



making sense of heritage

Rookery Business Park Solar Farm Besthorpe, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report



HER no: ENF138816
WA ref.: 108651.02
September 2015



**Rookery Business Park Solar Farm,
Besthorpe, Norfolk**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:
Solarcentury
50 Great Sutton Street
London
EC1V 0DF

Prepared by:
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Solarcentury to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Rookery Business Park, Besthorpe, Norfolk (NGR 608090 297450). The fieldwork was carried out over five days (24–28 August 2015).

A total of 16 trial trenches were excavated, representing a 2% sample of the development area, these were located to investigate anomalies identified from a preceding geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2015b), as well as apparently 'blank' areas of the Site.

Seven of the sixteen excavated trenches contained archaeological features, mainly comprising ditches which correspond well with the rectilinear system of former field boundaries identified by the geophysical survey. A very small quantity of post-medieval artefacts (ceramic building material and a piece of clay pipe stem) was recovered from one of these ditches and this post-medieval date is corroborated by evidence from historic maps examined for the Historic Environment Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2015a). These indicate that this rectilinear field system had been established by the time of the Inclosure map of 1810, and the pattern of fields remained until the 1970s, by which time all of the previously depicted internal field boundaries within the Site appear to have been removed.

The only other archaeological features uncovered within the trenches comprise two postholes, located in Trench 8 and Trench 16, and two possible gullies in Trench 9. A prehistoric worked flint flake was recovered from the fill of one of the possible gullies and undated burnt flint was recovered from the fill of one of the postholes.

Overall, this evaluation discovered a low density of archaeological features, predominantly related to the enclosure of the landscape in the 18th or very early 19th centuries.



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Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was directed by Steve Thompson, assisted by Tom Blencowe and Rachel Williams, Phoebe Olsen, and Pete Capps. This report was compiled by Gail Wakeham. The finds were reported on by Lorraine Mepham. The report illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



Rookery Business Park Solar Farm, Besthorpe, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Solarcentury to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Rookery Business Park, Besthorpe, Norfolk (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 608090 297450), hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological field evaluation has been undertaken in order to inform the planning application for the installation of a photovoltaic (PV) solar array within the Site. In consultation with Senior Historic Environment Officer for Norfolk County Council (NCC) it was agreed that a total of 16 trial trenches (each measuring 50 m by 1.8 m), a 2% sample of the Development Area, would be excavated to investigate features of possible archaeological potential identified from a preceding geophysical survey (WA 2015b) as well as to target apparently 'blank' areas.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced and set out in detail the methodologies and standards to be employed during the archaeological evaluation (WA 2015c). This was submitted to and approved by the Senior Historic Environment Officer (NCC) prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The trial trench evaluation was carried out over a five day period (24–28 August 2015). This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation, in order to inform any further mitigation work that may or may not be required.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises a trapezoidal parcel of land of approximately nine hectares (ha) located approximately equidistant between the villages of Spooner Row to the east and Besthorpe to the west. Within this, an area of around 7 ha is anticipated to form the core of the development (the 'Development Area', **Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site is contained within part of a single large arable field, bounded to the south-east by mature hedgerows. The A11 lies immediately to the north of the Site within a cutting bordered by a dense hedgerow and fencing. Agricultural land surrounds the Site in all directions. A small rectangular parcel of land containing mature trees and scrub lies immediately to the east of the Site while the Rookery Business Park is located approximately 200 m to the west-south-west.
- 1.2.3 The Site is situated within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of approximately 44–46 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.4 The underlying bedrock geology throughout the Site is mapped as Cretaceous Chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk



Formation and Culver Chalk Formation, overlain by Quaternary diamicton deposits of the Lowestoft Formation. Alluvial deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel, laid down during the Quaternary Period, are also mapped in dendritic patterns across the local area (British Geological Survey on-line viewer).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in detail within the Historic Environment Assessment (WA 2015a) which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km Study Area around the Site in order to place the site within its historical and archaeological context. The results of this assessment and relevant Norfolk Historic Environmental Records (NHER) and entries from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are summarised below.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric (900,000 BC – AD 43)

2.2.1 The earliest evidence of activity within the Study Area comprises a single Palaeolithic flint handaxe (NHER no. MNF29416), found approximately 500 m to the north-west of the Site in 1993. Discoveries of a small number of artefacts, which may be attributable to the Mesolithic (or possibly the Neolithic) period, have also been reported within the Study Area (NHER no. MNF66265, MNF29417, MNF9113 and MNF14540) and an assemblage of worked flint of possible Mesolithic to Iron Age date (NHER no. MNF66265), is reported to have been found in 2013 by metal detectorists on land immediately south-east of the Site.

2.2.2 A number of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age artefacts have also been found in the Study Area, largely restricted to occasional findspots.

2.2.3 A possible prehistoric burnt mound was found close to Wymondham College in 1959 (NHER no. MNF9120), and a scatter of prehistoric 'pot boilers' [burnt flint] (NHER no. MNF12964) was also found during fieldwalking.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

2.2.4 In 1958, two Roman pottery kilns dated to the 1st century AD (NHER no. MNF9116) were excavated during construction work at Wymondham College, at the northern edge of the Study Area. Further excavation in 1962 revealed a third kiln, in addition to quantities of Roman pottery and kiln waste.

2.2.5 The remaining evidence for Romano-British activity within the Study Area comprises findspots discovered during fieldwalking or metal detecting.

Saxon and medieval (AD 410 – 1500)

2.2.6 The most notable trace of Saxon activity within the Study Area pertains to the discovery of a coin hoard (NHER no. MNF9117) by workmen close to Wymondham College in 1958. The hoard was comprised of over 800 silver pennies dating to the late 9th and early 10th centuries. Metal detecting and fieldwalking have also produced a small number of Saxon and medieval objects, including coins, pottery and personal items.

2.2.7 Evidence for medieval activity within the Study Area includes a series of earthworks (NHER no. MNF63583) located to the north-west of the Site, which have been identified

by assessment of aerial photographs. The earthworks appear to suggest the presence of ridge and furrow, although these could equally date to the early post-medieval period.

- 2.2.8 A probable medieval moated site (NHER no. MNF9130) lies immediately adjacent to the eastern edge of the Site. The moated site is labelled as '*Wick Hall*' by the first edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map, although little is currently known about its history. Although the proposed development area would not encroach on the known extent of the '*Wick Hall*' moated site, buried archaeological remains associated with it may extend into the Site.
- 2.2.9 The former site of Dial Farm (NHER no. MNF12127) lies approximately 500m to the north of the Site. This was a late 16th century timber framed house, demolished in 1972; however, the structure probably incorporated elements of an earlier building, suggesting that the 16th century farm may have been built on the site of a medieval precursor.
- 2.2.10 A possible medieval deer-park (NHER no. MNF9135) is located to the north-west of the Site, the former boundary of which is suggested to correspond with the curving parish boundary between Besthorpe and Morley, as well as several field boundaries.
- 2.2.11 The boundary dividing the parishes of Besthorpe and Wymondham as depicted by the c1810 Wymondham Inclosure map coincided approximately with the western edge of the Site. It is possible that this parish boundary may have Saxon or medieval origins.

Post-medieval, 19th century and modern (AD 1500 – present day)

- 2.2.12 Several sites of possible archaeological interest have been identified on the periphery of the Study Area on the basis of aerial photographic evidence. These linear cropmarks are undated, although they mostly seem to correspond with former field boundaries of probable post-medieval date. A possible exception is a series of linear cropmarks (NHER no. MNF63586) at the northern edge of the Study Area, some of which may represent the vestiges of garden features or drainage ditches associated with Morley Hall, a Grade I listed moated manor house built in the 16th century to just north of the Study Area.
- 2.2.13 Several buildings within the Study Area are of post-medieval date, including the Grade II Listed farmhouses at Hill Farm (NHLE no. 1050718), Little Dial Farm (NHLE no. 1293195), Mayfield Farm (NHLE no. 1169106) and Turnpike Farm (NHLE no. 1292053) and it is possible that these buildings may have been constructed on the sites of farmsteads occupied during the medieval period.
- 2.2.14 Other built heritage within the Study Area includes a Grade II Listed stone pillar on London Road (NHLE no. 1196727) set up to commemorate the generosity of *Sir Edwin Rich*, who funded the repair of the '*Wymondham to Attleborough road*' in AD 1675. The road, which also linked Norwich to Thetford, was turnpiked in 1766 and two of the 21 surviving 19th century milestones along the route are situated within the Study Area. The Norwich and Yarmouth Railway line, which traverses the southern edge of the Study Area, was opened in 1844, becoming the Norwich and Brandon Railway from 1845, and was later part of the Great Eastern Railway.
- 2.2.15 The Wymondham Inclosure map of c1810 depicts the location of the Site as a patchwork of rectangular fields at the edge of the parish. The current boundaries of the Site to the south and east partially correspond with land divisions depicted by the Inclosure map and as these boundaries also separate the Site from the probable medieval moated site of Wick Hall, they could be of considerably greater antiquity. A similar arrangement is shown on the c1839–1841 Wymondham Parish Tithe map and the accompanying tithe

apportionment reveals that the fields within and surrounding the Site were under a mixture of pasture and arable cultivation.

- 2.2.16 The 1887 and later edition Ordnance Survey maps depict no significant changes within the Site or its immediate vicinity until the 1970s, by which time all of the previously depicted internal field boundaries within the Site appear to have been removed. The only other significant change to have occurred within the vicinity of the Site during the later twentieth century was the construction of the A11 Wymondham bypass in 1996.
- 2.2.17 Three sites associated with the Second World War lie within the Study Area; these comprise two demolished pillboxes (NHER no. MNF63582) once sited along London Road, and a USAAF hospital (NHER no. MNF14759) which was located at what is now Wymondham College.

2.3 Geophysical survey

- 2.3.1 The Site was subject to a detailed gradiometer survey (WA 2015b). This demonstrated the presence of anomalies of likely and possible archaeological interest along with former field boundaries, areas of increased magnetic response and other trends (**Figure 1**).
- 2.3.2 The survey located several linear responses in the southern part of the Site which indicate an area of possible archaeological activity. Additionally several pit type responses were seen across the Site along with linear trends that correspond with former field boundaries seen on the 19th century tithe and Inclosure maps.

3 AIMS

3.1 Specific aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined in the WSI (WA 2015c), are to:
- *Examine the archaeological resource within the Site, including clarifying the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains;*
 - *Identify, within the constraints of the works, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
 - *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;*
 - *Analyse and interpret the results; and*
 - *Produce a report which will present the results of the works in sufficient detail, including the information to allow an informed decision to be made concerning further mitigation strategies.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2015c) and in compliance with the standards outlined in the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.



4.2 Health and safety

- 4.2.1 Health and safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 4.2.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.2.3 WA supplied a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commenced.
- 4.2.4 All evaluation trenches were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services.

4.3 Trial trenching methodology

- 4.3.1 The trench locations were laid out using GPS in general accordance with the pattern given in the WSI, as shown in **Figure 1**.
- 4.3.2 A total of 16 trial trenches, each measuring 50m in length and 1.8m wide were excavated using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision of a suitably experienced Archaeologist.
- 4.3.3 Machine excavation continued in spits to the top of archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits were exposed, whichever was the higher. All excavated spoil was visually scanned for archaeological artefacts and metal-detected as appropriate by trained archaeological personnel for the purposes of finds retrieval.
- 4.3.4 Where appropriate the base of the trenches/surface of archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand. All trenches and any archaeological features they contained were surveyed by GPS/Total Station to produce a Site plan that is related to Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum (Newlyn).
- 4.3.5 Appropriate sampling of any potential archaeological features and deposits identified in the evaluation trenches was undertaken by hand, in order to address the aims of the evaluation, and recorded to professionally accepted standards.
- 4.3.6 Once the archaeological investigation was completed to the satisfaction of the Senior Historic Environment Officer (NCC), trenches were backfilled by machine using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated. They were left level on completion and no other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All trenches and any exposed archaeological features/deposits within them were recorded using the WA's *pro forma* recording system.
- 4.4.2 A complete drawn record of any archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights.

- 4.4.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.5 Finds and environmental sampling

Finds

- 4.5.1 All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. All retained artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified.
- 4.5.2 Artefacts were suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidance given by the relevant museum and generally in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1992). On completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme and with the permission of the landowner it is anticipated that any artefacts will be deposited with the relevant museum.
- 4.5.3 Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Any ironwork from stratified contexts has been X-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material.

Environmental sampling

- 4.5.4 No environmental sampling was undertaken during the trial trench evaluation, as no appropriate well-sealed and dateable contexts were identified.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Nine of the sixteen excavated trenches did not contain any archaeological features (**Trenches 3–5, 7, 11 and 13–15, Figure 1**). The other trenches contained a low level of archaeological features, mainly comprising ditches likely to be part of the same field system as indicated by the geophysical survey, illustrated in **Figure 1** and detailed below.
- 5.1.2 Detailed trench descriptions are tabulated in **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

- 5.2.1 The soil sequence was broadly similar across Site. The underlying natural was a light yellowish brown sandy clay with common sub-angular and sub-rounded flints <0.08 m and patches of gritty angular chalk. The overlying ploughsoil consisted of a mid greyish brown silty clay loam with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flints <0.05 m.

5.3 Modern disturbance

- 5.3.1 Many of the trenches contained land drains that generally follow a north-east to south-west alignment, and also in the eastern part of the Site, an east-south-east to west-north-west alignment, showing a good correlation with the drainage predicted by the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**). In some trenches land drains were recorded to cut and truncate archaeological features such as in **Trench 12**.

5.3.2 A small shallow sub-circular feature (**1304**) in **Trench 13** was investigated and considered to be root disturbance or related to modern agricultural activity as it was filled with sediment identical to the ploughsoil, although it did not contain any artefacts. Root disturbance was also identified in **Trench 10**.

5.4 Archaeological features in the trenches

5.4.1 In **Trench 1**, two features consisting of a tree throw hole (**103**) and a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**105**) approximately 2.2–2.3 m wide were surveyed. **Trench 2** contained a north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**203**), measuring 1.5 m wide. A similarly aligned ditch (**603**), 1.8 m wide, was also surveyed in **Trench 6**. It was not considered necessary to hand excavate these features in order to achieve the objectives of the evaluation, as they correspond well with the former field boundaries shown in the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**), and this ditch system was investigated in other trial trenches (see below).

5.4.2 **Trenches 8–10** were located to investigate an irregular array of short curving linear geophysical anomalies that were considered to be 'possible archaeology' (**Figure 1**). In **Trench 8**, one of these geophysical anomalies was investigated by hand and found to be variable geology and therefore not recorded further. In **Trench 9**, two linear features (**903** and **905**), both rather irregular in plan, were excavated and were found to be shallow possible gullies, 0.25 m and 0.11 m deep respectively. One of these (**903**) was truncated by a land drain. A worked prehistoric flint flake was retrieved from the single fill (**906**) of possible gully **905**, considered to have formed through natural silting, and occasional charcoal flecks were recorded in the upper part of the fill of gully **903** (**Plate 1**). No further similar gullies were recorded in **Trench 10**, however two small sub-circular features thought to be possible postholes were examined and discovered to be root disturbance, and so not recorded further.

5.4.3 **Trench 8** also contained a single posthole feature (**803**), 0.18 m in diameter and 0.13 m deep. Occasional charcoal and fired clay flecks were identified near the surface of the single secondary fill, although no artefacts were recovered.

5.4.4 **Trench 10** also contained a north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**1003**) was surveyed, which again corresponds well with the field boundary indicated by the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**).

5.4.5 in **Trench 12**, a north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**1203**) which again corresponds with one of the field boundary identified in the geophysical survey was excavated by hand (**Figure 1**). The ditch was well defined in plan measuring 2.15 m wide and 0.69 m deep (**Plate 2**). It was filled with a single secondary fill (**1204**), derived from natural silting from which two fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material and a piece of post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered. The ditch fill was cut by a modern land drain.

5.4.6 In **Trench 16**, a north-east to south-west aligned ditch (**1605**) was surveyed, 1.8 m wide, but not excavated; as with the other ditches it corresponds well with the field boundary identified in the geophysical survey, likely to a continuation of the ditch that was surveyed in **Trench 10**. A small circular feature (**1603**) measuring 0.28 m in diameter and 0.25 m deep was excavated in **Trench 16**, and is interpreted as a possible posthole. The sides were straight and near vertical, although the base was slightly irregular; **1603** was filled with a single fill (**1604**) derived from natural silting which contained occasional charcoal flecks and five pieces of unworked burnt flint were also recovered.



6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered, deriving from four contexts, with some unstratified finds in addition; the quantification of finds by context and by material type is given in **Table 1**. The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval.

Table 1: **All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	CBM	Worked Flint (No.)	Pottery	Other Finds
906		1		
1204	2/23			1 clay pipe
1601			1/5	
1604				5 burnt flint
Unstrat.		3	1/2	
Total	2/23	4	2/7	

6.1 Pottery

- 6.1.1 Two sherds of pottery were recovered, one from ploughsoil in Trench 16, and the other unstratified. Both are Romano-British, one a greyware and one a buff sandy ware. Both are undiagnostic body sherds. It may be noted that three late 1st century AD pottery kilns were excavated at Wymondham College between 1958 and 1962, which were producing both greywares and buff wares (Swan 1984, mf 4.500–501), and it is possible (though unconfirmed) that these small sherds are products of these kilns.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

- 6.2.1 Two fragments of ceramic building material recovered from fill **1204** of ditch **1203** comprise one small brick fragment, and part of a flat roof tile, both post-medieval.

6.3 Worked Flint

- 6.3.1 All four of the worked flints recovered are waste flakes. The flake from fill **906** of gully **905** is patinated and in relatively fresh condition; the three flakes found unstratified have suffered slight edge damage, consistent with their provenance. In the absence of any tools or utilised pieces, or any other chronologically distinctive traits, these four pieces can only be broadly dated as Neolithic/Bronze Age.

6.4 Other Finds

- 6.4.1 Other finds comprise one small fragment of post-medieval plain clay tobacco pipe stem from context **1204**, and five pieces of burnt, unworked flint (undated) from fill **1604** of possible posthole **1603**.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1.1 No archaeological deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 The evaluation identified a low level of archaeological features, with seven of the sixteen excavated trenches containing archaeological features. These largely consisted of ditches that correspond well with the former field boundaries identified by the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**).

- 8.1.2 Small quantities of post-medieval artefacts were recovered from one of these ditches excavated during this evaluation, and this post-medieval date is corroborated by the evidence from historic maps examined for the Historic Environment Assessment (WA 2015a). These indicate that this former rectilinear field system was present from the time of the earliest available map, Wymondham Inclosure map of c.1810 and also present on the 1839-1841 Wymondham Parish Tithe map (**Figure 2**). Examination of later mapping showed that the same field pattern was maintained until the 1970s, by which time all of the previously depicted internal field boundaries within the Site appear to have been removed.
- 8.1.3 The only other features revealed during this evaluation were two postholes, apparently located in isolation in **Trench 8** and **Trench 16** respectively and two poorly defined possible gullies in **Trench 9**. Although no diagnostically dateable artefacts were retrieved from these features, a single prehistoric worked flint flake was recovered from the fill of one of the possible gullies and undated burnt flint was recovered from the fill of one of the postholes. The possible gullies in **Trench 9** do not directly correspond with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, however some irregular curving linear anomalies were identified in this locality; a similar feature investigated in nearby **Trench 8** was revealed to be variation in the natural geology.
- 8.1.4 Overall, this evaluation has revealed a low density of archaeological features, most of which are related to the post-medieval enclosure of the landscape which was likely to have taken place in the 18th or very early 19th centuries.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service, though it should be noted that this is currently a closed repository, not accepting archaeological archives. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

9.2 Preparation of Archive

- 9.2.1 On completion of the report a cross-referenced and internally consistent archive will be produced, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Norfolk Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). All archive elements will be marked with the Norfolk HER site code (**ENF138816**), and a full index will be prepared.
- 9.2.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Norfolk HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

9.3 Discard Policy

- 9.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this



instance, the plain clay pipe stem and burnt (unworked) flint have been discarded on these grounds.

- 9.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

9.4 Security Copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011); on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 Storage of materials and archives

- 9.5.1 No charge will be made for the temporary storage of finds or archives during the period when Wessex Archaeology are undertaking analysis or report preparation.
- 9.5.2 However, if, after completion and submission of the report, finds and archives cannot be deposited with the relevant museum due to circumstances beyond Wessex Archaeology's control, a charge will be made for storage.
- 9.5.3 A charge for storage may also be made where a delay is caused by a lack of confirmation of post-fieldwork analyses and report, if the delay exceeds three months.

9.6 Copyright

- 9.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

10 REFERENCES

10.1 Published

- ADS, 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines (2nd edition)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014a, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, CIfA
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014b, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, CIfA



- SMA, 1993, *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
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- Swan, V., 1984, *The Pottery Kilns of Roman Britain*, London: RCHM
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- Wessex Archaeology, 2015a, Rookery Business Park Solar Farm, Besthorpe, Norfolk: Historic Environment Assessment, unpublished client report, ref. 108650.01
- Wessex Archaeology, 2015b, Rookery Business Park Solar Farm, Besthorpe, Norfolk: Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report, unpublished client report, ref. 108650.03
- Wessex Archaeology, 2015c, Rookery Business Park Solar Farm, Besthorpe, Norfolk: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works, unpublished client report ref. 108651.01

10.2 Online resources

British Geological Survey on-line viewer, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> [accessed August 2015]



11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: Trench summary tables

TRENCH 1			
Dimensions: 43.5x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.31m	Ground level: 46.2m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608033.79 Y = 297577.92 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
101	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with poorly sorted moderate sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels	0.00–0.31
102	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints poorly sorted	0.31+
103	Cut	Cut of treethrow	Unexcavated
104	Fill	Upper fill of treethrow 104	Unexcavated
105	Cut	Cut of NW-SE ditch 2.2–2.3 m wide, possibly just on junction of two ditches joining	Unexcavated
106	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 105	Unexcavated

TRENCH 2			
Dimensions: 41.8x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.24m	Ground level: 46.3m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608048.81 Y = 297532.68 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
201	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with poorly sorted moderate sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels	0–0.24
202	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints poorly sorted	0.24 +
203	Cut	Cut of NE-SW aligned ditch	Unexcavated
204	Fill	Upper fill of ditch 203	Unexcavated

TRENCH 3			
Dimensions: 40.1x1.8m		Max. depth: 0.26m	Ground level: 45.2m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 607953.80 Y = 297510.55 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
301	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with poorly sorted moderate sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels	0–0.26
302	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints poorly sorted	0.26+

TRENCH 4			
Dimensions: 41.3x12.2m		Max. depth: 0.29m	Ground level: 45.0m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 607975.66 Y = 297437.51 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
401	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with poorly sorted moderate sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels	0–0.29
402	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints poorly sorted	0.29m+



TRENCH 5			
Dimensions: 40.3x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.27m	Ground level: 45.8 aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608027.16 Y = 297462.28 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
501	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with poorly sorted moderate sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels	0–0.27
502	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints poorly sorted	0.27+

TRENCH 6			
Dimensions: 40.6x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.30m	Ground level: 47.4m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608148.43 Y = 297539.00 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
601	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with poorly sorted moderate sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels	0–0.30
602	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints poorly sorted	0.30+
603	Cut	Cut of NE-SW aligned ditch. Unexcavated	-
604	Fill	Fill of ditch 603. Unexcavated.	-

TRENCH 7			
Dimensions: 40.5 x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.30m	Ground level: 46.8m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608108.13 Y = 297481.35 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
701	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with poorly sorted moderate sub-angular flint cobbles and gravels	0–0.30
702	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with sparse sub-angular flints poorly sorted	0.30+

TRENCH 8			
Dimensions: 49.0x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.35m	Ground level: 45.9m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608053.08 Y = 297437.62 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
801	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with common sub-angular flints and stones <0.05m	0–0.30
802	Natural	Light reddish brown sandy clay loam with common sub-angular flints and stones <0.07m. Also patches of chalk fragments.	0.30+
803	Cut	Cut of posthole	0.13
804	Fill	Fill of posthole 803. Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded pea grit <0.01m.	0.13



TRENCH 9			
Dimensions: 49.6x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.37m	Ground level: 45.2m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608022.98 Y = 29743720 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
901	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and stones <0.04m	0–0.28
902	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay loam with common sub-angular flints and stones <0.08m. Also patches of common chalk fragments.	0.28+
903	Cut	Cut of gully	0.25
904	Fill	Secondary fill of gully 903. Mid blueish grey silty sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded stones <0.05m	0.25
905	Cut	Cut of gully	0.11
906	Fill	Secondary fill of gully 905. Light yellowish brown sandy clay	0.11

TRENCH 10			
Dimensions: 47.5x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.37m	Ground level: 45.74m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608092.69 Y = 297327.76 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1001	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flints<0.04m	0–0.28
1002	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with common sub-angular flints <0.08m. Also patches of gritty angular chalk.	0.28+
1003	Cut	Cut of NE-SW aligned ditch. Unexcavated	-
1004	Fill	Fill of ditch 603. Unexcavated.	-

TRENCH 11			
Dimensions: 40.3x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.45m	Ground level: 46.14m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608123.77 Y = 297331.08 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1101	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with common sub-angular and sub-rounded stones <0.05m	0–0.40
1102	Natural	Light reddish brown sandy clay with moderate to common sub-angular and sub-rounded stones<0.08m. Patches of common chalk fragments	0.40+

TRENCH 12			
Dimensions: 40.0x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.37m	Ground level: 47.44m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608191.87 Y = 297354.21(centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1201	Ploughsoil	Light greyish brown sandy silt clay loam with sparse sub-angular flints<0.06m	0–0.32
1202	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with common sub-angular flints <0.09m.	0.32+
1203	Cut	Cut of NW-SE aligned ditch	0.69
1204	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 1203. Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare sub-rounded chalk pieces and sub-angular flint <0.06m	0.69



TRENCH 13			
Dimensions: 41.4x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.34m	Ground level: 47.82m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608206.57 Y = 297420.27(centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1301	Ploughsoil	Light greyish brown sandy silt loam with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flints <0.05m	0–0.30
1302	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with common sub-angular and sub-rounded flints <0.09m.	0.30+
1303	Cut	Cut of modern disturbance or root disturbance	0.04
1304	Fill	Fill of modern disturbance, identical to ploughsoil	0.04

TRENCH 14			
Dimensions: 40.5x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.31m	Ground level: 48.67m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608260.20 Y = 297456.99(centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1401	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint <0.05m	0–0.31
1402	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with common sub-angular and sub-rounded stones <0.08m. Patches of gritty angular chalk fragments	0.31+

TRENCH 15			
Dimensions: 40.5x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.33m	Ground level: 48.67m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608260.20 Y = 297456.99(centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1501	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint <0.05m	0–0.30
1502	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with common sub-angular and sub-rounded stones <0.08m.	0.30+

TRENCH 16			
Dimensions: 41.0x2.2m		Max. depth: 0.33m	Ground level: 47.64m aOD
Coordinates (NGR)		X = 608179.95 Y = 297451.05 (centre)	
Context	Description		Depth (m)
1601	Ploughsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clay loam with common sub-angular flints and stones <0.05m	0–0.33
1602	Natural	Light yellowish brown sandy clay with common sub-angular and sub-rounded flints <0.08m. Also patches of chalk fragments.	0.33+
1603	Cut	Cut of possible posthole.	0.25
1604	Fill	Fill of possible posthole 803. Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare sub-angular flints <0.06m.	0.25
1605	Cut	Cut of NE-SW aligned ditch. Unexcavated.	-
1606	Fill	Fill of ditch 1605. Unexcavated.	-



11.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-229258

Project details

Project name	Rookery Business Park Solar Farm, Besthorpe, Norfolk
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Solarcentury to carry out an archaeological evaluation at Rookery Business Park, Besthorpe, Norfolk (NGR 608090 297450). The fieldwork was carried out over five days (24-28 August 2015). Seven of the sixteen excavated trenches contained archaeological features, mainly comprising ditches which correspond well with the rectilinear system of former field boundaries identified by the geophysical survey. A very small quantity of post-medieval artefacts was recovered from one of these ditches and this post-medieval date is corroborated by evidence from historic maps examined for the Historic Environment Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2015a). These indicate that this rectilinear field system had been established by the time of the Inclosure map of 1810, and the pattern of fields remained until the 1970s, by which time all of the previously depicted internal field boundaries within the Site appear to have been removed. The only other archaeological features uncovered within the trenches comprise two postholes, located in Trench 8 and Trench 16, and two possible gullies in Trench 9. A prehistoric worked flint flake was recovered from the fill of one of the possible gullies and undated burnt flint was recovered from the fill of one of the postholes. Overall, this evaluation discovered a low density of archaeological features, predominantly related to the enclosure of the landscape in the 18th or very early 19th centuries.</p>
Project dates	Start: 24-08-2015 End: 28-08-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	108651 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF138816 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE (SMOKING) Post Medieval



Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Solar farm
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK WYMONDHAM Rookery Business Park Solar Farm, Besthorpe, Norfolk
Postcode	NR18 9SS
Study area	7 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 08090 97450 52.534621322944 1.068514315454 52 32 04 N 001 04 06 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	with advice from County Archaeologist
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Crockett
Project supervisor	S Thompson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

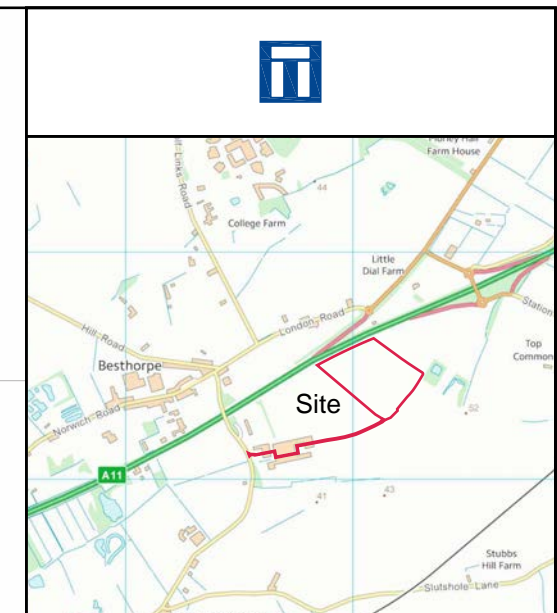
Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	ENF138816
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	ENF138816
Digital Contents	"other"



Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	ENF138816
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Drawing"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Rookery Business Park Solar Farm, Besthorpe, Norfolk: Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wakeham, G.
Other bibliographic details	report number 108651.02
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Wessex Archaeology - Salisbury
Description	A4 bound client report



- Site boundary
- Geophysical survey area
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Geophysical interpretation
- Possible archaeology
- Former field boundary
- Drainage
- Trend
- Ferrous
- Increased magnetic response

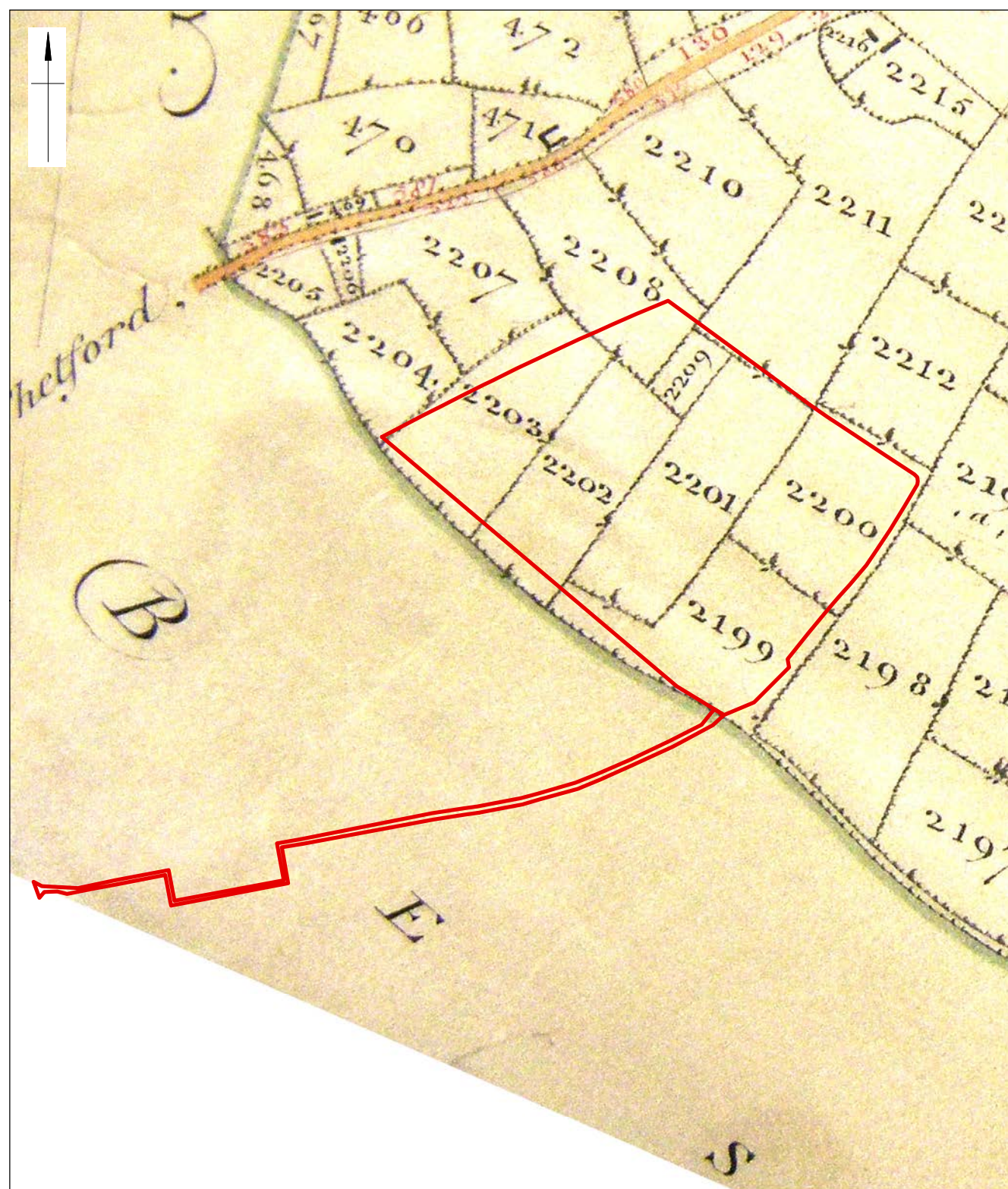
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Date:	07/09/2015
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:2000 at A3
Illustrator:	KL
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\108651\GO\Report_figs
	eval\2015_09_03\Fig01.dwg



Site and trench location, with all archaeological features

Figure 1



A) c.1810 Wymondham inclosure map



B) c.1839-1841 Wymondham Tithe map



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Site (approx.)


Date:	04/09/2015	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:5,000 at A3 (approx.)	Illustrator:	TW/KL
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Plate 1: North-west facing section through possible gully 903



Plate 2: South-east facing section through post-medieval ditch 1203

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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



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