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Land south of
FRESHWELL GARDENS
Saffron Walden, Essex

HN1352

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT***

HERITAGE NETWORK

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Managing Director: David Hillelson, BA MCIfA

Land south of FRESHWELL GARDENS Saffron Walden, Essex

Project ref.: HN1352
LPA ref.: UTT/17/1163/FUL
Site code: SWFG 16

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of BBR Architects

by

Greg Jones, BA (Hons) MA AIFA

Report no. 1076

July 2017

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The front cover shows the site, looking southwest

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and Mark Sycamore. The report text and illustrations were compiled by Greg Jones and edited by Helen Ashworth.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Stephen Boddey, BBR Architects; Ford Homes Ltd.; and, Richard Havis, Essex Historic Environment Team, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Land S of Freshwell Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1BY		
County:	Essex	District:	Uttlesford
Village/town:	Saffron Walden	Parish:	Saffron Walden
Planning reference:	UTT/17/1163/FUL	NGR:	TL 5346 3850
Client name and address:	Ford Homes Ltd., Overhall, Overhall Lane, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 2JH		
Nature of development:	Residential development	Previous land use:	Vacant Land 2 –Not previously developed
Site Status:	Area of Archaeological Importance	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
Position in planning process:	Pre-application	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c.4320m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.108.64m ²
HN Ref:	HN1352	Site code:	SWFG 16
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.	Trial trenching	Archive Recipient:	Saffron Walden Museum
Start of work	26/06/2017	Finish of work	27/06/2017
Related HER Nos:	HER 408 / 13824	Periods represented:	Medieval, post-medieval
Oasis UID:	heritage1-287030	Significant finds:	Pottery: medieval. Horn cores: uncertain. Tile: post-medieval, Clay pipe: post-medieval, China: post-medieval
Monument types:	Ditch, medieval; Linear, uncertain		
Physical archive:	Yes		
Previous summaries/reports:	None		

Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological potential of land south of Freshwell Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in advance of a planning application, to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority.

Two archaeological trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed new buildings, revealing a waterlain organic layer above the natural in both trenches, which may represent the remains of a marshy area on the edge of the town. Pottery of early medieval date was recovered from this deposit. Alluvial deposits were also noted at the eastern end of Trench 1.

A substantial feature, interpreted as the 13th century town ditch, was encountered towards the western end of Trench 1, though slightly more to the west than had previously been projected. This was cut through the alluvial and organic layers. The ditch itself showed evidence of silting up before being fully infilled with material in the post-medieval period and then sealed by a compact chalk consolidation layer. No evidence for additional defences, such as an associated bank or palisade, was encountered during the course of the present project.

A smaller linear feature was revealed in Trench 2 which also cut through the organic layer. This linear, which could not be fully investigated, was orientated north-south, parallel to the medieval ditch.

On the basis of the results of the trial trench evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of significance may be considered to be *High* for the medieval and post-medieval periods and *Low* for all other periods. The medieval archaeology may be considered to have an important local and regional historical context, and to be of *Major* significance.

1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *BBR Architects*, acting on behalf of Ford Homes Ltd., as part of a programme of archaeological work carried out in support of an application for the development of land south of Freshwell Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex.

1.2 Because the site lies within a sensitive archaeological area, and in line with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the local planning authority (LPA) requested that more information should be supplied regarding the potential impacts of the proposed development on heritage assets with archaeological interest.

1.3 Archaeological planning advice, detailing the nature of the information required, was prepared by the Historic Environment Adviser (HEA) at Essex County Council, acting as archaeological adviser to the LPA (Havis 2017). The advice requested a field evaluation of the site, encompassing the excavation of trial trenches, in order to identify archaeological features and deposits that might suffer negative impacts from development. Of particular interest were remains that might clarify the nature of the town's medieval defences and contemporary activity at the western limits of the town. A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated June 2017 (Turner 2017).

1.4 The site is located on the western edge of the historic core of the town, to the north of the Swan Meadow car park and to the south of Freshwell Gardens, centred on NGR TL 5346 3850 (Figure 1). It was thought that the medieval town ditch (HER 408) might pass through the centre of the site, on a broadly north-south alignment. The site currently consists of overgrown scrubland.

1.5 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that might be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), should they be discovered. It was considered that the work had the potential to contribute to an understanding of:

- the location and extent of the medieval defensive town ditch;
- the layout of the medieval town.

1.6 The development proposes the construction of 6 new dwellings, with associated access, parking, services and landscaping. There is also a requirement for a water management plan to prevent flooding of the site from the adjacent watercourse.

2 Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located on the western edge of the historic core of the town, to the north of the Swan Meadow car park and to the south of Freshwell Gardens, centred on NGR TL 5346 3850. The site is fairly flat and lies in the valley of The Slade, a tributary of the River Cam or Granta, at approximately 45.00mAOD. A small watercourse, which flows into The Slade, runs to the south and west of the site.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Swaffham Prior Formation (511e) described as *well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble. Some similar shallow soils. Deep non-calcareous loamy soils in places. Striped and polygonal soil patterns locally. Slight risk of water erosion* (SSEW 1983).

2.3 The underlying geology consists of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) - Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 84 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas (BGS).

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 The overburden was removed, under close supervision, to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.

2.6 Spoil from the machining was scanned for archaeological artefacts, both visually and using a metal detector.

2.7 The exposed area was cleaned by hand, and potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.8 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:20.

RESULTS

2.9 Two trenches were located across the footprints of the proposed dwellings (Figure 2). Excavation of the trenches was undertaken under close archaeological supervision using a 9-tonne wheeled excavator, fitted with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket.

Trench 1

Trench 1, which was orientated E-W, was located at the northern end of the site. It initially measured 30m in length, 1.6m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. The trench was subsequently extended further to the west, by 9.5m, and excavated to a depth of 1.9m (Plate 1). This was to expose the full extent of the probable town ditch, which was revealed at the western edge of the trench.

Trench 1 Recorded data:

Length (m):	39.5	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	2m	Orientation	E-W
Level at E End of Trench (mOD)		Top	46.74	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	45.51
		Base	45.44			Base	44.61
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Topsoil	Dark grey, friable silty clay with frequent small rooting.	>39.5	>1.6	0.2		
-	Subsoil	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay.	>20	>1.6	0.4		
101	Cut	Medieval town defensive ditch orientated N-S. 13 th century in date. Cuts medieval pond layer (106).	>1.6	5.5	2		
102	Fill	White compact chalk. Consolidation layer above ditch fill. Post-medieval.	>1.6	5.5	0.3		
103	Fill	Light brown sandy clay silt with chalk fragments and occasional flint. Contained post-medieval tile and a clay pipe fragment. Uppermost fill of ditch below the consolidation layer.	>1.6	5.5	0.4		
104	Fill	Mid dark grey soft silty clay with occasional organic material. Primary silted fill of medieval town defensive ditch. Contained horn cores. Post 13 th century or later in date.	>1.6	>5.5	0.2-0.6		
105	Layer	Mid/dark grey friable silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones >5%. Above layer (106) and below the subsoil. Possible buried soil.	>20	>1.6	0.5		
106	Layer	Black sticky layer, very organic. Contained 2 medieval pottery sherds. Cut by town ditch. Above natural, below layer (105).	>20	>1.6	0.4-0.5		
107	Fill	Mid grey silty rubble, friable with frequent rubble. Secondary fill of ditch, but primary backfill. Contained post-medieval tile.	>1.6	5.5	0.35		
108	Fill	Mid brown friable sandy silt with occasional sub-rounded stones >5%. Tertiary fill above chalk consolidation layer (102). No finds.	>1.6	5	c.0.15		
109	Layer	Mid orange soft clean clay. Unknown dimensions but approximately 0.9m thick. Layer of naturally derived material, truncated by medieval town ditch.	-	-	c.0.9		
110	Layer	Mid grey brown soft clean clay. Below (109). Cut by medieval town ditch.	-	-	-		
-	Natural	Mid orange loose sand and gravel.	>20	>1.6	>0.4		

2.10 The stratigraphy in the trench sections consisted of dark grey, friable silty clay topsoil with frequent small rooting, c.0.2m in depth, over a mid reddish brown firm silty clay subsoil, c.0.4m in depth. A mid/dark grey friable silty clay layer (105) was encountered below the subsoil at the eastern end of the trench (Figure 4, Plate 2). This was 0.5m in depth and has been interpreted as a possible buried soil layer. It overlay a very organic waterlain black sticky layer, (106), 0.4-0.5m in depth, which contained two medieval pottery sherds. It is possible that this represents a marshy area, subsequently drained by the excavation of the ditch (Figure 3). The natural substrate, which consisted of mid orange loose sand, was encountered below this layer at a depth of approximately 1.5m below the present ground level.

2.11 At the western end of the trench the stratigraphy was slightly different. A mid orange soft clean clay layer (108), approximately 0.9m in depth, was encountered below the subsoil.

This overlay a mid grey brown soft, clean, alluvial clay layer (109) (Figure 4). The natural sand was not reached in this area.

2.12 The western extension of T1 revealed a large feature, [101], which cut both the alluvial clay on its western edge and the dark layer (106) on its eastern edge. It was orientated north-south and measured 5.5m in width and 2m in depth. The feature has been interpreted as the 13th century town ditch, which was projected to come through the site broadly in the area where it was observed. No evidence for additional defences, such as a mound or a palisade, was observed during the course of the present project.

2.13 The ditch contained five fills (Figure 4, Plates 3 – 5). The lower fill (104) consisted of mid dark grey silty clay, presumably formed after the ditch went out of use. It was then backfilled during the post-medieval period with at least two layers (107) and (103), both of which contained post-medieval material. The line of the ditch was subsequently capped by a chalk consolidation layer (102). The base of the feature was not exposed during the present project.

2.14 No other cut features, finds or deposits were revealed in Trench 1.

Trench 2

2.15 Trench 2 was located on the eastern edge of the site, to the southeast of Trench 1. It was orientated north-south and measured 28m in length, 1.6m in width and was excavated to a depth of between 1.4m and 1.7m.

Trench 2 Recorded Data

Length (m):	28	Width (m):	1.6	Maximum Depth (m):	1.7	Orientation	N-S
Level at N End of Trench (mOD)		Top	47.01	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	47.10
		Base	45.61			Base	45.40
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Topsoil	Mid grey, friable silty clay.	>28	>1.6	0.3		
-	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown and dark grey friable silty clay.	>28	>1.6	0.8-0.4		
201	Cut	Linear slightly curved in shape, unknown sides and base. Post-medieval ditch.	>20	0.5	-		
202	Fill	Black soft silty clay with sparse chalk flecks	>20	0.5	-		
203	Layer	Black sticky layer, very organic, similar to (106).	>28	>1.6	0.4		
	Natural	Light yellow brown with grey mottles, soft clay.	>28	>1.6	>0.1		

2.16 The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections was very similar to that observed at the eastern end of T1. A dark layer (203), similar to (106), was revealed below the subsoil. This measured 0.4m in depth and has also been interpreted as representing marsh deposits. The natural sand was encountered below (203) at a depth of approximately 1.50m below the present ground level.

2.17 A single linear feature, [201], was encountered within the trench. This was orientated roughly north-south but was curved slightly at the northern and southern ends (Figure 2, Plate 6). It ran almost the entire length of T2 and was broadly parallel to both the town wall to the east and the town ditch to the west. The fill (202) consisted of soft black silty clay with sparse chalk flecks. This feature was not fully investigated owing to the depth of the trench. One sherd of late post-medieval transfer-printed pottery was recovered from the top of its fill, but this may be an intrusive artefact.

2.18 No other cut features, finds or deposits were revealed in Trench 2.

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Pottery

2.19 Three sherds of pottery, weighing 45g, were recovered from two stratified contexts. All are undiagnostic body sherds.

2.20 Two sherds, weighing 35g, were recovered from the dark organic layer (106) in Trench 1. One sherd is probably from a small fine jar or large beaker in a St Neots-type shell-gritted fabric, of 10th – 12th century date, the other is a grey sandy ware, tempered with moderate white quartz grains, of probable 10th – 12th century date.

2.21 One sherd of late post-medieval transfer-printed china, weighing 10g, was recovered from linear (202).

Recommendations

2.22 The pottery from (106) indicates that this deposit has early medieval origins. However, given the small size of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Tile

2.23 Two fragments of tile, weighing 145g, were recovered from one stratified context. Both were collected from (103), one of the backfill layers in ditch [101].

2.24 The tile pieces are likely to have come from peg tiles and are in oxidised sandy fabrics of probable post-medieval date.

Recommendations

2.25 Given the small size and fragmentary nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Clay pipe

2.26 One fragment of clay pipe stem, weighing 5g, was recovered from ditch backfill layer (103). Given the large diameter of the hole in the stem (2mm) it is likely that this dates to the 19th century.

Recommendations

2.27 Given the small size and fragmentary nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

Horn cores

2.28 Seven fragments of horn core, weighing 580g, were recovered from fill (104) in ditch [101]. One of the cores is complete and measures approximately 200mm in length and 50mm in width at the base, tapering to 6mm at the tip. The presence of this material suggests industrial activity, possibly tanning, took place close to the line of the ditch.

Recommendations

2.29 Given the small size and fragmentary nature of the assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

3 Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 In order to establish the archaeological and historical context for the site, the overview set out below has been drawn from the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER), the Heritage Network's own records and other sources. The study area extends to a 250m radius around the centre of the site.

- There is no evidence of settlement prior to the Roman period within the study area, although there are numerous prehistoric findspots. The majority of these consist of flint tools although some Neolithic pottery has been found. Most of the flint is Neolithic but some earlier examples have also been found.
- The nearest prehistoric activity to the site is approximately 200m to the south in the Abbey Lane area, which revealed finds from the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age.
- It is believed that there was a Roman settlement in Saffron Walden and possibly a small fort, which was garrisoned from the larger fort at Great Chesterford.
- The possible line of a Roman road running east to west through the town has been recorded on the HER (SMR 213), although this is still subject to conjecture.
- There are numerous Roman finds (mostly pottery) and archaeological features found throughout Saffron Walden, the closest to the current site being a 4th century coin found immediately adjacent to the east of the site (SMR 470).
- Roman features and finds have been discovered in various archaeological works carried out along Abbey Lane, 200m south and south-east of the current site.
- A large cemetery, approximately 245m to the south-east of the site (SMR 458), was excavated in the 19th century and uncovered up to 200 burials, 50 of which may have been Roman, the others were early to mid-Saxon in date. Numerous Roman finds including Samian ware were found during this work. The site also revealed some possible Saxon sunken-featured buildings.
- Saffron Walden was recorded in the Domesday Book as Waledana, which in Old English means 'valley of the Britons' (Reaney 1935, 537), and was held by Esgar prior to the Norman Conquest at 19½ hides. By 1086, the manor had been given to Geoffrey de Mandeville, the first Earl of Essex, it being his second most valuable manor, after Great Waltham.
- The site lies partially within the medieval enclosed town of Saffron Walden, being bisected by the projected line of the town ditch. This ditch, which was identified during work at Swan Meadow car park, 40m to the south of the site, is thought to have been excavated in the 1230s, under the direction of Humphrey de Bohun (Essex CC 1999). Part of the south-western corner of the enclosure, known as the Battle or Repell Ditches, survives as earthworks to the south of the site (ibid). These indicate that the ditch in this location had an inner bank, while excavations on the southern arm suggest that it was palisaded for part of its length (Pastscape). Excavations elsewhere on the line of the ditch indicate that it was of simple construction, without additional defences.
- From the late medieval period onwards, the town prospered as an important trading centre, part of the East Anglian wool and cloth industry, and as a

producer of the saffron crocus, which was used to make dye and from which the town eventually took its name.

- By the late 18th and early 19th century, after the decline of the cloth industry in Saffron Walden, the town became the centre of the Essex malting industry and as many as 15 pubs existed in the town, which in the 18th century still lay within the confines of the medieval ditched enclosure. It was only at this time that the town ditch was finally infilled to allow the expansion of the town.
- There are one hundred and sixty one statutorily listed buildings recorded within the study area. The closest to the current site is the garden wall of Walden Place, 44m to the east (Grade II, listing 1196172). There are three other post-medieval Grade II listed buildings within 100m radius of the site, The Fearn's (listing 1796171), 75m north-east, 14 Freshwell Street (listing 1205786), 80m north-east, and 15 Freshwell Street (listing 1297750), 100m north-east).

Research Design

3.2 The aims of the present investigation have been to establish the location, depth, extent, date, character and condition of any remains that might have been threatened by the development and to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality, in relation to current published regional research.

3.3 It was considered that this work had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins and development of Saffron Walden from the prehistoric period onwards, especially the location and extent of the medieval town ditch and the layout of the medieval and post-medieval town.

Collected Data

3.4 The excavated trial trenches revealed slightly different stratigraphic sequences. In Trench 1, at the northern end of the site, this sequence comprised topsoil and subsoil above possible buried soil layers, contexts (105) and (109). At the western end of the trench this overlay a black organic and possibly waterlain layer (106), which has been interpreted as a marshy deposit, and which contained pottery of 10th – 12th century date. This layer was cut, and possibly drained, by ditch [101]. To the east of the ditch a grey alluvial deposit (110) was encountered below the buried soil, which may also be associated with a marshy area. A black organic waterlain layer, similar to (106), was encountered below the subsoil in Trench 2.

3.5 A substantial ditch [101], interpreted as the medieval town ditch, was revealed at the western end of Trench 1. The feature measured over 5m in width and over 2m in depth, though its base was not reached during the present investigation. Its course on the present site lies slightly further to the west than had previously been projected from other sources. The ditch, which cut the buried soil layers and the dark organic layer (106), showed evidence of silting up, before being infilled in the post-medieval period. It was then sealed by a compact chalk layer. No evidence for additional defensive structures, such as a bank or palisade, was encountered during the present project.

3.6 A smaller linear feature, [201], was revealed in Trench 2, but was not fully investigated owing to the depth of the trench. This also ran approximately north – south, parallel to [101]. It cut a dark organic layer (203), which may also represent a marsh deposit. A single sherd of late post-medieval transfer-printed china was recovered from the top of [201], but this may be intrusive.

3.7 No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed in the course of the work.

Conclusion

3.8 The line of the town ditch, which is thought to have been excavated in the mid-13th century, was encountered at the western end of Trench 1. It crossed the site on a north - south alignment, slightly to the west of its previously projected course. The ditch appears to have been allowed to silt up, but was then deliberately backfilled in the later post-medieval period. A number of horn cores were recovered from (104), the silting layer, suggesting that industrial processes, such as tanning, may have been carried out in the vicinity. It is not clear whether this occurred to the east, between the ditch and the town, or to the west, beyond the enclosed area.

3.9 The ditch cut the western side of a deep organic layer, (106), from which two sherds of pottery dated to the 10th – 12th centuries AD were recovered, pre-dating the supposed date of the ditch. A similar, but undated deposit (203), was also present in Trench 2 to the east. These layers suggest that the site lay within a marshy area on the edge of the medieval settlement, which may have been subsequently drained by the excavation of the town ditch.

3.10 A narrow linear feature was revealed in Trench 2. This also ran north-south, parallel to the town ditch. It could not be fully investigated, but a sherd of late post-medieval pottery was recovered from its surface. This may be an intrusive find, that doesn't actually date the feature.

3.11 On the basis of the results of the trial trench evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of significance may be considered to be *High* for the medieval and post-medieval periods and *Low* for all other periods. The medieval archaeology may be considered to have an important local and regional historical context, and to be of *Major* significance.

Confidence Rating

3.12 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. On this basis, the confidence rating for the work may be considered to be *High*.

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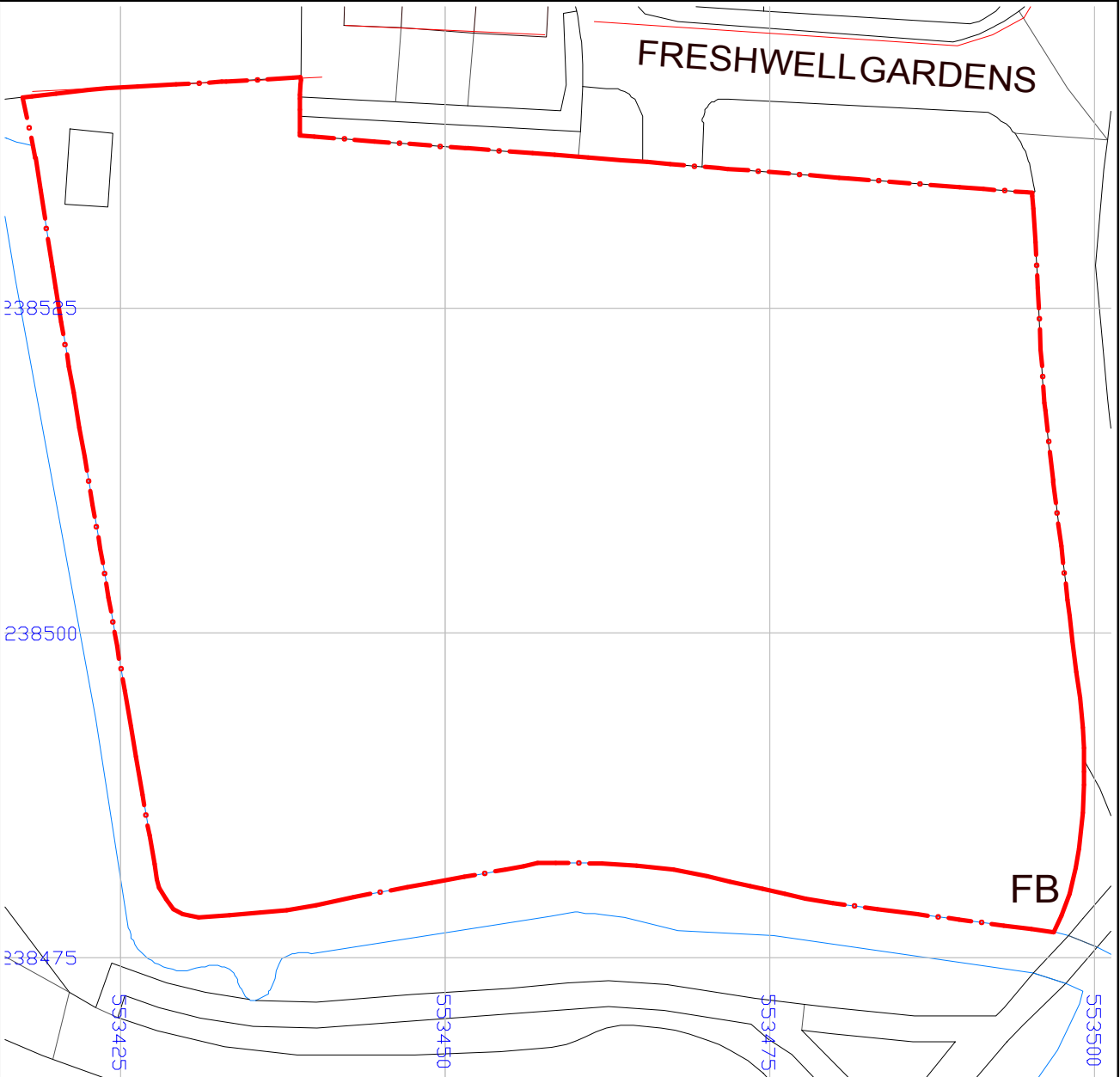
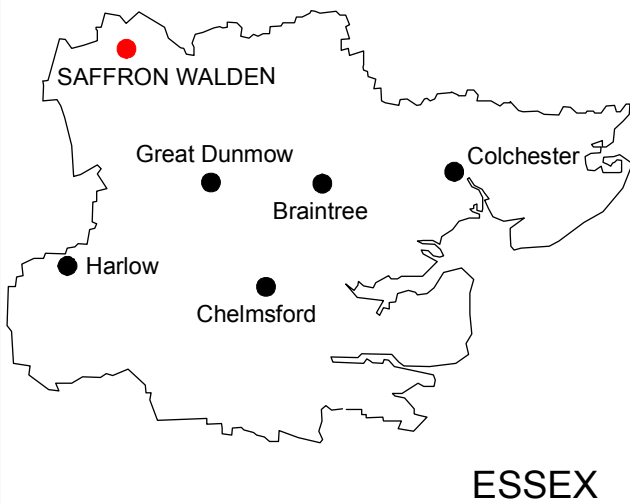
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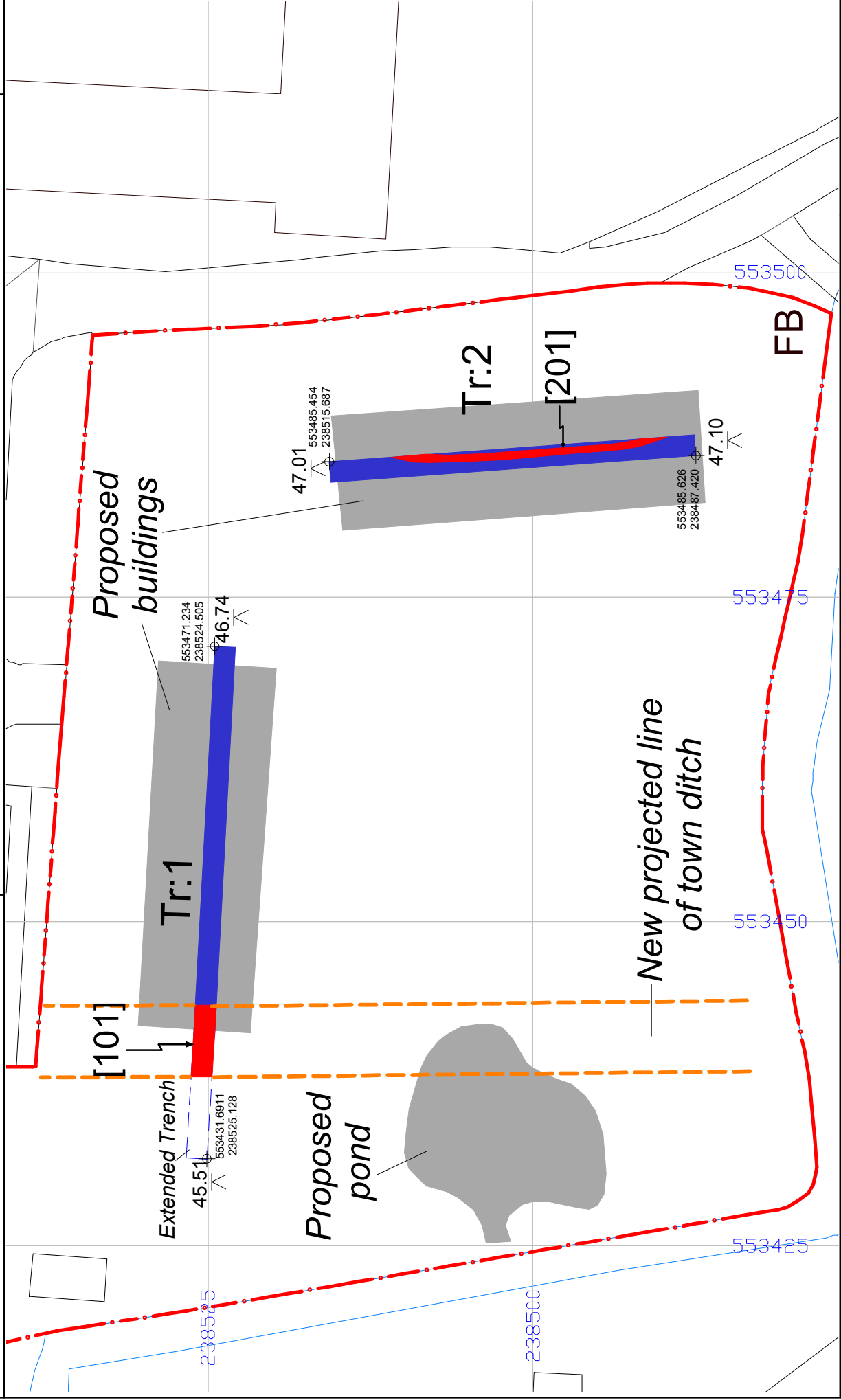
5 Illustrations

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Plate 2	Trench 1 layer (106), looking N
Plate 3	Ditch [101] looking N
Plate 4	Ditch [101] looking NE
Plate 5	Ditch [101] looking NW
Plate 6	Trench 2, looking N



Site Location

Scale 1:500



Site layout with archaeological features marked in red

Trench 1



Projected
Line of Ditch

X553431
Y238527

44.61
45.51

Grey alluvium

Section 1

43.50 Ditch [101]



Black organic layer (106)

Natural

46.74

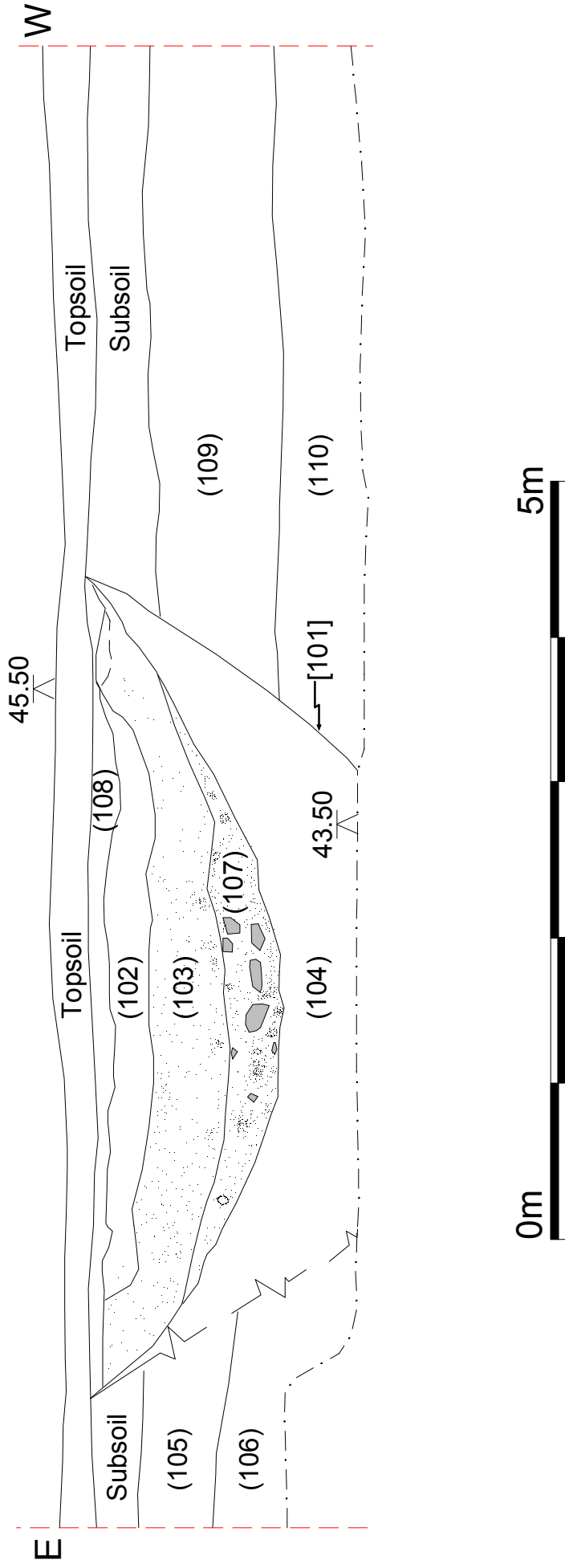
45.44

X553471
Y238523

Projected
Line of Ditch



Plan of Trench 1



Section in T1, showing stratigraphy & ditch [101]



Plate 01 - Trench 1, looking W



Plate 02 - Trench 1 layer (106), looking N



Plate 03 - Ditch [101], looking N



Plate 04 - Ditch [101], looking NE



Plate 05 - Ditch [101], looking NW



Plate 06 - Trench 2, showing linear [201], looking N

Appendix

Oasis Summary Sheet

OASIS ID: heritage1-287030	
Project details	
Project name	Land south of Freshwell Gardens, Saffron Walden
Short description of the project	<p>In order to characterise the archaeological potential of land south of Freshwell Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in advance of a planning application, to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority.</p> <p>Two archaeological trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed new buildings, revealing a waterlain organic layer above the natural in both trenches, which may represent the remains of a marshy area on the edge of the town. Pottery of early medieval date was recovered from this deposit. Alluvial deposits were also noted at the eastern end of Trench 1.</p> <p>A substantial feature, interpreted as the 13th century town ditch, was encountered towards the western end of Trench 1, though slightly more to the west than had previously been projected. This was cut through the alluvial and organic layers. The ditch itself showed evidence of silting up before being fully infilled with material in the post-medieval period and then sealed by a compact chalk consolidation layer. No evidence for additional defences, such as an associated bank or palisade, was encountered during the course of the present project.</p> <p>A smaller linear feature was revealed in Trench 2 which also cut through the organic layer. This linear, which could not be fully investigated, was orientated north-south, parallel to the town ditch.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-06-2017 End: 27-06-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	HN1352 – Contracting Unit Number
Associated project reference codes	SWFG16 - Sitecode
Associated project reference codes	SAFWM 2017.58 – Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument Type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	LINEAR Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post-medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post-medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Uncertain
Methods/techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD SAFFRON WALDEN Land south of Freshwell Gardens

Postcode	CB10 1BY
Study area	4320 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TL 5346 3850
Lat/Long Datum	Position derived from charts
Height OD / Depth	Min: 44.61m Max: 45.61m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Turner
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient?	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Media available	'Diary', 'Drawing', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land South of Freshwell Gardens, Essex: archaeological evaluation report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G.
Other bibliographic details	Report no 1076
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 12 text pages, 4 figures, 6 plates