

HERITAGE NETWORK

Celebrating 20 years of independent professional service in the historic environment



**Land southwest of
SHERIFFS COURT
Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire**

HN1060

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT***

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land southwest of SHERIFFS COURT Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire

Project ref.: HN1060
LPA ref.: 12/00747/FUL
Event No: ECB 3958

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Youngs Homes

by

James Snee, BSc (HONS) AIFA

Report no. 793

June 2013

© The Heritage Network Ltd

11 FURMSTON COURT, ICKNIELD WAY, LETCHWORTH SG6 1UJ
TEL: (01462) 685991 FAX: (01462) 685998

Contents

	Summary.....	Page i
Section 1	Introduction.....	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork	Page 2
Section 3	Discussion	Page 6
Section 4	Sources Consulted	Page 8
Section 5	Illustrations	following Page 9
Appendix	OASIS summary sheet.....	Page 11

The cover illustration shows the site of the investigation, looking north

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and James Snee. The report text and illustrations were compiled by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Oliver Crocker of Youngs Homes, and Daniel McConnell, Historic Environment Team (HET) of Cambridgeshire County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Land Southwest of Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire, CB8 9LY		
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	East Cambridgeshire
Village/town:	Burrough Green	Parish:	Burrough Green
Planning reference:	12/00747/FUL	NGR:	TL 6369 5536
Client name and address:	Youngs Homes, Eastern House, Eastern Court, Ernest Gage Avenue, New Costessey, Norfolk, NR5 0JU		
Nature of work:	Residential	Current land use:	Agricultural
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	Post-decision (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c. 2550m ²	Size of area investigated:	40m ²
Site code:	HN1060	Event no.:	ECB 3958
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Trial trenching	Archive Recipient:	Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Store
Start of work:	11/06/2013	Finish of work:	11/06/2013
Related HER nos:	HER 10112	Periods represented	Modern
OASIS UID:	heritage1-148976	Significant finds:	None
Monument types:	Pit		
Physical archive:	Bone, Pot, Nail		
Previous summaries/reports:	Jones, G. 2012 <i>Land at Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . Heritage Network, Letchworth. (HN report no.755)		

Synopsis:

In order to supplement information gathered as part of a pre-determination evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new residential development at Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake further trial trenching at the northern end of the site. This stage of work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.

Two trial trenches were excavated across the line of a suggested hollow way. Both trenches revealed a natural sandy silt overlain by topsoil. A 19th / 20th century linear feature, probably of agricultural origin, was revealed in Trench 2, and a modern pipe trench traversed both trenches. No evidence for a hollow way was revealed, but observations made during the evaluation suggest that this feature could be located to the north, and outside the limits of the present development site.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of Youngs Homes, as part of a programme of archaeological work undertaken in advance of the proposed development of land to the southwest of Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire.

1.2 Planning permission for the development (ref: 12/00747/FUL) has been granted by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) and policy EN5 of the East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy 2009. A full specification for the evaluation was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated April 2013 (Hillelson 2013).

1.3 The present site is located within the medieval core of Burrough Green, in the north-east corner of a field which is bounded to the north by properties fronting Church Lane, to the east by Sheriffs Court and its southern continuation, which forms part of the Icknield Way long distance footpath, to the south by arable fields, and to the west by a property called Brettons. It is centred on NGR TL 6369 5536 (Figure 1).

1.4 A pre-determination evaluation of the site was carried out in the autumn and winter of 2012 and included an earthwork survey and trial trenching (Jones 2012). This aimed to investigate earthworks thought to exist within the field, possibly representing a hollow way and ridge and furrow (HER 10112). No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the course of the evaluation, though a fenced strip at the northern limit of the site, which was not accessible at the time, was proposed as the line of the hollow way.

1.5 The present stage of work focuses on this area which is intended to form the access for a small development of six new dwellings, with associated services, parking and landscaping.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1** The site is fairly flat and comprises an open field at a height of *c.* 113.00mOD.
- 2.2** The soils across the site are formed of Chalky Till of the Ashley Association (572q), described as: *Fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, associated with similar but wetter soils. Some calcareous and non-calcareous slowly permeable clayey soils* (SSEW 1983)
- 2.3** The drift geology for the site is Diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation. Clay and silt deposits of the Lowestoft Formation are indicated to be present to the north and east and may encroach upon the site. The underlying solid geology is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience).

METHODOLOGY

- 2.4** All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.
- 2.5** Two trial trenches were located across the width of the suggested hollow way, by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures.
- 2.6** Within each trench, topsoil and overburden were removed using a 3-tonne mini-digger fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate, and spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts and a metal detector was used to scan the spoil heaps for ferrous finds.
- 2.7** The open trenches were cleaned by hand, and inspected for any potential archaeological features and deposits.
- 2.8** The stratigraphy within the trenches was photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Plans of potential features and deposits were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:20, and sections at a scale of 1:10.

RESULTS

Trench 1

2.9 Trench 1 was located across the corner of the proposed access road at the northern end of the site (Figure 2, Plate 1). Its position was moved 3m to the east, in relation to that proposed in the Project Design, to avoid an electricity supply pole. The trench was oriented approximately north to south, measured 10m in length and 2m in width, and was excavated to a maximum depth of c.0.25m.

Trench data:

Length (m):	10.0	Width (m):	2.0	Maximum Depth (m):	0.25	Orientation	N-S	
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)			Top		Level at S End of Trench (mOD)			Top
			Base					Base
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Layer	10YR 6/2 Light greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small stones.	>10.0	>2.0	0.10			
-	Layer	10 Y/R 6/4 Light yellowish sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones.	>10.0	>2.0	>0.10			

2.10 The stratigraphy in Trench 1 comprised 0.10m of light greyish brown sandy clayey silt topsoil over a natural layer of light yellowish brown sandy clay.

2.11 Approximately halfway along the trench was a linear feature that, on investigation, proved to be a modern pipe trench (Figure 3, Plate 2).

2.12 No other archaeological features or deposits were revealed in Trench 1.

Trench 2

2.13 Trench 2 was located to the east of Trench 1 across the access road (Figure 2, Plate 3). It was oriented approximately north-south and measured 10m in length and 2m in width. It was excavated to a depth of c.0.45m.

Trench data:

Length (m):	10.0	Width (m):	2.0	Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top		Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	
		Base				Base	
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Layer	10YR 6/2 Light greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional small stones.			>10.0	>2.0	0.25
201	Cut	Linear cut with sloping, slightly concave sides and a flattish base, oriented northeast-southwest.			>2.80	0.80	0.20
202	Fill	10YR 5/6 Yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional sub-rounded stones.			>2.80	0.80	0.20
-	Layer	10 Y/R 6/4 Light yellowish sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones.			>10.0	>2.0	>0.15

2.14 The stratigraphy in Trench 2 comprised 0.25m of light greyish brown sandy clayey silt topsoil over a natural layer of light yellowish brown sandy clay.

2.15 Crossing the southern half of the trench was a continuation of the modern pipe trench revealed in Trench 1 (Figure 3). This also cut a northeast-southwest oriented linear feature [201], filled with yellowish brown clayey silt (202) (Figure 4, Plate 4). Finds of abraded pottery, animal bone and an iron nail were recovered from the fill.

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Fe object		Bone		Notes
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
202	1	1	1	20	1	10	
Total	1	1	1	20	1	10	

POTTERY

2.16 A single fragment of highly abraded sandy brown ware, weighing approximately 1g, was recovered from fill (202). Due to the small size of the fragment it was not possible to identify the vessel type, or be certain of its date, but it is likely to be medieval or early post-medieval. It is likely to represent a residual fragment of pottery from a manuring scatter, which has been introduced into the feature during backfilling.

2.17 On the basis of the small size and residual nature of the recovered pottery fragment, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

IRON OBJECT

2.18 A single iron nail, weighing 20g, was recovered from fill (202). This was a rectangular section cut nail with a machine made square head. The nail had been clenched, bending the nail approximately two thirds along the shank. Cut nails were introduced at the end of the 18th century and machine made heads were introduced in the 1820s.

2.19 Machine cut nails were manufactured in massive quantities and on this basis a single nail is not significant. No further work is recommended on this object and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

ANIMAL BONE

2.20 A single fragment of animal bone, weighing 10g, was recovered from fill (202). This was a fragment of sheep/goat metatarsus.

2.21 On the basis that this is a small assemblage of post-medieval or modern date, no further work is recommended on this material and it is proposed that it should be discarded.

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 The present site is located in a significant archaeological landscape, with earthworks of probable medieval date recorded in the immediate vicinity (CHER 10112). These comprise a possible hollow way, running parallel to Church Lane, and ridge and furrow to the south. In 1991, it was reported that dumping had damaged the hollow way, and in the same year planning permission was granted for four houses fronting onto Church Lane. The construction for three of these further damaged the hollow way and the present site boundary was established with a fence and hedge, to the south of the former field boundary and hollow way (Figure 2).

3.2 The Icknield Way footpath, which follows the course of an important prehistoric route linking East Anglia and Wessex, runs immediately to the east of the proposed development. Limited evidence for earlier prehistoric activity, in the form of worked flints of Mesolithic date (CHER 07406), has also been identified within a 1km radius of the site.

3.3 Burrough Green is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as Burgh, when 19 households, including those of 2 slaves, were living on the manor (Rumble 1981). A deer park is also recorded, described as “a park for woodland beasts” (ibid).

3.4 Several moated sites lie within the parish. One (CHER 01161) to the north-west of the church, approximately 200m to the north of the present site, is thought to be associated with the manor of Burgh or Burrough. Park Wood moated site (CHER 01148) lies to the south-east of the village, approximately 300m to the south-east of the present site, and is likely to be the site of the Saxon manor, with its adjacent hunting park. A third site, known as The Chantry (CHER 01162), is located between Brinkley and Burrough Green, approximately 500m to the south-west of the present site.

3.5 As part of the pre-determination requirements of the planning application for the development of the present site, an earthwork survey was carried out but this identified no significant earthworks apart from an irregularly raised area, which follows the northern and eastern boundaries of the field. A separately fenced linear area, bounding the site to the north, was suggested as demarcating the hollow way. The earthwork survey was followed by trial trenching, which revealed a layer of topsoil between 0.15 and 0.20m thick over a layer of subsoil approximately 0.2m thick sealing the natural horizon formed of sandy clay. No significant archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the trenches and no significant finds were recovered unstratified from the top or sub-soils.

Research aims

3.6 The aims of the present investigation have been to investigate the suggested hollow way, and establish its date, character and condition, and to investigate the relationship between the hollow way and the main body of the development area.

3.7 In addition, the work was intended to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of any recorded archaeological features and deposits, and their significance and quality, in relation to the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), and to provide sufficient information to ensure that an

appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development could be adopted if the development should be allowed to proceed.

3.8 On the basis of the known archaeological potential of the site, as extrapolated from the HER, it was considered that archaeological investigation of the site had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of the pattern and development of rural settlement in the medieval period, the dating and origins of greens and greenside settlements, and the origins and development of man-made landscape features, such as trackways and field systems.

Collected Data

3.9 The trial trenches revealed a layer of topsoil between 0.10 and 0.25m thick over the natural horizon formed of sandy clay.

3.10 A modern pipe trench was located crossing both trenches, believed to be a continuation of the pipe trench revealed in the earlier evaluation (Jones 2012).

3.11 A northeast-southwest oriented post-medieval linear feature was revealed in Trench 2, but did not extend into Trench 1. This was probably an elongated pit, although its function is uncertain.

3.12 In the course of the work, it was observed that the northern boundary of the site was on the edge of a slope (Figures 2 & 4), falling away by approximately 0.35m over a distance of 2m. This appears to be the southern edge of a linear earthwork that extends at least 30m in an east-northeasterly direction. This approximately matches the location and orientation of a field boundary illustrated on the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps up to 1960 as the original field boundary (Figure 2). Historic mapping shows a trackway running to the south of this boundary. The present field boundary was established after 1991.

Conclusions

3.13 Although the site lies in an area of archaeological potential defined by entries on the county HER, no evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity was revealed during the investigation.

3.14 A 19th or 20th century linear feature, probably agricultural, was revealed in Trench 2, and a modern pipe trench traversed both trenches. No evidence was revealed of a hollow way, but observations made during the evaluation suggest that such a feature could be located to the north, outside the limits of the present development area.

3.15 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Confidence Rating

3.16 In the course of the trial trenching programme, the weather, ground and light conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis, there are no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for this stage of the project that was less than *High*.

4 Sources Consulted

British Geological Survey: www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J., 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology

Dept. of Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. (TSO)

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*. (HBMC)

English Heritage, 2006, *Management of Field Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. (HBMC)

English Heritage, 2010, *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*. (HBMC)

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)*. (HBMC)

Gurney, D. et al, 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. ALGAO (EER)

Hillelson, D. 2013 *Land to the South-West of Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire; Archaeological Project Design*. (HN)

Historic mapping evidence: www.old-maps.co.uk

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. (IfA)

Jones, G. 2012 *Land at Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire; Archaeological Evaluation*. Heritage Network, Letchworth.

McConnell, D. 2012 *Brief for Archaeological Pre-determination Evaluation*. (CHET)

Medlycott, M. (ed.), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no.24

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, 1:250,000 *Soil Map of England & Wales, Sheet 4, Eastern England*. SSEW

5 Illustrations

Figure 1 Site location
 Figure 2 Site Layout
 Figure 3 Trenches 1 and 2
 Figure 4 Sections 1 to 3

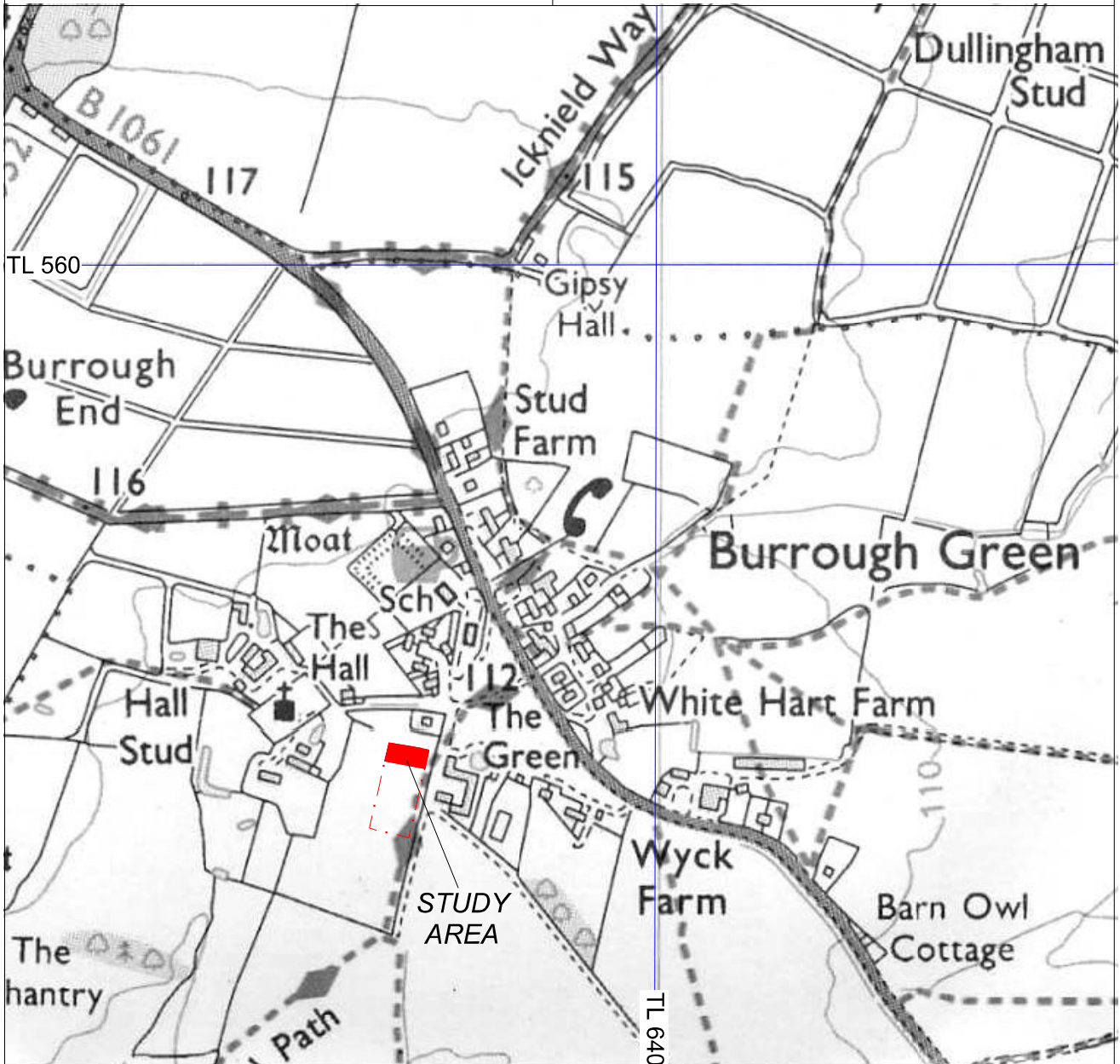
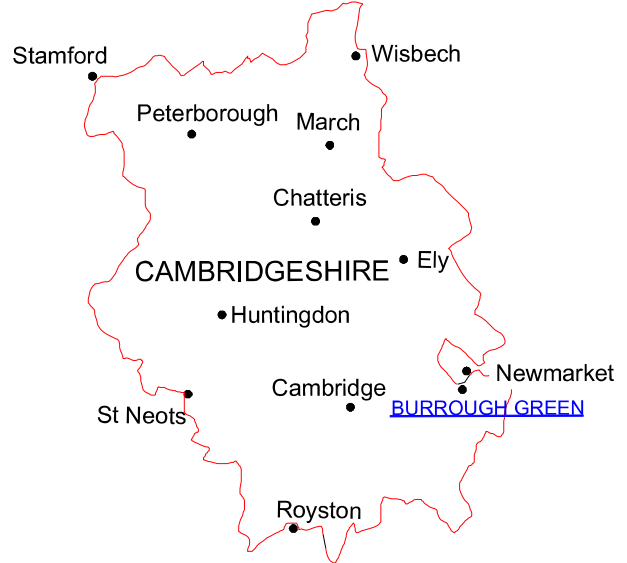
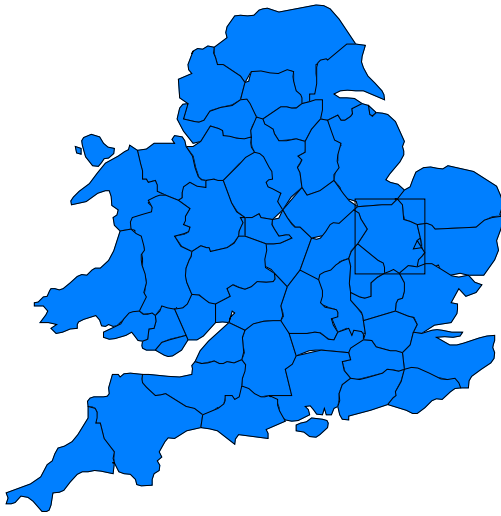
Plate 1 Trench 1, looking north
 Plate 2 Pipe trench in Trench 1, looking west
 Plate 3 Trench 2, looking north
 Plate 4 Linear [201], looking southwest

Page Left Blank

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Land Southwest of Sheriffs Court,
Burrough Green, Cambs.

HN1060



Site Location

Scale 1:8000

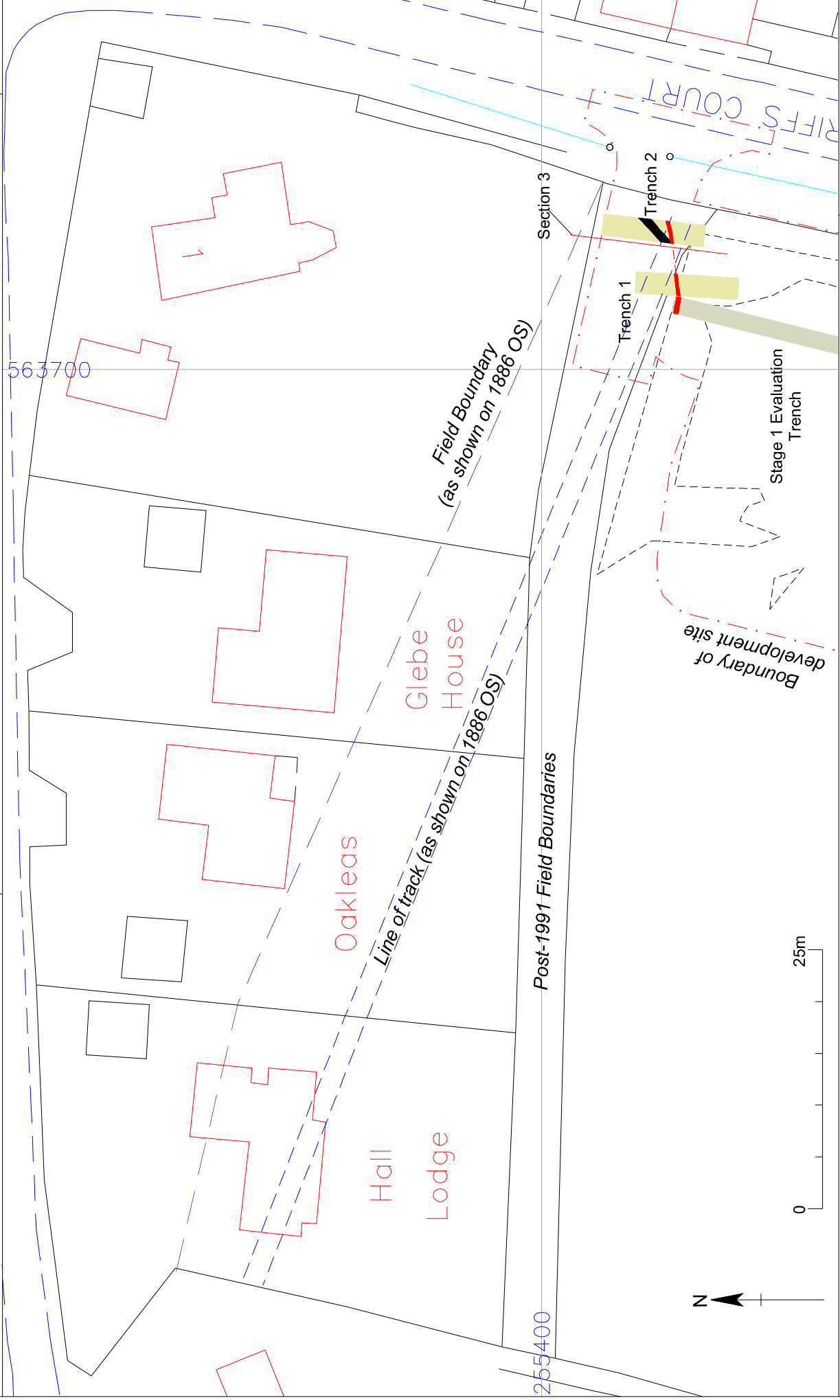
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Licence no.100014861

Figure 1

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Land Southwest of Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambs.

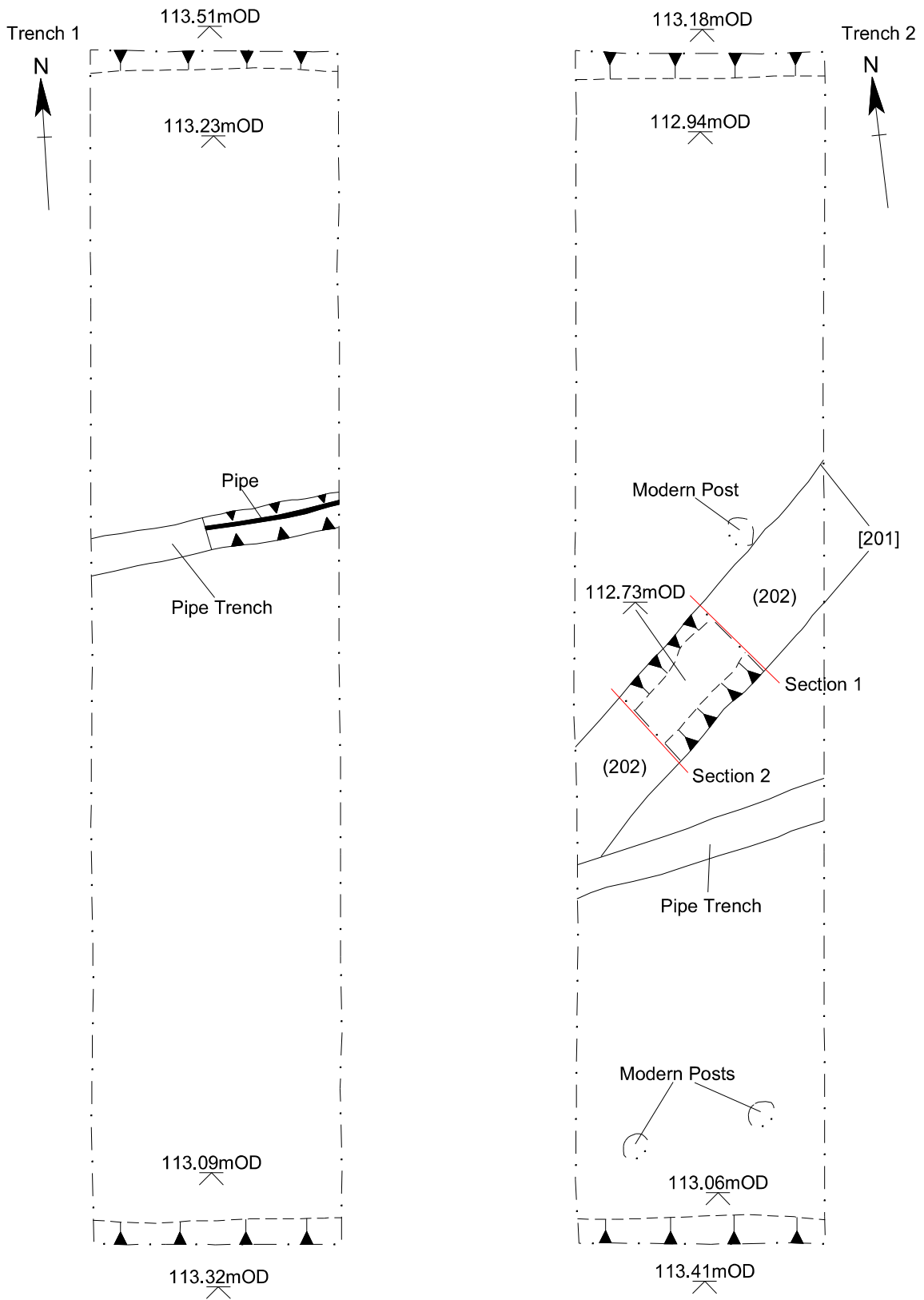
HN1060



Site Layout

Scale 1:500

Figure 2

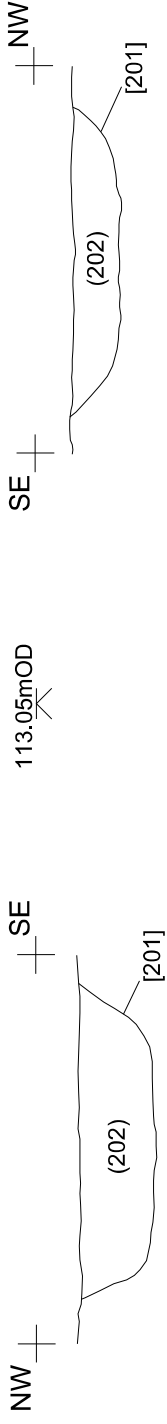


0 2m

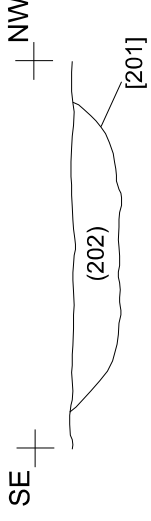
Trenches 1 and 2

Scale 1:50

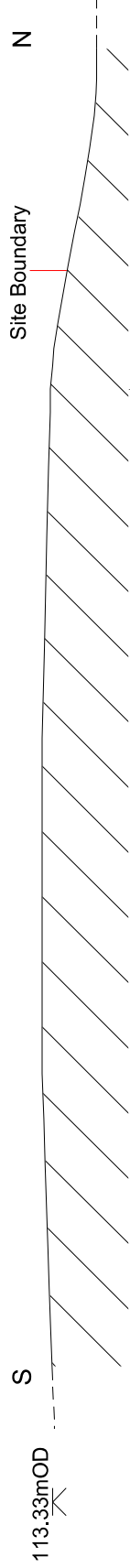
Figure 3



Section 1, southwest facing
Scale 1:20



Section 2, northeast facing
Scale 1:20



Section 3, surface profile
Scale 1:75





Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Pipe trench in Trench 1, looking west



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking north



Plate 4: Linear [201], looking southwest

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-148976	
Project details	
Project name	Burrough Green, Land to SW of Sheriffs Court
Short description of the project	<p>In order to supplement information gathered as part of a pre-determination evaluation of the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new residential development at Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake further trial trenching at the northern end of the site. This stage of work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.</p> <p>Two trial trenches were excavated across the line of a suggested hollow way. Both trenches revealed a natural sandy silt overlain by topsoil. A 19th / 20th century linear feature, probably of agricultural origin, was revealed in Trench 2, and a modern pipe trench traversed both trenches. No evidence for a hollow way was revealed, but observations made during the evaluation suggest that this feature could be located to the north, and outside the limits of the present development site.</p> <p>On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be Low for all periods.</p>
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2013 End: 11-06-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Associated project reference codes	ECB3958 - HER event no.
Associated project reference codes	HN1060 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NAIL Modern
Significant Finds	BONE Uncertain
Methods	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE BURROUGH GREEN Land to SW of Sherrifs Court
Postcode	CB8 9LY
Study area	40.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 63704 55393 52 0 52 10 19 N 000 23 39 E Point
Project creators	

Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of funding body	Development Corporation
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Southwest of Sheriffs Court, Burrough Green, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report Number 793
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 12 pages, 4 figures, 4 plates