# Site 3c Cedars Park
# Stowmarket, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation


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wessexarchaeology

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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk (NGR 606105 258244). The evaluation carried out in response to planning conditions 25 and 26 of planning permission (DC/20/04723/FUL) for the construction of 85 dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. The works form part of a wider residential development.

Despite geophysical survey of the site suggesting few features within the site bounds, activity dating to the Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval periods was identified within six of the 20 excavated trenches. Consistent with results from works associated with the wider residential development, a pit cluster dating to the early/middle Iron Age was revealed in Trench 3. A mitigation area consisting of a 15m x 15m square centred on the pit cluster was agreed with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The area revealed the full extent of the pit cluster and no further archaeological remains. The pit cluster is most likely associated with the Iron Age and Romano-British site found to the north of the site during the Cedars Park Phase 3 works.

Despite Romano-British features located north of the site, adjacent to Gun Cotton Way, results pertaining to such activity were limited. A single ditch in Trench 1 is confidently attributed to the period due to pottery recovered. Similarly, a lack of medieval features is noticeable, and may be accountable through a lack of dating evidence. Post-medieval features comprise a likely track, identified through the presence of wheel rutting and probable trackside ditch and a large boundary ditch, identified in the geophysical survey and the historic mapping.

The evaluation was undertaken between the 24th August and 9th September 2021.

## Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Chris Harrison. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, who monitored the project for Mid Suffolk District Council, and to Tamdown Groundworkers for their cooperation and help on site.

# Site 3c, Cedars Park Stowmarket, Suffolk

## Archaeological Evaluation

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a 2.7 ha parcel of land located at Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk. The evaluation area was centred on NGR 606105 258244 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises construction of 85 dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping works. The development will be an extension of that being undertaken immediately to the south-east in Site 3d. A planning application (DC/20/04723/FUL) submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC), was granted, subject to conditions, two of which relate to archaeological investigation:

Condition 25 Action required prior to the commencement of development – archaeological works
*No development shall take place on site 3c until the implementation 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. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*

*a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
*b. The programme for post investigation recording.*
*c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
*d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
*e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
*f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*
*g. Timetable for the site investigation to be completed prior to development, in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*Reason – To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development. This condition is required to be agreed prior to the commencement of any development to ensure matters of archaeological importance are preserved and secured early to ensure avoidance of damage or loss due to the development and/or its construction. If agreement was sought at any later stage there is an unacceptable risk of loss and damage to archaeological and historic assets.*

Condition 26 Action required prior to the first occupation of development – archaeological works

*No building on Phase 3c shall be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed, submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with the programme ser out within the Written Scheme of Investigation approved and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition.*

*Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development.*

1.1.3 Following the advice of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), archaeological advisor to the LPA, a programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken in response to these conditions. A total of 20 trenches (measuring 30 m x 1.8 m), equating to a 4% sample of the development area were excavated.

1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2021). SCCAS approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The evaluation comprising was undertaken between the 24th August and 9th September 2021.

## 1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.

1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

## 1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The evaluation area is located approximately 1 km south-east of the centre of Stowmarket, Suffolk. Gun Cotton Way comprises the north-eastern boundary of the site, beyond which lies further residential development. The remaining boundaries consist of a footpath, separated to the south-west by a treeline, beyond which lies fields to the north-west and pond to the south-west. Site 3d, an additional area of development, is located to the south-east.

1.3.2 The site lies broadly parallel to the River Gipping Valley, approximately 250 m to the south, on a south-west facing slope with ground levels recorded between 37 and 34 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as sand of the Crag Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 0 – 5 million years ago during the Quaternary and Neogene Periods. Superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation sand and gravels are predominantly present with alluvial clay and silt deposits located within the western extent of the site (British Geological Survey 2021).

# 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company 2016) which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 500 m study area of the wider development, comprising Sites 3a, c and d. A summary is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

## 2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

*Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021)*

2.2.1 A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken across the 2.7 ha site. No anomalies suggestive of archaeological features were identified, though those of agricultural origin were detected, including two former field boundaries recorded on historic mapping as well as a likely former footpath. Evidence for modern ploughing and/or drainage features were also present within the results across the site, with modern field boundaries and a buried service located around the site boundary.

## 2.3 Archaeological and historical context

*Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)*

2.3.1 Prehistoric activity is known to have been present within the wider landscape as a flint blade or chisel believed to be Bronze Age or Neolithic in date was located to the south-south-west of the site (SKT 013) and ditches and gullies thought to be of prehistoric in origin were revealed during works approximately 1 km to the north-east (SKT 048; ESF21239). Archaeological evaluation located north-north-east of the site revealed a westward continuation of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age land use (SKT 063; ESF212553). Indeed, evidence of Iron Age land use is more prolific with pits and postholes found during the excavation of a moated area to the south-south-west (SKT 011), and a large ditch, numerous large pits and four post structures were also identified to the north-east of the site (SUP 017; ESF18043, ESF18094).

2.3.2 An Iron Age enclosure with two roundhouses and clusters of large pits revealed during Cedars Park Phase 4a works further indicates occupation of the area during this time (SKT 036; ESF21887, ESF21888) and may be associated with the Late Iron Age settlement located during archaeological investigations undertaken in association with Cedars Park Phase 3 (SKT 018; ESF21868-70; ESF21892). Iron Age features were also located during evaluation associated with Phase 6a and 6b of the same development (SKT037; ESF19258).

*Romano-British (43 – 410 AD)*

2.3.3 Land use is seen to have continued into the Romano-British period with Roman pottery having been located during fieldwalking also associated with Cedar Park Phase 3 works (SKT 018; ESF19927) and enclosures, buildings, field systems, burials, wells and ovens were also identified during the associated evaluation and excavation (SKT 018; ESF21868-70; ESF21892). Roman ditches were observed to continue westwards into the adjacent area (SKT 063; ESF21553).

2.3.4 Romano-British features were also found alongside Iron Age features during evaluation and excavation undertaken on the opposite side of Gun Cotton Lane, north-east of the proposed

evaluation (SUP 020; ESF21132; ESF21871) and a pottery kiln with pierced clay floor was recorded in the area of Victoria Road (north-west of the site) (SKT 008).

2.3.5 Further occurrences of features (SUP 020; ESF21132; ESF21871), pottery (SUP 017; ESF18043; ESF18094; SUP 028) and a findspot of a coin of Philip I (SKT 002) indicate the prevalence of activity within the environs of the site.

*Medieval (1066 – 1500)*

2.3.6 There appears to be a general paucity of records pertaining to Anglo-Saxon activity within the landscape, though numerous medieval sites have been identified, including the medieval centre of Stowmarket itself (SKT 022).

2.3.7 Excavations undertaken as part of Phase 4a works of Cedars Park also revealed medieval features suggestive of occupation with parallel ditches, an enclosure, probable structures, cobbled surfaces identified alongside quarry pits, a pond and ditches indicative of a field system (to the north and north-east of the site) (SKT 036; ESF19923, ESF21888). Similarly finds and features pertaining to the period were also recorded during investigations undertaken as part of the construction of Cedars Park Road Corridor (SKT 038; ESF21880; ESF21881) and more generally associated with Cedars Park (SKT 040; ESF21238; ESF21882-3; SKT 043; ESF21885-6).

2.3.8 Medieval pottery was also recovered from trial trenching of land off Tomo Road (600 m to the north-west of the site) (SKT 070; ESF23806). Medieval ponds and a ditch were located to the north-north-east (SKT063; ESF21553), and clay pits and land drains dating to the period have also been recorded in the area (SKT 023; ESF21111).

*Post-medieval (1500 – 1800) – modern (1800 – present)*

2.3.9 Evidence pertaining to post-medieval land use typically comprises ditches, likely representing earlier field boundaries and/or drainage systems (SKT 036; ESF23731; SKT 040; ESF21238; SKT 041; ESF23783; SKT 070; ESF23806). Indeed, historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, dating between 1885 and 1991, indicates that the proposed evaluation site has remained agricultural in use during the post-medieval period, with field boundaries and footpaths traversing the site, as also highlighted by the geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys forthcoming; Old Maps 2021). Some rearrangement of the field boundaries and footpaths as well as the development of land to the north has occurred within the last two decades.

2.3.10 Further afield, during evaluation and palaeoenvironmental survey, land off Station Road East has been identified as former water meadows. These appear to have survived until the latter half of the 19th century, when the construction of the Gipping Navigation channel resulted in the land being utilised for mercantile activities (SKT 051; ESF19990). The site of a former munitions store has also been identified with surviving revetments and access tracks (approximately 30 m in length) surviving approximately 400 m to the south-east of the proposed development area (CRP 006). Indeed a munitions factory/gunpowder works is known to have existed on one or both sides of the River Gipping, to the north-west of the site (SKT Misc).

2.3.11 A number of pits, ditches, postholes and planting features have been recorded in the area of Sherringham Court and are believed to comprise the remains of formal gardens (SKT 070; ESF21464), further indicating the varying uses of the wider environment during the period.

2.3.12 To the north-west of the site, evidence of railway track removal indicates the position of a former line serving Malthouses to the west of the station (SKT 033-5). The Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds line, extant to the south-west of the proposed evaluation, was opened in November 1846 (SUF 069).

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

### 3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

### 3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) were to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021);
- determine the presence or absence of evidence for Iron Age/Romano-British activity associated with that previously identified opposite the site (SUP 020; ESF21132; ESF21871);
- establish the potential for the presence of remains derived from other, less visible, phases of activity;
- examine the paleoenvironmental potential of the site; and
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.

# 4 METHODS

## 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

## 4.2 Fieldwork methods

*General*

4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although Trenches 4 and 18 had to be slightly moved due to power readings observed during CAT scanning of the trench locations (**Fig. 1**).

4.2.2 A total of 20 trial trenches, each measuring 30 m in length and 1.8 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.

4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context.

4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and SCCAS were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

*Recording*

4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

## 4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the*

*collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

### 4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 SCCAS monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and SCCAS.

## 5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Of the 20 excavated trial trenches, nine contained archaeological features and deposits., mostly observed in the western and southern extents of the site (**Fig. 1**). A mitigation area consisting of a 15m x 15m square centred on the pit cluster identified in trench 3 was agreed with the SCCAS. The area revealed the full extent of the pit cluster and no further archaeological remains.

5.1.2 The uncovered features typically comprised ditches, though a cluster of large pits and trackway was also recorded. For the most part, dated features, including the pit cluster, are of early/middle Iron Age origin, though Romano-British and post-medieval activity was also observed. The finds assemblage recovered from the investigation, including animal bone, pottery, ceramic building material, worked flint and burnt flint, indicates that should any mitigation work be required, there is the potential for the recovery of a larger and more informative assemblage to be collected. However, the paleoenvironmental evidence produced from the site has been limited.

5.1.3 The following section presents the results of the evaluation with archaeological features and deposits discussed by trench.

5.1.4 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches, together with the preceding geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys 2021). **Figure 2** provides detail of the concentration of features in the western and southern extent of the site. Selected sections are shown within **Figure 3**.

### 5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The soil sequence identified within the trenches broadly correlates with the British Geological Survey (2021) data, with topsoil, the thickness of which varied from 0.21 m below ground level (35.22 m aOD; Trench 15) to 0.45 m below ground level (31.93 m aOD; Trench 19), sealing alluvial clays or sand geology (**Plates 1 – 2**).

5.2.2 As expected, alluvial were clays present in the western most trenches (Trenches 1,2 and 4) with the overlying topsoil also a clayey deposit (**Plates 1** and **3**). The alluvial deposits were also present in the southern trenches (Trenches 9 – 14 and 17 – 20), where a subsoil deposit was recorded (**Plate 4**). Typically comprising a dark brown to dark yellowish brown silty clay, the deposit was similar to the underlying clay with noticeably less chalk inclusions. Given the location of the site on a south-west facing slope and the material only being present within the southern-most trenches, it is possible that this is a colluvial deposit.

5.2.3 Sand geology was encountered beneath a sandier topsoil in the central and eastern areas (Trenches 3, 5 – 8, 10, 15 and 16; **Plates 2** and **5**).

### 5.3 Trench 1

5.3.1 Trench 1, located in the north-western corner of the site, contained a ditch (103) measuring 0.83 m in width and 0.23 m in depth (**Plate 6**). The north-west to south-east aligned linear comprised straight sides and flat base containing a single secondary fill of dark brownish grey clay (104). Pottery dating to the Romano-British period was recovered from the ditch, which was not evident within the geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys 2021).

5.3.2 A second linear (105) with straight sides and flat base was identified to the north of ditch 103. Noticeably shallower than the ditch, measuring 0.12 m in depth, the east – west aligned feature may represent a furrow, though no other such features were evident in proximity.

### 5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 A large feature was identified towards the centre of Trench 3 which initial investigations suggested was a number of intercutting pits (303, 305, 308). In order to better characterise the feature, Trench 3 was expanded following consultation with SCAAS. Further investigation confirmed the presence of four intercutting pits, though in some cases it remains unclear of any relationships between the features (**Fig. 3A; Plates 7 – 9**). During the full investigation of the features the fill sequence appeared different to that previously identified which led the re-numbering of the features, hence the presence of multiple numbers for single contexts discussed below.

5.4.2 Pit 310, the western-most pit, measured approximately 1.00 m in diameter and 0.29 m in depth and contained a dark yellowish brown sandy clay with some chalk and flint inclusions, believed to be of natural derivation (**Plates 7 – 8**). Pottery recovered from pit 310 suggests an early/middle Iron Age date. The lack of distinctive fill or shape to the pit has limited the conclusions that can be drawn from the feature with no clear function of the pit evident. However, the presence of pottery and fired clay within deposit 311 suggests some rubbish disposal.

5.4.3 Pit 312, the southern-most pit, measured approximately 1.83 m in width and 2.26 m in length and comprised concave sides and base. The pit contained a dark orange-brown sandy clay primary fill (313) overlain by a mid-orange-brown sandy clay secondary fill (314) (**Plate 9**). Both deposits appeared similar to the natural geology though the lowermost contained more chalk and flint inclusions. Animal bone (horse and cattle) was recovered from both deposits, and early/middle Iron Age pottery, burnt flint and worked flint was recovered from deposit 314, suggesting use of the pit, at least in part, for rubbish disposal. No relationship between pit 312 and pit 315, on the eastern side of the cluster, was evident during the investigation.

5.4.4 Pit 315, also comprising concave sides and base, measured 1.00 m in length, 0.91 m in width and 0.38 m in depth and contained one fill (316). Animal bone and early/middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the mid-orange-brown sandy clay, along with an assemblage of worked flint which includes a blade and retouched discoidal piece. This primary deposit was cut by pit 317, the northern-most pit in the cluster (**Fig. 3A**).

5.4.5 Pit 317, measuring 2.16 m in length, 2.75 m in width and 1.25 m in depth, was the largest of the four features and contained three deposits (**Fig. 3A**). The concave base was sealed by a dark reddish brown sandy clay (318) which contained early/middle Iron Age pottery, burnt flint and worked flint. A mid-grey-brown sandy silt loam (319/306) overlay deposit 318 from which animal bone and pottery of the same period was recovered. The uppermost deposit (320/304/307/309) also contained animal bone and pottery (early/middle Iron Age).

5.4.6 None of the pits were evident within the geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys 2021).

### 5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 A single ditch was revealed in the centre of Trench 4. Orientated north-north-west – south-south-east, the ditch (403) had an observed length of 2.00 m and measured 3.34 m in width and 1.08 m in depth. The ditch consisted of concave sides and base, with the sides becoming steeper towards the base which was sealed by a mid-dark grey silty clay with yellow mottling (404) (**Fig. 3B**). This basal deposit contained moderate manganese inclusion, indicative of water percolation which likely contributed to its accumulation through erosion of the original ditch cut. Deposit 404 was overlain by dark black/brown silty clay of natural derivation which contained ceramic building material fragments which were too small to aid interpretation of form. Deposit 406, a mid-dark brown sterile silty clay sealed this deposit and was in turn overlain by deposits 407 and 408, silty clays concentrated along the east-north-eastern side of the ditch. Deposit 407 contained iron staining, at variants with the other fills, whilst the location of deposit 408 between two secondary deposits (407 and 409) is suggestive of it representing a dumped deposit. Indeed, although no finds were present within it, deposit 408 was noticeably lighter in colour than the surrounding deposits, more consistent with the natural geology. Deposit 409, a dark brown silty clay comprised the uppermost deposit of ditch 403 and resembled the overlying topsoil (401).

5.5.2 Due to the limited artefactual evidence available, the ditch remains undated. The ditch, however, did correspond to an anomaly within the geophysical survey results thought to have been of agricultural origin (Magnitude Surveys 2021) and, consistent with the survey results, was identified as continuing into Trenches 11 and 19.

### 5.6 Trench 6

5.6.1 Two pits were revealed within Trench 6 (603 and 605). With concave sides and base, and filled with naturally derived material (604, 606 and 607) the pits appear to correlate to those located within Trench 3. Though no dating evidence was present, two phases of activity were identified as excavation proved that pit 603 cut deposit 606 within pit 305 (**Plate 10**).

5.6.2 Pit 603 measured 0.72 m in length, 0.50 m in width and 0.29 m in depth, and contained a dark yellowish brown silty loam (604) and dark orange-brown sandy silt loam (607) neither of which contained finds. Pit 605 measured 0.63 m in length and 0.17 m in depth with an observed width of 0.22 m. The mid-yellow-brown sandy silt loam was also sterile.

### 5.7 Trench 9

5.7.1 A north-east – south-west aligned linear feature with shallow stepped sides and a flat base was revealed within the eastern end of Trench 9. Ditch 904 had an observed length of 1.98 m and measured 0.55 m wide and 0.12 m deep. The ditch, which remains undated due to a lack of dating evidence, contained a single deposit of mid-orange-brown silty clay.

### 5.8 Trench 10

5.8.1 North-east to south-west orientated linear feature (1003) with a ‘U’-shaped profile was revealed within the southern half of Trench 10 (**Plate 11**). The feature measuring 0.68 m in depth appeared to widen from 1.41 m in the south-west to 1.68 m in the north-west. The ditch was found to contain two deposits (1004 and 1005). Whilst the basal deposit (1004) consisting of a mid-red-brown silty clay appeared to have accumulated through the natural erosion of the surrounding land surface over time, uppermost deposit (1005) most likely entered the ditch during later agricultural activity such as ploughing. No finds were evident

within the ditch, though the ditch does correspond to an anomaly within the geophysical survey results.

5.8.2 To the south of the ditch a series of three further linear features (1006, 1008 and 1009) was identified. All aligned north-east to south-west and in close proximity to each other, the most northern (1006) and southern (1009) located approximately 2 m apart. Investigation of 1006 revealed a shallow cut (0.14 m in depth) comprising concave sides and flat base with a single, very compacted fill (1007). Deposit 1007 became noticeably more compacted towards its base, where ceramic building material had been pressed into the natural (**Plate 12**). The deposit itself consisted of a dark grey-brown loamy sand with red mottling and contained post-medieval pottery, glass and ceramic building material. The remaining linear features (1008 and 1009) remained unexcavated but are believed to be comparable with 1006, given their location and similarity in plan.

5.8.3 Given the size and location of these three features it is thought they represent post-medieval wheel ruts, a notion furthered by the compacted nature of the fill which is likely to have accumulated naturally, being compressed by movement of traffic. As such it, positioned just to the north of these features, it is possible that ditch 1004 represents a trackside ditch, separating the traffic from agricultural land.

### 5.9 Trench 11

5.9.1 A north-west to south-east aligned linear feature (1104) was identified within the eastern half of Trench 11. The feature, which correlates to the geophysical survey agricultural anomaly (Magnitude Surveys 2021), is on the same trajectory as ditch 403 in Trench 4. As such the feature was considered to comprise the same ditch and remained unexcavated.

### 5.10 Trench 18

5.10.1 Another ditch (1804) was located in Trench 18. Measuring 1.70 m in width and 1.00 m in depth the ditch was positioned on a north-east to south-west alignment and contained three deposits of natural derivation (1805 – 1807) (**Plate 13**). No artefactual evidence was contained within the ditch which was not evident within the geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys 2021).

### 5.11 Trench 19

5.11.1 A north-west to south-east aligned linear feature (1904) was revealed in the centre of Trench 19. Correlating with the geophysical survey results this was also determined to comprise the same ditch as that in Trenches 4 (403) and 11 (1104). As such the feature remains unexcavated.

## 6 FINDS EVIDENCE

### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The evaluation produced a small quantity of finds (1931 g) from trenches 1, 3, 4 and 10. The diagnostic material ranges in date from Iron Age to modern, with a focus on the Early to Middle Iron Age. The assemblage has been washed and quantified by material type in each context; this information is summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1** Quantification of finds

| | Pottery | | Flint | | Burnt flint | | CBM | | Fired clay | | Glass | | Animal bone | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Context | No. | Wg (g) | No. | Wg (g) | No. | Wg (g) | No. | Wg (g) | No. | Wg (g) | No. | Wg (g) | No. | Wg (g) |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 104 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | 2 | 6 | | | 2 | 12 |
| 106 | | | | | | | | | 2 | 6 | | | | |
| 304 | 10 | 41 | 4 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 306 | 57 | 277 | | | 2 | 25 | | | | | | | 12 | 70 |
| 307 | 26 | 165 | 2 | 14 | 4 | 141 | | | | | | | 4 | 76 |
| 309 | 7 | 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 311 | 49 | 192 | | | | | | | 1 | 21 | | | | |
| 313 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 90 | 242 |
| 314 | 18 | 70 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 41 | | | | | | | 47 | 156 |
| 316 | 1 | 11 | 5 | 78 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| 318 | 4 | 27 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 39 | | | | | | | | |
| 319 | 11 | 65 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| 320 | 11 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 19 |
| 405 | | | | | | | 2 | 5 | | | | | | |
| 1007 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 5 | 48 | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| **Total** | **197** | **895** | **18** | **118** | **17** | **246** | **7** | **53** | **5** | **33** | **1** | **4** | **169** | **582** |

## 6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 A total of 197 sherds of pottery, weighing 895 g, was recovered from three trenches. Most was hand-recovered, with a small quantity (four sherds, 4 g) removed from bulk soil samples. The chronological foci of the assemblage is on the Early to Middle Iron Age, with only three sherds of later (Romano-British and modern) material represented. The pottery is in moderate to poor condition, with a mean sherd weight of 4.5 g.

6.2.2 The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type or fabric within each context. For the Iron Age material, full fabric analysis has been carried out; for the later material, broader groupings have been used (e.g. sandy greywares). The presence of identifiable vessel forms and other diagnostic features have been noted. Rim diameters have been calculated where possible. At a minimum, the level of recording accords with the 'basic record', aimed at rapidly characterising an assemblage, and providing a comparative dataset (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5), but has been enhanced to include detailed fabric descriptions. Table 2 gives the breakdown of the assemblage by fabric.

**Table 2** Quantification of pottery by fabric

| Fabric | Fabric description | Number | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Early/Middle Iron Age* | | | |
| Q1 | A soft, rough fabric with common to very common (25-30%) medium to coarse-grained, sub-rounded quartz, with occasional coarse to very coarse rounded quartz; sparse voids from organic inclusions and rare detrital flint, <2 mm. | 107 | 499 |
| Q2 | A soft, smooth fabric common (20%) fine to medium-grained quartz, sub-rounded, with occasional coarse to very coarse-sized sub-rounded to rounded grains; moderate (10%) linear voids from organic inclusions and occasional chalk inclusions, up to 5 mm. | 45 | 208 |
| QF1 | A soft, rough fabric with very common (30%) fine to medium-grained sub-rounded to sub-angular quartz with sparse rounded coarse to very | 42 | 181 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | coarse quartz, moderate (10%) flint, <2 mm, sub-angular to angular; sparse (7%) linear voids from organic inclusions; occasional mica | | |
| *Romano-British* | | | |
| Q100 | Sandy greyware | 2 | 6 |
| *Modern* | | | |
| Q600 | Refined whiteware | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **197** | **895** |

*Iron Age*

6.2.3 Pottery of Early to Middle Iron Age date (194 sherds, 888 g) was recovered from four features in trench 3: pits 310, 315, 317 and 320. Three fabrics were identified amongst the group. Two are sandy with sparse organic inclusions – a coarse ware (Q1) and a finer ware (Q2), the latter typically with smoothed or burnished surfaces. Both have unoxidised dark greyish brown internal surface and core, and are occasionally lightly oxidised to a reddish brown on the external surface. The third fabric is also sandy with sparse organics but has additional inclusions of crushed flint (QF1). Sherds in this fabric tend to have an oxidised yellowish brown external surface and unoxidised dark greyish brown core and internal surface. The range of fabric types present accord well with assemblages of Iron Age (predominantly Middle Iron Age) date from the region (e.g. Morland Road, Ipswich, Brudenell and Hogan 2014; Ingham Quarry, Fornham St Geneviere, Peachey 2012).

6.2.4 Rims from five vessels are present, four from pit 317 and one from pit 310. The group from pit 317 includes one decorated rim and three plain vessels. The decorated vessel is a shouldered jar with medium-length neck and flat-topped rim with diagonal impressions on the rim top. The vessel is in the coarse Q1 fabric, with a lightly oxidised (reddish brown) external surface and unoxidised core and internal surface. It is similar in style to an example from Barnham (Martin 1993, fig. 10.7), but occurring there in a flint-tempered fabric of probable Early Iron Age date. Conjoining sherds from a round-shouldered vessel with short, upright rim, flattened on top and rounded on the outside edge, were also found in pit 317. The vessel is in the finer Q2 fabric, with oxidised exterior and unoxidised core and interior. The external surface is well-finished, probably once burnished; the internal surface is more rough. The other vessels represented in this feature include a flat-topped upright rim (slightly pinched on the internal surface), probably from a shouldered jar but broken at the neck/shoulder join, in the coarse Q1 fabric, and an undiagnostic flat-topped rim fragment. A flat-topped rim fragment was also found in pit 310 but is too incomplete to ascertain its form. A single decorated body sherd from pit 312 has impressed geometric decoration on its external surface. It was made in the quartz and flint-tempered QF1 fabric, with reddish brown external surface and unoxidised internal surface and core.

*Romano-British and modern*

6.2.5 Two conjoining, abraded sherds in a Romano-British sandy greyware fabric were recovered from ditch 103 (trench 1).

6.2.6 A single flake from a refined whiteware with blue transfer-printed decoration, of 19th or 20th century date, was recorded from wheel rut 1006 (trench 10).

## 6.3 Flint

6.3.1 This project produced a very small collection of struck flints; however, the 14 pieces, of which four are listed as chips, contain no clear diagnostic features nor are they technologically distinctive. All are undated. In addition, although most pieces show signs of

conchoidal fracture, many cannot be linked to deliberate acts of flint knapping with any confidence and may have resulted from natural fracture.

6.3.2 Small quantities of burnt flint were recorded from pits 312 (41 g) and 317 (205 g). This material type is intrinsically undateable but frequently associated with prehistoric activity.

### 6.4 Animal bone

6.4.1 A total of 169 fragments (582 g) of animal bone came from features in trenches 1 and 3. The bones are in good condition and were assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).

*Early/Middle Iron Age*

6.4.2 Animal bone was recovered from four pits. Three mandibles, one from each species of livestock, and part of cattle tibia came from pit 317. The mandibles are from a juvenile cattle, a 2–3 year old sheep/goat and a 21–27 month old pig (all mandible wear stage E, after Payne 1973; Halstead 1986; Hambleton 1999). The bones recovered from pit 312 comprise part of a cattle skull from a horned breed, and the radius and ulna from a horse. The other identified bones comprise a sheep/goat tibia from pit 315 and a cattle vertebra from pit 317.

*Romano-British*

6.4.3 A cattle astragalus was recovered from ditch 103.

### 6.5 Other finds

6.5.1 Other finds were limited to small quantities of ceramic building material, fired clay and glass.

6.5.2 The ceramic building material comprises five small fragments from wheel rut 1007 (probable peg tile fragments, *c* 12 mm thick, in red or orange sandy fabrics of medieval or post-medieval date) and two very small fragments from ditch 403 (undiagnostic and undated pieces in an orange sandy fabric).

6.5.3 The five pieces of fired clay occur in a range of fabrics – orange sandy, buff-coloured sandy and orange sandy with moderate quantities of fine chalk – but all are amorphous and retain no indication of original function. They derive from ditch 103, furrow 105 and pit 310.

6.5.4 A small fragment of dark green bottle glass, of post-medieval date, came from wheel rut 1006.

### 6.6 Potential and recommendations

6.6.1 The finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level and no further work is necessary, however the results presented here should be integrated with any additional material. It is also worth noting that pit 312 includes an articulated group of horse bones that are suitable for radiocarbon dating. The ceramic sequence for the Iron Age in Suffolk is not well defined (Brudenell and Hogan 2014, 207) and the opportunity to obtain high-precision radiocarbon dates for this assemblage, or any recovered during future mitigation, should be considered. Sherds from three pottery vessels are suitable for illustration.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Six bulk sediment samples were taken from pits of Early/Middle Iron Age chronology and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence.

## 7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The purpose of this assessment is to determine the potential of the site for the preservation of environmental evidence its potential to address project aims and to provide data valuable for wider research frameworks. This assessment follows recommendations set out by Historic England (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

7.2.2 The size of four of the bulk sediment samples was 20 litres in volume while two smaller samples were five and eight litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank. The flot was retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were sorted using a stereomicroscope Leica MS5 at magnifications of up to x40.

7.2.3 Different bioturbation indicators were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds and the presence of insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains was recorded. Abundance of remains is qualitatively quantified (A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5) as an estimation of the minimum number of individuals (not the number of remains) per taxa.

## 7.3 Results

7.3.1 The samples, all from Trench 3 of the evaluation area (Appendix 2: Table 3), were dominated by modern roots and rootlets, with 90-95% of the flots consisting solely of root material. Other bioturbation proxies such as uncharred seeds, burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*) and insects are also indicative of some stratigraphic movement and the high possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Environmental evidence comprised of charcoal and terrestrial molluscs. All of the flots yielded small quantities of mature wood charcoal, much of it highly fragmented and <2mm in size. The samples also produced high numbers of terrestrial snails, some of which were identified as burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*). This species is often invasive and can burrow into the ground for up to 2 metres (Evans 1971, 168).

7.3.2 No other environmental evidence was preserved in the bulk sediment samples.

## 7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The site has produced limited environmental evidence. The evidence produced is not indicative of settlement activities such as crop-processing. The samples did not yield charred plant remains diagnostic of any particular period. The small quantities of coal and clinker/cinder fragments, alongside charcoal, is suggestive of later medieval to post-medieval fuel debris, possibly from domestic hearths or other sources of activity, since coal became widely used as a fuel source in these periods. It is likely that the debris of later medieval to post-medieval activities has become spread across the landscape and constitutes contamination within these samples.

*Recommendations for future sampling*

7.4.2 Generally, samples should be taken for the recovery of charred plant remains where permitting from well-sealed and dateable features, especially any arising and related to settlement activities. Features that are specifically related to burning activities, such as cremations, should also be sampled. Samples should be taken covering as wide a range of

feature types and phases as possible. Where available deposits permit, sample size should be of 40 litres from individual, secure contexts.

# 8 CONCLUSIONS

## 8.1 Summary

8.1.1 The results of the evaluation indicate several phases of activity largely concentrated in the western and southern extent of the site. Whilst a number of ditches remain undated, Iron Age pits and a Romano-British ditch indicate the site was utilised during occupation of the surrounding area. A lack of evidence within the samples taken suggests that settlement activity such as crop processing was not undertaken within the site bounds, however. Though it is noted that some later contamination was present. Post-medieval activity was reflected by the presence of a likely trackway, represented by a probable trackside ditch and wheel rutting thought to be related to agricultural use.

## 8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 The evaluation was successful in achieving the aims and objectives as stated in section 3.3 and within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2021). The results of the investigation are consistent with the results of other archaeological works within the area, large Iron Age pit clusters were also identified during Phase 4a works associated with the wider development and further indicate widespread activity across the area during the period. Indeed, it is likely that the Iron Age features identified during the evaluation are associated with the site opposite, identified during earlier archaeological evaluation adjacent to Gun Cotton Way, and the settlement located during Cedars Park Phase 3.

8.2.2 Whist the site opposite also revealed evidence for Romano-British activity, the evaluation only revealed a single ditch in Trench 1 (103) that could be attributed to this period. The lack of material recovered from this suggests that the ditch was agricultural in function and would of most likely been located on the periphery of any associated settlement or farm stead.

8.2.3 A number of undated ditches were identified that traverse the site, and although these could be associated with the Roman or Medieval periods, the lack of material recovered suggests that they would only be agricultural in function.

8.2.4 The presence of wheel ruts and a possible trackside ditch indicates the presence of post-medieval activity within the site bounds, as does the field boundary found to traverse the centre of the site (403, 1904, 1104), which is shown on historic mapping and within the geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys 2021). Given the fill sequence of the trackside ditch, with some tertiary material, and depictions on historic mapping, it is likely that the track was related to agricultural use.

8.2.5 Although the post-medieval field boundary accorded with the geophysical survey results, as did the probable trackside ditch, the remaining features identified during the evaluation were not located during the preceding survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021).

# 9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

## 9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. SCCAS has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the parish code **SKT140**. Deposition of any finds with the

museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

## 9.2 Preparation of the archive

*Physical archive*

9.2.1 The archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by SCCAS as set out in *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk Guidelines for Preparation and Disposition* (SCCAS, 2019) and in general following the nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the parish code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 files/document cases of paper records

*Digital archive*

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

## 9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

*Finds*

9.3.5 Pottery (197 sherds). Most (194 sherds) are of Early to Middle Iron Age date and have potential for further analysis; retain all. The two sherds of Romano-British and one sherd of modern pottery have no potential for further analysis and are not recommended for long-term curation.

9.3.6 Flint (18 pieces). No clear diagnostic features, no further research potential. Retain none.

9.3.7 Burnt flint (17 pieces). Undated and undiagnostic, no further research potential. Retain none.

9.3.8 Ceramic building material (7 pieces). Undiagnostic plain flat fragments of medieval or later date, and amorphous fragments. Limited further research potential. Retain none.

9.3.9 Fired clay (5 pieces). Undiagnostic and undated, no further research potential. Retain none.

9.3.10 Glass (1 piece). Post-medieval bottle glass, no further research potential. Do not retain.

9.3.11 Animal bone (169 fragments): the majority from Early/Middle Iron Age contexts, some local interest and potential for radiocarbon dating. Retain all.

*Palaeoenvironmental material*

9.3.12 None of the palaeoenvironmental material is required to be retained.

*Documentary records*

9.3.13 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

*Digital data*

9.3.14 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

## 9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 3). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by SCCAS on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

# 10 COPYRIGHT

## 10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

## 10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 Trench summaries

NGR coordinates and OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

| **Trench No 1** | **Length 30 m** | **Width 1.80 m** | **Depth 0.32 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606065.40** | **Northing 258307.88** | **m OD 37.25** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101 | | Topsoil | Dark brown clay loam with sparse angular cobbles and rare rounded pebbles. Finds of pottery, CBM, and iron nail | 0–0.32 |
| 102 | | Natural | Light greyish yellow clay with rare angular and sparse pebble sized chalk lumps. | 0.32+ |
| 103 | 104 | Ditch | Linear ditch aligned Northwest to southeast with shallow, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.33 m. Width: 0.83 m. Depth: 0.23 m. | |
| 104 | 103 | Secondary fill | Dark brownish grey clay with rare angular flint cobbles. sparse gravel to cobbles sized chalk lumps | |
| 105 | 106 | Furrow | Linear furrow aligned East to West with shallow, straight sides and a flat base. Length: >1.94 m. Width: 0.72 m. Depth: 0.12 m. | |
| 106 | 105 | Secondary fill | Mid greyish orange clay with rare sub-angular flint cobbles. sparse sub-rounded chalk pebbles | |

| **Trench No 2** | **Length 31.10 m** | **Width 2 m** | **Depth 0.39 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606057.28** | **Northing 258288.53** | **m OD 35.12** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 201 | | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay, with moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and burnt flint (10%, <10-40mm), sparse chalk (3-7%, <10-20mm), rare fired clay (<1%, <2-6mm). The top 0.15m of the topsoil is looser than the rest of it which is very compact. Clear boundary with the natural. Moderately bioturbated, mostly near the top of layer (roots+ worms). Seems quite homogenous across the trench. | 0–0.33 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 202 | | Natural | Light yellow brown silty clay with common chalk (20%, <10-40mm), moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint and flint nodules (10 <10-100mm), rare manganese (3%, <2-6mm). Very compact! Low rooting activity. Presence of natural / geological silty brown patches across the natural. | 0.33+ |

| **Trench No 3** | **Length 30.94 m** | **Width 2 m** | **Depth 0.38 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606098.06** | **Northing 258292.55** | **m OD 36.81** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 301 | | Topsoil | Friable, dark orange brown loamy sand with rare very small (1-4mm) chalk and sparse small (3-5mm) sub-angular flints. Homogenous over layer | 0–0.29 |
| 302 | | Natural | Compact, dark yellow orange sand with common small to medium (mostly 1-4mm, some up to 8mm) rounded chalk. Mostly homogenous over layer, some (around 10% ) patches of redder sand without flints | 0.29+ |
| 303 | | Number not used | Unidentified feature aligned Unknown. | |
| 304 | 317 | Uncategorised context | ***Soil description could not be reconstructed from the context sheet. Is it really a Fill or Layer?*** | |
| 305 | | Number not used | Unidentified feature. | |
| 306 | 317 | Same as 319 | ***Soil description could not be reconstructed from the context sheet. Is it really a Fill or Layer?*** | |
| 307 | 317 | Uncategorised context | ***Soil description could not be reconstructed from the context sheet. Is it really a Fill or Layer?*** | |
| 308 | | Number not used | Void | |
| 309 | 317 | Uncategorised context | ***Soil description could not be reconstructed from the context sheet. Is it really a Fill or Layer?*** | |
| 310 | 311 | Uncategorised feature | Circular uncategorised feature aligned NE-SW with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 1.00 m. Width: 1.08 m. Depth: 0.29 m. | |
| 311 | 310 | Primary fill | Dark yellowish brown sandy clay with common medium (5-10cm) chalk and sparse medium (10-20cm) flints | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 312 | 313, 314 | Pit | Circular pit aligned NE-SW with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 2.26 m. Width: 1.83 m. Depth: 1.00 m. | |
| 313 | 312 | Primary fill | Dark orange brown sandy clay with frequent small to medium (1-5cm) chalk and moderate medium (10-15cm) flints | |
| 314 | 312 | Secondary fill | Mid orange brown sandy clay with sparse small (5cm≥) chalk and sparse small (5≥cm) and medium (10-15cm) flints | |
| 315 | 316 | Pit | Sub-circular pit aligned NW-SE with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 1.00 m. Width: 0.91 m. Depth: 0.38 m. | |
| 316 | 315 | Primary fill | Mid orange brown sandy clay with abundant small (1-4cm) chalk and rare small (≤5cm) flints | |
| 317 | 304, 306, 307, 309, 318, 319, 320 | Uncategorised feature | Circular uncategorised feature aligned NE-SW with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 2.16 m. Width: 2.75 m. Depth: 1.25 m. | |
| 318 | 317 | Primary fill | Dark reddish brown sandy clay with sparse small (1-4cm) chalk and rare small (3-5cm) flints | |
| 319 | 317 | Secondary fill | Mid grey brown sandy silt loam with sparse medium (5-10cm) flints. two clear lenses of very common small (1-3cm) chalk | |
| 320 | 317 | Secondary fill | Dark grey brown sandy clay with sparse small (1-3cm) chalk, rare large (30cm) chalk, and rare medium (5-10cm) flints | |

| **Trench No 4** | **Length 31 m** | **Width 2 m** | **Depth 0.45 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606049.61** | **Northing 258269.22** | **m OD 34.25** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 401 | | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay, with sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint gravel (7%, <10-40mm), rare chalk (1-3%, <5-20mm), rare charcoal flecks <1%, <2-6mm). Loose compaction for the top 0.20m of the layet then gets really compact. Highly bioturbated by rooting activity and worms. Clear boundary with the natural. | 0–0.0.30 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 402 | | Natural | Light grey brown silty clay with very common chalk (35%, <5-50mm), sparse flint nodules 3%, <80-120mm), sparse flint gravel (3-7%, <10-40mm), sparse manganese flecks (3-7%,<2-6mm ). Very hard compaction. Low rooting activity.presence of some red / yellow brown silty clay geological / natural patches across the natural. | 0.30+ |
| 403 | 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409 | Ditch | Linear ditch aligned NNW-SSE with irregular, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 2.00 m. Width: 3.34 m. Depth: 1.08 m. | |
| 404 | 403 | Primary fill? | Mid dark grey with yellow brown mottle silty clay with moderate manganese (10%, <5-25mm), rare charcoal flecks (1-3%, <5-10mm), rare sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (3%, <10-40mm) | |
| 405 | 403 | Secondary fill | Dark black brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks (1%, <2-10mm), sparse chalk (3-7%, <5-30mm), rare flint (1-3%, <10-50mm), rare gravel (1%, <2-10mm) | |
| 406 | 403 | Secondary fill | Mid dark brown silty clay with sparse chalk (3-7%, <10-30mm), rare gravel 1-3%, <5-10mm), rare sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (1%, <10-50mm) | |
| 407 | 403 | Secondary fill | Very dark brown silty clay with sparse iron staining, rare gravel (1-3%, <2-10mm), rare sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (1-3%, <10-60mm), rare charcoal flecks (1%, <2-6mm), sparse chalk 3-7%, <5-20mm) | |
| 408 | 403 | Deliberate dump? | Light yellow brown silty clay with sparse chalk (3-7%, <5-30mm), sparse gravel (7%, 5-10mm), rare sub-rounded and sub-angular flint (<1%, <10-30mm) | |
| 409 | 403 | Secondary fill | Dark brown silty clay with moderate chalk (7-10%, <5-20mm), sparse sub-angular and sub-rounded flint (3-7%, <10-40mm), rare charcoal flecks (<1%, <2-6mm) | |

| **Trench No 5** | **Length 3.38 m** | **Width 2.05 m** | **Depth 0.59 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606073.31** | **Northing 258261.71** | **m OD 34.92** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 501 | | Topsoil | Friable, mid orange brown loamy sand with sparse small (4mm to 15mm) sub-angular flints | 0–0.40 |
| 502 | | Natural | Very firm, dark grey orange sand with rare small (10mm-15mm) flints and sparse small (3mm-5mm) chalk | 0.40+ |

| **Trench No 6** | **Length 30.48 m** | **Width 2 m** | **Depth 0.39 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606106.87** | **Northing 258261.02** | **m OD 35.38** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 601 | | Topsoil | Friable, dark grey brown loamy sand with rare small (2cm to 6cm) sub-angular flints. Highly homogenous over layer | 0– 0.25 |
| 602 | | Natural | Compact, dark grey orange sand with moderate very small (2-4mm) rounded chalk and rare medium (3-4cm) sub-angular flints. Homogenous over layer, | 0.25+ |
| 603 | 604, 607 | Pit | Circular pit aligned NW-SE with steep, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.72 m. Width: 0.50 m. Depth: 0.29 m. | |
| 604 | 603 | Secondary fill | Dark yellowish brown sandy silt loam with rare small angular flints | |
| 605 | 606 | Pit | Circular pit aligned NW-SE with shallow, concave sides and a concave base. Length: 0.63 m. Width: >0.22 m. Depth: 0.17 m. | |
| 606 | 605 | Fill | Mid yellowish brown sandy silt loam with moderate very small chalk (could be bioturbated or weather driven) | |
| 607 | 603 | Primary fill | Dark orangeish brown sandy silt loam with common manganese and moderate charcoal | |

| **Trench No 7** | **Length 30.43 m** | **Width 2.19 m** | **Depth 0.34 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606130.18** | **Northing 258272.36** | **m OD 37.05** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 701 | | Topsoil | Friable mid grey brown sandy silt loam with sparse small flints (3-5cm). Homogenous over layer | 0–0.29 |
| 702 | | Natural | Compact, mid orange brown sand with common very small chalk (1mm up to 10mm). Homogenous over layer | 0.29+ |

| **Trench No 8** | **Length 30.15 m** | **Width 2 m** | **Depth 0.52 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606156.85** | **Northing 258261.83** | **m OD 37.58** | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 801 | | Topsoil | Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt loam with sparse small sub-angular flints (1-4cm). | 0–0.43 |
| 802 | | Natural | Compact, dark yellow brown sand with common small (10mm to 13mm) rounded chalk, rare medium chalk (8cm), and moderate small and large angular flints (5cm to 20cm). | 0.43+ |

| Trench No 9 | Length 30 m | Width 1.80 m | Depth 0.55 m |
|---|---|---|---|
| Easting 606026.66 | Northing 258234.91 | m OD 31.96 | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 901 | | Topsoil | Dark greyish brown clay loam with rare angular flint pebbles also contains rare flecks of manganese. CBM and iron nail finds. | 0–0.37 |
| 902 | | Subsoil | Dark brown clay with rare angular chalk and flint pebbles | 0.37–0.48 |
| 903 | | Natural | Light yellowish brown clay. Contains sparse angular chalk and flint cobbles | 0.48+ |
| 904 | 905 | Ditch | Linear ditch aligned Northeast to Southwest with shallow, stepped sides and a flat base. Length: >1.98 m. Width: 0.55 m. Depth: 0.12 m. | |
| 905 | 904 | Secondary fill | Mid orangy brown clay with rare angular flint pebbles. rare angular chalk pebbles | |

| Trench No 10 | Length 30.66 m | Width 2 m | Depth 0.39 m |
|---|---|---|---|
| Easting 606057.41 | Northing 258234.73 | m OD 32.89 | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1001 | | Topsoil | Friable, mid red brown sandy silt loam with sparse small (10-30mm) angular flints. Rooty and quite bioturbated and homogenous across layer. | 0– 0.27 |
| 1002 | | Natural | Dark yellow brown sand with very common small chalk (5 to 20mm) and sparse large (8-15cm) flints across layer but not in representative section. Largely homogenous layer but occasional banding of red brown sand without chalk inclusions (around 10% of trench). | 0.27+ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1003 | 1004, 1005 | Trackway | Linear trackway aligned NE-SW with steep, concave sides and an u-shaped base. Length: >2.55 m. Width: 1.41 m. Depth: 0.68 m. | |
| 1004 | 1003 | Secondary fill | Mid red brown sandy silt loam with moderate very small (2-5mm) and small (10-20mm) chalk and rare medium sized (30-60mm) flints | |
| 1005 | 1003 | Tertiary fill | Dark orange brown sandy silt loam with common small and medium (3-20mm) chalk, sparse small (20-35mm) flints | |
| 1006 | 1007 | Wheel rut | Linear wheel rut aligned NE-SW with shallow, concave sides and a flat base. Length: >2.60 m. Width: 0.65 m. Depth: 0.14 m. | |
| 1007 | 1006 | Tertiary fill | Dark grey brown, splodges of burnt / rusty red (not iron staining) loamy sand with moderate small to medium (20-40mm) flints and rare small (5-12mm) chalk | |
| 1008 | 1009 | L 2 | 55m W 0.82m UNEXCAVATED. Same as 1006 | |
| 1009 | 1008 | Dark grey brown mottled with rusty red | Moderate small to medium flints (10-150mm) and rare small (1-5mm) chalk. | |
| 1010 | 1011 | L 2 | 20m W 0.74m UNEXCAVATED. Same as 1006 | |
| 1011 | 1010 | Dark grey brown mottled with rusty red | Moderate small to medium flints (10-150mm) and rare small (1-5mm) chalk. | |

| **Trench No 11** | **Length 30 m** | **Width 2 m** | **Depth 0.47 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606087.38** | **Northing 258235.31** | **m OD 33.85** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1101 | | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular flint geavel (7%, <10-50mm), rare chalk (1-3%, <5-20mm). Clear boundary with the natural. Loose compaction and highly bioturbated by rooting activity. The layer seems homogenous scross the trench. | 0–0.35 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1102 | | Colluvium? | Subsoil / colluvium. Dark yellow brown, very compact and similar to natural but contains less chalk inclusions (sparse, <3-7%, <5-15mm), rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm) and sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular flint gravel (7%, <10<10-40mm). No bioturbation. Diffuse boundary with natural. | 0.35–0.47 |
| 1103 | | Natural | Dark yellow brown silty clay, very compact, with very common chalk (35%, <5-50mm), sparse flint nodules (3%, <80-120mm), moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint gravel (10%, <10-50mm), and rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). Few brown silty patches of natural geology were encountered across the trench. Very low rooting activity. | 0.47+ |
| 1104 | | Ditch | Unexcavated | |

| **Trench No 12** | **Length 30 m** | **Width 1.80 m** | **Depth 0.42 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606119.78** | **Northing 258240.03** | **m OD 34.89** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | | Topsoil | Dark brown clay loam with rare sub-angular angular pebbles | 0–0.30 |
| 1202 | | Subsoil | Mid orangy brown clay with moderate angular chalk pebbles | 0.30–0.39 |
| 1203 | | Natural | Light yellowish grey clay with sparse angular flint cobbles and sparse sub-rounded chalk pebbles. Becomes more stony in the north end of the trench. | 0.39+ |

| **Trench No 13** | **Length 30 m** | **Width 1.80 m** | **Depth 0.38 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606150.62** | **Northing 258235.03** | **m OD 35.47** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | | Topsoil | Dark brown clay loam with sparse angular chalk gravel and rare angular pebbles. | 0–0.28 |
| 1302 | | Subsoil | Mid orangy brown clay with moderate angular chalk pebbles. | 0.28–0.35 |
| 1303 | | Natural | Light greyish yellow clay with sparse angular chalk and flint cobbles | 0.35+ |

| **Trench No 14** | **Length 30 m** | **Width 1.80 m** | **Depth 0.28 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 6066180.64** | **Northing 258236.49** | **m OD 35.19** | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1401 | | Topsoil | Dark grey clay loam with sparse angular chalk pebbles and gravel. Rare sub-rounded pebbles. | 0–0.27 |
| 1405 | | Natural | Light greyish yellow clay with moderate angular chalk and flint cobbles | 0.27+ |

| Trench No 15 | Length 30.45 m | Width 1.95 m | Depth 0.31 m |
|---|---|---|---|
| Easting 606203.35 | Northing 258226.49 | m OD 35.43 | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1501 | | Topsoil | Friable, dark orange brown sandy silt loam with sparse small (3-5mm) rounded chalk and sparse small (1cm-4cm) rounded flints | 0–0.21 |
| 1502 | | Natural | Compact, mid grey orange sand with common small (3-5mm) rounded chalk and rare medium (4-7cm) angular flints | 0.21+ |

| Trench No 16 | Length 30.05 m | Width 2 m | Depth 0.32 m |
|---|---|---|---|
| Easting 606237.94 | Northing 258236.99 | m OD 35.64 | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1601 | | Topsoil | Mid grey brown sandy silt loam with rare small (10-30mm) flints and sparse small (3-10mm) chalk. Highly homogenous across layer, horizon between layers quite diffused due to bioturbation and root action. | 0—0.22m |
| 1602 | | Natural | Dark orange brown sand with sparse small (2-12mm) chalk and rare small (3-20mm) flints. Homogenous. | 0.22–0.32+ |

| Trench No 17 | Length 30 m | Width 1.80 m | Depth 0.59 m |
|---|---|---|---|
| Easting 606071 | Northing 258204.83 | m OD 31.60 | |

| Context Number | Fill Of/Filled With | Interpretative Category | Description | Depth BGL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1701 | | Topsoil | Dark brown clay loam with rare angular flint and other stones pebbles | 0–0.42 |
| 1702 | | Subsoil | Dark orangy brown clay with rare angular chalk pebbles. | 0.42–0.58 |
| 1703 | | Natural | Light greyish yellow clay with sparse angular chalk pebbles and rare sub-rounded flint cobbles. | 0.58+ |

| Trench No 18 | Length 30 m | Width 1.80 m | Depth 0.55 m |
|---|---|---|---|

| Easting 606104.04 | | Northing 258208.39 | | m OD 32.41 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | | **Depth BGL** |
| 1801 | | Topsoil | Dark brown loam with common sub-angular chalk c≤3cm and flints c≤5cm. Previously ploughed. Established vegetation above and rooting throughout. | | 0–0.4 |
| 1802 | | Subsoil | Mid brown silty clay. Small sub-angular to sub-rounded chalk and flints throughout. Thin subsoil remnant which survived ploughing. | | 0.4–0.5 |
| 1803 | | Natural | Yellowish light brown sandy clay with frequent sub-angular chalk c≤5cm and common flints c≤10cm. | | 0.5+ |
| 1804 | 1805, 1806, 1807 | Ditch | Linear ditch aligned North-east - south-west with moderate, straight sides and a concave base. Length: >1.80 m. Width: 1.70 m. Depth: 1.00 m. | | 0.4–1.38 |
| 1805 | 1804 | Secondary fill | Mid yellowish brown silty clay with common sub-rounded chalk c≤ 3cm and occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular flints c≤4cm | | |
| 1806 | 1804 | Secondary fill | Yellowish mid brown silty clay | | |
| 1807 | 1804 | Secondary fill | Mid brown silty clay with common sub-rounded chalk c≤ 3cm and occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded flints c≤6cm | | |

| Trench No 19 | Length 31.40 m | Width 2 m | Depth 0.60 m |
|---|---|---|---|
| Easting 606131.45 | Northing 258200.41 | m OD 32.38 | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1901 | | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular flint geavel (7%, <10-50mm), rare chalk (1-3%, <5-10mm). Clear boundary with the natural. Loose compaction and highly bioturbated by rooting activity. The layer seems homogenous scross the trench. | 0–0.45 |
| 1902 | | Colluvium? | Subsoil / colluvium. Dark yellow brown, very compact and similar to natural but contains less chalk inclusions (sparse, <3-7%, <5-15mm), rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm) and sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular flint gravel (7%, <10<10-40mm). No bioturbation. Diffuse boundary with natural. | 0.45–0.60 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1903 | | Natural | Dark yellow brown silty clay, very compact, with very common chalk (35%, <5-50mm), sparse flint nodules (3%, <80-120mm), moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint gravel (10%, <10-50mm), and rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). Few brown silty patches of natural geology were encountered across the trench. Very low rooting activity. | 0.60+ |
| 1904 | | Ditch | Unexcavated | |

| **Trench No 20** | **Length 31.50 m** | **Width 2 m** | **Depth 0.48 m** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Easting 606162.88** | **Northing 258212.59** | **m OD 33.85** | |

| **Context Number** | **Fill Of/Filled With** | **Interpretative Category** | **Description** | **Depth BGL** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | | Topsoil | Dark brown silty clay with sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular flint geavel (7%, <10-50mm), rare chalk (1-3%, <5-20mm). Clear boundary with the natural. Loose compaction and highly bioturbated by rooting activity. The layer seems homogenous scross the trench. | 0–0.34 |
| 2002 | | Colluvium? | Subsoil / colluvium. Dark yellow brown, very compact and similar to natural but contains less chalk inclusions (sparse, <3-7%, <5-15mm), rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm) and sparse sub-rounded and sub-angular flint gravel (7%, <10<10-40mm). No bioturbation. Diffuse boundary with natural. | 0.34–0.48 |
| 2003 | | Natural | Dark yellow brown silty clay, very compact, with very common chalk (35%, <5-50mm), sparse flint nodules (3%, <80-120mm), moderate sub-angular and sub-rounded flint gravel (10%, <10-50mm), and rare manganese flecks (1-3%, <2-6mm). Few brown silty patches of natural geology were encountered across the trench. Very low rooting activity. | 0.48+ |

## Appendix 2 Environmental evidence

**Table 3** Table 1: Assessment of the environmental evidence: charred plant remains and charcoal

| Area | Phase | Feature Type | Feature | Context | Group | Sample | Sample Vol. (l) | Bioturbation proxies | Grain | Chaff | Cereal Notes | Charred Other | Charcoal >2mm (ml) | Charcoal | Other | Preservation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tr3 | E/MIA | Pit | 317 | 320 | 317 | 252990_2 | 61 | 95%, B, *Cecilioides acicula* (A) | - | - | - | - | 4 | Mature | Moll-t (A), Coal (C) | H |
| Tr3 | E/MIA | Pit | 317 | 319 | 317 | 252990_3 | 35 | 95%, C, *Cecilioides acicula* (C) | - | - | - | - | 2 | Mature | Moll-t (A), Coal (C) | H |
| Tr3 | E/MIA | Pit | 312 | 314 | 312 | 252990_4 | 35 | 90%, C, *Cecilioides acicula* (C) | - | - | - | - | 2 | Mature | Moll-t (A), Coal (C), Clinker/cinder (C) | H |
| Tr3 | E/MIA | Pit | 312 | 313 | 312 | 252990_5 | 17 | 90% | - | - | - | - | 1 | Mature | Moll-t (C), Clinker/cinder (C) | H |
| Tr3 | E/MIA | Pit | 315 | 316 | 315 | 252990_6 | 35 | 90%, I | - | - | - | - | 1 | Mature | Moll-t (C), Clinker/cinder (C) | H |
| Tr3 | E/MIA | Pit | 317 | 318 | 317 | 252990_7 | 34 | 90% | - | - | - | - | 1 | Mature | Moll-t (C), Coal (C), Clinker/cinder (C) | H |

Key:
Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5
Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), I = Insects, Moll-t = Terrestrial Molluscs, *Cecilioides acicula* = Burrowing blind snail.
Preservation: H = Heterogeneous.

# Appendix 3 OASIS record

## OASIS ID: wessexar1-427908

### Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | Site 3c, Cedar Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk |
| Short description of the project | Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk.<br>Despite geophysical survey of the site suggesting few features within the site bounds, activity dating to the Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval periods was identified within six of the 20 excavated trenches. Consistent with results from works associated with the wider residential development, a pit cluster dating to the early/middle Iron Age was revealed in Trench 3. A mitigation area consisting of a 15m x 15m square centred on the pit cluster was agreed with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The area revealed the full extent of the pit cluster and no further archaeological remains. The pit cluster is most likely associated with the Iron Age and Romano-British site found to the north of the site during the Cedars Park Phase 3 works. Despite Romano-British features located north of the site, adjacent to Gun Cotton Way, results pertaining to such activity were limited. A single ditch in Trench 1 is confidently attributed to the period due to pottery recovered. Similarly, a lack of medieval features is noticeable, and may be accountable through a lack of dating evidence. Post-medieval features comprise a likely track, identified through the presence of wheel rutting and probable trackside ditch and a large boundary ditch, identified in the geophysical survey and the historic mapping.<br>The evaluation was undertaken between the 24th August and 9th September 2021. |
| Project dates | Start: 24-08-2021 End: 09-09-2021 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | 252990 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Monument type | DITCH Roman |
| Monument type | DITCH Post Medieval |
| Monument type | DITCH Uncertain |
| Monument type | PIT Middle Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | SHERD Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | SHERD Roman |
| Significant Finds | SHERD Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | ANIMAL BONE Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | ANIMAL BONE Roman |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Housing estate |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

**Project location**

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK STOWMARKET Cedar Park, Stowmarket |
| Postcode | IP14 5UD |
| Study area | 2.7 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TM 0616 5825 52.183400869238 1.016017086458 52 11 00 N 001 00 57 E Point |

**Project creators**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Organisation | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project brief originator | RPS Consulting Services |
| Project design originator | Wessex Archaeology |
| Project director/manager | Oliver Good |
| Project supervisor | P Capps |

**Project archives**

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service |
| Physical Contents | "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service |
| Paper Media available | "Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Section","Unspecified Archive" |

**Project bibliography 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Site 3c Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk; Archaeological Evaluation |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Legg, E |
| Other bibliographic details | Unpublished client report ref. 252990.03 |
| Date | 2021 |
| Issuer or publisher | Wessex Archaeology |
| Place of issue or publication | Salisbury |
| Description | PDF/A4 bound booklet |

## Appendix 4 Written Scheme of Investigation

# Site 3c, Cedars Park
# Stowmarket, Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

Parish Code: SKT140
Document Ref.: 252990.01
August 2021

wessexarchaeology



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## Document Information

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**Quality Assurance**

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# Stowmarket, Suffolk

## Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by RPS Consulting Services, on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited ('the client'), to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a proposed archaeological evaluation of a 2.7 ha parcel of land located at Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk. The evaluation area is centred on NGR 606105 258244 (**Fig. 1**).

1.1.2 An application (planning ref: DC/20/04723/FUl) has been made to Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) for the construction of 85 dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping works on site. The site will be an extension of the residential development being undertaken immediately to the south-east in Site 3d. Access to the development is proposed via new road off the existing Gun Cotton Way which currently bounds the site to the north-east.

1.1.3 Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), has advised that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken. The evaluation will comprise the excavation, investigation and recording of 20 trial trenches (each measuring 30 m by 1.8 m), equating to a 4% sample of the proposed development area. Should complex or significant archaeological remains be encountered, a further 5 contingency trial trenches will be excavated.

1.1.4 This evaluation is part of staged approach in determining the archaeological potential of the site, and follows other non-intrusive archaeological work, including desk-based assessment (Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company 2016) and geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys forthcoming).

### 1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This WSI sets out the aims of the evaluation, and the methods and standards that will be employed. In format and content, it conforms to current best practice, as well as to the guidance in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015a), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and the *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (Suffolk County Council 2011).

1.2.2 This document will be submitted to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), for approval, prior to the start of the evaluation.

### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The proposed evaluation area is located approximately 1 km south-east of the centre of Stowmarket, Suffolk. Gun Cotton Way comprises the north-eastern boundary, beyond

which lies further residential development. A footpath comprises the remaining boundaries, separated to the southwest by a treeline, beyond which lies fields to the north-west and a pond south-west. To the south-east Site 3d comprises an area of further development.

1.3.2 The site lies broadly parallel to the River Gipping valley, approximately 250 m to the south, on a south-west facing slope with ground levels mapped as between 37 and 34 m above Ordnance Datum.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as sand of the Crag Group, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 0 – 5 million years ago during the Quaternary and Neogene Periods. Superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation sand and gravels are predominantly present with alluvial clay and silt deposits located within the western extent of the site (British Geological Survey 2021).

# 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company 2016) (Appendix 2), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 500 m study area of the wider development, comprising Sites 3a, c and d. A summary is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

## 2.2 Previous investigations related to the proposed development

*Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021)*

2.2.1 A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken across the 2.7 ha site. No anomalies suggestive of archaeological features were identified, though those of agricultural origin were detected, including two former field boundaries recorded on historic mapping as well as a likely former footpath. Evidence for modern ploughing and/or drainage features was also present within the results across the site, with modern field boundaries and a buried service located around the site boundary.

## 2.3 Archaeological and historical context

*Prehistoric (970,000 BC – AD 43)*

2.3.1 Prehistoric activity is known to have been present within the wider landscape as a flint blade or chisel believed to be Bronze Age or Neolithic in date was located to the south-south-west of the site (SKT 013) and ditches and gullies thought to be of prehistoric in origin were revealed during works approximately 1 km to the north-east (SKT 048; ESF21239). Archaeological evaluation located north-north-east of the site revealed a westward continuation of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age land use (SKT 063; ESF212553). Indeed, evidence of Iron Age land use is more prolific with pits and postholes found during the excavation of a moated area to the south-south-west (SKT 011), and a large ditch, numerous large pits and four post structures were also identified to the north-east of the site (SUP 017; ESF18043, ESF18094).

2.3.2 An Iron Age enclosure with two roundhouses and clusters of large pits revealed during Cedars Park Phase 4a works further indicates occupation of the area during this time (SKT 036; ESF21887, ESF21888) and may be associated with the Late Iron Age settlement located during archaeological investigations undertaken in association with Cedars Park

Phase 3 (SKT 018; ESF21868-70; ESF21892). Iron Age features were also located during evaluation associated with Phase 6a and 6b of the same development (SKT037; ESF19258).

*Romano-British (43 – 410 AD)*

2.3.3 Land use is seen to have continued into the Romano-British period with Roman pottery having been located during fieldwalking also associated with Cedar Park Phase 3 works (SKT 018; ESF19927) and enclosures, buildings, field systems, burials, wells and ovens were also identified during the associated evaluation and excavation (SKT 018; ESF21868-70; ESF21892). Roman ditches were observed to continue westwards into the adjacent area (SKT 063; ESF21553).

2.3.4 Romano-British features were also found alongside Iron Age features during evaluation and excavation undertaken on the opposite side of Gun Cotton Lane, north-east of the proposed evaluation (SUP 020; ESF21132; ESF21871) and a pottery kiln with pierced clay floor was recorded in the area of Victoria Road (north-west of the site) (SKT 008).

2.3.5 Further occurrences of features (SUP 020; ESF21132; ESF21871), pottery (SUP 017; ESF18043; ESF18094; SUP 028) and a findspot of a coin of Philip I (SKT 002) indicate the prevalence of activity within the environs of the site.

*Medieval (1066 – 1500)*

2.3.6 There appears to be a general paucity of records pertaining to Anglo-Saxon activity within the landscape, though numerous medieval sites have been identified, including the medieval centre of Stowmarket itself (SKT 022).

2.3.7 Excavations undertaken as part of Phase 4a works of Cedars Park also revealed medieval features suggestive of occupation with parallel ditches, an enclosure, probable structures, cobbled surfaces identified alongside quarry pits, a pond and ditches indicative of a field system (to the north and north-east of the site) (SKT 036; ESF19923, ESF21888). Similarly finds and features pertaining to the period were also recorded during investigations undertaken as part of the construction of Cedars Park Road Corridor (SKT 038; ESF21880; ESF21881) and more generally associated with Cedars Park (SKT 040; ESF21238; ESF21882-3; SKT 043; ESF21885-6).

2.3.8 Medieval pottery was also recovered from trial trenching of land off Tomo Road (600 m to the north-west of the site) (SKT 070; ESF23806). Medieval ponds and a ditch were located to the north-north-east (SKT063; ESF21553), and clay pits and land drains dating to the period have also been recorded in the area (SKT 023; ESF21111).

*Post-medieval (1500 – 1800) – modern (1800 – present)*

2.3.9 Evidence pertaining to post-medieval land use typically comprises ditches, likely representing earlier field boundaries and/or drainage systems (SKT 036; ESF23731; SKT 040; ESF21238; SKT 041; ESF23783; SKT 070; ESF23806). Indeed, historic Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, dating between 1885 and 1991, indicates that the proposed evaluation site has remained agricultural in use during the post-medieval period, with field boundaries and footpaths traversing the site, as also highlighted by the geophysical survey results (Magnitude Surveys forthcoming; Old Maps 2021). Some rearrangement of the field boundaries and footpaths as well as the development of land to the north has occurred within the last two decades.

2.3.10 Further afield, during evaluation and palaeoenvironmental survey, land off Station Road East has been identified as former water meadows. These appear to have survived until the

latter half of the 19th century, when the construction of the Gipping Navigation channel resulted in the land being utilised for mercantile activities (SKT 051; ESF19990). The site of a former munitions store has also been identified with surviving revetments and access tracks (approximately 30 m in length) surviving approximately 400 m to the south-east of the proposed development area (CRP 006). Indeed a munitions factory/gunpowder works is known to have existed on one or both sides of the River Gipping, to the north-west of the site (SKT Misc).

2.3.11 A number of pits, ditches, postholes and planting features have been recorded in the area of Sherringham Court and are believed to comprise the remains of formal gardens (SKT 070; ESF21464), further indicating the varying uses of the wider environment during the period.

2.3.12 To the north-west of the site, evidence of railway track removal indicates the position of a former line serving Malthouses to the west of the station (SKT 033-5). The Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds line, extant to the south-west of the proposed evaluation, was opened in November 1846 (SUF 069).

# 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

## 3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims (or purpose) of the evaluation, in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), are to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

## 3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation are to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

## 3.3 Site-specific objectives

3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the site-specific objectives of the evaluation are to:

- test the results of the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys forthcoming);
- determine the presence or absence of evidence for Iron Age/Romano-British activity associated with that previously identified opposite the site (SUP 020; ESF21132; ESF21871);

- establish the potential for the presence of remains derived from other, less visible, phases of activity;
- examine the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site;
- assess the potential for the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region;

# 4 FIELDWORK METHODS

## 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Health and safety will override archaeological considerations in all works since, as stated in CIfA guidance, *Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information; hence Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters* (CIfA 2014a, 11)

4.1.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within this WSI. Any significant variations to these methods will be agreed in writing with the SSCAS and the client prior to being implemented.

4.1.3 The evaluation will comprise the excavation, investigation and recording of 20 trial trenches (each measuring 30 m by 1.8 m), equating to a 4% sample of the proposed development area.

## 4.2 Setting out of the trenches

4.2.1 All trenches will be set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) in the approximate positions shown in **Figure 1**. Minor adjustments to the layout may be required to take account of constraints such as vegetation or located services, and to allow for machine manoeuvring. The trench locations will be tied in to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid and Ordnance Datum (OD) (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15.

## 4.3 Service location and other constraints

4.3.1 The client will provide information regarding the presence of any below/above-ground services, and any ecological, environmental or other constraints.

4.3.2 Before excavation begins, the evaluation area will be walked over and visually inspected to identify, where possible, the location of any below/above-ground services. All trial trench locations will be scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to verify the absence of any live underground services.

## 4.4 Excavation methods

4.4.1 The trenches will be excavated using a 360º tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation will be under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation will proceed in level spits of approximately 50–200 mm until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology is exposed. Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand.

4.4.2 A sample of the archaeological features and deposits identified will be hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation. Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavation will be visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval, and where

appropriate will also be metal-detected by trained archaeologists. Artefacts and other finds will be collected and bagged by context.

4.4.3 If an exceptional number and/or complexity of archaeological deposits are identified, sample excavation will aim to be minimally intrusive, but sufficient to resolve the principal aims of the evaluation, to a level agreed with the SCCAS and the client.

4.4.4 If human remains are uncovered, the specific methods outlined below (section 4.9.2) will be followed.

4.4.5 Where complex archaeological stratification is encountered, deposits will be left *in situ* and alternative measures taken to assess their depth, as agreed with the SSCAS. Where modern features are seen to truncate the archaeological stratification, these may be removed, where practicable, in a manner that does not damage the surrounding deposits to enable the depth of stratification to be assessed.

### 4.5 Recording

4.5.1 All exposed archaeological deposits and features will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.5.2 A complete record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made. This will include plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) and tied to the OS National Grid.

4.5.3 A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. This will record both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photographs will also be taken of all areas, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the evaluation.

### 4.6 Survey

4.6.1 The real time kinematic (RTK) survey of all trenches and features will be carried out using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data will be recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

### 4.7 Monitoring

4.7.1 The client will inform the SCCAS of the start of the evaluation and its progress. Reasonable access will be arranged for the SCCAS to make site visits to inspect and monitor the progress of the evaluation. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, will be agreed in advance with the client and the SCCAS.

### 4.8 Reinstatement

4.8.1 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the SCCAS will be backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment will be undertaken.

## 4.9 Finds

*General*

4.9.1 All archaeological finds will be retained, although those of clearly very recent origin with negligible potential to provide information relevant to the project aims and objectives may be recorded on site and not retained. Where appropriate, soil samples may be taken and sieved to aid in finds recovery. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

*Human remains*

4.9.2 In the event of discovery of any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt), all excavation of the deposit(s) will cease pending Wessex Archaeology obtaining a Ministry of Justice licence (this includes cases where remains are to be left *in situ*).

4.9.3 Initially the remains will be left *in situ,* covered and protected, pending discussions between the client, Wessex Archaeology's osteoarchaeologist and the SCCAS regarding the need for excavation/removal or sampling. Where this is deemed appropriate, the human remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from site in compliance with the Ministry of Justice licence.

4.9.4 Excavation and post-excavation processing of human remains will be in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols and in-line with current guidance documents (eg, McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains*. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken if required.

4.9.5 The final deposition of human remains subsequent to the appropriate level of osteological analysis and other specialist sampling/examinations will follow the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice licence.

*Treasure*

4.9.6 Wessex Archaeology will immediately notify the client and the SCCAS on discovery of any material covered, or potentially covered, by the *Treasure Act 1996*. All information required by the Treasure Act (ie, finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

## 4.10 Environmental sampling

4.10.1 All sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015b).

4.10.2 Bulk environmental soil samples, for the recovery of plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, small animal bones and other small artefacts, will be taken as appropriate from well-sealed and dateable contexts. In general, features directly associated with particular activities (eg, pits, latrines, cesspits, hearths, ovens, kilns, and corn driers) should be prioritised for sampling over features, such as ditches or postholes, which are likely to contain reworked and residual material.

4.10.3 If waterlogged or mineralised deposits are encountered, an environmental sampling strategy will be devised and agreed with the SCCAS as appropriate. Specialist guidance will be provided by a member of Wessex Archaeology's geoarchaeological and environmental team, with site visits undertaken if required.

4.10.4 Any samples will be of an appropriate size – typically 40 litres for the recovery of environmental evidence from dry contexts, and 10 litres from waterlogged deposits.

4.10.5 Following specialist advice, other sampling methods such as monolith, Kubiena or contiguous small bulk (column) samples may be employed to enable investigation of deposits with regard to microfossils (eg, pollen, diatoms) and macrofossils (eg, molluscs, insects), soil micromorphological or soil chemical analyses.

## 5 POST-EXCAVATION METHODS AND REPORTING

### 5.1 Stratigraphic evidence

5.1.1 All written and drawn records from the evaluation will be collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data will be transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any future analyses. The preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits will be undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from finds, particularly pottery.

5.1.2 A written description will be made of all archaeologically significant features and deposits that were exposed and excavated, ordered either by trench or by period as appropriate. Detail of all contexts will be provided in trench tables in the appendix of the report.

### 5.2 Finds evidence

5.2.1 All retained finds will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. They will then be recorded to a level appropriate to the aims and objectives of the evaluation. Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 2 (Appraisal) level according to CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification, characterisation and assessment of significance and potential. The report will include a table of finds by feature/context or trench.

5.2.2 Metalwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and, along with other fragile and delicate materials, stored in a stable environment. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in-house conservation staff, or by another approved conservation centre.

5.2.3 Finds will be suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidance given by the relevant museum and generally in accordance with the standards of the CIfA (2014b).

### 5.3 Environmental evidence

5.3.1 Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by standard flotation methods. The residues will be fractionated into 5.6/4 mm and 1/0.5 mm and dried if necessary. The coarse residue fraction (>5.6/4 mm), and the fine fraction when appropriate, will be sorted and discarded, with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist. The flot will be retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and scanned to assess the range of environmental remains present and their preservation. Unsorted fine residues will be retained until after any analyses and discarded following final reporting (in accordance with the Selection policy, below).

5.3.2 In the case of samples from cremation-related deposits the flots will be retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, with residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm. In the case of samples from inhumation burial deposits, the sample will be wet-sieved through 9.5 mm and 1 mm mesh sizes. The coarse fractions (9.5 mm) will be sorted with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist together with the finer residues.

5.3.3 Any waterlogged samples will be processed by standard waterlogged flotation methods.

5.3.4 Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 2 (Appraisal) level according to CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification, characterisation and assessment of significance and potential.

## 5.4 Reporting

*General*

5.4.1 Following completion of the fieldwork and the evaluation of the stratigraphic, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, a draft report will be submitted for approval to the client and the SCCAS, for comment. Once approved, a final version will be submitted.

5.4.2 The report will include the following elements:

- Non-technical summary;
- Project background;
- Archaeological and historical context;
- Aims and objectives;
- Methods;
- Results – stratigraphic, finds and environmental;
- Conclusions in relation to the project aims and objectives, and discussion in relation to the wider local, regional or other archaeological contexts and research frameworks etc;
- Archive preparation and deposition arrangements;
- Appendices, including trench summary tables;
- Illustrations; and
- References.

5.4.3 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the HER, along with surveyed spatial digital data (.dxf or shapefile format) relating to evaluation.

*Publication*

5.4.4 If no further mitigation works are undertaken, a short report on the results of the evaluation will be prepared for publication in a suitable journal, if considered appropriate and agreed with the client and the SCCAS.

*OASIS*

5.4.5 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigation) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) will be created, with key fields completed, and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue and the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History .

# 6 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

## 6.1 Museum

6.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with SCCAS. Provision has been made for the cost of long-term storage in the post-fieldwork costs. The museum has been notified of the project, prior to fieldwork commencing, and a parish code (SKT140) has been acquired. All elements of the archive will be marked with this code.

## 6.2 Transfer of title

6.2.1 On completion of the evaluation (or extended fieldwork programme), every effort will be made to persuade the legal owner of any finds recovered (ie, the landowner), with the exception of human remains and any objects covered by the *Treasure Act 1996*, to transfer their ownership to the museum in a written agreement.

## 6.3 Preparation of archive

*Physical archive*

6.3.1 The complete physical archive, which may include paper records, graphics, artefacts, and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by SCCAS (SCCAS 2019), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011). The archive will usually be deposited within one year of the completion of the project, with the agreement of the client.

*Digital archive*

6.3.2 The digital archive generated by the project will be deposited with SCCAS. It is also recommended that it is deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following SCCAS and ADS guidelines (SCCAS 2019; ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

## 6.4 Selection strategy

6.4.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

6.4.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

6.4.3 In this instance, given that the level of finds recovery is expected to be relatively low, decisions on selection will be deferred until after the fieldwork stage, and no detailed strategy is presented here. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by Wessex Archaeology.

### 6.5 Security copy

6.5.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.

## 7 OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MEDIA

7.1.1 In line with its charitable aims, Wessex Archaeology will, where possible and in consultation with the client, seek opportunities to disseminate the results of the evaluation and engage with the local community through social media, press releases, open days and volunteer involvement, while taking into account issues such as health and safety, confidentiality and vandalism.

## 8 COPYRIGHT

### 8.1 Archive and report copyright

8.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

8.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research, or development control within the planning process.

### 8.2 Third party data copyright

8.2.1 This document, the evaluation report and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

## 9 WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY PROCEDURES

### 9.1 External quality standards

9.1.1 Wessex Archaeology is registered as an archaeological organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and fully endorses its *Code of conduct* (CIfA 2014d) and *Regulations for professional conduct* (CIfA 2014e). All staff directly employed or subcontracted by Wessex Archaeology will be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, and archaeological staff will be employed in line with the CIfA codes of practice and will normally be members of the CIfA.

## 9.2 Personnel

9.2.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's core staff. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of Wessex Archaeology's project managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. Where required, monitoring visits may also be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's Health and Safety manager. The appointed project manager will be involved in all phases of the investigation through to its completion.

9.2.2 The analysis of any finds and environmental data will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology core staff or external specialists, using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods, under the supervision of the departmental managers and the overall direction of the project manager. A complete list of specialists is provided in Appendix 1.

9.2.3 The following key staff are proposed:

- Project Manager Oliver Good
- Fieldwork Director TBC

9.2.4 Wessex Archaeology reserves the right, where necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, to replace nominated personnel with alternative members of staff of comparable expertise and experience.

## 9.3 Internal quality standards

9.3.1 Wessex Archaeology is an ISO 9001 accredited organisation (certificate number FS 606559), confirming the operation of a Quality Management System which complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 – covering professional archaeological and heritage advice and services. The award of the ISO 9001 certificate, independently audited by the British Standards Institution (BSI), demonstrates Wessex Archaeology's commitment to providing quality heritage services to our clients. ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation) is the most recognised standards body in the world, helping to drive excellence and continuous improvement within businesses.

9.3.2 Wessex Archaeology assigns responsibility to individual managers for the successful completion of all aspects of a project including reporting. This includes monitoring progress and quality; controlling the budget from inception to completion; and all aspects of health and safety for the project. At all stages, the project manager will carefully assess and monitor performance of staff and adherence to objectives, timetables and budgets, while the manager's own performance is monitored by the team leader or regional director. The technical managers in the Graphics, Research, GeoServices and IT sections provide additional assistance and advice.

9.3.3 All staff are responsible for following Wessex Archaeology’s quality standards but the overall adherence to and setting of these standards is the responsibility of the senior management team who, in consultation with the team leaders/regional directors, also ensure projects are adequately programmed and resourced within Wessex Archaeology’s portfolio of project commitments.

## 9.4 Health and safety

9.4.1 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*; the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999*; and all other applicable health and safety legislation.

9.4.2 Wessex Archaeology has a fully compliant health and safety management system that has year on year satisfied the criteria for SSIP certification (Safety Schemes in Procurement). SSIP itself is aligned with PAS91.

9.4.3 Wessex Archaeology will, for all projects, produce one or more task and site-specific risk assessments and method statements (RAMS), which will ensure our staff can work safely on the site. A copy of the RAMS and our Health and Safety Policy can be provided to the client. All staff on our sites will be made fully familiar with the RAMS before work commences.

9.4.4 We aim to work collaboratively on health and safety with clients and, where separately appointed, with principal contractors. We expect clients to provide in good time all the necessary risk information about a site that may affect the archaeological work, such as locations of utilities or any known ground contamination. We will comply with the project specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, and any other specific additional requirements of the Principal Contractor.

9.4.5 All fieldwork staff are certified through the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) and have undergone UKATA Asbestos Awareness Training. Staff who carry out specific tasks are suitably trained and competent to do so through training accredited by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), Institution of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH) and the National Plant Operators Recognitions Scheme (NPORS).

## 9.5 Insurance

9.5.1 Wessex Archaeology holds Employers Liability (£10,000,000), Public Liability (£5,000,000) and Professional Indemnity (£5,000,000) policies.

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1 Finds and environmental specialists

| Name | Qualifications | Specialism |
|---|---|---|
| Phil Andrews | BSc; FSA; MCIfA | Slag and metal working debris |
| Ceridwen Boston | BSocSc; MA; MSc; DPhil | Osteoarchaeology; funerary archaeology |
| Pippa Bradley | BA; MPhil; Dip Post Ex; MCIfA | Prehistoric flint and worked stone, shale and jet |
| Elina Brook | BA; MA; PCIfA | Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery, and small finds |
| Alex Brown | BA; MSc; PhD | Geoarchaeology, palynology |
| Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy | BA; MA; MCIfA | Human remains (inhumations) |
| Erica Gittins | BA; MA; PhD | Prehistoric flint |
| Phil Harding | PhD | Prehistoric flint, particularly Palaeolithic flint |
| Lorrain Higbee | BSc; MSc; MCIfA | Animal bone |
| Grace Jones | BA; MA; PhD; MCIfA | Prehistoric and Roman pottery, ceramic building material, fired clay, and small finds |
| Matt Leivers | BA; PhD; ACIfA | Prehistoric pottery and flint |
| Inés López-Dóriga | BA; MA; PhD | Archaeobotanical remains |
| Erica Macey-Bracken | BA; ACIfA | Post-medieval finds, ceramic building material and worked wood |
| Katie Marsden | BSc | Pottery from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern. Metalwork of all periods, including coins. Small and bulk finds including fired clay, ceramic building material, worked bone |
| Jacqueline McKinley | BTech; FSA | Human remains (inhumations and cremations) |
| Lorraine Mepham | BA; MCIfA | Pottery and other ceramic finds of all dates, concentrating on later prehistoric and post-Roman; ceramic building material; clay tobacco pipe; glass of Saxon or later date; small finds |
| Nicki Mulhall | | Geoarchaeology and archaeobotanical remains |
| David Norcott | BA; MSc; MCIfA | Geoarchaeology |
| Richard Payne | BSC; MSc; MPhil | Geoarchaeology |
| Holly Rodgers | BA; MSc | Geoarchaeology |
| Emma Robertson | BA; MSc | Human remains (inhumations) |
| Rachael Seager Smith | BA; MCIfA | Pottery with particular emphasis on Roman ceramics; and metalwork, fired clay, ceramic building material, stone, worked bone, shale, glass, and wall plaster |
| Andrew Shaw | BA; MA; PhD | Palaeolithic lithic artefacts and Pleistocene geoarchaeology |
| Amy Thorp | BA; MA | Pottery with emphasis on Roman ceramics, small finds |

## Appendix 2 Desk Based Assessment

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SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

# Land at Cedars Park

## Stowmarket, Suffolk

**Client:**
Lansbury Developments Ltd and Mrs Hilary Haydon

**Date:**
August 2016

Desk-Based Assessment v0.3
SACIC Report No. 2016/062
Authors: J. A. Craven, S. Cass and R. Brooks


# HER Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Site Name:** | **Land at Cedars Park (3A, 3B and 3C)** |
| **Report Number** | **2016/062** |
| **Planning Application No:** | **Pre-planning** |
| **Grid Reference:** | **Site 3A: TM 05715851**<br>**Site 3C: TM 06105823**<br>**Site 3D: TM 06365814** |
| **Oasis Reference:** | **259847** |
| **HER Search Reference** | **9190577** |
| **Curatorial Officer:** | **N/A** |
| **Project Officer:** | **John Craven** |
| **Client/Funding Body:** | **Lansbury Developments Ltd (Sites 3A and 3C)**<br>**Mrs Hilary Haydon (Site 3D)** |

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:
http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit

## Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. 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 Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

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## Summary

This Desk-Based Assessment has set the location of proposed residential and commercial development within its immediate archaeological landscape through an examination of the Suffolk HER, the National Heritage List for England, available cartographic sources and aerial photography and a site inspection.

In general the topographic location of the three sites and the known archaeology and history of the area suggests that they have moderate to high potential for archaeological deposits dating to the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, and low potential for deposits relating to earlier prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon activity, post-medieval agriculture and modern/industrial remains. The preservation of such deposits is likely to be variable from poor to good, as seen in past excavations to the north. Any archaeological remains that lie within the site are likely to be of local, or possibly regional importance, and in a state of moderate or good preservation, at a depth that will mean they will be significantly impacted upon by the proposed development.

It is recommended that the client should consult with the Local Planning Authority, Mid Suffolk District Council and its advisor, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, at the earliest possible opportunity to determine if further archaeological investigation of the site is likely to be required prior to submission of a planning application.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Project Background

This archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) has been prepared at the request of Melville Dunbar Associates, on behalf of the landowners Lansbury Developments Ltd (sites 3a and C) and Mrs Hilary Haydon (site 3D), in advance of a planning application for residential and commercial development and any consultation with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the Archaeological Advisor to the local planning authority (LPA) Mid Suffolk District Council.

## 1.2. Site description

The subject of this DBA consists of three parcels of land off Tomo Road/Guncotton Way, Cedars Park, in the parish of Stowmarket, Suffolk (Fig. 1), *c*.600m to 1500m to the east and south-east of the historic settlement core of the town. The three sites consist of open areas of scrub grassland within a landscape of modern residential and industrial development broadly bounded by the A14 to the north, A1120 to the east and the Ipswich-Bury St Edmunds railway line to the south. Details of the sites are as follows:

- 3A – 3.05ha, NGR TM 0571 5851
- 3C – 2.7ha, NGR TM 0610 5823
- 3D – 2.76ha, NGR TM 0636 5814

The three sites are distributed broadly parallel to the River Gipping valley, which lies *c*.250m to the south. The general topography across the sites consists of a south-west facing slope, *c*.32-45m above Ordnance Datum, descending to the valley floor. The site's geology predominantly consists of chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation overlying bedrock Crag Group sands (BGS, 2016) with the western part of Site 3C having superficial deposits of alluvial silty clays.

## 1.3. Scope and aims of the report

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Government's guidance on archaeology and planning, the aim of the DBA is to determine as far as reasonably practicable from the available archaeological and heritage sources the previous land use and history of the site, the nature of the known archaeological or

other heritage assets within its environs, the potential archaeological assets of the site, and the potential impact of the proposed development on such assets.

The sources examined by the DBA include the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), reports of any archaeological investigations, all readily available cartographic and documentary sources held by Suffolk Archaeology or the Suffolk Record Office, and aerial photography available online.

In order to set the site in its archaeological context a Study Area extending 500m from the sites boundaries was selected for examination (Figs. 2-7).

In particular, the DBA aims to:

- Collate and assess the existing information regarding archaeological and historical remains within and adjacent to the site.
- Identify any known archaeological sites which are of sufficient potential importance to leave an outright constraint on development (i.e. those that will need preservation *in situ*).
- Assess the potential for unrecorded archaeological sites within the application area.
- Assess the likely impact of past land uses (such as ploughing, quarrying etc.) and the potential quality of preservation of below ground deposits, and where possible to model those deposits.

## 1.4. Methods

The following methods of data collection have been used to meet the aims of the DBA:

- A search for designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas that lie within the Study Area and may have a line of sight to the three sites was carried out on the NHLE and Suffolk HER. A summary is presented in section 2.1 below.
- A search of the Suffolk HER and NHLE for any records within the Study Area, and an examination of the literature with reference to archaeological excavations within the Study Area. The results are described and mapped in section 2.2 below, and presented in full in Appendix 1.

- Examination of the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map (Version 3, 2008) and the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment website. The results are described and mapped in section 2.3 below.
- The commissioning of a collated report of 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping. The results are summarised in section 2.4 below, with the mapping report included in Appendix 2.
- A brief examination of aerial photography of the area available on various websites and Google Earth. The results are presented in section 2.5 below.
- A site inspection to determine the presence of any factors likely to impact upon the overall assessment of the sites archaeological potential was conducted on the 24/08/2016. Digital photographs taken during the inspection are presented in Appendix 3.

## 1.5. Legislative frameworks

### 1.5.1. National legislation or policy

**NPPF**

National Planning Policy Framework (which replaced PPS5 in March 2012, which in turn had replaced various guidance such as PPG 15 and PPG 16) provides guidance for planning authorities, developers and others on planning and the historic environment (paragraphs 128 & 129 below).

***128.*** *In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

***129.*** *Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.*

**Scheduled Monuments**

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 statutorily protects Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and their settings as nationally important sites.

**Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas**

Listed buildings are protected under the Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act of 1990. This ensures that listed buildings are given statutory protection against unauthorised demolition, alteration and extension. Buildings are listed because they are of special architectural importance, due to their architectural design, decoration and craftsmanship; also because they are of historical interest. This includes buildings that illustrate important aspects of the nation's social, economic, cultural or military history or have a close association with nationally important persons or events.

Conservation Areas are designated for their special architectural and historic interest, usually by the local planning authority. Any alterations to properties, structures, trees, etc. in a conservation area may need permission from the local planning authority.

**Registered Parks and Gardens**

A Registered Park or Garden is a site included on the 'Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England' which is maintained by English Heritage. It currently identifies over 1,600 sites assessed to be of national importance. Registration is a 'material consideration' in the planning process, meaning that planning authorities must consider the impact of any proposed development on the special character of a registered park or garden.

## 1.5.2. Local policy and guidance

**Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Development Plan Document (adopted 2008)**

Core Strategy Objective SO 4 in section 3 details local policy towards the historic environment and heritage assets, the objective being *'to protect, manage, enhance and restore the historic heritage/environment and the unique character and identity of the towns and villages by ensuring that new developments are appropriate in terms of scale and location in the context of settlement form and character.'* Policy CS 5 states that *'the Council will introduce policies in the other DPDs of the Local Development Framework to protect, conserve and where possible enhance the natural and built historic environment including the residual archaeological remains. These policies will seek to integrate conservation policies with other planning policies affecting the historic environment.'*

**Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan**

The joint Local Plan is in development but section 3 of the Local Plan: Development Management Plan, Issues & Options - early stage consultation (regulation 18) document of 2015 concerns proposals for the historic environment and heritage assets. Para 3.5 states that '*Babergh and Mid Suffolk have a considerable wealth of historic settlements and buildings which contribute to the area's distinctiveness and make it an attractive place to live and work. The NPPF advocates that local plans should set out a positive approach to the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk. Heritage Assets are defined by the NPPF as 'A building, monument, place area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'. It includes nationally designated heritage assets and other non-designated heritage assets.*

*The designated heritage assets in Babergh and Mid Suffolk comprise some 7,000 listed buildings, 60 Conservation Areas, plus Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens.*

*The aim of this policy is to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the local environment, historical interest and quality of life.'*

The proposed Policy DM6 then states that '*all development proposals must:*

- *Have regard to the historic environment and take account of the contribution any heritage asset makes to the character of the area and its sense of place, as determined by reference to the historic environment record and other evidence sources;*
- *Demonstrate a clear understanding of the significance of the heritage asset, its contribution to the heritage of the area, and the potential impact of the development proposal upon the heritage asset and its setting;*
- *Provide a clear justification for any works that would cause harm or substantial harm to a heritage asset. The greater the degree of harm, the greater degree of justification will be required. The demolition or substantial loss of a designated heritage asset should be wholly exceptional;*
- *Minimise or avoid any conflict between the conservation of the heritage asset and the development proposal;*
- *Conserve and enhance the significance of any heritage assets and their setting, including views into and out of conservation areas; and*
- *Contribute to local distinctiveness, respecting the built form and scale of heritage assets, through the use of appropriate design and materials.*

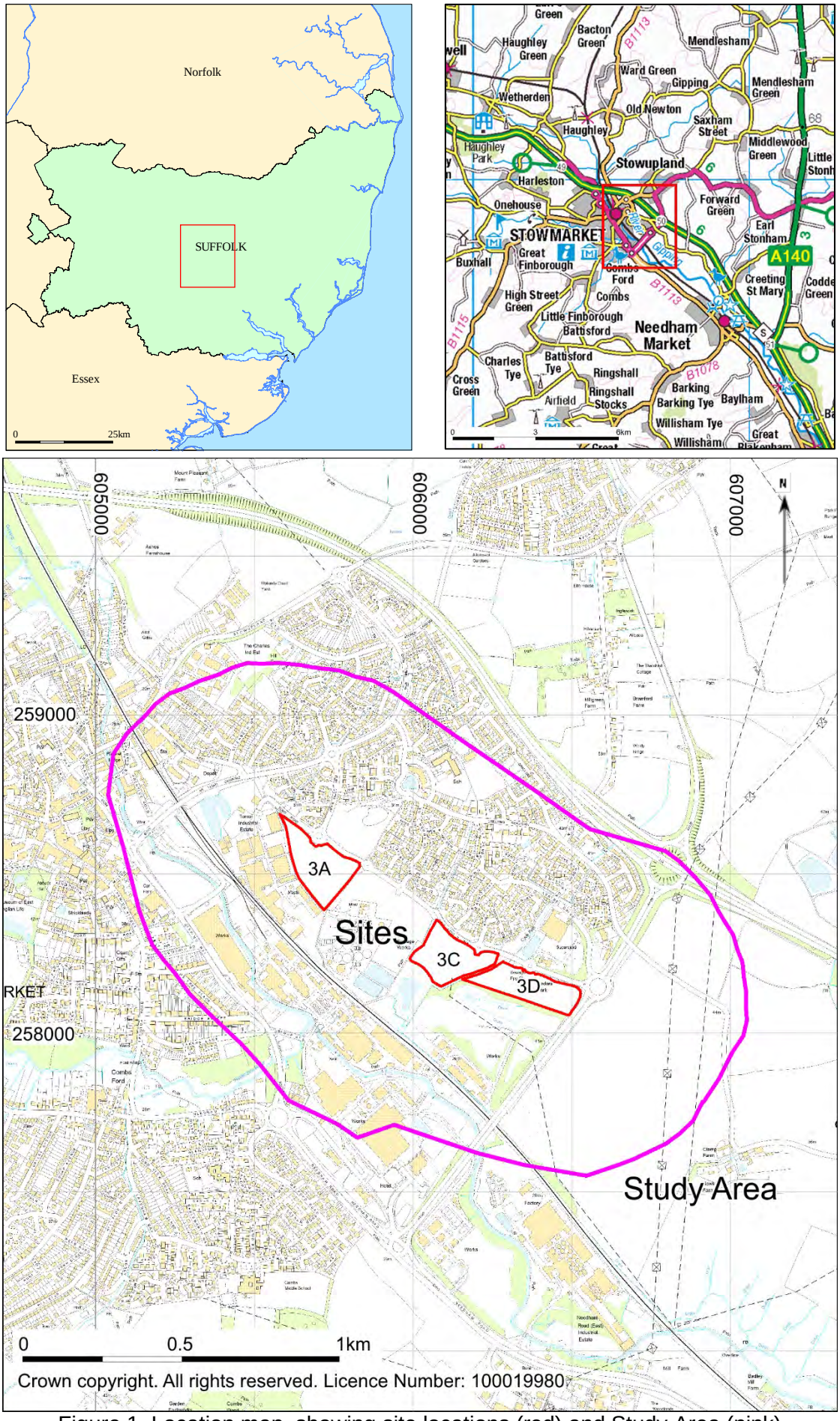


Figure 1. Location map, showing site locations (red) and Study Area (pink)

# 2. Study Area search results

## 2.1. Designated assets

A search for designated heritage assets, such as Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks or Gardens, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings was carried out on the Suffolk HER and on the NHLE website.

### 2.1.1. Scheduled Monuments

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Study Area.

### 2.1.2. Registered Parks or Gardens

There are no Registered Parks or Gardens within the Study Area.

### 2.1.3. Conservation Areas

The eastern fringe of the Stowmarket Conservation Area, which broadly correlates to the historic settlement core, extends slightly into the western edge of the Study Area. The Conservation Area lies wholly on the west side of the railway line and is thus distinctly separated from the three sites. This area is shown as a blue hashed area with the Listed Buildings below in Figure 2.

### 2.1.4. Listed Buildings

A search carried out on the Suffolk HER and on the NHLE website has shown that the Study Area contains seven Listed Buildings (Fig. 2), located both to the west, north-west and north-east of the three sites. One listing relates to the town railway station, and two listings relate to Sheepcote Hall and an ancillary barn/stables. The others include two maltings and two residential dwellings. Brief summaries of the NHLE entries for the buildings are given below:

**Sheepcote Hall, Creeting Road.**

***Suffolk HER Ref: 384572 (NHLE No.1297888)***

*Grade II listed late C16 Manor house and offices. Roughcast and colourwashed timber-frame with some brick, plain tile roofs with some mid and late C20 alterations.*

**Sheepcote Hall Stables and Hayloft, Creeting Road.**

***Suffolk HER Ref: 384574 (NHLE No.1195897)***

*Grade II listed late C17/early C18 Cart shed with stables/hayloft. Timber-frame on brick plinth with some brick walling on the west gable. Corrugated asbestos roof, weatherboarded.*

**Walnut Tree Cottage, Creeting Road.**

***Suffolk HER Ref: 384575 (NHLE No.1208727)***

*Grade II listed mid C17 house. Roughcast timber-frame on brick plinth, thatched roof.*

**The Limes, Ipswich Road.**

***Suffolk HER Ref: 384593 (NHLE No.1292946)***

*Grade II listed C16 House with mid C18 façade and early C19 flanking additions. Timber-framed, plastered and whitewashed, plain tile roof.*

**Old Malthouse, Ipswich Street.**

***Suffolk HER Ref: 384608 (NHLE No.1209019)***

*Grade II listed late C16 Barn converted to Malthouse late C18, converted to a house late C20. Pantiled roofs.*

**Stowmarket Railway Station, Station Road.**

***Suffolk HER Ref: 384640 (NHLE No.1292513)***

*Grade II listed late C19 Railway station by Frederick Barnes. Red brick with some gault brick dressings under machine tile roofs.*

**The Maltings, Station Road.**

***Suffolk HER Ref: 384641 (NHLE No.1292516)***

*Grade II listed late C18 Malthouse converted to warehouse converted to restaurant/leisure centre. Flint and brick under pantiled or slate roofs.*

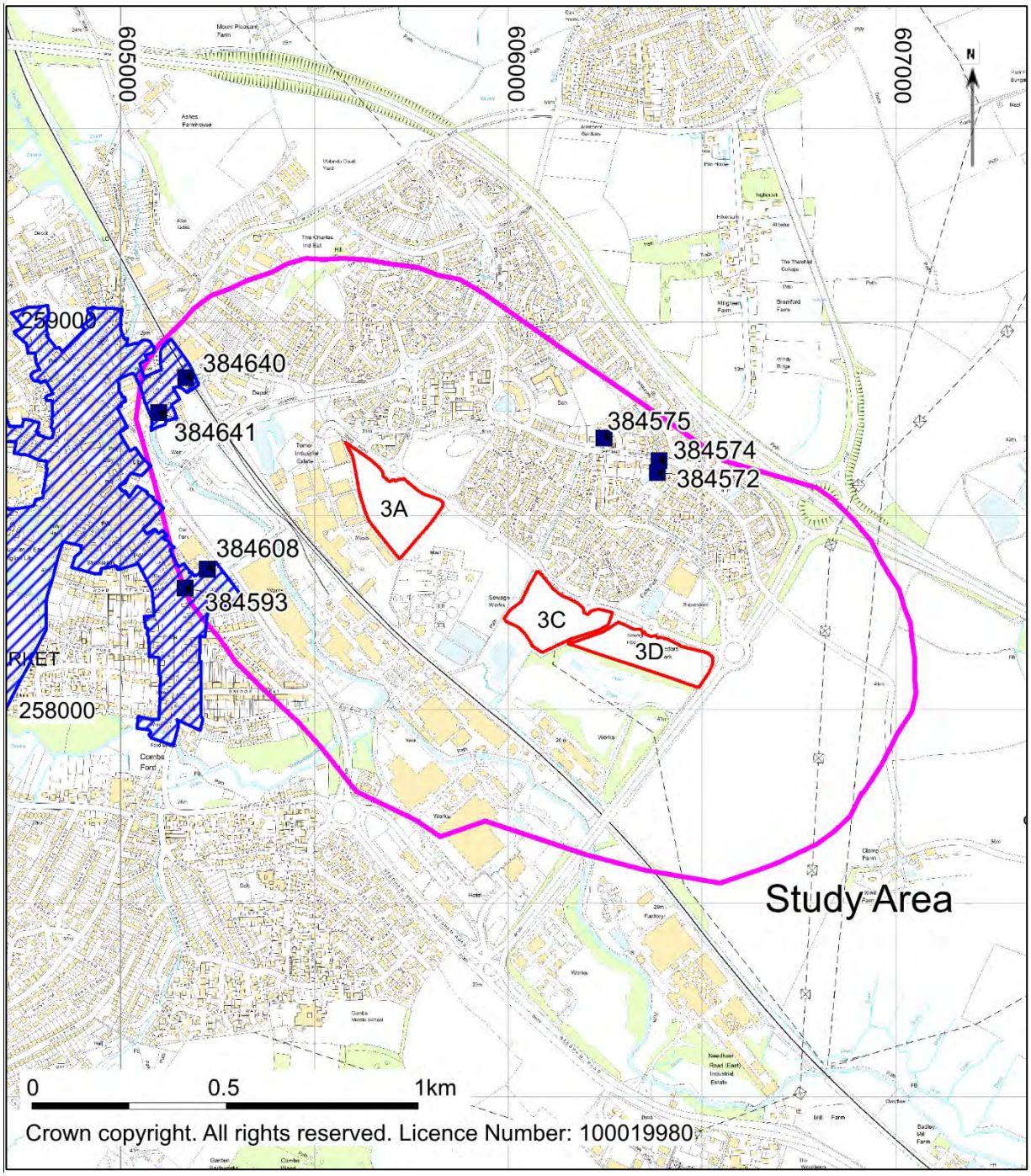


Figure 2. Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (blue) within the Study Area

## 2.2. Historic Environment Record search

The results of the Suffolk HER search were provided by Ben Donnelly-Symes (SCCAS). This identified a total of forty-five Monument records within 500m of the site boundaries, ranging from the Bronze Age to post-medieval periods (Figs. 3-7). The results of the search are listed by period below, with the monument summary report provided in full in Appendix 1. Full details are held in the digital project archive.

The search also identified forty-eight archaeological Events. These typically relate directly to the Monument entries but also include details of past fieldwork investigations with negative results, previous DBA's and aerial photo surveys. The majority of these records are related to the recent construction of a large housing estate along the north-eastern side of Stowmarket, adjacent to the three sites. The relevant Event numbers are referenced below with each monument entry, and summaries are included in Appendix 1.

It should be noted that the HER only represents the archaeological material that has been reported, this is the 'known' resource. It is not therefore, a complete reflection of the whole archaeological resource of this area because other sites may remain undiscovered; this is considered as the 'potential' resource.

### 2.2.1. Prehistoric (BC 500,000 – 42 AD)

***SKT 048*** Cedars Park Phase 4b and 4c. Evaluation identified early parallel ditches and gullies, assigned a tentative prehistoric date (Event No. ESF21239).

***SKT 053*** Stowmarket Relief Road. Analysis of samples revealed sediment accumulation spanning 9000-1300 years BP (ESF21214).

### 2.2.2. Bronze Age (BC 2,350 - BC 801)

***SKT 013*** Findspot of Bronze Age or Neolithic backed flint blade or chisel.

### 2.2.3. Iron Age (BC 800 – 42 AD)

***CRP 009*** Cedars Park to Baylham Pumping Station pipeline, field walking survey identified two sherds of Later Iron Age pottery (ESF20814).

***SKT 011*** Iron Age pits and postholes found during excavation of moated area.

***SKT 018*** Cedars Park Phase 3. Evaluation and excavation identified a partially enclosed Late Iron Age settlement with several roundhouses (ESF21868, ESF21869, ESF21870, ESF21892). An earlier programme of fieldwalking and metal detecting survey found a scatter of Romano-British pottery (ESF19927).

***SKT 036*** Cedars Park Phase 4a. Excavation identified an Iron Age enclosure with two roundhouses and two groups of large pits (one circular) (ESF21887, ESF21888).

***SKT 037*** Cedars Park Phase 6a and 6b. Evaluation revealed Iron Age features (ESF19258).

***SKT 047*** Land adjacent to Longridge Road. Evaluation identified a single boundary ditch or probable Iron Age/Romano-British date (ESF20097).

***SKT 063*** Evaluation revealed a westward continuation of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity (ESF21553).

***SUP 017*** Evaluation & Excavation identified a large ditch of probable Iron Age date and a number of large pits, post holes and four post structures (ESF18043, ESF18094).

***SUP 020*** Evaluation and excavation identified Iron Age and Roman features (ESF21132, ESF21871).

### 2.2.4. Roman (43 AD – 409 AD)

***SKT 002*** Findspot of Roman coin of Philip I.

***SKT 008*** Victoria Road, Roman pottery kiln with pierced clay floor.

***SKT 018*** Cedars Park Phase 3. Evaluation and excavation identified Roman enclosures, post and slot building, villa, wells, ovens, field systems and burials (ESF21868, ESF21869, ESF21870, ESF21892). An earlier programme of fieldwalking and metal detecting survey found a scatter of Romano-British pottery (ESF19927).

***SKT 063*** Evaluation revealed a westward continuation of Roman ditches observed in the adjacent area (ESF21553).

***SUP 017*** Excavation revealed range of pottery including material of Roman date (ESF18043, ESF18094).

***SUP 020*** Evaluation and excavation identified Roman features (ESF21132, ESF21871).

***SUP 028*** Roman sherds from topsoil found in assessment of 2.18 ha MSF16002 field. Previously numbered SUP Misc.

### 2.2.5. Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1539)

***SKT 011*** Moat, square, in SW corner of larger square `outer' moat.

***SKT 012*** Thorney Hall, site of.

***SKT 022*** Stowmarket medieval town centre.

***SKT 036*** Cedars Park Phase 4a. Excavation revealed medieval features including parallel ditches, and enclosure, possible structures, field system ditches, quarry pits, a pond and a cobbled surface (ESF19923, ESF21888).

***SKT 038*** Cedars Park Road Corridor. Evaluation and excavation revealed pits and ditches of medieval date (ESF21880, ESF21881).

***SKT 040.*** Cedars Park. Evaluation and excavation identified medieval finds and features (ESF21238, ESF21882, ESF21883).

***SKT 043.*** Cedars Park Phase 5c. Excavation identified quarry pits, ditches, gullies, two cobbled surfaces and rubbish pits of medieval date (ESF21885, ESF21886).

***SKT 059.*** Land at junction of Creeting Road and Mill Street. Evaluation identified two ditches dating to the 12 – 14th centuries and undated pits/postholes (ESF20805).

***SKT 063.*** Evaluation revealed three medieval ponds and a medieval ditch (ESF21553).

***SKT 070.*** Medieval pottery sherd identified during a trial trench evaluation at Land off Tomo Road (ESF23806).

***SUP 017.*** Excavation revealed range of pottery including material of medieval date (ESF18043, ESF18094).

***SUP 023.*** Evaluation identified medieval clay pits and probable medieval land drains (ESF21111).

### 2.2.6. Post-medieval (AD 1539 – AD 1900)

***CRP 006.*** Revetments and access tracks that were part of a munitions store, each approximately 30m long.

***SKT 033.*** Removed rail track for goods serving a Malthouse complex.

***SKT 034.*** Removed rail track for goods serving several Malthouses west of the station.

***SKT 035.*** Stowmarket Railway Station. 19th century red-brick railway station.

***SKT 036.*** Cedars Park Village Centre. Monitoring of groundworks revealed a NNW/SSE aligned drainage ditch running into a larger ditch running parallel to the existing road aligned E-W (ESF23731).

***SKT 040.*** Cedars Park. Evaluation and excavation identified a group of ditches of probable post-medieval date (ESF21238).

***SKT 041.*** Cedars Park School. Monitoring identified a post-medieval boundary ditch (ESF23783).

***SKT 051.*** Land off Station Road East. Evaluation and palaeoenvironmental survey identified the site as water meadows until the construction of the Gipping Navigation channel in the late 18th century when the site was brought into use for mercantile activity (ESF19990).

***SKT 058.*** Sherringham Court, Milton Road. Evaluation identified ditches, pits, postholes and planting features associated with formal gardens (ESF21464).

***SKT 070.*** A post-medieval boundary ditch was identified during a trial trench evaluation at Land off Tomo Road (ESF23806).

***SKT Misc*** Stowmarket town gas works, site of.

***SKT Misc*** Site of former gunpowder works/munitions factory on one, or both sides of River Gipping.

***SUF 069*** Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds railway line. Opened in November 1846.

### 2.2.7. Undated

***SKT 040*** Cedars Park. Evaluation and excavation identified a group of undated features, probably former field boundaries (ESF21238).

***SKT 070*** Undated features identified during a trial trench evaluation at Land off Tomo Road (ESF23806).

### 2.2.8. Portable Antiquities Scheme records

The HER search included details of four confidential spot locations within the Study Area for metal-detected finds that have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. These finds chiefly consist of Roman copper alloy coins but also include other material of Roman and medieval date.

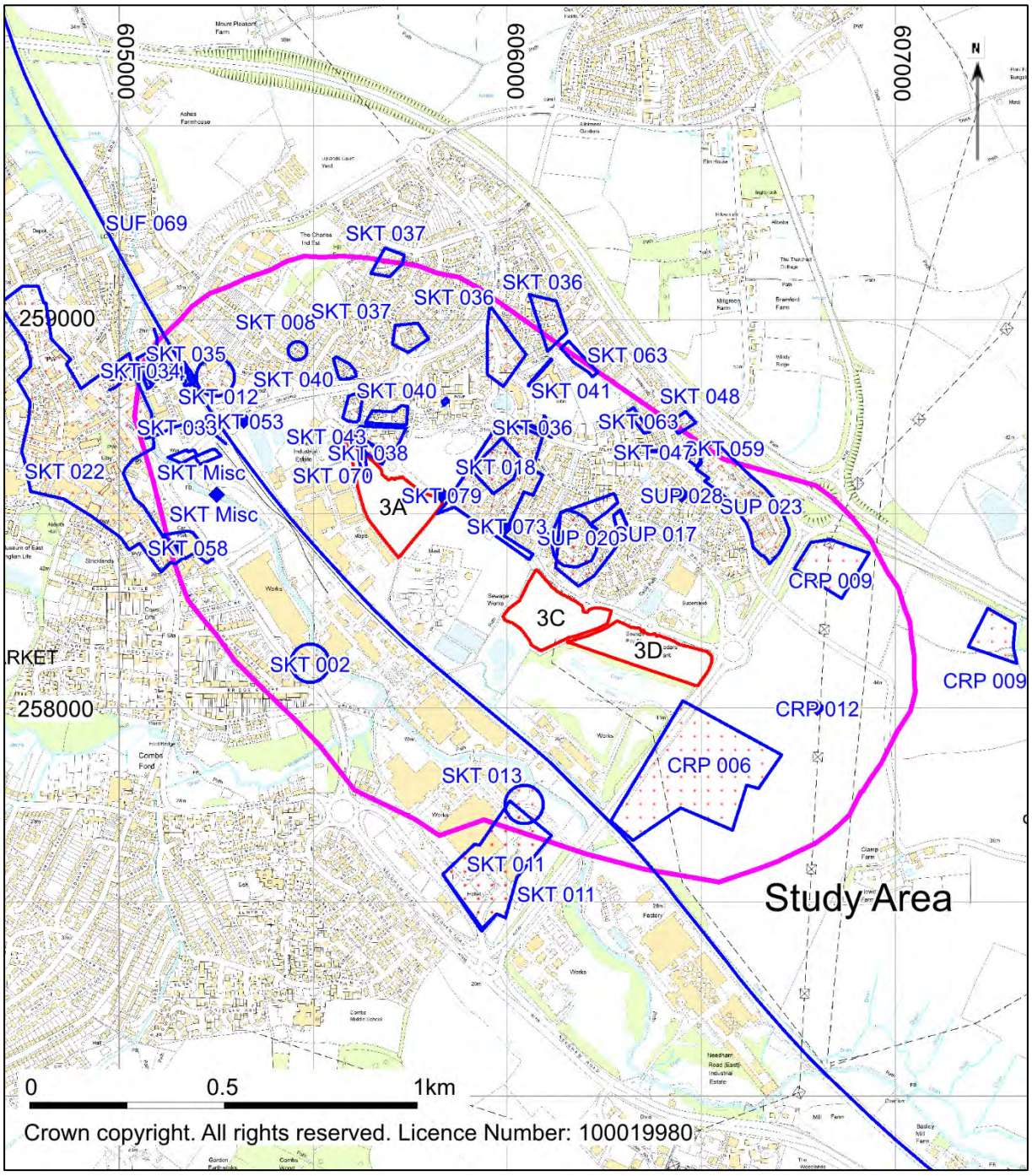


Figure 3. All HER sites within the Study Area

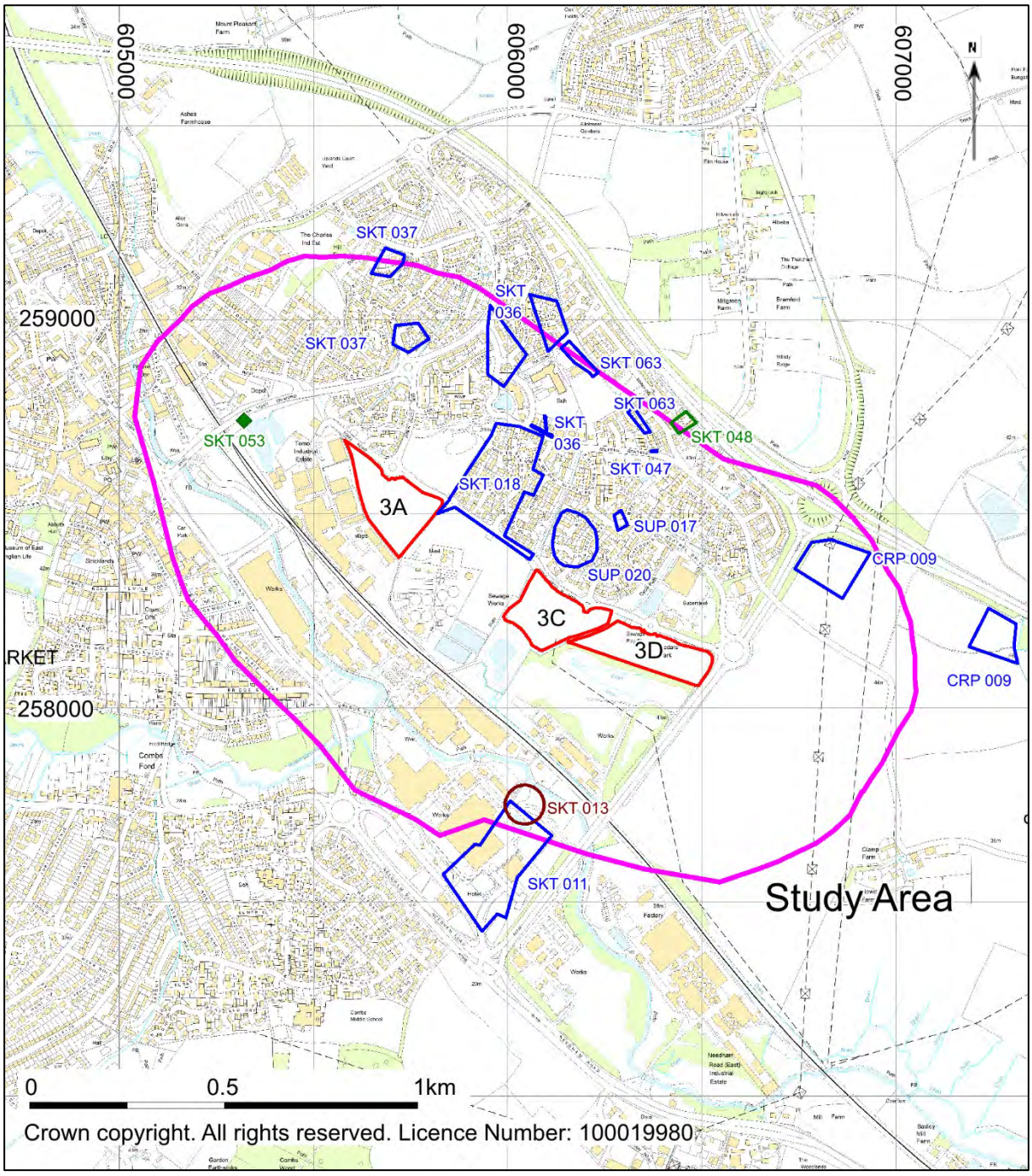


Figure 4. Prehistoric (green), Bronze Age (brown) and Iron Age (blue) sites

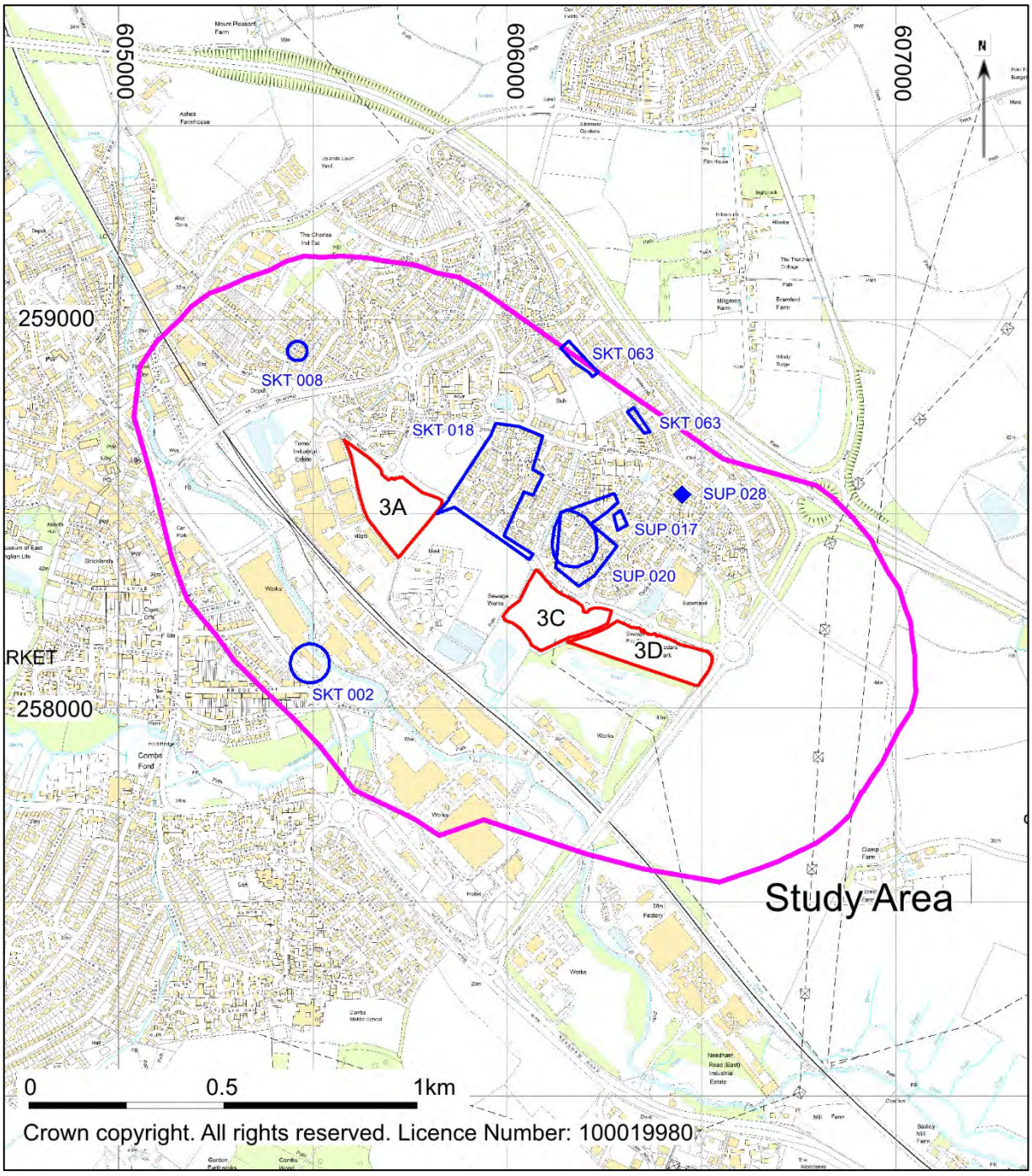


Figure 5. Roman sites

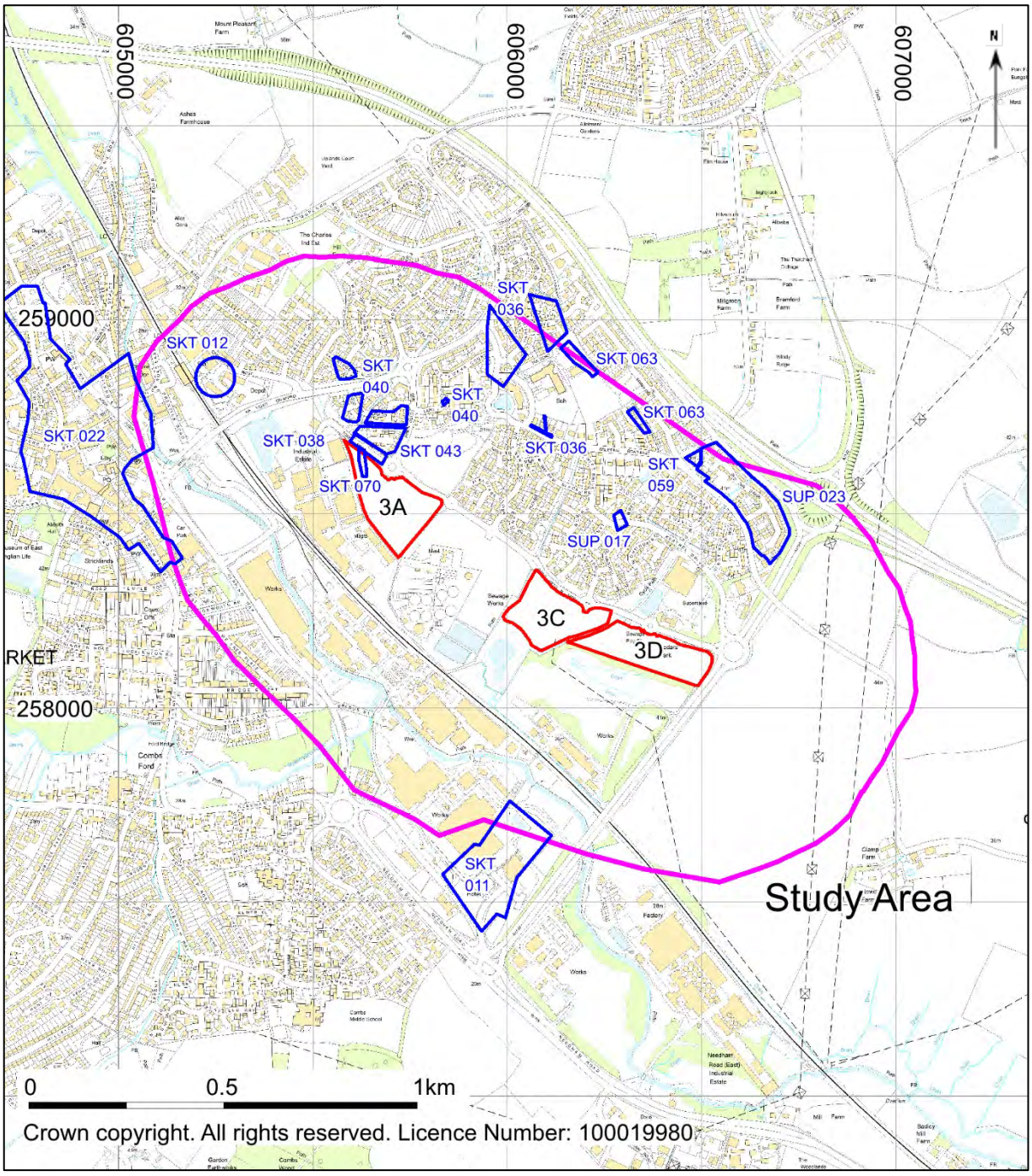


Figure 6. Medieval sites

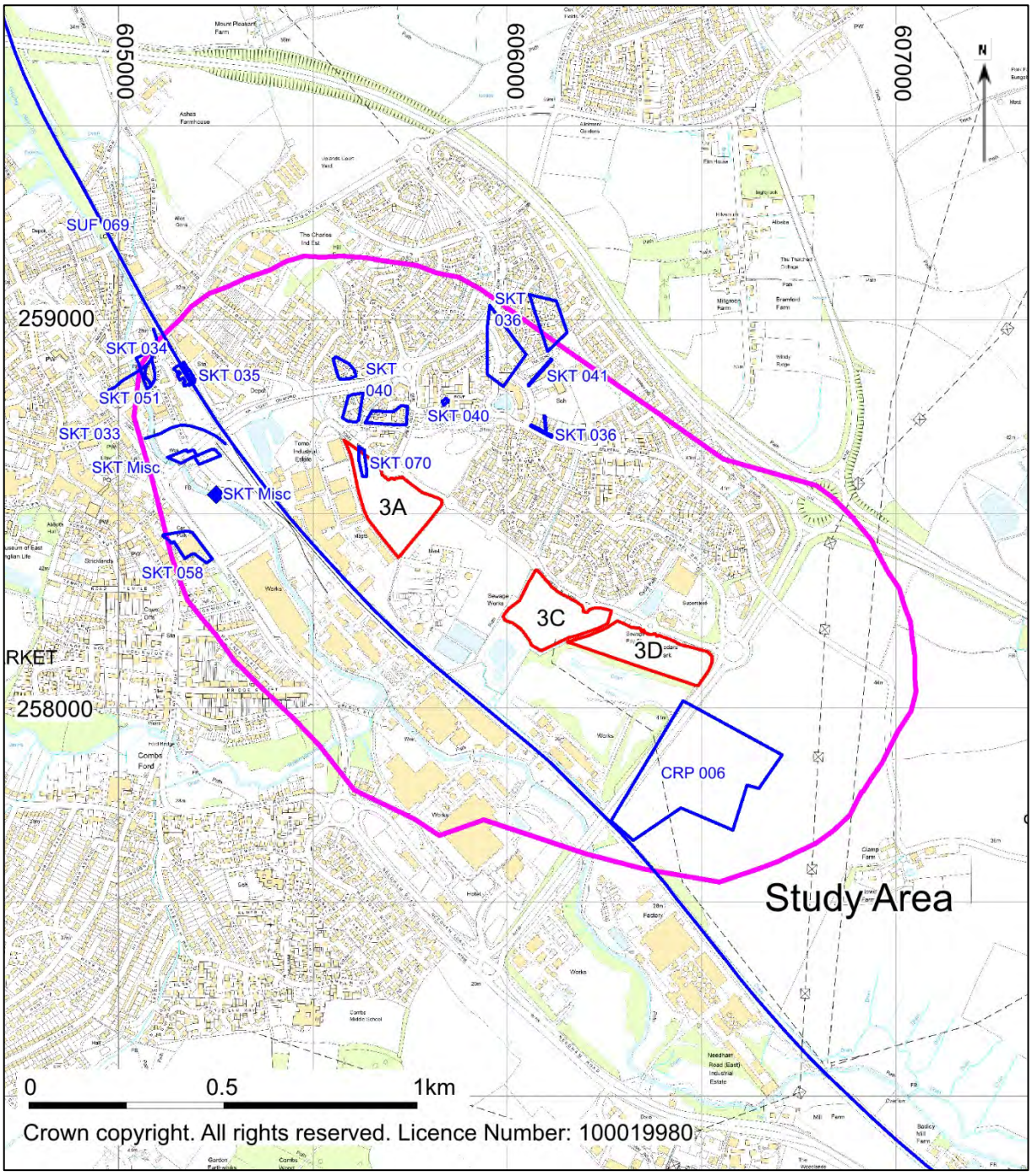


Figure 7. Post-medieval sites

## 2.3. Landscape Characterisation

The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map (Version 3, 2008) supplied by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record defines much of the surrounding farmland in the immediate vicinity as sub-type 1.4 **Pre-18th century enclosure: Irregular co-axial fields** (Fig. 8).

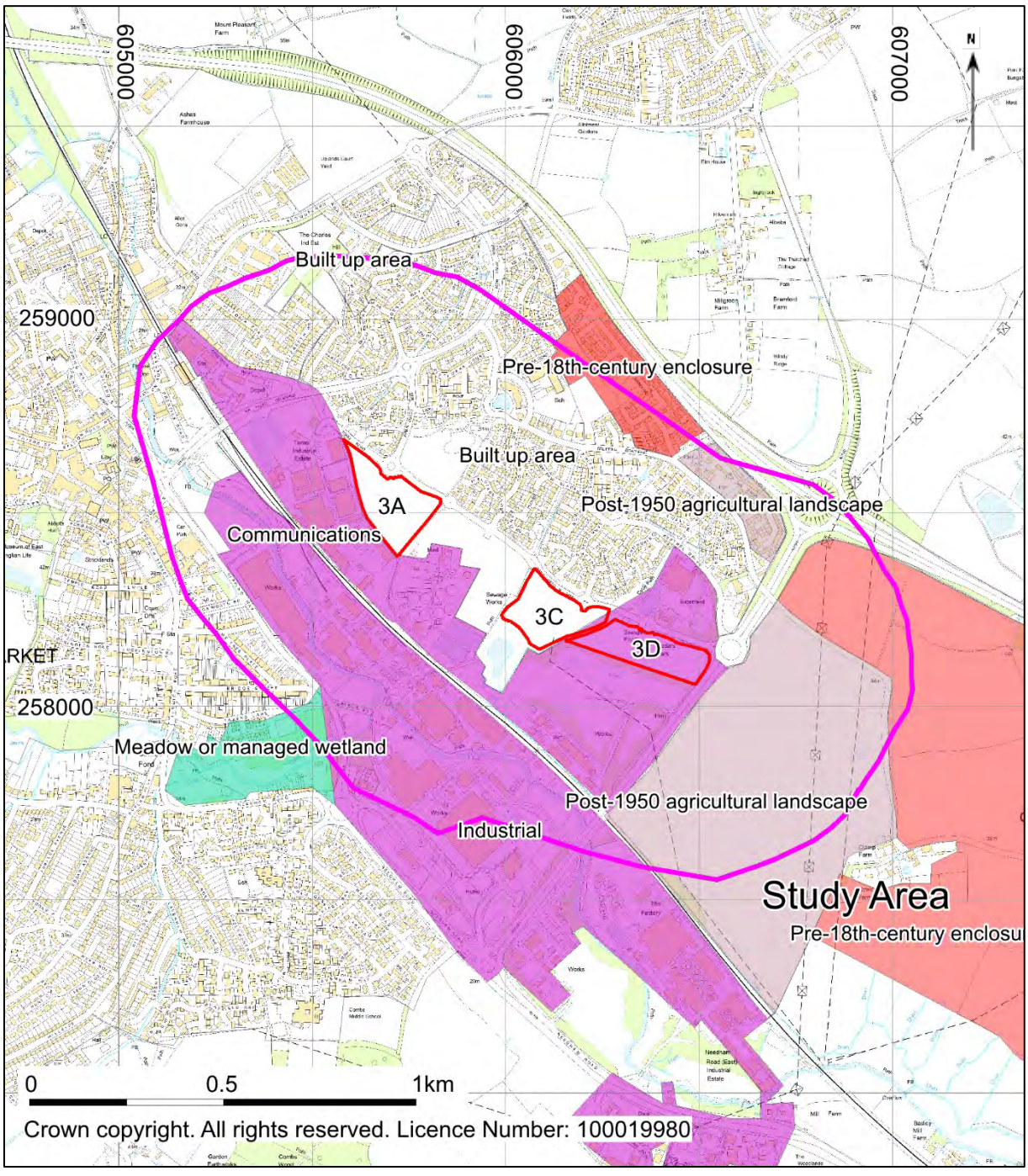


Figure 8. Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation map

This category refers to *'landscapes where many of the boundaries share a common axis. They share many of the characteristics of long co-axial fields (sub-type 1.3) but lack their overall regularity and their boundaries are often only approximately parallel.*

*The systems vary in size, merge in and out of one another, and generally fail to follow one particular aspect or angle. In some cases these systems represent the early, piecemeal, enclosure of common fields.'*

The sites themselves (where covered) are currently referred to as sub-type **10.2. Built Up Area - Town** or **11.1. Industrial - Current industrial landscape**. This latter category relates to a series of past and present sites, including chemical, explosives, silk, leather and sewage works (see 2.4 below and Appendix 2 mapping).

The Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (www.suffolklandscape.org.uk) classes the site and near all of the Study Area as rolling valley farmlands and furze, which is described as valley landscapes with distinctive areas of grass and gorse heaths. Key aspects of this character type are listed as:

- *Valleys with prominent river terraces of sandy soil*
- *Small areas of gorse heathland in a clayland setting*
- *Straight boundaries associated with late enclosure*
- *Co- axial field systems*
- *Mixed hedgerows of hawthorn, dogwood and blackthorn with oak, ash and field maple*
- *Fragmentary cover of woodland*
- *Sand and gravel extraction*
- *Golf courses*
- *Focus for larger settlements*

## 2.4. Cartographic assessment

Ordnance Survey mapping from 1886 to 2014 at 1:10,000 or 1:10,560 scale (Appendix 2) shows that the main changes to the landscape within the Study Area from the late 19th century relate to the gradual expansion of the town and industrial activity along the railway line passing to the southwest.

In 1886 all three sites lay in arable farmland to the east of Stowmarket. 3A consisted of two fields, with boundaries depicted as having trees. The site lay a short distance east of a *Chemical Works* and north of a *Leather Works*, with a rectangular reservoir against its western edge. 3C consisted of part of three fields, again with wooded boundaries, of

which one is labelled as a footpath. 3D also lies across three separate fields with lightly wooded boundaries. Apart from a small area of disused reservoirs the land between 3C, 3D and the railway is shown as open fields while the farmstead/hamlet of Sheepcote Hall is shown as an isolated settlement to the north.

Subsequent maps no longer show trees along arable boundaries although this can be attributed to a stylistic change. In 1903 the area between 3A and 3C is labelled as a *Sewage Farm*, although only a small area with two structures is labelled as *Tanks* to the north-east of 3A. The field layout of 3C and 3D is unchanged but the land between here and the railway is dominated by structures and earthworks labelled as *Explosives Company's Works.* In 1928 the three sites are again unchanged but the Explosives Works appears to have fallen into disuse and is depicted as brownfield scrub or heath. Subsequent maps from 1938, 1950 and 1958 show little change in the immediate area of the sites, apart from a transmission line crossing 3C from north to south in 1950.

In 1969 a substantial complex of tanks and beds for the Sewage Works is shown to the south of 3A, which has lost its internal boundaries and is now part of one large triangular field extending north to Creeting Road. 3C and 3D remain unchanged with the area to the south remaining as derelict brownfield.

In 1977 there is major change to the landscape with the construction of the A14 and A1120. The latter creates the eastern boundary of site 3D, which has lost its internal boundaries and is now part of one field. By 2002 3C has also lost its internal boundaries and substantial residential development is occurring to the north of 3D, adjacent to Sheepcote Hall. The northern edge of 3D is now defined by the first stage of Gun Cotton Way and a supermarket complex. In 2010 Gun Cotton Way/Tomo Road is shown in full, creating the northern boundaries of sites 3A and 3C. The extensive residential development of Cedars Park to the north has removed the western part of Creeting Road. This residential development continues through to 2014, with the construction of Navigation Approach to the east leading to some change in road layouts.

## 2.5. Aerial photographs

A search for 'Stowmarket' on the Britain from Above website, which consists of a digitised portion of images held in the Historic England archives at Swindon

(www.britainfromabove. org.uk), found 24 images, of which three actually show an industrial site in nearby Bramford. The remaining 21 images (Table 1) date from the early/mid 20th century and largely focus on the town centre and areas of industry along the River Gipping/railway line.

| Year | Reference | Title | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1928 | EPW024994 | Silk works under construction, Stowmarket, from the south-west. | Now Cedars Factory, c.600m south of 3D. Shows sites 3C and 3D in the background |
| 1928 | EPW024995 | Silk works under construction, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW024996 | Silk factory on the River Gipping, Stowmarket. | Located 300m south of 3A and 3C, on south side of railway. Site 3A just visible in background |
| 1928 | EPW024997 | The Nobel Chemical Works and environs, Stowmarket. | Located immediately to west of 3A which is shown on right side of image. |
| 1928 | EPW024998 | Level crossing on Stowupland Road, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW024999 | Part of the Nobel Chemical Works, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW025000 | St Peter and St Mary's Church and the Market Place, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW025001 | St Peter and St Mary's Church and the Market Place, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW025002 | The New Britannic Chemical Works, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW025003 | Silk Factory on the River Gipping, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW025004 | The railway station and environs, Stowmarket. | |
| 1928 | EPW025005 | Malthouses on the River Gipping and the town, Stowmarket, from the south-east. | |
| 1928 | EPW024991 | Hawk's Mill, Needham Market. | |
| 1948 | EAW015348 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd), Stowmarket. | Looks north-west. Study Area as a whole is visible across background of image |
| 1948 | EAW015349 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd) and the surrounding area, Stowmarket, from the south-east. | Looks north-west. Study Area as a whole is visible across background of image |
| 1948 | EAW015350 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd), Stowmarket, from the north. | |
| 1948 | EAW015351 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd), Stowmarket. | Looks north-west. Three sites visible at very obligue angle in background. |
| 1948 | EAW015352 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd), Stowmarket. | |
| 1948 | EAW015353 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd), Stowmarket. | Looks north-west. 3c and 3D visible in background to top left |
| 1948 | EAW015354 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd), Stowmarket. | |
| 1948 | EAW015355 | Cedars Malt Products Factory (Munton & Fison Ltd), Stowmarket, from the north-east. | |

Table 1. Images on the Britain from Above website

These images occasionally show part or all of the three sites and their surroundings in the background, and as a whole show them as being in arable use to the north and west of the town and industrial areas, as indicated by the historic mapping. All of the images

however are at an oblique angle, and in many of them the clarity is low, meaning that finer detail or potential cropmark evidence is not visible.

An online search of the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography (CUCAP, www.cambridgeairphotos.com/map) shows seven records available within the Study Area. Of these, three images are available to view online (AIZ96, AIZ97, AIZ98) but only one (AIZ96) shows any part of the three sites. This oblique partial image of the western end of the Study Area dates to 1964 and shows 3A and part of 3C. Both sites appear to have been in agricultural use and no cropmarks/features are visible.

| ID | Type | Photo Date |
|---|---|---|
| AIZ96 | Oblique | 15/06/1964 |
| AIZ97 | Oblique | 15/06/1964 |
| AIZ98 | Oblique | 15/06/1964 |
| RC8FS308 | Vertical | 15/07/1983 |
| ZknRZ26 | Vertical | 19/09/2006 |
| ZknRZ27 | Vertical | 19/09/2006 |
| ZknRZ28 | Vertical | 19/09/2006 |

Table 2. CUCAP records within the Study Area

Google Earth currently displays several aerial photographic surveys of the Study Area from December 1945 to December 2007. In 1945 the three sites are all shown as arable land, with the interal boundaries of 3A appearing to have been removed but visible as cropmarks. In 2000 site 3D is shown as uncultivated scrubland, with faint cropmarks in 3C relating to removed field boundaries. The 2003 and 2007 images show the sites as largely left uncultivated/turned to scrubland with some activity related to the ongoing construction of the Cedars Park development (vehicle movement/possible construction vehicle parking areas).

A further twelve aerial photos of Stowmarket have been identified on a personal website of a Terry Aspinall (www.terryaspinall.com). The eighth image, titled Stowmarket 1970, looks east at an oblique angle across the town centre and shows, in the background, the now single large triangular field in which site 3A is located and the adjacent sewage works. The picture is of low quality but the field appears to be in arable use. The eleventh image, titled Stowmarket June 19th 2001, is a similar shot again showing site 3A as being in arable use. Both images shows isolated mature trees on the eastern boundary of the field and a small building and/or compound in the location of the tanks shown on the 2nd and 3rd Editions of the Ordnance Survey, just to the north-east of 3A.

## 2.6. Related documentary searches

A previous documentary search focussed on the area to the rear of what is now the Cedars Hotel, skirting the southern edge of the HER search zone shown on Figures 3-7, around the medieval moated site of SKT 011. However, it ran into some difficulties, as summed up by Anderson (2004: 3):

> 'Breen notes the difficulty in applying a 1581 survey to the 1845 tithe map, due to very wide differences between the size of the holdings in the former and the acreages of the fields recorded on the latter. He suggests that the lines of the field boundaries shown on the tithe map could represent a reorganisation of the meadow land some time in the 18th century, a period during which documentary sources are scarce for this area'.

This area was formerly part of the parish of Combs, forming a series of slightly disorganised tenements in 1581, when it was held by the manor of Combs. However, in 1845 the boundaries were changed and this particular parcel of land became incorporated into the parish of Stowmarket (*ibid.)*.

A further documentary search looked at the area east of Station Road in the centre of Stowmarket. This failed to turn up much information due to a general lack of records and as such the earliest specific information available dated to the middle of the 19th century. However, it pointed out that Stowmarket used to be part of the Anglo-Saxon royal vill of Thorney and that in the medieval period there may have been a dock or shipyard on the River Gipping in the vicinity of Station Road. The Gipping was officially opened as a navigation in 1793, although the use of this route for shipping goods declined from 1846 onwards, when the railway opened (Rolfe, 2007: 6).

## 2.7. Site inspection

A visit to the three sites was made on 24/08/2016, to determine the presence of any factors likely to impact on the overall assessment of its archaeological potential. Photographs of the PDA taken during the site inspection are included in Appendix 3.

The sites currently consist of a mix of recently ploughed scrubland and overgrowth. Two (?) large soil stockpiles are present on the western end of site 3D, likely to have originated in soil stockpiles from the construction of the estate immediately to the north.

# 3. Assessment of impacts and effects

## 3.1 The archaeological potential of the PDA

### 3.1.1. Early Prehistoric

Evidence of early prehistoric activity in the Study Area is sparse, despite extensive archaeological investigations and fieldwalking/metal-detecting programs and there does not appear to be any notable phases of occupation prior to the Iron Age period, despite the sites location overlooking the Gipping valley, a topographic position which is often favourable for prehistoric activity. This suggests that the three sites have only low potential for producing archaeological deposits of pre-Iron Age date.

### 3.1.2. Iron Age/Roman

A range of substantial archaeological interventions took place in the Study Area between 1999 and 2006 during the Cedars Park housing development (SUP 017 and 020, and SKT 018, 036 and 040). The subsequent report states that 'the investigation revealed a widespread complex of features representing a farmstead dating to between the late Iron Age and the mid 3rd century AD' (Nicholson and Woolhouse, 2016).

The Iron Age remains consisted of two enclosures with six associated roundhouses, four-post structures and other features such as a large boundary ditch. In the mid 1st to 2nd century AD, part of the Iron Age site was converted to agricultural use. However, the settlement occupation within the southern enclosure continued and another roundhouse and rectangular structure were erected. In the 2nd century a bath house, a domestic building and a smaller structure were built, as well as timber buildings, along with two further roundhouses. Into the 3rd century the site was expanded, with further field systems and a droveway. During the late 3rd and 4th centuries occupation is only clearly shown by the survival of finds-rich layers, as the existing structures appear to have been abandoned or demolished.

Its seems highly likely that this extensive area of Iron Age and Roman settlement could have continued south across the position of sites 3A, 3C and 3D, suggesting that each has moderate to high potential for archaeological deposits of such date to exist. Other Roman findspot records from the Portable Antiquities Scheme also suggest a widespread distribution of Roman material in the vicinity. Any such evidence will most

likely be of local, or possibly regional, significance.

### 3.1.3. Medieval

Although the three sites lie outside of the medieval settlement core, to the east of the River Gipping, the archaeological works between 2004 and 2006 at Cedars Park to the north (SKT 036, 038, 040 and 043) have identified four phases of medieval and post-medieval occupation and land use; the most substantial of which ran from the 13th-14th century. The excavations have uncovered a possible enclosed farmstead, consisting of the remains of two buildings, a possible house, as well as yard surfaces, pits and what may have been a large pond or watering hole. Property boundaries and drainage ditch systems, aligned to Creeting Road, were also recorded, along with further domestic pits and further potential barns or agricultural buildings (Woolhouse, unpublished).

The results of previous archaeological investigation, coupled with the proximity of Thorney Hall which also lies east of the River Gipping, suggests that there is moderate/high potential for further evidence of medieval occupation to exist across the three sites, particularly 3A. Any such evidence will most likely be of local, or possibly regional, significance.

### 3.1.4. Post-medieval/modern/industrial

The three sites lie parallel to the Ipswich – Bury St Edmunds railway line and the River Gipping, in close proximity to a range of late 19th/ early 20th century industrial sites recorded in the Suffolk HER or shown on historic mapping and aerial photography.

Although there has been substantial change in the Study Area since the mid 19th century, relating to the late 20th expansion of Stowmarket and the creation of the modern A14, the sites themselves are consistently shown as having been in use as open farmland. Despite being gradually encircled by development, which has in part created the current boundaries of each site, changes to the sites themselves consist only of the loss of some internal field boundaries.

This suggests that the three sites have only low potential for producing archaeological deposits of post-medieval date and that these will probably be of local importance, relating to the post-medieval agricultural landscape. Post-medieval/modern industrial

remains, potentially relating to the early transition of Stowmarket from a rural market town to a more industrialised economic model are unlikely to be present but cannot be discounted. Any such material would likely be of local or regional significance given the current East of England Regional Research Aims to investigate this transitional period.

## 3.2. Potential level of archaeological preservation within the PDA

The aerial photography and cartographic evidence suggests that the three sites have remained as fields throughout the 20th century, and have not been heavily developed or affected during the post-medieval or modern periods by the intensive surrounding development.

This, coupled with the results of the excavations to the north, suggests that any archaeological deposits are likely to be moderately or well-preserved below post-medieval/modern ploughsoils and the limits of agricultural truncation, perhaps from as little as *c.*0.4m below ground level. However the presence of localised modern truncation, perhaps of short duration and caused by machine traffic, landscaping, soil stockpiling etc, cannot be discounted, particularly around site perimeters.

## 3.3. Potential impact of development on the archaeological resource

The construction of a new residential development and associated retail units is likely to have a significant detrimental impact upon any archaeological remains that may exist. As discussed above any archaeological horizon is likely to survive beneath modern ploughsoil deposits, potentially from an estimated depth of *c.*0.4m below ground level, and it is assumed that the proposed groundworks will frequently be to a far greater depth across each site.

## 3.4. Potential impact of development on other heritage assets

The impact of the proposed development upon the setting of the nearby Listed Buildings will be limited or negligible, given the intervening presence of new housing and other development to the north and west. Such development has blocked any line of sight between these heritage assets and the three sites, and has likely already heavily affected their historic setting.

# 4. Mitigation measures

The three sites are thought to have moderate to high potential for archaeological deposits dating to the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. There is low potential for deposits relating to earlier prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon activity, post-medieval agriculture and modern/industrial remains. The preservation of such deposits is likely to be variable from poor to good, as seen in the excavations to the north.

However as the sites have not been subjected to any previous systematic archaeological investigations, the actual presence, nature and state of preservation of any such archaeological deposits is unknown. At present there are currently no grounds to suggest that refusal of planning permission will be needed in order to achieve preservation *in situ* of any designated heritage assets such as Scheduled Monuments, or of important but non-designated heritage assets such as known or unknown archaeological sites.

National and local guidance recommends that potential archaeological sites are evaluated prior to the determination of any planning application to assess the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits present. Such investigations can then enable an LPA's archaeological advisor, in this case SCCAS, to make informed decisions regarding heritage assets in respect of any planning application. This may include determining the need and/or scope for refusal of development to provide preservation *in situ* of important archaeological deposits, or for the design of a suitable mitigation strategy, such as archaeological excavation and preservation by record, which can be imposed by conditions on planning consent.

Until further investigation is undertaken it is not possible to define the full extent of archaeological mitigation measures that may be required on a site, nor to calculate the likely cost and time implications of such mitigation. Bearing this in mind, developers are strongly advised to undertake archaeological evaluations at the earliest opportunity to clarify the likely archaeological work required and its cost.

In this case the past arable land-use of the three sites would usually be conducive to further non-intrusive survey such as fieldwalking, metal-detecting and geophysical survey. However it is thought that their recent history as derelict/unused land, coupled with the development of the wider area and the possible presence of imported soils,

contamination etc, may mean that such techniques will be of limited use in investigating the archaeological potential of the sites.

A full search of aerial photography in the Historic England archives at Swindon, may uncover additional images for the sites and, if of greater detail, may be able to identify cropmarks/features of potential interest. However, given the range of sources addressed thus far and the relative lack of information they have provided, it seems that finding any meaningful information in this manner is unlikely.

If deemed necessary a systematic programme of evaluation trial trenching across the three sites may therefore be the most appropriate technique of further investigation. A systematic grid array of trenching, coupled with targeting of any features thought to continue from previous excavations, would hopefully allow for assessment of the extent, character, density and depth of any archaeological deposits present. This would also help to gauge the extent of any disturbance caused by the previous land use of each site.

# 5. Conclusions and recommendations

This DBA has set the location of proposed residential and commercial development within its immediate archaeological landscape through an examination of the Suffolk HER, the National Heritage List for England, available cartographic sources and aerial photography and a site inspection.

In general the topographic location and the known archaeology of the area suggests that there is a moderate to high potential for encountering archaeological remains of local or regional importance on each site. Any such archaeological remains are likely to be in a state of moderate to good preservation, but at a depth which will mean they will be significantly impacted upon by the proposed development.

It is recommended that the client should consult with the Local Planning Authority, Mid Suffolk District Council, and its advisor Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, at the earliest possible opportunity to determine if further archaeological investigation of the site is likely to be required prior to submission of a planning application.

# 6. List of contributors and acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Melville Dunbar Associates on behalf of the landowners Lansbury Developments Ltd and Mrs Hilary Haydon. The desk based assessment and site visit was carried out by John Craven, Simon Cass and Rob Brooks, of SACIC.

SACIC would like to acknowledge the SCCAS for providing the HER search.

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Woolhouse, T., unpublished, *A Mid to Late Medieval Rural Site at Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk,* Report No 2145, Archaeological Solutions Ltd

## Websites

**Britain from Above**
http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk

**British Geological Survey (BGS)**
http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

**Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP)**
www.cambridgeairphotos.com

**Google Earth**
www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth

**Mid Suffolk District Council**
http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy

**National Heritage List for England**
www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list

**National Planning Policy Framework**
www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf

**Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment**
www.suffolklandscape.org.uk

**Terry Aspinall, personal website**
http://www.terryaspinall.com/stowmarket-memories/ariel-photos-of-stowmarket.html

## Appendix 3 Strip, Map and Record Methodology

### Introduction

Health and safety will override archaeological considerations in all works since, as stated in CIfA guidance, *Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information; hence Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters* (CIfA 2014a, 11).

All works will be undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within this WSI and those set out in *Requirements for Archaeological Excavation* (Suffolk County Council 2011). Any significant variations to these methods will be agreed in writing with the county archaeologist and the client prior to being implemented.

The excavation will comprise the strip, map and record of a single area measuring 225 m² (15 m x 15 m), targeted on the pit cluster identified in evaluation trench 3. Should archaeological remains be partially exposed by the excavation area, a further contingency strip of 10 m in either direction has been allowed for to ensure that any archaeological remains identified are fully understood.

### Setting out of the excavation area

The excavation area will be set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) in the approximate positions shown in **Figure 3**. Minor adjustments to the layout may be required to take account of any on-site constraints such as vegetation or located services, and to allow for machine manoeuvring. The locations of excavated areas will be tied in to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid and Ordnance Datum (OD) (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15.

### Service location and other constraints

The client will provide information regarding the presence of any below/above-ground services, and any ecological, environmental or other constraints.

### Excavation methods

The excavation area will be excavated using a 360º tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Machine excavation will be under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist, and will proceed in level spits of approximately 50–200 mm until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology is exposed. Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand.

A sample of the archaeological features and deposits identified will be hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation.

- 50% of all discrete archaeological features (eg, pits, post holes);
- 50% of all structural features (eg, ring ditches, roundhouse gullies, beam slots) including all terminals and feature intersections, except if *in situ* built remains are revealed, where they will be cleaned and recorded pending the

implementation of a detailed excavation and recording strategy (to be agreed with all parties);

- 50–100% of features and deposits associated with specific domestic and/or industrial activities (eg, hearths, ovens, kilns);
- 100% of all inhumation and cremation burials, and other cremation-related deposits; and
- 10–20% of all linear features (eg, ditches, gullies), including all terminals and feature intersections.

If the sampling levels outlined above are not proportionate to the significance of the archaeological remains identified, the scope of works will be reassessed in consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Suffolk County Council, with up to 100% of individual features or deposits being excavated as required.

Spoil derived from both machine stripping and hand-excavation will be visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval, and be metal-detected by trained archaeologists. Artefacts and other finds will be collected and bagged by context.

If human remains are uncovered, the specific methods outlined below (section 4.9) will be followed.

Consideration will be given to the use of accredited local metal detector operators, subject to written agreement regarding disclosure, surrender and ownership of finds not falling under the *Treasure Act 1996*.

**Recording**

All exposed archaeological deposits and features will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

A complete record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made. This will include plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) and tied to the OS National Grid.

A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. This will record the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photographs will also be taken of all areas, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the excavation.

**Survey**

The real time kinematic (RTK) survey of all excavated areas and features will be carried out using a Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data will be recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

## Monitoring

The client will inform the Archaeological Officer for Suffolk County Council of the start of the excavation and its progress. Reasonable access will be arranged for the Archaeological Officer to make site visits to inspect and monitor the progress of the excavation. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, will be agreed in advance with the client and the Archaeological Officer.

## Reinstatement

Following the completion of the excavation to the satisfaction of the client and the Archaeological Officer for Suffolk County Council, the excavated areas will be left open, with no backfilling or other reinstatement undertaken.

## Finds

*General*

Archaeological finds will be collected and retained. Where appropriate, soil samples may be taken and sieved to aid in finds recovery. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

*Human remains*

In the event of discovery of any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt), all excavation of the deposit(s) will cease pending Wessex Archaeology obtaining a Ministry of Justice Licence (this includes cases where remains are to be left *in situ*).

Should human remains require removal, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols, and in-line with current guidance documents (eg, McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains*. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken if required.

The final deposition of human remains subsequent to the appropriate level of osteological analysis and other specialist sampling/examinations will follow the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice licence.

*Treasure*

Wessex Archaeology will immediately notify the client and the Archaeological Officer for Suffolk County Council on discovery of any material covered, or potentially covered, by the *Treasure Act 1996*. All information required by the Treasure Act (ie, finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

## Environmental sampling

*Introduction*

All sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015b).

*Site-specific sampling strategy*

Depending on the size, complexity and duration of a site, the formulation of a site-specific sampling strategy will be considered at an early stage. Initially informed by prior works or predicted conditions, the strategy will be developed and adapted as the excavation continues, with support provided by specialist site visits and/or phone advice as appropriate. The aim of the strategy will be to effectively target both archaeological and landscape features in order to address the aims and objectives of the project, if appropriate with reference to local or regional research agendas. Any change in strategy will be agreed with the Archaeological Officer for Suffolk County Council.

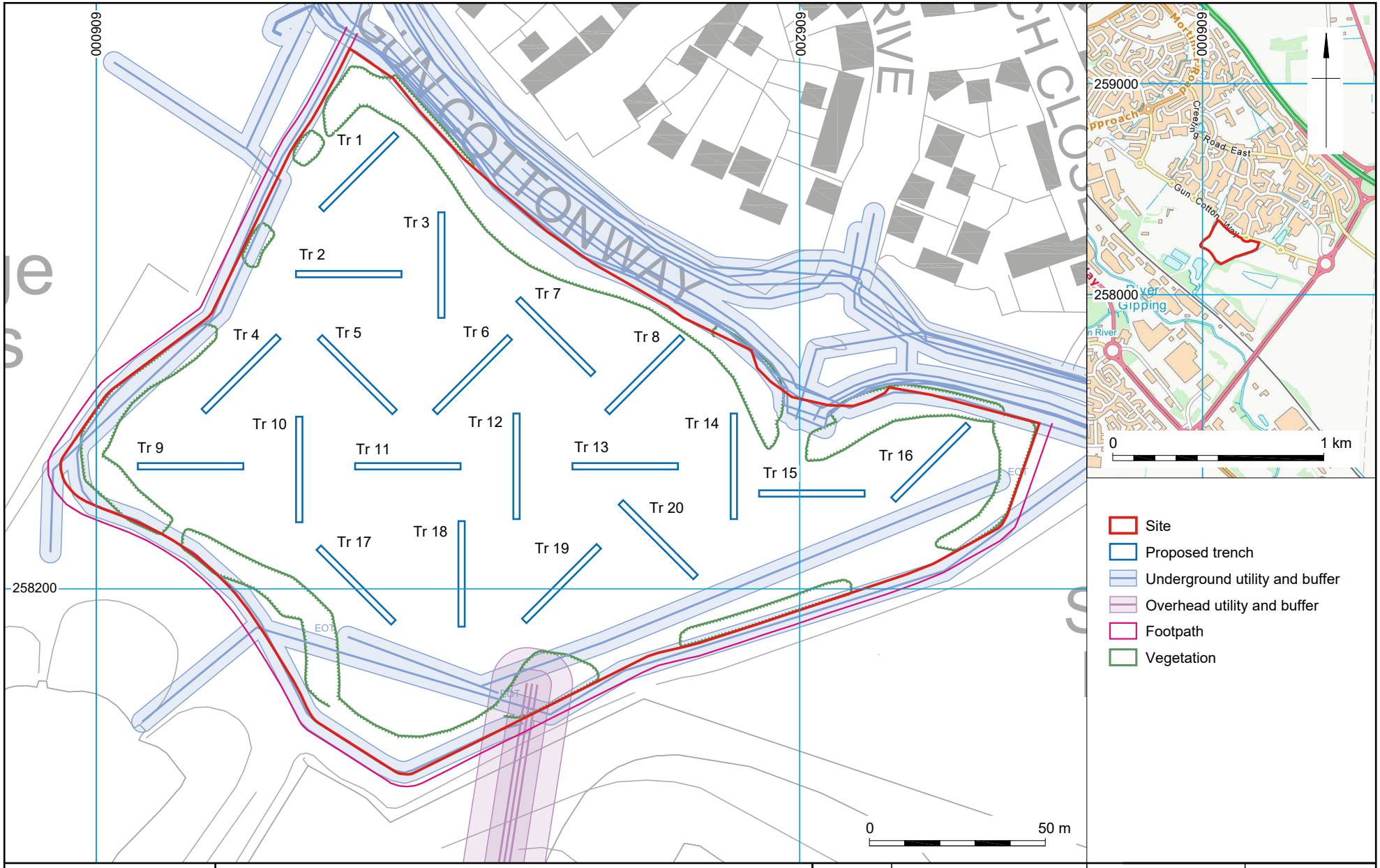
*Sampling methods*

Bulk environmental soil samples, for the recovery of plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, small animal bones and other small artefacts, will be taken as appropriate from well-sealed and dateable contexts. In general, features directly associated with particular activities (eg, pits, latrines, cesspits, hearths, ovens, kilns, and corn driers) should be prioritised for sampling over features, such as ditches or postholes, which are likely to contain reworked and residual material.

If waterlogged or mineralised deposits are encountered, an environmental sampling strategy will be devised and agreed with the Archaeological Officer for Suffolk County Council as appropriate. Specialist guidance will be provided by a member Wessex Archaeology's geoarchaeological and environmental team, with site visits undertaken if required.

Any samples will be of an appropriate size – typically 40 litres for the recovery of environmental evidence from dry contexts, and 10 litres from waterlogged deposits.

Following specialist advice, other sampling methods such as monolith, Kubiena or contiguous small bulk (column) samples may be employed to enable investigation of deposits with regard to microfossils (eg, pollen, diatoms) and macrofossils (eg, molluscs, insects), soil micromorphological or soil chemical analyses.




Coordinate system: OSGB36



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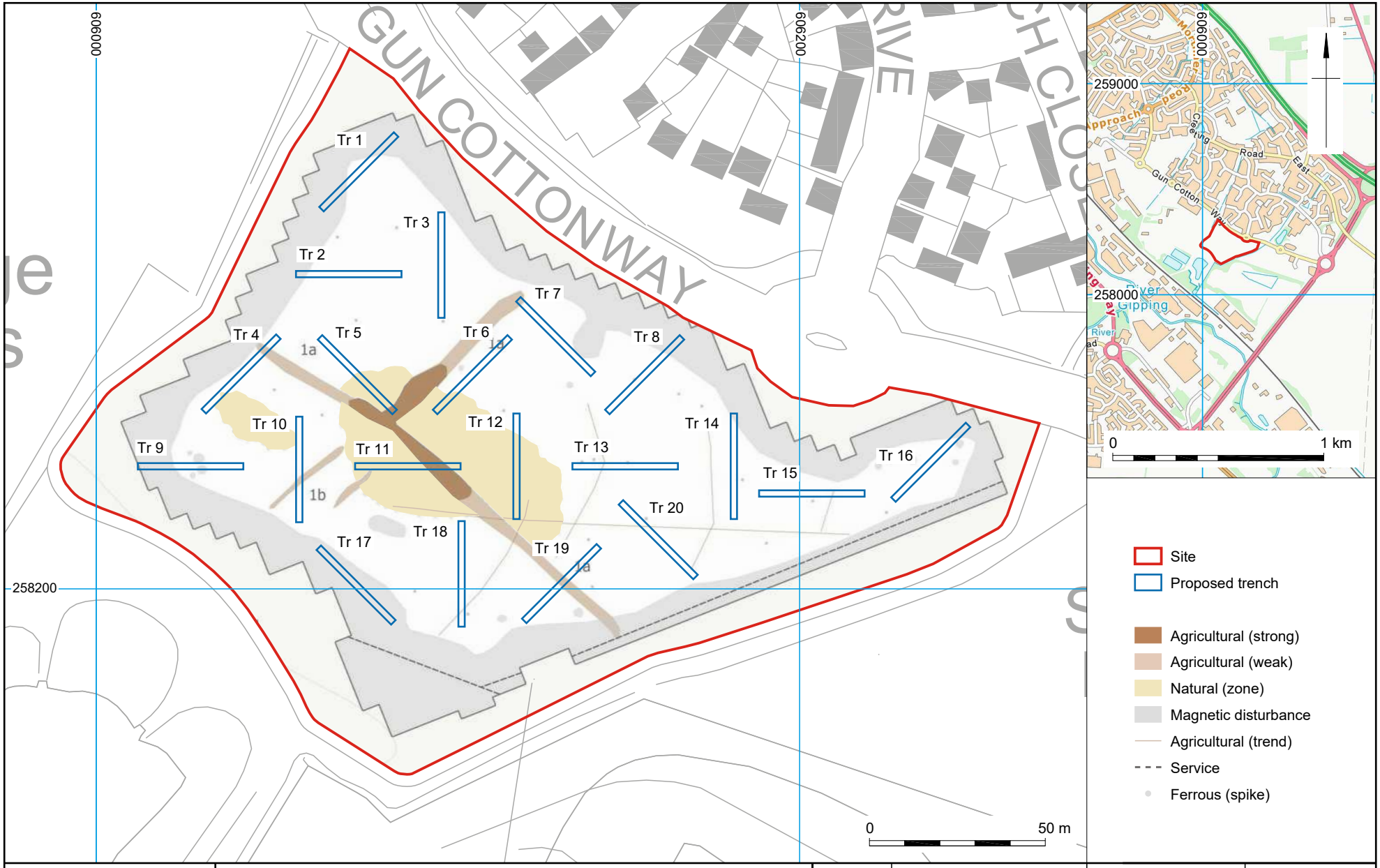
Site and proposed trench locations

Figure 1

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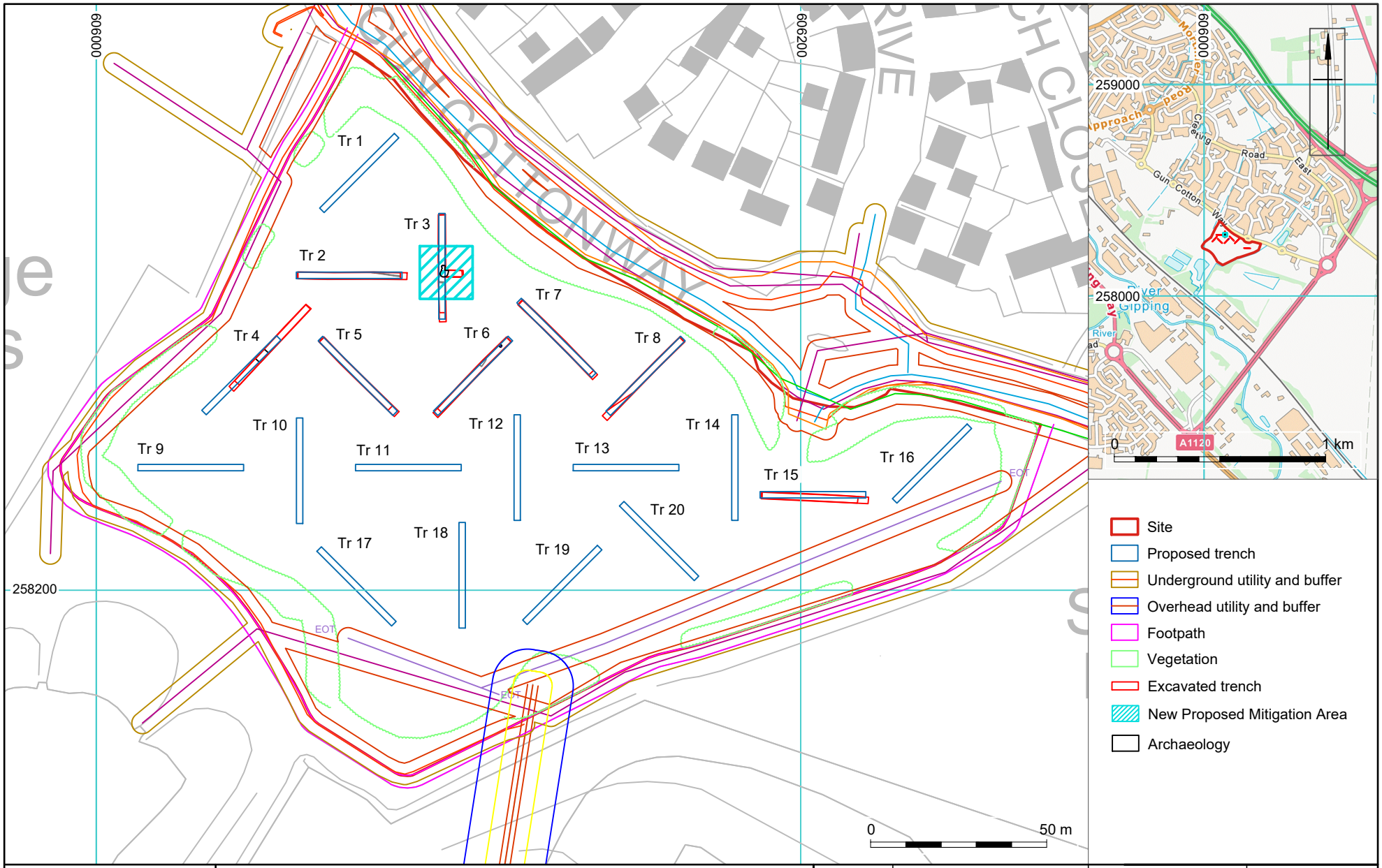
Proposed trench locations overlying geophysical survey results

Figure 2

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Strip, Map and Record

Figure 3

Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
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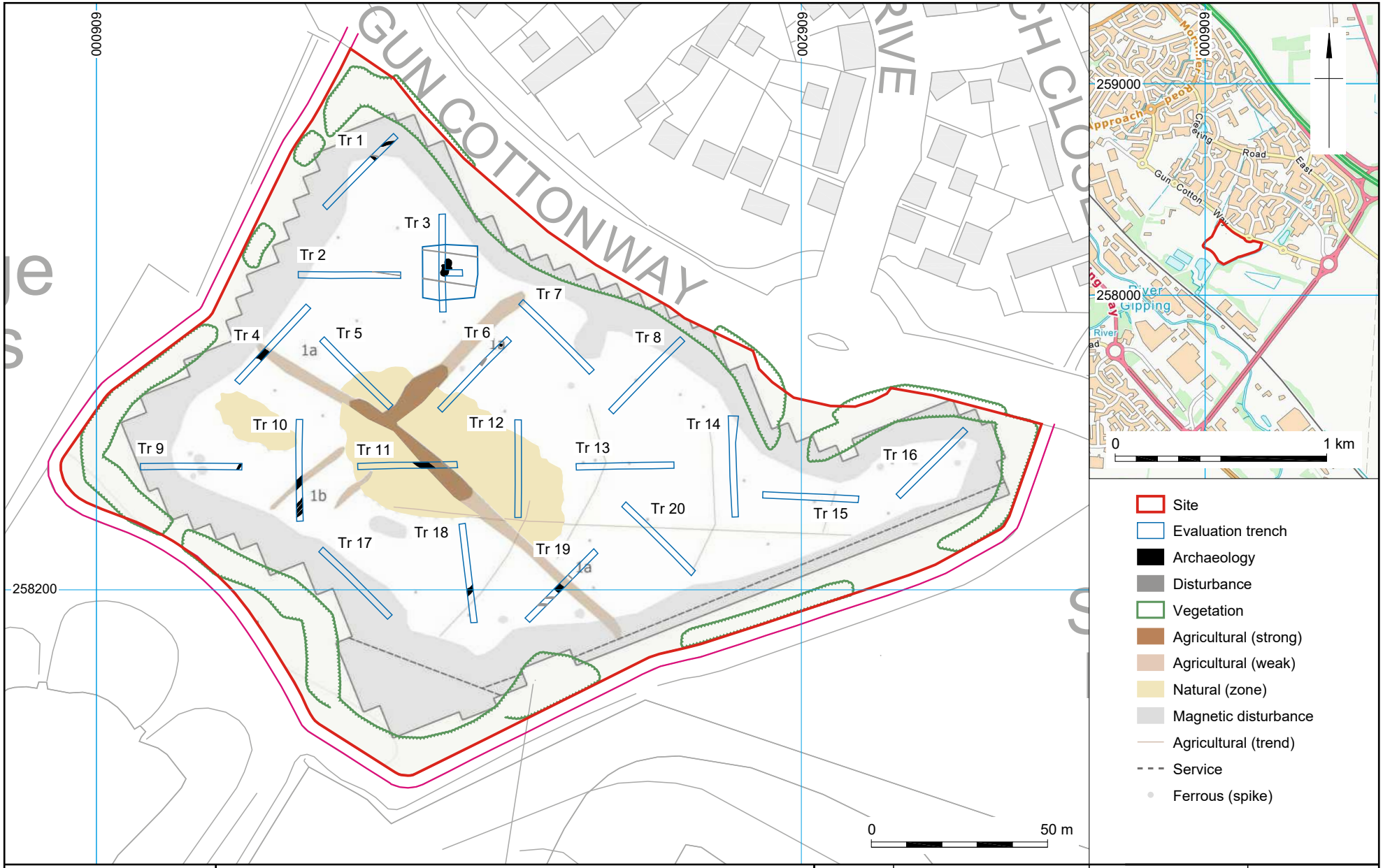


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Site and trench location with archaeological and geophysical survey results

Figure 1

606000

606200

258200

Tr 1

105

103

Tr 2

Tr 3

308

315

303

305

312

310

317

Tr 4

403

Tr 5

1a

Tr 6

605

603

Tr 7

Tr 8

Tr 9

904

Tr 10

1003

1b

Tr 11

1104

Tr 12

Tr 13

Tr 14

Tr 15

Tr 16

Tr 17

Tr 18

1804

Tr 19

1904

Tr 20

0

5 m

Site
Evaluation trench
Archaeology
Disturbance
Vegetation

Agricultural (strong)
Agricultural (weak)
Natural (zone)
Magnetic disturbance
Agricultural (trend)
Service
Ferrous (spike)

Coordinate system: OSGB36



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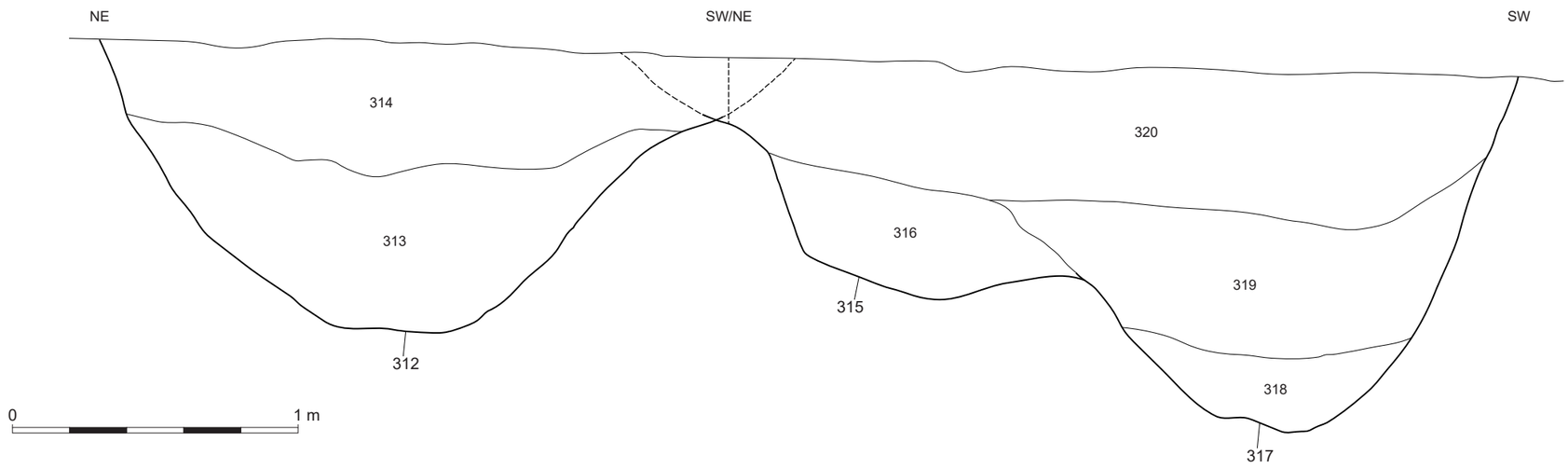
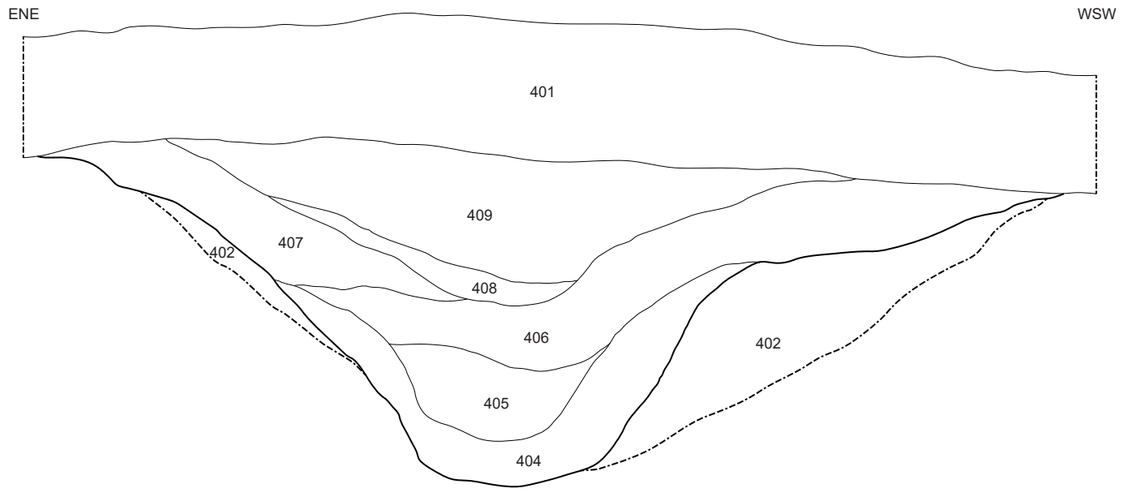
Detailed trench plan

Figure 2

A. South-east / north-west facing section of pits 312, 315 and 317




B. North-north-west facing section of ditch 403



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Selected sections

Figure 3

Plate 1: View of Trench 9 from the west
(1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)

Plate 2: View of Trench 6 from the north-east
(1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m scales)



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Plate 3: South facing representative section of Trench 2 (1 x 1 m scale)

Plate 4: East facing representative section of Trench 12 (1 x 1 m scale)



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Plate 5: North-west facing representative section of Trench 16 (1 x 1 m scale)

Plate 6: North-west facing section of ditch 103 (1 x 1 m, 1 x 0.5 m scales)



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Plate 7: View of pit cluster (pits 310 – 317) from the north (1 x 2 m scale)

Plate 8: North facing section of pit 310 (1 x 1 m scale)



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Plate 9: South-east facing section of pit 312 (1 x 2 m scale)

Plate 10: South facing section of pits 603 and 605 (1 x 0.5 m scale)



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Plate 11: North-east facing section of ditch 1003 (1 x 1 m scale)

Plate 12: South-west facing section of linear 1006 (1 x 0.5 m scale)



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Plate 13: North-east facing section of ditch 1804 (1 x 2 m scale)



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