

Land off Brandon Road Lakenheath Suffolk

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
CgMs Consulting

acting on behalf of
Elveden Farms Ltd

CA Project: 660854
CA Report: 17160

Event no: ESF25428
Site Code: ERC249
OASIS no: Cotswold2-275189

March 2017



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SUMMARY

Project Location:	Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk
NGR:	TL 7381 8006
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	15th-16th February and 8th March 2017
Location of Archive:	Suffolk County Archaeological Stores
Accession Number:	ESF25428
Site Code:	ERC249

In February and March 2017, 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, Lakenheath, Suffolk. The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, acting on behalf of Elveden Farms Ltd.

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



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In February and March 2017, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) during the installation of a rising main and infiltration basin that will service a recycling centre at Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk (site centred at NGR: TL 73816 80062; Fig. 1). The watching brief was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (CgMs), acting on behalf of Elveden Farms Ltd.
- 1.2 The development, which was granted planning permission by Forest Heath District Council (FHDC), comprised the installation of the rising main between the recycling centre, located off Brandon Road, to an infiltration basin c. 800m to the south-east (Fig. 2). Informed by the results of a desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared by CgMs (2016) and in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012), Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) considered that the site had archaeological potential and recommended to FHDC that planning consent should be conditional on a programme of archaeological investigation. The scope of the archaeological investigation was set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA at the request of CgMs (CA 2017).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*) 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* (CIfA 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).

2. SITE BACKGROUND

Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1 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.

- 2.2 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 2017).

Archaeological background

- 2.3 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.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological investigation, as stated in the WSI (CA 2017), was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any archaeological remains that may have been encountered within the site and to set these within their cultural and environmental setting.

- 3.2 The specific objectives were to:

- establish the date, nature and extent of activity or occupation in the development site;
- establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes;
- identify and record any lithic scatters that may be encountered;
- recover palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.



4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017) and comprised the observation by an experienced archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks along the route of the rising main and at the site of the infiltration basin (Fig. 2).
- 4.2 All features and deposits were recorded in accordance with *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2014) and *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2012). 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 and no deposits were encountered that were suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis.
- 4.3 The archive from the archaeological investigation is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Archaeological Stores under parish site code ERC249. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain under Cotswold2-275189.

5. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 5.1 The initial 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 (Figs 2–4). The pipe trench was 0.6m wide and on average it had a depth of 1.2m. The geological substrate (1001) consisted of compacted chalk and flint, which was encountered at an average depth of 0.3m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by agricultural plough soil/uncultivated topsoil (1000/2000 respectively) averaging 0.3m thick, which consisted of soft mid yellowish 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 (1002/1004), but subsequent investigation suggested that this was an animal burrow (Fig. 5).

- 5.3 Ground reduction for the infiltration basin did not exceed 0.25m bpgl and did not penetrate the topsoil horizon (Figs 2, 6 and 7).

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief did not encounter any archaeological remains along the route of the pipe trench and there was no worked flint or any other finds in the excavated deposits. The only feature identified in the pipe trench was a probable animal burrow (Fig. 5).

- 6.2 Ground reduction for the infiltration basin was extremely shallow, involving little more than the removal of the turf, so the horizon at which archaeological remains may have been encountered was not exposed (Figs 6 and 7).

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Samuel Dixon and Andrew Whelan. The report was written by Andrew Whelan, with illustrations prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by Emily Evans and prepared for deposition by Jessica Cook. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, accessed 3rd February 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished document

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

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**

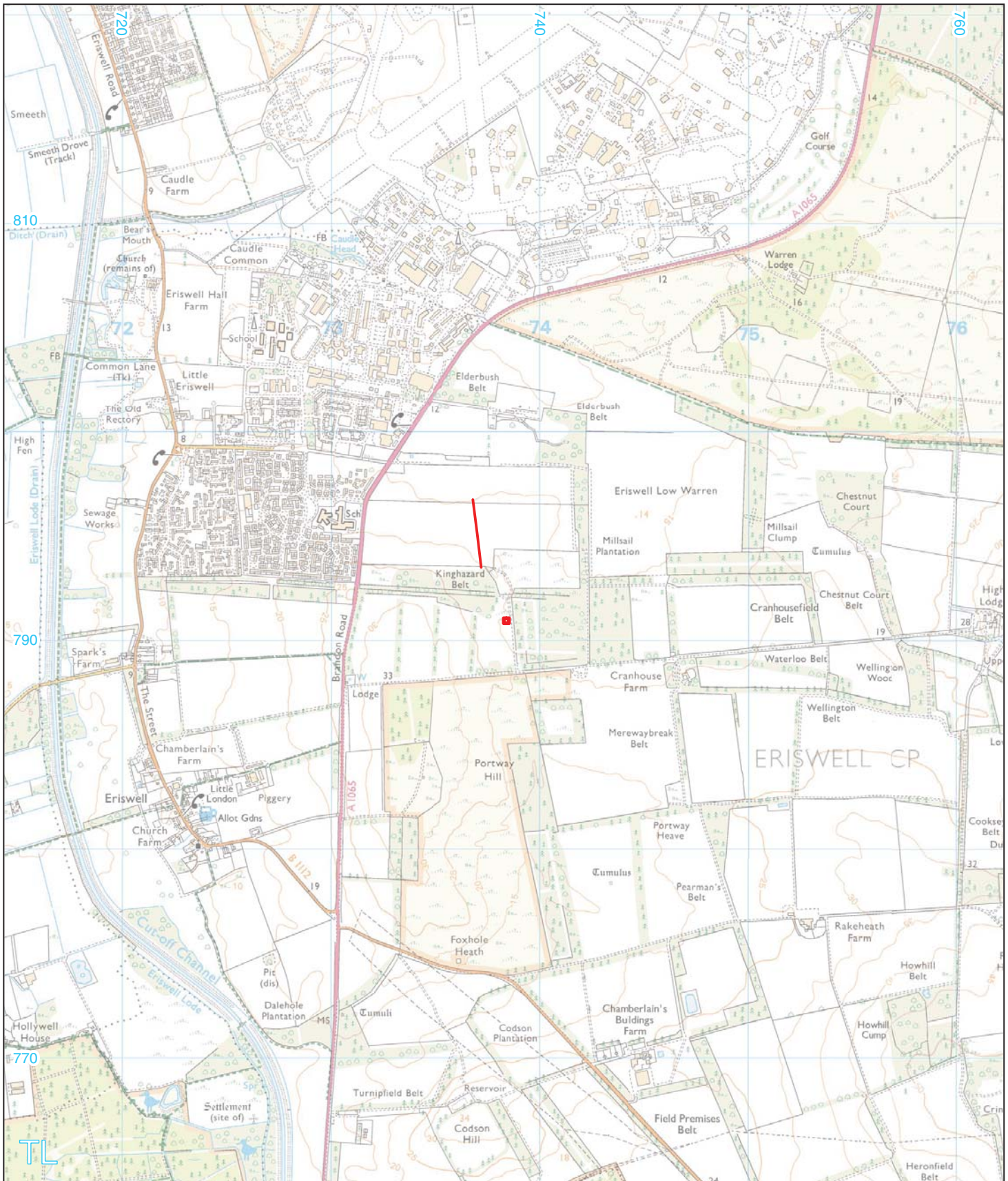


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
1000	Ploughsoil	Mid grey brown soft sandy silt	-	-	0.3
1001	Geology	Light brown white firm chalk	-	-	-
1002	Pit	Pit with concave sides (reinterpreted as part of animal burrow 1004)	>0.6	1.45	0.64
1003	Fill of 1002	Mid brown firm sandy silt	-	-	0.64
1004	Burrow	Animal burrow	-	0.6	0.6
1005	Fill of 1004	Re-deposited topsoil and chalk	-	0.6	0.6
2000	Topsoil	Mid grey brown soft sandy silt	-	-	>0.25

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk	
Short description	No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	15th-16th February and 8th March 2017	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	CgMs (CgMs Consulting) 2016 <i>Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , report SD/22826	
Future work	None	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk	
Study area	925 linear metres	
Site co-ordinates	57381 28006	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA), Sally Dicks (CgMs)	
Project Supervisor	Sam Dixon and Andrew Whelan (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
	Suffolk site code ERC249	Content
Physical	Suffolk County Council	None
Paper	Archaeological Archive	Site records
Digital	Suffolk HER	Report, digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land Off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk</i> . CA typescript report 17081		



 Site boundary

0  1km

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PROJECT TITLE
Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660854	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	16/03/2017	
APPROVED BY	SCC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1




animal burrow

Pipeline

Infiltration basin



 Observed groundworks



0 100m

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



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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Plan showing the location of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY EE PROJECT NO. 660854
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 16/03/2017
 APPROVED BY SCC SCALE@A3 1:3000

FIGURE NO.

2



3

View of the route of the pipeline, looking south from the northern field boundary



4

Pipe installation, looking north from the southern field boundary



5

East facing section of the pipe trench, showing pit/animal burrow 1002/1004


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PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Brandon road, Lakenheath,
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FIGURE TITLE
Photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660854	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	16/03/2017	3, 4 & 5
APPROVED BY	SCC	SCALE	@A3 NA	



Laying out the site of the infiltration basin, looking north-west



Ground reduction for the infiltration basin, looking north-east



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	660854	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	16/03/2017	6 & 7
APPROVED BY	SCC	SCALE@A4	NA	

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