

**Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill
Stowmarket
Suffolk**

Archaeological Evaluation

HER Event no: COM 041

OASIS no: Cotswold2-199142



for
Construct Reason Ltd

CA Project: 660405
CA Report: 15079

February 2015

Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill Stowmarket Suffolk


Archaeological Evaluation

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prepared by	Ralph Brown, Project Supervisor
date	10 February 2015
checked by	Nicola Powell, Post-Excavation Manager
date	18 February 2015
approved by	Simon Carlyle, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	19 February 2015
issue	01

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Cirencester

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Kemble, Cirencester
Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ
t. 01285 771022
f. 01285 771033

Milton Keynes

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
MK11 3HA
t. 01908 564660

Andover

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover, Hampshire
SP10 5LH
t. 01264 347630

e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk
Location:	Stowmarket, Suffolk
NGR:	TM 0426 5715
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	19 January-3 February 2015
Location of Archive:	Suffolk County Archaeological Stores
Site Code:	COM 041

During January and February 2015, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Construct Reason Ltd, formed part of a programme of archaeological works being carried out prior to the residential development of the site.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-eight 30m trial trenches in three fields. Possibly the earliest remains were encountered in the southern part of the site, where two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a ditch that may have formed part of a rectilinear enclosure on the crest of the hill. Further to the north, near the base of the slope that overlooks the small stream that forms the site's northern boundary, a medieval ditch system was investigated. Sherds of 11th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from two of the ditches, along with a small assemblage of animal bone; the other ditches in this area are undated but several are probably associated with the ditch system. Other features included former field boundary ditches, agricultural trenches and a modern quarry pit.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 During January and February 2015, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of farmland off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk (site centred on NGR: TM 0426 5715; Fig.1). The evaluation, which was commissioned by Construct Reason Ltd, formed part of a programme of archaeological works being carried out prior to the proposed residential development of the site.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation was outlined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2015; Appendix A), the details of which were based on discussions with Matthew Brudenell, Senior Archaeological Officer with Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The discussions were informed by a desk-based assessment of the site prepared by CA (2014) and a geophysical survey of the southern part of the site undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica (2014). The WSI was guided in its preparation by *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2011).
- 1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (CA 2015) and abided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and the English Heritage (EH) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Matthew Brudenell, SCCAS, with a site visit being made on 26 January 2015.

The site

- 1.4 The site, which covers an area of c. 11 ha, comprises a block of farmland on the southern edge of Stowmarket, to the south-west of the suburb of Combs Ford, approximately 1.3km to the south of the town centre (Figs. 1 and 2). The land straddles a spur of high ground that lies between two small streams that flow north-eastwards into Rattlesden River. On the north-facing slope the site comprises two fallow fields (Fields 1 and 2; Figs 5 and 6), partly overgrown with scrub and bordered by thick hedgerows; on the crest of the spur and on the south-east-facing slope it comprises parts of two large arable fields (Fields 3 and 4; Fig. 7), separated by Poplar Hill, the road that runs between Combs Ford and the village of Combs.

Ground level descends from c. 57m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the crest of the spur down to c. 42m at the stream that borders the northern edge of the site and 49m aOD at its south-eastern corner. With the exception of the land to the south-east of Poplar Hill (Field 4), which lies within the parish of Stowmarket, the site largely lies within the parish of Combs.

- 1.5 The solid geology of the site comprises Neogene/Quaternary sandstone of the Crag Group (BGS 2015). This is overlain by superficial chalky till deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, with poorly-sorted sand and gravel Head (a solifluction deposit formed under permafrost conditions) occurring adjacent to the small stream at the northern edge of the site.

Archaeological and historical background

- 1.6 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in the *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* prepared by CA (2014). In brief, this established that a Cold War Royal Observer Corps monitoring post, now demolished, was once located on the crest of the slope, near the site's south-western boundary. No other designated or undesignated heritage assets were located within the site. In the wider landscape, extensive scatters of prehistoric worked flint were recovered by fieldwalking on land c. 300m to the south-east of the site and medieval earthworks are recorded nearby at Combs Hall, and at Combs Ford, approximately 200m to the north-east.

- 1.7 The results of the geophysical survey of the southern part of the site (Field 3), in the arable field to the north-west of Poplar Hill (ArchaeoPhysica 2014), showed no anomalies of archaeological significance within the surveyed area, other than a linear anomaly close to its southern edge. Other anomalies related to former field boundaries, modern services and the probable buried remains/debris of the Cold War monitoring station.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI (CA 2015; Appendix A), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, with specific aims to:



- investigate the anomalies shown on the geophysical survey results and test the veracity of the survey through the excavation of trenches in apparently 'blank' areas;
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposits encountered, together with their likely extents, localised depths and quality of preservation;
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits;
- establish the potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence through a programme of environmental sampling.

1.9 This information will enable SCCAS, archaeological advisor to Mid Suffolk District Council (the local planning authority), to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). Reference has been made to *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medleycott 2011) in the preparation of this report.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the initial excavation of twenty-five 30m trenches in the locations shown in Figure 2 (750 linear metres, all 1.8m wide). With the agreement of SCCAS, several trenches in Fields 1 and 2 were relocated slightly from their approved positions to avoid dense patches of vegetation. Following the site meeting with SCCAS, a further three trenches were excavated to determine the extent of ditches encountered in several of the trenches in Field 2 (Trenches 26-28; 90 linear metres, all 1.8m wide).
- 1.11 The trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2012).
- 1.12 The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological

horizon or the geological substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2013).

- 1.13 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003). Three 40 litre samples were taken from archaeological deposits. The artefacts were processed in accordance with *Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (CA 1995).
- 1.14 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive and artefacts will be deposited with Suffolk County Archaeological Stores. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (OASIS ref. Cotswold2-199142).

2. RESULTS

Summary

- 2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-eight 30m trial trenches (840 linear metres; Fig. 2) in three fields (Field 1–3). Possibly the earliest remains were encountered in the southern part of the site (Field 3, Trenches 22 and 25), where two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a ditch that may have formed part of a rectilinear enclosure on the crest of the hill. Further to the north, near the base of the slope that overlooks the small stream that forms the site's northern boundary, a medieval ditch system was investigated (Field 2, Trenches 4, 6, 7 and 27). Sherds of 11th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from two of the ditches, along with a small assemblage of animal bone; the other ditches in this area are undated but several are probably associated with the ditch system. Other features included former field boundary ditches, agricultural trenches and a modern quarry pit. There were no archaeological features in Trenches 1-3, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 14-20. Details of the features and deposits recorded by the evaluation are presented in Appendix B and are summarised below.

General stratigraphy

Field 1

- 2.2 In Field 1, which bordered the small stream at the northern edge of the site, the geological substrate was encountered at an average depth of c. 1.1m below current ground level (bcgl). It comprised superficial deposits of loose, light brownish-yellow sand and gravel with lenses of dark bluish-grey clay (Head deposit).
- 2.3 In Trench 1 the Head deposit (105) was overlain by a layer of dark humic silty soil (103), approximately 0.15m thick, which may have been marshy ground at the edge of the stream. This was overlain by a layer of light yellowish-brown silty sand (102), up to 0.21m thick, which was probably deposited by the stream, possibly during an episode of flooding. Subsoil and topsoil (101 and 100 respectively), with a combined thickness of c. 0.45m, subsequently accumulated over this former land surface. More recently, probably during the construction of the neighbouring housing estate, ground level was raised by c. 0.6m by the dumping and levelling out of soil and building waste (Fig. 8).
- 2.4 In Trenches 2 and 3 the Head deposit was overlain by mid greyish-blue silty clay (alluvium), with a maximum thickness of 0.8m. This was overlain by subsoil and topsoil horizons, which in turn were sealed by extensive deposits of modern made-ground.

Field 2

- 2.5 The geological substrate, which was encountered at a depth of c. 0.45m bcgl, was light yellowish-grey chalky clay (diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation). The overlying subsoil, comprising mid yellowish-brown clayey silt, was of variable thickness and ranged between 0.2m–0.8m, suggesting that the surface topography of the slope had been altered, possibly through quarrying and other activities. The topsoil, dark greyish-brown silty clay, was c. 0.3m thick.

Field 3

- 2.6 In the arable field the geological substrate was light yellowish-grey chalky clay (diamicton of the Lowestoft Formation). The thickness of the overlying subsoil, which comprised mid yellowish-brown clayey silt, ranged from c. 0.14m–0.41m, with the thinner subsoil occurring on the crest of the hill. The ploughsoil, dark greyish-brown silty clay, was c. 0.3m thick.

Fields 1 and 2**Medieval (1066-1540)***Trench 4*

- 2.7 Passing through the south-east end of the trench on a north to south alignment was ditch 405, which measured 1.4m wide by 0.46m deep (Figs. 3 and 9). Seven sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 11th to 14th centuries and fragments of animal bone were recovered from its fill (406).

Trench 6

- 2.8 Ditch 605, which passed through the centre of the trench on a north to south alignment, measured 1.6m wide by 0.30m deep (Figs. 3 and 10). A sherd of medieval pottery dating from the 11th to 14th centuries and fragments of animal bone and shell were recovered from its fill (606).

Post-medieval to modern (1540-present)*Trench 26*

- 2.9 This was an additional trench, excavated to investigate the possible southwards continuation of ditch 1303. Removal of the topsoil revealed a large quarry pit (2603), excavation of which would have removed any trace of the ditch, had it extended this far south. The quarry pit was visible on the surface of the field as a large, shallow circular depression with a diameter of c. 25m. A machine-dug slot was excavated through the fills of the quarry pit, which demonstrated that it was over 0.95m deep. Fragments of roofing slate, modern brick and tile and sherds of modern pottery were recovered from its fill (not retained).

Undated*Trench 4*

- 2.10 A shallow, irregular linear feature, possibly a shallow ditch or hedgerow (403), passed through the centre of the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. It measured 1.5m wide by 0.2m deep and contained a piece of fired clay.

Trench 6

- 2.11 Ditch 603 ran through the centre of the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment. It measured 0.9m wide by 0.36m deep and its fill contained fragments of animal bone.



Trench 7

- 2.12 Two ditches, 703 and 705, were identified in Trench 7. Ditch 703, which was located at the north-east end of the trench, was aligned north-south and measured 1.7m wide by 0.57m deep. Ditch 705, which is probably a continuation of ditch 2703 in Trench 27, was on an east to west alignment and measured at least 2.5m wide by more than 0.9m deep (base not attained).

Trenches 9, 10 and 28

- 2.13 Passing through these three trenches on a north-east to south-west alignment was ditch 903/1003/2803. Ditch 1003 measured 0.9m wide by 0.44m deep; ditch 2803 was slightly wider and deeper, measuring 1.6m wide by 0.48m deep (Figs. 3 and 12). Fragments of animal bone were recovered from ditch 2803.

Trench 13

- 2.14 Ditch 1303, which was located at the north-west end of the trench, was on a north to south alignment and measured 1.4m wide by 0.22m deep.

Trench 27

- 2.15 Ditch 2703 was a continuation of ditch 705 in Trench 7. It measured 4.4m wide by 1.2m deep and had a broad U-shaped profile with splayed sides and a gently concave base (Figs. 3 and 11). The clay fill (2707) on the southern side of the ditch suggests that there may have been a bank on this side, with clay from the bank slumping into the ditch during periods of wet weather. It is possible that the ditch may have been recut.

Field 3**Roman (AD43-AD410)***Trenches 22 and 25*

- 2.16 Trenches 22 and 25 targeted two perpendicular linear geophysical anomalies in the southern part of Field 3, which appear to form two sides of a possible rectilinear enclosure. In Trench 22, ditch 2203 was aligned north-east to south-west, measured 1.4m wide by 0.68m deep and had steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Figs. 4 and 13). Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from its fill (2204). Although ditch 2503 did not contain any artefactual dating evidence (Figs. 4 and 14), the similarity in its size and profile with ditch 2203 suggests that it is contemporary. A soil sample was taken from ditch 2203, but it was found to be devoid of ecofactual material.

Post-medieval to modern (1540-present)

Trench 23

- 2.17 Corresponding with a linear anomaly shown on the geophysical results and a field boundary shown on historic mapping, ditch 2303 was aligned north-west to south-east, had a V-shaped profile and measured 1.2m wide by 0.8m deep (Figs. 4 and 15). A soil sample was taken from the ditch but it was found to be devoid of ecofactual material.

Undated

Trench 21

- 2.18 Three parallel ditches (2103, 2105 and 2107), spaced c. 7m apart, passed through the trench on a north-west to south-east alignment. They had steep-sided, flat-based profiles and were between 0.6m and 0.9m wide and up to 0.35m deep (Figs. 4 and 16).

Trench 22

- 2.19 Two ditches (2205 and 2207), similar to the parallel ditches investigated in Trench 21, were identified in this trench (Fig. 4). They had similar profiles and were on the same alignment.

Trench 23

- 2.20 At the south-west end of the trench, ditch 2305 was aligned north to south and measured 1.1m wide by 0.39m deep (Fig. 4). The ditch was not detected by the geophysical survey.

Trench 24

- 2.21 Three parallel ditches (2406, 2409 and 2411), similar to those investigated in Trench 21, were identified in this trench (Fig. 4). They had similar profiles and were on the same alignment.
- 2.22 Ditch 2403, which was roughly perpendicular to the alignment of the parallel ditches in this trench, measured 0.95m wide by 0.27m deep (Fig. 4). A soil sample was taken from its fill (2405), but it was found to contain no identifiable ecofactual material.



3 THE FINDS AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

The finds by Jacky Somerville

- 3.1 The finds recovered from the evaluation consist of flint, pottery and ceramic building material (brick/tile). The finds have been quantified by context in Appendix C, Table 1.

Worked flint

- 3.2 Twenty-two worked flint items were recovered from bulk soil sampling of deposits 2204 (ditch 2203) and 2405 (ditch 2403). Also recovered were 19 fragments (4g) of burnt, unworked flint. The worked flints consist of six flakes and 16 chips (debitage $\leq 10\text{mm}$). None of the flints can be dated more precisely than to the prehistoric period and those from fill 2204 are residual in a probable Roman-dated feature.

Pottery

Roman

- 3.3 Two unfeatured bodysherds in a black-firing, sand-tempered fabric of broad Roman date were recovered from fill 2204 of ditch 2203.

Medieval

- 3.4 A total of eight bodysherds in sandy fabrics, dating to the 11th to 14th centuries, was recovered from fill 406 of ditch 405 and fill 606 of ditch 605. Those from fill 406 feature internal glaze.

Modern

- 3.5 Fill 2604 of quarry pit 2603 produced a bodysherd of 'late' English stoneware. This type of pottery is dateable to the mid 19th to mid 20th centuries.

Ceramic building material

- 3.6 A fragment of flat roof tile, of post-medieval date, was recorded in fill 2604 of quarry pit 2603.

The faunal remains by Andy Clarke

- 3.7 A small assemblage (11 fragments, 333g) of animal bone was recovered from four deposits (Appendix C, Table 2); of these, eight (228g) were in direct association with artefacts dating to the medieval period and recovered from the fills of ditches 405 and 605. The bone was in a poor state of preservation, showing signs of

exposure to the elements as well as historic and modern damage. However, it was possible to identify the remains of cattle (*Bos taurus*) from meat-poor skeletal elements.

- 3.8 The remaining bone was recovered from the fills of undated ditches 603 and 2803. Sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and horse (*Equus caballus*) were identified from, as with the medieval bone, poorly preserved and fragmented meat-poor skeletal elements.
- 3.9 The above species are common and to be expected in assemblages from the Iron Age onwards (Baker and Worley, 2014).
- 3.10 The potential amount of useful interpretative data to be gleaned from such a small assemblage is understandably very limited. The combined factors of low recovery, high fragmentation and surface erosion, suggest that while there may be an origin in domestic waste, the assemblage is now more than likely residual in nature.

The palaeoenvironmental evidence by Sarah Cobain

- 3.11 Three environmental samples (60 litres of soil) were retrieved from three deposits with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial, agricultural or domestic activity. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures, as outlined in *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003).
- 3.12 The samples were taken from a probable Roman ditch (2203), a former field boundary ditch (2303) and an undated ditch (2403) in Field 3. The samples contained no plant macrofossil or identifiable charcoal material. The absence of any ecofactual material precludes any assessment of the features' function or activities being undertaken in the surrounding area.

4. DISCUSSION

Fields 1 and 2

- 4.1 Due to the overgrown condition of the site when the geophysical survey was undertaken in 2014, Fields 1 and 2, which lie on a north-facing slope overlooking a



small stream, could not be surveyed. The trenches were therefore positioned to gain suitable coverage of accessible parts of the site.

- 4.2 In Field 1, excavation revealed deposits associated with the small stream that borders the northern edge of the site. The deposits included: a dark humic soil, possibly a relict marshy soil at the edge of an earlier course of the stream, which lay directly over the geological substrate; a sandy layer that was probably deposited by the stream during an episode of flooding; and silty clay alluvium. The age of these deposits is unknown but they demonstrate an active fluvial environment in this area prior to the containment of the stream in the deeply-cut channel in which it now flows.
- 4.3 The large mound in the south-western corner of the field, which was recorded by LiDAR survey (CA 2014, 17), was covered in dense brambles and vegetation at the time of the evaluation and could not be closely investigated. However, extensive deposits of modern building debris, in places up to 1m thick, were recorded in trenches across this field, so it is likely to be a mound of building waste left over from the development of the neighbouring modern housing estate.
- 4.4 On the lower slope in Field 2, the evaluation investigated two ditches (405 and 605), the fills of which contained medieval pottery dating to the 11th to 14th centuries, along with a small quantity of animal bone (predominately cattle bone). The ditches were aligned north to south and ran parallel to an undated ditch (703) that lay between the two, suggesting that they form part of a medieval ditch system. The ditch system may also incorporate a more substantial undated ditch (705 and 2703) that followed the contour of the slope on an east to west alignment, possibly forming the southern boundary of a series of rectilinear enclosures. It is possible that the undated ditches in Trenches 6 and 13 are also associated with the ditch system.
- 4.5 The purpose of the ditch system is uncertain, but the fills of the ditches were relatively sterile, so it is likely, given the paucity of other finds, that the ditches are probably the remains of livestock pens and were not associated with habitation. In the medieval period, the nearest known settlements were at Combs and Combs Hall, c. 0.7km to the south and south-east of the site respectively; metal detecting finds also indicate a possible settlement site c. 0.8km to west of the site, north of Jack's Grove. It is therefore possible that the ditch system was associated with the agricultural activities of one of these settlements. The earthwork remains of a

possible medieval fishpond, identified c. 200m to the east of the site, may also form part of this medieval rural landscape.

- 4.6 Two probable former field boundary ditches were identified in Field 2. In Trench 4, the ditch (403) appears to be a continuation of the north-east to south-west aligned section of hedgerow that forms part of the western boundary of the site. Similarly, the ditch passing through Trenches 9, 10 and 28 is probably a continuation of the north-east to south-west aligned 'kink' in the hedgerow that forms the southern boundary of Field 2. The Historic Landscape Characterisation for Suffolk records Fields 1 and 2 as 'pre-18th century enclosures of random fields', which probably date to the medieval period, possibly earlier (Martin and Satchell 2008; CA 2014). It is therefore possible that the former field boundaries are of some antiquity and demonstrate partial field boundary reorganisation in the medieval or post-medieval periods.
- 4.7 The former quarry pit in the south-west corner of Field 2 was visible on the surface of the field as a large, shallow depression, with a diameter of c. 25m. The quarry pit was probably in use for a short period as it does not appear on historic maps of the area and pottery and other material recovered from its fills indicate that it was backfilled sometime after the mid 19th century, suggesting that it is relatively recent in date. The site of the quarry is shown as a cropmark on an aerial photograph of the site taken in 1946 (Fig. 17), so it had been backfilled by this time.

Field 3

- 4.8 Possibly the earliest remains were encountered in the southern part of the field where two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from a ditch that may have formed part of a rectilinear enclosure on the crest of the hill. The ditches (2203 and 2503), which correspond with linear anomalies shown on the geophysical survey results (ArchaeoPhysica 2014), do not appear to conform with the general alignment of other features in the surrounding landscape (e.g. field boundaries, roads, footpaths), suggesting that they may be Roman in date. A soil sample was taken from one of the ditches, but this was entirely sterile and contained no evidence to determine its purpose.
- 4.9 A former post-medieval/modern field boundary, shown on the Tithe map of 1841 (Fig. 18) and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps, was investigated in Trench 23. The ditch (2303) corresponds with the linear anomaly shown on the geophysical

survey results in the western part of the field. An adjacent ditch (2305) on a more southerly alignment was not detected by the geophysical survey.

- 4.10 A series of evenly spaced, parallel ditches were recorded in Trenches 21, 22 and 24. They ran parallel with the hedgerow on the eastern side of the field and the former field boundary to the west, suggesting that they are relatively recent agricultural trenches.

5. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 5.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Ralph Brown, assisted by Edwin Pearson, Jon Whitmore and Jonathan Madge. The report was written by Ralph Brown, with contributions from Jacky Somerville, Andy Clarke and Sarah Cobain, and the illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Ralph Brown and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

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APPENDIX A: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill
Stowmarket
Suffolk**

Written Scheme of Investigation for an
Archaeological Evaluation

HER Event no: COM 041

OASIS no: Cotswold2-199142



for
Construct Reason Ltd

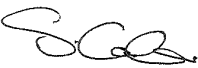
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January 2015

Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill Stowmarket Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 660405

prepared by	Simon Carlyle, Principal Fieldwork Manager
date	6 January 2015
approved by	Simon Carlyle, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
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issue	01

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Cirencester

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Kemble, Cirencester
Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ
t. 01285 771022

Milton Keynes

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
MK111 3HA
t. 01908 564660
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

Andover

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover, Hampshire
SP10 5LH
t. 01264 347630

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI), prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA), for an archaeological evaluation of land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk (site centred on NGR: TM 0426 5715; Fig.1). The work, which has been commissioned by Construct Reason Ltd, forms part of a programme of archaeological works being carried out prior to the residential development of the site.
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation was agreed with Matthew Brudenell, Senior Archaeological Officer with Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS), at a site meeting on 5 December 2014. The on-site discussions were informed by a desk-based assessment of the site prepared by CA (2014) and a geophysical survey of the southern part of the site undertaken by ArchaeoPhysica (2014).
- 1.3 This WSI has been prepared in accordance with *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCC 2011) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EEA 2003). The project will abide by the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006) and any other relevant standards or guidance contained within Appendix A.

The site

- 1.4 The site, which covers an area of c. 11 ha, comprises a block of land on the southern edge of Stowmarket, to the south-west of the suburb of Combs Ford, approximately 1.3km to the south of the town centre. The land straddles a spur of high ground that lies between two small streams that flow north-eastwards into Rattlesden River. On the north-facing slope the site comprises two fallow fields, partly overgrown with scrub and bordered by thick hedgerows; on the crest of the spur and on the south-east-facing slope it comprises parts of two large arable fields, separated by Poplar Hill, the road that runs between Combs Ford and the village of Combs. Ground level descends from c. 57m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the crest of the spur down to c. 42m at the stream that borders the northern edge of the

site and 49m aOD at its south-eastern corner. With the exception of the land to the south-east of Poplar Hill, which lies within the parish of Stowmarket, the site largely lies within the parish of Combs.

- 1.5 The solid geology of the site comprises Neogene/ Quaternary sandstone of the Crag Group (BGS 2015). This is overlain by superficial chalky till deposits of the Lowestoft Formation, with poorly-sorted sand and gravel Head deposits occurring adjacent to the small stream at the northern edge of the site.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The historical and archaeological background of the site has been presented in detail in the *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* prepared by CA (2014). In brief, this established that a Cold War Royal Observer Corps monitoring post, now demolished, was once located on the crest of the slope, near the site's south-western boundary. No other designated or undesignated heritage assets were located within the site. In the wider landscape, extensive scatters of prehistoric worked flint were recovered by fieldwalking on land c. 300m to the south-east of the site and medieval earthworks are recorded nearby at Combs Hall, and at Combs Ford, approximately 200m to the north-east.
- 1.7 The results of the geophysical survey of the southern part of the site, in the arable field to the north-west of Poplar Hill (ArchaeoPhysica 2014), showed no anomalies of archaeological significance within the surveyed area, other than a linear anomaly close to its southern edge. Other anomalies that were detected related to former field boundaries, modern services and the probable buried remains/debris of the Cold War monitoring station.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to enable an assessment to be made of the site's archaeological potential, both in quality and extent. Specific aims are to:
- investigate the anomalies shown on the geophysical survey results and test the veracity of the survey through the excavation of trenches in apparently 'blank' areas;

- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposits encountered, together with their likely extents, localised depths and quality of preservation;
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits;
- establish the potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental evidence through a programme of environmental sampling.

2.2 The evaluation results will enable SCCAS, archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority, to identify and assess the particular significance of the site's heritage resource, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance, and develop plans to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage resource conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation will comprise the excavation of up to thirty-five 30m trenches (1050 linear metres) in the locations shown in Figure 2. Seven of these trenches will be located in the arable field in the southern part of the site. In the northern part of the site, which was not subject to geophysical survey, initially eighteen trenches will be excavated; in consultation with SCCAS, this will be increased up to twenty-eight trenches if further investigation of archaeological features is required.

3.2 Trenches will be set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS, and scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment, in accordance with the *Safe System of Work for Avoiding Underground Services* (CA 2008). Where circumstances dictate that trench locations may need to be moved, this will only be undertaken in consultation and with the agreement of the client and SCCAS.

3.3 All trenches will be excavated, under archaeological supervision, by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches are likely to be c. 0.6m deep, although deeper alluvial/colluvial deposits may be encountered at the northern edge of the site, adjacent to the stream. The topsoil and subsoil will be removed to the top of archaeologically significant deposits or to the

top of the geological substrate, whichever is encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately, adjacent to each trench.

- 3.4 Following machining, all archaeological deposits and features will be hand-cleaned to define their extent, then planned and recorded in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context will be recorded on a *pro forma* context sheet by written and measured description. Principal deposits will be recorded on drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50), or electronically using Leica 1200 series GPS (as appropriate). Sections will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, as appropriate. Where detailed feature planning is undertaken using GPS, this will be carried out in accordance with *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2009). Digital photographs (10 megapixel minimum) will be taken as appropriate. Any finds and samples will be bagged separately and related to the context record. Any artefacts encountered will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis, in accordance with *Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (CA 2010).
- 3.5 Sample excavation of archaeological deposits will be sufficient to that necessary to characterise them and to achieve the objectives of the project. Discrete features will be half-sectioned and excavated sections through linear features will be at least 1m wide. Where appropriate, excavation will not compromise the integrity of the archaeological record, and will be undertaken in such a way as to allow for their subsequent protection or through the opportunity for better excavation under the conditions pertaining to investigation of a larger area.
- 3.6 Artefacts from unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest. All artefacts will be collected from stratified excavated contexts except for obviously modern material. Such material may be noted and not retained, or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained. In the event that the evaluation identifies deposits associated with pottery or tile production or similar, a sampling strategy may be appropriate in view of the potentially significant volumes of material. Such a strategy would be discussed and agreed with the client and SCCAS on site prior to implementation.
- 3.7 In the event that human remains are encountered, these will not normally be excavated, but will be planned and recorded in detail. Human remains will only be excavated if they are likely to be damaged or desecrated, or if analysis of the

remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. If human remains are encountered, a licence will be obtained from the Coroners Unit at the Ministry of Justice, and will include notification to the local Environmental Health Officer.

- 3.8 Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential, and where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. Samples, normally not less than 40 litres in volume (where obtainable), will be taken, processed and assessed for potential in accordance with *Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (CA 2003) and *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (EH 2011). If appropriate, specialist advice will be sought from Sarah Cobain, CA's environmental archaeology specialist or Zoe Outram, EH Regional Archaeological Science Advisor (East of England).
- 3.9 Upon completion of the evaluation all trenches will be simply backfilled, with topsoil uppermost, and made level as far as practicable through the tracking of the excavator. Trenches will only be backfilled after inspection and approval by SCCAS.
- 3.10 CA will comply fully with the provisions of the *Treasure Act* 1996 and the *Code of Practice* referred to therein. The spoil heaps and features will be scanned with a metal detector to maximise the recovery of archaeologically significant metal objects.

4. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The project will be under the management of Simon Carlyle MIfA, Principal Fieldwork Manager, and on-site supervision will be undertaken by Ralph Brown, Project Supervisor. The Project Supervisor will be assisted in the field by experienced Archaeologists drawn from CA's fieldwork team.
- 4.2 It is estimated that the fieldwork will take approximately ten days to complete. The fieldwork is due to commence on Monday 19 January 2015, subject to approval of this document by SCCAS.

- 4.3 Specialists who may be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project as necessary are:

Ed McSloy, ceramics, metalwork

Jacky Somerville, worked flint

Dr Sylvia Warman, animal and human bone

Sarah Cobain, environmental remains

- 4.4 Depending upon the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered it may be necessary to consult other specialists not listed here. A full list of specialists currently used by CA is contained within Appendix B.

5. POST-EXCAVATION, ARCHIVING AND REPORTING

- 5.1 Following completion of fieldwork, all artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA Technical Manuals and the Suffolk County Archaeological Stores guidelines.

- 5.2 An illustrated report will be compiled on the results of the fieldwork. The report will include: a non-technical summary; an introduction to the project; an archaeological and historical background; an objective text account of the archaeological results, supported by tabulated data that enables appropriate re-assessment of the results by other parties without recourse to the project archive; a quantification and assessment of the finds and environmental materials; and an interpretative conclusion regarding the archaeological content of the site. The report will include appropriate illustrations of the site, its context and individual trenches, features and contexts where appropriate. A copy of this WSI will be included as an appendix to the evaluation report.

- 5.3 The Suffolk HER event number for this project is COM 041. This number will be clearly marked on the evaluation report and all documentation relating to the project.

- 5.4 Reference will be made to the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) and the results of this search will be incorporated into the report in order to put the evaluation results into their historic environment context.



- 5.5 An unbound hard copy and a digital version of the draft report (either in .pdf or .doc format) will be submitted to SCCAS for approval. Following comment from SCCAS, the report will be finalised and a digital copy will be distributed to the client for submission to the Local Planning Authority. A digital copy and a single hard copy of the report will be forwarded to SCCAS for incorporation into the Suffolk HER.
- 5.6 If significant archaeological remains are encountered, a short summary report will be sent to SCCAS, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 5.7 A summary of information from the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain, along with a .pdf of the final report, under reference number 'Cotswold2-199142'. An OASIS summary sheet will be included as an appendix to the final evaluation report.
- 5.8 Should no further work be required, then an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007) and the guidelines of the Suffolk County Archaeological Stores.
- 5.9 CA will make arrangements with the Suffolk County Archaeological Stores for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.

6. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 6.1 CA will conduct all works in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation. All works will also comply with CA's *Health, Safety & Welfare Policy* (CA 2013) and *Safety, Health and Environmental Management System* (SHEMS). A site-specific Project Health and Safety Plan and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.



7. INSURANCES

- 7.1 CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £5,000,000. No claims have been made or are pending against these policies in the last three years.

8. MONITORING

- 8.1 Notification of the start of site works will be made to Matthew Brudenell, SCCAS so that there will be opportunities to visit the evaluation and check on the quality and progress of the work.

9. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 9.1 CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (IfA 2008). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the IfA.
- 9.2 CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

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6 January 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 *Land off Farriers Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, report **14275**

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

EEA (East Anglian Archaeology) 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **14**

SCC (Suffolk County Council) 2011 *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*



APPENDIX A: ARCHAEOLOGICAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

- AAF 2007 *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.* Archaeological Archives Forum
- AAI&S 1988 *The Illustration of Lithic Artifacts: A guide to drawing stone tools for specialist reports.* Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors Paper 9
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- ACBMG 2004 *Draft Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material. (third edition)* Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
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APPENDIX B: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS***Ceramics***

Neolithic/Bronze Age	Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Elaine Morris (University of Southampton) Ros Cleal (freelance)
Iron Age/Roman (Samian) (Amphorae stamps)	Ed McSloy (CA) Peter Webster (freelance) David Williams (freelance)
Anglo-Saxon	Paul Blinkhorn (freelance) Jane Timby (freelance)
Medieval/post-medieval (Clay pipe)	Ed McSloy (CA) Duncan Brown (freelance) Reg Jackson (freelance)
Ceramic Building Material	Ed McSloy (CA) Phil Mills (freelance) Sandra Garside-Neville (freelance)

Other Finds

Small Finds	Ed McSloy (CA)
Lithics (Palaeolithic)	Ed McSloy (CA) Phil Harding, Wessex Archaeology
Worked Stone	Fiona Roe (freelance)
Inscriptions	Roger Tomlin (Oxford)
Glass	Ed McSloy (CA) Hilary Cool (freelance) David Dungworth (English Heritage)
Coins	Ed McSloy (CA) Dr Peter Guest (Cardiff University) Richard Reece (freelance)
Leather	Quita Mould (freelance)
Textiles	Penelope Walton Rogers (freelance)
Iron slag/metal technology	Dr Tim Young (Cardiff University) Dr David Dungworth (English Heritage)
<i>Biological Remains</i>	
Animal bone	Andy Clarke (CA)
Human Bone (Cremations)	Sharon Clough (freelance) Jackie McKinley (Wessex Archaeology)
Environmental sampling	Sarah Cobain (CA) Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Pollen	Nick Daffern (WHEAS)
Diatoms	Nigel Cameron (UCL)
Charred Plant Remains	Wendy Carruthers (freelance) Liz Pearson (WHEAS)

Wood/Charcoal	Dana Challinor (freelance)
Insects	David Smith (Birmingham University) QUEST (Reading University)
Mollusca	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Fish bones	Hannah Russ (freelance) Philip Armitage
Geoarchaeology	Dr Keith Wilkinson (ARCA)
Scientific Dating	
Dendrochronology	Cathy Groves (ARCUS) Robert Howard (NTRDL Nottingham)
Radiocarbon dating	University of Waikato (New Zealand) Beta Analytic (USA) Rafter (New Zealand)
Archaeomagnetic dating	Don Tarling (Plymouth)
TL/OSL Dating	Phil Toms (University of Gloucestershire)
Conservation	Wiltshire Conservation Services



APPENDIX B: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	D/T (m)	Spot-date
Trench 1						
100	Topsoil	Soft, dark brownish-silty loam, 2% flint inc.	>30	>1.8	0.21	
101	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellowish-brown silty clay, 2% flint inc.	>30	>1.8	0.26	
102	Alluvium	Loose, light yellowish-white, silty sand, no inc.	5	>1.8	0.2	
103	Layer	Soft, dark brownish-grey humic silt, 2% flint inc.	>30	>1.8	0.15	
104	Made-ground	Loose, mid greyish-brown clay silt, frequent inclusions of rubble and plastic pipe	>7	>1.8	0.6	C20
105	Geology	Loose, light brownish-yellow silty sand, 70% stones	>30	>1.8	0.14	
Trench 2						
200	Topsoil	Soft, dark brown silty loam, 2% flint inc.	>30	>1.8	0.29	
201	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% flint inc.	>30	>1.8	0.2	
202	Alluvium	Soft, mid grey blue to orange clay silt, 5% stone inc.	>8	>1.8	0.18	
203	River terrace gravels	Loose, Light brown yellow silty sand, 70% stones	>7	>1.8		
204	Made-ground	Soft, mid yellow brown sandy silt, frequent stone, rubble and plastic	>19	>1.8	0.64	C20
205	Made-ground	Soft, dark grey brown silty clay, moderate quantity of brick and plastic	>19	>1.8	0.22	C20
206	Alluvium	Soft, mid orange brown clay silt, no inc.	>22	>1.8	>0.13	
Trench 3						
300	Topsoil	Friable, dark grey brown silty clay, 25% construction debris	>29	>1.8	0.16	
301	Made-ground	Loose, mid yellow brown clay silt, frequent inclusions of rubble chalk and stones	>29	>1.8	0.6	C20
302	Buried topsoil	Friable, dark grey brown clay silt, no inc.	>29	>1.8	0.2	
303	Alluvium	Soft, Mid orange brown silty clay, no inc.	>29	>1.8	0.8	
Trench 4						
400	Topsoil	Friable, Dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>29	>1.8	0.18	
401	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>29	>1.8	0.28	
402	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>29	>1.8		
403	Hedge/ditch	NE-SW linear, irregular 30° sides and concave base	>1	1.5	0.2	Undated
404	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown, clay silt, occasional flint inc.	>1	1.5	0.2	
405	Ditch	N-S linear, straight 45° sides and concave base	>1	1.41	0.46	C11-C14

406	Secondary silting	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay, occasional flint inc.	>1	1.41	0.46	
Trench 5						
500	Topsoil	Friable, Dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	28	1.8	0.2	
501	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	28	1.8	0.3	
502	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	28	1.8		
Trench 6						
600	Topsoil	Friable, Dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	30	1.8	0.22	
601	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	30	1.8	0.5	
602	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	30	1.8		
603	Ditch	N-S linear, straight 45° sides and concave base	>1	0.9	0.36	Undated
604	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown, clay silt, occasional flint and chalk inc.	>1	0.9	0.36	
605	Ditch	N-S linear, straight 45° sides and irregular base	>1	1.6	0.3	C11-C14
606	Secondary silting	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay, occasional chalk and flint inc.	>1	1.6	0.3	
Trench 7						
700	Topsoil	Friable, Dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>31	1.8	0.27	
701	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>31	1.8	0.26	
702	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>31	1.8		
703	Ditch	N-S Linear, Straight 45° sides concave slightly stepped base	>1.4	1.7	0.57	Medieval?
704	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown clay silt, 2% flint inc.	>1.4	1.7	0.57	
705	Ditch	NW-SE linear, stepped NE side, lower 70°- mid 30°- upper 45°, base and other side not seen	>1.4	>2.45	>0.9	Medieval?
706	Secondary silting	Firm, mid grey brown silty clay, moderate stone and occasional chalk inc.	>1.4	>2.46	>0.9	
707	Deliberate backfill	Firm, mid yellow grey clay, frequent chalk and moderate stone inc.	>1.4	>2	0.22	
Trench 8						
800	Topsoil	Friable, Dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.22	
801	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.22	
802	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
Trench 9						
900	Topsoil	Friable, Dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>31	>1.8	0.35	
901	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>32	>1.8	0.6	

902	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>33	>1.8		
903	Ditch	NE-SW linear unexcavated	>1.8	1		Undated
904	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown clay silt	>1.8	1		
Trench 10						
1000	Topsoil	Friable, Dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.4	
1001	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.44	
1002	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
1003	Ditch	NE-SW linear, straight 45° sides, concave base	>1	0.9	0.44	Undated
1004	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown clay silt, occasional chalk and flint inc.	>1	0.9	0.44	
Trench 11						
1100	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.28	
1101	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.19	
1102	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
Trench 12						
1200	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>28.5	>1.8	0.3	
1201	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>28.5	>1.8	0.6	
1202	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>28.5	>1.8		
Trench 13						
1300	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.26	
1301	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.28	
1302	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
1303	Ditch	N-S linear, straight 30°-45° sides, flat base	>1	1.35	0.22	Undated
1304	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown, clay silt, moderate chalk inc.	>1	1.35	0.22	
Trench 14						
1400	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.3	
1401	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.45	
1402	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
Trench 15						
1500	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>26	>1.8	0.3	

1501	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>26	>1.8	0.2	
1502	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>26	>1.8		
Trench 16						
1600	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>33	>1.8	0.27	
1601	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>33	>1.8	0.8	
1602	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>33	>1.8		
Trench 17						
1700	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.3	
1701	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.18	
1702	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
Trench 18						
1800	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>29	>1.8	0.3	
1801	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>29	>1.8	0.25	
1802	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>29	>1.8		
Trench 19						
1900	Ploughsoil	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>29.7	>1.8	0.25	
1901	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>29.7	>1.8	0.41	
1902	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>29.7	>1.8		
Trench 20						
2000	Ploughsoil	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>28.7	>1.8	0.35	
2001	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>28.7	>1.8	0.3	
2002	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>28.7	>1.8		
Trench 21						
2100	Ploughsoil	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.3	
2101	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.2	
2102	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
2103	Ditch	N-S linear, straight 70° sides, flat base	>1	0.9	0.34	Undated
2104	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown, clay silt occasional small flint and chalk inc.	>1	0.9	0.34	
2105	Ditch	N-S linear, unexcavated	>2.5	0.9		Undated

2106	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown, clay silt occasional small flint and chalk inc.	>2.5	0.9		
2107	Ditch	N-S linear, unexcavated	>2.5	0.9		Undated
2108	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown, clay silt occasional small flint and chalk inc.	>2.5	0.9		
Trench 22						
2200	Ploughsoil	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.34	
2201	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.16	
2202	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
2203	Ditch	NE-SW linear, straight sides 70° on NW and slightly undercutting on SE, flat base	>1	1.4	0.68	Roman
2204	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown clay silt 1% small fragments of flint	>1	1.4	0.68	
2205	Ditch	N-S linear, straight near vertical sides and flat base, lots of bioturbation on E side	>1.2	0.6	0.35	Undated
2206	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown clay silt 1% small fragments of flint	>1.2	0.6	0.35	
2207	Ditch	N-S linear, unexcavated	>3	0.6		Undated
2208	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown clay silt 1% small fragments of flint	>3	0.6		
Trench 23						
2300	Ploughsoil	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>29	>1.8	0.34	
2301	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>29	>1.8	0.14	
2302	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>29	>1.8		
2303	Ditch	NW-SE linear, convex 65° sides, narrow concave base,	>1	1.22	0.8	Post-medieval/modern
2304	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown clay silt, 5% stone and 3% chalk inc.	>1	1.22	0.8	
2305	Ditch	N-S Linear, straight 60° sides, flattish base	>1	1.13	0.39	Undated
2306	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown clay silt, 4% stone inc.	>1	1.13	0.39	
Trench 24						
2400	Ploughsoil	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.26	
2401	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.34	
2402	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
2403	Ditch	NE-SW linear, straight 60° SE side, 35° NW side, flat base	>1	0.95	0.27	Undated
2404	Primary silting	Firm, mid brown grey, clay, frequent chalk and flint inc.	>1	0.47	0.26	
2405	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown clay silt, firm occasional chalk and flint inc.	>1	0.7	0.27	

2406	Ditch	N-S linear, straight 70° sides, flat base	>1	0.9	0.33	Undated
2407	Primary silting	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>1	0.45	0.25	
2408	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown clay silt, occasional flint inc.	>1	0.9	0.33	
2409	Ditch	N-S linear, unexcavated	>3	0.9		Undated
2410	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown clay silt, occasional flint inc.	>3	0.9		
2411	Ditch	N-S linear, unexcavated	>3	0.9		Undated
2412	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown clay silt, occasional flint inc.	>3	0.9		
Trench 25						
2500	Ploughsoil	Friable, mid brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.3	
2501	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.22	
2502	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
2503	Ditch	NW-SE Linear, straight 80° sides, flat base	>1	1.52	0.59	Roman?
2504	Secondary silting	Soft, mid yellow brown, clay silt, 2% flint fragments	>1	1.52	0.59	
Trench 26						
2600	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>21	>1.8	0.27	
2601	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>14	>1.8	0.32	
2602	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>21	>1.8		
2603	Quarry pit	Circular cut extending beyond trench, straight 45° sides base not reached	>7	>1.8	>0.95	Modern
2604	Secondary silting	Soft, mid orange brown clay silt, no inc.	>7	>1.8	>0.95	
Trench 27						
2700	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.44	
2701	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>30	>1.8	0.26	
2702	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>30	>1.8		
2703	Ditch	E-W linear, convex 45° sides, concave base	>2	4.4	1.23	Undated
2704	Secondary silting	Soft, mid purple grey, clay silt, no inc.	>2	1.65	0.35	
2705	Secondary silting	Firm, mid orange brown, silty clay, 2% flint inc.	>2	2.36	1.03	
2706	Secondary silting	Soft, mid brown orange, clay silt, no inc.	>2	1.7	0.3	
2707	Ditch recut of 2703	E-W linear, concave 35° N side, 45° south side, concave base	>2	1.8	0.6	Undated
2708	Secondary silting	Soft, dark purple grey clay silt, no inc.	>2	1.8	0.25	

2709	Deliberate backfill	Firm, mid brown grey, clay, frequent chalk and flint inc.	>2	2.65	0.35	
Trench 28						
2800	Topsoil	Friable, dark brown grey clay silt, 5% small stone inc.	>10	>1.8	0.35	
2801	Subsoil	Soft, mid yellow brown silty clay, 2% stone inc.	>10	>1.8	0.55	
2802	Geology	Firm, light yellow grey clay, frequent chalk inc., occasional flint inc.	>10	>1.8		
2803	Ditch	NE-SW linear, straight 45° sides, concave base	>1	1.55	0.48	Undated
2804	Secondary silting	Soft, mid grey brown clay silt, occasional chalk and flint inc.	>1	1.55	0.48	

APPENDIX C: THE FINDS AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Quantification of finds by context

Context	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
404	Fired clay	1	14	-
406	Medieval pottery: internally-glazed sandy fabric	7	24	C11-C14
604	Shell	5	50	-
606	Medieval pottery: unglazed sandy fabric	1	10	C11-C14
2204	Roman pottery: black-firing, sand-tempered fabric	1	6	RB
<3>	Pottery	1	0.8	RB
<3>	Worked flint: flakes, chips	12	3	
<3>	Burnt flint	9	1	
2304 <2>	Burnt flint	3	2	
2405<1>	Worked flint: flakes, chips	10	3	
<1>	Burnt flint	7	0.8	
2604	Modern pottery: 'late' English stoneware	1	7	MC19-MC20
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: flat roof tile	1	17	
	Stone: slate	1	36	

<sample no.>

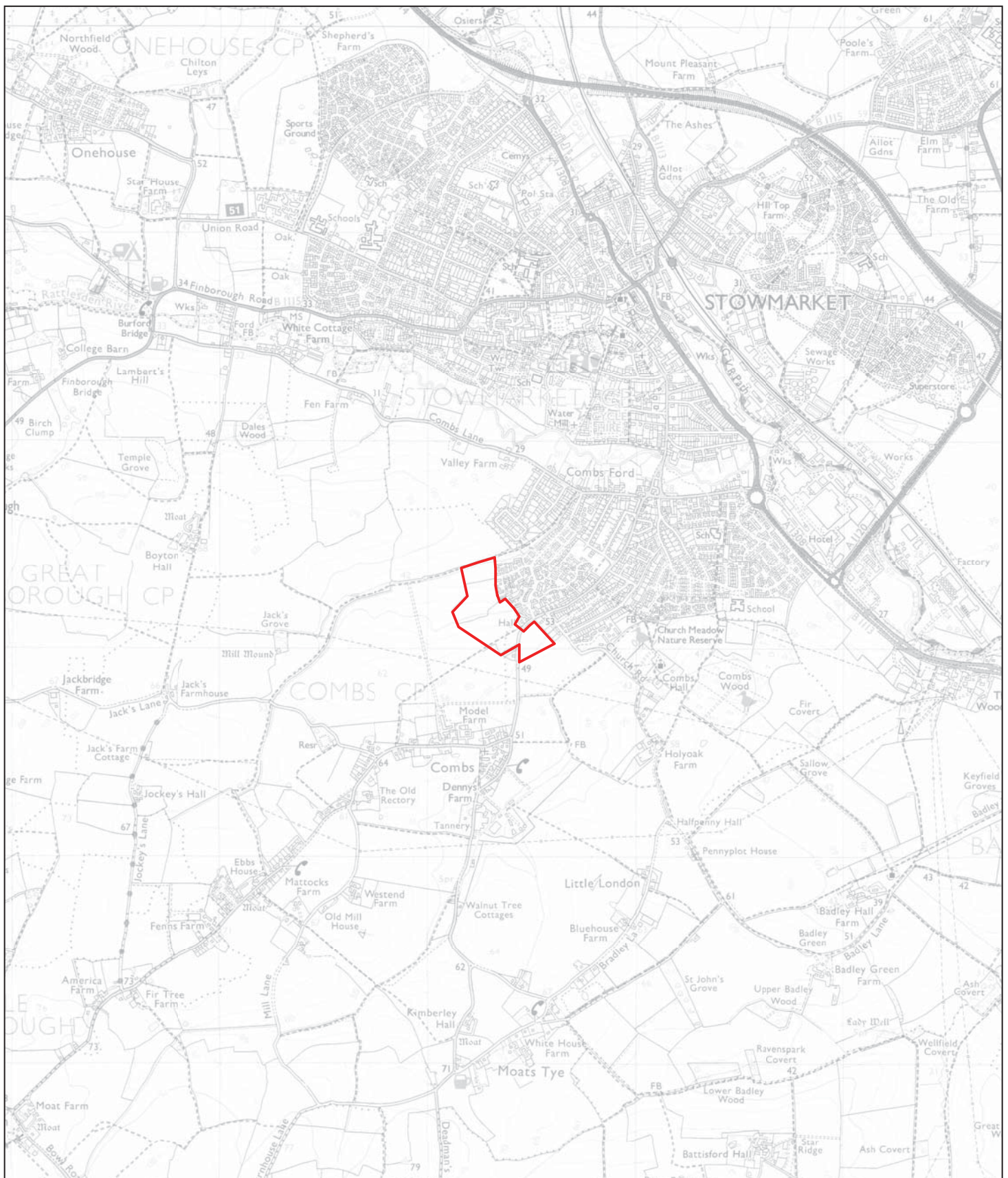
Table 2: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	EQ	LM	MM	Total	Weight (g)
medieval								
405	406				5	1	6	42
605	606	2					2	186
Subtotal		2			5	1	8	228
undated								
603	604		1				1	13
2803	2804			2			2	92
Subtotal			1	2			3	115
Total		2	1	2	5	1	11	
Weight		186	13	92	41	1	333	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; EQ = horse; LM= large-sized mammal; MM = medium-sized mammal

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk	
Short description	The evaluation comprised the excavation of twenty-eight 30m trial trenches in three fields. Possibly the earliest remains were encountered in the southern part of the site, where a sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a ditch that may have formed part of a rectilinear enclosure on the crest of the hill. Further to the north, near the base of the slope that overlooks the small stream that forms the site's northern boundary, a medieval ditch system was investigated. Sherds of 11th to 14th-century pottery were recovered from two of the ditches, along with a small assemblage of animal bone; the other ditches in this area are undated but several are probably associated with the ditch system. Other features included former field boundary ditches, agricultural trenches and a modern quarry pit.	
Project dates	19 January-3 February 2015	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (CA 2014); geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk	
Study area	c. 11ha	
Site co-ordinates	TM 0426 5715	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Ralph Brown (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
	Accession no: COM 041	Content
Physical	Suffolk Museums	Pottery, animal bone
Paper		Site records
Digital	Suffolk HER	Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land off Farrier's Road and Poplar Hill, Stowmarket, Suffolk: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 15079		



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk

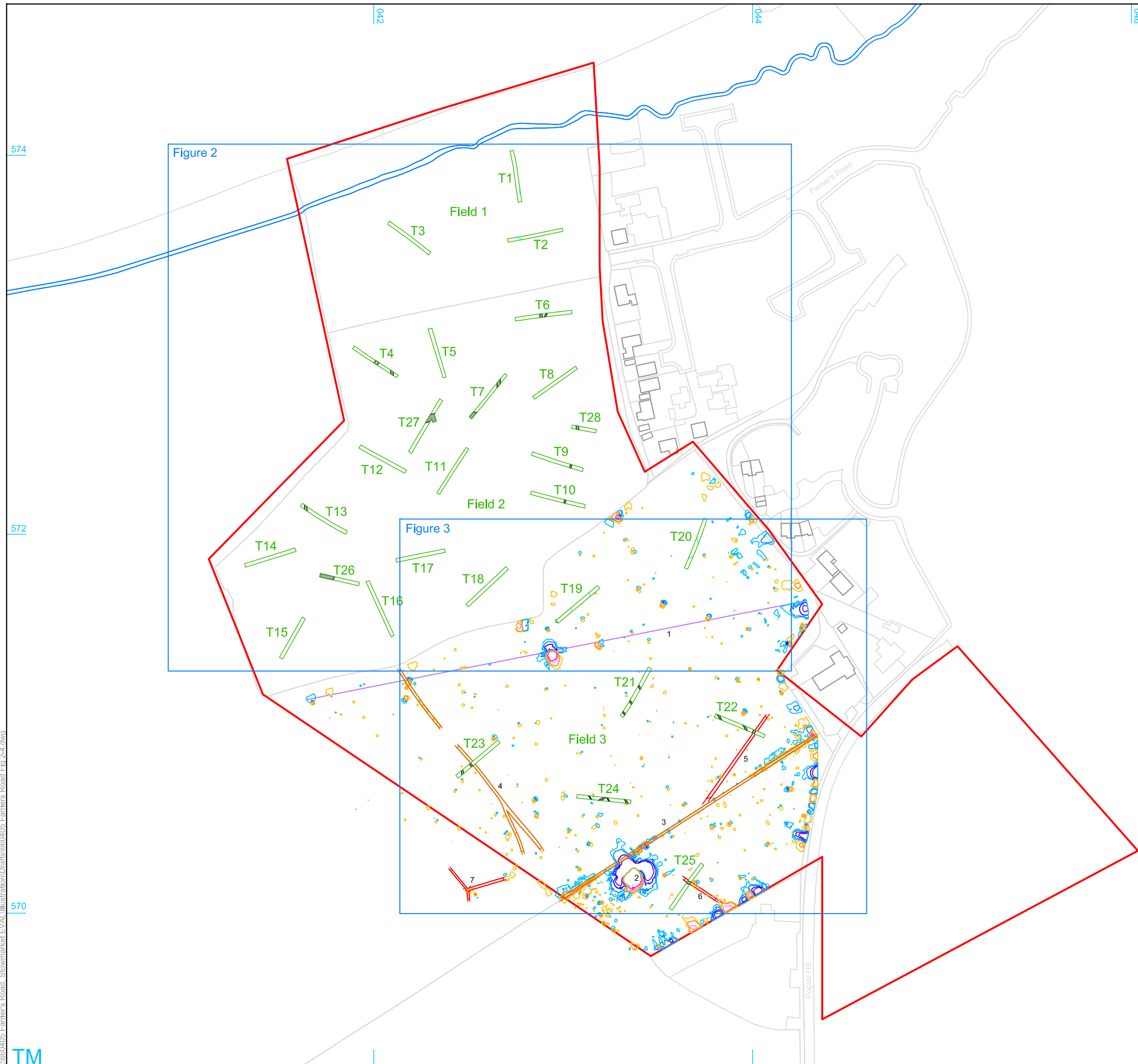
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan



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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	09-02-2015	
APPROVED BY	JB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern

Geophysics Key
(ArchaeoPhysica Ltd)

- >50nT
- >20nT
- >5nT
- >1.5nT
- <-1.5nT
- <-5nT
- <-20nT
- <-50nT

- Catalogue**
- Labels
 - Archaeology**
Fills
 - Agriculture**
Field boundaries



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Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

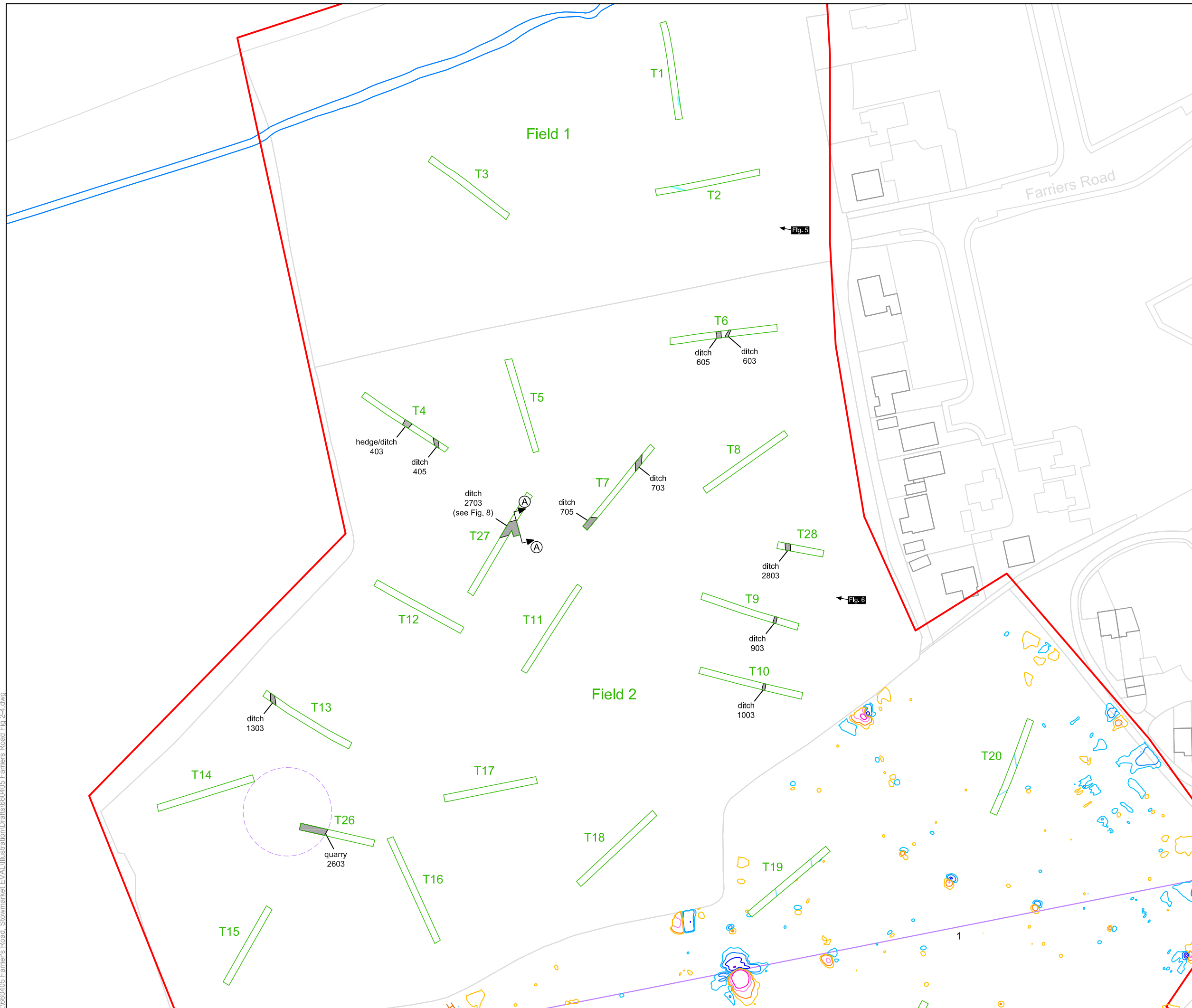
PROJECT TITLE
Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	660405	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JB	DATE	09-02-2015	2
APPROVED BY	SC	SCALE@A3	1:2000	

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- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern
- approximate area of quarry earthwork
- Fig. 5 ← photograph location (general view)

Geophysics Key
(ArchaeoPhysica Ltd)

- >50nT
- >20nT
- >5nT
- >1.5nT
- <-1.5nT
- <-5nT
- <-20nT
- <-50nT

- Catalogue**
- Labels
 - Archaeology Fills
 - Agriculture Field boundaries



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Cotswold Archaeology

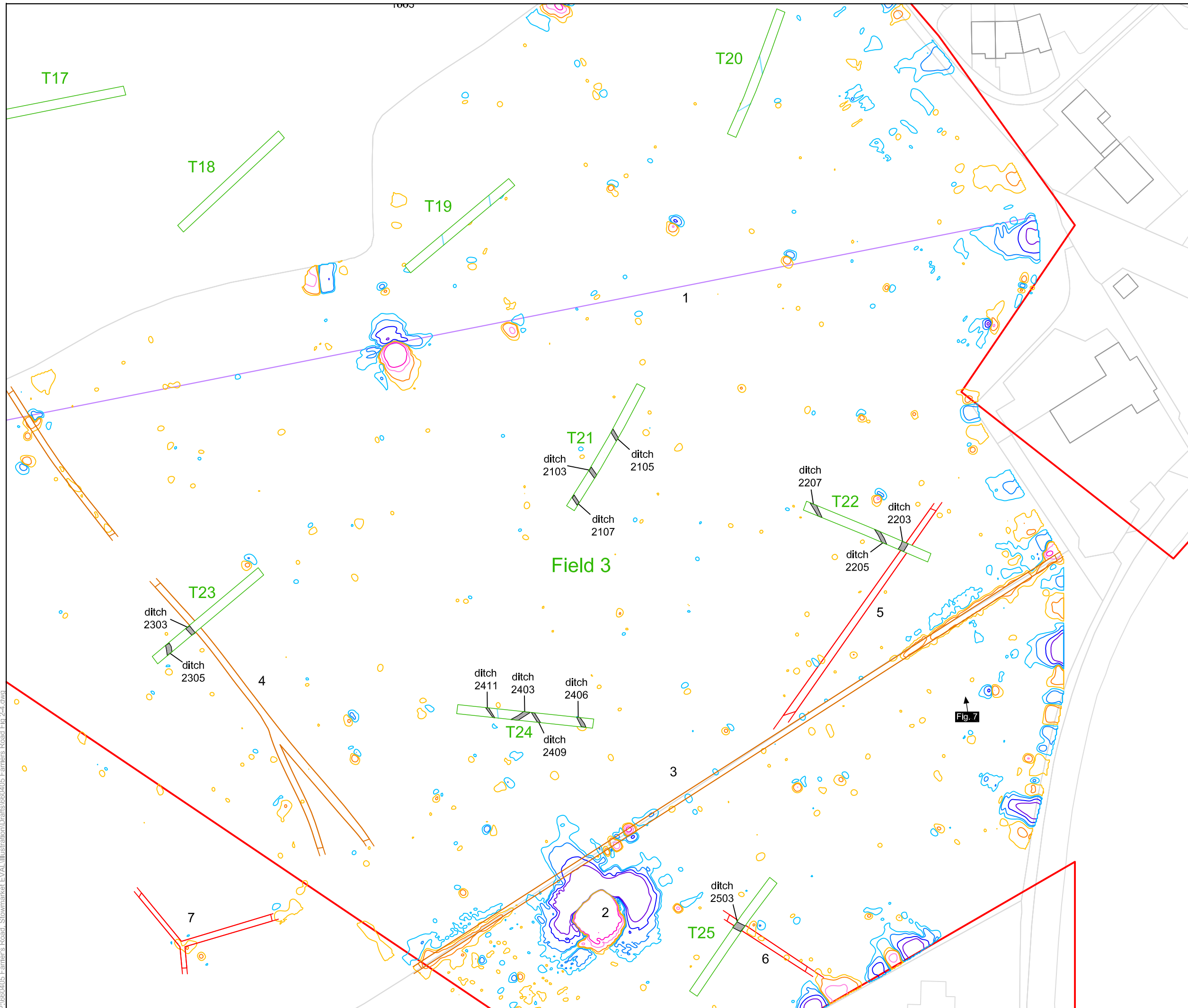
Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Fields 1 and 2: trench location plan showing geophysical survey results and archaeological features

DRAWN BY DJB	PROJECT NO. 660405	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY JB	DATE 09-02-2015	3
APPROVED BY SC	SCALE@A3 1:1000	

P:\660405 Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, EVAL\Illustration\Drafts\660405 Farriers Road Fig 2-4.dwg



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- archaeological feature
- modern
- approximate area of quarry earthwork
- photograph location (general view)

Geophysics Key
(ArchaeoPhysica Ltd)

- >50nT
- >20nT
- >5nT
- >1.5nT
- <-1.5nT
- <-5nT
- <-20nT
- <-50nT

- Catalogue**
- Labels
 - Archaeology**
Fills
 - Agriculture**
Field boundaries



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Cotswold Archaeology

Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Field 3: trench location plan showing geophysical survey results and archaeological features

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5



6

5 General view of Field 1, looking west

6 General view of Field 2, looking north



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Archaeology**

Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.
5 & 6



- 7 General view of Field 3, looking north
- 8 Trench 1, made-ground, looking east (scale 1m)



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Archaeology

Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Andover 01264 347630
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enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE NO.

7 & 8



9



10

- 9 Ditch 405, looking north-west (scale 1m)
- 10 Ditch 605, looking south (scales 1m & 0.4m)



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

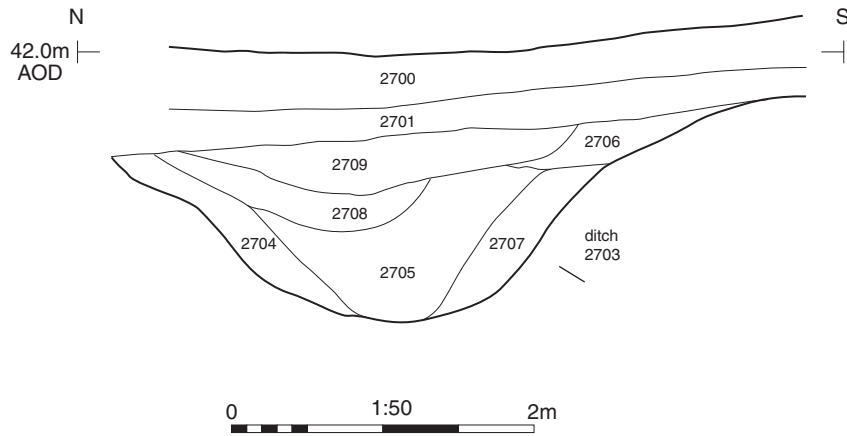
Photographs

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FIGURE NO.

9 & 10

Section AA



Ditch 2703 looking east (scale 1m)



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 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 27: section and photograph

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FIGURE NO.

11



12



13

12 Ditch 2803, looking south-west (scale 1m)

13 Ditch 2203, looking south-west (scale 1m)



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Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.
12 & 13



14



15

14 Ditch 2503, looking south-east (scale 1m)

15 Ditch 2303, looking south-east (scale 1m)



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 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NO.
14 & 15



16

16 Ditch 2103 looking south-east (scale 1m)



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Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Andover 01264 347630
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enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

16



17 Aerial Photograph of 1946



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 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
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Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Aerial photograph

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<i>CHECKED BY</i>	JB	<i>DATE</i>	20-02-2015	17
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18 Detail from 1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of Combs



Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 347630
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Farrier's Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Historic map

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FIGURE NO.

18