

**Land at Oak Lodge  
Jacks Lane, Takeley  
Essex  
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Project No: 8192  
Site Code: TAOL 14**



**Report No: 2014224**

**July 2014**



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Archaeological Evaluation**

**NGR: TL 57100 21600**

**ASE Project No: 8192**

**Site Code: TAOL 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014224**

**OASIS No: 182457**

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**July 2014**

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## **Summary**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by BJB Construction & Development Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the footprint of two new houses on the southeast side of Oak Lodge, in the hamlet of Jack's Green, Takeley.*

*The site was located within an area of high archaeological potential, primarily due to its association with a medieval moated site, elements of which remain on the northeast side of the house. Remains of a second moated enclosure stand on the south side of Jacks Green, while evidence for Prehistoric occupation of Iron Age, Bronze Age and Neolithic date were found during excavations on the nearby Priors Green development site to the east, as well as Medieval and Roman activity (HER 46298). Jacks Lane, which lies immediately to the south of the site is believed to be of medieval, if not earlier, date.*

*The evaluation revealed two linear features comprising an undated gully or natural feature and a narrow early medieval ditch that is potentially on the line of the extant moat ditch but was too narrow and shallow to be part of this much larger feature, suggesting it is more likely to be a minor drainage channel possibly draining into the roadside ditch that is still evident along the boundary between the site and Jacks Lane. In recent years the site had been used as a manege which has caused disturbance to the upper part of the stratigraphy, possibly affecting the survival of more ephemeral archaeological features.*

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by BJB Construction & Development Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the footprint of two new houses and garages on land to the southeast of Oaks Lodge, Takeley, in June 2014.
- 1.1.2 The site (NGR: TL 57100 21600; Fig. 1) is located at the northeastern end of Jacks Lane. Jacks Lane is an ancient thoroughfare of medieval or earlier origin that lies to the north of, and runs parallel to, the B1256 Dunmow Road, which follows the course of Roman Stane Street.
- 1.1.3 Previously the site formed the large front garden of Oak Lodge. In recent times a manege was created at the front for training/exercising horses. Further gardens lay to the north of the house, with the remains of a former moat enclosing the northeast corner of the grounds.

### 1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to British Geological Survey mapping ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)) the underlying geology of the site comprises London Clay overlain by glacial tills of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer – accessed 16/06/2014).
- 1.2.2 The land is flat at around 101.20mOD and bounded to the north by Oak Lodge, which was constructed in the 19th century, to the east by the Priors Green housing development, to the south by Jacks Lane and to the west by houses on both sides of the lane.

### 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in 2012 for the erection of two detached properties, with garages, on land to the south of Oak Lodge (UTT/0295/12/OP). As the site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, Essex County Council (ECC) Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken in order to mitigate the impact of the development on the historic environment.
- 1.3.2 The archaeological condition that was recommended and subsequently attached was based upon guidance contained in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, which has subsequently been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). It states that:

*"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."*

- 1.3.3 An outline of the works required was provided in a brief issued by ECC Place Services (2014) and detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Archaeology South-East (2014), which was subsequently approved by the Place Services team.

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance in order to understand the archaeological potential of the site and the implications of the proposed development upon it. Furthermore, should such evidence be found, the evaluation would inform possible mitigation measures to avoid damaging archaeological deposits through development or lead to further archaeological works to ensure the preservation in situ of all threatened remains.
- 1.4.2 Specific research aims were to identify any medieval structures associated with the moated enclosure around Oak Lodge or any other activity associated with Jacks Lane and any remains associated with the remains excavated as part of the Priors Green Phase 3 archaeological works.
- 1.4.3 In addition, the origins and development of different rural settlement types and the dynamics of medieval settlement have been identified as a topic for further research (Medlycott 2011, p 70).

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation in association with the construction of two houses in the grounds of Oak Lodge carried out by Andy Letch (Senior Archaeologist) between 23rd and 24th June 2014. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford and the brief for the site, which show that the scheme works are located within the vicinity of a number of known archaeological sites.
- 2.2 The site lies within part of a moated enclosure of likely medieval date known as Goodwyns, or 'Godwin' in 1208 (HER 18163 and 18164). Historic maps show the site was still known as Goodwyns up to the latter part of the 20th century when it became Oak Lodge. Many moated sites in Essex appear to have been established in the 12th or 13th century, built around hall houses with small farmsteads. A second enclosure lies to the south, separated by Jacks Lane, which is likely to be contemporary in date.
- 2.3 A large area to the east of the site was evaluated and excavated during the Priors Green housing development on the east side of the site (HER 46298). The most pertinent of these were Areas A and B that were excavated in connection with Phase 3 of the development between 2007 and 2008, which uncovered evidence for Prehistoric and medieval occupation. Area A just to the east of the site uncovered several Late Neolithic and Middle Bronze Age pits and one side of an Early Bronze Age post-built structure, as well as other

probable prehistoric features. Area B further to the east of the site contained a Neolithic pit and Late Iron Age watering hole, a medieval post-built structure plus stock enclosures/paddocks and a pond (Germany et al forthcoming).

- 2.4 An extensive field system of likely medieval date, comprising parallel sets of ditches, has also been identified with the greater Priors Green area further to the east of area A and B. Similar field systems have been recorded elsewhere in the vicinity, including during works at Stansted Airport, and are thought to represent the initial cultivation of land cleared for agriculture in the 12th or 13th century (Framework Archaeology 2008)..
- 2.5 Oak Lodge is a half-timbered structure built in the 19th century that contains some external reused timbers that may belong to a previous house on the site. In recent years the site was occupied by a manege that was created by the occupant of the house.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The ECC Place Services Design Brief (2014) required evaluation trenches to be cut within the footprint of the proposed house/garage plots, comprising two linear trenches measuring 17m and 20m long respectively.
- 3.2 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed 1.5m-wide ditching bucket, through topsoil and rubble/ made ground for the manege down to the level of clean natural geological deposits. All exposed archaeological features and deposits were recorded and excavated except for obvious natural features and disturbances. Monitoring works were also carried out on a new cable trench on the west side of the driveway.
- 3.3 Standard ASE methodologies were employed. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded on pro-forma trench sheets, scale plans and sections were drawn and finds collected. Photographs were taken in digital format, a representative selection of which is reproduced at the back of the report. The remainder can be found in the archive.
- 3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with IfA (Institute for Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).
- 3.5 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are summarised below (Table 1).

No. of contexts	10
No. of files	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	12
Bulk finds	Pot & bone

*Table 1: Quantification of site archive*



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located on the north side of the development area close to the house and driveway and was orientated southeast to northwest across plot 1 (Fig. 1). The trench was 15m long and 0.6m deep.
- 4.1.2 The first 3.6m of the southwest end of the trench was excavated through the existing tarmac driveway and rubble bedding layer [08] onto natural chalky boulder clay at the base. The rest of the trench was covered by a layer of brown grey silt clay topsoil [01] sealing a brown silty clay subsoil [07] that overlay natural clay at c.100.95m OD.
- 4.1.3 Gully [03] was located at the southwest end of trench and was aligned west to east. It was c.1.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.45m deep, continuing either side of the trench (Figs. 2 and 3). It was filled by [02], a clean orange-brown clay, with light grey mottling suggesting a probable 'natural' deposit that produced no finds or other cultural material. The shape of the cut was quite irregular with steep sides and a concave base that sloped away towards the southeast (Fig. 4).

Context	Type	Description	Max. length & width	Thickness
1/001	Topsoil	Brown grey silt clay	Majority of trench	0.26-0.35m
1/002	Fill	Fill of 03	See below	See below
1/003	Cut	Gully or natural feature	1.8m x 0.45m	0.35m
1/007	Subsoil	Mid brown clay	c. 5m	0.2m
1/008	Driveway	Tarmac house driveway	modern	-
1/009	Natural	Yellow brown chalky clay	-	-

*Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts*

### 4.2 Trench 2

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the southeast corner of the development area, within an informal area of lawn and trees, the latter of which had been removed prior to the archaeological works being carried out. The lawn overlay the remains of the former manege. The trench was orientated west to east (Fig. 1) and, at 17m long, extended beyond the footprint of the house in order to identify any evidence for a moat on the eastern boundary. The trench was extended until the machine encountered substantial roots belonging to existing trees but did establish a historic ditch at this end, seemingly contemporary with the moat ditch in the northeast corner of the site.
- 4.2.1 Rubble associated with the former manege [10], covered an area of 13.15m from the west end of the trench, which was overlain by a thin layer of topsoil [01] for the majority of the trench (Fig. 5). The rubble was approximately 0.44m thick and was laid straight onto the natural chalky clay [09] at the base of the trench. Towards the east end of the trench the rubble diminished to be replaced by a rubblely topsoil over a grey brown silty clay subsoil layer [06]. This context was initially quite badly disturbed but was better preserved away from the old manege area, though from this point on there was a lot of root action from standing trees. Maximum trench depth was 0.75m, depending on the depth of disturbance, and natural clay was

encountered at c.100.72m OD.

- 4.2.3 Ditch [05] crossed the east end of trench and was investigated by a 0.7m-wide slot. The feature was aligned north to south, broadly in-line with the moat ditch at the top of the site, but was much narrower at 1.1m rather than the moat (drain) ditch, which is c.4m-wide. The ditch (Figs. 2 and 6) was quite shallow and filled by [04], a pliable grey brown clay silt with charcoal fleck inclusions that was very similar to the subsoil layer above. The shape of the cut was regular with moderate sides and a flattish base. A small undiagnostic pottery sherd was retrieved, provisionally dated to the 12th or 13th century, and an animal bone fragment.

Context	Type	Description	Max. length & width	Thickness
2/001	Topsoil	Brown grey silt clay	East end of trench	0.3m
2/004	Fill	Fill of 05	See below	See below
2/005	Cut	Ditch	1.5m x 1m	0.35m
2/006	Subsoil	Grey brown silt clay	c. 5m	0.25m
2/009	Natural	Yellow brown chalky clay	-	-
2/010	Menage	Rubble base		

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

### 4.3 Service trench

- 4.3.1 A 15m long service trench was dug on the south-west side of Trench 1 prior to its excavation, which was inspected for archaeological remains. Its position is shown on Figure 1 and the Cover Plate. The trench was located on the west side of the site and was orientated northwest to southeast. It was 0.45m wide and excavated to a depth of approximately 0.6m through c.0.48m of tarmac and bedding for an earlier driveway, onto natural chalky clay. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

## 5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Elissa Menzel

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A minimal assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation (Table 4). The finds were washed and dried and quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. Packaging and storage was carried out following IFA guidelines (2008). No further conservation is required and the finds will be discarded. No environmental samples were taken.

Context	Pottery		Bone	
	Count	Weight (g)	Count	Weight (g)
4	1	2	1	16

Table 4: Finds quantification

### 5.2 Medieval Pottery

- 5.2.1 A single, small sherd of pottery was recovered from trench 2, ditch [05]. The size of the sherd does not provide enough information for diagnostic discussion; however, the fragment is likely to be early medieval in date (H. Walker pers. comm.).

### 5.3 Animal Bone

- 5.3.1 The evaluation produced one fragment of animal bone from trench 2 ditch [05]. The fragment is a radius of a sheep/goat and displays moderate surface erosion but no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing, or pathology. The state of fusion is unable to be assessed due to fragmentation and erosion.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Oak Lodge is situated in an area of significant archaeological potential within the remains of a medieval moated enclosure facing onto Jacks Lane, a medieval thoroughfare that has had some residential development at the west end but survives at this point as a green lane and is therefore largely unaffected by later development. Medieval occupation was also recorded during excavations for the Priors Green development to the east of the site.
- 6.2 The evaluation found undisturbed topsoil and subsoil layers at the northern and eastern edges of the site to a depth of up to 0.55m overlying natural boulder clay at around 100.95mOD. However significant modern disturbance was recorded on the western side from an earlier driveway and within the southeastern part of the site from the former manege. This driveway led from the lane to the house but is now superseded by one leading to the back of the house. It is likely that the manege occupied a large area that also covered the central part of the site. Its construction would have entailed reducing the level in this area by approximately 0.4m onto the natural chalky clay, thus removing any shallow archaeological features or deposits.
- 6.3 Two linear features were recorded at either end of the site. Feature [03] with its irregular sides, steep base and nature of the fill is probably a geological feature rather than a gully or small ditch, but is possibly a prehistoric feature, roughly-cut with a particularly degraded fill. Ditch [05] follows the broad line of the projected moat ditch but is too narrow and shallow to be part of the moat. Its size suggests it is more likely to be a minor drainage channel. The only datable find from this feature was a single small sherd of medieval coarse ware that was found towards the base of the feature and therefore unlikely to be residual. This evidence suggests it is contemporary with the 12th/13th century moated enclosure, perhaps draining into the roadside ditch that is still evident along the boundary between the site and Jacks Lane.
- 6.4 Small-scale medieval activity was recorded in the evaluation and there is therefore some potential for extant remains associated with the medieval house and moated enclosure to be present in other parts of the site that have not been subject to disturbance or previous groundworks, particularly to the north of the development area.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Brian Butler of BJB Construction and Development for commissioning the archaeological work and for his assistance throughout the project. Thanks also to his colleagues, Sean and Kevin. Richard Havis of ECC Place Services monitored the project on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological work was undertaken by Andy Letch and Lucasz Miciak of Archaeology South-East. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report. The fieldwork was managed by Adrian Scruby. Mark Atkinson managed the post-excavation process.

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**Appendix 1: EHER Summary Form**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Land at Oak Lodge, Jacks Lane, Takeley	
<b>Parish:</b> Takeley	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 57100 21600	<b>Site Code:</b> TAOL 14
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> A. Letch, ASE
<b>Date of Work:</b> June 2014	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> c.1370msq
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> client
<b>Further Work Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b> 18163 & 18164; 46298
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH roundup	<b>OASIS No:</b> 182457
<b>Periods Represented:</b> None	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by BJB Construction &amp; Development Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the footprint of two new houses on the southeast side of Oak Lodge, in the hamlet of Jack's Green, Takeley.</i></p> <p><i>The site was located within an area of high archaeological potential, primarily due to its association with a medieval moated site, elements of which remain on the northeast side of the house. Remains of a second moated enclosure stand on the south side of Jacks Green, while evidence for Prehistoric occupation of Iron Age, Bronze Age and Neolithic date were found during excavations on the nearby Priors Green development site to the east, as well as Medieval and Roman activity (HER 46298). Jacks Lane, which lies immediately to the south of the site is believed to be of medieval, if not earlier, date.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed two linear features comprising an undated gully or natural feature and a narrow early medieval ditch that is potentially on the line of the extant moat ditch but was too narrow and shallow to be part of this much larger feature, suggesting it is more likely to be a minor drainage channel possibly draining into the roadside ditch that is still evident along the boundary between the site and Jacks Lane. In recent years the site had been used as a manege which has caused disturbance to the upper part of the stratigraphy, possibly affecting the survival of more ephemeral archaeological features.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> A. Letch	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 2nd July 2014

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-182457**

### Project details

Project name	Oak Lodge, Jacks Lane
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the footprint of two new houses to be constructed on the southeast side of Oak Lodge in the hamlet of Jacks Green, Takeley. The site was located within an area of high archaeological potential, primarily its association with the medieval moated site of Goodwyns, elements of which remain on the north-east side of the house. More moated remains stand on the south side of Jacks Lane. In addition, Prehistoric occupation and Roman and medieval activity were found on the nearby Priors Green development site to the east (HER 46298). Monitoring works discovered two linear features comprising an undated possible gully and an early medieval ditch. No moat deposits or any evidence of former moats were recorded. In recent years the site was used as a manege for horse exercising/training and much of the site had been levelled onto the natural clay in the construction process, creating disturbance to a depth of c.0.45m.
Project dates	Start: 23-06-2014 End: 24-06-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	8192 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	18163 and 18164 - HER event no. TAOL 14 – Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT SHERD Medieval
Methods & techniques	"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	ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY Land at Oak Lodge, Jacks Lane, Takeley
Study area	48.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 57100 21600 51.8703460308 0.282179863843 51 52 13 N 000 16 55 E Point

Height OD / Depth            Min: 101.20m Max: 101.29m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation        Archaeology South-East  
 Project brief originator     Essex County Council Place Services  
 Project design originator    Archaeology South-East  
 Project director/manager    Adrian Scruby  
 Project supervisor            Andy Letch  
 Type of sponsor/funding    Client  
 body  
 Name of sponsor/funding    BJB Construction & Development Ltd  
 body

**Project archives**

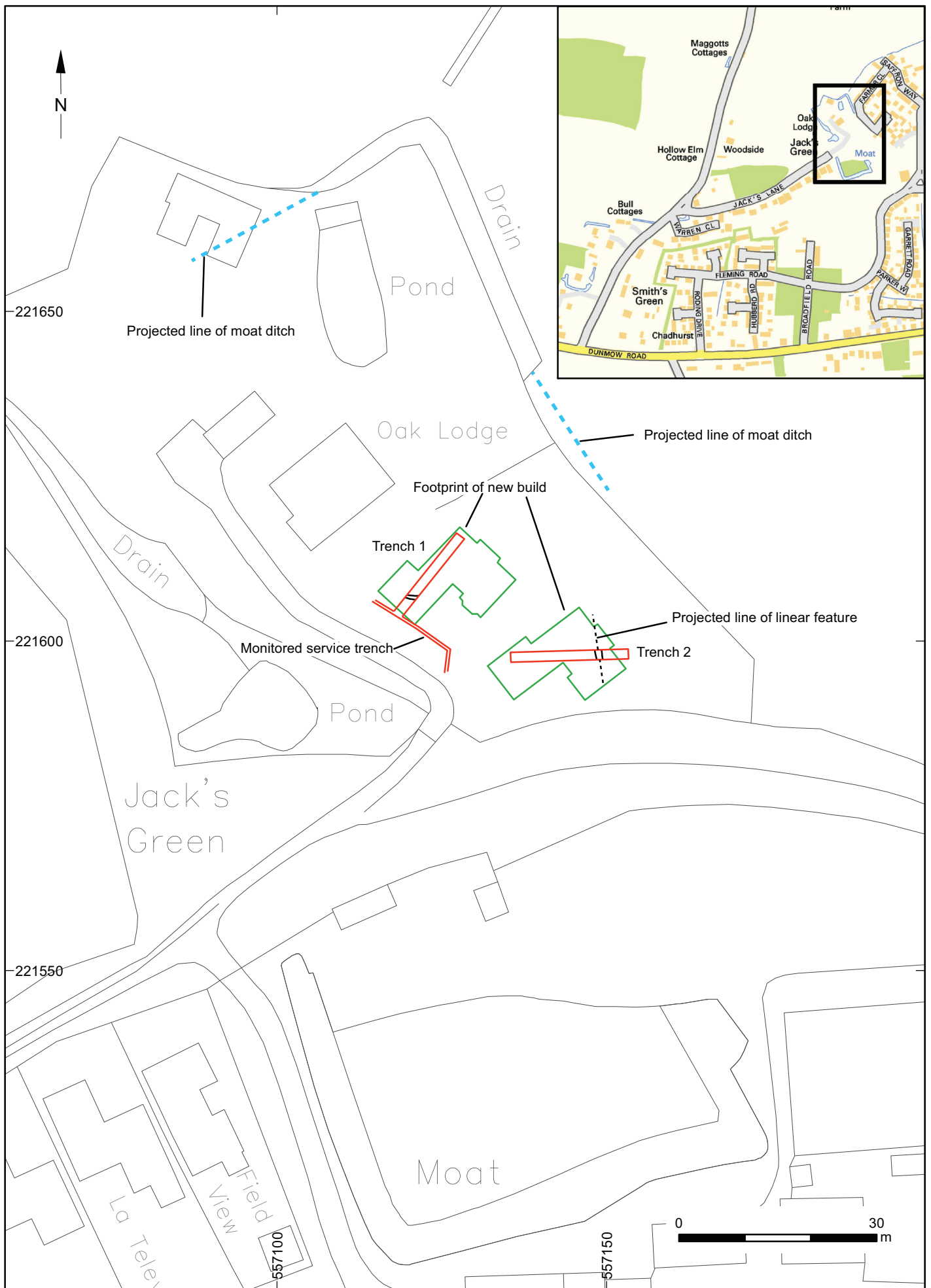
Physical Archive Exists?    No  
 Digital Archive recipient    Saffron Walden Museum  
 Digital Contents              "other"  
 Digital Media available      "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient      Saffron Walden Museum  
 Paper Contents                "other"  
 Paper Media available        "Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type              Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
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 details  
 Date                             2014  
 Issuer or publisher          ASE (Essex)  
 Place of issue                or Braintree, Essex  
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 Description                     Slim A4 bound report with text, figs, plate, etc

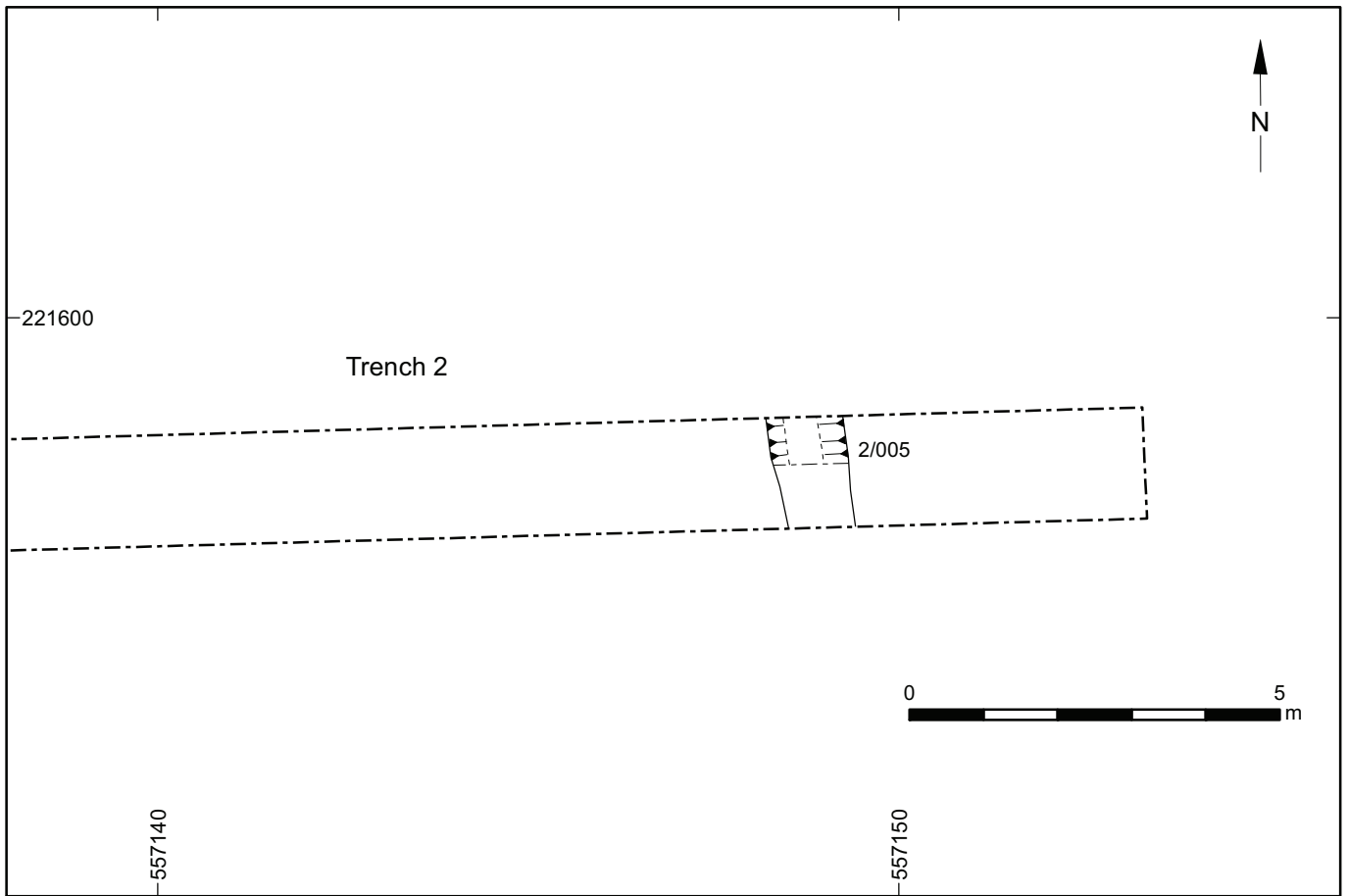
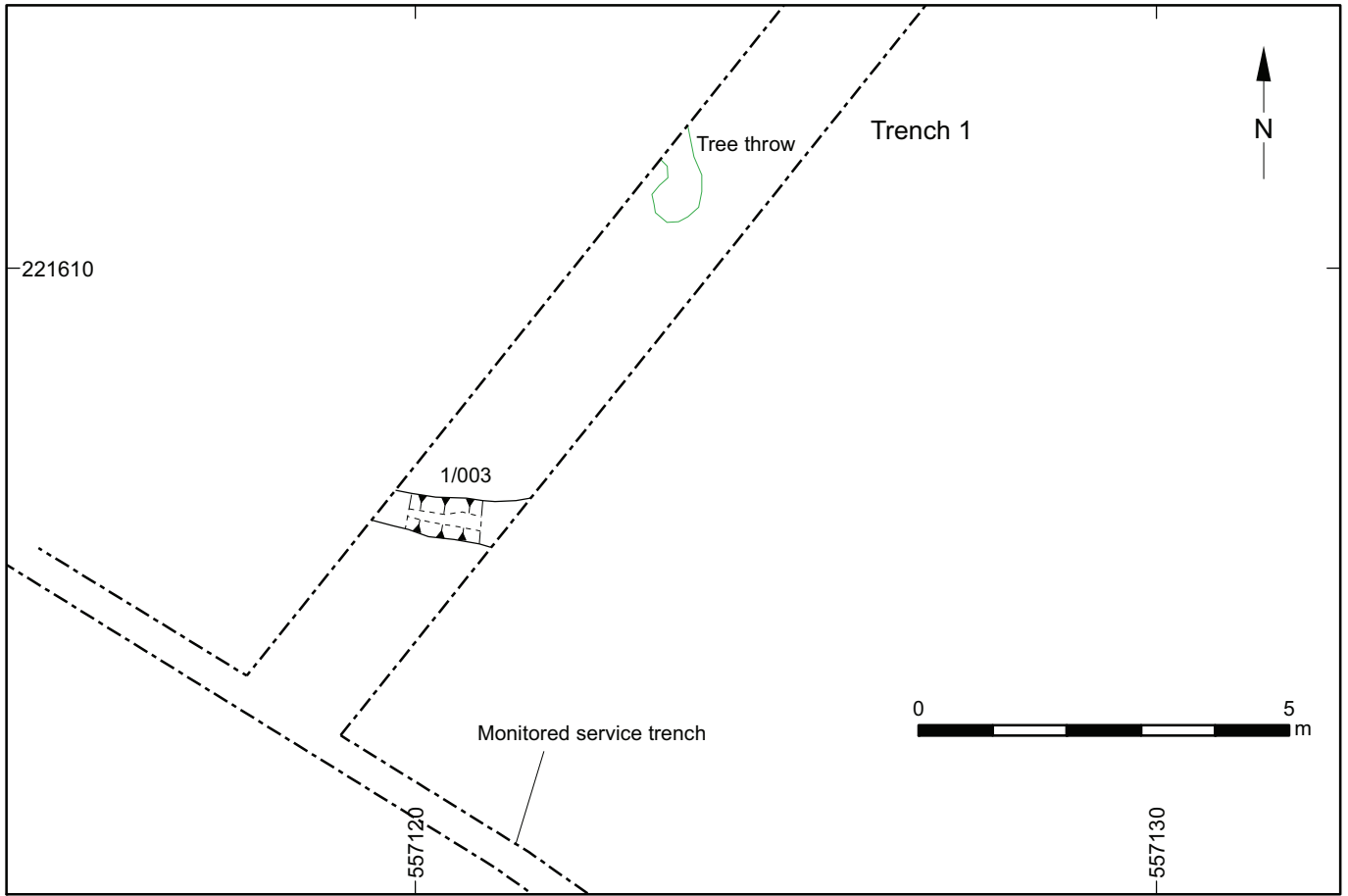
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 Entered on                      2 July 2014



© <b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Land at Oak Lodge, Jacks Lane, Takeley	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8192	Jun 2014	Location of archaeological evaluation trenches	
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Oak Lodge, Jacks Lane, Takeley	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8192	Jun 2014	Trenches 1 & 2	
Report Ref: 2014224	Drawn by: APL		



Figure 3: Trench 1 viewed to northeast (2m scale)



Figure 4: Feature [1/03] viewed to southeast (1m scale)



Figure 5: Trench 2 viewed to west (1m scale)



Figure 6: Ditch [2/05] viewed to north (1m scale)