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**LAND AT HIGHFIELD LODGE, WINDMILL HILL,
EXNING, SUFFOLK**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Matthew Adams BA (Report) Gareth Barlow MA (Fieldwork) Peter Thompson MA (Desk-based assessment)	
NGR: TL 6262 6598	Report No: 3690
District: Forest Heath	Site Code: EXG 095
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No: P4125
Signed:	Date: November 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at Highfield Lodge, Windmill Hill, Exning, Suffolk</i>		
<p><i>In November 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Highfield Lodge, Windmill Hill, Exning, Suffolk (NGR TL 626 659). The evaluation was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for demolition of an existing bungalow and the construction of a new residential dwelling and garage (Forest Heath District Council F/2010/0512/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	19 TH November 2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	4125	Site code	EXG095
Type of project	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Bungalow and garden		
Planned development	New dwelling and garage		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	Forest Heath	Exning
HER/ SMR for area	Suffolk HER (Bury St Edmunds)		
Post code (if known)	CB8 7PB		
Area of site	c.400m ²		
NGR	TL 6262 6598		
Height AOD (max/ min)	32m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Suffolk County Council (Jess Tipper)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Gareth Barlow		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Sutton		
Full title	<i>Land at Highfield Lodge, Windmill Hill, Exning, Suffolk An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Adams M., Thompson P.</i>		
Report no.	3690		
Date (of report)	November 2010		

LAND AT HIGHFIELD LODGE, WINDMILL HILL, EXNING, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Highfield Lodge, Windmill Hill, Exning, Suffolk (NGR TL 626 659). The evaluation was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of an existing bungalow and the construction of a new residential dwelling and garage (Forest Heath District Council F/2010/0512/FUL).

A ditch, probably for a hilltop enclosure, containing an assemblage of regionally-important Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery was excavated at The Highlands on Windmill Hill approximately 120m south-east of the site (EXG 028). Exning developed into a royal centre in the Middle Saxon period and an Early Saxon cemetery has been identified approximately 70m south-west of the site (EXG 005, Fig. 4 & Page 1911). Two Early Saxon inhumations were also found at The Highlands (EXG 028), indicating two cemeteries in close proximity or one large cemetery. Gravel pits were dug in the vicinity prior to the 20th century.

In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Highfield Lodge, Windmill Hill, Exning, Suffolk (NGR TL 6262 6598; Figs.1-2). The evaluation was conducted in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of an existing bungalow and the construction of a new residential dwelling and garage (Forest Heath District Council F/2010/0512/FUL). It was commissioned by DC Blayney Associates on behalf of Mr & Mrs Sutton.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (dated 04/10/2010), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 08/ 10/2010), and approved by SCC AS-CT. The evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation was to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened was studied, and attention was given to sites and remains of all periods. The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 Exning is situated 2km north-west of Newmarket in Suffolk, and is separated from it by the A14(T) trunk road. The site is located in a residential area on the east side of Exning and on the north side of Windmill Road. It currently comprises a bungalow surrounded by gardens and mature trees.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

3.1 Archaeological databases

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be affected by the development. Secondary sources were also consulted either at the Record Office (Bury St Edmunds) or from AS's own library. All sites within 500m and any other relevant sites within 1km are described in the text below (4.2).

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)

4.1.1 The site lies at 32m AOD on the north side of a hill. The local soils are calcareous loam derived from the underlying solid geology of chalk.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)

4.2.1 The earliest occupation evidence from within 500m of the site comprises Bronze Age pottery and worked flint from excavations at former Newmarket Isolation Hospital to the east (EXG 074). Crop marks of a possible ring ditch have also been noted on the Fordham Road (EXG 077), and a 43m diameter ring ditch or circular enclosure is also recorded in the area (EXG 016). At No.7 The Highlands, an archaeological trench was excavated across a large ditch and a pottery assemblage of regional importance dating mainly to the Early Iron Age, some a little earlier, was recovered (EXG 028). The ditch is believed to belong to a large hilltop enclosure of unknown extent. A 100m wide circular enclosure to the east of the site may also be prehistoric (EXG 015).

4.2.2 Excavations carried out in 1997 and 1998 at the former Isolation Hospital built on the Fordham Road in 1888 for patients with infectious diseases, found evidence of an extensive Roman settlement (EXG 074). Post-holes, pits and ditches were recorded, and artefacts including pottery, roof and flue tile, and metalwork including a 4th century coin were recovered. Crop marks of a rectilinear field system were also found at the Isolation Hospital site (EXG 033). They were laid down in two episodes probably in the Late 1st and then the late 2nd/early 3rd centuries AD. Roman pottery, including samian and colour coat wares, was found at The Island site in south Exning (EXG 010). More Roman finds have been made further to the west and south-west of the site and a Roman villa is located to the north towards Landwade (EXG 012).

4.2.3 Exning recorded as *Essellinge* at Domesday (1086) means 'settlement of the family or friends of Gyxen' (Mills 1991), and was an important centre in the Saxon period. Between 1894 and 1911 an Early Saxon cemetery containing inhumations with grave goods was excavated on Windmill Hill, approximately 70m west of the site, with the majority of burials centred on the 6th century (EXG 005 & Page 1911). Two Early Saxon inhumations were also found on Windmill Hill during digging of house footings at The Highlands some 120m south-east of the site (EXG 028). One was a warrior burial with iron spear and shield boss, the other was unaccompanied, and these indicate either two cemeteries in close proximity or a single large cemetery. An Early Saxon object is also reputed to have been found during metal detecting at the Isolation Hospital site (EXG 033). The Middle Saxon royal palace of the East Anglian King Anna was located at Exning, and the grounds of Hamilton Stud contain the site of St Wendreda's healing well (EXG 025). She was Anna's daughter and became the founding

Abbess of the Convent at Ely. Middle to Late Saxon pottery and evidence of wooden buildings have been identified from excavations by the A14(T) approximately 750m south-west of the site (EXG 052), and on The Island 50m south of that (EXG 010).

4.2.4 In the 13th century merchants from Exning set up a new market on the Cambridge to Bury St Edmunds Road which became the town of Newmarket surpassing Exning, particularly after receiving royal patronage in the 17th century. The excavations at The Island, Exning found a rectangular island surrounded by a moat, overlying the Saxon remains, which was dated by pottery to the 14th century (EXG 010). The Church of St Martin includes surviving 13th-14th architecture and decorative features (EXG 031), and possible medieval fish ponds have been identified approximately 750m south-west of the site (EXG 040). Medieval coins and metalwork and an undated gully were also found during an archaeological evaluation at Exeter Stables some 550m south-west of the site (EXG 056).

4.2.5 Exning House and park built in 1734 is located approximately 400m west of the site (EXG 0810). During WWII, Number 3 Group Bomber Command had its headquarters at Exning House and an airfield lay on Newmarket Heath to the south-west.

4.3 The site

Early maps of Suffolk

4.3.1 The 1902 Second Edition OS map shows the site approximately 400m east of Exning House (Fig. 4). There are gravel pits immediately to the north and a larger one to the west of the site. The 1926 Third Edition OS map shows that the larger gravel pit to the west is the site of the Early Saxon cemetery (EXG 005). The area around the site remains undeveloped.

5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

5.1 A single trial trench measuring 12.00 x 1.60m was excavated (Fig 2). The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, and adjacent to the existing dwelling.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a wheeled mechanical JCB excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Figs.2, 5 - 6)

<i>Sample Section 1: SE end, SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 32.60m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable organic silty sand with occasional angular to rounded flint gravel
0.20 – 0.35m	L1001. Subsoil. Dark orange brown, friable silty sand with moderate angular to rounded flint.
0.35m +	L1002. Natural. Pale orange, firm silty sand and fine gravel with patches of mid orange grey sandy silt with frequent angular and rounded flint
<i>Sample Section 2: NW end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 32.47m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000. Topsoil. As Above.
0.20 – 0.35	L1001. Subsoil. As Above.
0.35m +	L1002. Natural. As Above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 1. A modern drain pipe servicing the existing building was located in the north of the trench aligned NE/SW.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds during the excavation.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil L1000 was the uppermost layer within the trench. It was a dark grey brown, friable organic silty sand with occasional angular to rounded flint gravel. Its depth was consistent (0.20m).

8.2 Below L1000, Subsoil L1001 was a dark orange brown, friable silty sand with moderate angular to rounded flint (0.15m thick).

8.3 The natural drift geology, L1002, was present below the subsoil. It was a pale orange, firm silty sand and fine gravel with patches of mid orange grey sandy silt with frequent angular and rounded flint (0.35m below the present ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The potential for multiphase remains at this location was high given its close proximity to an Early Saxon cemetery (EXG 005) and a large early Iron Age ditch across the road at No.7 The Highland (EXG 028). Significant pre-historic, Roman, Saxon and medieval remains are also present within 500m of the site.

9.2 The evaluation targeted the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, where it extended beyond the footprint of the existing bungalow. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the Suffolk County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for his input and advice.

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WEB SITES

Heritage Gateway (Suffolk HER info)

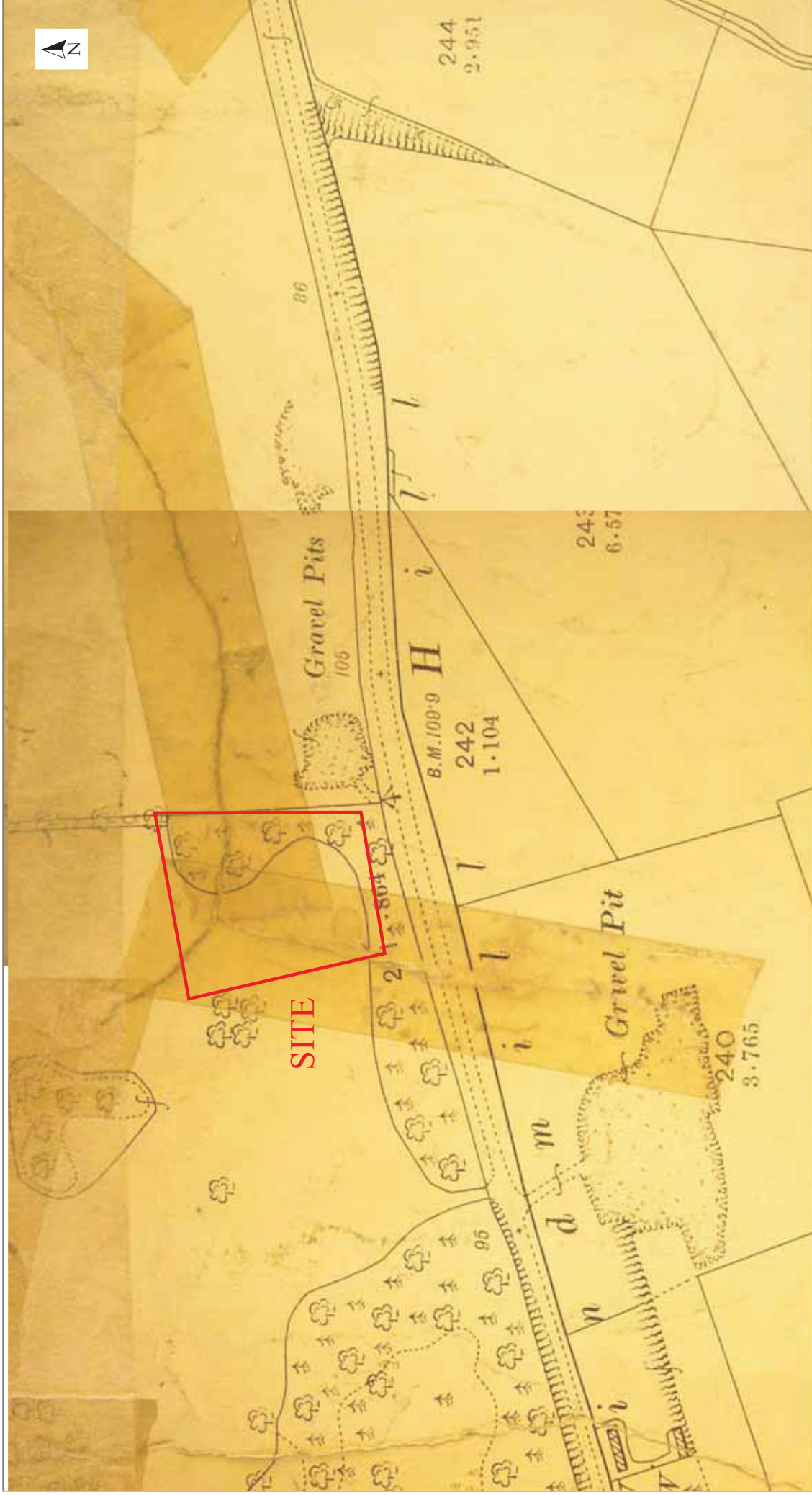
APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Map Description	Date	Scale
Site location (OS Explorer)	Modern	1:25,000
Detailed site location	Modern	1:250
Second Edition OS	1902	1:2,500
OS	1926	1:2,500



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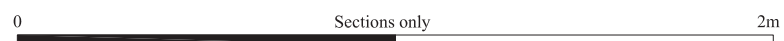
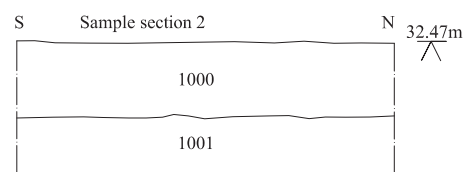
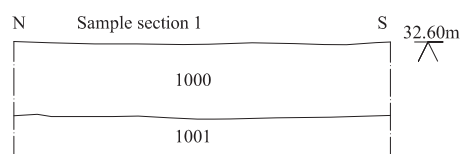
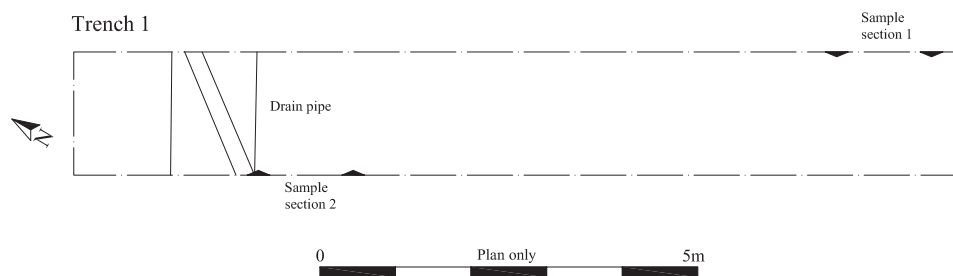
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 3 OS map, 1901



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Fig. 5 Plan and sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4

