

Land off Brandon Road Eriswell Suffolk

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS)

on behalf of
Elveden Farms Limited

CA Project: 660979
CA Report: 660979_1

April 2019



Land off Brandon Road
Eriswell
Suffolk

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land off Brandon Road
Location: Eriswell, Suffolk
NGR: 557381 228006
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 12th – 20th February 2018
Planning Reference: SCC\0270\16F
Location of Archive: Suffolk County Archaeological Stores
Site Code: ERL249

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the installation of a rising main and infiltration basin that will service a recycling centre at Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk. The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS), acting on behalf of Elveden Farms Ltd.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered within the excavated deposits.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February 2018, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a surface water drainage pipe system, concrete hardstanding, replacement office/welfare building, replacement weighbridge, staff parking, pumping station, cesspool and the installations of a drainage pipe link to an infiltration basin that will serve a recycling centre at Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk (centred at NGR: 557381 228006; Fig. 1). This watching brief was commissioned by for CgMs Heritage (Part of the RPS), acting on behalf of the client, Elveden Farms Ltd.
- 1.2 The development comprised of the installation of a rising main between the existing recycling centre off Brandon Road to an infiltration basin, c. 800m to the south east. Informed by the results of a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) prepared by CgMs (2016) and in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (2019), Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) has identified that the site had archaeological potential and recommended to Suffolk County Council (SCC) that planning consent would be conditional on a programme of archaeological investigation, the scope of which was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) prepared by CA at the request of CGMS (CA 2018).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI and abided by the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EEA 2003), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (ClfA 2014), and the Historic England (formerly English Heritage) procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The recycling centre, a facility for recycling materials used in the construction industry, occupies the site of a former chalk pit on the eastern edge of Little Eriswell, RAF Lakenheath (Fig. 1), to the east of Brandon Road (A1065). The route of the proposed rising main extends c. 925m in a general south-easterly direction across arable fields and grassland to the site of the infiltration basin (Figs 2–4). The ground descends from c. 25m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the site of the infiltration basin to c. 14m aOD at the recycling centre. In the wider landscape, the site is

located at the western edge of the Brecklands, an extensive area of acidic, sandy heath that locally borders The Fens.

- 1.5 The geology of the site comprises undifferentiated Cretaceous chalk of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation, locally overlain by intermittent Quaternary wind-blown deposits of Cover Sand (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in the Desk-Based Assessment prepared by CgMs (2016). This concluded that there were no designated or undesignated heritage assets within the site and that development within the site of the recycling centre would have no impact on buried archaeological remains as the site has been quarried previously. However, it identified a low to moderate potential for prehistoric remains, particularly lithic scatters, along the route of the rising main and at the site of the infiltration basin.
- 2.2 Cotswold Archaeology undertook a watching brief at the site during a previous phase of work. This was undertaken in February and March 2017 during the installation of the rising main and infiltration basin (CA report no. 17160). No features or deposits of archaeological interests were observed during groundworks and there was no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period in the excavated deposit.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2018). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks along the route of the surface water drainage pipe system and associated installations and the rising drainage pipe link. A photographic record of the project was maintained in high resolution digital images and included photographs of the general site and working shots. There were no finds or deposits encountered that were suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2014) and Technical Manual 4: *Survey Manual* (CA 2012)
- 4.3 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. The archive from the archaeological investigation will be deposited with the Suffolk County Archaeological Stores, under parish site code ERC249, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 This stage of the watching brief comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the pipe trench from the recycling centre across two arable fields to the south-east. The pipe trench was 0.6m wide and on an average had a depth of 1.4m. The geological substrate (102) was mixed across site, it was fairly compact and consisted of a mid brown orange silty sand to a light grey white sandy chalk. and it was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by agricultural plough soil/uncultivated topsoil (100) averaging 0.3m thick, which consisted of loose, mid grey brown, dark grey brown sandy silt.
- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered. A possible feature was identified in the pipe trench (103/104), however, this was only identified in section and was considered likely to be a tree throw, or natural hollow.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks and no artefacts were recovered. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that any earlier remains and in particular evidence for prehistoric activity either do not extend as far as the site or were not exposed by the groundworks or that any such remains may have been removed by the earlier quarrying. Due to the restricted nature of the groundworks it is possible that evidence for prehistoric activity exists elsewhere within the site, beyond the areas monitored.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Alice Amabilino. The report was written by Eilidh Barr. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Michelle Collings.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>> Accessed 15 February 2019

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk Archaeological Watching Brief report*, unpublished document. Report no. 17160

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2018 *Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished document

CgMs (CgMs Heritage (Part of RPS)) 2016 *Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, report **SD/22826**

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

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

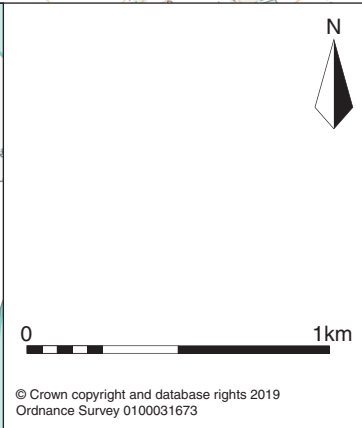
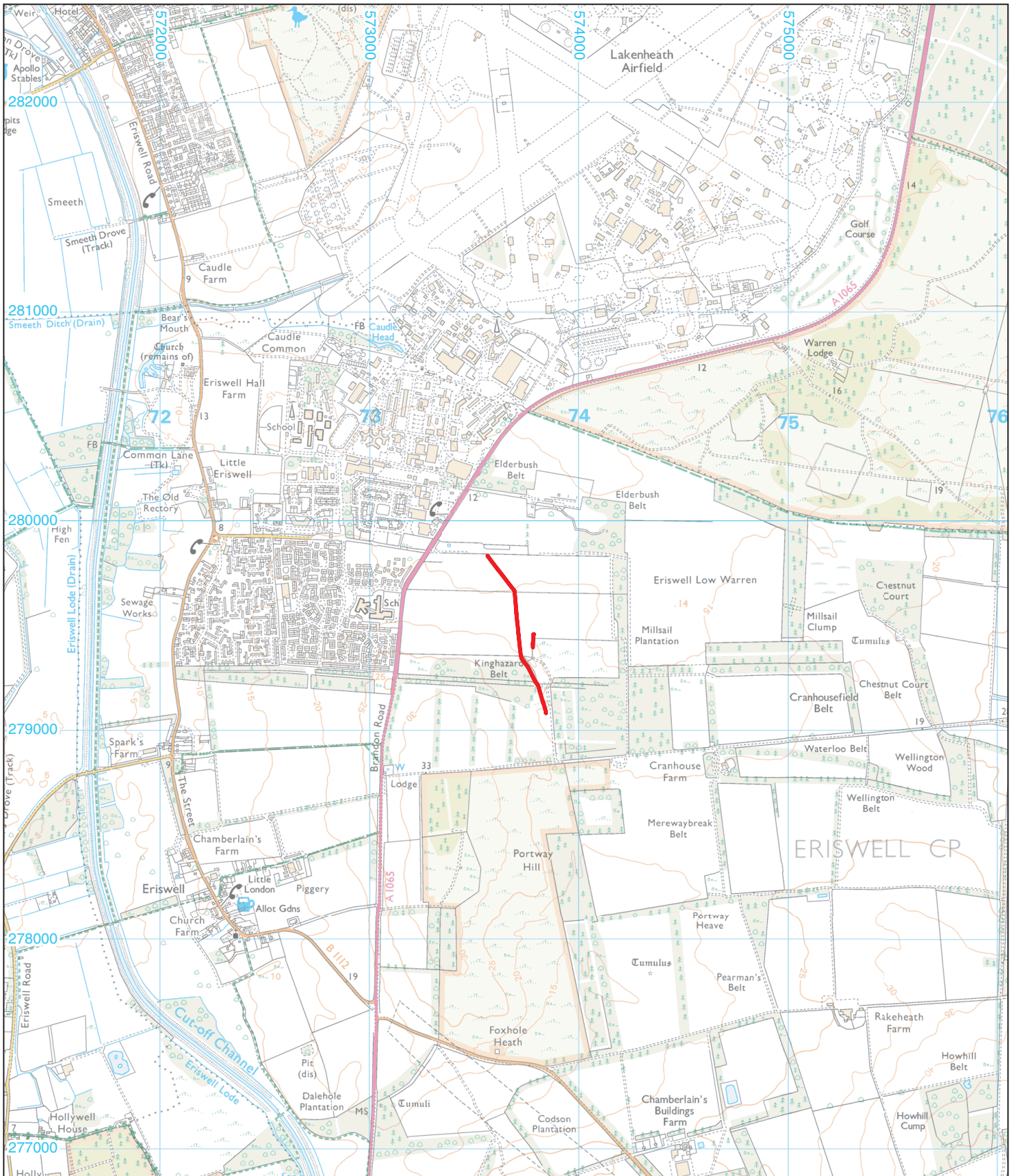


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
100	Topsoil	Mid grey brown/Dark grey brown, sand silt, moderately loose	-	0.6	0.4
101	Plough soil	Mid grey brown, sand silt, mod loose with small pebbles and flint	-	0.6	0.4
102	Natural	Mixed across site - mid orange brown sand silt - light grey white sand chalk – light yellow grey chalk	-	0.6	0.4
103	Cut	Cut of natural feature/tree throw – only seen in section	2.5	-	0.5
104	Fill	Mid brown orange silt sand with inclusions of medium sized angular stones	2.5	-	0.5

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Land off Brandon Road
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the installation of a rising main and infiltration basin that will service a recycling centre at Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk. The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Elveden Farms Ltd.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered within the excavated deposits.</p>
Project dates	12th – 20th February 2018
Project type	Archaeological watching brief
Previous work	Archaeological watching brief (CA 2017)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Land off Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk
Study area (M ² /ha)	925 linear metres
Site co-ordinates	557381 228006
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA
Project Manager	Alice Amabilino
Project Supervisor	Alice Amabilino
MONUMENT TYPE	
None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archive	None
Physical	None
Paper	Suffolk HER
Digital	Suffolk HER
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land Off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk</i> . CA typescript report	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2019 <i>Land Off Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk</i> . CA typescript report	



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY RW **PROJECT NO.** 660979 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY AO **DATE** 15/04/2019
APPROVED BY MLC **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000 **1**



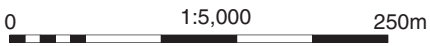
573750

tree-throw
103

279500



- Observed groundworks
- Natural feature



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Site, showing location of observed groundworks

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, EarthStar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660979	FIGURE NO.
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Site, looking north



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FIGURE TITLE

Site: photograph

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View of pipe and backfill, looking south



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Site: photograph

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Trench for the pipeline, looking north-west



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Brandon Road, Eriswell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Site: photograph

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<i>CHECKED BY</i>	DB	<i>DATE</i>	15/04/2019	5
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	MLC	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	NA	

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