

**Written Scheme of Investigation for an  
Archaeological Evaluation  
at  
Northview and No. 3 The Warren  
Dunmow Road, Little Canfield  
Essex**

**NGR: TL 57600 21200**

**ASE Project no: 8050**

**Site Code: TBC**

**September 2013**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE) on behalf of Arcady Architects for Knight Developments for a programme of archaeological work in advance of residential development on land at Northview and No. 3 The Warren, Dunmow Road, Little Canfield.
- 1.2 This WSI is for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching based upon a 5% sample of the 1.95ha site. Eighteen trenches will be excavated in the first instance, each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide (Fig. 1).

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Site Description and Location**

- 2.1.1 The site is situated on the south side of the B1256 Dunmow Road and comprises two residential properties, Northview and The Warren Cottages, set within extensive gardens at NGR TL 57600 21200 (centred). The site is bounded to the rear by the former Bishops Stortford to Braintree branch railway line and to either side by further residential properties.
- 2.1.2 The superficial geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as the Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton), typically a chalky till, overlying London Clay (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer; Accessed 27/09/2013).

### **2.2 Reasons for Project**

- 2.2.1 A planning application (UTT/13/1779/FUL) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in July 2013 for the “Demolition of North View and the Residential development of 46 units (including affordable units) and associated works which include new access to Dunmow Road, new bridleway link, playspace, strategic landscaping and parking provision”. As the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a phased archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent. The archaeological condition that was recommended is based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states that:

1. No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority. A mitigation strategy detailing the excavation/preservation strategy shall be submitted to the local planning authority following the completion of this work.

2. No development or preliminary groundworks can commence on those areas containing archaeological deposits until the satisfactory completion of fieldwork, as detailed in the mitigation strategy, and which has been signed off by the local planning authority through its historic environment advisors.

3. The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post-excavation assessment (to be submitted within three months of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority). This will result in the completion of post-excavation analysis, preparation of a full site archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report..

## **2.3 Historical and Archaeological Background**

2.3.1 The general vicinity of the development area has been extensively investigated in recent decades – key projects that have contributed to an understanding of the archaeological record in this part of Essex include work at Stansted Airport (Havis & Brooks 2004; Framework Archaeology 2008), the A120 Stansted to Braintree dual carriageway (Timby *et al* 2007), Frogs Hall, Takeley (Ennis 2008) and Phases 1 to 3, Priors Green, Takeley (Roberts 2003, Pocock 2008, Germany & Masefield forthcoming).

2.3.2 To the immediate north of the site, Dunmow Road is thought to run on the approximate line of Stane Street, the Roman road from Braughing/Puckridge to Colchester (Drury and Rodwell 1980). To the northeast at Frogs Hall is a presumptive Roman villa (ESMR 9140) with associated Roman landscape features, whilst Warish Hall (ESMR 4572), a Scheduled medieval moated site

lies c.1km to the north. Another medieval moated site, Jacks Green (ESMR 4655), is located to the northwest of the current site. Jacks Lane, a bridleway that runs broadly east-west to the north, is also thought to have medieval origins.

2.3.3 Of primary and specific importance are the results of archaeological investigations undertaken for the Priors Green housing development, which lies immediately north of the site. During the period 2004-08, evaluation, area excavation and monitoring works were carried out in advance of and during construction (EHER 46298; Germany 2006 and 2010b; Robertson 2005, 2006a-h and 2007; Scruby 2009). Prehistoric remains of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age date suggest enclosure and management of the landscape, though no clear settlement sites were identified. Only scattered Roman period features and finds have been found and it seems that this area was marginal or open farmland at this time. A NW-SE aligned ditch, possibly of Late Iron Age/Roman date was found close to and roughly parallel with Dunmow Road and may hint at the near proximity of Stane Street. No Saxon features or artefacts have been found. No clear dating evidence for Jacks Lane was found during works associated with the construction of new road crossings, but part of a medieval farmstead, primarily of 13th century date, was excavated alongside it. Lastly, an extensive late medieval/post-medieval field system and drainage/cultivation trench complex was recorded.

2.3.4 Other nearby investigations unrelated to the Priors Green development include that at 'The Rest', a similarly sized plot located a short distance further west along Dunmow Road (Germany 2009 and 2010). No archaeological remains were identified within the four trial trenches excavated here.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains

uncovered by the evaluation will be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

## **3.2 Objectives**

3.2.1 The specific objectives of the investigation will be to:

- Identify any extension of prehistoric occupation previously identified to the north within the Priors Green development site
- Identify Roman roadside settlement
- Identify medieval roadside settlement
- Identify whether the medieval field system previously identified to the north of the site extends into this area.

3.2.2 In the event that significant discoveries are made the report will seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. (Medlycott 2011).

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Requirements**

4.1.1 Prior to the commencement of fieldwork a site code will be obtained from ECC Place Services and an OASIS record will be initiated for the evaluation.

4.1.2. Following consultation with the ECC Place Services it has been agreed that the evaluation will consist of trenching a 5% sample of the development area, equivalent to eighteen 30m long by 1.8m wide trenches (Fig. 1). The trenches are arranged in a regular grid pattern to give even coverage while avoiding Root Protection Zones around trees and boundary hedges that are to be retained.

4.1.3. In the event that important archaeological remains are identified a site meeting will be held with the client and the ECC Place Services monitoring officer to discuss the significance of the remains and decide whether

additional trenching or any other variations to the evaluation strategy are appropriate.

## **4.2 Standards**

4.2.1 ASE will adhere to the IfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, and Code of Conduct (IfA 2009 & 2012), and the ALGAO *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) throughout the project. ASE is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the IfA.

## **4.3 Machining**

4.3.1 Machining will be carried out to ASE standards under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The removal of modern overburden and topsoil will be performed by a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Machine-excavation of each trench will stop at the uppermost archaeological surface, or the natural clay, whichever is encountered first, and will create a clean and level surface for further excavation and recording by hand.

4.3.2 In areas where subsoil exists between soil/overburden and clean natural, subsoil stripping will take place under archaeological supervision.

4.3.3 Any spoil heaps generated will be visually scanned and checked with a metal detector.

4.3.4 Any subsoil excavated will be stored separately from topsoil. All trenches will be backfilled, with subsoil deposited first, and then topsoil.

## **4.4 Excavation and Recording**

4.4.1 All exposed archaeological features and deposits will be recorded and excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.

4.4.2 Standard ASE methodologies will be employed. All stratigraphy will be recorded using the ASE context recording system.

- 4.4.3 An overall plan related to the site grid and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid will be drawn in addition to individual plans showing areas of archaeological interest. All features revealed will be planned.
- 4.4.4 Site plans will be at 1:20 unless circumstances dictate otherwise. Plans at other scales will be drawn if appropriate (e.g. cremation burials at 1:10). Sections will be drawn at 1:10.
- 4.4.5 Datum levels will be taken where appropriate. Sufficient levels will be taken to ensure that the relative height of the archaeological/subsoil horizon can be extrapolated across the whole of the development area.
- 4.4.6 Archaeological features and deposits will be excavated using hand tools, unless they cannot be accessed safely or unless a machine-excavated trench is the only practical method of excavation. Any machine-excavation of archaeologically significant features will be agreed with the ECC Place Services monitoring officer in advance.
- 4.4.7 With the exception of modern disturbances, normally a minimum 50% of all contained features will be excavated. Modern disturbances will only be excavated as necessary in order to properly define and evaluate any features that they may cut. Normally 10% (or at least a 1m-long segment) of non-structural linear features will be excavated. At least 50% of linear features with a possible structural function (e.g. beam slots) will normally be excavated. Details of the precise excavation strategy and any alterations to it will be discussed with the monitoring officer if particularly significant archaeology is revealed as a result of topsoil stripping.
- 4.4.8 All articulated human remains, graves and cremation vessels/deposits will receive minimal excavation to define their extent and establish whether they are burials or not. Generally all graves and cremation burials will be recorded and their positions noted without full excavation, only surface cleaning. A decision would then be made on future treatment of the human remains in consultation with the client/ their agent and the ECC Place Services monitoring officer, and the coroner would be informed. Graves and cremation burials would only be excavated if they have already been disturbed, or if it is

decided that a small sample of the burials need be evaluated to assess their condition and preservation.

- 4.4.9 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images will be made with monochrome prints of significant features/feature groups or in situ artefacts only. The photographic record will aim to provide an overview of the excavation and the surrounding area. A representative sample of individual feature shots and sections will be taken, in addition to working shots and elements of interest (individual features and group shots). The photographic register will include: film number, shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

#### **4.5 Finds/Environmental Remains**

- 4.5.1 In general, all finds from all features will be collected. Where large quantities of post-medieval and later finds are present and the feature is not of intrinsic or group interest, a sample of the finds assemblage will normally be collected sufficient to date and characterise the feature.
- 4.5.2 Finds will be identified, by context number, to a specific deposit or, in the case of topsoil finds, to a specific area of the site.
- 4.5.3 All finds will be properly processed according to ASE guidelines and *IfA Guidelines for Finds Work*. All pottery and other finds, where appropriate, will be marked with the site code and context number.
- 4.5.4 If appropriate, environmental samples will be taken from well-stratified, datable deposits that are deemed to have potential for the preservation/survival of ecofactual material. Bulk soil samples (minimum 40 litres or 50% of context) will be taken for wet sieving and flotation, and for finds recovery. ASE's environmental consultant is Karine Le Hegarat (ASE) and, if necessary, English Heritage's regional scientific advisor, Helen Chappell, will be consulted. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.
- 4.5.5 Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, amended 2003, shall be reported to the



Essex County Council Finds Liaison Officer. Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the client, landowner and the ECC Place Service monitoring officer will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the ECC Place Service monitoring officer of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto the site plan).

4.5.6 See above and Appendix 1 for information regarding specialist consultants

## **5.0 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS**

### **5.1 Client Report**

5.1.1 Within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork a report will be produced containing the following information:

- **SUMMARY:** A concise non-technical summary
- **INTRODUCTION:** General introduction to project including reasons for work and funding, planning background.
- **BACKGROUND:** to include geology, topography, current site usage/description, and what is known of the history and archaeology of the surrounding area.
- **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:** Summary of aims and objectives of the project
- **METHOD:** Methodology used to carry out the work.
- **FIELDWORK RESULTS:** Detailed description of results. In addition to archaeological results, the depth of the archaeological horizon and/or subsoil across the site will be described. The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological remains will be described.
- **SPECIALIST REPORTS:** Summary descriptions of artefactual and ecofactual remains recovered. Brief discussion of intrinsic value of assemblages and their more specific value to the understanding of the site.
- **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS:** Overview to include assessment of value and significance of the archaeological deposits and artefacts, and consideration of the site in its wider context.

- APPENDICES: Context descriptions, finds catalogues, contents of archive and deposition details, HER summary sheet.
- FIGURES: to include a location plan of the archaeological works in relation to the proposed development (at an Ordnance Survey scale), specific plans of areas of archaeological interest (at 1:50), a section drawing to show present ground level and depth of deposits, section drawings of relevant features (at 1:20). Colour photographs of the more significant archaeological features and general views of the site will be included where appropriate.

5.1.2 In addition to copies of the report supplied to the client, a digital copy of the report will be supplied to the ECC Place Service monitoring officer for planning purposes and inclusion in the Essex Historic Environment Record.

5.1.3 Copies of the report will also be submitted to Saffron Walden Museum as part of the project archive.

5.1.4 A form will be completed for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage and the Archaeological Data Service.

## **5.2 Publication**

5.2.1 Publication will be by an evaluation report produced within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork. Subject to a timescale to be approved by the Client a summary report will also be submitted for publication in the annual fieldwork round-up in *Essex Archaeology and History*. In the event that no further works are planned and exceptional archaeological remains are found which warrant publication in their own right a separate note on these will be produced to a timetable to be agreed with ECC Place Services.

## **5.3 Archive**

5.3.1 Guidelines contained in UKIC's *Guidelines for the Presentation of excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* and the MGC's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* will be followed for the preparation of the archive for museum deposition.

- 5.3.2 Finds from the archaeological fieldwork will be kept with the archival material.
- 5.3.3 Subject to agreement with the legal landowner ASE will arrange with Saffron Walden Museum for the deposition of the archive and artefact collection. Any items requiring treatment will be conserved. The landowner will be asked to donate the finds to the local museum.

## **6 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **6.1 Site Risk Assessment and Safety Measures**

- 6.1.1 ASE's Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) system covers most aspects of excavation work and ensures that for most sites the risks are adequately controlled. Prior to and during fieldwork sites are subject to an ongoing assessment of risk. Site-specific risk assessments are kept under review and amended whenever circumstances change which materially affect the level of risk. Where significant risks have been identified in work to be carried out by ASE a written generic assessment will be made available to those affected by the work. A copy of the Risk Assessment is kept on site.

### **6.2 Site risk assessment and safety measures**

- 6.2.1 An initial appraisal of risk suggests that adherence to ASE's RAMS system should adequately control identified risk. Assessment of risk is an ongoing process and should circumstances demand additional risk assessments will be carried out prior to and during archaeological work.
- 6.2.2 ASE staff will liaise with the client and/ or their agent and will follow any additional Health and Safety instructions that are given/agreed.
- 6.2.2 Archaeology South-East is insured against claims for: public liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate for products liability; professional indemnity to the value of £10,000,000 any one occurrence; employer's liability to the value of £50,000,000 each and every loss.

## **7 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING**

### **7.1 Staffing and Equipment**

- 7.1.1 The archaeological works will be undertaken by a professional team of archaeologists, comprising a Senior Archaeologist and up to three Assistant Archaeologists with support from a surveyor as required.
- 7.1.3 The Senior Archaeologist for the project will be responsible for fieldwork, post-excavation reporting and archiving in liaison with the relevant specialists and under the overall direction of the fieldwork project manager (Adrian Scruby) and the post-excavation project manager (Mark Atkinson).
- 7.1.4 The ECC Place Service monitoring officer will be notified of the Senior Archaeologist assigned to the project prior to start of works and should any subsequent change of personnel occur. CVs of all key staff are available on request.
- 7.1.5 Specialists who may be consulted are listed in Appendix 1.
- 7.1.6 Other specialists may be consulted if necessary. These will be made known to the monitoring office for approval prior to consultation. Similarly, any changes in the specialist list will be made known to the monitoring office for approval prior to consultation.

### **7.2 Timetable and Programme**

- 7.2.1 The works are provisionally programmed to start on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October, dependent upon ground and weather conditions, and the ECC Place Services monitoring officer will be advised of any changes to this date.
- 7.2.2 It is envisaged that machining, recording and excavation will take around six to eight days to complete. The production of the report will take c. 4 weeks from the end of the fieldwork. The client and their agent are aware of working methods and provision has been made to allow access to undertake the evaluation works.

## **8 MONITORING**

- 8.1 The ECC Place Services monitoring officer, Richard Havis, will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project.
  
- 8.2 Any variations to the specification will be agreed with the ECC Place Services monitoring officer prior to being carried out.
  
- 8.3 The ECC Place Services monitoring officer will be kept informed of progress throughout the project and will be contacted in the event that significant archaeological features are discovered. Arrangements will be made for the monitoring officer to inspect the evaluation trenches before they are backfilled – trenches will not be backfilled without the agreement of the monitoring officer.

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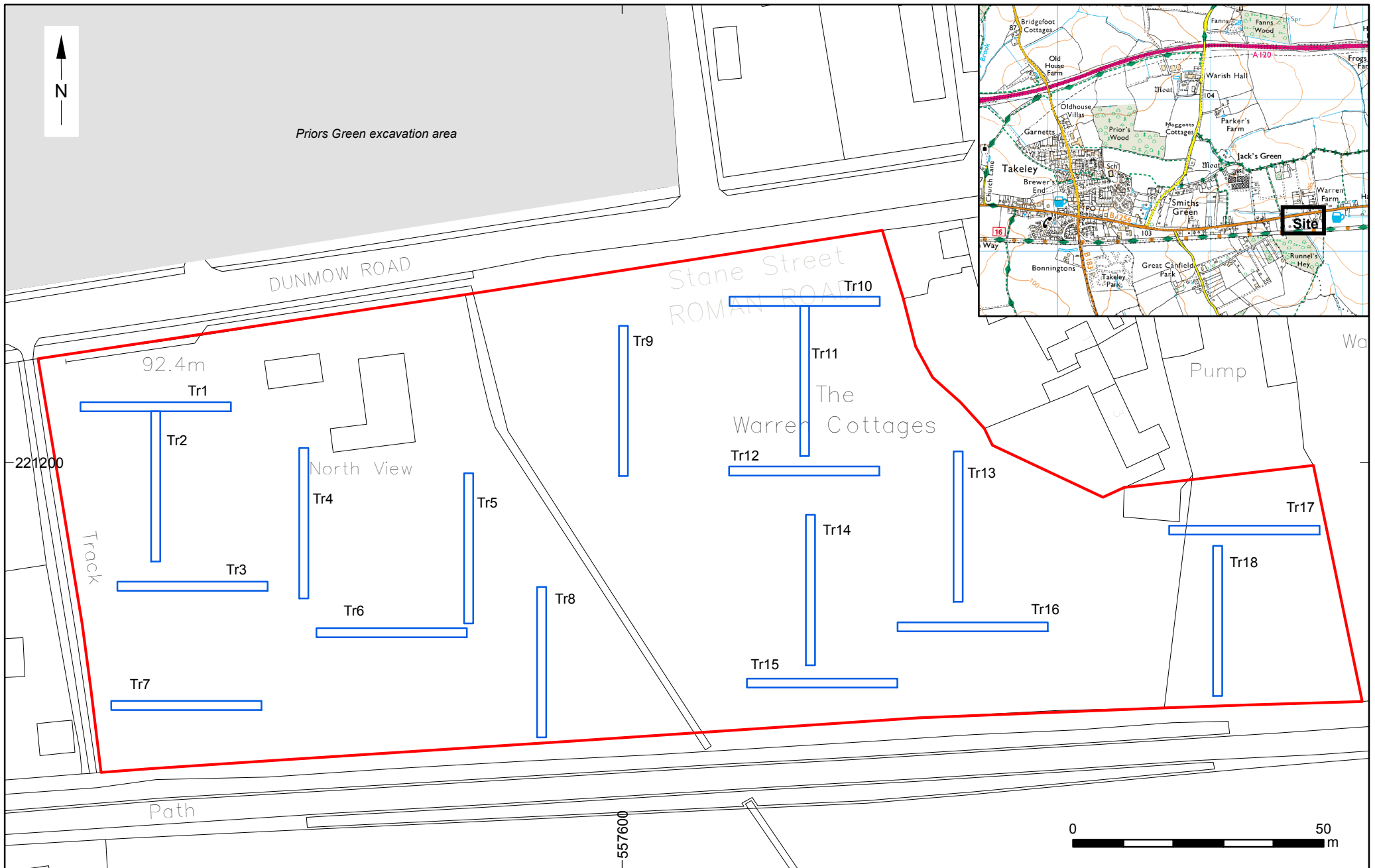
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**APPENDIX 1**

Specialists to be used as necessary:

Prehistoric and Roman pottery	Louise Rayner & Anna Doherty (ASE)
Prehistoric	Nick Lavender (external: Essex region)
Post-Roman pottery	Luke Barber (external: Sussex, Kent and London)
Post-Roman pottery (Essex)	Helen Walker (external: Essex)
CBM	Sue Pringle & Luke Barber (external)
Fired Clay	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Clay Tobacco Pipe	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Glass	Elke Raemen (ASE)
Slag	Luke Barber, Lynne Keyes (external); Trista Clifford (ASE)
Metalwork	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Worked Flint	Karine Le Hégarat (ASE); Hugo Anderson-Whymark (external)
Geological material and worked stone	Luke Barber (external)
Human bone incl cremated bone	Lucy Sibun (ASE)
Animal bone incl fish	Gemma Ayton (ASE)
Marine shell	Elke Raemen (ASE); David Dunkin (external)
Registered Finds	Elke Raemen & Trista Clifford (ASE)
Coins	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Treasure administration	Trista Clifford (ASE)
Conservation and x-ray	Fishbourne Roman Villa or UCL Institute of Archaeology
Geoarchaeology	Dr Matt Pope & Liz Chambers (ASE)
Geoarchaeology (incl wetland environments)	Kristina Krawiec (ASE)
Macro-plant remains	Dr Lucy Allott & Karine Le Hégarat (ASE)
Charcoal & Waterlogged wood	Dr Lucy Allott & Dawn Elise Moony (ASE)





© Archaeology South-East		Land at North View, Little Canfield	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8050	Sept. 2013	Indicative location of archaeological evaluation trenches. (Location subject to existing trees and vegetation).	
Report Ref: WSI	Drawn by: APL		