariaceae* species were present in Sample 1, along with charred *Polygonaceae* nutlets and *Poaceae caryopsis*. There were moderate charred endocarps that were too degraded to be identified at this stage. Two *Triticum sp. caryopsis* were recovered along with a small number of fragmented *caryopsis* which were too abraded and fragmented to identify. No chaff or processing materials were present within the flot. Fragmented insect remains and snail shells were also observed within this material, much of which may be intrusive.

Sample 2 contained frequent small charcoal fragments along with numerous small fragments of animal bone which is very abraded and possibly represents domestic refuse. Charred nutlets of *Polygonaceae* species were moderate along with charred and mineralized endocarps which could not be identified at this stage. Un-charred *Chenopodiaceae* species and fragmented insect remains were moderate to rare; the insect remains are likely to be modern and intrusive. No cereal or chaff remains were recovered from this material.

Sample 6 contained three charred *Triticum sp. caryopsis* and five fragments of *caryopsis* that were too fragmented and abraded to identify. There were also charred *Poaceae caryopsis* and un-charred *Chenopodiaceae achenes* and *Polygonaceae* nutlets. Intrusive fragmented insect remains were also identified in this material. No chaff was identified within this sample.

Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets and earthworm eggs were common in all the samples processed.

The charred plant remains in this assemblage are dominated by charcoal in the form of wood charcoal. All of the samples processed at this stage produced moderate quantities of charcoal although this may be due to sampling bias (sampling of productive-looking deposits). The small number of cereal grains recovered were

extremely abraded but some remained identifiable, although no chaff elements were recovered that would have aided identification.

## Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the samples were fair to rich in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal is common in all of the samples in varying quantities. It may be possible in the future to obtain radiocarbon dates from charcoal for those deposits that remain undated. The few cereal grains recovered were all reasonably well preserved and identifiable to an archaeobotanist.

If further excavation is planned, it is recommended that the remaining samples from this evaluation are processed to include with any further samples taken during the excavation. Further sampling should be carried out with a view to the investigation of the nature of cereal waste. The accompanying weed assemblage is likely to provide an insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this site. It is recommended that any further samples taken along with the remaining samples from the evaluation are processed and submitted to an archaeobotanist for full species identification and interpretation.

## **6.8 Discussion of material evidence**

Although this is a small and limited finds assemblage, both the pottery and worked flint produce consistent dating evidence for Iron Age activity on the site. The majority of the finds were recorded in Trench 3, with the exception of pit 0008, the remaining features are poorly dated. The group in pit 0008, possibly dated to around the later Iron Age period, is of particular interest as the pottery complements evidence from the recently excavated Late Iron Age/Roman droveway, a short distance to the south (ERL 120) of the current site.

## 7. Discussion

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A collection of features were identified in Trenches 1 and 3. All dating evidence recovered from the site has been identified as broadly Iron Age with a few exceptions more narrowly dated to early and late Iron Age. The pottery assemblage comes with the caveat that the similar hand-made forms with burnished exteriors are also common to the Anglo-Saxon period. Although Anglo-Saxon burials have been found in the area (ERL 203) this can be considered unlikely when taking evidence from nearby sites (ERL 120) into account.

Ditches 0005, 0012 and 0019 ran approximately north-south. Ditches 0012 and 0005 had similar profiles whilst 0019 had been severely truncated by modern ploughing. The dating from 0012 consisted of a single small sherd of Iron Age pottery whilst ditches 0019 and 0005 were undated. ERL 120 to the south has previously identified a late Iron Age/Roman driveway with an associated ditch system and it is possible that the ditches identified in this project are related. Dating evidence suggests that they are contemporary.

Ditch 0012 and the adjacent pit (0021) contained similar dark greyish black silty sand top fills with abraded Iron Age pottery. It is possible that these deposits are derived from a single activity nearby.

Pit 0008 contained a burnt layer (0010) that produced the most finds from the site consisting of six sherds of Iron Age pottery. The fill also contained a good quantity of heat affected stones. This suggests some degree of Iron Age activity in the development area or near by.

Pit 0015 was undated but contained pale leached out sandy fills that are commonly seen in prehistoric features which is another indication that scattered prehistoric deposits are present in the area.

## **8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

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The evaluation shows that there is an archaeological horizon present within the development area. This activity is evidenced by four pits and three north-south aligned ditches. Of these, three pits (0001, 0008 and 0021) and one ditch (0012) are dated to the Iron Age. The other features are undated.

The archaeological horizon was found between 0.4 and 0.3m below the surface under a shallow soil profile consisting of up to 0.4m of plough soil with occasional patches (0.1m deep) of lighter subsoil.

The archaeological evidence is likely to be a continuation of the pits and ditch system found during excavations at ERL 120 and it is possible that two ditches found during ERL 120 may project northwards to coincide with some of the ditches found in Trench 3. The 'droveway' features themselves that were found at ERL 120 and 089 are unlikely to be present within the development area as their projected route lies to the south of the site.

The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological deposits relating to Iron Age activity are present in the development area. As these deposits lie at a shallow depth (0.3 to 0.4m) below the current ground level they are highly vulnerable to disturbance from future groundworks and further fieldwork should take place to record deposits prior to development. The level of archaeological investigation required may be dependent upon the nature and intrusive qualities of the proposed groundworks.

## **9. Archive deposition**

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital Archive: R:\Environmental

Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Eriswell\ERL 222

Finds and Environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds H/80/2

## 10. Acknowledgements

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The archaeological evaluation was carried out by Andrew Vaughan Beverton and Rob Brookes.

The project was directed by Andrew Vaughan Beverton and managed by John Craven. Advice was provided by Joanna Caruth, John Craven and Jude Plouviez during both the fieldwork and report writing stages of this project.

The finds report was carried out by Andy Fawcett, with contributions from Colin Pendleton and Anna West. Graphics were produced by Crane Begg and Gemma Adams, Suffolk County Council Archaeology.

The report was checked by John Craven and Richenda Goffin.

## 11. Bibliography

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Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 1RX

## Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

### Land off Lords Walk, Lakenheath (parish of Eriswell), Suffolk

**PLANNING AUTHORITY:** Forest Heath District Council

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:** F/2011/0163/ful

**HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:** To be arranged

**GRID REFERENCE:** TL 723 800

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:** BIO-fuel generation plant

**AREA:** c.0.55ha (total site)

**CURRENT LAND USE:** unused former agricultural

**THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:** Jude Plouviez  
Archaeological Officer  
Conservation Team  
Tel. : 01284 741235  
E-mail: jude.plouviez@suffolk.gov.uk

**Date:** 13 January 2012

#### Summary

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition (Condition 3) relating to archaeological investigation:

‘No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.’

- 1.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements (and in conjunction with our standard Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.2), to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT) for scrutiny; SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 1.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists’ guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.

- 1.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 This site lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). Sites to the east and south have shown that there is prehistoric (Neolithic or early Bronze Age) settlement in the vicinity (ERL 120) and a system of late Iron Age and early Roman enclosures and droveways (ERL 089, 112, 120). Subsoils are generally wind-blown sands over chalk; the light sandy soils mean that topsoil stripping is potentially damaging to any surviving archaeological deposits.

### **Planning Background**

- 3.1 There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance, both in topsoil stripping and a series of small footings for container supports, that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority was advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with PPS 5 *Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE 12.3) to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:
  - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
  - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
  - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
  - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

- 4.3 Further evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.
- 4.4 Linear trial trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method and are to be excavated to cover around 5% by area. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide – for this project three trenches each 25m long are suggested, to be arranged N-S:E-W:N-S in the area affected by the development (eastern two-thirds of the plot).
- 4.5 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

### **Reporting and Archival Requirements**

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their

significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER.

- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

### **Standards and Guidance**

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver 1.2.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

### **Notes**

The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors ([www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net) or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

## Appendix 2 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001	0001	Pit Cut	<p>A sub-square pit whose full limits extend under the trench wall. The profile is formed of a greater than 80 degree break of slope with straight sides and a curving break of base that leads to a slightly undulating base.</p> <p>A small prehistoric pit.</p>	No		No	1
0002	0001	Pit Fill	<p>The basal fill of pit 0001 is a mid orangey grey sand with mottle patches. The context has a friable nature and contains common amounts of angular small stones. There is a diffuse to clear lower horizon.</p> <p>This is the basal fill of pit 0001 that is , in part, naturally derived.</p>	No		No	1
0003	0001	Pit Fill	<p>The second fill of pit 0001 is a dark brownish grey/black coloured silty sand. The context has a friable nature and contains common inclusions of rounded and angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. Sand lenses were noted to occur occasionally by the excavator. The fill has a diffuse to clear horizon.</p> <p>This fill of pit 0001 is derived from a burnt residue.</p>	No		No	1
0004	0001	Pit Fill	<p>The top fill of pit 0001 is a mid greyish-brown silty sand of a friable nature. It contains common inclusions of rounded to angular stones and occasional yellow sandy lenses. The lower horizon is diffuse. Small quantities of pottery and flint are present within the context.</p> <p>The top fill of pit 0001. Sample 1 taken from here but may have been partially mixed with context 0003 due to diffuse horizon.</p>	Yes	IA (E-M/?Later	Yes	1
0004	0001	Pit Fill	<p>The top fill of pit 0001 is a mid greyish-brown silty sand of a friable nature. It contains common inclusions of rounded to angular stones and occasional yellow sandy lenses. The lower horizon is diffuse. Small quantities of pottery and flint are present within the context.</p> <p>The top fill of pit 0001. Sample 1 taken from here but may have been partially mixed with context 0003 due to diffuse horizon.</p>	Yes		Yes	1
0004	0001	Pit Fill	<p>The top fill of pit 0001 is a mid greyish-brown silty sand of a friable nature. It contains common inclusions of rounded to angular stones and occasional yellow sandy lenses. The lower horizon is diffuse. Small quantities of pottery and flint are present within the context.</p> <p>The top fill of pit 0001. Sample 1 taken from here but may have been partially mixed with context 0003 due to diffuse horizon.</p>	Yes		Yes	1

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0005	0005	Ditch Cut	This ditches appears to have a linear plan running along a north-south axis. The profile consists of a 45-50 degree break of slope leading to concave sides with a curving break of slope that runs into a slightly concave base.  Cut of a ditch. No dating evidence recovered but is likely archaeological judging by its nature and levels of leaching.	No		No	3
0006	0005	Ditch Fill	The basal fill of dith 0005 is a mid orangey brown silty sand of a friable nature. The fill contains common inclusions of small rounded stones and occasional lenses of dark grey silty sand. The fill has a clear horizon.  Fill of ditch 0005.	No		No	3
0007	0005	Ditch Fill	The final fill of this ditch is a greyish black silty sand of a friable nature that contains occasional small stone inclusions. The lower horizon is clear to diffuse.  The top surviving fill of ditch, heavily truncated so only visible in places in plan and not at all in the section (sec 2). Not sampled due to small volume.	No		No	3
0008	0008	Pit Cut	This sub-circular shaped pit is slightly elongated on a NNW-SSE axis. The pit has a u-shaped profile consisting of sharp and steep break of slope with a smoother, average break of base. The sides are slightly concave. The pit has a shallowly concave, wide base. The full length is unknown as full extent of feature is unexcavated. The pit contains three fills (0009, 0010 and 0011). 0010 is the primar fill whilst 0009 is basal and 0011 top fill.  Pit of Iron Age origin (sherds of I.A pottery recovered). Similar to pit in trench 1.	No		No	3
0009	0009	Pit Cut	This context is a pale yellowy greyish brwon slithgly slity sand that has a soft compaction and unsorted flint stones (0.01 - 0.03m diameter) inclusions. This context is the basal fill of pit 0008. It has a semi diffuse lower horizon, the fill is clean and it is likely that its deposition occurred soon after initial excavation, quickly followed by deposition of the primary fill (0010).  Basal fill of pit 0008.	No		No	3
0010	0008	Pit Fill	This fill is a slightly dark greyish brown sandy silt of a moderate compaction and a friable and crumbly nature. The context contains occasional charcoal flecking and a moderate quantity of sorted (D = 0.03 - 0.4m) heat affect stones (not flint). The stones are concentrated as a layer within 0010. Some pottery is present.  Primary fill containing a dump of burning and heat affected stones.	Yes		Yes	3

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0010	0008	Pit Fill	<p>This fill is a slightly dark greyish brown sandy silt of a moderate compaction and a friable and crumbly nature. The context contains occasional charcoal flecking and a moderate quantity of sorted (D = 0.03 - 0.4m) heat affect stones (not flint). The stones are concentrated as a layer within 0010. Some pottery is present.</p> <p>Primary fill containing a dump of burning and heat affected stones.</p>	Yes	M-Later IA	Yes	3
0011	0008	Pit Fill	<p>The top fill of pit 0008 is a mid greyish-brown sandy silt with very rare stone pebbles. The fill is soft and friable with a slightly diffuse lower ghorizon. No finds were present within this context.</p> <p>Top fill of pit. Appears to be slumped subsoil.</p>	No		No	3
0012	0012	Ditch Cut	<p>The feature has a linear plan aligned north-south. The features profile consists of a 45 degree break of slope with concave, slightly irregular, sides that lead to a curving break of slope and a concave base.</p> <p>Cut of a N-S ditch. Possibly relates to ditch 0005 and pit 0008.</p>	No		No	3
0013	0012	Ditch Fill	<p>This fill is a mid brownish-grey silty sand of a friable nature. The fill contains common small stones that are angular. This contexts lower horizon is clear.</p> <p>Basal fill of ditch 0012. The context is similar to 0006 in pit 0005.</p>	No		No	3
0014	0012	Ditch Fill	<p>This fill is a dark greyish black silty sand of a friable nature. The fill contains common, small rounded-angular stones and has a clear lower horizon. There is evidence of animal disturbance.</p> <p>Upper fill of ditch 0012. Burnt upper fill, similar to 0007 in ditch 0005, although 0014 is more substantial. The fill contained 3 'pot boiler' stones similar to those in nearby pit 0008, possibly contemporary.</p>	Yes	?IA	No	3
0015	0015	Pit Cut	<p>Full extent is not within the bounds of the trial trench but this feature appears to have a sub-circular plan. The profile is formed of a steep, near vertical, break of slope with concave sides. The break of base is smooth towards the SE side and more abrupt/angular at the NW side. The base is very shallowly concave.</p> <p>A moderate sized pit of a similar form as 0021. Possibly contemporary although no finds were recovered.</p>	No		No	3
0016	0015	Pit Fill	<p>The basal fill of pit 0015 is a dark blackish-brown very sandy silt with moderate, sorted flint pebbles. There is an Iron pan layer at the base of the context. It has a clear lower horizon.</p> <p>The basal fill of pit 0015.</p>	No		No	3

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0017	0015	Pit Fill	<p>This context is a light greyish yellowy brown silty coarse sand that contains moderate, unsorted flint pebbles (D = 0.01 - 0.03m). The context is soft and very friable. The horizons are clear and sharp.</p> <p>Slumped fill in pit 0015. Looks like this fill is derived from the collapse of natural from the side of the pit cut.</p>	No		No	3
0018	0015	Pit Fill	<p>The primary fill of pit 0015 is a slightly pale greyish brown sandy silt of soft compaction. The fill includes occasional, evenly spaced small flint pebbles. The lower horizon is fairly clear.</p> <p>Primary fill of pit 0015.</p>	No		No	3
0019	0019	Ditch Cut	<p>A shallow, narrow ditch/gully running N-S across trench 3. The profile is a shallow dish shape with shallow breaks of slope and a gradual, near imperceptible, break of base and a narrow concave base. This ditch is cut by pit 0021.</p> <p>Shallow gully or ditch that is likely to be related to 0005 and 0012 due to same alignment. It is probably that the shallow profile is a result of truncation through modern ploughing.</p>	No		No	3
0020	0019	Ditch Fill	<p>The fill of ditch 0019 is a pale slightly reddish grey brown silty-sand of a soft compaction and very friable nature. The context does not contain any inclusions and has a diffuse lower horizon.</p> <p>Surviving fill in ditch 0019. No finds or inclusions suggest that this context a naturally derived fill.</p>	No		No	3
0021	0021	Pit Cut	<p>This pit has an elliptical plan and a U shaped profile that is made up of a steep, near vertical, break of slope, slightly concave sides and an abrupt break of base that leads to a flat base.</p> <p>A moderate sized pit with several fills. The pit is of a similar form to 0015 and could form part of a larger cluster as seen in site previously excavated to the south of the development area.</p>	No		No	3
0022	0021	Pit Fill	<p>The top surviving fill of pit 0021 is a dark brownish grey sandy silt containing fairly sorted flint stones (D = 0.02m) evenly and occasionally spread throughout the context, charcoal flecking was also present in moderate quantities throughout. The fill has a diffuse boundary with 0023 and a sharp boundary with 0025. Pottery was recovered from this fill.</p> <p>Top fill of pit 0021</p>	Yes	?LBA/IA	No	3



Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0023	0021	Pit Fill	This slumped fill was a mid greyish brown sandy silt of a soft and friable nature. The fill contained rare flint pebble inclusions and had a fairly clear horizon. Fill of pit 0021, possibly derived from slump of subsoil layers.	No		No	3
0024	0021	Pit Fill	The basal fill of pit 0021. This fill is a dark brownish grey sandy silt of a soft and friable nature. The context contains occasional unsorted flint pebbles (D = 0.01 - 0.03m) and charcoal flecking. Basal fill of pit 0021.	Yes		Yes	3
0024	0021	Pit Fill	The basal fill of pit 0021. This fill is a dark brownish grey sandy silt of a soft and friable nature. The context contains occasional unsorted flint pebbles (D = 0.01 - 0.03m) and charcoal flecking. Basal fill of pit 0021.	Yes		Yes	3
0025	0021	Pit Fill	A pale brownish greyish yellow silty sand of a soft and friable nature. This context is a thin lense of redeposited natural with frequent unsorted flint pebble inclusions (D = 0.01 - 0.03m). The context has clear and sharp horizons. Redeposited natural fill.	No		No	3
NAT		Layer	The natural geology is an orangey greyish brown silty-coarse sand that contains frequent inclusions of unsorted, evenly spaced flint and stone gravels (D= 0.02 - 0.04m). Striations of pale brownish yellow sand are present sporadically through the natural as are layers of mineralisation (Iron panning) that follow water draining routes through the geology. The undisturbed natural into which all negative features are dug.	No		No	All
S.Soil		Layer	A mid/pale yellowish-greyish brown silty sand of a soft and friable nature. The layer contains unsorted localised flint pebbles and has suffered disturbance and truncation through animal action and ploughing events respectively. This subsoil occurs in patches across the site. Surviving subsoil in slight hollows.	No		No	1
T.soil		Layer	The topsoil is a ploughed dark blackish brown sandy silt containing a large degree of humus and other organic matter. The topsoil has been ploughed in a north-south and east-west direction as interpreted from plough marks observed during the machining of trial trenches. Ploughed topsoil.	No		No	All



## Appendix 3. Oasis form

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**OASIS ID: suffolkc1-119157**

### Project details

Project name	ERL 222, Land off of Lords Walk, Eriswell
Short description of the project	Three trial trenches were excavated on land off of Lord's Walk, Eriswell on the 20th of February 2012. The evaluation was conducted as a condition for planning application F/2011/0163 in advance of the construction of a new Bio-fuel plant. Previous excavations in the area have identified a wealth of archaeology in the vicinity that includes prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon occupation and funerary activity. A collection of three pits and three ditch features were identified in Trench 3 whilst a single outlying pit was also recorded in Trench 1. The finds assemblage is consistently Iron Age in origin and predominantly came from the features in Trench 3.
Project dates	Start: 20-02-2013 End: 20-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ERL 222 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	FLINT Iron Age
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH ERISWELL ERL 222, Land off of Lords Walk, Eriswell
Postcode	IP27 9FD
Study area	0.55 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 723 800 52.3904397060 0.532356491624 52 23 25 N 000 31 56 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.31m Max: 10.76m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jude Plouviez
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	A Beverton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Pelorus

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'
Digital Media available	'Database','GIS','Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land off Lord's Walk, Eriswell ERL 222

Author(s)/Editor(s) Andrew Vaughan Beverton

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher SCCAS

Place of issue or publication Suffolk

Description Grey lit report.

Entered by Andy Beverton (Andy.Beverton@suffolk.gov.uk)

Entered on 8 March 2012





# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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