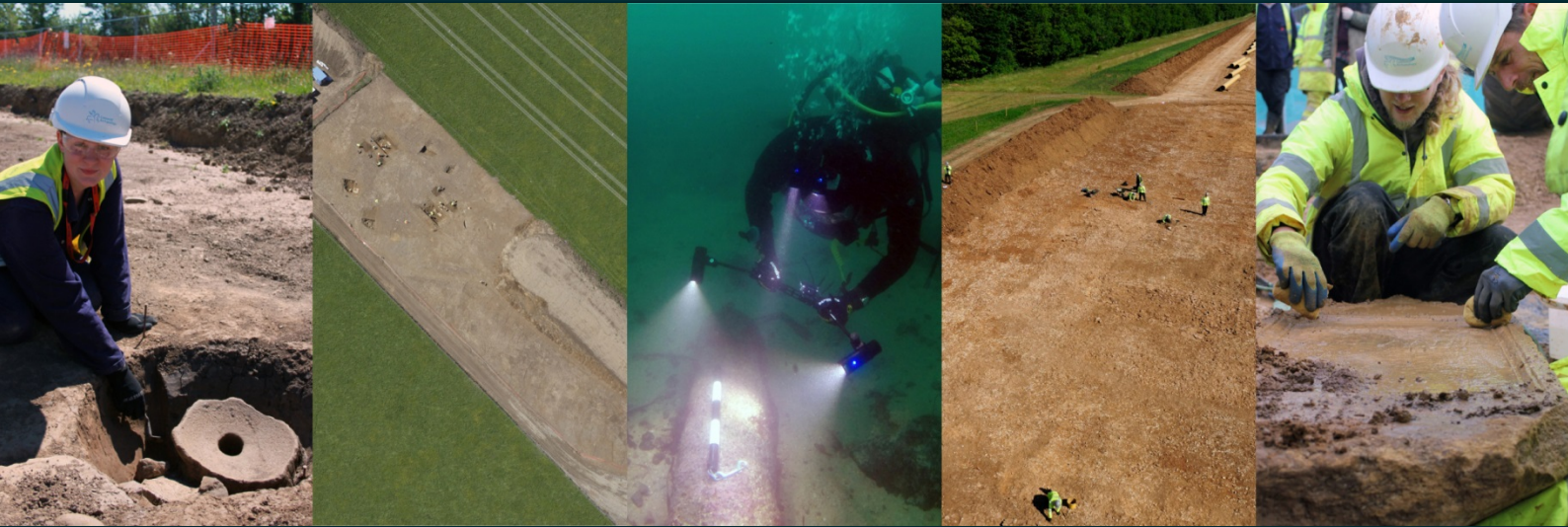


# Ford Place Nursing Home Ford Street, Thetford, Norfolk

## *Informative Trial Trenching*



*for:*  
Whitworth Chartered Architects

*on behalf of:*  
Stow Healthcare

CA Project: SU0103  
CA Report: SU0103\_1

OASIS ID: cotswold2-381278  
HER Reference: ENF147498





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Consultation No: CNF48811 NMS  
Accession No: NWHCM: 2020.44



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	11/03/2020	T Schofield	J Craven	Draft		J Craven
B	16/03/2020	T Schofield	J Craven	Final	Curator Comment	J Craven

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	7
4. METHODOLOGY .....	7
5. RESULTS (FIGS. 4 – 7) .....	8
6. THE FINDS .....	10
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE .....	17
8. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION.....	23
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	25
10. REFERENCES.....	26
<b>APPENDIX A: CONTEXT, FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT.....</b>	<b>38</b>

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Norfolk HER entries and Scheduled Monuments surrounding site (1:10,000)
Fig. 3 Trench location plan showing archaeological features (1:250, 1:750)
Fig. 4 Trench 1: plan and photograph (1:50)
Fig. 5 Trench 1: sections and photographs (1:20)
Fig. 6 Trench 1: sections and photographs (1:20)
Fig. 7 Trench 1: section and photograph (1:20)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Ford Place Nursing Home
<b>Location:</b>	Ford Street, Thetford, Norfolk
<b>NGR:</b>	587415 282630
<b>Type:</b>	Informative Trial Trenching
<b>Fieldwork Date:</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	3PL/2019/1026/F
<b>NCCES Consultation No:</b>	CNF48811
<b>OASIS Number:</b>	cotswold2-381278
<b>Site Code:</b>	ENF 147498
<b>HER Search No:</b>	NHER_20_01_21
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service (NMS)
<b>NMS Accession No:</b>	NWHCM: 2020.44

In February 2020, an archaeological trial trench investigation comprising a single trench was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on land at Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street, Thetford, Norfolk, in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing nursing home. Medieval pits and ditches, a post-medieval wall foundation trench and an early modern garden feature were hand investigated, following machine excavation to remove overburden deposits on to the primary archaeological horizon.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 11th-12th February 2020, Cotswold Archaeology Suffolk Office (CA) carried out the first stage of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work (POAMW), an archaeological trial trench investigation, for Stow Healthcare at Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street, Thetford, Norfolk (centred at NGR: 587415 282630; Fig. 1). The trial trenching was undertaken to meet the conditions placed on Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC, Ref. S00230650, Appendix C) issued by Historic England (HE) for the construction of an extension to the property.
- 1.2 The POAMW was requested by the Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCCES), the archaeological advisor to Breckland District Council (BDC), in order to assess the site for archaeological heritage assets and inform subsequent decisions as to whether further archaeological mitigation would be required, either prior to or during phases of development. Although not imposed by condition on the BDC planning consent, an NCCES Brief for a POAMW (dated 29/10/2019) was submitted to HE as part of the application for SMC. The SMC was subsequently granted with conditions to carry out the POAMW in full.

### ***The site***

- 1.3 Situated in the parish of Thetford, Ford Place Nursing Home is located on the southern side of the historic town core (Fig's 1 and 2), to the south of Ford Street and west of Nuns' Bridges Road. Within the grounds lie a substantial detached house set in extensive gardens, which was converted to a nursing home in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. A separate property is further linked on its western side and a modern extension dating to c.2004 extends to the southeast from this western building.
- 1.4 The approved development will consist of a new wing connecting the southeastern end of the 2004 extension before running north to link up with Ford Place and the building to the west. It is currently set aside to lawn with a paved area used for wheelchair access.
- 1.5 The site lies at the base of the valley slope/edge of the floodplain (c.12m AOD) of the River Thet, which bounds the site c.40m to the south, and runs from east to west before joining the Little Ouse c.400m to the west. The British Geological Survey (BGS) website depicts the site on the boundary between bands of River Terrace

Deposits of sand and gravel to the north and clay/silt alluvium to the south. These superficial deposits overlie chalk bedrock of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (BGS 2020).

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) search was ordered (NHEREnq20\_01\_21). This revealed a large number of archaeological entries, including monuments, events and findspots, recorded in the area, the locations of which are marked in Figure 2. A summary of those recorded within close proximity to the site are presented below.

2.2 The site lies within a Scheduled Monument (SM), the *Castle Hill motte and bailey castle, Iron Age earthwork enclosure and site of Augustinian Friary* (SM No. 1017670). The following is a summary taken from its description on the National Heritage List for England website (NHLE 2020). The Scheduled Monument is formed of two separate areas, to north and south of Castle Lane, and includes ‘*a medieval motte and bailey castle which incorporates the remains of an earlier earthwork enclosure identified as an Iron Age fort. Also included is the site of an Augustinian friary which was established within the earthwork enclosure in the later 14th century, on land to the south of Castle Lane.*’

*‘...In the area to the north west of Castle Lane and north of Market Street, the remains of the Iron Age enclosure and medieval castle include substantial upstanding earthworks. To the south east of Castle Lane, where there are no visible earthworks, an infilled ditch and other features and archaeological deposits relating to the prehistoric and medieval occupation of the site are known to survive below the modern ground surface.’*

2.3 The fortified multivallate enclosure (NHER5747) was investigated during excavations undertaken in the 1960’s, across the outer rampart ditch and bank but with limited investigations on the bailey. Results revealed that the fort was of an Iron Age date.





2.4 Several stages of previous fieldwork within the grounds of Ford Place between 1984 and 2006 are recorded under NHER No. 5940. Together these have recorded evidence of activity ranging from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period.

- Excavations in the northeast part of the grounds, within and adjacent to the kitchen gardens c.80m northeast of the current site, were carried out between 1984 and 1986. These works identified small quantities of residual Neolithic worked flint and Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pottery, a phase of Iron Age occupation in the form of pits, a posthole group, a cremation and fragmentary inhumation (although no evidence of the Iron Age earthworks was recorded), and medieval pits and layers with 13th to 14th century pottery and building material.
- Excavation and monitoring in 1998 and 1999, prior to and during the construction of an extension on the western side of Ford Place in the extreme northwest part of the grounds identified several Late Saxon ditches and gullies thought to represent outlying activity associated with the Saxon town and limited evidence for medieval activity.
- An archaeological excavation of the footprint of the extension to the east of the site by NAU Archaeology in 2004 (Emery 2009) revealed evidence for Iron Age activity in the form of several pits and a 'structured' deposit within a ditch comprising a partial human inhumation, pottery and butchered animal bone. A small quantity of residual Early Saxon pottery, two medieval waste pits and a single ditch or gully, and elements of post-medieval gardens were also identified, the latter particularly covering the eastern part of the excavation adjacent to the current site. It has been suggested that an absence of finds dating between the late 14th century and 16th century indicates that this part of the Ford Place gardens may have been included within the grounds of the Augustinian Friary (NHER 5912) to the east.
- A Watching Brief by Chris Birks Archaeological Services during the construction of a garden room attached to the main building in 2006 is noted as not identifying any archaeological deposits, simply revealing disturbed subsoil deposit and made-up ground from the original construction.

2.5 Roman, Early and Middle Saxon settlement was recorded during excavations by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in 1994 (NHER17269), to the south of the River Thet. The remains of a Roman cemetery dating to the 4th century contained a high number of decapitated burials, along with building structures indicative of both



domestic and agricultural types. Saxon sunken featured buildings, pits and hollows were further recorded dating from the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

- 2.6 In the early medieval period, Thetford was one of the six largest populated towns in the country. Its castle, that dominated the local landscape, was built to protect and control the important river crossings of both the Thet and the Ouse. The medieval motte and bailey castle (NHER5747) was built in the early 11<sup>th</sup> century and comprised a motte and outer ditch, placed within the bounds of the Iron Age fort ramparts; it was demolished in 1173. A rectangular platform, potentially constructed for a timber tower, is located on the mound's summit. This platform is encircled by a chalk rubble bank that may form the footings of a timber palisade or wall.
- 2.7 Located to the east of the present nursing home, lie the remains of St Augustine's Church, built for the Austin Friars (NHER5912). To date the limits of the Friary, which opened in 1387 and was dissolved in 1538, remain uncertain. Plain and carved 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century style stone fragments are currently being displayed as ornaments within the garden area to the east of the current site.
- 2.8 Ford Place, an early nineteenth century house and gardens (NHER40576 and 45469) that was converted to a nursing home in the 1950's, is a Grade II Listed Building. Its entry on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE Entry No. 1207667) reads as follows: *House, now residential home for elderly. Early C19, additions of c1860. Gault brick. Roofs of black-glazed pantiles. Double-pile plan. 2-3 storeys. Irregular facade to north in 3 distinct elements, all with different roof lines. East part with double-leaf glazed door set within a doorcase consisting of engaged reeded and fluted Ionic columns supporting a dentilled pediment. To left is a first-floor staircase window with 6/6 glazing bars and a rounded head. Fenestration generally of 6/6 sashes with gauged skewback arches. Gabled and hipped roofs. Multiple stacks. South front has balanced asymmetry: 2 hipped elements broken forward right and left, that to right (east) with a full-height canted bay. The other with 2 hipped through-eaves dormers, probably c1860. Immediately west of house (and attached to it) is a 3-bay, single-storey grotto of whole flints: a central pointed doorway flanked by a pointed Y-tracery window right and left. INTERIOR: staircase mid C19: 2 twisted balusters per tread and moulded handrail. Main rooms with dentil cornices and marble fireplaces. 6-panelled doors.'*

- 2.9 In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the grounds of Ford Place were extended to include common land to the west and the site of the Augustine Friary to the east. The river and grounds to the south were further managed to afford manicured views from the house. The associated early 19<sup>th</sup> century kitchen garden walls which lie to the east of the house are also listed as Grade II (NHLE Entry No. 1297868).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The aims of the project, as described in the NCCES Brief, were as follows:

*'Informative trenching is required to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. The states of preservation of archaeological features or deposits within the area indicated should be determined. A total of 1no. 20m x 1.8m trench is required within the footprint of the proposed development'.*

- 3.2 In addition to these aims, the potential of the site to address any relevant themes outlined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown & Glazebrook, 2000; Medleycott, 2011) was to be explored.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The Brief required 5% of the total development area to be evaluated by trial trenching, equating to 36m<sup>2</sup> over an area of 0.072ha or 20m of linear trenching with a width of 1.80m (Fig's 3 and 4).

- 4.2 The trench was positioned in the centre of the proposed building footprint, however it was only possible to excavate 10m of the trench w due to two extant standing structures and the requirement for emergency access along a paved path. The trench was set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica GS08 GNSS RTK GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*. A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket was employed to machine the trench to either the top of the first archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist. All archaeological deposits encountered were excavated by hand, in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 A soil sample was taken from a single sealed context and its palaeoenvironmental potential was assessed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. Artefacts were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive from the trial trenching project is currently held by CA Suffolk in Needham Market and will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service, subject to agreement with the legal landowner. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, has been entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (Ref. 381278).

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS. 4 – 7)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the trial trenching results; detailed context summaries, finds and environmental sample data (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are presented in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The stratigraphic sequence was uniform across the length of the short trench. Topsoil 100 was 0.38m in depth and consisted of dark grey brown, compact silty clay with occasional chalk and flint stones. Underlying Topsoil 100 was a 0.32m thick demolition/construction layer (101) consisting of mid grey brown, compact silty clay with occasional angular chalk and flint stones and modern rubbish, potentially associated with the construction of the adjacent building. This was present to a depth of 0.70m below the ground surface. At the base of the sequence was natural drift geology 117, consisting of light white, compact chalk with occasional angular flint stones and nodules.

### Trench 1 (Fig's 3 – 7)

- 5.3 Trench 1 was 10m long and 1.80m wide, orientated broadly north to south and located within the centre of the proposed building footprint. A single garden feature and wall foundation trench, a ditch and a pit were sealed by subsoil demolition deposit 101. The stratigraphic relationships reveal that the earliest feature on site, pit 110, is cut by ditch 107 and wall foundation trench 113/115.



- 5.4 Garden Feature 102/104 was rectangular in plan (6.78m+ long x 1.00m+ wide x 0.10m thick), with steep sides and a flat base. Two separate sections were excavated and the shallow fills of both 103/105 respectively were a mid grey brown, friable sand silt with frequent chalk flecks. Ceramic Building Material (CBM) was recovered from both fills.
- 5.5 Ditch 107 was linear in plan, orientated north to south, with steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills; basal fill 108 was mid orange brown, moderately compact silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint and chalk stones, no finds were present. Upper fill 109 was mid grey brown, moderately friable silty sand, with moderate charcoal, occasional chalk and sub-angular flint stones, containing medieval pottery, animal bone, CBM and Registered Artefact 101, a worked animal bone. Ditch 107 cut pit 110.
- 5.6 Oval pit 110, had steep near vertical and slightly undercutting sides with a flat base (1.30m+ x 1.20m x 1.47m) that for safety reasons was bottomed using a mechanical excavator. Its eastern edge ran under the baulk. Two fills were present; basal fill 111 was dark grey brown, moderately compact sandy silt with moderate chalk, charcoal flecks and sub-angular flint stones from which medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered. Upper fill 112 was mid brown grey, moderately friable sandy silt with sub-angular flint stones, moderate chalk and occasional charcoal flecks, from which medieval pottery and animal bone were recovered. Soil sample 101 was taken from upper fill 112. Pit 110 was cut by ditch 107 and foundation trench 113.
- 5.7 Robbed out foundation trench 113/115 was linear in plan, orientated north to south with vertical sides and a flat base (6.17m+ long x 0.50m+ x 0.22m). Two separate sections were excavated; 114, the single fill of 113, was light pink grey and contained ceramic building material and chalk lumps. 116, the fill of 115, was light pink white, compact lime mortar, with occasional angular flint stones and again contained CBM. Foundation trench 113 cut pit 110.



## 6. THE FINDS

Report by Stephen Benfield, with Sue Anderson: *Pottery*; Ruth Beveridge: *Registered artefacts*; Julie Curl: *Animal bone* and Anna West: *Plant macrofossils*.

### Introduction

- 6.1 Assemblages of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), fired clay and animal bone were recovered during the trial trenching. All of the bulk finds are listed by context in Appendix A.
- 6.2 Of the finds recovered the pottery is the most closely dated, almost all of which comes from a single context, fill (112) of pit 110. Apart from one small sherd of prehistoric date, the pottery from the pit spans the Late Saxon, Early medieval and medieval periods. The majority dating to the medieval period, probably c. 12th-13th century, forming a small but important addition to high medieval pottery known from the town.
- 6.3 The majority of the animal bone recovered also came from pit 110 and includes domesticates such as cattle and sheep/goat, together with bird (fowl) and fish bone. Charred and mineralised plant remains from this same context include material indicative of activities around a settlement area, such as cereal processing and food preparation, suggesting a wider background of agriculture, horticulture and domestic activity in the immediate and wider vicinity.
- 6.4 A single registered artefact (RA101) consisting of a pig fibula with signs of modification may originally have been intended to make a pin. It probably dates to the Late Saxon or early medieval period, while a piece from an imported lava quernstone is potentially of Late Saxon or medieval date.
- 6.5 One piece of peg-tile and a few intrusive pieces from a modern chimney pot were recovered from pit 110, with the majority of CBM recovered from other features, mostly pits. While not as easily or as closely dated as the pottery, the CBM includes several brick and peg tile pieces. The bricks broadly date to the late medieval or post-medieval period, after the mid 15th century, but more probably the post-medieval period of the late 16<sup>th</sup> – early 18th century. Despite one piece of peg tile being recovered from pit 110, the majority of the peg tile appears to date to no earlier than the 13th-14th century and similar to the bricks are probably of late medieval or post-medieval date. The highest number and best-preserved fragments

of fired clay, consisting almost entirely of structural pieces, came from wall foundation trench 113; associated with brick broadly dating to the late medieval or post-medieval period but most probably post-medieval period.

## Pottery

### *Introduction*

- 6.6 Fifty sherds of pottery weighing 1862g were collected from two contexts – a single sherd from upper ditch fill 109 and the remainder from pit fill 112. Table 1 (below) shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Table 7 (Appendix A).

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt(g)	Eve	MNV
Unidentified flint-tempered	UNFT	preh.	1	1		1
Thetford-type ware	THET	L.9th–11th c.	1	149	0.15	1
Early medieval ware	EMW	11th–12th c.	9	92		5
Stamford Ware Fabric B	STAMB	11th–12th c.	1	6		1
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	12th–13th c.	21	1170		5
Medieval coarseware	MCW	12th–14th c.	8	141	0.14	5
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	11th–14th c.	6	143		1
Unprovenanced glazed ware	UPG	L.12th–14th c.	3	160		1
<b>Totals</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>1862</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>20</b>

*Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric*

### *Methodology*

- 6.7 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, based on Jennings (1981). Thetford Ware fabrics are based on Dallas (1984), and forms on Anderson (2004). Form terminology for medieval pottery is based on MPRG (1998). The results were input directly onto an Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

## Summary of pottery by period

### *Prehistoric*

- 6.8 A tiny sherd of handmade flint-tempered pottery was recovered in Sample <101>

from pit fill 112. This is likely to be of prehistoric date but is residual in this context.

### *Late Saxon*

- 6.9 Unusually for Thetford, only one sherd was Thetford ware. This was a large rim from an 'AG' jar with applied thumbed strips on and below the rim and a wide strap handle. As is common with these large multi-handled jars, there were signs of heavy wear internally. The sherd was residual in pit fill 112.

### *Early medieval*

- 6.10 A small group belongs to the transitional period between the Late Saxon and medieval phases. These wares were dominated by the typical medium sandy thin-walled handmade pottery known as early medieval ware, but all fragments were body sherds. There was one body sherd in Stamford Fabric B, with light green glaze and sooting externally.

### *Medieval*

- 6.11 Medieval coarseware dominated the assemblage. The majority of fragments were Grimston coarsewares and these included at least one and possibly two large storage vessels with applied thumbed strips and applied curving line decoration, plus a handle, a base and a small body sherd from up to three other vessels. Other medieval coarsewares were in a fine/medium sandy fabric which contained moderate grog and ferrous inclusions, and was found in both hard, well-fired reduced wares and in an oxidised version. The latter included a jar rim which is paralleled at Redcastle Furze (Little 1995, fig. 84.42). The single sherd from 0109 was in this fabric and had an incised line externally. There were also six sherds of body and base from a jar which was in a fabric similar to Norwich-type LMU. This fabric is found elsewhere along the Norfolk-Suffolk border and may have travelled via the city or was perhaps from a similar industry in the Waveney/Little Ouse valley.
- 6.12 Three sherds of a medieval glazed ware ?jug were present. The fabric contained moderate fine-medium sand in a very fine silty micaceous matrix which was pale orange with a pale grey-white core. It was decorated with thinly-painted wide brown slip lines under a splashed green glaze. A London or Essex origin is possible.





### *Pottery by context*

- 6.13 As noted above, all but one sherd was recovered from pit fill 112. The vessels suggest a 12th/13th-century backfill date. However, three sherds of a modern chimney pot/drain pipe, presumably intrusive, were also recovered from this fill. The single sherd from ditch fill 109 suggests a similar date for this backfill.

### *Discussion*

- 6.14 This is a relatively small assemblage in Thetford terms, but it is unusual in being dominated by early and high medieval wares. It forms an important addition to the medieval corpus from the town as such sherds are generally quite rare amongst the overwhelming dominance of Thetford-type wares.

### **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

- 6.15 Ceramic building material, consisting of pieces of bricks (B), peg tiles (PT) and a pan tile (PNT), were recovered from a number of pit and ditch contexts and from a wall, with one tile piece recovered from a subsoil layer. In total there are fifteen pieces weighing 1751g. While not all of this can be closely dated, the brick pieces are almost certainly post-medieval, probably c.17th-18th century date and at least one piece of tile is also of post-medieval date. All of the CBM is listed and described by type for each context in Table 8 (Appendix A).

### *Brick*

- 6.16 Pieces of brick were recovered from two contexts, wall foundation 113 (114) and 115 (116). The only concentration of brick came from 115 with six pieces collected, together weighing 1399g. The brick pieces were mostly or almost completely covered in lime mortar, including the broken surfaces and they clearly represent either a first use of broken/waste pieces of brick in a rubble construction or more probably broken and reused bricks from an earlier construction.
- 6.17 The brick pieces from wall 113, two in total, were in an orange/red coloured medium sand fabric (ms), with one piece from a wall 115. The remaining fragments from the wall which, although not certain appear probably to represent more than one brick, were in a fine sandy fabric orange/red that had an abundant powder-like mix of white chalk/limestone (fsc) that seems both distinct and unusual.



- 6.18 That all of the brick recovered is represented by pieces that are mostly obscured by mortar makes dating difficult. The bricks represented are clearly of a 'late' brick-type (Drury 1993) that first appears with a distinctive brick architecture style introduced from the continent in the mid 15th century (*ibid*). None are frogged and the few exposed edges indicate relatively sharp moulding. There seems little to indicate that all of the pieces are not of a similar brick type and therefore probably of similar, or contemporary date to each other. The largest piece from wall foundation trench 115 can be measured at 55mm thick and can be seen to be in excess of 95mm wide. This size of brick, together with their general appearance suggests a late 16th-early 18th century date (Ryan 1996) rather than earlier. Overall, a date centred on the period of the 17th-18th century seems most appropriate.

#### *Tiles*

- 6.19 Two pieces of thin, flat tile, almost certainly peg tiles, were recovered, one piece from garden feature 104 (105) and another from pit 110 (112). Both are in medium sandy fabrics (ms), one with some clay pellets (mscp). That taken from pit 104 had white lime mortar along one edge. One other small piece of CBM from garden feature 104 (105) might also be from a peg tile. In terms of dating, peg tiles begin to appear from the late 12th century in London (Egan 1998, 28) but are probably not in general relatively common use until the 14th century, at least in Essex (Ryan and Andrews 1993, 97).
- 6.20 A piece of smooth, curving, S-profile tile, which came from subsoil layer 101, is almost certainly a piece from a pan tile and can be dated to the 17th century and after.

#### *Other*

- 6.21 It can be noted that three sherds from a modern chimney pot or drainpipe were discovered among the pottery from context (112) during cataloguing and appear to be clearly intrusive to that context.

#### **Fired clay**

- 6.22 The fired clay recovered from the site amounts to fifteen pieces with a combined weight of 1380g and is associated with two features. A small quantity of fired clay 4 pieces, 52g) was recovered from the fill (112) of pit 110 which is associated with pottery dated to the 12th-13th century. In addition, a quantity of small abraded

pieces (weight 152g) were recovered during bulk soil sample processing from the fill of this feature (Sample 101). A more significant group came from fill 114 of wall 113 with a total of eleven medium-large size pieces, together weighing 1328g. The CBM recovered suggests a post-medieval date (6.3). All of the fired clay appears to be structural rather than from objects. The fired clay is listed and described by type for each context in Table 9 (Appendix A).

- 6.23 The fired clay from wall foundation 113 is in a fine sand fabric with rare-occasional small stones and chalk fragments, and with long grass impressions on some original surfaces (fso). On one piece these are present on both faces. The pieces themselves have flat surfaces, mostly between c.45mm-50mm thick; although the piece with two grass marked surfaces varies in thickness between c.30mm-45mm and the inner or rear surface is rather undulating. Part of a single wattle void, indicating a wattle c.20mm in diameter, was present in one piece. The pieces are clearly all related, but the structure that the fired clay originally formed part of is not clear. The flat surfaces suggest a panel-like construction while the fact that this material had become fired through exposure to heat or fire could indicate use in the area of a hearth or formed part of a structure such as an oven.
- 6.24 Of the pieces and fragments from pit 110 one small piece preserves a flat, slightly undulating, buff coloured surface while another is in a vesicular fabric with impressions from burnt out chaff. This latter piece also preserves parts of two wattle voids, c.150mm-200mm in diameter that are set at opposing angles and indicate that the clay had possibly been applied over a woven wattle frame.

### **Quernstone**

- 6.25 A small piece from an imported lava quern (15g) was recovered from pit 110 (112). Lava stone for the production of querns was extracted from quarries in the Mayen district of the Rhineland. Querns of this material were imported into Britain throughout the Roman period, with an apparent hiatus in the early Saxon period, but resumed in the middle-late Saxon era and then continued into the medieval period (Buckley and Major 1983, 75). Undiagnostic pieces, such as that here, cannot be closely dated within that broad period, i.e. Roman-medieval, other than any dating suggested by context and other more closely dated finds from the site. Pottery suggests the context from which this piece came is 12th-13th century but as a single small piece, the quern may have been of some age before entering this context.

## Other bulk finds

- 6.26 Other types of bulk finds from the site are few in quantity. They consist of some, small, heat-altered (burnt) flints from pit 110 (112) which were recovered during processing a bulk soil sample (Sample 101), a small rectangular piece of chalk from the fill of wall 113 (114) and a few oyster shells from pit 110 (112). These are listed and described in Table 2 (below).

Context	Tr.	Feature	Type	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description/ comments
112	1	110 (ditch)	heat-altered flint		8	26	Small pieces of heat-altered flint, mostly grey-white some cracking and crazing, significantly heated but not heavily burnt. Recovered from sample <0101>.
112	1	110 (ditch)	Shell (oyster)		2	19	Two small complete lower (flat) shells were recovered by hand; another (8g) came from bulk sample <0101>
114	1	113 (pit)	chalk	MS	1	27	Small piece of chalk, broadly rectangular, edges slightly rounded.

Table 2. Other bulk finds

## Registered artefacts

- 6.27 A single object of worked or modified animal bone, registered artefact (RA) 1010, was recovered during the trial trenching. It has been fully recorded and catalogued with the assistance of low powered magnification. A catalogue listing is provided as Table 10 (Appendix A). The overall condition of the object is fair and stable.
- 6.28 RA101, which came from the fill (109) of ditch 107, is an unfinished worked bone object, identified by Julie Curl (*pers comm.*) as a pig fibula. The bone appears to have been trimmed at each end in what may have been an attempt to form a pin with expanded head; when complete the head would have been perforated. The context from which it was recovered is associated with a pottery sherd dated to the 12th/13th-century and this form of pin is well known from Late Saxon and early medieval sites, with examples found in Norfolk from Thetford (Rogerson and Dallas, 1984, 167-70, figs. 189 and 190) and from Norwich Greyfriars (Huddle, 2007, 133, fig. 5.33, SF326).

RA101. Elongate piece of worked bone. At the distal end the bone has been shaved to flatten the surfaces; the shaft of the bone then tapers to the centre before swelling and then tapering again. The swelling is a bulbous abnormal lump on the bone due to a healed break or fracture (Julie Curl *pers comm.*) The shaft is then truncated, but trimming is visible where

attempts were made to narrow the width of the bone.

### *Discussion*

- 6.30 The piece of worked bone (RA101) potentially contributes towards understanding the range of activities occurring in the vicinity of the site during the late Saxon to early medieval period. At the very least the object suggests that modifying animal bone for use or even bone working was a familiar activity and might hint at coarse stitching for netting, which is one possible use suggested for pins made from these fibular bones, as well as possible use in dress or other fastenings. The apparent unfinished nature of the piece, if it was intended to be crafted into a pin, suggests that the anomaly on the bone shaft, caused by the healed fracture, may have been seen as a potential problem resulting in its abandonment. It most likely entered the archaeological record as discarded waste or rubbish.

## **7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE**

The environmental material from the site consists of animal bone and charred plant remains.

### **Animal Bone**

#### *Introduction and methods*

- 7.1 The summary assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992) and Baker and Worley, 2014. All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A record was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. Where possible, ages were estimated along with any other relevant information such as pathologies. Measurements were considered following Von Den Driesch, 1976, but so few were available and those that were taken of the horncores appear in the catalogue. Counts and weights were noted for each context and counts made for each species. Where bone could not be identified to species, they were grouped as, for example, 'large mammal' or 'small mammal'. Information was recorded into an Excel database and a summary of this information is in Table 11 (Appendix A). A full catalogue (with additional information) is available as an Excel file in the digital archive.



### *The assemblage*

7.2 A total of 796g of animal bone, consisting of eighty-eight elements, was recovered from this site. This is quantified by contexts and species in Table 3 (below). Remains were produced from three fills, with one fill also producing material from a sieved sample. Most of the assemblage was retrieved from two fills (111) and (112) of pit 110 and a small amount of bone was produced from fill (114) of wall 113. Pottery recovered from the site suggests a medieval date range of c.12th-14th century for context (112) while CBM from (114) suggests a post-medieval date for that context.

Context	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
111	Pit 110	7	309g	Cattle	4
111	Pit 110			Pig	1
111	Pit 110			Bird - Fowl	2
112	Pit 110	48	441g	Cattle	5
112	Pit 110			Sheep/goat	8
112	Pit 110			Bird – Fowl	7
112	Pit 110			Mammal	28
112	Pit 110 (Sample 0101)	31	34	Mammal	27
112	Pit 110 (Sample 0101)			Fish	1
114	Wall 113	2	12g	Sheep/goat	1
114	Wall 113			Mammal	1
<i>Totals</i>		<i>88</i>	<i>796g</i>		

*Table 3. Quantification of the faunal remains by feature type, weights and counts.*

7.3 The remains are in good condition, although many bones quite heavily fragmented from butchering and wear. Little variation was seen with the condition of the bone, suggesting most was deposited within a relatively short time. No invertebrate damage was seen, which would suggest the bone was rapidly buried. Canid gnawing was seen on a radius shaft from (112), suggesting some meat waste bone was given to domestic dogs.

### *Species range and modifications and other observations*

7.4 A total of five species were identified in the faunal assemblage (quantified in Table 3 above).



- 7.5 Cattle were produced from two fills (111) and (112) of pit 110 with adult and juvenile remains. Bones included an unfused femur in (111) and adult bones (a distal tibia, proximal phalange, calcaneus, distal metatarsal and radius shaft) from (112). The radius shaft showed some canid gnawing. Butchering occurred with heavy cleaver or axe chops across the mid-shaft of long bones and a cut was noted on the proximal phalange from the skinning process.
- 7.6 Sheep and goat were produced from two fills. Several sheep/goat bones were seen from the pit fill (112), with a neonatal metatarsal and adult mandible, femur, metatarsal, horncores and isolated lower molars. The wear on the mandibular teeth suggests the adult was at least 6 to 8 years old at death. The horncores from (112) were from sheep. Butchering had occurred with chops on the long bones and at the base of a horncore and a cut from skinning or meat removal was seen on the outer mandible. Sheep/goat was also recorded from wall (114) with an adult chopped metacarpal.
- 7.7 Pig was seen in one deposit, with a mandible from a juvenile animal (third molar not fully erupted) in pit fill (111). The mandible is fairly short in length and suggests a short-faced pig rather than a primitive breed or wild boar.
- 7.8 Bird was recovered from two fills from pit 110. A tibiotarsus and radius were seen from pit fill (111) and several bones (a humerus, synsacrum, ulna, coracoid and phalange) were recovered from the pit fill (112).
- 7.9 Fish was recorded from pit fill (112) (Sample 101), but the small fragment could not be identified to species.
- 7.10 All three fills produced remains of mammal bone that could not be identified to species due to a lack of diagnostic features; some fragments showed chop and cut marks and gnawing. Some charred remains were seen in the pit fill (112).

#### *Discussion and conclusions*

- 7.11 This is a small assemblage that consists of the main domestic food mammals and bird bone. The assemblage is dominated by sheep and cattle, with both producing adult and juvenile remains, with ages suggesting a cull of stock for meat. The cattle would have provided breeding, milk and traction, while the sheep would provide



years of fleeces for the wool trade, milk and dung for fertiliser. The chop on one of the sheep horncores suggests the horns may have been removed for working. The pig was culled at less than a year old, which is typical for pigs as they have little use in life, unlike cattle and sheep.

- 7.12 The chicken bones in the assemblage show no butchering, but it is common to roast these birds whole and little effort is required to remove the meat once cooked. The chicken would have probably been kept for a couple of years for production of eggs prior to culling for meat. The small amount of fish in the assemblage clearly indicates some consumption.
- 7.13 Overall, the assemblage is typical of a medieval urban assemblage that relies largely on domestic stock for meat. The age of the sheep suggests a provision of wool, for the demanding wool trade in the medieval period.
- 7.14 There is little more information that can be recovered from this assemblage and no further work is recommended.

### **Plant macrofossils**

#### *Introduction and methods*

- 7.15 A single 40 litre bulk soil sample (sample 101) was taken from pit fill 112 during the trial trenching. The sample was processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300µm mesh sieve. The dried flot was rapid scanned using a binocular microscope at x10 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or ecofacts are noted in Table 4 (below). The identification of plant remains from the flot is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles, (Stace 1997).
- 7.16 The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry and these artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion with the bulk finds.

#### *Quantification*

- 7.17 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded quantitatively according to the following categories: # = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens. Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance: + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant.





## Results

SS no.	Ctxt no.	Feature/cut no.	Feature type	Approx. date of deposit	Flot contents
101	112	110	pit	Med	charred cereal grains ++ charred legumes # charred seeds ++ charcoal ++ snails ++ animal bone frags # fish bones/scales # amphibian/small mammal bones ## mineralised seeds ### coprolite frags #

Table 4. Summary of plant macrofossil remains

## Discussion

- 7.18 The sample produced 100ml of flot. The majority of this consisted of charcoal fragments and terrestrial snail shells and for the purposes of this report, no identification of this material has been undertaken.
- 7.19 The sample was rich in charred cereal grains. The round grains of free threshing bread wheat (*Triticum* sp.) were present in low numbers. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains were dominant, with rye (*Secale cereale*) grains also present in higher numbers. Possible oat (*Avena* sp.) grains were rare. A large number of grains were too fragmented and abraded to be easily identified at this stage. A moderate number of caryopses were difficult to distinguish between cultivated or wild species and have been recorded as grasses (Poaceae).
- 7.20 Possible fragments of legume were recovered in low numbers. However, the fragmented and abraded condition of the specimens made identification impossible; although one fragment was likely to be a large legume such as a bean (*Vicia* sp.), while the others may be peas (*Pisum*). It can be noted that pulses provided an important source of protein within the Medieval diet; however, as they do not require processing with heat in the way some cereals do, they are less likely to be exposed to chance preservation through charring and are often under-represented in the archaeological record.
- 7.21 Charred seeds were relatively common within the sample and a few of these have been able to be identified here. The seeds of grasses (Poaceae) were most frequent while wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.) seed pods were present in low numbers. Seeds of field gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense* L.), possibly corncockle (*Agrostemma githago* L.), knotweed, possibly (*Persicaria lapathifolia* L.), wild mustard (*Sinapis arvensis* L.) and possible cabbage family (Brassicaceae) were all

observed in low numbers and these may represent weeds of arable fields accidentally harvested along with a crop. Charred seeds possibly from wetland species such as the sedge family (Cyperaceae), were observed in low numbers and may be indicative of material used as thatch, bedding or litter.

- 7.22 Mineralised seeds were also observed, elder (*Sambucus nigra* L.) berry pips were most frequent, with possible seeds from the cabbage family (Brassicaceae) and flax (*Linum* sp.) also present.
- 7.23 Wood charcoal fragments were common and may be useful for species identification or radiocarbon dating should they be needed. The twisted stems of possible heather (Ericaceae) were recovered in very low numbers but may be indicative of material used as thatch, bedding, litter or fuel.
- 7.24 Small coprolite fragments were also observed within the flot and it is likely this material represents cess material deliberately deposited within the feature.

#### *Conclusions and recommendations for further work*

- 7.25 The preservation of the plant macro remains is through charring and mineralisation. The quality of the preserved material varied from fair to poor. The remains recovered most likely represent general activities commonly taking place around a settlement site such as cereal processing and food preparation. They are indicative of agriculture, horticulture and domestic activity having taking place in the immediate and wider vicinity of the site during the medieval period.
- 7.26 If further interventions are planned on this site, it is recommended that further sampling should be carried out with a view to investigate the nature of the settlement waste. Any further accompanying plant macrofossil assemblage could possibly provide further useful insight into the utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence relating to this site. It is recommended that the flot from this sample, be added to any future samples taken, for further assessment and analysis; it should also be retained as part of the site archive.



## 8. DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The trial trenching has successfully defined the character, significance and deposit model of surviving heritage assets within the proposed development. The archaeological works reveal evidence of a well-preserved medieval landscape close to the centre of Thetford and within the castle environ. Further investigation would need to be undertaken to reveal their true form and function.
- 8.2 For such a small area (10m by 1.80m), the excavation was relatively rich in archaeology, with four sizable features cut into the natural geology and sealed by a mixed demolition rubble and topsoil backfill. Pottery sherds represent the tightest dating material collected, with all but one sherd from pit fill 112 (110). Both early and later examples were either intrusive or residual depositions within the backfill of pit 110 and comprised a single small sherd of prehistoric pottery and three fragments from a modern chimney pot/drainpipe.
- 8.3 The earliest features were of early medieval date and comprised intercutting pit 110 and ditch 107, both located at the southern end of the trench. Ditch 107 cut contemporary pit 110 and was itself cut by a modern plastic pipe that serves the 2004 Nursing Home extension. These features are located c.30m to the southeast of two medieval pits and a gully recorded during the 2004 excavation to the west (Emery 2009). Unusually for this area, only one Late-Saxon sherd of residual Thetford Ware (112, pit 110) was recovered. Transitional Late-Saxon to early medieval sherds were present in greater number (10 sherds) and were typical medium sandy thin walled handmade bodysherds, a single Stamford Fabric B light green glaze bodysherd was further recovered. The greatest number of pottery sherds were in medieval Grimston ware (21 in total), medieval coarsewares (8 sherds), local unglazed (6 sherds) and a single sherd of Stamford Ware. This assemblage is similar to the medieval pottery types recovered from within the local area, most notably within the pits, ditches and residual depositions of garden features recorded during the excavation to the west (ibid.).
- 8.4 A robbed-out wall foundation trench (113/115) that cut medieval pit 110 and ran from north to south along and beyond the western baulk, was of 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Its northern terminal was recorded within the trench. Ceramic building material comprising broken and reused bricks from an earlier construction date this feature to the post-medieval period. This feature does not appear to extend into the adjacent

excavation, therefore only a simple interpretation of a wall foundation trench could be given. Two vaulted culverts with a similar orientation were recorded in the adjacent excavation (Emery 2009, features 43 and 108), that were given broadly contemporary dates to wall foundation trench 113/115.

- 8.5 A large horticultural garden feature 102/104 located in the central-east and northern section of the trench, is thought to date from the later post-medieval to early modern period. It contained dating evidence in the form of ceramic building material that was recovered from the loose dark fill. Similar rectangular features, also interpreted as horticultural garden features, were recorded in the adjacent excavation (*ibid.*). No direct evidence for the type of horticulture practiced here was present within the excavated segments.
- 8.6 The plant macro remains are fair to poorly preserved, however, cereal processing and food preparation indicating agriculture, horticulture and domestic activity have been recovered, most likely representing general activities taking place around a settlement. If further intrusive archaeological works are required, additional soil sampling would be recommended to gain a wider material sample to better investigate the settlement's waste.
- 8.7 A single registered artefact (RA101) of a worked bone pig fibula was recovered from basal ditch fill 109, indicative of a discarded pig weaving needle blank (or similar). Similar forms of which are common in both the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. The recovery of this artefact along with a chop mark on a sheep horncore (pit 110), suggest that bone-working may have been practiced locally.
- 8.8 The animal bone assemblage was predominantly collected from within pit 110, with a few examples from the post-medieval foundation trench fill 114. Overall, the animal bone assemblage is typical for a medieval urban assemblage, predominantly relying on domestic stock for meat. Cattle also provided breeding, milk and traction and the sheep produced years of fleece for the local wool trade, milk and dung for fertiliser. The pig was butchered at less than a year old, which is typical for the species as they are only bred for meat. Chicken was also present, with culling likely once they had stopped laying. A small number of fish bones recovered suggests that the river located nearby, may have been fished for food. Similar types were furthered recovered from the adjacent investigations (*ibid.*).

- 8.9 The deposits on the site are of local and regional significance. They have the potential to address research topics in the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011), for early medieval settlement study. The animal bone and snail shell were in a good state of preservation and the pottery was not typical for Thetford sites. Further phases of work may reveal more detail on the study of faunal and pottery assemblages in the medieval period.
- 8.10 The final decision on whether further work is required to mitigate the impact of the development on heritage assets rest with NCCES.
- 8.11 The project archive, consisting of all paper and digital records will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service, following the gaining of the transfer of title. Until deposition, the archive will be kept in the Cotswold Archaeology Suffolk office store in Needham Market.

## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Heloise Meziani, Richard Spencer and Tim Schofield, the report was written by Tim Schofield and edited by John Craven. The illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Ruth Beveridge and the project was managed for CA by John Craven.



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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT, FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL TABLES

Table 5. Context list

Context No	Feature No	Group No	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Samples
100			1		Layer	Topsoil, dark grey brown, compact silty clay with occasional chalk and flint stones	10.85m+	1.60m+	0.38m	
101			1		Layer	Subsoil, mid grey brown, compact silty clay with occasional angular chalk and flint stones and modern rubbish.	10.85m+	1.60m+	0.32m	
102	102	106	1	Pit	Cut	Rectangular in plan, with steep sides and a flat base	6.78m+	1.00m+	0.10M	
103	102		1	Pit	Fill	Fill of Garden Feature 102, Mid grey brown, friable sand silt with frequent chalk flecks	6.78m+	1.00m+	0.10M	
104	104	106	1	Pit	Cut	Garden Feature Cut	1.00m+	1.00m+	0.10m	
105	104		1	Pit	Fill	Fill of Garden Feature 104, Mid grey brown, friable sand silt with frequent chalk flecks	6.78m+	1.00m+	0.10m	
106	106		1	Pit	Other	Group Number of 102, 104, garden feature	6.78m+	1.00m+	0.10m	
107	107		1	Ditch	Cut	Cut of linear ditch, steep sides, concave base, orientated north to south	2.16m+	0.73m+	0.80m+	
108	107		1	Ditch	Fill	Mid orange brown, moderately compact silty sand with occasional small to medium sub-angular flint and chalk stones	1.00m+	0.54m+	0.42m+	
109	107		1	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey brown, moderately friable silty sand, with moderate charcoal, occasional chalk and sub-angular flint stones	1.00m+	0.54m+	0.50m	
110	110		1	Pit	Cut	Sub-circular pit with steep near vertical and slightly undercutting sides, was not bottomed by hand, but was by machine	1.30m+	1.20m+	1.47m	
111	110		1	Pit	Fill	Dark grey brown, moderately compact sandy silt with moderate chalk and charcoal flecks and sub-angular flint stones	1.30m+	1.20m+	1.19m	
112	110		1	Pit	Fill	Mid brown grey, moderately friable sandy silt with sub-angular flint stones, moderate chalk and occasional charcoal flecks	1.30m+	1.20m	1.47m	101
113	113		1	Wall	Cut	Linear trench, with moderately steep sides and a concave base, orientated north to south	6.17m+	0.50m+	0.22m	
114	113		1	Wall	Fill	Light pink grey, friable mortar	6.17m+	0.50m+	0.22m	
115	115		1	Wall	Cut	Linear foundation trench, with steep sides and a flat base, orientated north to south	6.17m+	0.35m+	0.15m	
116	115		1	Wall	Fill	Light pink white, compact lime mortar, with occasional angular flint stones	6.17m+	0.35m+	0.15m	
117			1		Layer	Compact, light white chalk with occasional flint stones and nodules				



Table 6. Bulk finds: quantity by context (initial processing)

Context Number	Sample Number	Pottery No.	Pottery Wt/g	CBM No.	CBM Wt/g	Fired Clay Count	Fired Clay Weight	Animal Bone Count	Animal Bone Wt/g	Shell No.	Shell Wt/g	Quernstone (Lava) No	Quernstone (Lava) Wt/g	Other finds	Spot date (initial processing)
101				1	66										
103				2	32										med
105				2	51										
109		1	6		0										med
111					0			7	309						
112		45	2046	1	25	4	52	48	441	2	19	1	15		med
114				3	178	11	1328	2	12					Stone: Chalk (1-27g)	
116				6	1399			0	0						
Totals		47	2118	15	1751	15	1380	57	762	2	19	1	15		

Table 7. Pottery catalogue

Notes: Type: R – rim; B – base; U/D – undecorated/decorated body; H – handle. Form: AG – large multi-handled jar; JG – jug; JR – jar; LSV – large storage vessel. Rim: EVFTBD – everted flat-topped bead. Decoration: ATS – applied thumbled strip.

Context	Sample	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Decoration	Notes	Spot date
109		MCW	D	1	7	1			IHL		12-14
112	<0101>	UNFT	U	1	1	1				tiny	preh
112	<0101>	GRCW	U	1	7						12-13
112	<0101>	MCW	U	3	11	1				hard-fired	12-14
112	<0101>	EMW	U	1	1	1					11-12
112		GRCW	D	14	851	1	LSV?		ATS, curving applied strips		12-13
112		GRCW	D	3	246	1	LSV?		ATS, curving applied strips	poss same as larger group, but harder fired	12-13
112		GRCW	U	1	2	1					12-13
112		GRCW	H	1	30	1					12-13
112		GRCW	B	1	34	1			ATS at base angle	oxid int	12-13
112		STAMB	D	1	6	1					11-13
112		THET	RH	1	149	1	AG	?	ATS on and under rim		L.9-11
112		MCW	B	2	76	1					12-14
112		MCW	B?	1	4	1					12-14
112		EMW	U	4	51	1					11-12
112		EMW	U	2	16	1					11-12
112		EMW	U	2	24	2					11-12
112		MCW	R	1	43	1	JR	EVFTBD			12-13
112		LMU	BU	6	143	1	JR?			slightly coarser type	11-14
112		UPG	D	3	160	1	JG?		thinly painted brown line	splash-glazed ware - poss Yorkshire?	12-14

Table 8. Ceramic building material (CBM) catalogue

Area and Ctxt no.	Tr. no.	Area and Feature/ layer no.	F/L type	Find type	Fabric	Type (if known)	Thickness mm	No.	Wt/g	Abr/ Brt	Colour	Description/ comments	Date or associated dating	Noted poss to illustrate?
101	1		Layer (subsoil)	CBM	f-ms	PNT	10	1	65		o/r	Orange-red fine-medium sand fabric, dark (smooth surface) undulating S curve – probably part of a pantile	p-med c. 17C+	
103	1	102	pit	CBM	mscp		>15+	1	30		cream	Corner from a brick/tile, pale reddish-buff/ cream fabric with lighter clay swirls/ patches – likely p-med c 17-18C?	p-med?	
103	1	102	pit	CBM	ms			1	2		o/r	Small chip from the surface of a brick or tile – late med-p-med – likely p-med	p-med?	
105	1	104	pit	CBM	mscp	PT	13	1	45		o	Pale orange fabric with some pale firing clay pellets and bands, some white lime mortar on original edge	Med-p-med (prob c. 13/14C+)	
105	1	104	pit	CBM	cs		(10?)	1	7	A	o	Fragment, some spots of pale lime mortar, one surface, possibly part of a peg tile (not clear)	Med-p-med	
112	1	110	ditch	CBM	ms	PT	11	1	25		o	Orange, medium sand fabric, mortar on surfaces including broken surface. Reused in construction.	Med-p-med (prob c. 13/14C+) (Pottery form context dated c. 12-14C)	
114	1	113	pit	CBM	ms	B		2	161		o	Orange coloured medium sand (ms) brick piece, surfaces inc. broken surfaces mostly covered in pale buff lime mortar L med-p-med – c. 17-18C? Reused in construction.	p-med, c. 17-18C+?	

Area and Ctxt no.	Tr. no.	Area and Feature/ layer no.	F/L type	Find type	Fabric	Type (if known)	Thickness mm	No.	Wt/g	Abr/ Brt	Colour	Description/ comments	Date or associated dating	Noted poss to illustrate?
114	1	113	pit	CBM	cs			1	17		o	Orange coloured coarse sand (cs) brick fragment, pale buff lime mortar on original surfaces, c. L med-p-med – c.16/17-18C+?	p-med? c. 16/17-18C+?	
116	1	115	wall	CBM	ms	B	>45+	1	460		o	Orange coloured medium sand (ms) brick piece, surfaces inc. broken surfaces mostly covered in pale buff lime mortar, L med-p-med – c. 17-18C? Reused in construction.	p-med, c. 17-18C?	
116	1	115	wall	CBM	fsc	B	55	5	939		o	Pieces of broken bricks, fine sand with fine (powder size) calcareous powder/lime in fabric (fsc), one main piece, 55 mm thick and >95+ in width, not frogged, surfaces inc. broken surfaces mostly covered in pale buff lime mortar, L med-p-med, probably c. L16/17-E18C. Reused in construction.	p-med, c. L16/17-E18C	

Table 9. Fired clay catalogue

Area and Ctxt no.	Tr. no.	Area and Feature/ layer no.	F/L type	Find type	Fabric	Type (if known)	Thickness mm	No.	Wt/g	Abr/ Brt	Colour	Description/ comments	Date or associated dating	Noted poss to illustrate?
112	1	110	ditch	FC	msvo	structural	>25+	2	35		ob	Orange buff, Vesicular fabric with organic (chaff) material (msvo) rare-occasional chalk pieces, no surfaces, one piece with parts of wattle voids c. 150mm-200mm dia. Set approximately at right-angles to each other		
112	1	110	ditch	FC	fscp	structural	8	2	17		o	Fine orange fabric with slightly undulation flattish buff coloured surfaces, uneven ?hand smoothed back		
112	1	110	ditch	FC				0	0	(A)		<0101> 152 g FC fragments/small pieces, some clay pellets, most appear orange with visible in fabric		
114	1	113	pit	FC	fso	structural	45-50+	11	1328		o	Pieces of fired clay. Fabric: Fine sand fabric with rare-occasional small stones and chalk fragments, long grass impressions in some original surfaces (fs1). Flat grass-marked surfaces, one piece with round wattle void c. 20mm dia, another piece c. 30mm-45mm thick with grass marks on flat front and undulating rear surface		

Table 10. Registered artefacts

Registered artefact No.	Context No.	Object	Material	Finds category	No.	Weight (g)	Description	Depth (mm)	Width (mm)	Length (mm)	Period
101	109	Object	Bone	UN	1	5	Elongate piece of worked bone. At the proximal end the bone has been shaved to flatten the surfaces; the object shaft then tapers to the centre before swelling and then tapering again, creating a baluster shape in plan. The swelling is possibly connected to diseased bone? The distal end has clear cuts to narrow the width of the bone; also truncated. Possibly a rough out for a pin?	7.5	15.5	76.8	?Late Saxon

Table 11. Animal bone

Key: NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Ctxt	Type	Ctxt No.	Ctxt Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Ad	Juv	Neo	Element range	Butchering	Gnawed	Comments
111	Ditch 110	7	309	Cattle	4		4		Femur fragments, vertebra	Chopped, cut		Unfused femur
111	Ditch 110			Pig	1		1		Mandible	Cut		M3 not fully erupted and M1 in low wear
111	Ditch 110			Bird - Fowl	2	2			Tibiotarsus and radius			
112	Ditch 110	48	441	Cattle	5	5			Tibia, proximal phalange, metatarsal, calcaneus, radius shaft	Chopped, cut	1	Radius gnawed Slight burning on metatarsal Proximal phalange with some arthritic growth
112	Ditch 110			Sheep/goat	8	7		1	Neonatal metatarsal, adult mandible, horncores, femur, metatarsal, isolated lower molars	Cut, chopped		Sheep horncores, adult mandible with M3 in full wear
112	Ditch 110			Bird – Fowl	7	7			Humerus, tibiotarsus, synsacrum, ulna, coracoid, phalange			
112	Ditch 110			Mammal	28				Mostly rib fragments	butchered		Includes charred vertebrae from ?sheep
112	Ditch 110 Sample 0101	31	34	Mammal	27				Heavily fragmented pieces			
112	Ditch 110 Sample 0101			Fish	1				fragment			
114	Pit 113	2	12	Sheep/goat	1	1			Metacarpal	chopped		Distal end missing
114	Pit 113			Mammal	1							

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>OASIS ID: cotswold2-381278</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street
Short description of the project	In February 2020, an archaeological trial trench investigation comprising a single trench was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology on land at Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street, Thetford, Norfolk, in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing nursing home. Medieval pits and ditches, a post-medieval wall foundation trench and an early modern garden feature were hand investigated, following machine excavation to remove overburden deposits on to the primary archaeological horizon.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2020 End: 12-02-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SU0103 - Contracting Unit No. ENF147498 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation
Monument type	PIT Medieval DITCH Medieval WALL FOUNDATION TRENCH Post Medieval GARDEN BED Modern
Significant Finds	BONE PIN Early Medieval POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND THETFORD Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street
Study area	0.07 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 87415 82630 52.409074032488 0.755712129313 52 24 32 N 000 45 20 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.8m Max: 12.5m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	John Craven
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Timothy Schofield
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Stow Healthcare
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Worked bone"
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	



Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	ENF147498, Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street, Thetford, Norfolk; Informative trial trenching
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Schofield, T. P.
Other bibliographic details	SU0103_1
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Cotswold Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market
Description	A4 bound report with A3 figures
URL	<a href="http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>

## APPENDIX C: SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT



Mr Matthew Stearn  
The Whitworth Co-Partnership LLP  
18 Hatter Street  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 1NE

Direct Dial: 01223 582737

Our ref: S00230650

29 November 2019

Dear Mr Stearn

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended);  
Section 2 control of works  
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**CASTLE HILL: MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE, IRON AGE EARTHWORK  
ENCLOSURE AND SITE OF AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY, THETFORD, NORFOLK  
Scheduled Monument No: SM 21427, HA 1017670  
Our ref: S00230650  
Application on behalf of Stowlangtoft Healthcare**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 29 October 2019 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning a proposed single storey pitched roof extension to modern wing of the care home. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

- location plan - 5410/00
- existing ground floor plan - 5410/02
- proposed elevations - 5410/17B, April 2019
- proposed plan - 5410/18C, May 2019
- proposed block plan - 5410/19, June 2019
- existing block plan - 5410/20, June 2019
- existing elevations - 5410/21, August 2019
- design and access statement incorporating heritage statement, ref: MS/Is/5410
- brief for informative trenching as part of a programme of archaeological mitigatory works, date 29 October 2019

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by



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Historic England and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be works which would not significantly diminish the visual amenity of the monument but would cause damage to the monuments archaeological deposits but which can be acceptably mitigated by conditions or safeguards already specified in the application to ensure prior archaeological excavation and recording.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- i. The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Will Fletcher, Historic England, Brooklands, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 8BU in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- ii. The specification of work for which consent is granted shall be executed in full.
- iii. No ground works or building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.
- iv. The consented works shall be undertaken under the terms of a brief and specification supplied by Norfolk County Council who must be given at least 2 weeks' written notice of the work (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) No ground works/ building works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed that an archaeological contractor is in place to undertake the works
- v. All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner, occupier and/or developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain



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Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.

- vi. Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument/ ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.
- vii. Any masonry remains exposed in the course of the excavation shall be backfilled within three months (or such other period as may be mutually agreed) of the completion of the excavation or shall be protected from the elements until such time as further scheduled monument consent has been obtained for consolidation and protection works.
- viii. A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Eric Martin at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- ix. Any changes to the proposed, design and specification for which consent has been granted will need to be agreed by under the terms of condition i (the works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England).
- x. The archaeological contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant



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requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Martin".

**Eric Martin**

Business Officer

e-mail: [eric.martin@HistoricEngland.org.uk](mailto:eric.martin@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport



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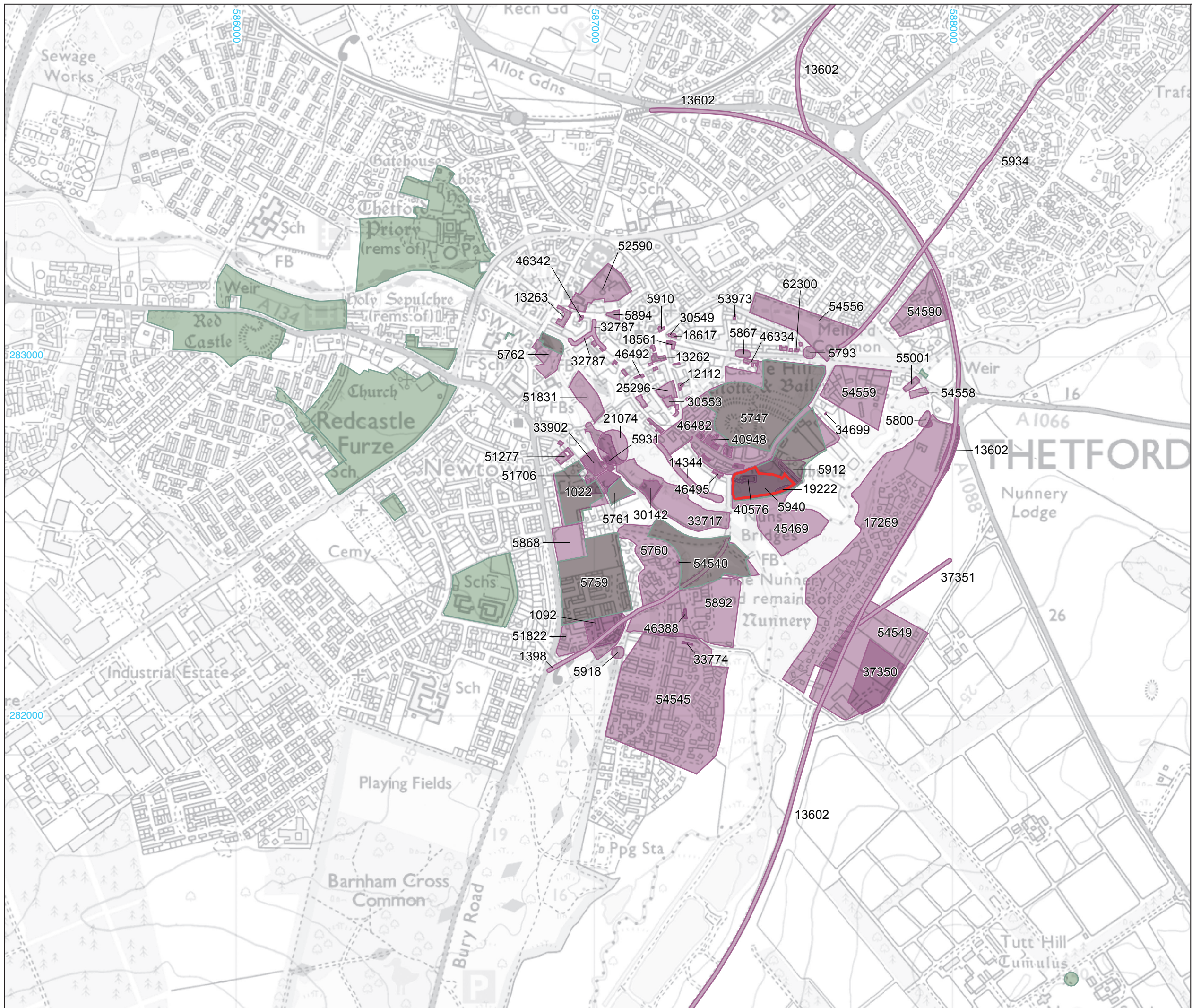
**PROJECT TITLE**  
**Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street, Thetford, Norfolk**

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**



<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>RW</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>SU0103</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	<b>RP</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>17/02/2020</b>	
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	<b>TS</b>	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	<b>1:25,000</b>	<b>1</b>

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- Site outline
- Scheduled Monument
- Norfolk HER entry



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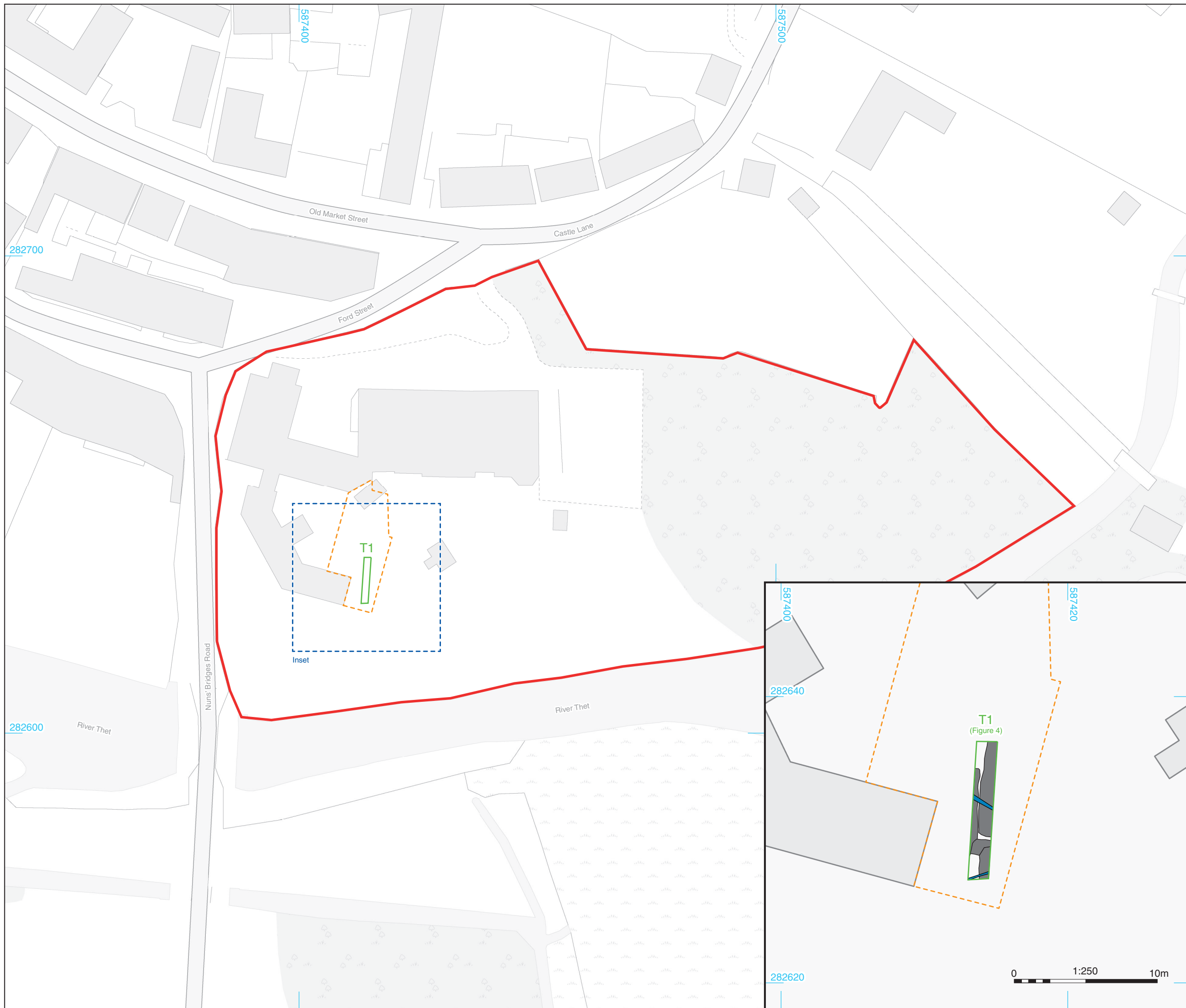
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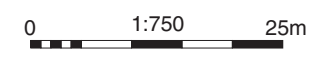
**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Norfolk HER entries and Scheduled Monuments surrounding site

<b>DRAWN BY</b> RW	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> SU0103	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b> RP	<b>DATE</b> 19/02/2020	<b>2</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b> TS	<b>SCALE@A3</b> 1:10,000	



- Site outline
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Modern feature
- Footprint of proposed extension



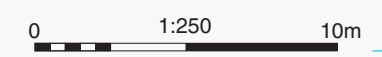
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 Extension outline: © Whitworth Chartered Architects (job: 5410, drawing: 19A)

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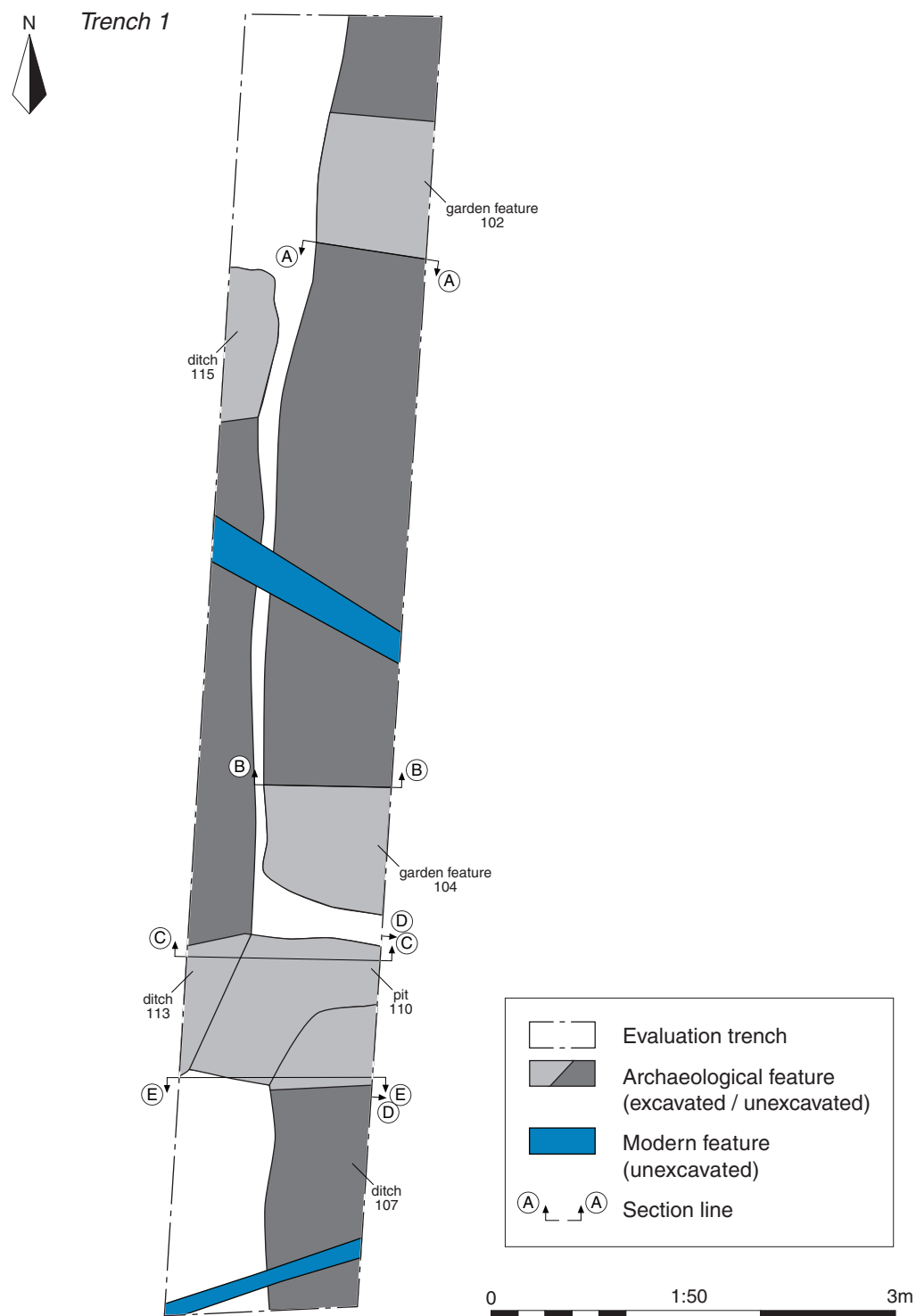
**PROJECT TITLE**  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> SU0103	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> RP	<small>DATE</small> 17/02/2020	<b>3</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> TS	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750, 1:250	







Trench 1, looking north (1m scales)

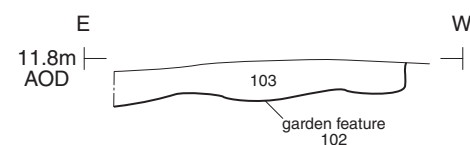
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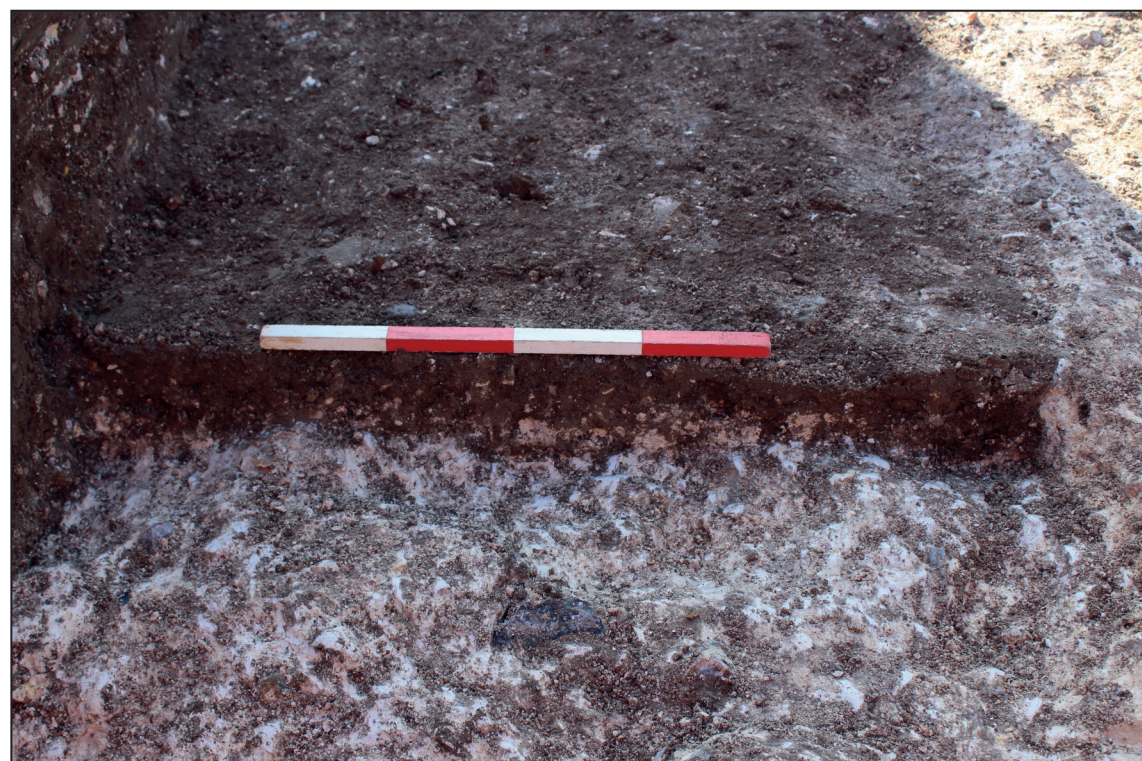
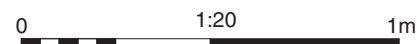
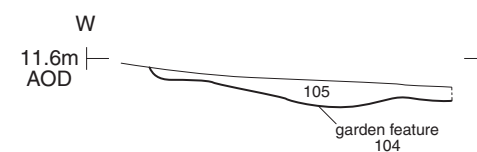
FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1: plan and photograph**

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0103	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	RP	DATE	17/02/2020	4
APPROVED BY	TS	SCALE@A3	1:50	

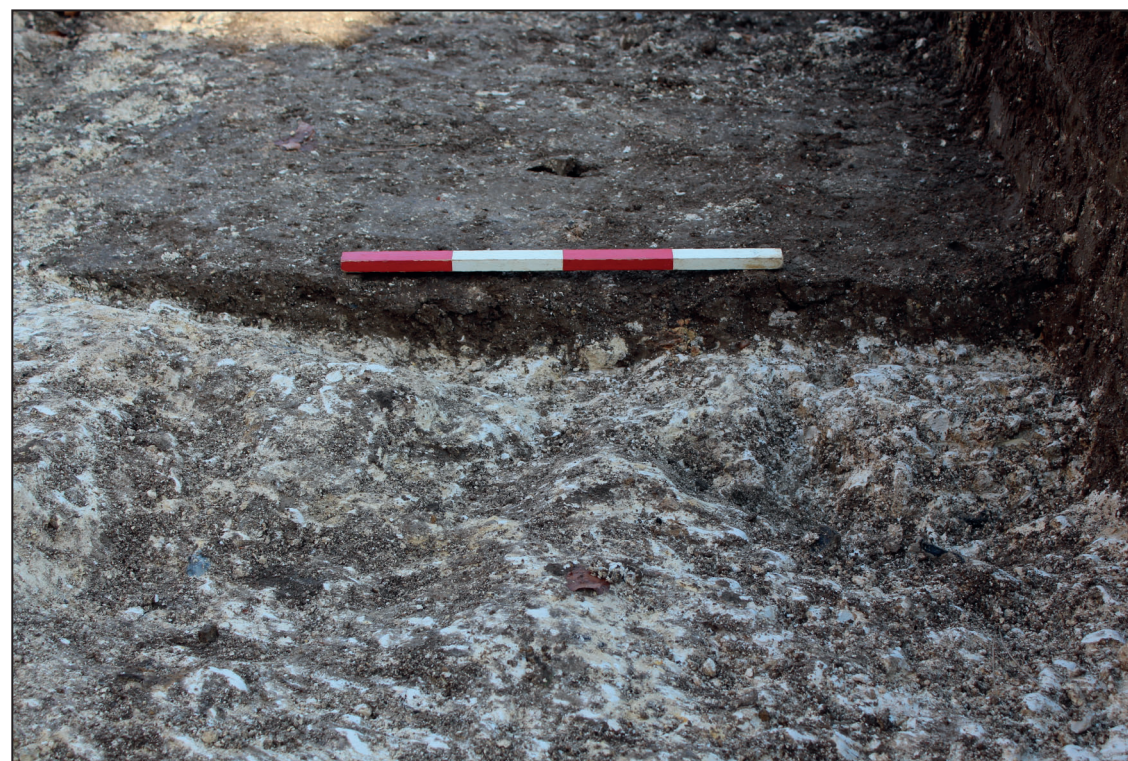
Section AA



Section BB



Garden feature 102, looking south (0.4m scale)



Garden feature 104, looking north (0.4m scale)

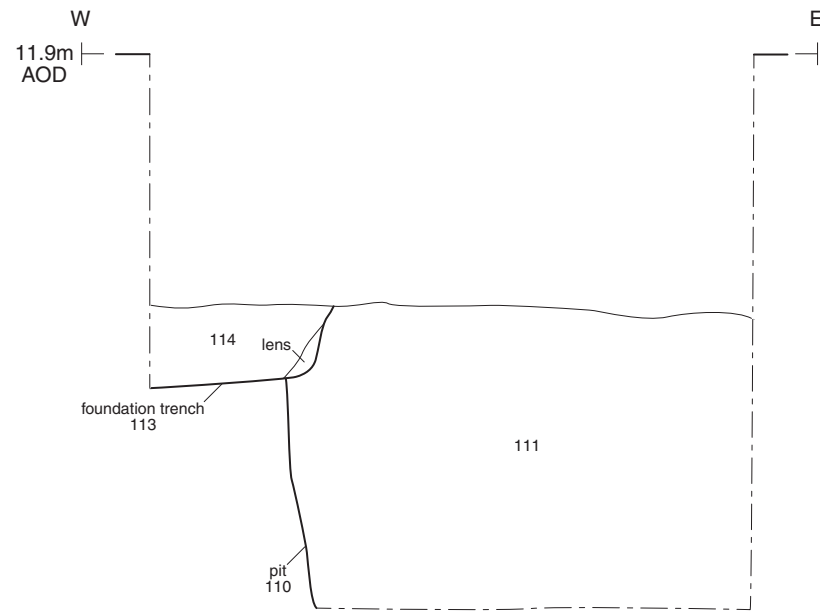
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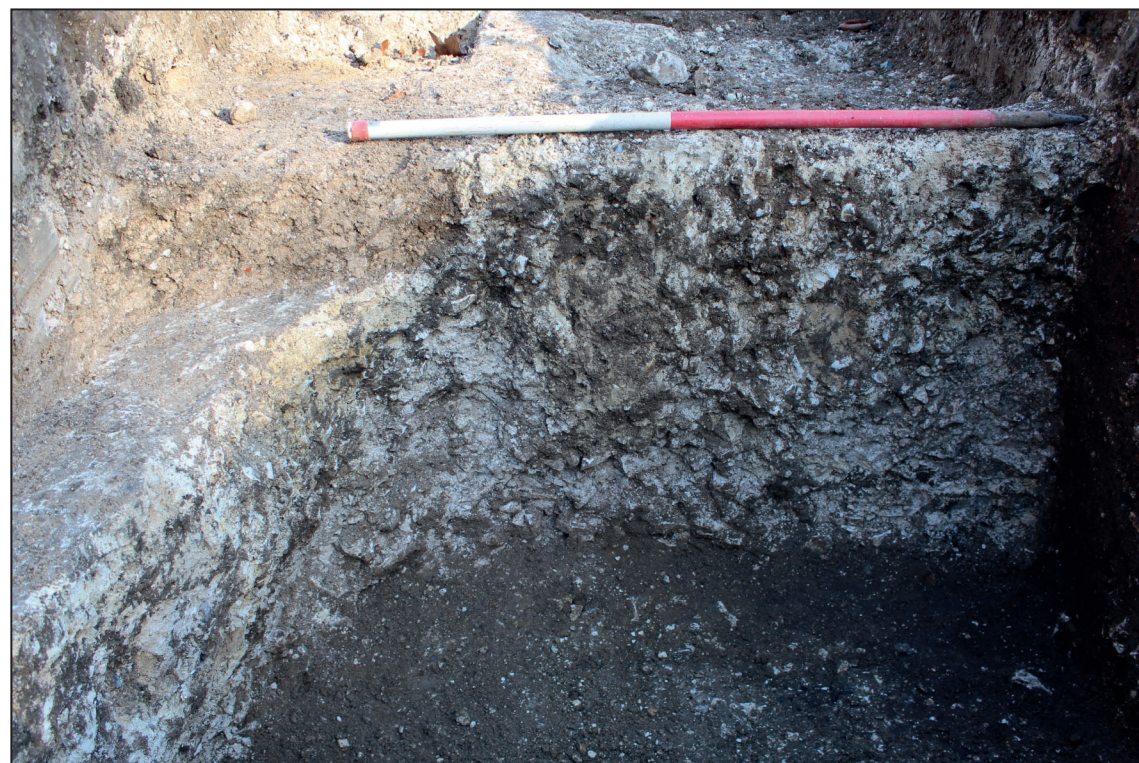
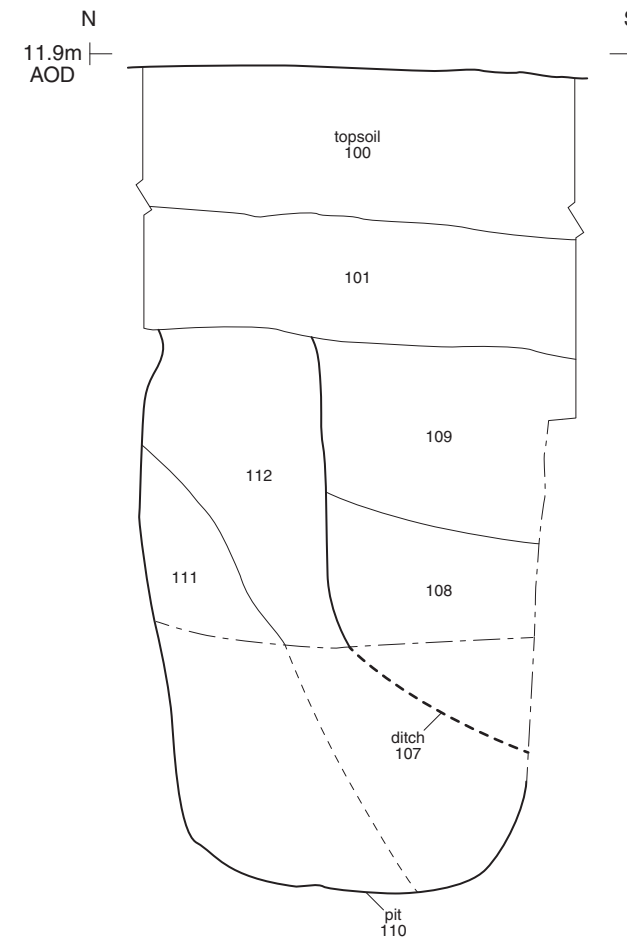
FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1: sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	<b>RW</b>	PROJECT NO.	<b>SU0103</b>	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	<b>RP</b>	DATE	<b>17/02/2020</b>	<b>5</b>
APPROVED BY	<b>TS</b>	SCALE@A3	<b>1:20</b>	

Section CC



Section DD



Foundation trench 113 (left) and pit 110 (right), looking north (1m scale)



Ditch 107 and pit 110, looking east (1m scale)

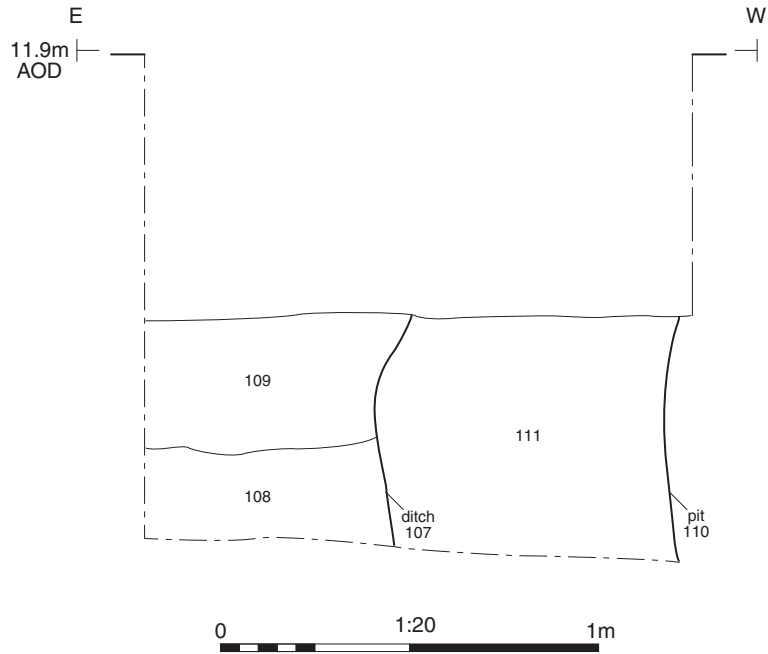

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PROJECT TITLE  
**Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street,  
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FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 1: sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	<b>RW</b>	PROJECT NO.	<b>SU0103</b>	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	<b>RP</b>	DATE	<b>17/02/2020</b>	
APPROVED BY	<b>TS</b>	SCALE@A3	<b>1:20</b>	<b>6</b>

Section EE



Ditch 107 (left) and pit 110 (right), looking south (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Ford Place Nursing Home, Ford Street,  
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FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 1: section and photograph**

DRAWN BY	<b>RW</b>	PROJECT NO.	<b>SU0103</b>	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	<b>RP</b>	DATE	<b>17/02/2020</b>	
APPROVED BY	<b>TS</b>	SCALE@A4	<b>1:20</b>	<b>7</b>



#### **Andover Office**

Stanley House  
Walworth Road  
Andover  
Hampshire  
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

#### **Cirencester Office**

Building 11  
Kemble Enterprise Park  
Cirencester  
Gloucestershire  
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

#### **Exeter Office**

Unit 1, Clyst Units  
Cofton Road  
Marsh Barton  
Exeter  
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

#### **Milton Keynes Office**

Unit 8 - The IO Centre  
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire  
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

#### **Suffolk Office**

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road  
Lion Barn Industrial Estate  
Needham Market  
Suffolk  
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)