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LAND AT JUNCTION OF CREETING ROAD AND MILL STREET, CEDARS PARK, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Tim Schofield HND BSc (Fieldwork & report)					
NGR: TM 063 589	Report No: 3703				
District: Mid Suffolk	Site Code: SKT 059				
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 986				
Signed:	Date: Dec 2010				

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details

Project name	Land at Junction of Creeting Road & Mill Street, Stowmarket,
	Suffolk

Project description (250 words)

In December 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at the junction of Creeting Road and Mill Street, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk (NGR TM 063 589). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of a proposed junction alteration.

The development area is affected by the alteration of the junction between Mill Road and Creeting Road; this will particularly impact on the north-west corner of the field to the south of the junction (Cedars Park Phase 10). An evaluation of the rest of this field revealed a low level of activity with the greatest density of medieval finds from pits (mainly extraction pits) in the area immediately adjacent to the present development proposal (T Ennis 2009).

Previous phases of investigation at Cedars Park have revealed a middle to late Iron Age settlement, a late Iron Age and Roman farmstead and several areas of dispersed medieval settlement.

The evaluation comprised two trial trenches. Though the trenches were relatively close together, the archaeological features were only present in Trench 1. The features were broad in range comprising ditches, pits and post holes, and they were quite dense (six in one 40m-long trench). The larger features, Ditches F1003 and F1006, contained relatively large medieval (12th – 14th C) pottery assemblages (27 and 58 sherds respectively). A few other finds (CBM, animal bone and oyster shell) were also present. An adjacent excavation (Cedars Park Phase 4C) has also revealed medieval features. It seems likely that the medieval (12th/14th C) features and finds relate to settlement fronting either Creeting or Mill Road, both of which are potentially early routes.

Due in at all at a a (find above and a)	D 0040				
Project dates (fieldwork)	Dec 2010		1.,		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Υ	Future work (Y/N/?)	Υ		
P. number	986	Site code	SKT 059	9	
Type of project	An archaeol	logical evaluation			
Site status	-				
Current land use	Arable				
Planned development	Alterations t	to road junction			
Main features (+dates)	Ditches, pit	s, post holes			
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval po	ottery			
Project location					
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	Mid Suffolk	3	Stowmarket	
HER/ SMR for area	Suffolk SMF	7			
Post code (if known)	-				
Area of site	c.2000m2				
NGR	TM 063 589)			
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.45m AOD				
Project creators					
Brief issued by	Suffolk Cou	nty Council Archaeolog	ical Servic	e	
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Tim Schofie	ld			
Funded by	Crest Nicho	Ison Residential (Easte	rn) Ltd.		
Full title	Land at Jun	ction of Creeting Road	and Mill S	treet, Cedars Park,	
	Stowmarket, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation				
Authors	Tim Schofie	eld			
Report no.	3703				
Date (of report)	December 2	2010			

LAND AT JUNCTION OF CREETING ROAD AND MILL STREET, CEDARS PARK, STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In December 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at the junction of Creeting Road and Mill Street, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk (NGR TM 063 589). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of a proposed junction alteration.

The development area is affected by the alteration of the junction between Mill Road and Creeting Road; this will particularly impact on the north-west corner of the field to the south of the junction (Cedars Park Phase 10). An evaluation of the rest of this field revealed a low level of activity with the greatest density of medieval finds from pits (mainly extraction pits) in the area immediately adjacent to the present development proposal (T Ennis 2009).

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In December 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at the junction of Creeting Road and Mill Street, Cedars Park, Stowmarket, Suffolk (NGR TM 063 589) (Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd. prior to proposed alteration of the road junction.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with advice issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (dated 22nd November 2010), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 25th November 2010), and approved by SCCAS-CT. The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of

Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify areas of previous ground disturbance on the site.

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

2.1 The Cedars Park development lies to the east and north-east of Stowmarket, on the uplands and valley sides above the river Gipping (Figs. 1 & 2). The site lies at a height of c.44m AOD. The underlying geology of the area is Upper Chalk (BGS 1985), overlain by boulder clay (BGS 1991) and clayey calcareous soils of the Hanslope association (SSEW 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Large areas adjacent to the site have already been subject to archaeological evaluation and excavation over the last decade prior to earlier phases of the Cedars Park development. Previous phases of investigation at Cedars Park have revealed a middle to late Iron Age settlement, a late Iron Age and Roman farmstead and several areas of dispersed medieval settlement. The adjacent excavation and current evaluation revealed medieval archaeology, and therefore the background focuses on this period.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval (AD 410 – 1550)

3.2 In the early Anglo-Saxon period the claylands of Suffolk appear to have been abandoned, with no evidence of settlement (West 1999). The earliest Anglo-Saxon occupation was confined to more easily-cultivated soils, despite the managed landscapes that had emerged since the Iron Age. No evidence for occupation is known in the vicinity of Cedars Park until Stowmarket itself emerges into the historical

record as *Thorna*, *Thornea* or *Stow Thorny* in the late Anglo-Saxon period. By the time of Domesday, it was a well-established urban centre with a market and a minster church and was part of the royal manor of Thorney, held directly by Edward the Confessor and subsequently by William I. The present site is located *c*. 2km northeast of the historic town.

- 3.3 Medieval occupation is archaeologically attested by the presence nearby of several moated sites. One of 12th 14th century date, with some evidence of structures within the moated enclosure, has been excavated at Cedars Field, to the south of the present site (SMR SKT011; Anderson 2004). Excavations ahead of previous phases of the Cedars Park development have identified significant evidence of dispersed medieval settlement on the hillside to the north of the river Gipping. In Phase 5B (SMR SKT040) and 5C (SMR SKT038 & SKT043) (Mundin and Woolhouse 2006a & b; Woolhouse forthcoming), a series of regular rectangular plots flanking the Creeting Road were excavated. Within the roadside plots were quarry and rubbish pits, cobbled surfaces and the remains of at least two buildings. The main phase of activity appears to have been in the 13th 14th century. In Phase 4A (SMR SKT036), a small enclosed farmstead, also of 13th 14th century date, has been excavated (Hallybone & McConnell 2005; Woolhouse forthcoming).
- 3.4 The development area is affected by the alteration of the junction between Mill Road and Creeting Road; this will particularly impact on the north-west corner of the field to the south (Cedars Park Phase 10). An evaluation of the rest of this field revealed a low level of activity with the greatest density of medieval finds from pits (mainly extraction pits) in the area immediately adjacent to the present development proposal (T Ennis 2009). Some narrow linear features of probable agricultural origin similar to those identified elsewhere at Cedars Park were also recorded. An adjacent excavation (Cedars Park Phase 4C) has revealed medieval features.

Post-medieval (c. 1550 – present)

3.5 Sheepcote Hall, to the south-east of the current site, seems to have been of some local significance, being shown on maps from the late 18th century. Stowmarket benefited from the opening of the Gipping Navigation to barges in 1793 and the arrival of the Ipswich to Bury railway in 1846. Industry in Stowmarket included ironworking and the production of fertiliser and explosives, but was dominated by malting. Agricultural features of uncertain date, but probably the remnants of post-medieval drainage channels, were identified during the Cedars Park Phase 4A excavations, 200m west of the site (Marshall and Nicholson 2005). Mid-19th century ditches corresponding to field boundaries shown on the 1839 Tithe Map were also found.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Two trenches measuring 30 40m x 1.8m were excavated (Fig. 2). The trenches avoided the low area at the southern end of the site adjacent to Creeting Road as this has been shown to be largely so due to quarry pits (Ennis 2009).
- 4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated. 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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

,	1: south-east end
0.00 = 44.52m	AOD
0.00 - 0.30m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark yellow brown silty clay with occasional flint
0.30m+	L1002. Natural. Yellow clay and chalk with moderate medium -
	large flint nodules.

Sample section	2: north-east end
0.00 = 45.80m	AOD
0.00 - 0.37m	L1000. Topsoil. As above
0.37 – 0.57m	L1001. Subsoil. Mid orange brown clayey silt with moderate chalk
	flecks and occasional flint
0.57m+	L1002. Natural. Yellow clay and chalk as above

Description: Trench 1 contained two ditches (F1003 & F1006), two pits (F1009 & F1013), a pit or post holes (F1011) and Post Hole F1015.

F1003 was a large linear ditch ($2.60m + x 1.89m \times 0.54m$) orientated NW/SE. It had an irregular profile and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1004, was a dark yellow brown clayey silt with frequent small, medium and large flint nodules and moderate chalk flecks. It contained medieval pottery ($13^{th} - 14^{th}$ C; 171g), animal bone (55g) clinker (65g) and shell (342g). The upper fill, L1005, was a firm mid yellowish brown clayey silt with frequent medium – large flint nodules and moderate chalk flecks. It contained medieval pottery ($13^{th} - 14^{th}$ C; 76g) and shell (8g). The ditch was not present in Trench 2.

F1006 was a linear ditch (2.50m+ x 0.73m x 0.60m) orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its basal fill, L1008, was a light yellow brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and small flint. It contained medieval pottery (mid $12^{th} - 13^{th}$ C; 84g), and shell (38g). The upper fill, L1007, was a compact mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks and small flint. It contained medieval pottery (mid $12^{th} - 13^{th}$ C; 352g), CBM (10g), animal bone (89g) and shell (73g). The ditch was not recorded in Trench 2. F1006 was cut by a modern field drain.

Pit F1009 was oval (0.76m x 0.74+m x 0.30m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1010, was a dark yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional small - medium flint nodules. It contained no finds.

Pit / Post Hole F1011 was subcircular (0.43m x 0.40+m x 0.17m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a dark yellow brown clayey silt with occasional small - medium flint nodules. It contained no finds.

Pit F1013 was oval (0.40m x 0.77+m x 0.41m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1014, was a mid yellowish brown clayey silt with moderate small, medium and large flint nodules. It contained oyster shell (7g).

Post Hole F1015 was subcircular (0.36m x 0.30m x 0.12m). It had steep sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1016, was a dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small flint. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 3)

Sample section	3: South-east end
0.00 = 44.19m	AOD
0.00 - 0.30m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1002. Natural. Yellow clay and chalk. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 0.00 = 44.21m	4: North-east end AOD
0.00 - 0.38	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.38 - 0.50m	L1001. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.50m+	L1002. Natural. Yellow clay and chalk. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 At the south-eastern ends of Trenches 1 and 2 Topsoil L1000 directly overlay the natural, L1002. L1000 comprised a dark yellow brown clayey silt with occasional flint (0.30m thick). In each trench on the north-eastern side of the site, Subsoil L1001 intervened between the topsoil and the natural. L1001 was a colluvial deposit and comprised a mid orange brown clayey silt with moderate chalk flecks and occasional flint (0.12 - 0.24m thick). The natural, L1002, was a yellow clay and chalk with medium - large flint nodules, and was located 0.30 - 0.57m below the present day ground surface.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The following archaeological features were recorded:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	1003	Ditch	13 th – 14 th C
	1006	Ditch	Mid 12 th – 13 th C
	1009	Pit	-
	1011	Pit / Post Hole	-
	1013	Pit	-
	1015	Post Hole	-

- 8.2 Though the trenches were relatively close together, the archaeological features were only present in Trench 1. The features were broad in range comprising ditches, pits and post holes, and they were quite dense (six in one 40m-long trench). The larger features, Ditches F1003 and F1006, contained relatively large medieval (12th 14th century) pottery assemblages (27 and 58 sherds respectively). A few other finds (CBM, animal bone and oyster shell) were also present. Oyster shell was contained in three features (F1003, F1006 and F1013), predominantly medieval contexts. Previous excavations at Cedars Park have produced large quantities of shell (mostly oyster) from Roman, medieval and post-medieval features. Oyster and other shellfish were a popular food in the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods in Britain and commonly occur on archaeological sites.
- 8.3 The site will be affected by the alteration of the junction between Mill Road and Creeting Road; particularly the north-western corner of the field to the south (Cedars Park Phase 10). An evaluation of the rest of this field revealed a low level of activity with the greatest density of medieval finds from pits (mainly extraction pits) in the area immediately adjacent to the present development proposal (T Ennis 2009). Some narrow linear features of probable agricultural origin similar to those identified elsewhere at Cedars Park were also recorded. An adjacent excavation (Cedars Park Phase 4C) has revealed medieval features. It seems likely that the medieval (12th/14th C) features and finds relate to settlement fronting either Creeting or Mill Road, both of which are potentially early routes.
- 8.4 The discovery of medieval features is interesting and could be related to the other evidence of medieval activity in Cedars Park found during previous phases of the development. The medieval activity identified in the Phase 4 North-East, 5B and 5C development areas was 13th 14th century in date (Woolhouse forthcoming) and seems to represent an expansion of settlement during the population growth of the 12th and 14th centuries. Relevant research issues for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods include the definition and dating of different elements in the medieval settlement pattern, the origins of field systems, the recovery of ground plans of medieval rural buildings in order to chart the evolution of the medieval house and farmstead, and the need to study rural craft production (Wade in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 23-6).

9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at the Suffolk County Archaeology 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.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd. for commissioning this evaluation (in particular Messrs Gerry Bamonte and Matt Parsons for their assistance).

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, particularly Ms Judith Plouviez.

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CONCORDANCE OF FINDS APPENDIX 1

P986: Land at Junction of Creeting Road & Mill Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk Concordance of finds by feature

								A.Bone	
Feature	Context	Feature Context Segment	Trench	Trench Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	(g)	Other
1001			1	Subsoil	12th - 14th C	(1) 1g		35	
0				. :		(16)			
1003	1004			Ditch	13th - 14th C	1/1g		99	
									Shell 342g
									Clinker 65g
	1005					(11) 76g	2		Shell 8g
						(52)			
1006	1007		_	Ditch	Mid 12th - 13th C	352g	10	88	Shell 73g
	1008				Mid 12th - 13th C	(6) 84g			Shell 38g
1009	1010			Pit					
1013	1014			Pit					Shell 7g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 86 lightly to moderately abraded sherds weighing 674g. All of the pottery came from two ditches, with the exception of one unstratified sherd, weighing 4g, recovered from the subsoil. The whole assemblage comprises medieval coarse wares with the exception of a Hedingham Fine Ware jug rim from Ditch F1006 (L1008). Fifty-two sherds (60%) are of similar fabric to Hollesley-type wares (Anderson 2004, 19 & 2006, 2), with E4 developed jar or bowl rims the most common form (Anderson 2006, Fig.19). One Hollesley-type vessel contains applied clay strips and incised decoration, with two conjoinining sherds coming respectively from L1007 and L1008 of Ditch F1006 indicating that both fills are of the same date. The fabrics and forms are of similar type to those found during excavations in earlier phases at Cedar's Park, Stowmarket, and at Cedar's Field, Stowmarket. The pottery assemblage is quantified below (Table 1).

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KEY:

MCW1: Medieval Coarse Ware (medium sand) 12th-14th

MCW2: Medieval Coarse Ware (coarse sand) 12th-14th

MCFW: Medieval Coarse Ware with flint (coarse sand and very coarse flint) 12th-14th MCSW: Medieval Coarse Ware with shell (medium to coarse sand, sparse shell) 12th-14th

HEDF: Hedingham Fine Ware (mid 12th-13th)

HOLL2: Hollesley-type Ware 13th-14th

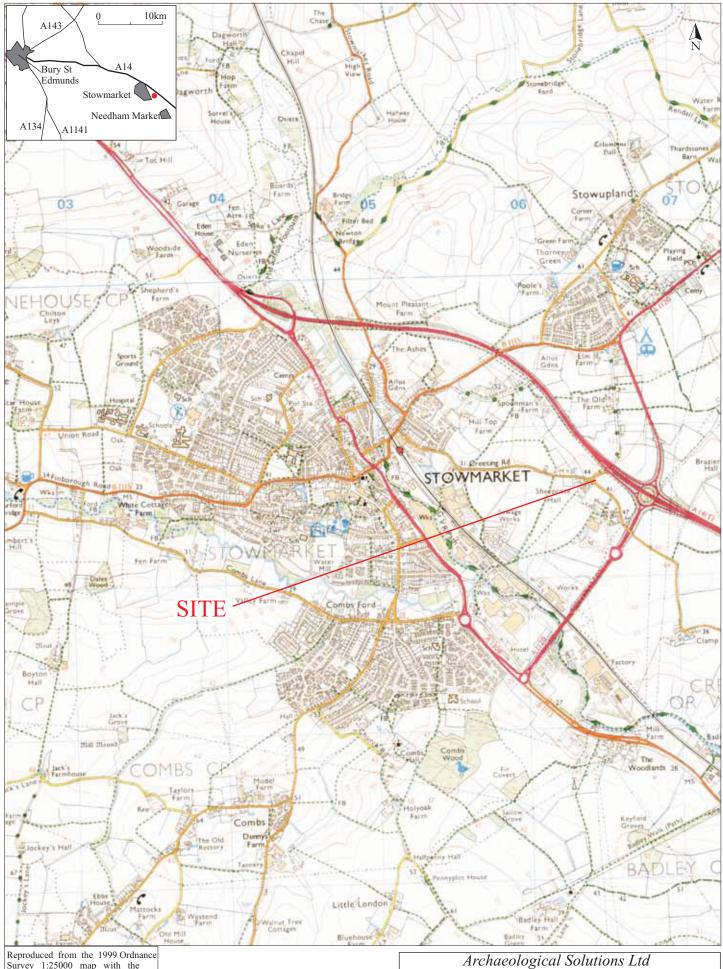
Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Subsoil 1001		1x4g MCW1	12 th -14 th	
Ditch 1003	1004	6x60g MCW1 1x10g MCW2 1x23g MCFW 7x70g HOLL	13 th -14 th	MCFW: E4 jar rim
	1005	6x31g MCW1 2x18g MCW2 3x24g HOLL	13 th -14 th	HOLL: E3 ?bowl rim
Ditch 1006	1007	2x16g MCFW 5x37g MCW1 2x20g MCW2 1x8g MCFW 43x273g HOLL	Mid 12 th -13 th	MCFW: conjoining D1 jar rim sherds HOLL: applied clay strip conjoins with L1008 sherd. E4 jar rim, B3 bowl rim, C5 bowl rim, D3 bowl rim, x3 incised, same vessel, 1x1 sagging base
	1008	1x8g HEDF 3x42g MCW 1x13g HOLL 1x17g HOLL?	Mid 12 th -13 th	HEDF: jug rim, clear glaze MCW: E4-type jar rim HOLL: applied clay strip and incised deco. Conjoins with L1007 sherd HOLL?: also contains sparse burnt organics

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

SKT 059 Creeting Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk TT Concordance of Samples

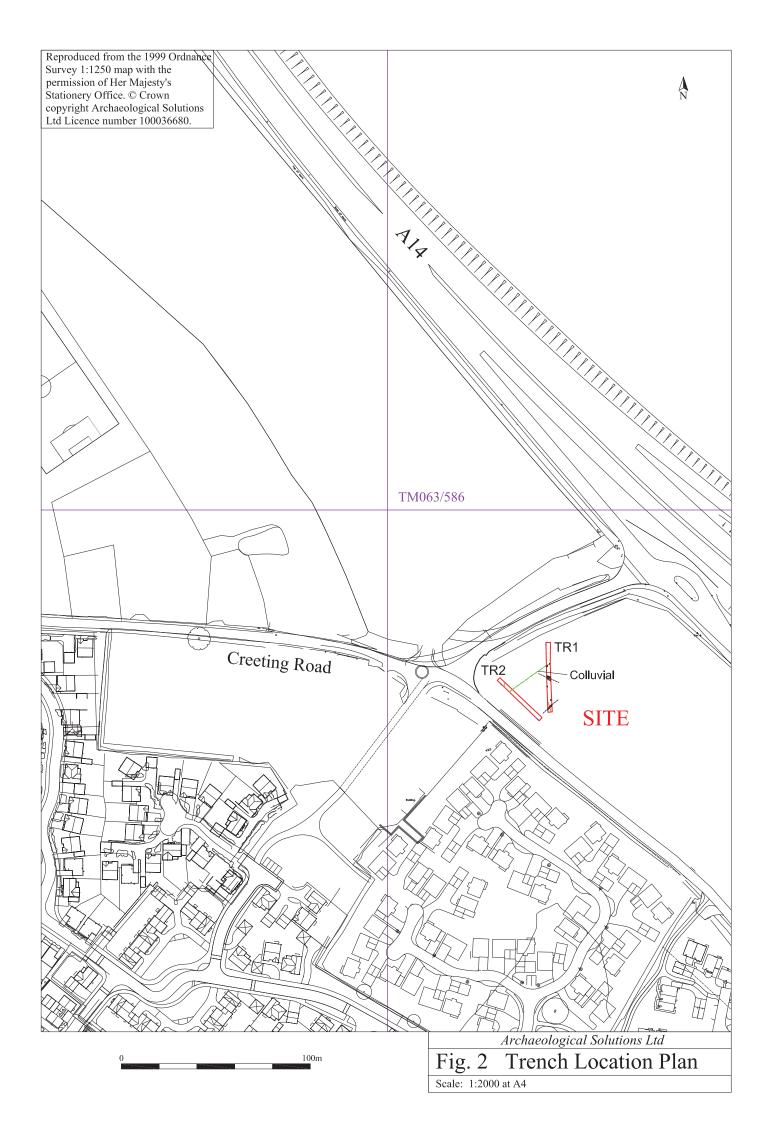
Sample	Size (I)	Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Flot (ml)
					Mid 12th - 13th	
1	40	1006	1007	Ditch Fill	С	N/A
2	40	1003	1004	Ditch Fill	13th - 14th C	N/A
					Mid 12th - 13th	
3	20	1006	1008	Ditch Fill	С	N/A
4	40	1009	1010	Pit Fill		N/A
5	20	1011	1012	Pit Fill		N/A
6	40	1013	1014	Pit Fill		N/A
7	10	1015	1016	Pit Fill		N/A

No Flots were recovered from the floation process and the concordance is therefore negative



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



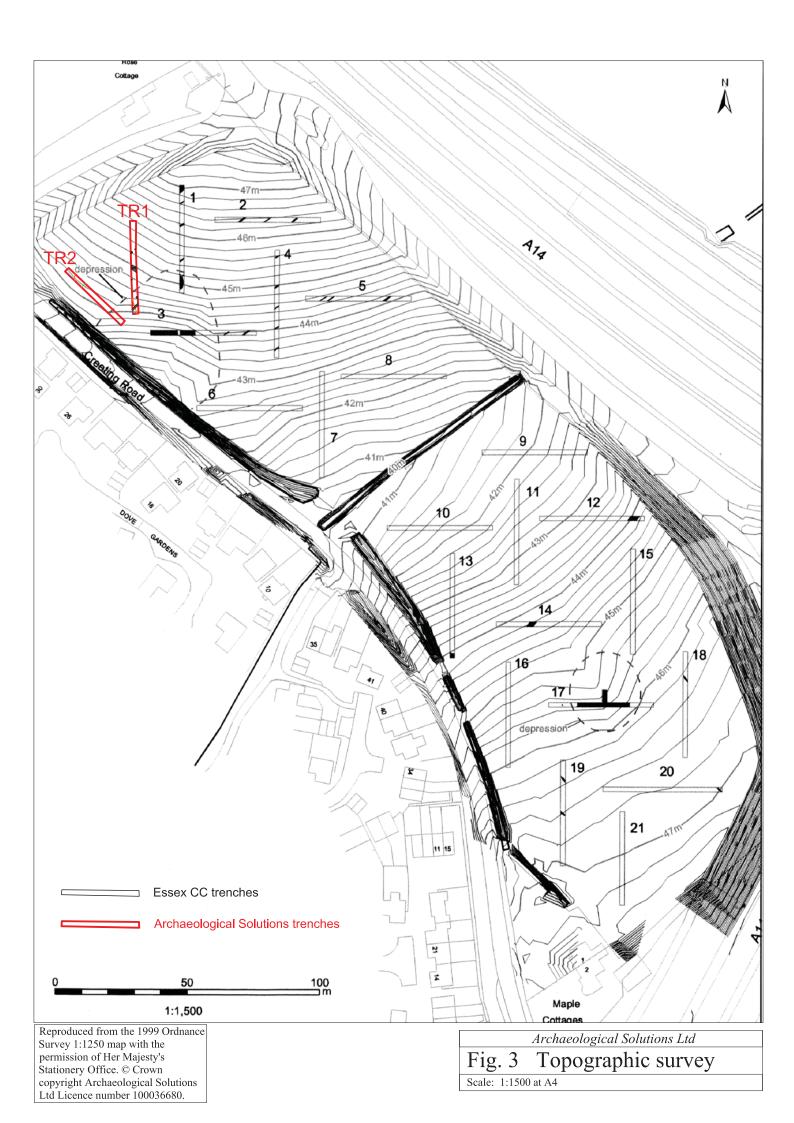


Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3