

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:
ERSKINE LODGE, STANNINGFIELD ROAD,
GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK (PHASE 1)**

Planning Reference: DC/15/2277/HYB
NGR: TL 87791 60345
AAL Site Code: GWSR 16
HER Parish Code: WLG 037
Event number: ESF24807
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-262766



Report prepared for Dove Jeffery Homes Limited

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number AAL 2017179

December 2017



Allenarchaeology



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Document Control

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Version no.:	2.0	23/01/2018

Cover image: Phase 1 after levelling, looking northwest

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Dove Jeffery Homes Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of planning consent for the groundworks for a residential development on land at Erskine Lodge, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk.
- Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on groundworks in Phase 1, within areas not previously developed, as per the agreed specification of works. Excavation of two service easements was also undertaken within Phase 2 and recorded a number of Roman burials and associated features. The results of this work will be included within a future report following the completion of the ongoing full excavation of the Phase 2 area.
- No archaeological remains or artefacts were revealed in any of the monitored groundworks within Phase 1, with a sequence of modern overburden over natural deposits consistently recorded across the site. This would appear to confirm the findings of the previous work in that landscaping and subsequent truncation due to recent development has taken place across this site, given the Roman remains identified in the less disturbed Phase 2 area.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Dove Jeffery Homes Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks for a residential development on the Phase 1 area of land at Erskine Lodge, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk in order to fulfil an associated planning condition.
- 1.2 This report outlines the results of the Phase 1 archaeological monitoring. Work undertaken on excavation of two service easements in Phase 2 will be included in a future report that will include the results of the full excavation of Phase 2, which is currently in progress.
- 1.3 The fieldwork and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a), Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service '*Requirements for archaeological excavation*' (SCCAS 2012) and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015). The work was carried out with reference to regionally identified research aims (Medlycott 2011). A specification for the works was also prepared (AAL 2016c).
- 1.4 The documentation and records generated by the monitoring and recording were assembled in accordance with the national guidance set out in '*Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*' (AAF 2011). The documentary and physical archive will be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archive within six months of the completion of the report in accordance with *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition* (SCCAS Conservation Team 2014).

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Great Whelnetham is situated in the St. Edmundsbury district of Suffolk, approximately 3km south of Bury St. Edmunds and 48km east of Cambridge. The proposed development area is in the northeastern part of the modern village (Figure 1). It lies on the western side of Stanningsfield Road and is centred on NGR TL 87791 60345.
- 2.2 The local bedrock geology comprises Cretaceous deposits belonging to the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation, whilst superficial Lacustrine deposits of clay and silt have been recorded (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A hybrid application for planning permission was made to Suffolk County Council for a new housing development on land at Erskine Lodge, Stanningsfield Road, Great Whelnetham. The development was planned to comprise two phases of work: Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 comprises an area c.0.65ha in size and has been previously developed with the lodge footprint occupying c.22% of the development area. Phase 2 encompasses the adjacent field to the west of the lodge and occupies c.1.5ha of undeveloped land and will be reported on separately (Figure 2).
- 3.2 Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) advised that an evaluation, comprising a geophysical survey of Phase 2 and trenching on both phases, should be undertaken prior to any

decision on subsequent mitigation. The geophysical survey was completed in January 2016 (AAL 2016a) followed by evaluation trenching of Phase 1 in January 2016 and Phase 2 in February 2016 (AAL 2016b). Following the results of the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, SCCAS provided the following advice pertinent to Phase 1:

'Within Phase 1, continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks involved with the construction of the access road and any new footings and services which fall outside the existing footprint of Erksine Lodge, will be required.'

- 3.3 This is in accordance with this specification and the Department of Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 3.4 This report covers the work undertaken in Phase 1, with the results of the archaeological remains uncovered in the service runs to be included in the report which will follow full excavation of the Phase 2 area, currently in progress.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The development site lies within an area of significant archaeological potential, being near the banks of the River Lark, in a topographically favourable position for early occupation and there is a considerable history of Roman remains and artefacts in the wider area.
- 4.2 The earliest evidence for human activity in the wider area was the recovery of two collections of early prehistoric lithics (WLG 024), found with an assemblage of mammal bones and recovered from a pit (WLL 007). Two concentric/circular ring ditches (RBK 007 and 008) have also been identified by cropmarks c.600m north-northwest of the site, although undated they have been recorded as prehistoric in date on the basis of their morphology.
- 4.3 An extensive Roman settlement with burials, including cremation burials, was recorded within close proximity and overlying Erksine Lodge (WLG 002–005). Work in the 1980s revealed 1st-4th century pottery, metal finds and a 1st century coin during building work at 24 Erskine Lodge (WLG 005).
- 4.4 Excavations on the banks of a tributary for the River Lark in 1964 found the continuation of the Roman settlement to the east of the development site (WLG 007).
- 4.5 Recent evaluation work on land associated with the lodge and in the adjacent field revealed a high level of made ground and truncation surrounding the lodge itself (AAL 2016b); however the adjacent field revealed ditches, pits and inhumations of Roman date suggesting more extensive settlement survives within the area of the Phase 2 works.
- 4.6 Roman kilns and multiple Roman finds scatters have also been recovered from the immediate vicinity, including over 600 Roman coins found c.60m west of Phase 1, just outside the Phase 2 area (WLG 018). This may suggest that the area was widely occupied in the Roman period.
- 4.7 There is some evidence for early medieval activity in the area. A Saxon pewter disc brooch has been recovered c.50m northwest of Phase 1 (WLG 016). There is very little evidence for the etymology of the *Great Whelnetham*; however, one suggestion is for the translation of 'swan enclosure by a waterwheel.' *Elfitu*, Anglian for swan, *ham* in Old English as land hemmed in by water or marsh (perhaps also by high ground); a river-meadow; cultivated plot on the edge of woodland or moor and *hwēol*, the Old English for a wheel or in this instance a water-wheel (Watts *et al.* 2006).

- 4.8 Great Whelnetham is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, as 'In (Great and Little) Whelnetham and contained 1 free man commended to Bishop *Æthelmær*. In the soke of St Edmund held 40 acres' and another *Asgot* is referenced as holding a manor, 4 acres of meadow and part of a church (Williams and Martin 2002). This indicates that by the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086 Great Whelnetham was an established settlement. The village church of St. Thomas a Becket was established in the 13th century (WLG 006).
- 4.9 The post-medieval period would have seen change for the village, with the establishment of Rushbrooke Park around the former moated site of Rushbrooke Hall (RBK 016) 0.5km northwest of the development site.
- 4.10 Part of the site also occupies the floodplain of the River Lark, where there is potential for the survival of waterlogged artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains, with recorded Hoxnian deposits in the local area (WLL 008). Recent evaluation has, however, not produced any supporting evidence for such remains (AAL 2016b).
- 4.11 Geophysical survey of the adjacent Phase 2 area identified potential archaeological features such as possible ditches, former boundaries, paths, pits, soil-filled hollows or former ponds. The survey also revealed a large amount of magnetic noise across the site, which was considered to be potentially masking further archaeological features (AAL 2016a).
- 4.12 Subsequent evaluation trenching within this area revealed a relatively low density of pits, ditches and postholes across the site, albeit with archaeological remains noted in every trench apart from one (AAL 2016b). Dating evidence was recovered from roughly half of the features exposed, the majority of which dated to the Roman period, ranging from the 1st century to 4th century AD. Over half of the pottery assemblage was recovered from a pit in Trench 2, potentially representing structured deposition. A single articulated burial was exposed in Trench 5, dateable by Roman ceramics (AAL 2016b). The proposed service easements were positioned in proximity to evaluation Trenches 1–7, all of which contained archaeological remains. Most significantly is the proximity to the inhumation within Trench 5, which suggests a high risk of impacting on further burials and associated deposits.
- 4.13 Intrusive evaluation comprising evaluation trenches and test pits adjacent to Erskine Lodge (AAL 2016b), revealed deep deposits of made ground (c.0.7m thick) below modern deposits suggesting the site immediately around the current building had been heavily landscaped. Artefacts of Roman date were however recovered from the topsoil within this site and it is quite likely that Roman remains were present prior to the landscaping, with occasional finds then incorporated into the newly deposited topsoil. A series of geotechnical pits were also excavated near the Lodge and were monitored archaeologically, with a similar sequence of made ground noted.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The purpose of the watching brief on Phase 1 was to record any archaeological remains encountered before destruction by development, in line with fulfilling the archaeological conditions of the planning consent.

6.0 Methodology

- 6.1 The development methodology entailed creation of new residential housing on 23 plots using auger displacement piling methodology (Figure 2), which followed Historic England best

practise advice (Historic England 2015b). Auger displacement piling is considered one of the least destructive methods of piling with low potential for concrete migration and limited impact from vibration (Historic England 2015b, 27). Piling was planned to form less than 2.5% of the building design, and following discussion with SCCAS at a previous meeting, it was not considered a necessary part of the monitoring works due to the nature of the work and limited opportunity to record or retrieve archaeological information.

- 6.2 Prior to any excavation, the Phase 1 site was prepared by levelling and elevating the existing ground surface by c.200mm across the development, including demolition of the existing Erskine Lodge building. Piles were subsequently tied into ground beams for each house plot, with the excavation for ground beams extending to c.750mm (c.44.30m OD) below the elevated ground surface (following stoning up by c.200mm) and were dug with a mechanical excavator fitted with a c.0.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket.
- 6.3 Natural geology is known to be present at between c.44.0–44.4m OD, overlain by made ground and topsoil and therefore excavation trenching for the ground beams varied between lying within made ground, and at its shallowest levels potentially exposing the truncated remains of any surviving archaeology (AAL 2016b). Service trenches were also excavated across the site and were a similar depth and width.
- 6.4 An experienced field archaeologist was present during all the groundworks that had the potential to disturb archaeological remains. This included both service trenches and excavation for ground beams that exceeds the known depth of made ground, which extends to c.44.30m OD across the site. Monitoring was not undertaken on ground already disturbed by the footprint of the lodge building or the associated existing road, nor where it did not exceed the known depth of initial overburden reduction (Figure 2 and Figure 3).
- 6.5 During the fieldwork the monitoring archaeologist inspected all available exposed plan and section surfaces, with a view to undertake the limited, rapid excavation of any surviving archaeological remains for artefact recovery and clarity of the shape and orientation of the features. Service and ring beam trenches and all resulting spoil were also periodically scanned with a metal detector to aid in the recovery of finds.
- 6.6 Fieldwork was undertaken intermittently as areas became available, by an experienced field archaeologist between, Tuesday 4th May and Friday 28th April 2017.
- 6.7 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. The deposit sequence was drawn in plan and section at an appropriate scale (1:20 and 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Full colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, and all photographs, except general site shots, incorporated scales, an identification board and directional arrow.
- 6.8 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique three-digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1.

7.0 Results

- 7.1 Prior to undertaking monitoring work, the former Erskine Lodge building was demolished and reduced to below ground level, with the foundations grubbed out. Topsoil through the rest of Phase 1 area was also removed and the ground surface levelled and stoned up by approximately 200–230mm. As agreed, this work was not monitored (AAL 2016c).

- 7.2 The levels of made ground, natural geology and area of potential archaeological interest across Phase 1 has been previously established (AAL 2016b), with 0.05–0.3m of topsoil known to overlie between 0.3–0.85m of made ground, which in turn overlies natural geology. This pattern was seen to be repeated during monitoring (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Representative section through service run, looking west

- 7.3 Within the monitored works, natural geology was rarely noted and comprised the same sandy gravel, 102, recorded in previous evaluation trenching. As with previous work, natural geology was overlain throughout the site by made ground, 101, comprising compacted sandy gravel with frequent stones, ceramic building material and occasional modern material.
- 7.4 Made ground is known to extend to approximately 0.7–1.0m across the evaluation area and in the majority of the monitored work, groundworks did not exceed its depth of a minimum of 0.22m. Made ground was then overlain by a recently created piling mat formed from a layer of crushed stone and gravel, typically 0.19–0.22m thick, which had been laid across the entire site. Topsoil recorded in the previous work appears to have been completely removed during the site levelling.



Plate 2: Example service run, looking south

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the Phase 1 groundworks associated with new residential development on land at Erskine Lodge, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk.
- 8.2 Previous work in the area has recorded evidence for Roman burials and settlement in the land immediately adjacent to the Phase 1 works, which is currently being subject to a full excavation. Within the Phase 1 area, previous evaluation suggested low potential for surviving remains, with the data suggesting that the construction of Erskine Lodge and associated landscaping had removed any in situ archaeological features or deposits in this area of the site.
- 8.3 During this phase of work, no archaeological remains were revealed in any of the monitored groundworks within Phase 1, with a sequence of recently created hard standing overlying made ground recorded in the majority of the works and groundworks rarely impacting through to natural geology.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The monitoring and recording was suited to the nature and scale of this project. It has shown that the development has had a negligible impact upon the archaeological resource within Phase 1.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Dove Jeffery Homes Limited for this commission and Rachael Abraham for her help and advice throughout the project.

11.0 References

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Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Compact, grey brown, crushed stone and	-	-	0.19–0.22	Crushed stone used as hard standing
101	Layer	Compact, mid/dark brown sandy silt with frequent stones, flint and occasional brick fragments	-	-	0.23	Made ground
102	Layer	Loose, mid orangey brown sandy gravel	-	-	-	Natural geology

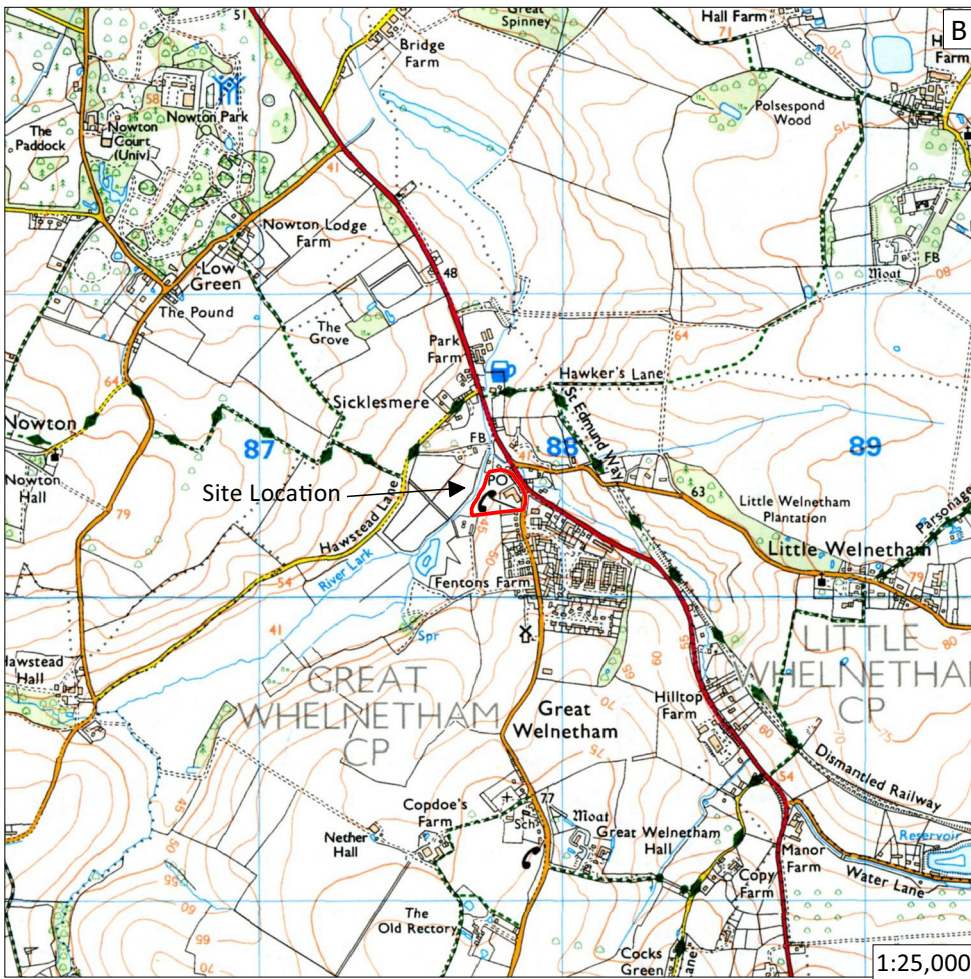
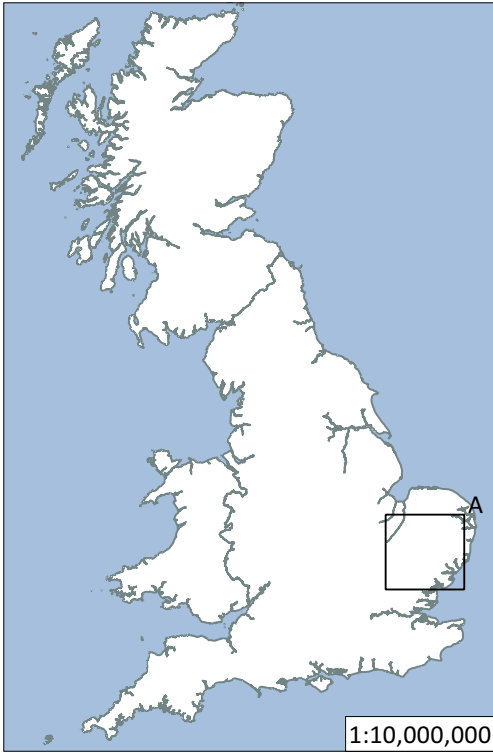


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	GWSR 16
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	M Wood
Date	06/12/2017

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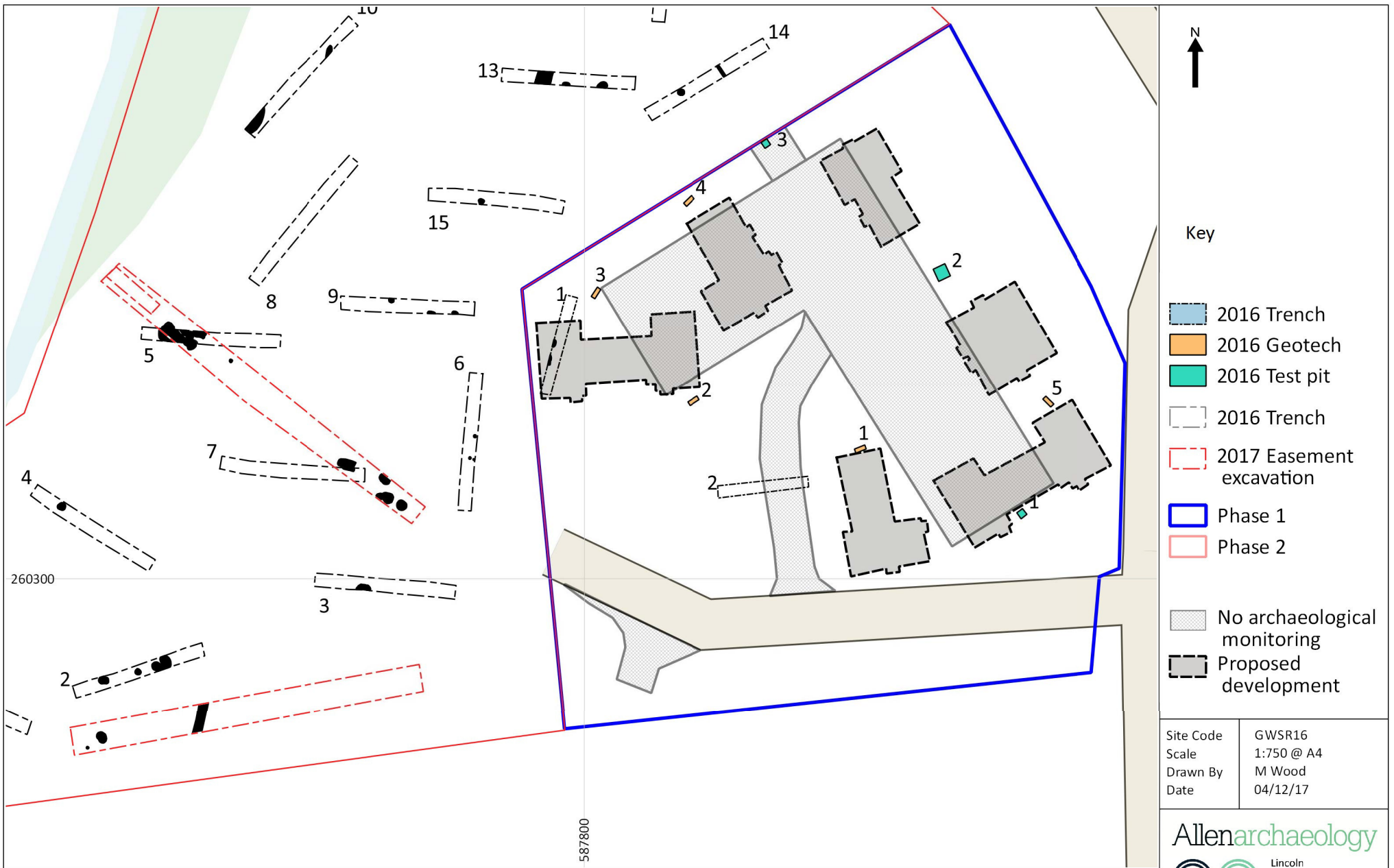
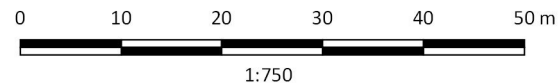


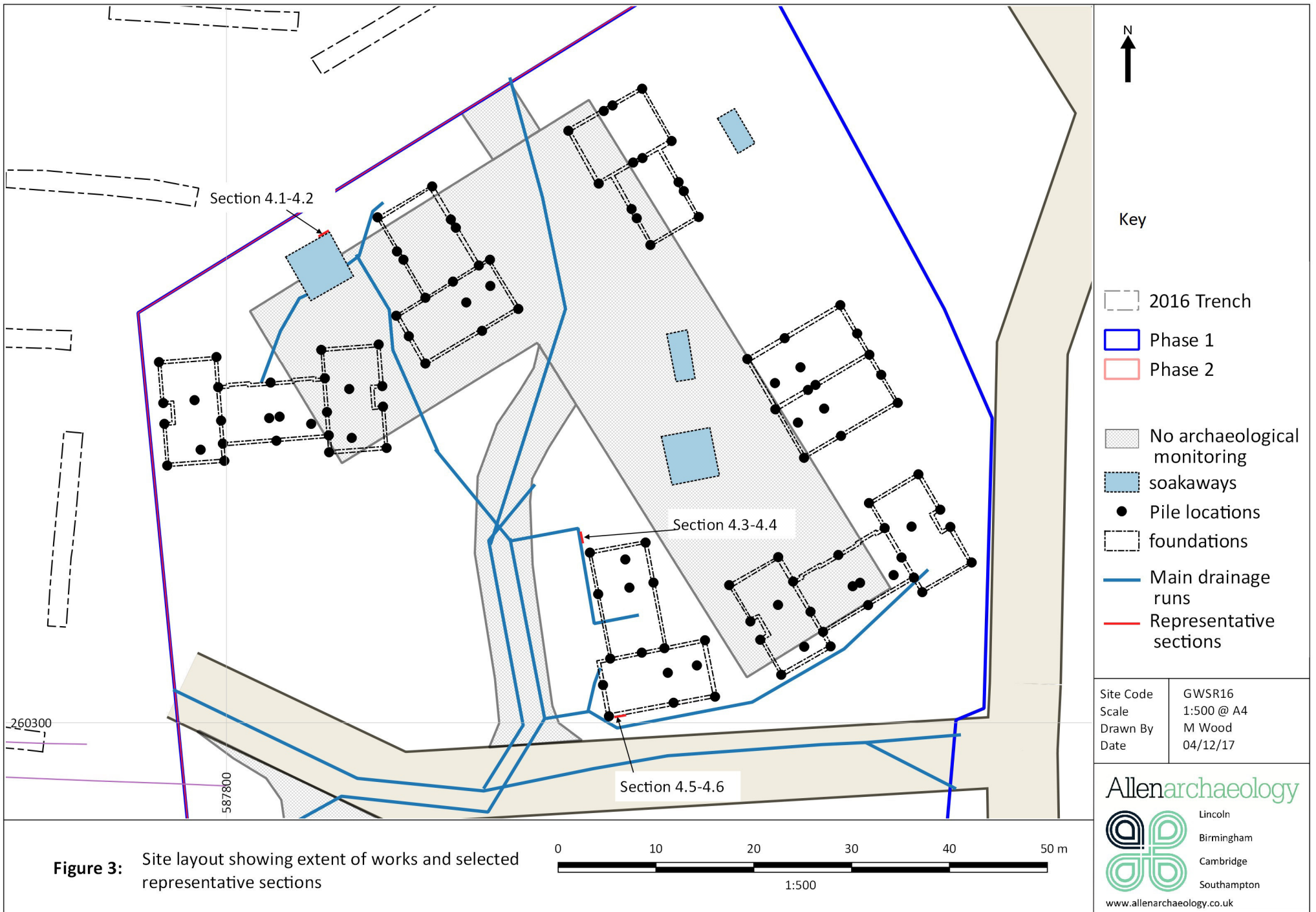
Figure 2: Site layout showing previous work and areas not requiring monitoring

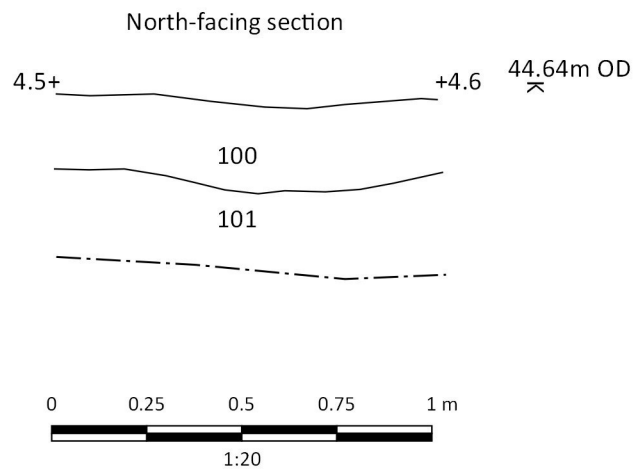
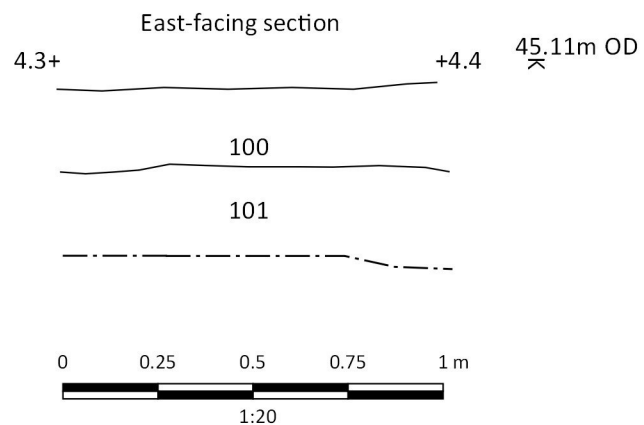
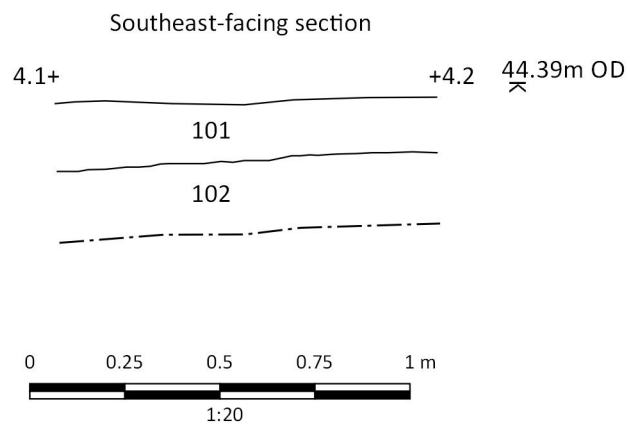


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Site Code	GWSR16
Scale	1:20 @ A4
Drawn By	M Wood
Date	04/12/17

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Figure 4: Representative sections located on figure 3

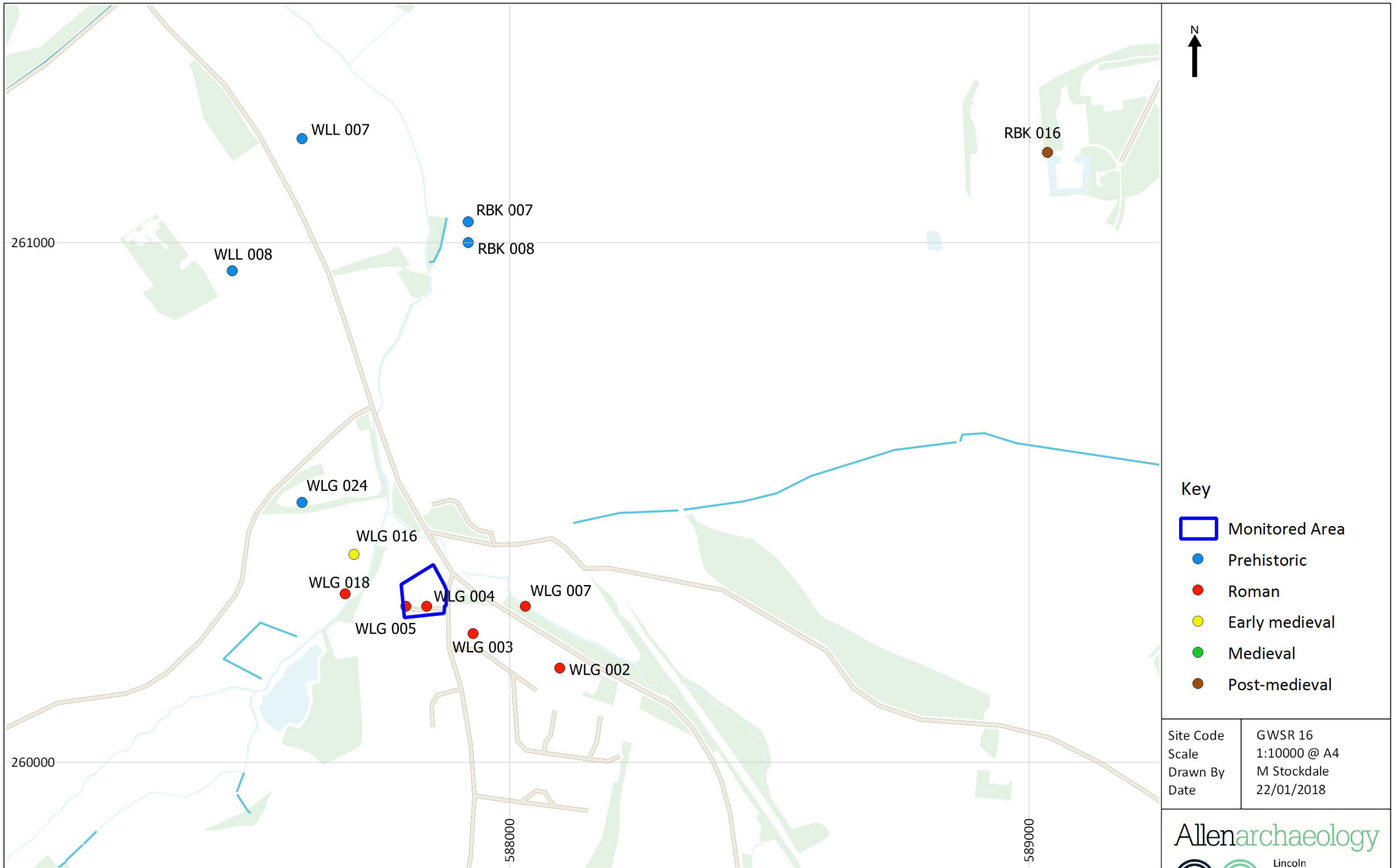
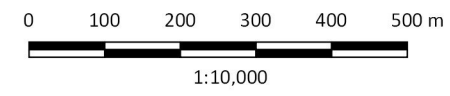


Figure 5: Plan of Suffolk Country Council Monuments surrounding the monitored site.



Key

- Monitored Area
- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Early medieval
- Medieval
- Post-medieval

Site Code	GWSR 16
Scale	1:10000 @ A4
Drawn By	M Stockdale
Date	22/01/2018

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OASIS ID: allenarc1-262766

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological watching brief on land at Erskine Lodge, Great Welnetham
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief
Project dates	Start: 03-10-2016 End: 01-12-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GWSR16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE Uncertain
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY GREAT WHELNETHAM Land off Erskine Lodge, Great Welnetham
Study area	0.65 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 87791 60345 52.208807448858 0.748799998268 52 12 31 N 000 44 55 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 43m Max: 45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Allen Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	AAL
Project director/manager	Mike Wood
Project supervisor	Feenagh Johnson

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archive
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archive
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT: ON LAND AT ERSKINE LODGE, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, PHASE 1
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Wood, M
 Other bibliographic details 2017179
 Date 2017
 Issuer or publisher AAL
 Place of issue or publication Lincoln
 Description A4 bound report

Entered by Mike Wood (m.wood@allenarchaeology.co.uk)
 Entered on 5 December 2017

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SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT COMPRISING A WATCHING BRIEF ON PHASE 1 AND A FULL EXCAVATION OF A TARGETED AREA FOR SERVICE RUNS IN PHASE 2: LAND AT ERSKINE LODGE, STANNINGSFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM

Client:	Dovejefferyhomes
National Grid Reference:	TL 87791 60345
Date:	27th Sept 2016 Revised Nov/Dec 2016
AAL Site Code:	GWSR 16
Parish Code:	WLG 037
HER number:	ESF24807
Planning Ref:	DC/15/2277/HYB
Oasis Number:	allenarc1-262766

1.0 Summary

This document is the project specification for two stages of interlinked archaeological work prepared for Dovejefferyhomes in order to fulfil a planning condition for a new residential development. It sets out a proposal for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording by Allen Archaeology Ltd to take place on land at Erskine Lodge (Phase 1), Stanningsfield Road, Great Whelnetham, St. Edmundsbury. This document also sets out the methodology for undertaking the full excavation for two easements for service trenches across Phase 2 of the site, which will be subject to an archaeological excavation condition. The remainder of the Phase 2 area will be subject to a full open area excavation and will be subject to a separate, comprehensive written scheme of investigation prepared in advance of work. At the time of writing there is no planned timescale for undertaking work on the phase 2 area apart from the service easements discussed in this document. No other work will be permitted in phase 2 apart from that detailed in this document, without submission and approval of a further WSI.

The excavation, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching briefs (CIfA, 2014a), 'Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavations (CIfA, 2014b), Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service 'Requirements for archaeological excavation' (SCCAS 2012) and the Historic England documents 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (Historic England 2015) and 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (Historic England 1991). Regional guidelines set out in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney, 2003), and with reference to regionally identified research aims (Medlycott, 2011).

2.0 Site Location and Description

Great Whelnetham is situated in the St Edmundsbury district of Suffolk, approximately 3km south of Bury St. Edmunds and 48km east of Cambridge. The proposed development area is in the northeast of the modern village. It lies on the western side of Stanningsfield Road and is centred on NGR TL 87791 60345.

The local bedrock geology comprises Cretaceous deposits belonging to the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation, whilst superficial Lacustrine deposits of clay and silt have been recorded (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

A hybrid application for planning permission has been made to Suffolk County Council for a new housing development on a Greenfield site on land at Erskine Lodge, Stanningsfield Road, Great Whelnetham. The development is planned to comprise two phases of work: phase 1 and phase 2, which will be impacted on during the excavation of two service trenches. Phase 1 comprises an area c.0.65ha in size and has been previously developed with the lodge footprint occupying c.22% of the development area. Phase 2 encompasses the adjacent field to the west of the lodge and occupies c1.5ha of undeveloped land. The impact on Phase 2 in this stage of work will comprise the stripping of two 7m wide linear easements, one orientated from the proposed road along a roughly northwest-southeast, while the other will be aligned roughly east-west along the margin of the (see attached figures) and will expose an area of c.0.0096ha in size.

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) advised that an evaluation comprising a geophysical survey of phase 2 and evaluation trenching on both phases should be undertaken prior to any decision on subsequent mitigation. The geophysical survey was completed in January 2016 (AAL 2016a) followed by evaluation trenching of phase 1 in January 2016 and phase 2 in February 2016 (AAL 2016b). Following the results of the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, SCCAS provided the following advice pertinent to phase 1:

'Within phase 1, continuous archaeological monitoring and recording during all groundworks involved with the construction of the access road and any new footings and services which fall outside the existing footprint of Erskine Lodge, will be required.'

SCCAS also provided advice on the Phase 2 area as follows:

'Within phase 2, full archaeological excavation of the entire development area will be required prior to the commencement of any development works within this part of the site. A metal detecting survey will also be required across this area both prior to and then throughout the excavation'

This is in accordance with this specification and the Department of Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The development site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, being near the banks of the River Lark, the site is situated in a topographically favourable position for early occupation.

The earliest evidence for human activity in the wider area are two collections of lithics, (WLG 024) found with an assemblage of mammal bones and recovered from a pit (WLL 007). Two concentric/circular ring ditches (RBK 007 & 008) have also been identified by cropmarks c.600m north/northwest of the site, although undated they have been recorded as prehistoric in date.

An extensive Roman settlement with burials, including cremation, is recorded on this site (WLG 002-005), which overlooks the River Lark in a topographic position that was favourable for early occupation of all periods, excavations on the banks of a tributary for the River Lark in 1964 found the continuation of the Roman settlement to the east of the development site (WLG 007). Recent evaluation work on land associated with the lodge and in the adjacent field (AAL 2016b) revealed a high level of made ground and truncation surrounding the lodge itself; however the adjacent field revealed ditches, pits and inhumations of Roman date suggesting more extensive settlement survives within the area marked as phase 2.

Roman kilns and multiple Roman finds scatters have also been recovered from the immediate vicinity, including over 600 roman coins found c.60m west of phase 1 (WLG 018). This may suggest that the area

was widely occupied in the Roman period.

A Saxon pewter disc brooch has been recovered c.50m northwest of the limit of phase 1 (WLG 016). There is very little evidence for the etymology of the *Great Whelnetham*; however, one suggestion is for the translation of 'swan enclosure by a waterwheel.' *Elfitu*, Anglian for swan, *hamm* in Old English as land hemmed in by water or marsh (perhaps also by high ground); a river-meadow; cultivated plot on the edge of woodland or moor and *hwēol*, the Old English for a wheel or in this instance a water-wheel (Watts et al, 2006).

Great *Welnetham* is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, as 'In (Great and Little) Welnetham and contained 1 free man commended to Bishop Æthelmær. In the soke of St Edmund held 40 acres' and another *Asgot* is referenced as holding a manor, 4 acres of meadow and part of a church (Williams & Martin, 2002). This indicates that by the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 Great Whelnetham was an established settlement. The village church of St Thomas a Becket was established in the 13th century (WLG 006).

The post-medieval period would have seen change for the village, with the establishment of Rushbrooke Park around the former moated site of Rushbrooke Hall (RBK 016) 0.5km northwest of the development site.

Part of the site also occupies the floodplain of the River Lark, where there is potential for the survival of waterlogged artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains, with recorded Hoxnian deposits in the local area (WLL 008). Recent evaluation has however not produced any supporting evidence for surviving remains (AAL 2016b).

Geophysical survey of the adjacent phase 2 area identified potential archaeological features such as possible ditches, former boundaries, paths, pits, soil-filled hollows or former ponds. The survey also revealed a large amount of magnetic noise across the site, which was considered to be potentially masking further archaeological features (AAL 2016a). Subsequent evaluation trenching within this area (AAL 2016b – phase 2 area) revealed a relatively low density of pits, ditches and postholes across the site, with archaeological remains noted in every trench apart from one. Dating evidence was recovered from roughly half of the features exposed, the majority of which dated to the Roman period, ranging from the 1st century to 4th century AD. Over half of the pottery assemblage was recovered from a pit in Trench 2, potentially representing structured deposition. A single articulated burial was exposed in Trench 5, dateable by Roman ceramics (AAL 2016b). The proposed service easements will be positioned in proximity to evaluation trenches 1 -7, all of which contained archaeological remains. Most significantly is the proximity to the inhumation within trench 5, which suggests a high risk of impacting on further burials and associated deposits.

Intrusive evaluation comprising evaluation trenches and test pits adjacent to Erskine Lodge (AAL 2016b – phase 1 area), revealed high levels of made ground (c.0.7m thick) below modern deposits suggesting the site immediately around the current building had been heavily landscaped. Artefacts of Roman date were however recovered from the topsoil within this site and it is quite likely that Roman remains were present prior to the landscaping, with occasional finds then incorporated into the newly deposited topsoil. A series of geotechnical pits were also excavated near the Lodge and were monitored archaeologically, with a similar sequence of made ground noted.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the watching brief on Phase 1 will be to gather sufficient information for the Suffolk Historic Environment Officer, to mitigate the loss or destruction of archaeological resources present on the site, in line with fulfilling the archaeological conditions of the planning consent.

Evidence shall be gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeological remains, and to allow for the determination of any appropriate strategies to mitigate the effect of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource should any unexpected and significant remains be present.

For the Phase 2 area, the aims and objectives of the project can be tied into the existing Regional research agenda (Medlycott 2011).

Regional research agenda aims (Medlycott 2011, 44-48):

- **Rural settlements and landscapes:**

- This site offers an opportunity to identify the form of settlement, layout of field systems, activities undertaken and consider the broad chronology of the site in terms of does it represent multi-phase occupation and show a developing and changing rural landscape or represent a relatively short-lived site.
- Any palaeoenvironmental data from the Roman period will be of interest indicating the landscape conditions at the time of settlement and how proximity to the river affected or was exploited in this period.

- **Ritual and religion**

- There is at least one burial present, which is likely to be disturbed and excavated during the works. It is considered probable that more human remains will be present within the excavation area. The date, form of burials along with consideration of whether these are isolated burials or part of a larger formal cemetery may be considered.

General research objectives for this phase of work are as follows: -

- to recover as much of the plan of the remains within the development area as possible and to sample or fully excavate features and deposits that are exposed;
- to fully record and where necessary recover human remains at risk from development;
- to recover domestic pottery and other finds that will allow secure dating of the site, and an assessment to be made regarding the functional use of the site;
- to study the site within its landscape context;
- to recover data that will provide information relating to the social character of the site, if possible, its status, function and economy;
- To provide data to enhance the regional chronological framework, through analysis of the material culture and selective scientific dating.

6.0 Methodology

Phase 1 Watching Brief

The development methodology entails creation of new residential housing on 23 plots (Fig 1-2 Archaeological Section Location Plan Drawings 1 and 2) using auger displacement piling methodology, which will follow Historic England best practise advice (Historic England 2015b). Auger displacement piling

is considered one of the least destructive methods of piling with low potential for concrete migration and limited impact from vibration (Historic England 2015b, 27). Piling is planned to form less than 25% of the building design, and following discussion with SCCAS at a previous meeting, it is not considered a necessary part of the monitoring works due to the nature of work and limited opportunity to record or retrieve archaeological information.

The levels of made ground, natural geology and area of potential archaeological interest across phase 1 is shown on a series of colour-coded figures 1-3, with the areas of required monitoring hatched in red (figure 3 Archaeological Sections). Prior to any excavation, it is intended to prepare the phase 1 site by levelling and elevating the existing ground surface by c.200mm across the development. Piles will be subsequently tied into ground beams for each house plot, with the excavation for ground beams planned as extending to c.750mm (c.44.30m OD) below the proposed elevated ground surface (following stoning up by c.200mm) and will be dug with a mechanical excavator fitted with a c.0.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket. Natural geology is known to be present at between c.44.0-44.4m OD overlain by made ground and topsoil (AAL 2016b) and therefore excavation trenching for the ground beams will vary between lying within made ground, and at its shallowest levels potentially exposing the truncated remains of any surviving archaeology by revealing the natural geology. The levels of made ground, natural geology and area of potential archaeological interest is shown on a series of colour-coded figures 1-3. Service trenches will also be excavated across the site and will be of a similar depth and width.

An experienced field archaeologist will be present during all groundworks with potential to disturb archaeological remains. This will include both service trenches and excavation for ground beams that exceeds the known depth of made ground which reaches to c.44.30m OD across the site. Monitoring is not intended to be undertaken on ground already disturbed by the footprint of the lodge building (fig 1) or the associated existing road.

The field archaeologist will act strictly in accordance with the contents of this document, and will be familiar with national guidelines regarding archaeological watching briefs (CIfA 2014a).

During the fieldwork the archaeologist will inspect all exposed plan and section surfaces, with a view to undertake the limited, rapid excavation of any archaeological remains for artefact recovery and clarity of the shape and orientation of the features. Should exceptionally significant archaeological remains be exposed, the archaeologist will halt all groundworks until such time as SCCAS can be consulted about the appropriate course of action. This will then be agreed with the developer before groundworks resume.

Accurate scale drawings (plan and section) will be produced (usually at 1:20) of any archaeological features/deposits and/or a 'natural' profile to illustrate the site soil stratigraphy. A base plan will also be produced, at an appropriate scale, to map any archaeological features/deposits or finds concentrations. Plans and sections will be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using a survey grade Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS.

All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded by full colour digital photography, with an identification number board, appropriate metric scales and a north arrow where appropriate. General site shots will also be taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

Service and ring beam trenches and all resulting spoil will be scanned with a metal detector to aid in the recovery of finds.

Phase 2 Excavation area (Figure 1 Archaeological Section Location Plan 1 and Figure 4)

Prior to any intrusive work occurring, a metal detecting survey will be undertaken across the entire Phase 2 area, comprising a team of up to 4 staff led by Senior Project Supervisor Aaron Chapman, who is an

experienced metal-detectorist having undertaken surveys across the midlands and East Anglia, including leading linear scheme detecting and most notably across an early Saxon burial site in Norfolk in 2014. Only staff fully trained in the use of company metal-detectors and having experience of previous such projects will be involved in this scheme. Full CVs of metal-detecting staff are available on request and will be provided to SCCAS prior to commencement of the project.

During the survey, transect centrelines will be accurately marked, using a survey grade GPS receiving RTK corrections. The metal detecting survey will then be based on walking transects 2m from the centreline, each team member detecting along a transect with instruments not set to discriminate against iron, to complete a 100% coverage of the Phase 2 area. The team members will move forward together collecting artefacts as they progress. Artefacts will be bagged individually, given a unique identifying number, and their locations plotted using a survey grade GPS unit.

Artefacts that will be recovered will be metal-based and the collected assemblage will likely include mainly iron and copper alloy objects. Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by the Treasure Act 1996) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported to the Suffolk FLO (Alex Bliss or Anna Booth) immediately, who will inform the appropriate coroner's office within 14 days. Any such artefacts will be recorded in the same manner as other metal objects and will then be removed from site to a secure store. Details of the area detected will be recorded on pro-forma recording sheets and will include information on weather/light conditions, ground visibility, ground cover, topography and staff present.

Following completion of the metal detecting survey, the service trench easements will be stripped by a 360 tracked machine fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket and fully under archaeological control. Machine stripping will be carefully controlled to remove topsoil and any overburden down to either the first archaeological horizon or natural geology at c.42-43m OD. No plant will be permitted to track over stripped areas and all machine cut edges will be kept straight and vertical, apart from where any ramps are excavated to permit safe access/egress. No plant movement is permitted over the remaining phase 2 area outside of the designated easements unless additional provision is made and agreed with SCCAS, such as using weight displacing bog matting or temporary laid access tracks that will not impact on the ground surface eg: Tufftracks or similar.

Following machine excavation, all archaeological features will be planned at an appropriate scale and investigated. Hand excavation of features will be carried out in order to determine the presence, extent and importance of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The fieldwork will be directed by an experienced Project Supervisor or Project Officer, with the assistance of two to three experienced field archaeologists, over a period of a minimum of 5 working days. If unexpected or significant remains are encountered then discussion on the management of the heritage assets will be discussed and agreed with SCCAS in advance of any further work taking place.

Where archaeological features are exposed they will be sample excavated based on the following criteria:-

- 100% of all structures such as beam slots and sunken featured buildings.
- 100% of all burials under MOJ license
- 100% sample of all pits and postholes. Where pits exhibit evidence for in-situ burning or significant groups of burnt material they will be subject to 100% excavation where appropriate, in order to retrieve sufficient dating and environmental evidence and to further understand the form and function of the features.
- A minimum of 10% sample of all linear features, with each section measuring 1m wide and spaced evenly along its length, but taking into account any variations in the shape or fill of the feature or notable concentrations of artefactual or palaeoenvironmental material.

Junctions and terminals will also be excavated, with all significant relationships to be defined and investigated.

- Fabricated surfaces such as yard or floor surfaces will be fully exposed, cleaned and recorded
- Natural features or deposits considered of potential palaeoenvironmental significance will be hand augured where it is not feasible or practicable to investigate their full extent by hand digging.

Accurate scale drawings (plan and section) will be produced (typically at 1:10 or 1:20 for sections and 1:20 for plans) of any archaeological features/deposits and/or a 'natural' profile to illustrate the site soil stratigraphy. A base plan will also be produced, at an appropriate scale, to map any archaeological features/deposits or finds concentrations. Plans and sections will be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using a survey grade Leica GS08 RTK NetRover GPS.

All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded by full colour digital photography, with an identification number board, appropriate metric scales and a north arrow where appropriate. General site shots will also be taken to show the location of the groundworks and the stratigraphic sequence.

Finds and Environmental sampling (both phases)

If human burials or cremations are exposed during the groundworks, in the first instance the SCCAS will be contacted to discuss an appropriate strategy for the management of the human remains. It is anticipated however that human remains discovered in the phase 2 works will be at direct threat from the proposed development, and as such, AAL intend to obtain a Ministry of Justice licence authorising the removal of the remains. These will be cleaned, photographed and recorded on standard AAL human skeletal remains recording sheets, prior to removal for cleaning at the offices of AAL and subsequent analysis by the named specialist.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by the Treasure Act 1996) will be treated as discussed above under the same principals as the metal-detecting survey.

All finds of all classes will be collected, other than obviously modern finds from topsoil and subsoil contexts. The spoil from the excavated areas will be examined for further artefact recovery. Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered finds will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small find number. If necessary, the relevant specialist will visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All finds will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) at the offices of Allen Archaeology Limited. These will then be submitted for specialist reporting to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Sarah Percival	Early prehistoric pottery
Sarah Bates/Dr Joshua Hogue	Worked lithic materials
Ian Rowlandson/Andy Peachey	Later prehistoric and Roman ceramics
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman ceramics and ceramic building material
Jen Wood	Animal bone
Natasha Powers	Human bone
Mike Wood	Other artefacts
Val Fryer	Environmental analysis
James Rackham	Palaeoenvironmental
GCM Conservation	Conservation

All environmental sampling, processing, analysis and reporting will be undertaken in line with the guidance set out in the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) document '*Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*' (English Heritage 2011).

Mrs Val Fryer is the named environmental consultant, who will be responsible for liaising with other specialists. Samples will be taken from deposits that have the potential to provide information on the preservation conditions and potential of analysis of all biological remains. If appropriate during the investigation, specialist advice will be sought from the environmental archaeologist, including a site visit to develop the sampling strategy. Processing of environmental remains will take place at Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon by Mrs Fryer.

A comprehensive sampling strategy will be utilised, with bulk samples of at least 40l (or full context if less remains) taken from a selection of stratified contexts that have produced good dating evidence, and sufficient in number to establish the range and quality of the environmental evidence. Undated features partially exposed in the works, such as in phase 2, and considered likely to be of archaeological interest will also be sampled and may be used to inform future work on site.

Where feasible, bulk samples will be taken as scatter samples, whereby tubs will be filled from different locations within the designated fill to avoid spatial preservation bias or missing biological remains invisible to the naked eye which can form discrete 'clusters' within the fill (Campbell et al, 2011).

Where appropriate and in discussion with the environmental specialist and SCCAS additional targeted samples may be taken including for pollen, molluscs, potential radiocarbon dating or where to inform the palaeoenvironmental sequence. If considered appropriate during the works, provision is made for a palaeoenvironmental specialist (James Rackham) to visit site and inform the sampling strategy.

Animal bone will be hand collected from all excavated features. These will be identified and assessed by the named specialist (Mrs Jen Wood), with any recommendations for future archaeological work on the site.

7.0 Post-Fieldwork Methodology

On completion of all site operations, the records produced during the project will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared. Provision is made for producing a phase 1 monitoring report in addition to an interim report on the phase 2 excavation, which will be sufficiently detailed to act as a standalone report. Should work be undertaken on the main Phase 2 area in the near future, the results of the interim report will be incorporated and re-issued as a single report. Draft versions of reports will be submitted to SCCAS for approval prior to the final deposition in the HER or submission for planning purposes.

Archaeological reports will be compiled as detailed above, comprising a description of the results of the archaeological investigations. This will follow the Historic England guidance MAP 2 (Historic England, 1991) and MORPHE (Historic England 2015), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists documents 'Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief' (CIfA 2014a) and 'Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (CIfA 2014b). The report will include specialist assessments of all artefacts, human remains and palaeoenvironmental samples. This will review the existing aims, objectives and research questions set out in this WSI in light of the results of the investigations, and include the specialist recommendations for human remains, artefacts and palaeoenvironmental sample analysis and reporting.

A fully illustrated text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- A non-technical summary of the results
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area
- Description of the methodologies used during the works and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the results of the scheme of works
- Overall plan of the site showing excavated areas, accurately located to the national grid
- Plans showing the archaeological features exposed
- Sections of the groundworks and archaeological features
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site
- Appropriate photographs of the site, and specific archaeological features or groups of features
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised criteria including how they relate to the Regional research framework (Medlycott, 2011)
- A consideration of the impact of the development upon the known archaeological resource.

In addition the interim report for phase 2, depending on results, may also include an updated project design (UPD) and act as an assessment report for the work undertaken in this area. Provision will be outlined in the UPD for any further work including possible publication avenues.

Provision will also be made for the results of both phases of work to be included in the annual Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology and History (PSIAH) roundup to be submitted in the same calendar year as the work where possible.

8.0 Curatorial Monitoring

Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological works on the site rests with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services. As much notice as possible will be given prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

The Historic England Regional Science Advisor is also granted access to the site during the archaeological works to provide advice on archaeological science matters. Internal monitoring will be by a member of the Allen Archaeology Senior Management team.

9.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the trial excavation will be assembled in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (Walker 1990). Reporting is intended to take place as two separate reports once work on phase 1 and the necessary intrusive work on phase 2 as outlined in this WSI is completed; should phase 2 not go ahead for any reason then reporting on phase 1 will be completed following all fieldwork and the archive will be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archive within six months of the completion of the report (by the end of 2018 at the latest) in accordance with *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition*, (SCCAS Conservation Team, 2014).

10.0 Report Deposition

Copies of the report will be sent to the Dove Jeffery Homes and Havebury Homes, the Local Planning Authority and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. For Suffolk County Council, bound hard copies of the final report and a pdfa version of the report on CD will be supplied, will include the completed OASIS summary sheet as an appendix to the report. The OASIS form detailing a summary account on the results of the project will be submitted to the ADS in York and the report uploaded following submission of the archive.

11.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

12.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation.

A site Risk Assessment will be carried out in advance of any archaeological fieldwork.

13.0 Insurances

Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £500,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

14.0 Copyright

Allen Archaeology Limited shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that an exclusive license is hereby provided to Dove Jeffery Homes and Havebury Homes for the use of such documents by Dove Jeffery Homes and Havebury Homes in all matters directly relating to the project described in this document.

License is also given to the archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

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15th September 2016
Revised 27th September 2016
Reviewed 30th September 2016

Revised following comments November 2016
Final version 14th December 2016