Cotswold Archaeology

Land east of Aspall Road
Debenham
Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

for:
Hopkins & Moore
Developments Ltd

CA Project: SU0232
CA Report: SU0232_1
OASIS ID: 419214
HER Ref: DBN 238

May 2021

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Cirencester
Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t. 01285 771 022

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

t. 01908 564 660

Andover
Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t. 01264 347 630

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

t. 01449 900 120

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk
Location:	Debenham, Suffolk
NGR:	617450 263760
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	1–8 March 2021
Planning reference:	Prior to the determination of a planning application
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Site Code:	DBN 238
HER Invoice No.	9241595

In March 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land on the east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk. Twenty trenches were excavated across the development area targeting linear and discrete anomalies identified from a geophysical survey of the site and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the area.

A single potential Bronze Age ditch and a small assemblage of worked flints of the late prehistoric period found residually within medieval features suggests limited activity on the site during this period. The potential Bronze Age ditch along with an undated ditch and a tree throw were located in the northwest corner of the site close to Aspall Road and were sealed by a colluvial deposit.

On the high point of the site focussed on Trenches 5, 6 and 8 small scale peripheral activity dating between the 11th-13th century was identified, in the form of a ditch, three postholes and two large quarry pits. The features produced a reasonable assemblage of early medieval wares however environmental samples produced poor results with no evidence of hearth of domestic waste suggesting that activity here was limited.

The colluvial deposit was also identified in the southwest corner of the site on the road frontage where it was cut by medieval features that were in turn sealed by a medieval occupation layer or buried topsoil. This activity represents direct settlement and is located in an area that had

been terraced and enclosed by a ditch. The finds and features were focussed on Trench 10 and 11, close to Aspall Road and suggest that roadside settlement activity extended further north than the current village limit between the 12th and14th centuries. A dense area of intercutting features of later medieval to post-medieval date were identified in Trench 14 that relate to “backyard” activity belonging to the extant, roadside plot directly to the south of the site.

A post medieval field boundary was identified across two trenches (Trenches 14 and 15) and formed the northern boundary of the feature group seen in Trench 14. A post-medieval dump of brick rubble mixed within the plough soil was identified within Trench 14. A made ground deposit that contained medieval and post-medieval finds was identified in Trench 10 and 11 and was likely lain down to level the medieval terraced area when the field had returned to agricultural use.

Thirty-six WNW-ESE orientated undated ditches, typically equally spaced apart and displaying similar profiles and fill types were identified in ten trenches at the centre and east of the site and most likely relate to land drainage in the early medieval period (Trenches 2, 4, 6, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In March 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on a piece of land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk (centred at NGR: 617450 263760; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for RPS, who were acting on behalf of the client, Hopkins & Moore Developments Ltd.

1.2. The evaluation was required under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019), prior to the determination of a planning application for the development of the site. No specific details or development masterplan were available at the time the evaluation report was prepared.

1.3. The evaluation was carried out according to a Brief (SCCAS 2021) produced by the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) and then addressed by a Written Scheme of Investigation (Sommers 2021, Appendix F), prepared by CA and approved by SCCAS.

1.4. The fieldwork also followed Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014, updated October 2020), the Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003), the SCC Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2021), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Planning Note 3* (English Heritage 2008), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Rachael Abraham of SCCAS and included a single site visit on the 4th of March 2021.

The site

1.5. The proposed development site is located on the northern edge of the historic market town of Debenham in the Mid Suffolk district in the civil parish of Debenham (Figs 1 and 3). It comprises *c*.2.4ha of arable land and is bounded by a hedge and further arable land to the north and northeast, an old trackway known as "*Priory Lane*" to the east, a cemetery, playing field and residential housing to the south and to the west by the Aspall Road, with *The Gulls*, the main tributary to the River Deben, directly beyond it. The site slopes up gently from *c.*38m AOD in the west to *c.*45m AOD in the east.

1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site, as mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2021), comprises sands of the Crag Group, a sedimentary deposit formed up to five million years ago in the Quaternary and Neo-gene Periods in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These are shallow-marine in origin, detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained (locally with some carbonate content) and forming interbedded sequences. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton, formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These sedimentary deposits are glacigenic in origin, detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater. They can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and interglacial periods during the Quaternary.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods. This section has been compiled with information obtained through a 1km radius search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER), a Desk Based Assessment (RPS 2020), a geophysical survey of the site (SUMO 2020; Appendix E) as well as from other readily available sources (Fig. 2).

2.2. The SCCAS Brief states that "*The site, overlooking a tributary of the River Deben, is topographically favourable for archaeological remains. A scatter of 13th-14th century pottery is recorded from within the site (DBN 052), possibly indicative of settlement. The potential site of a medieval priory, alongside an area of Roman activity defined during previous archaeological investigations, is situated immediately to the east of the proposed development area (DBN 011 and 090). Further scatters of medieval, late Saxon and prehistoric finds are recorded to the north (DBN 040, 051, 053). As a result, there is high potential for below ground archaeological remains to survive at this location and the proposed development would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage or destroy any below ground heritage assets that exist."*

Prehistoric

2.3. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site is limited. There are five records of prehistoric flint and burnt flint scatters in the vicinity of the site (HER refs DBN 041, 050, 053, 073 and 075 - all between *c.*100m and *c.*350m north-west and north-east of the site).

Circular soil marks (DBN 029) of unknown but probably Prehistoric date are recorded *c.*350m south-west of the site. These may represent the remains of a ring ditch or external bank.

Sixteen Middle Bronze Age cremations (DBN 132), both urned and un-urned, some with multiple individuals contained within, were identified during excavation *c.*750m to the south-west of the study site.

Roman

2.4. A possible Roman period settlement site containing at least one substantial masonry building is located to the south-east of the site (DBN 011): The foundations of a substantial building were recorded as being found in the early 19th century when Priory Field on the north side of Debenham was converted to arable land and ploughed; two Roman coins are recorded as subsequently being found in 1845 from the same area. More modern fieldwalking in the area in the 1990s recovered scatters of 3rd and 4th century Roman pottery and a probable tile tesserae.

A series of Roman ditches and finds of pottery (DBN 090) located during evaluation just to the south-east of this in 1997 may also be related to this Roman settlement site.

A second Roman period settlement site may be indicated *c.*100m north-west of the study site at Gull Farm, where approximately 50 sherds of early Roman pottery are recorded as surface finds (DBN 041).

A decorated bronze bracelet (DBN 033) was identified during metal detecting *c*.350m south of the site.

Anglo Saxon and Medieval

2.5. The present settlement of Debenham likely originated during the Early Medieval period. It was first referred to in the Domesday survey (1086) as "*Depbenham"* (Williams 2003), translated as *"Homestead or village by the river called Deope* (the deep one)" (Mills 2003, 149-150). Debenham was located within the Hundred of Claydon, was listed under eight owners and had a recorded population of 69.5 households in 1086, putting it in the largest 20% of settlements (opendomesday.org).

The village at the time of the Domesday Survey had two churches, one of which is the current parish church of St. Marys with its Saxo-Norman square tower (DBN 023; 480m south of the site), whilst the whereabouts of the second church (DBN 201) is unknown with two possible locations given within the HER (WNT 015 or DBN 005).

Other than the church little evidence of the village's early medieval origin has been identified. It is likely the early medieval settlement was located close to the parish church of St. Marys, and the historic core (DBN 131*)* that extends along the High Street and Aspall Road as far north as the southern boundary of the site. Aspall Road and the High Street form the main routeway into the historic core of the town. Over

fifty listed buildings are located along its length with a further 30+ located throughout the town, the earliest of which date to the early 15th century (debenham.onesuffolk.net/).

A historic reference and local hearsay along with the field name Priory Field and a trackway named Priory Lane suggests that a medieval priory is located to the south east of the site (DBN 011). However recent archaeological works hints that the surviving archaeological remains may actually be Roman in date and relate to the possible Roman settlement site mentioned previously in section 2.4.

A number of artefact scatters of Saxon and Medieval pottery have been found throughout the town. Those closest to the site include a scatter of possible Saxon Ipswich ware sherds and a rim of later Thetford-type ware along with two other single sherds of Saxon pottery *c.*50m to the north-west and west of the site (DBN 040, DBN 041 and DBN 050), pottery of 12-14th century date 170m WSW of the site (DBN 167), whilst on the site itself a scatter of 13-14th century pottery (DBN 052) was found.

A number of investigations are recorded out in the surrounding area, typically small-scale evaluations/trial works in advance or development and redevelopment within Debenham. A small trial trenching programme took place in 2015 in advance of development at The Red House, Little London Hill, *c.*150m south-west of the study site (DBN 167). No archaeological features, but a moderate number of Medieval pottery sherds were recorded during excavation of three 5m long trenches. A substantial layer of subsoil was revealed confirming that the River Deben at this point close to its origin at one time ran through a valley that must have been of some depth with relatively steep sides. The pottery indicates that the accumulation of this colluvial material took place largely through the high medieval period when there was high pressure on the land to produce food to support the increasing population.

Post medieval and modern

2.6. Trial trenching *c.*50m west of the site at Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School in 2013 (DBN 148) recorded a possible pair of World War II air raid shelters but no earlier archaeological finds or features. The area showed a substantial depth of top and subsoil close to a tributary stream of the River Deben called The Gulls. Similar negative results had been recorded during archaeological monitoring works in the same area in 2007 (DBN 129), However, the monitoring of DBN 129 did not penetrate a layer of colluvium and archaeological potential could not be discounted entirely.

The earliest available map to show the site in detail is the 1837 Debenham Tithe map (Appendix E). This shows the boundaries of the study site largely as existing to the present day, albeit with greater internal sub-division. The majority of the site is formed by two parcels of land, the northern field (plot 481 on the map) was in agricultural use and the southern field (482) was grass land. A pond is depicted on the boundary between those two fields. The south-western corner of the site comprised two buildings and associated land parcels.

There were very few changes to the site through the 19th century, as illustrated on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map (Appendix E). The OS map depicts the reorganisation of the small parcels in the south-western corner and some additions to the small group of building in the south-west corner of the site.

The site remains unchanged until the 1970s. Ordnance Survey mapping from 1976-1977 (old-maps.co.uk) illustrates the removal of the internal field boundary between the northern and southern field and the loss of the eastern buildings on the road frontage. This represents the site as it appears today, as shown on the Google Earth imagery from 2020 (Google Earth).

The map review demonstrates that the majority of the study site has remained as agricultural land from the 19th century onwards.

Geophysical Survey

2.7. A geophysical survey of the site has been undertaken (SUMO 2020). In summary, the survey did not detect any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest although several discrete anomalies and two trends have been recorded in the dataset and have been classified as being of uncertain origin. The magnetic signature of two of the discrete responses in the north of the dataset is potentially indicative of fired remains but the lack of other associated features and/or 'noise' suggests they could be due to ferrous objects. It is probable the trends are a result of modern agricultural or natural processes. Four broad linear anomalies have been detected and were interpreted as former field boundaries. Two of the linear anomalies appear to be on the same alignment as field boundaries marked on the Tithe map of 1837.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Mid Suffolk District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019). A further objective of the project was to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

3.2. Specific objectives of the evaluation were: to 'ground truth' the geophysics results, particularly to investigate a sample of the recorded 'spikes' (SUMO 2020); to test for the presence of medieval settlement within the area of the medieval pottery scatter recorded on the HER (DBN 052); and to determine if any remains associated with the adjacent Roman building (DBN 011) and a possible medieval priory enter into the proposed development site boundary.

3.3. Archaeological remains were identified, therefore this report will make reference to the research framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011) so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional contexts.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 20 trenches (Fig. 3):

- 16no. *c.*30m x 1.8m trenches; and
- 4no. *c.*20m x 1.8 trenches

4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. Trench 14 was shortened by 5m at its southern end due to overhanging trees and Trench 11 was shortened by 6m at its southern end due to the continuing medieval occupation or buried topsoil layer.

4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were predominately first encountered.

4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. The plough soil within the line of the trenches was metal detected prior to and during machine excavation and the spoil heaps were visually scanned and metal detected for the presence of archaeological artefacts.

4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeo-environmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.

4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

4.7. Site data has been added onto a database and recorded using the County HER code DBN 238. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (Ref: Cotswold2-419214; Appendix D) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit). A summary note will be produced, suitable for inclusion within the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.*

4.8. The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their office in Suffolk. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the SCC Archaeological Archive. The archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020) and the *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* guidelines (SCCAS 2019).

5. RESULTS

5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Full descriptions of the trenches are provided in Appendix A and detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix B. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are presented in Section 6 and Appendix C. Details of the biological evidence are given in Section 7.

Soil conditions

5.2. Across the site the plough soil was a dark brown silty clay (0.3m - 0.48m thick), it directly overlay the natural geological substrate - a pale-yellow clay with occasional chalk flecks and small stones and occasional orange sandier patches – across the higher eastern half of the site.

A subsoil deposit (0.15 thick) of firm mid-brown silty clay was evident below the plough soil within Trench 7, located close to an extant historic field boundary.

A colluvial deposit was identified within Trenches 1, 3 and 11 to the west of the site and Trench 20 to the east. The colluvial deposit (0-0.74m thick) was formed of mid brown, orange soft silty clay and was located directly below the plough soil deposit within Trenches 1, 3 and 20 and below a medieval buried topsoil or occupation layer within Trench 11. Fragments of peg tile and ceramic building material (CBM) were identified at the interface between the plough soil and colluvial deposit within Trenches 1 and 3.

Site Results

5.3. Twenty trenches were excavated across the development area (Fig. 3). Results are presented below in trench number order. Trenches were either *c.*20m or *c.*30m long and 1.80m wide unless otherwise stated.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

5.4. Trench 1 measured between 0.40 - 1m deep and orientated NNW-SSE. The trench was positioned to investigate a discrete geophysical anomaly located at its northern end that may relate to highly fired remains, and to test for the presence of medieval settlement within the area of the medieval pottery scatter recorded on the HER (DBN 052). A colluvial deposit (0 – 0.6m thick) was identified within the trench sealing a single ditch (104) at the trench's northern end. The colluvium was deepest at the

northern end gradually shallowing and eventually petering out 5m from the trench's southern end.

Ditch 104

Ditch 104 was orientated N-S gradually turning southwest at its southern end. The ditch had steep concave sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.42m wide and 0.33m deep. The ditch was 100% excavated in search of dateable finds but none were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 5)

5.5. Trench 2 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated NE-SW. The trench was positioned to test for the presence of medieval settlement within the area of the medieval pottery scatter recorded on the HER (DBN 052). A single ditch (203) was identified at the trench's southern end.

Ditch 203

Ditch 203 was orientated WNW-ESE with steep sides to a flat base and measured 0.58m wide and 0.15m deep. The ditch's single fill comprised a mixed pale grey, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. No finds were recovered. This is the northern outlier of a large group of similar, parallel features which increase in density southwards. They appear to represent an early, probably medieval, drainage system. To make it clear in the text which features are part of this system they will be described as drainage ditches.

Trench 3 (Fig. 6)

5.6. Trench 3 measured between 0.80 – 0.90m deep and was orientated NNE-SSW. The trench was positioned to investigate a discrete geophysical anomaly located at its centre, and to test for the presence of medieval settlement within the area of the medieval pottery scatter recorded on the HER (DBN 052). No features were apparent in the vicinity of the geophysical anomaly. A colluvial deposit (0.50 - 0.60m thick) was evident throughout the trench sealing a tree throw at the trench's northern end and a potential Bronze Age ditch terminus (304) at the trench's southern end.

Ditch 304

Ditch 304 was orientated NE-SW with moderate sloping sides to a shallow rounded base and measured 0.30m wide and 0.13 deep. It terminated within the trench and extended beyond the trench's eastern limit of excavation. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recovered from its single fill.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

5.7. Trench 4 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated NNW-SSE. The trench was positioned to investigate a discrete geophysical anomaly located at its southern end, and to test for the presence of medieval settlement within the area of the medieval pottery scatter recorded on the HER (DBN 052). No features were apparent in the vicinity of the geophysical anomaly.

Two unexcavated drainage ditches orientated WNW-ESE were identified at the trenches southern end spaced *c.*2.4m apart. The fill of both ditches comprised a mixed pale yellow, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. The eastern ditch aligned with ditch 605 within Trench 6.

Trench 5 (Figs 7 and 8)

5.8. Trench 5 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated NNE-SSW. A ditch (507) was identified at the trenches northern end and a large medieval quarry pit (503) at the trenches southern end. A fragment of lead strip (Registered Artefact: Ra 5) was recovered from the plough soil layer (501).

Quarry pit 503

Pit 503 was sub circular in plan and extended beyond the southern, western and eastern limits of excavation and measured >4.34m, >1.8m and >0.66m deep. The pit had moderate concave sloping sides and was not fully excavated during the hand excavation of the pit. Three fills were identified in the excavated slot and two sherds of 12th-14th century pottery were recovered from the upper fill. Following the machine excavation of the trench two sherds of 14th-16th century pottery, two fragments of fired clay and an iron tool (Ra 10) were recovered from the top of the pit fills and assigned context 509.

Ditch 507

Ditch 507 was orientated E-W with moderate sloping sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.92m wide and 0.34m deep. No finds were recovered from the ditch's single fill.

Trench 6 (Figs 9-11)

5.9. Trench 6 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated E-W. The trench was positioned to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly located at its eastern end. Two drainage ditches orientated WNW-ESE were identified of which one (605) was excavated. A

further ditch (603), orientated N-S, was also identified within the trench along with three deep postholes or possible pits (608, 610 and 612).

Ditch 603

Ditch 603 was orientated N-S and in the location of the linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. The ditch had steep sides leading to a concave base and measured 1.22m wide and 0.47m deep. The ditch contained two fills of which the upper fill (604) contained twenty sherds of 11th-12th century pottery and eleven fragments of animal bone. Ditch 603 visibly cut a drainage ditch (605) on its eastern edge.

An environmental sample (Sample 6) was taken from the upper ditch fill to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. A single oyster shell, a later prehistoric worked flint, five pieces of heat-altered flint and fifty-three small fragments of fired clay were recovered. Environmental results were sparse with only a few charred cereal grains, charcoal fragments and snail shells recovered.

Drainage ditch 605

Drainage Ditch 605 was located at the trench's eastern end orientated WNW-ESE, aligning with an un-excavated ditch within Trench 4. It had moderate sloping sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.60m wide and 0.17m deep. The fill of the ditch along with the fill of the un-excavated ditch, at the trenches western end, comprised a mixed pale yellow and orange sandy clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. The feature was cut at its western end by medieval ditch 603 and at its eastern end, along its northern edge, by a medieval posthole or possible pit (608).

A second, parallel drainage ditch at the western end of the trench remained unexcavated.

Posthole / pit 608

A possible posthole or pit (608) was located at the trench's eastern end cutting drainage ditch 605 along its northern edge. The feature was sub circular in plan with steep sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.61m by 0.57m and 0.43m deep. The feature had a single fill that contained five sherds of 11th-13th century pottery, a single animal bone and nail and three small fragments of fired clay.

An environmental sample (Sample 2) was taken from the single fill to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. Environmental results were sparse with a few charcoal fragments, snail shells and a single charred grass seed recovered.

Posthole / pit 610

A shallow posthole or pit (610) was located at the centre of the trench measuring 0.47m by 0.39m and 0.07m deep. The feature was sub circular in plan with moderate sloping sides leading to a flat base. The single fill comprised a mid-red, orange sandy clay that had been clearly heat-affected. No finds were recovered.

An environmental sample (Sample 3) was taken from the single fill to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. Environmental results were poor with only a few charcoal fragments and snail shells recovered.

Posthole / pit 612

A posthole or pit (612) was located at the centre of the trench, extending beyond the southern limit of excavation. The feature was sub circular in plan with steep sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.58m by ><0.45m and 0.43m deep. The feature had a single fill that contained two sherds of 11th-13th century pottery and a single small fragment of fired clay.

An environmental sample (Sample 4) was taken from the single fill to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. Environmental results were poor with only a few charcoal fragments and a single fragment of heat-altered flint were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

5.10. Trench 7 was orientated N-S and measured 0.45m deep. The trench was positioned to investigate a discrete geophysical anomaly located at its northern end. No features were apparent in the vicinity of the geophysical anomaly and the trench was devoid of archaeological finds or features.

Trench 8 (Figs 12 and 13)

5.11. Trench 8 was *c.*0.35m deep and orientated NNE-SSW. A gully terminus (812) and a possible posthole or pit (810) were identified at the trench's northern end and a large medieval quarry pit (802) at the centre of the trench. A fragment of copper alloy casting spill waste (Ra 9) was recovered from the plough soil layer (800).

Quarry pit 802

Pit 802 was sub circular in plan and extended beyond the western and eastern limits of excavation, measuring 4.90m by >1.8m and >0.54m deep. The pit had steep sloping sides and was not fully excavated during the hand and subsequent machine excavation of the pit. Four fills were identified in the excavated slot, including two distinct basal fills one of which was dark in colour (804). Three sherds of 11th-13th century pottery were recovered from fill 804 and three sherds of 11th-13th century pottery and an iron nail were recovered from the upper fill (806).

Posthole / pit 810

A possible posthole or pit (810) was located at the trench's northern end cutting gully terminus 812 along its western edge. The feature was circular in plan with steep sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.85m in diameter and 0.43m deep. The feature had a single fill that contained four sherds of 11th-13th century pottery, a single oyster shell and five small fragments of animal bone.

An environmental sample (Sample 7) was taken from the single fill to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. A single later prehistoric worked flint was recovered whilst environmental results were sparse with a low number of charred cereal grains and charcoal fragments.

Gully terminus 812

Gully 812 was orientated NE-SW with moderate sloping sides leading to a flat base and measured 0.40m wide and 0.08m deep. The gully terminated within the trench and extended beyond the northeast limit of excavation and was cut on its western side by medieval posthole/pit 810. No finds were recovered from the gully's single fill.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

5.12. Trench 9 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated NE-SW. Three parallel unexcavated drainage ditches orientated WNW-ESE were identified at the trenches southern end. The fill of all ditches comprised a mixed pale yellow, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology.

Trench 10 (Fig. 14)

5.13. Trench 10 measured between 0.35m and 0.90m deep and was orientated WSW-ENE. The trench was positioned to investigate a NNE-SSW orientated linear geophysical anomaly located at its centre. An unexcavated ditch orientated WNW-ESE was identified within the trench that aligned with Ditch 1108 in Trench 11. A

further ditch (1004), orientated NNE-SSW and dated to the medieval period, was identified at the trench centre. Ditch 1004 was in the middle of a dramatic drop in depth to the natural geology suggesting terracing had taken place.

Terracing and made ground 1002

A change to the depth of the natural geology was evident in the location of Ditch 1004. To the east of the ditch the natural geology was at a depth of 0.35m below a plough soil deposit. Just to the west of the ditch the natural geology had been cut away and dropped significantly to 0.75m-0.90m below ground level and was infilled by the plough soil and a "made ground" deposit (1002) that comprised a mid-dark brown silty clay with occasional chalk and CBM flecks. A small assemblage of animal bone, two fragments of fired clay and a single fragment of post-medieval roof tile were recovered from the made ground deposit.

Ditch 1004

Ditch 1004 was orientated NNE-SSW and in the location of the linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey. The ditch had a steep eastern side and gradual sloping western side leading to a concave base and measured 1.46m wide and 0.60m deep. The ditch contained two fills of which the upper fill (1005) contained five sherds of 11th - 14th century pottery, a single sherd of 15th - 16th century pottery, a single fragment of fired clay, four fragments of animal bone, three nails and an oyster shell.

Trench 11 (Figs 15 and 16)

5.14. Trench 11 was orientated NNE-SSW and was located close, and parallel to Aspall Road. The trench was located within a shallow extant rectangular hollow, with its southern edge located 3.5m south of the trench (Fig. 3). A medieval copper alloy dress pin and a lead sheet (Ra 7 and 8), two fragments of post-medieval roof tile along with an iron nail were recovered from the plough soil layer (0.35 – 0.48m thick).

Made Ground 1102

A made ground deposit (1102) that was similar in nature to deposit 1002 within Trench 10 was identified below the plough soil. The made ground deposit (0.15-0.40m thick) comprised a mid-dark brown silty clay that contained five sherds of 11th-14th century pottery, six nails; along with three items recorded as registered artefacts: a fragment of a copper alloy thimble of later medieval or post-medieval date, a cylindrical copper alloy object and lead stud.

Buried Topsoil / Occupation Deposit 1103

At the northern end of the trench, deposit 1102 sealed a Buried Topsoil or Occupation Deposit (1103) comprising a dark brown silty clay (0.14 – 0.20m thick) that contained six fired clay fragments, a single plate from a strap end (Ra 2) and two iron nails. Frequent Iron signals were given off by the metal detector but were left in situ. Machine dug sondages were placed in the deposit revealing an un-excavated posthole (1106), that contained frequent visible inclusions of fired clay, and an un-excavated pit (1107), both of which were sealed by the deposit.

Buried Topsoil / Occupation Deposit 1105

At the southern end of the trench, deposit 1102 sealed a Buried Topsoil or Occupation Layer, 1105, (0.20 - 0.48m thick) that was all but identical to deposit 1103 apart from the lack of fired clay fragments. Frequent Iron signals were given off by the metal detector but were left in situ. A 1m sq. test pit was excavated through the deposit and a single sherd of 12th-14th century pottery, five fragments of animal bone and four iron nails were recovered.

Colluvium 1104

Below deposits 1103 and 1105, and visibly cut by all archaeological features, was a colluvial deposit (1104). A small machine dug sondage was excavated through the colluvium down to the natural geology indicating a depth of 0.74m.

Ditch 1108

Between deposits 1103 and 1105 a medieval ditch (1108) was identified that aligned with the un-excavated ditch in Trench 10. Ditch 1108 was orientated WNW-ESE with gradual sloping sides to a flat undulating base, measuring 1.96m wide and 0.46m deep. The ditch contained two fills of which the lower fill (1109) contained twenty-one sherds of predominately 11th-14th century pottery, although two were more tightly dated to the 13th-14th century, a single fragment of fired clay, one iron nail, two later prehistoric worked flints, a single animal bone and eleven fragments of oyster shell.

It was first thought that the ditch cut the two occupation deposits (1103 and 1105) however within section this was unclear as deposits 1103 and 1105 were thinner at the point they interacted with the ditch and instead they may abut the ditch and be contemporary with one another.

An environmental sample (Sample 9) was taken from the darker upper fill (1110) to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. Three sherds of 11th-13th

century pottery and a single sherd of 13th-14th century pottery, along with four fragments of animal bone were recovered. Environmental results were sparse with a low number of charred cereal grains and charcoal fragments.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

5.15. Trench 12 was orientated E-W and measured 0.30m deep. The trench was positioned to investigate a discrete geophysical anomaly located at its eastern end. No features were apparent in the vicinity of the geophysical anomaly and the trench was devoid of archaeological finds or features.

Trench 13 (Fig. 17)

5.16. Trench 13 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated NW-SE. The trench was positioned to investigate a SW-NE orientated linear geophysical anomaly located at its centre. Two drainage ditches orientated WNW-ESE were identified of which one (1303) was excavated. The un-excavated ditch was located at the trench's southern end and aligned with a further un-excavated ditch in Trench 19. A north-south aligned, undated ditch (1305) was identified at the trench centre cutting ditch 1303.

Drainage ditch 1303

Undated Ditch 1303 was located at the trench centre orientated WNW-ESE. The ditch had moderate sloping sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.60m wide and 0.14m deep. The fill of the ditch, along with the fill of the un-excavated ditch at the trenches southern end, comprised a mixed pale yellow and orange silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. The ditch was cut by undated ditch 1305.

Ditch 1305

Undated Ditch 1305 was orientated NE-SW and was roughly in line with a linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey located at the trench centre. The ditch had moderate to steep sloping sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.70m wide and 0.24m deep. The ditch cut undated ditch 1303 and no finds were recovered from its single fill.

Trench 14 (Figs 18-20)

5.17. Trench 14 was *c.*0.35m deep and orientated N-S. The trench was positioned to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly located at its northern end in the location of a former post-medieval field boundary and an area of magnetic disturbance. A late medieval silver strap end or buckle plate was recovered from the plough soil (Ra 3).

An un-excavated large ditch (1412) was identified in the position of the geophysical anomaly, the ditch also aligned with an un-excavated ditch within Trench 15. The upper fills of the ditch were dark in colour suggesting it had only been recently backfilled and likely represents the post-medieval field boundary visible on early OS mapping up until the 1970s.

Just to the south of the ditch a deposit of brick rubble (1403) was identified partly mixed in with the plough soil. The deposit of rubble was cut by a small gully or wheel rut (1404).

Multiple large intercutting features (1416-1419) were identified within the trench to the south of the post-medieval field boundary in the area of the magnetic disturbance identified by the geophysics. The features have been interpreted as pits but within the confines of the trench this is uncertain. Two of the features were tested (1405 and 1407) and their profiles suggest they do form pits whilst recovered finds suggest a medieval or late medieval date. Two smaller square features (1413 and 1414), one of which contained a posthole (1415), were also identified and were interpreted as post pads. All features, except pits 1405 and 1407, were not excavated during this stage of work due to the complexity of the archaeology and the confines of the trench. Frequent Iron signals were given off by the metal detector but were left in situ.

Rubble deposit 1403

A deposit of brick rubble and flint mixed in with the plough soil was identified just south of the post-medieval field boundary. The deposit was planned and photographed before being removed by the machine. Seven of the larger fragments of brick were retrieved and date to the late medieval and post-medieval periods. A large sherd of 16-18th century pottery was also recovered from the deposit. The brick rubble was identified above a number of the large intercutting features within the trench and was perhaps laid down as a consolidation deposit within a soft area caused by the intercutting features below it.

Gully / wheel rut 1404

An undated narrow gully or wheel rut was identified cutting the northern side of rubble deposit 1403 and the upper fill of pit 1407. The feature was planned and photographed before being removed by the machine and was then subsequently recorded in the trench edge. The feature was orientated E-W with steep sides leading

to a concave base and measured 0.54m wide and 0.18m deep. The feature contained two fills and no finds were recovered.

Pit 1405

Pit 1405 extended beyond the eastern and western trench limits. The pit had steep sides leading to a flattening base and measured 8m? by >1.80m and 0.60m deep. Two sherds of 15th-16th century pottery and a single sherd of 12th-14th century pottery were recovered from its single fill, along with a single fragment of animal bone. A silver long cross penny (Ra 1) of Edward the 1st (1272-1307) was recovered during metal detecting. The coin was found 1.6m from the excavated slot and assigned the fill number of the pit although it cannot be totally certain that the coin was from this feature due to the complexity of the intercutting archaeology.

An environmental sample (Sample 8) was taken from the single fill to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. A single fragment of heat-altered flint was recovered. Environmental results were sparse with a low number of charcoal fragments and snail shells along with a possible wheat grain and a single possible barley grain and a very low number of unidentifiable charred cereal grain fragments.

Pit 1407

Pit 1407 extended beyond the eastern and western trench limits. The pit had gradual sloping sides leading to a flat base and measured >3m by >1.80m and 0.42m deep. A single sherd of 11th-13th century pottery, two Iron nails and two fragments of an iron object, possibly a knife (Ra 6), were recovered from the pit's lower fill. A single sherd of 16th-18th century pottery and a small fragment of green post-medieval bottle glass was recovered from the upper fill, although this fill (1409) could relate to deposit 1403 that overlay it, but this could not be clarified within the confines of the trench.

Trench 15 (Fig. 3)

5.18. Trench 15 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated N-S. The trench was positioned to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly located at its northern end in the location of a former post-medieval field boundary.

An un-excavated large ditch was identified in the position of the geophysical anomaly, the ditch also aligned with an un-excavated ditch within Trench 14. As within Trench 15 the upper fills of the large ditch were dark in colour suggesting it had only been recently backfilled and likely represents the post-medieval field boundary visible on early OS mapping until the 1970s.

Two un-excavated drainage ditches orientated WNW-ESE were identified. The fill of both ditches comprised a mixed pale yellow, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. The northern of the two ditches ditch aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trenches 17, 18 and 19. The southern of the two ditches aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trench 18.

Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

5.19. Trench 16 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated E-W. Two un-excavated drainage ditches orientated roughly WNW-ESE were identified at the trench centre. The fill of both ditches comprised a mixed pale yellow, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. The eastern of the two ditches ditch aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trenches 18 and 19. The western of the two ditches aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trench 18.

Trench 17 (Fig. 3)

5.20. Trench 17 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated NNW-SSE. Five un-excavated drainage ditches orientated roughly WNW-ESE were identified. The fill of all ditches comprised a mixed pale yellow, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. Four of the five ditches aligned with ditches identified in Trenches 18 and 19, three of which (Tr. 19) were excavated and are described below (sec 5.22).

Trench 18 (Fig. 21)

5.21. Trench 18 was *c.*0.30m deep and orientated NE-SW. The trench was positioned to investigate a discrete geophysical anomaly, but no features were apparent in the vicinity of the anomaly.

A small area of bioturbation (1820) was identified at the northern end of the trench and nine un-excavated drainage ditches, orientated roughly WNW-ESE, were also identified. The fill of the nine ditches comprised a mixed pale yellow, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology. Eight of the nine ditches aligned with other ditches identified in either Trenches 16, 17 or 19, four of which (Tr. 19) were excavated and are described below (sec 5.22).

Bioturbation 1820

1820 was sub-circular in plan with moderate sloping sides and flat base and measured 0.46m by 0.40m and 0.11m deep. A single small fragment of post-medieval CBM was recovered from the single fill.

Trench 19 (Figs 22-24)

5.22. Trench 19 was *c*.0.30m deep and orientated NW-SE. A small sub-circular feature (1911) was identified at the southern end of the trench along with eight drainage ditches orientated roughly E-W, four of which were excavated (1903, 1905, 1907 and 1909). Seven of the eight ditches aligned with other ditches identified in either Trenches 16, 17 or 18. The fill of all ditches comprised a mixed pale yellow, brown silty clay which was similar in colour to the natural geology.

Drainage ditch 1903

Ditch 1903 was orientated WSW-ENE with shallow sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.40m wide and 0.10m deep. A single small fragment of fired clay was recovered from the ditch's single fill. Ditch 1903 roughly aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trenches 17 and 18.

Drainage ditch 1905

Ditch 1905 was orientated E-W with shallow sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.56m wide and 0.14m deep. No finds were recovered from the ditch's single fill. Ditch 1905 roughly aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trench 18.

Drainage ditch 1907

Ditch 1907 was orientated E-W with shallow sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.50m wide and 0.14m deep. No finds were recovered from the ditch's single fill. Ditch 1907 roughly aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trenches 17 and 18.

Drainage ditch 1909

Ditch 1909 was orientated WNW-ESE with shallow sides leading to a concave base and measured 0.70m wide and 0.16m deep A single small fragment of CBM and two iron nails were recovered from the ditch's single fill. Ditch 1909 roughly aligned with an un-excavated ditch identified in Trenches 17 and 18.

Feature 1911

Feature 1911 was sub-circular in plan with moderate sloping sides and flat base and measured 0.30m by 0.32m and 0.04m deep. No finds were recovered from the features single fill. The shallow nature of the feature suggests it maybe natural in origin.

Trench 20 (Fig. 3)

5.23. Trench 20 was 0.95m deep and orientated NNE-SSW. A colluvial deposit (0.6m thick) was identified within the trench below the plough soil and contained an iron nail and a fragment of an iron knife blade (Ra 4). No other finds or features were identified within the trench.

6. THE FINDS

6.1. Report compiled by Richenda Goffin with Sue Anderson: Pottery, Fired Clay and Ceramic Building Material (CBM); Ruth Beveridge: Registered Artefacts and Metalwork; Sharon Clough: Animal bone; Richenda Goffin: Brick and other material; Michael Green: Worked flints and Heat-altered Flints and Anna West: Plant macrofossils, other remains and Marine Shell.

6.2. A small quantity of artefacts dating to the later part of the prehistoric period was identified from the evaluation, consisting of a few struck flints which were residual in early medieval features, and a sherd of pottery likely dating to the Bronze Age which was the only artefact recovered from the fill of gully 0303.

6.3. The most substantial group of finds is represented by the medieval pottery assemblage; this includes a range of early medieval wares and later fabrics belonging to the twelfth to fourteenth century. Registered artefacts of a similar date were also identified and include a silver long-cross penny of Edward 1 (1272-1307) which was found in one of the pits. A silver strap end or buckle plate was recovered from the topsoil. Much of the fired clay is also likely to be medieval. The artefactual evidence shows a decline in activity in the post-medieval period, although a group of bricks from a consolidation layer in Trench 14 dates to the late medieval and post- medieval periods.

Pottery

6.4. Eighty-five sherds of pottery (821g) were collected from eighteen contexts during the evaluation. Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. A full quantification by count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (eve), minimum number of vessels (MNV), fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. The results were input directly into an Access database. Table 10 (Appendix C) shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Table 11 (Appendix C).

Prehistoric

6.5. A heavily abraded body sherd in a silty fabric with occasional unburnt flint inclusions was found in gully fill 0303. The sherd is thick walled with a reduced external margin

and contains occasional pieces of grey grog as well as flint. The fabric is relatively soft and likely dates to the Bronze Age.

Early Medieval

6.6. Fifty-six sherds were handmade early medieval wares. These included a variety of sandy shelly wares in fabrics which are typical of SE Suffolk, Ipswich and the coast. Yarmouth-type ware occurs commonly in Norwich but is also found around Stowmarket and Ipswich, while the coarser but similar EMSS is mainly found in Ipswich and parts of NE Suffolk. The other sandy shelly wares, EMWSS and EMWSG, are made with silty clays and are most common in the SE of the county, with one possible production site located at Melton near Woodbridge. A few similar sherds had shell on the external surface only (EMWSD), a type which occurs particularly in NE Essex but also in Bury St Edmunds. A finer sandy type and a micaceous type were also present, and these are ubiquitous in East Anglia.

There were three jar rims in this group, all everted beaded forms in EMWSS and EMWSG. These are of 12th/13th-century date. One body sherd was decorated with incised horizontal lines.

Medieval

6.7. Twenty-three sherds of high medieval types were recovered, although these overlap in their date ranges with some of the early medieval types with which they were found. Most common was a fine micaceous fabric, generally tempered with very fine or fine sand. Other identified fabrics included some Waveney Valley and South Cove types from the north of the county, some sherds in typical east Suffolk sandy wares and a body sherd of Stowmarket type. A body sherd of Hollesley-type glazed ware was also present.

This group included a bowl and a jar in MCWM, and a typical Waveney Valley square-bead rimmed bowl. An MCWM strap handle was also found.

Late medieval and post-medieval

6.8. Four sherds of late medieval and transitional ware were identified, although two were very small pieces from a bulk sample. The other two comprised a body sherd with combed horizontal lines, and a small rod-shaped handle with spots of green glaze.

A large fragment of post-medieval glazed red earthenware was found in 1403, and there was a base fragment in the same fabric from pit fill 1409.

Pottery by context

6.9. Table 1 below shows the distribution of fabrics by context with suggested spot dates.

Table 1. Pottery by context

Context	Feature	Type	Fabrics	Spotdate
0305	0304	Gully	UNHM	Bronze Age?
0504	0503	Pit	EMW MCWM	12th-13th c.?
0509			MESCW LMT	L.14th-M.16th c.
0604	0603	Ditch	EMW YAR EMSS EMWSS	11th-12th c.
0609	0608	Pit	EMWSD	11th-13th c.
0613	0612	Pit	EMWSS	11th-13th c.
0803	0802	Pit	EMWSS	11th-13th c.
0806	0802	Pit	EMW EMSS EMWSS	11th-13th c.
0811	0810	Pit	YAR EMSS EMWSS	11th-12th c.
1005	1004	Ditch	EMW EMWM MCWM WVSW SKTHOLL LMT	L.14th c.
1102	-	Layer	EMWSG MCWM HOLG	L.13th-14th c.
1105	-	Layer	WVCWM	13th-14th c.
1109	1108	Ditch	EMWM EMWSS MESCW MCWM	13th-14th c.
1110	1108	Ditch	EMWSG SCVMCW	13th c.?
1403	-	Rubble	GRE	16th-18th c.
1406	1405	Pit	MCWM LMT	L.14th-M.16th c.?
1408	1407	Pit	EMWSG	12th-13th c.
1409	1407	Pit	GRE	16th-18th c.

6.10. Based on these results, there appear to be concentrations of medieval activity in Trenches 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 14 in particular, with early medieval pottery most common in the first three, and both early and high medieval activity in the other three.

Discussion

6.11. Very little medieval pottery has been recovered from Debenham or surrounding villages in recent years, so this assemblage is important in adding to the corpus from this part of Suffolk. The large group of early medieval wares can be compared with assemblages of this date from sites in Stowmarket and along the Gipping valley, most of which have produced sandy shelly wares of the period.

One of the largest groups of high medieval wares is the assemblage from a moated site to the north-west of the village (Owles 1968). The high medieval MCWM sherds recovered from the present site are comparable with Owles' 'Ware B' (micaceous sandy wares), and the forms both there and here are typical of north-east Suffolk in the 13th and 14th centuries. These wares are highly micaceous and not comparable with other sandy micaceous wares from elsewhere in the county, suggesting that they may be of local origin.

Based on the few forms present, it seems likely that activity flourished on this site between the 12th and 14th centuries, declining rapidly in the late medieval period.

Lithics

6.12. A total of four worked flints (combined weight 88g) was recovered by hand excavation and during processing bulk soil samples of three deposits. The assemblage, which has been catalogued in Table 2, contained one flake and three utilised natural fracture pieces. The flint was struck from blue black and light grey glassy flint and was generally moderately patinated and edge damaged.

The struck flint was recovered from two ditch slots and a pit and is very crude in nature. A single struck flake which showed a crude re-touched notch was recovered from ditch fill 0604, a single frost shatter piece with slight re-touch at the distal end was recovered from pit fill 0811 and two frost shatter pieces with minimal re-touch were recovered from ditch fill 1109.

The flint is likely to date to the later prehistoric period but is generally undiagnostic. The use of natural frost shatter is more common in later Bronze Age and Iron Age flint assemblages (Humphrey 2007), but the small size of the assemblage makes this dating uncertain.

Table 2: Lithics catalogue

Context	Trench	Feature/ layer	F/L Type	Category	Description	No.	Wt/g.
0604	6	0603	Ditch	Natural	Small natural flint (discarded).	-	3
0604 (Sample 6)	6	0603	Ditch	Flake	Small crude secondary flake, slight notch. Hard hammer strike. Moderate edge damage and light patination. Later prehistoric.	1	9
0811 (Sample 7)	8	0810	Pit	Utilised natural shatter	Natural frost shatter piece with slight retouch/ notch. Moderate patination and light edge damage. Later prehistoric.	1	28
1109	11	1108	Ditch	Utilised natural shatter	Two crude frost shattered with some possible re-touch. Moderate edge damage and patination. Later prehistoric.	2	51
Total						**4**	**88 (3g discarded)**

Heat-altered flint

6.13. A total of seven small heat-altered flints (combined weight 52g) was recovered during the processing of three bulk soil samples. These are listed in Table 3.

The small amount of heat-altered flint recovered suggests that little to no hot works were present in the area and the flint was accidentally heated and incorporated into the feature fills.

Table 3: Heat-altered flint

Context	Trenc	Feature/ layer	F/L Type	Description	No.	Wt/g.
0604 (Sample 6)	6	0603	Ditch	Five small pieces of high temperature heat-altered flint.	5	48
0613 (Sample 4)	6	0612	Pit	One small pieces of high temperature heat-altered flint.	1	1
1406 (Sample 8)	14	1405	Pit	One small pieces of high temperature heat-altered flint.	1	3
Total					**7**	**52**

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.14. Five fragments of CBM weighing 54g were collected from four contexts. In addition seven pieces of brick weighing a total of 5.683kg were recovered from a further feature. The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form. Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions. The width, length and thickness of bricks and floor tiles were measured, but roof tile thicknesses were only measured when another dimension was available. The bricks were catalogued using the typology of Drury (1993). A full catalogue by context is included as Table 4.

Five pieces were fragments of post-medieval plain roof tiles. Two pieces were in a soft, fine sandy micaceous fabric (fsm; 1002, 1101), one was in a harder fabric with sparse flint (fsf; 1101) and two were too small to determine fabrics other than simply ‘fine sandy’ (fs; 1821, 1910).

The fragments are small, abraded and widely dispersed across the site. They were probably brought to the site during episodes of manuring or night soil distribution in the post-medieval period.

Seven brick fragments were recovered from 1403, a deposit of bricks and flint in Trench 14 which may represent consolidation infilling. A number of grog-tempered bricks including a floorbrick were identified, dating to the late medieval/post-medieval periods. In addition there were three pieces of bricks made out of white-firing clay which are post-medieval. These have been classified as Drury type LB3 which are

dated in Norwich to the 17th-18th century (Drury 165). A single orange brick has a groove running across the header face, providing a housing for an additional unknown element. None of this ceramic building material shows any indication of mortar remnants, either on the original surfaces or on broken edges, although the assemblage is mostly abraded.

Table 4: Ceramic building material

Contex	fabric	form	no	wt/g	abr	Length mm	Width mm	Height mm	comments	date
1002	fsm	RTP	1	5	+				soft	pmed
1101	fsm	RTP	1	19	+				soft	pmed
1101	fsf	RTP	1	28	+				orange surfaces	pmed
1403	msf	LB	1	1213			110	63	Has moulded groove on header, fully oxidised, no mortar	pmed
1403	fsg	FB	1	447	+		112	32	Abraded with plenty of grog, no mortar	Late/ pmed
1403	wsg	LB	1	842	+		105	63	No sign of mortar	Pmed
1403	wsfe	LB	1	897	+		<97	60	No sign of mortar	Pmed
1403	wsg	LB	1	841	+		<111	60	No mortar, scorched	Pmed
1403	fsg	FB?	1	839	+		106	40	No mortar	Late/pme d
1403	fsg	LB	1	604	+		106	58	No mortar	Late/pme d
1821	fs	RTP?	1	1	+					pmed
1910	fs	RTP?	1	1	+				flake	pmed

Fired clay

6.15. Seventy fragments (288g) of fired clay were found in nine contexts (Table 5). Most pieces were small and abraded. All but three pieces were in chalk-tempered fabrics (fsc), some of which had flattish or slightly convex surfaces, and six larger fragments from 1103 had finger-smoothing marks on the surface. Most of the fragments were associated with medieval pottery and are likely to represent fire-related features, such as oven domes, of this period. Two fragments from 1002 in a dense sandy fabric with sparse flint (msf) were heavily abraded and may be earlier than the other pieces, perhaps prehistoric. A tiny fragment in a silty fabric with clay pellets (scp) was found in 1904 and is of unknown function and date.

Table 5: Fired clay

Context	Sample	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	Colour	Surface	Impressions	Abrasion	Notes
0509		fsc		2	9	pink/cream			+	
0604	6	fsc		53	123	buff & red	3 flattish, 1 slightly convex		+	mostly irreg without surfaces
0609		fsc		3	8	cream-red	flattish		+	
0613		fsc		1	3	pink-red			+	
1002		msf		2	6	red/black			++	dense
1005		fsc		1	12	buff-red	flat			
1103		fsc		6	120	red	finger-smoothed			up to 25mm thick
1109		fsc		1	6	red-grey	flat		grass	
1904		scp		1	1	orange				++

Fabric: fsc – fine sandy with chalk; msf – medium sandy with flint; scp – silty with clay pellets.

Other finds

6.16. A small fragment of green post-medieval bottle glass was found in the upper fill 1409 of pit 1407 with a fragment of Glazed red earthenware dating to the 16th-18th century. A piece of lavastone weighing 175g was found in fill 1406 of pit 1405 with fragments of medieval and late medieval/early post-medieval pottery.

Registered artefacts

6.17. Thirty-nine items of metalwork weighing 439g were recovered from eight trenches (5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 19 and 20) during the evaluation. The objects were collected during metal detecting of the topsoil and hand collection from the features; 28 of the objects are iron, seven are of copper alloy; three of lead and two of silver. 15 items have been recorded under 11 registered artefact (Ra) numbers; 24 items are nails or nail fragments and have been recorded as bulk finds.

The largest group of objects (20 in total) was retrieved from Trench 11 including three from the topsoil; twelve from deposits 1102 and 1103 and five from ditches 1105 and 1109.

The metalwork assemblage has been catalogued directly onto an MS Access database which is available in the archive. The artefacts were recorded with the aid of low powered magnification, but without the assistance of radiography. A summary catalogue listing is provided below as Table 6.

With the exception of two silver items, which are in a fair condition, the overall condition of the metalwork is poor; the ironwork is fragmented and exhibits corrosion

products. The artefacts are packed in perforated bags and stored in airtight boxes with silica gel.

Table 6: Registered artefacts

Context	Ra. No.	Trench	Material	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Comments
0501	5	5	Lead	1	18.2	Strip
0509	10	5	Iron	1	63.7	Tool
0609		6	Iron	1	4	Nail
0800	9	8	Copper alloy	2	92	Bulk
0806		8	Iron	1	6	Nail
1005		10	Iron	3	15	Nails
1101	7	11	Copper alloy	1	0.2	Pin
1101	8	11	Lead	1	6.3	Sheet
1101		11	Iron	1	1	Nail
1102	11	11	Composite	3	17.9	Bulk
1102		11	Iron	6	40	Nails
1103	2	11	Copper alloy	1	1.5	Strap End
1103		11	Iron	2	13	Nails
1105		11	Iron	4	37	Nails
1109		11	Iron	1	17	Nail
1401	3	14	Silver	1	1	Strap end
1406	1	14	Silver	1	1.4	Coin
1408	6	14	Iron	2	29.2	Knife?
1408		14	Iron	2	30	Nails
1910		19	Iron	2	22	Nail
2002	4	20	Iron	1	13.5	Knife
2022		20	Iron	1	9	Nail

Medieval

6.18. Four of the registered artefacts (Ra 1, 2, 3 and 7) are medieval in date and comprise one coin and three items of personal adornment. Two were copper alloy items collected from Trench 11; two of silver from Trench 14.

The two copper alloy objects from Trench 11 are a drawn wire dress pin (Ra 7) of Type 2 form (Margeson 1993, 12, fig. 5, no. 36-38) recovered from the topsoil, and a single plate from a strap end (Ra 2) retrieved from occupation layer 1103. Drawn wire pins range in date from the medieval period to the 17th century, with longer and thicker pins like Ra 7 typically medieval (*ibid*, 11) Simple strap ends such as Ra 2, fixed by one rivet and without decoration, were likely to have been common throughout the medieval period, with similar examples recorded in Norwich (*ibid*, 34-35, fig.20, no. 228).

From Trench 14 two silver objects were recovered. Ra. 1 was collected from fill 1406 in pit 1405. It is a silver long-cross penny for Edward I (1272-1307), minted in London, of Class 4b type (Wren 2018, 68).

Ra 3 is a strap end or buckle plate recovered from the topsoil. It has been reported as potential Treasure (awaiting Treasure case number). No direct comparison has yet been found for this artefact, though it bears similarities to the mounts and strap ends of late medieval date (*c*. 13th – 15th century) recorded from the site of Meols on the North Wirral coast (Griffiths *et al*. 2007, 135, pl. 23).

Post-medieval and later

6.19. Three items from made ground deposit 1102, Trench 11, and recorded as Ra 11, included an undiagnostic basal fragment of a copper alloy thimble; the hand drilled pits indicate it could be of later medieval or post-medieval date (Read 2018, 68). The condition and form of the cylindrical copper alloy object and lead stud also recorded as Ra 11 are more likely to be modern in date.

Uncertain date

6.20. Six registered artefacts and 24 nail fragments cannot be dated with any certainty. Amongst the registered artefacts are three possible iron tools. From the cleaning layer 0509 above quarry pit 0503, Trench 5, an elongate tool with a cylindrical iron handle (Ra 10) was retrieved; from pit 1407 in Trench 14, the remains of a possible tanged tool with a similar iron handle (Ra 6) were recovered; and from colluvium layer 2002 in Trench 20, a knife blade (Ra 4) fragment was collected.

Ra 5 and Ra 8 from the topsoil in Trenches 5 and 11 respectively, are offcuts of undiagnostic lead sheet. Ra 9 from the topsoil in Trench 8, is a piece of copper alloy casting spill waste. These items may indicate the discard of small-scale levels of metalworking debris on the site, with the lead being collected for recycling.

24 nails, or fragments of, were also recovered, with 14 of these collected from Trench 11: one from the topsoil; six from made ground deposit 1102; six from occupation layers 1103 and 1105 and one from ditch 1108. The remaining nails were retrieved from Trenches 6, 8, 10, 14, 19 and 20. Their forms cannot be closely dated. They are standard, hand-forged carpentry nails characterised by flat, sub-square or rounded heads with tapering shanks, square in section. Nails of this type developed little between the Roman and post-medieval period, with standardised, machine-made forms only becoming common in the modern period.

Discussion

6.21. This small assemblage of metalwork is of limited value in assisting with the dating or in understanding the function of the site. Four objects provide evidence for activity during the medieval period, and are likely to have entered the archaeological record as either casual losses or through the practice of manuring.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1. The environmental material recovered consists of animal bone together with some charred cereal grains, wood charcoal, Oyster Shell and snail shells from environmental bulk soil samples taken from the fill of selected features. All of the recovered material is from securely dated medieval contexts.

Animal bone

7.2. Animal bone amounting to 36 fragments (257.5g) was recovered from nine deposits in association with material dating to the medieval period (See Table 7). The material was fragmentary but well preserved enough to identify the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and pig (*Sus scrofa sp.*) from fragments of the skull, isolated teeth or bones of the lower limbs. A single bird bone was also recovered from deposit 1005, but it has not been possible to identify it to species level. No cut marks or impact damage indicative of butchery waste were observed which, when coupled with the low recovery, limits what can be said about this assemblage in terms of site economy and animal husbandry. However, each species were commonly exploited domestic animals so their inclusion in an assemblage of this period is to be expected.

Table 7: Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	Bird sp	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
Medieval										
0603	0604		1				10		11	18
0608	0609		1						1	5
0810	0811			1				5	6	5
1004	1005		2		1		1		4	16
	1105	1	1			3			5	97
1108	1109							1	1	2
1108	1110							4	4	0.5
1405	1406		1						1	8
Subtotal		**1**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**11**	**10**	**33**	**151.5**
undated										
	1002	2				1			3	106
Total		**3**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**11**	**10**	**36**	
Weight		**121**	**40**	**3**	**2**	**75**	**12**	**4.5**	**257.5**	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; LM = cattle sized mammal; MM = sheep size mammal; Ind = indeterminate

Plant macrofossils and other remains

7.3. Nine bulk samples were taken from a range of features during the evaluation. Seven of the samples were processed in full in order to assess the quality of preservation of any plant remains present, and their potential to provide useful data as part of any further archaeological investigations.

7.4. The selected samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300µm mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x10 magnification and the presence of any ecofacts or artefacts are noted in Table 8 below. Identification of plant remains is with reference to Stace (1997) for wild plants and Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

For the purposes of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively 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

Table 8 Ecofacts from flots and non-floating residues

SS no	Context no	Feature / cut no	Feature type	Approx date of deposit	Flot contents
2	609	608	pit	11th-13th c.	charred seeds # charcoal + rootlets ++ snails #
3	611	610	pit	UNKN	charcoal # rootlets + snails #
4	613	612	pit	11th-13th c.	charcoal # rootlets +
6	604	603	ditch	11th-12th c.	charred cereal grains # charcoal + rootlets + snails ##
7	811	810	pit	11th-12th c.	charred cereal grains # charcoal # rootlets +
8	1406	1405	pit	L14th-M16th c.	charred cereal grain frags # charcoal # rootlets + snails #
9	1110	1108	ditch	13th-14th c.	charred cereal grains ## charcoal + rootlets +

Discussion

7.5. The flots produced by all samples were extremely small, generally being less than 5ml each. Fibrous rootlet fragments were present in all samples and made up the

majority of this volume. These are considered to be modern contaminants and as much as practicable were removed prior to scanning of the flots.

Wood charcoal fragments were sparse within all samples with, generally, less than ten fragments being present in most. The fragments of charcoal recovered were too small to be suitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating.

Trench 6: pit fills 609 (sample 2), 611 (sample 3), 613 (sample 4) and ditch fill 604 (sample 6)

7.6. Three pits were sampled within Trench 6. The remains recovered from these features were sparse. Wood charcoal fragments were rare and were highly comminuted. A single possible grass family (Poaceae) seed was observed within fill 609 (sample 2), but this was fragmented and highly abraded making identification impossible.

A low number of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recovered from ditch fill 604 (sample 6), again these were highly abraded and had a honeycomb structure. A single thorn fragment, possibly from a *Prunus* type, such as sloe (*Prunus spinosa*), was observed within the charcoal fragments and may indicate the exploitation of nearby woodland or hedgerows, for gathered food resources or fuel. The presence of cereal grains may suggest domestic activities, such as food preparation were taking place in the vicinity.

A small number of snail shells were also recovered from these features. *Vallonia* sp., *Lauria/Pupilla* sp., *Oxychilus* sp. and *Discus rotundatus* were all present in low numbers. These species prefer damp, open grasslands, wetlands and ditch edges, along with woods and hedges. Suggesting rough open, possibly damp ground, with woodland or hedges within the local vicinity.

Trench 8: pit fill 811 (sample 7)

7.7. A very low number of cereal grains were present within sample 7, all appear to be free-threshing wheat. Charcoal was rare. The presence of this material may indicate domestic activities.

Trench 11: ditch fill 1110 (sample 9)

7.8. Charred cereal grain fragments were recovered in low numbers, a small number were most likely a free-threshing wheat, others were too fragmented and abraded to identify. Wood charcoal was presence in very low quantities.

Trench 14: pit fill 1406 (sample 8)

7.9. A single possible wheat grain and a single possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain were recovered from sample 8, along with a very low number of unidentifiable cereal grain fragments. Wood charcoal remains were sparse; it is possible these remains represent waste from domestic activities.

A small number of snail shells were recovered from this feature *Vallonia* sp., *Oxychilus* sp. *Trochulus* sp., and *Discus rotundatus* were present in low numbers and continue to suggest open, possibly damp grasslands and hedges or scrub, within the vicinity of the features sampled.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

7.10. The samples were generally poor in terms of identifiable material, and none of the samples produced material suitable for quantification. Free-threshing wheat was the dominant cereal grown during the Medieval period and it is possible the cereal grains and wood charcoal remains recovered may represent domestic and agricultural activities taking place on site during the Medieval period.

The rather sparse and abraded nature of the charred plant material, however, means they may represent general settlement detritus and may have been subject to movement both across the site and through the soil matrix, through the actions of water, borrowing animals and soil fauna, before becoming incorporated within the contexts sampled.

It is not recommended that any further work is carried out on the material recovered from the bulk samples from this evaluation, or that the two remaining samples are processed. However, if further interventions are carried out on this site it is recommended that bulk samples should be taken from any well sealed and well dated context, in order to further investigate the nature of the activities taking place in the vicinity. Any additional plant material recovered may provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this site.

Marine shell

7.11. A total of fourteen fragments, weighing a total 84g, of oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell were hand collected from fills 811, 1005 and 1109. A single fragment weighing 10g, was also recovered from the non-floating residue of sample 6, ditch fill 604. Both right-hand and left-hand valves was present but were relatively fragmented. The shell

fragments were all examined for signs of infesting or encrusting organisms, as well as notches or cut marks created when the shell was prised open and the oyster consumed, but none were observed.

Oysters would have been collected from the inter-tidal zone along the coast and imported inland, if stored correctly they can survive for up to two weeks. Shellfish and fish formed an important part of the Medieval diet and were religiously consumed on Fridays and during lent (Serjeantson and Woolgar, 2006). It is likely that oysters were collected from natural oyster beds along the coast, river estuaries and creeks in the area and transported to the site.

Even though the remains are sparse, they suggest that oysters formed part of the diet, in the vicinity of the site during the Medieval period. It is likely the empty shells were discarded, along with other food preparation and domestic waste, before becoming incorporated within the backfills of the sampled features.

8. DISCUSSION

Deposit model

8.1. The natural geology was encountered at a depth of between 0.30-1.44m across the site. Within Trench 7 a subsoil deposit of mid-brown silty clay was evident below the plough soil and to the east of the site within Trench 20 and to the west of the site within Trench 1, 3 and 11 a colluvium deposit was evident above the natural geology. Away from these trenches only a thin deposit of plough soil was evident suggesting that truncation of the natural soil profile may have occurred. Medieval features were noted cutting the colluvium within Trench 11 whilst a potential Bronze Age ditch and an undated ditch were sealed by the colluvial deposit within Trenches 1 and 3 respectively, suggesting the colluvium deposit formed sometime between the Bronze Age and the 12th century perhaps following tree clearance in the area during the later prehistoric period.

Geophysical survey results

8.2. All linear geophysical anomalies that were targeted by the evaluation trenches (6, 10, 13, 14 and 15). identified ditches within their expected location. A number of well-defined magnetically enhanced but isolated responses were identified during the geophysical survey. Two of the isolated responses were flagged by the survey as being discrete anomalies of uncertain origin of which one was targeted by the trenching (Trench 1), but no corresponding archaeological feature was identified. Trenches targeted on other isolated responses produced mixed results with no features identified in Trenches 3, 12 and 18 but two quarry pits of medieval date were identified in Trenches 5 and 8.

Bronze Age (2400 BC–700 BC)

8.3. Ditch terminus 304 within Trench 3 may date to the Bronze Age. The feature only contained a single sherd of pottery suggesting that limited activity was occurring on the site at this time. The feature was sealed by the colluvial deposit within the trench.

Ditch 103 within Trench 1 was undated although it was sealed by the colluvium deposit indicating it is also pre-medieval in date and likely of a similar date to ditch 304. The ditch is located in the vicinity of the discrete geophysical anomaly the trench was designed to investigate, however the ditch does not relate to this anomaly due to the depth below the colluvium that it was found, the geophysical anomaly likely related to ferrous material within the plough soil.

The four fragments of worked flint that were recovered during the evaluation were all residual within medieval features suggesting a very low level of utilisation of the site in the prehistoric periods.

The small ditch terminus that contained a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery is a heritage asset of local significance and the site is thought to have minimal potential to address regional research aims for the period.

Romano British (AD 43-AD 410)

8.4. No finds or features dating to the Roman period were found to the east of the site close to the potential Roman settlement site recorded on the HER (DBN 011). One of the undated drainage ditches (Sec. 8.10) pre-dates a ditch dated to the medieval period and could be Roman in date however no finds of Romano-British date have been recovered anywhere on the site and these features are more likely to date from the Medieval period.

Medieval (1066–1539)

8.5. No archaeological finds or features dating to the medieval period were identified within the area of the medieval pottery scatter recorded on the HER (DBN 052) and none were found close to the possible medieval priory (DBN 011) located to the south east of the site. However, three different foci of activity relating to the medieval period were identified elsewhere on the site with the principal occupation area located just to the southwest of the pottery scatter recorded on the HER.

11th-13th century activity: Trenches 5, 6 and 8

8.6. An area of 11th-13th century activity was identified within Trenches 5, 6 and 8 with an assemblage of thirty-nine sherds of early medieval wares recovered from six features: Quarry pit 503 in Trench 5, Ditch 603 and posthole/pits 608 and 612 in Trench 6, and Quarry pit 802 and posthole/pit 810 in Trench 8.

Three of the features (608, 612 and 810) interpreted as either pits or postholes were similar in size and shape. The steep sides suggest they more likely represent postholes although their function as pits cannot be disregarded.

Ditch 604 was identified on the geophysics and although the two large quarry pits were identified on the Greyscale plot they were not included in the Interpretation plan of the geophysical survey (SUMO, 2020). No further geophysical anomalies similar in form to those representing the quarry pits were identified elsewhere on the site.

Trenches 5, 6 and 8 were located on the high point of the site with the topography dropping away to the east and west. The features, coupled with the quantity of pottery, suggests activity of this period is occurring in the area in association with, but peripheral to, the main focus to the west on the road frontage. The pottery scatter identified on the HER (DBN 052) was located downslope of this focus of activity and may have been transported here naturally.

The evidence from the 11th-13th century focus on the top of the hill suggests activity was taking place in this area perhaps associated with the quarry pits found within Trenches 5 and 8. Although a reasonable sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the features the environmental samples produced poor results with no evidence of hearth or domestic waste. The finds and features in Trenches 5, 6 and 8 are heritage assets of local significance and a moderate potential to address regional research aims for the period, including Rural Settlement Types (Medlycott 2011, 70) has been attributed to this area of activity.

12th-14th century activity: Trenches 10 and 11

8.7. A 12th-14th century focus of activity was identified in the area of Trenches 10 and 11, close to Aspall Road, with an assemblage of thirty-seven sherds of high medieval wares recovered from Ditch 1004 in Trench 10; as well as made ground deposit 1102, a buried topsoil (1105) and Ditch 1108 in Trench 11.

Ditch 1004 within Trench 10 was identified on the geophysics. The geophysics interpretation suggests this ditch turns WNW at its northern end to head towards Aspall Road forming an enclosure of medieval date. An assemblage of 11th - 14th century pottery was recovered from the upper ditch fill along with a single sherd of 15th - 16th century pottery that may indicate when the ditch was backfilled.

The terracing identified in Trench 10 and the extant rectangular hollow (Fig. 3), in which Trenches 10 ad 11 sit, suggests a building platform was located within the enclosure ditch. The un-excavated posthole at the northern end of Trench 11, along with the fired clay and metal finds from the buried topsoil or occupation layer (1103) that overlay it, suggests that a structure of medieval date is located in this area. Ditch 1108 that runs at right angles to Ditch 1004 may form the southern boundary of this property or of the principal occupation area.

The only current entrance to the field is located in the southwest corner of the site to the south of Trench 11. The potential disturbance caused by the movement of

machinery through the field entrance on archaeological remains in this area remains unclear. However, if the made ground and buried topsoil layer extend in this direction then enough ground cover would be in place to protect any surviving archaeological remains from agricultural disturbance.

The features and finds within Trenches 10 and 11 suggest that the medieval roadside settlement of Debenham extended further north than the present-day settlement. The lack of contemporary features within Trench 3 suggests the settlement activity does not extend beyond the WNW-ESE ditch identified on the geophysics to the north of Trench 11.

The finds and features including the terraced area and buried topsoil within Trenches 10 and 11 suggest settlement activity in the 12th-14th century was taking place in this area along the road frontage. The finds and features are heritage assets of local significance and have a moderate-high potential to address regional research aims for the period, including Rural Settlement Types (Medlycott 2011, 70).

12th-16th century activity: Trench 14

8.8. Although only two features were excavated (1405 and 1407) and only a few finds were recovered from Trench 14 it was clear that the multiple intercutting features that included pits and likely post-pads and postholes formed an area of dense occupation-related activity.

The recovered finds from Trench 14 included a medieval coin (AD1272-1307) along with early medieval, high medieval, late medieval and early post-medieval pottery. Pottery finds from the two excavated pits suggest a high medieval and late medieval date.

The Tithe map of 1837 indicates that Trench 14 was located within a small land parcel with the smaller N-S orientated post-medieval field boundary forming its eastern limit and the larger E-W orientated post-medieval field boundary, identified in Trenches 14 and 15, forming its northern limit. The geophysical survey identified an area of magnetic disturbance that is likely attributed to concentrated activity within the land parcel (Sumo 2014). Other than the small dump of brick located at the centre of Trench 14 that was mixed within the plough soil, the rest of the plough soil was relatively free of metal finds or further building material, suggesting that perhaps the area of magnetic disturbance identified during the geophysical survey relates to the archaeological features within the trench.

An extant earthwork or terrace was evident to the south of the trench (Fig. 3) just outside of the site boundary, within which a current farm building is located. The terrace and area of the farm building is the likely location of further roadside medieval and post-medieval activity and the features within Trench 14 would have been located to the rear of any roadside property that may have once been located here and likely represent the remnant of “backyard” activity.

The dense area of multiple intercutting features within Trench 14 along with the small find’s assemblage suggests an area of settlement activity perhaps set to the rear of properties that fronted onto Aspall Road. The finds and features suggest a moderate-high potential to address regional research aims for the period, including Rural Settlement Types (Medlycott 2011, 70).

Post-medieval (1540–1800)

8.9. Only two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the evaluation one of which was from the upper fill of Pit 1407, that may have formed a separate feature, and the other from a deposit of post-medieval brick rubble incorporated in the plough soil that was likely laid down as a consolidation deposit, both of which were in Trench 14.

Post-medieval CBM fragments were recovered from plough soil deposits and the made ground deposit within Trench 10 along with two small fragments (1g) from a feature interpreted as bioturbation in Trench 18 (1820) and a drainage ditch within Trench 19 (1909) that are likely to be intrusive. The finds recovered from the made ground deposit within Trenches 10 and 11 (1002 and 1102) suggest that the deposit was laid down in the post-medieval period perhaps to level the area that was previously terraced to bring it back into agricultural use.

A feature in the location of a former E-W orientated field boundary, indicated on the Tithe map and infilled in the 1970s, was identified within Trenches 14 and 15. Although not excavated it was clear from the upper fills that the feature had only been backfilled in the recent past. The second smaller field boundary identified on the Tithe map was not investigated during the evaluation.

The brick rubble deposit, the made ground deposits and the ditches are heritage assets of local significance and the site is thought to have minimal potential to address regional research aims for this period.

Undated features

8.10. The characteristics of the undated ditches across the site can be split into two different types dependent on their orientation, size, and profile.

Thirty-six of these were broadly similar and orientated WNW-ESE (Trenches 2, 4, 6, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19) and where found in numbers were typically equally spaced apart (*c.*2.5 - 4m). The seven that were excavated displayed similar profiles with gradual sides and shallow gradual concave bases. The fills of the majority were quite pale comprising a mixed deposit of yellow and brown silty clay that made them difficult to see against the natural geology, and suggest they were backfilled soon after their excavation and partly with the natural geology that had been dug out of them. Even though conditions during the evaluation were dry it was clear from the boggy ground conditions in their locality that these features were typically located in the wettest areas across the site on the higher ground and to the east. One of the ditches (605) was cut by a medieval ditch (603) within Trench 6 suggesting a medieval or pre-medieval date whilst one of the ditches (1909) in Trench 19 contained a tiny fragment of post-medieval CBM recovered from the surface of the feature that is likely to be intrusive. The quantity and regularity of these ditches are similar to cultivation beds typically of a Roman date; however, the mixed pale and 'natural' subsoil fills are not typical of this feature type and their function would appear to relate drainage, most likely in the late early medieval period immediately prior to or as a part of the initial 12th century occupation of the site. An identical system of drainage features has recently been recorded in evaluation of a similar edge-of-village, wet clay location in Laxfield 14km to the northeast (Cuthbert 2021).

Undated ditches (507 and 1305) within Trenches 5 and 13 displayed deeper profiles and were on different orientations to those interpreted as Medieval drainage ditches. The function of these ditches likely relates to drainage or field divisions of medieval date as backplots to the focus of medieval activity located on the street frontage.

Confidence Rating

8.11. The evaluation took place in predominately dry and overcast weather conditions and a medium - high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the evaluation.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1. The evaluation trenching has defined the character, significance and deposit model of the heritage assets present within the development site.

9.2. The evidence suggests the survival of archaeological remains with the presence of three phases of past activity in the Bronze Age, medieval and the post medieval periods.

9.3. The single potential Bronze Age ditch terminus located in Trench 3, the undated ditch in Trench 1 and the tree-throw in Trench 3 in the northwest corner of the site were all sealed below the colluvial deposit. The results of the evaluation suggest that there is low potential for other features of this date in this area of the site. The colluvial deposit was not removed within Trench 11 therefore it remains unknown whether further archaeology survives below the colluvium in areas close to Trench 11 and to the south of it.

9.4. The 11th-13th century finds and features at the high point of the site within Trenches 5, 6 and 8 probably represent activity of this period perhaps peripheral to the main occupation on the street frontage, therefore there is a moderate archaeological potential for other features of this period located at the centre of the site.

9.5. The focus of medieval activity close to Aspall Road in the southwest corner of the site focussed on Trenches 10 and 11 suggests settlement activity is taking place that may include the remnant of structural remains. Therefore, there is a high archaeological potential for other features of this period focussed along the Aspall Road in an area south of the E-W orientated geophysical linear anomaly located to the north of Trench 11, the southwest corner of the site and with Ditch 1004 forming the eastern limit.

9.6. The focus of medieval and late medieval activity in the southwest corner of the site focussed on Trench 14 suggests settlement activity is taking place that may include the remnant of “backyard” activity in the form of pits and postholes. Therefore, there is a high archaeological potential for other features of these periods focussed in the area between the southwest corner of the site and perhaps as far east as the smaller of the two post-medieval boundaries where the magnetic disturbance identified in the geophysical survey that may relate to features in Trench 14 ceases.

9.7. The post medieval ditch and the brick rubble deposit are located in close proximity to late medieval features and other than helping to understand the continuity of the site and its return to agricultural use they are of limited value.

10. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was led by Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) ACI*f*A, assisted by Heloise Meziani, Tara Schug and Richard Spencer. Project management was undertaken by Richard Mortimer.

Post-excavation management was provided by Joanna Caruth MCI*f*A and the finds report was compiled by Richenda Goffin BA (Hons) PgDip MCI*f*A. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds reports were produced by Sue Anderson, Ruth Beveridge, Sharon Clough, Michael Green, Richenda Goffin and Anna West.

The report was written by Martin Cuthbert, the illustrations were prepared by Marta Perlinska and the report was edited by Richard Mortimer. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Clare Wootton.

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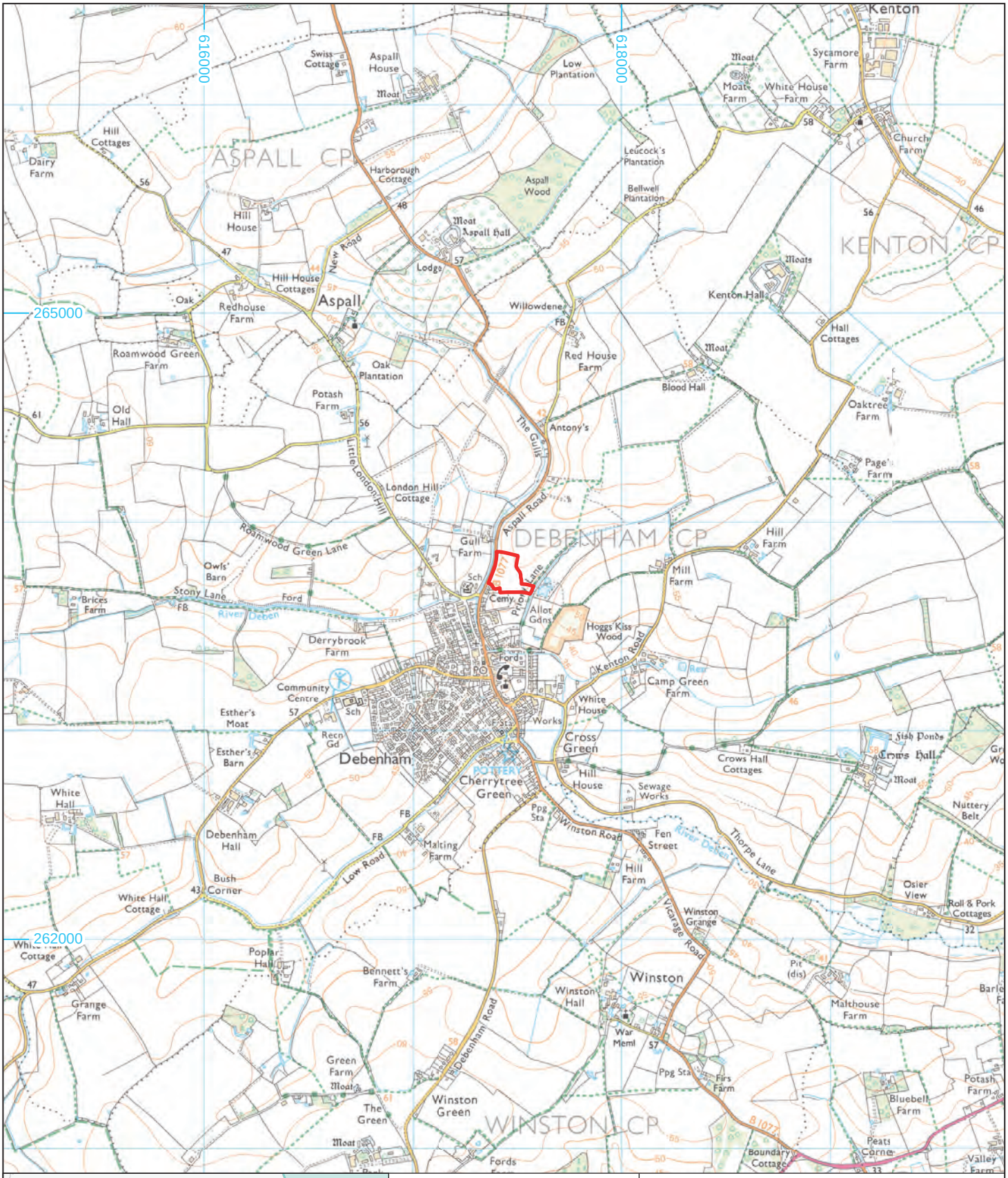
Google Earth

old-maps.co.uk

opendomesday.org



N

Site boundary

0 1km

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Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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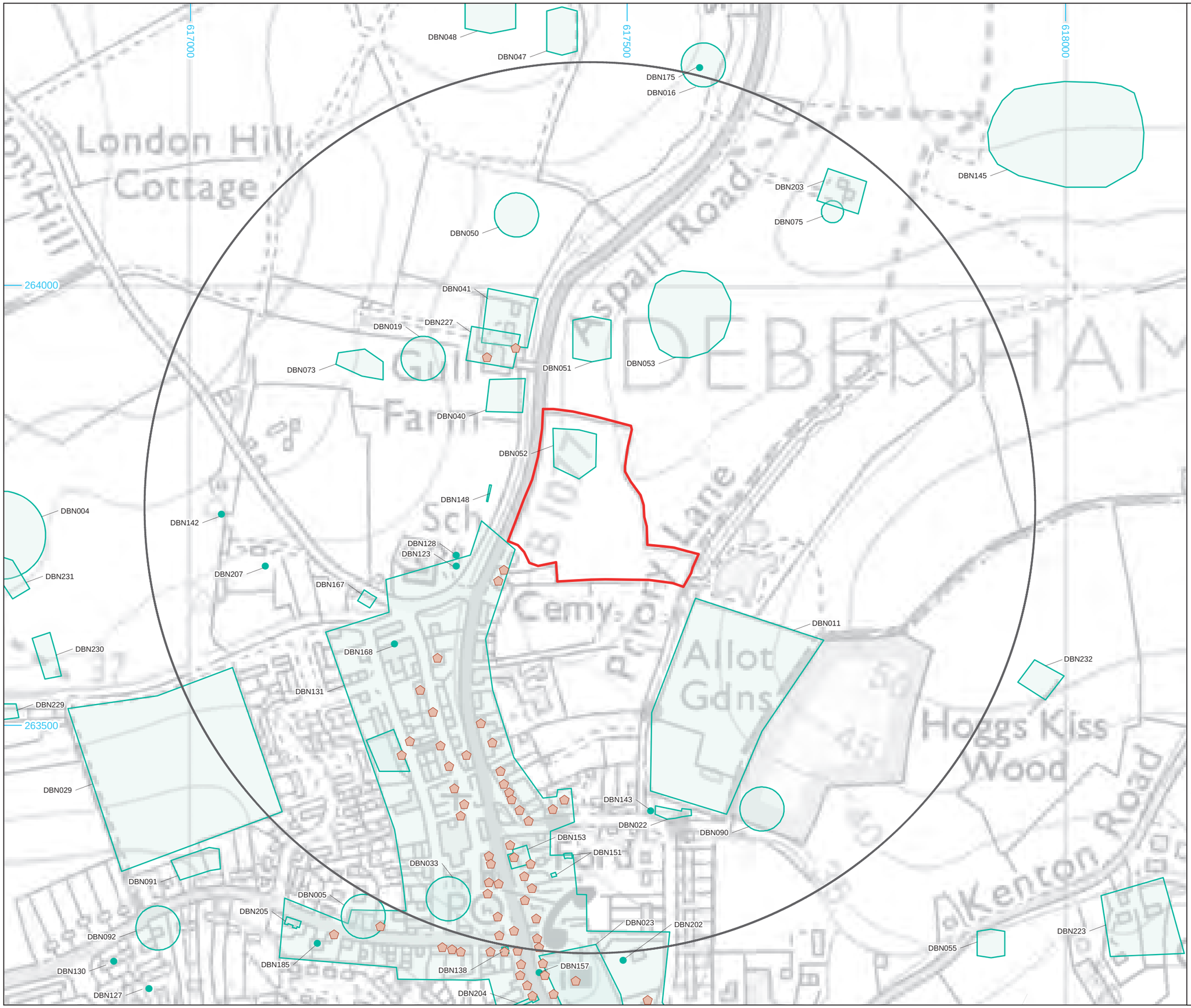
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**16/03/2021**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	



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Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

HER data

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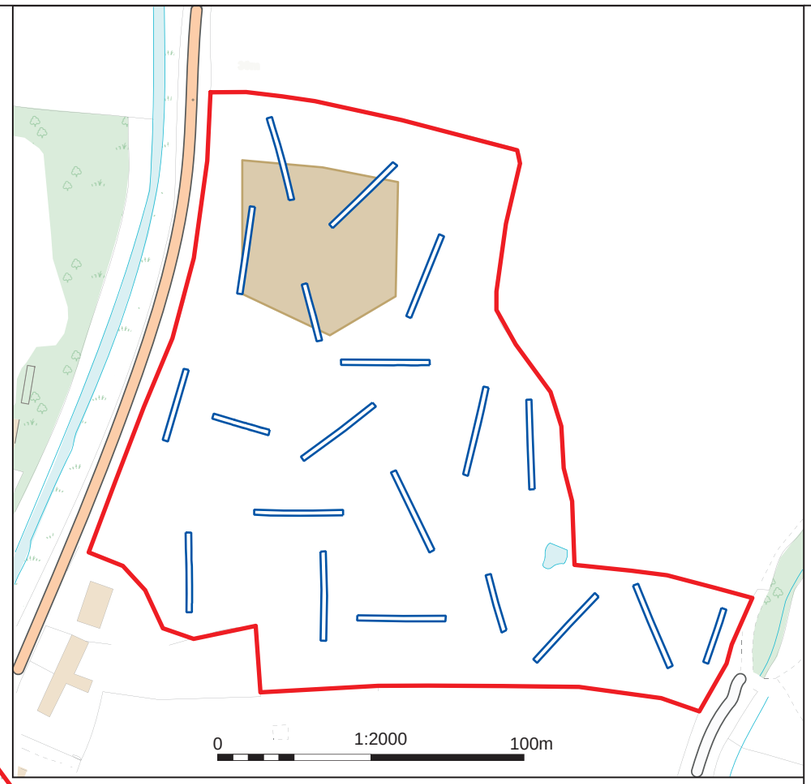
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**18/03/2021**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:4000**	



N

Site boundary
Limit of excavation
Archaeological feature
Deposit
Treethrow pit
HER asset DBN 052
Medieval ditch (projected)
Post-Medieval ditch (projected)
Drainage ditches (projected)
Terraced areas

Geophysics Survey Results
Greyscale Plot (SUMO Survey, 2020)

-1nT +2nT

0 1:750 25m

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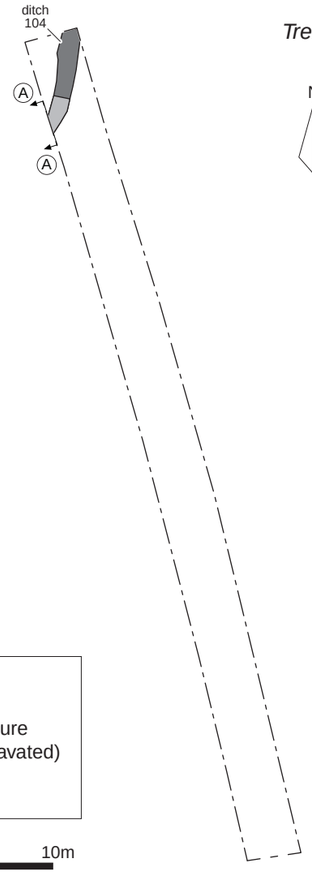
PROJECT TITLE
Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Trench Location Plan, geophysics and HER polygon: DBN 052

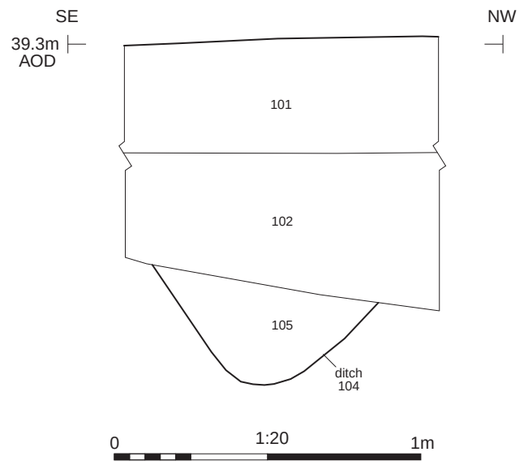
				FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	MP	PROJECT NO.	SU0232	3
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	16/03/2021	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:750, 1:2000	

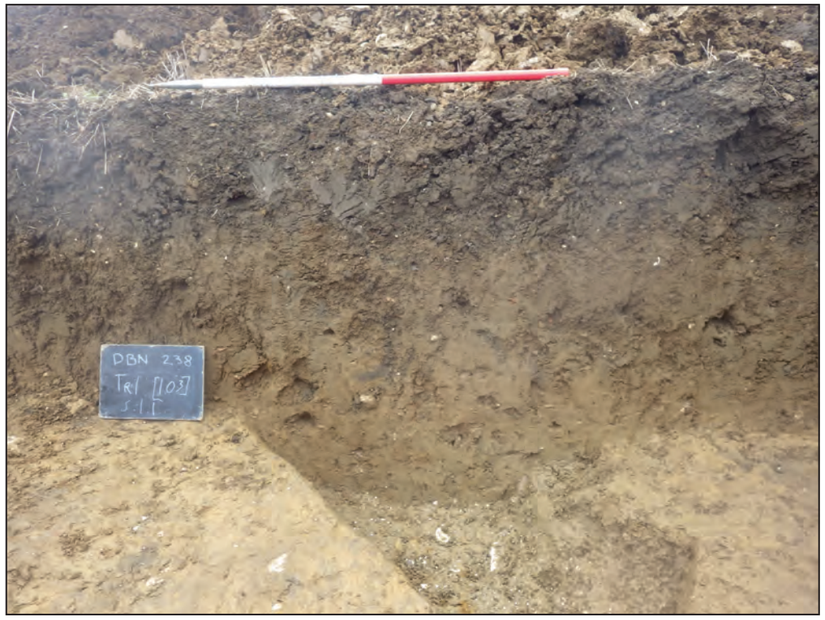
Trench 1



Trench 1, looking south-east (1m scales)

Section AA





Ditch 104, looking south-west (1m scales)

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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: plan, section and photographs

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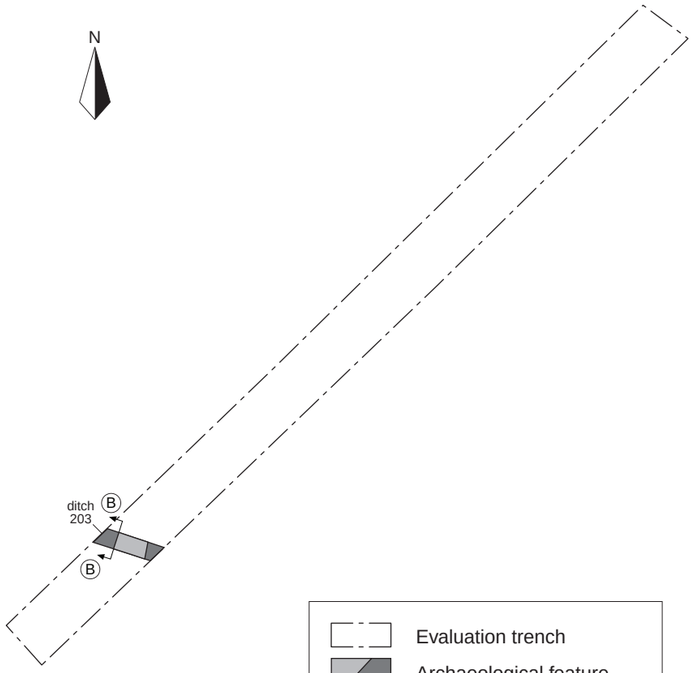
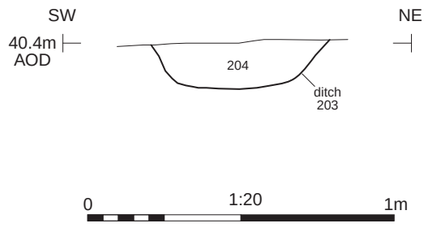
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	16/03/2021	4
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

Trench 2



Trench 2, looking north-east (1m scales)

Section BB



Ditch 203, looking west (0.4m scale)

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w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: plan, section and photographs

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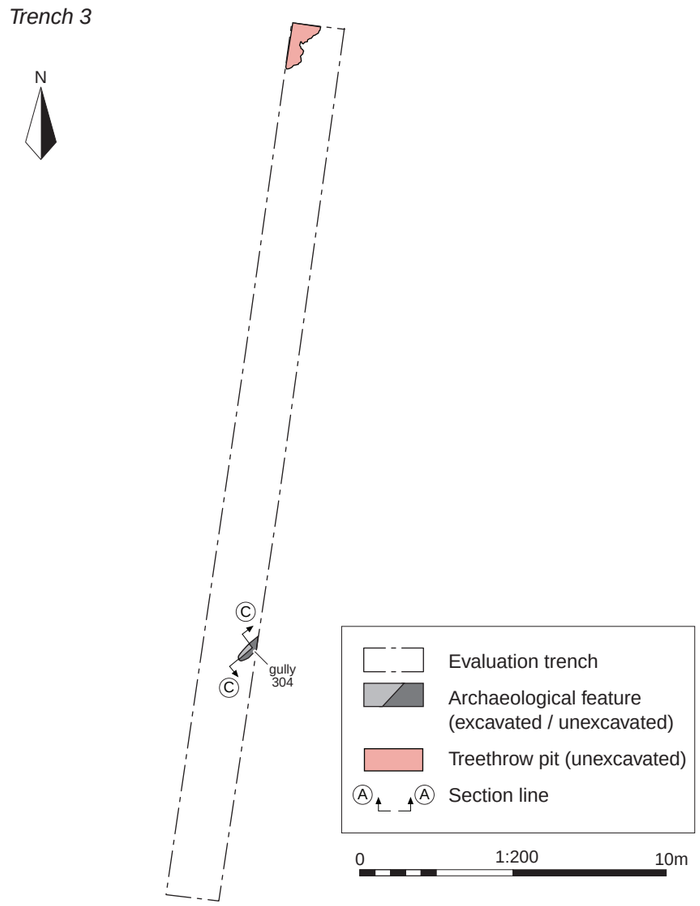
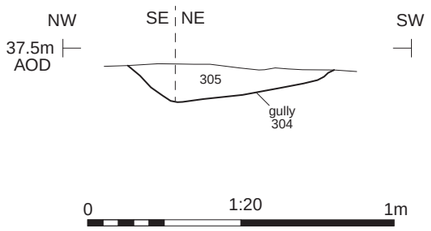
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**16/03/2021**	**5**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200, 1:20**	

Trench 3



Trench 3, looking south-west (1m scales)

Section CC



Gully 304, looking south-east (0.4m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 3: plan, section and photographs

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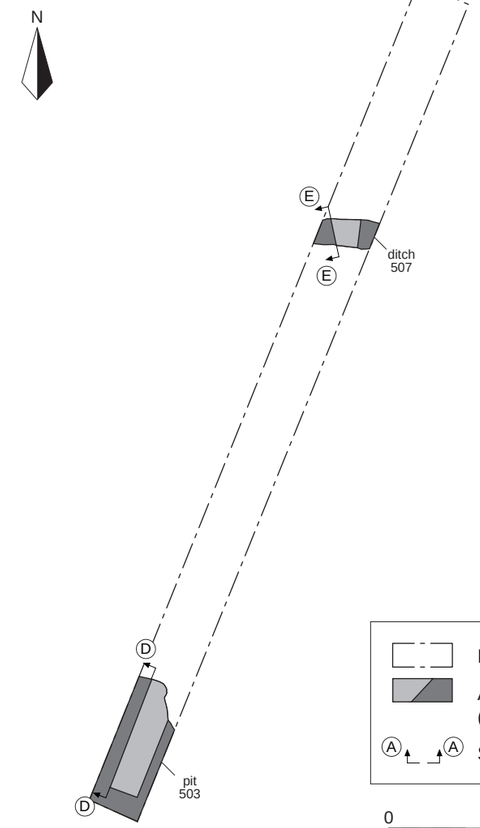
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**16/03/2021**	**6**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200, 1:20**	

Trench 5



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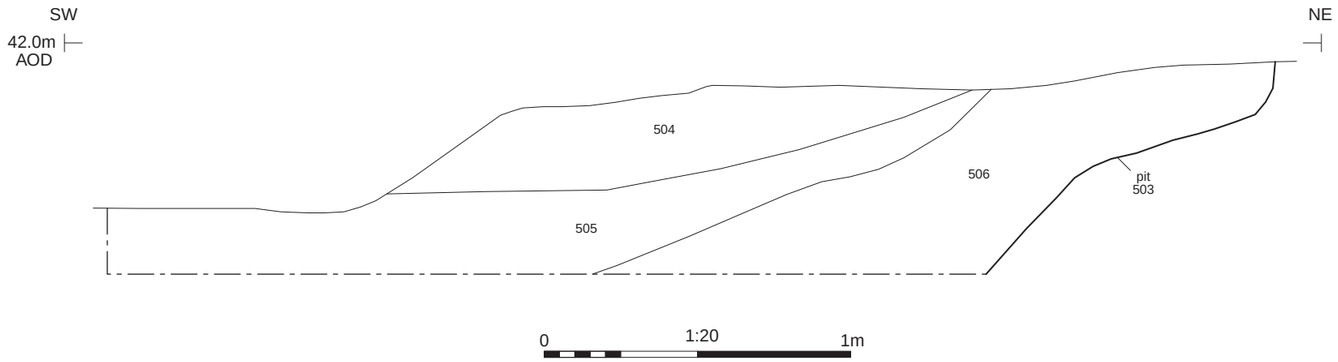

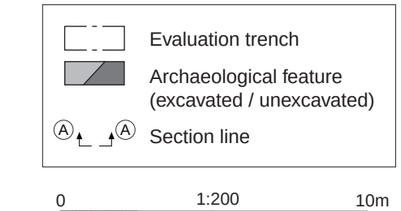

Pit 503, looking north-west (1m scale)

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Exeter 01392 573970
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w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
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Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**16/03/2021**	**7**
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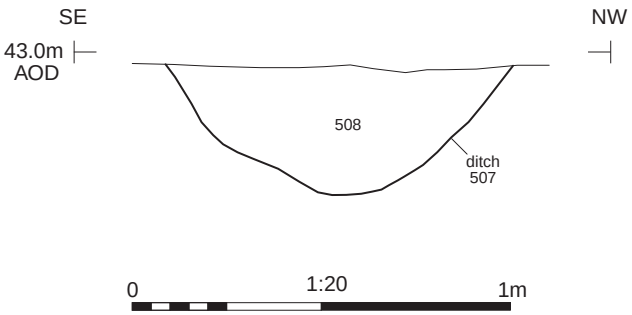
Section EE



Ditch 507, looking west (0.4m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 5: section and photograph

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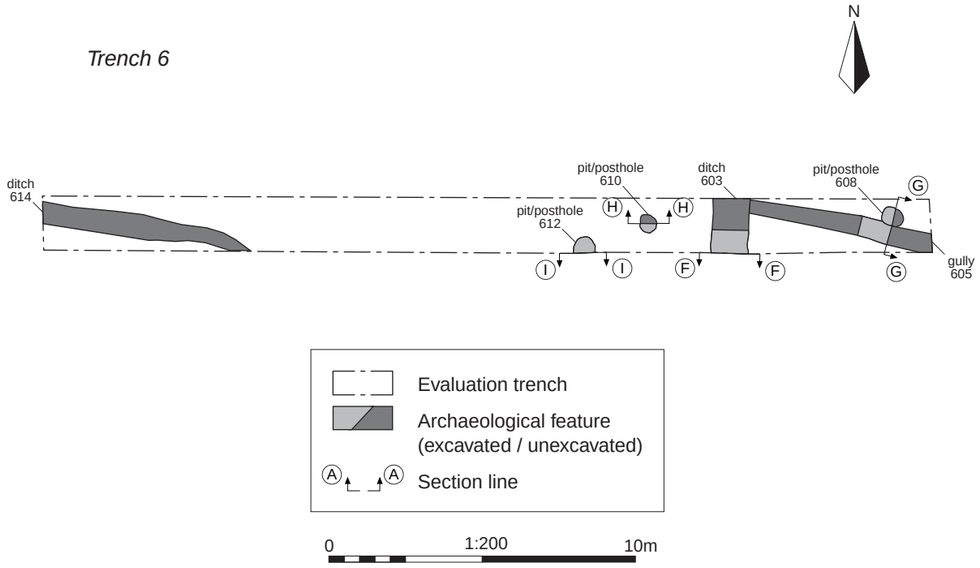
Trench 6



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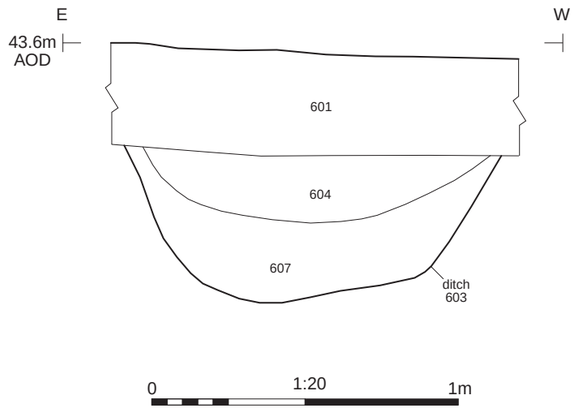

Ditch 603, looking south (1m scale)

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w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: plan, section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**9**
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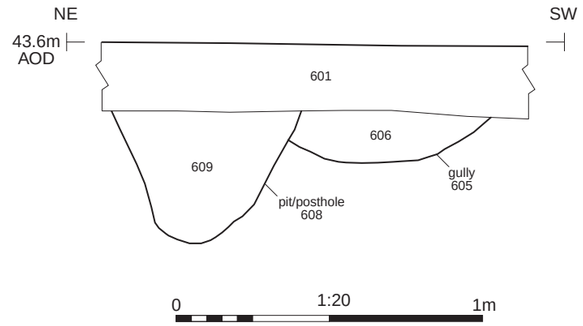
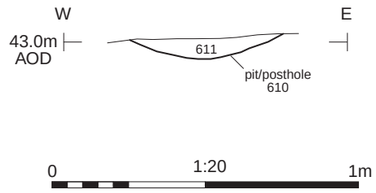
Section GG



Section HH



Pit/posthole 608 and gully 605, looking south-east (1m scale)

Pit/posthole 610, looking north (0.4m scale)

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Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: sections and photographs

DRAWN BY	**MP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**SU0232**	*FIGURE NO.*
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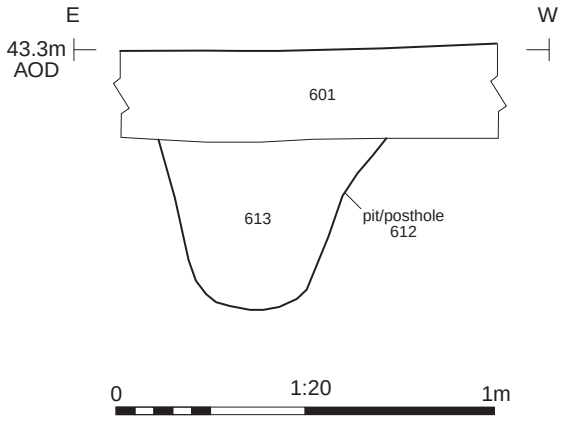
Section II



Pit/posthole 612, looking south (0.4m scale)

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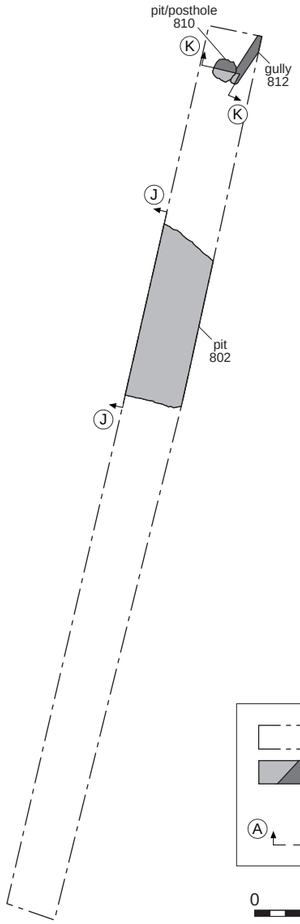
Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: section and photograph

DRAWN BY	**MP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**SU0232**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**18/03/2021**	**11**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

Trench 8



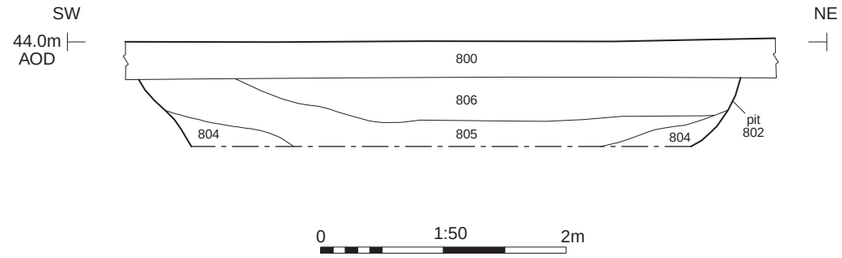
Evaluation trench

Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)

Section line

0 1:200 10m

Section JJ



Pit 802, looking north-west (1m scales)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 8: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY	**MP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**SU0232**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**12**
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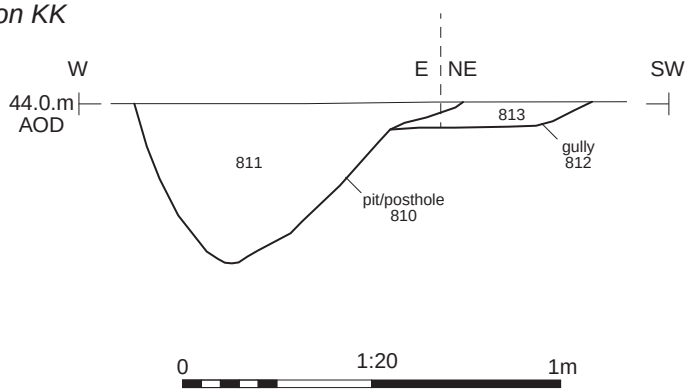
Section KK



Pit/posthole 810 and gully 812, looking north-east (0.4m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

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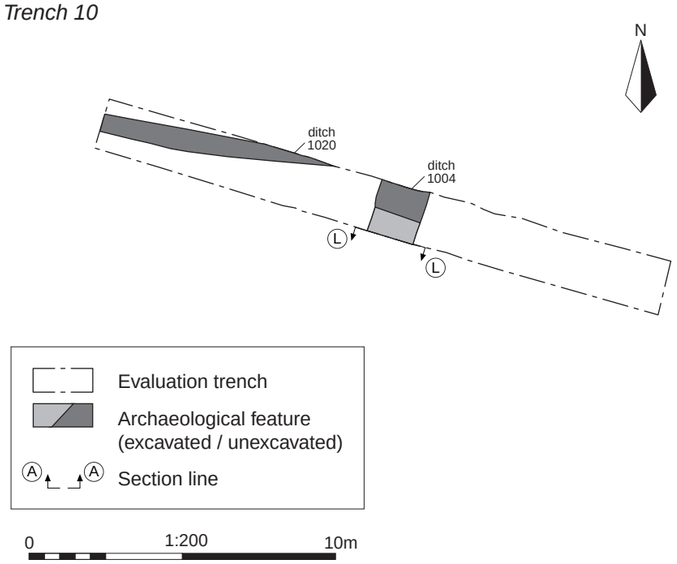
FIGURE TITLE

Trench 8: section and photograph

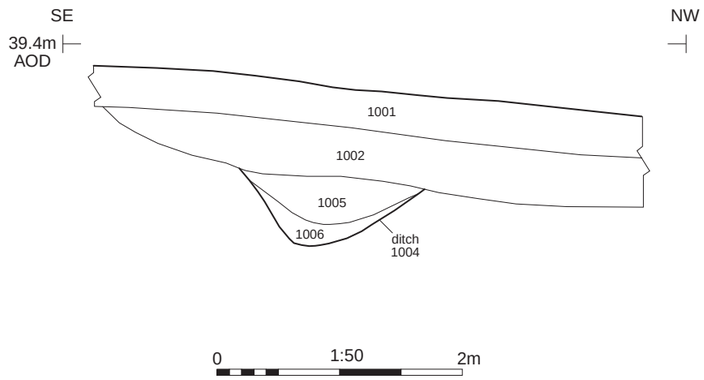
DRAWN BY	**MP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**SU0232**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**18/03/2021**	**13**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

Trench 10



Trench 10, looking south-east (1m scales)

Section LL



Ditch 1004 and deposit 1002 highlighting terracing, looking south-west (1m scales)

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 10: plan, section and photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**14**
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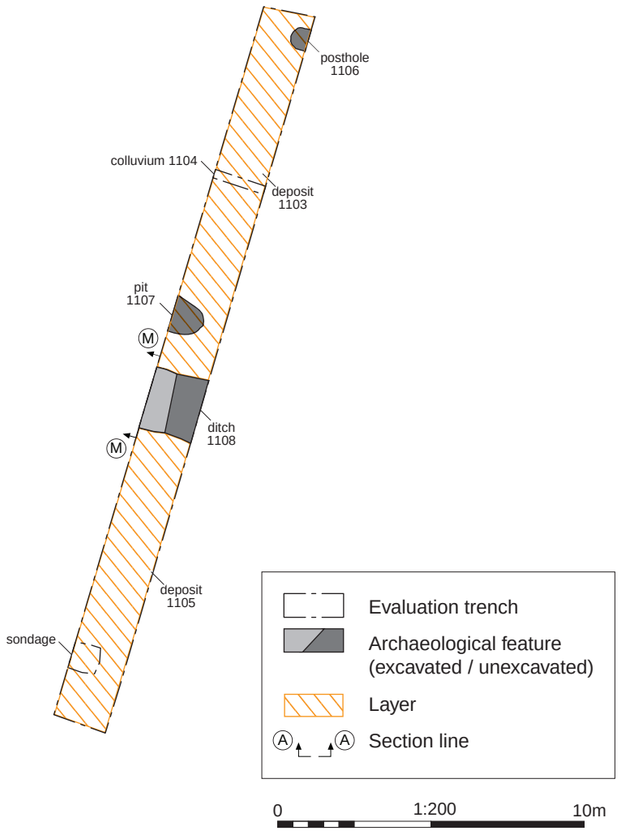
Trench 11



Colluvium 1104, looking south-east (1m scale)

Deposit 1105, looking north-west (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: plan and photographs

DRAWN BY	**MP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**SU0232**	*FIGURE NO.*
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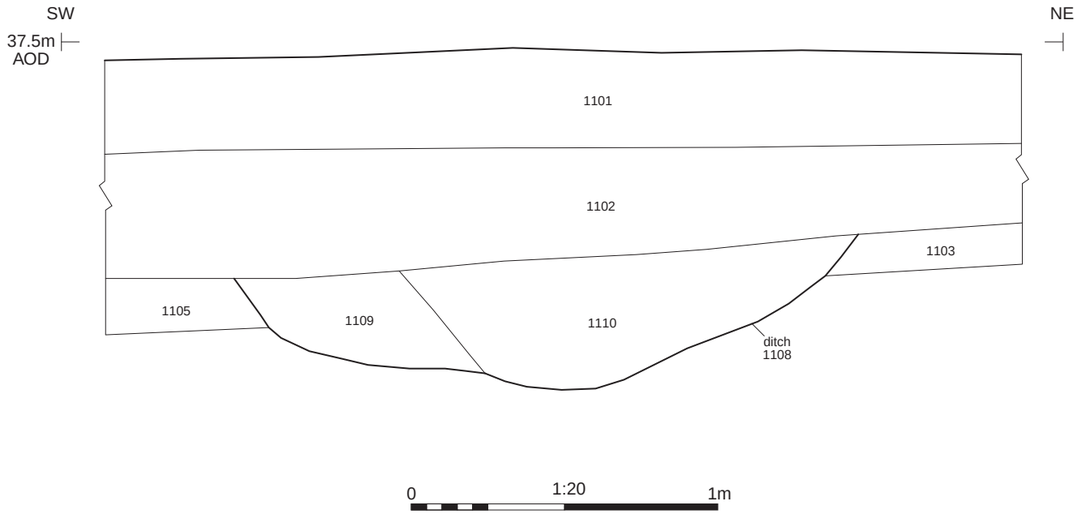
Section MM



Ditch 1108, looking north-west (1m scale)

Un-Excavated Posthole 1106, looking south-east (0.4m scale)

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 11: section and photographs

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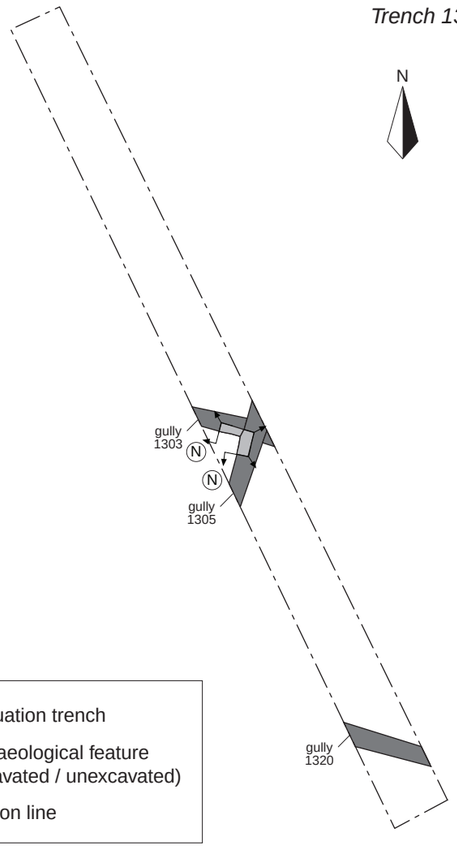
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

Trench 13



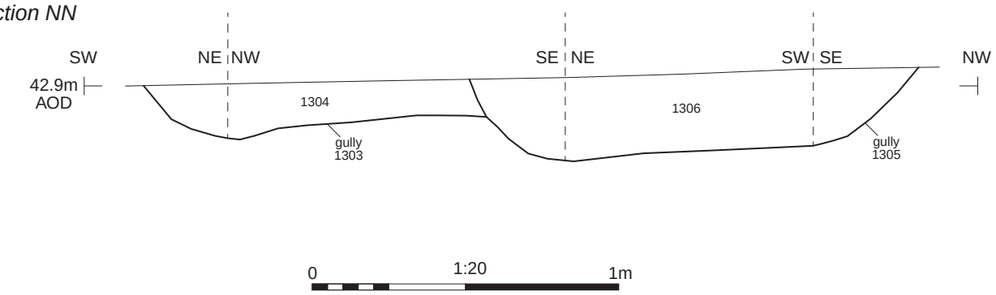
Evaluation trench

Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)

Section line

0 1:200 10m

Section NN



Gully 1303 cut by Gully 1305, looking south-east (1m scale)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 13: plan, section and photograph

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**17**
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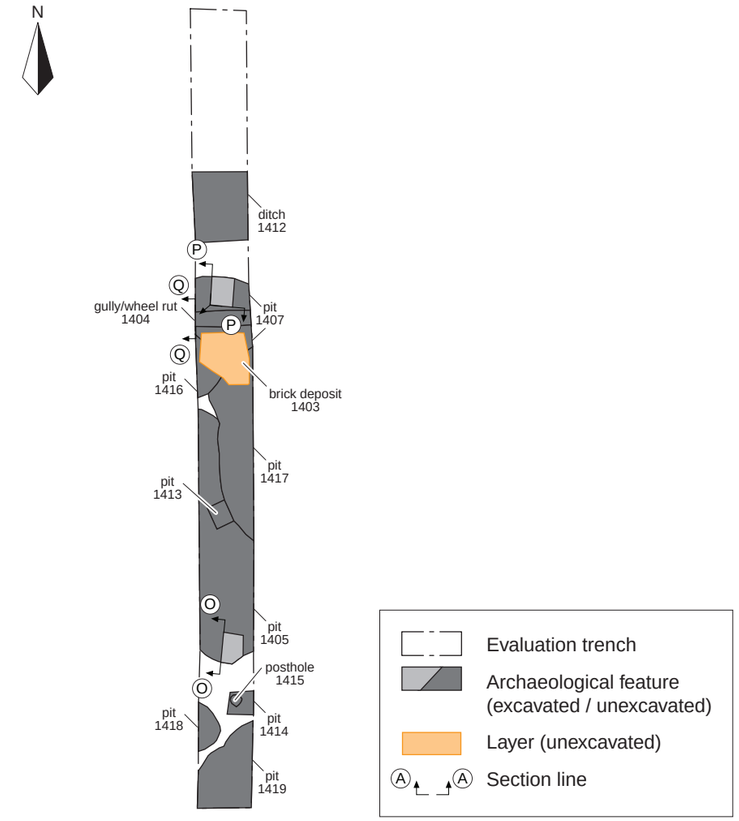
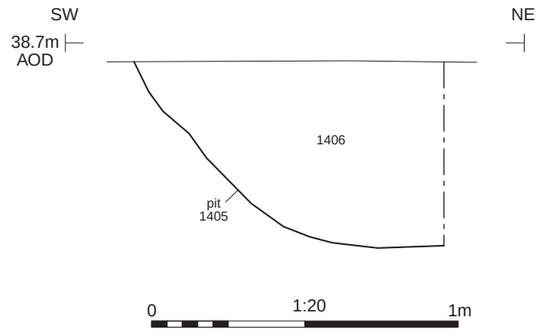
Trench 14



Section OO



Pit 1405, looking north-west (1m and 0.5m scales)

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Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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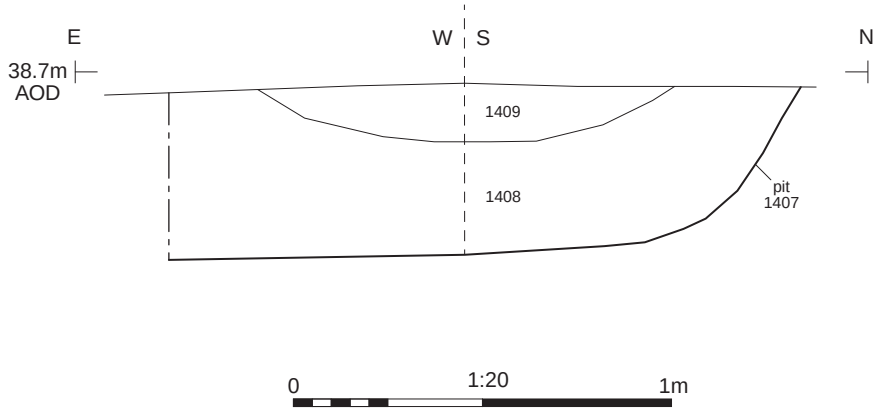
Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 14: plan, section and photograph

				FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	MP	PROJECT NO.	SU0232	18
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	17/03/2021	
APPROVED BY	MC	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

Section PP



Pit 1407, looking south-west (1m and 0.5m scale)

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Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

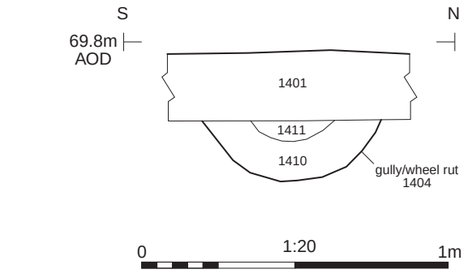
Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

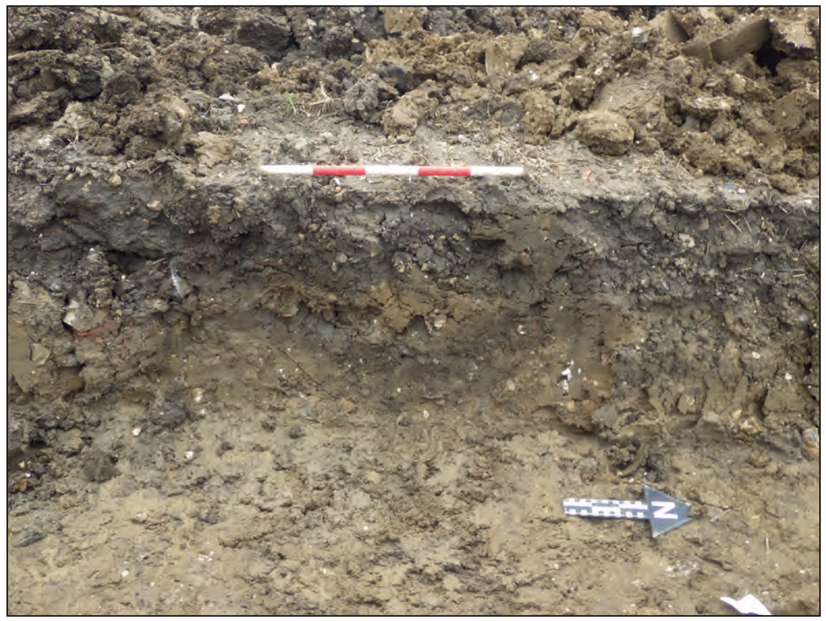
Trench 14: section and photograph

DRAWN BY	**MP**	*PROJECT NO.*	**SU0232**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**18/03/2021**	**19**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

Section QQ



Brick deposit 1403 and Gully/Wheel rut 1404, looking west (1m scale)



Gully/Wheel rut 1404, looking west (0.5m scale)

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Cirencester 01285 771022
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Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 14: section and photographs

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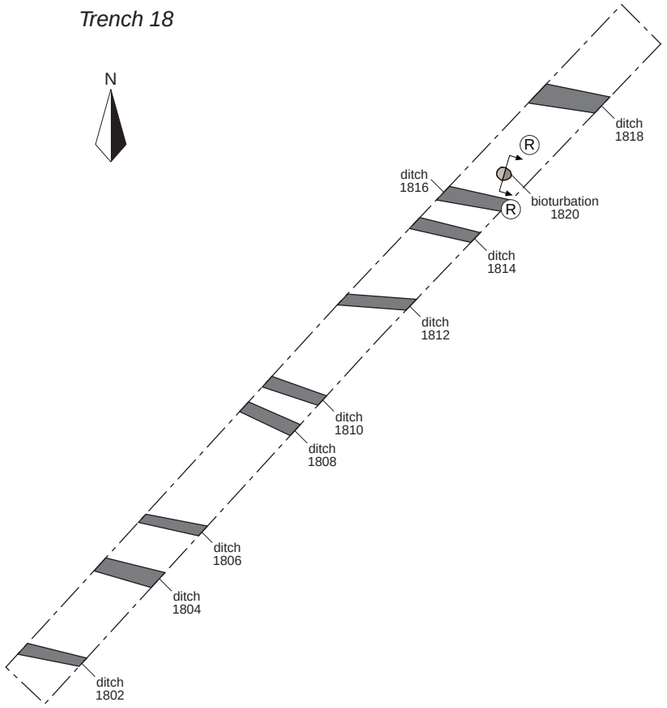
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**20**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

Trench 18



Evaluation trench

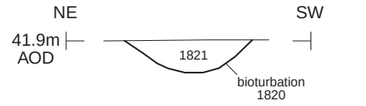
Archaeological feature (unexcavated)

Bioturbation (excavated / unexcavated)

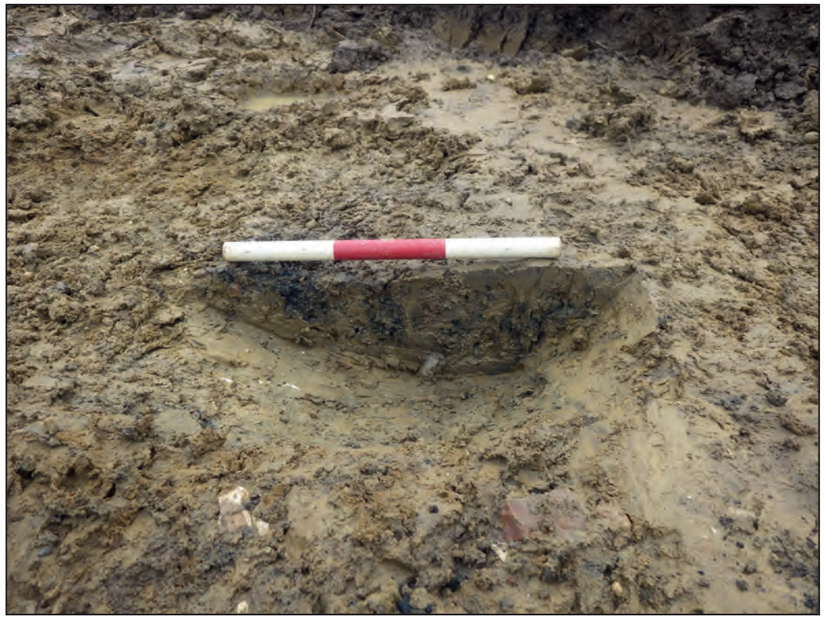
A A Section line

0 1:200 10m

Section RR



0 1:20 1m



Bioturbation 1820, looking east (0.3m scale)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 18: plan, section and photograph

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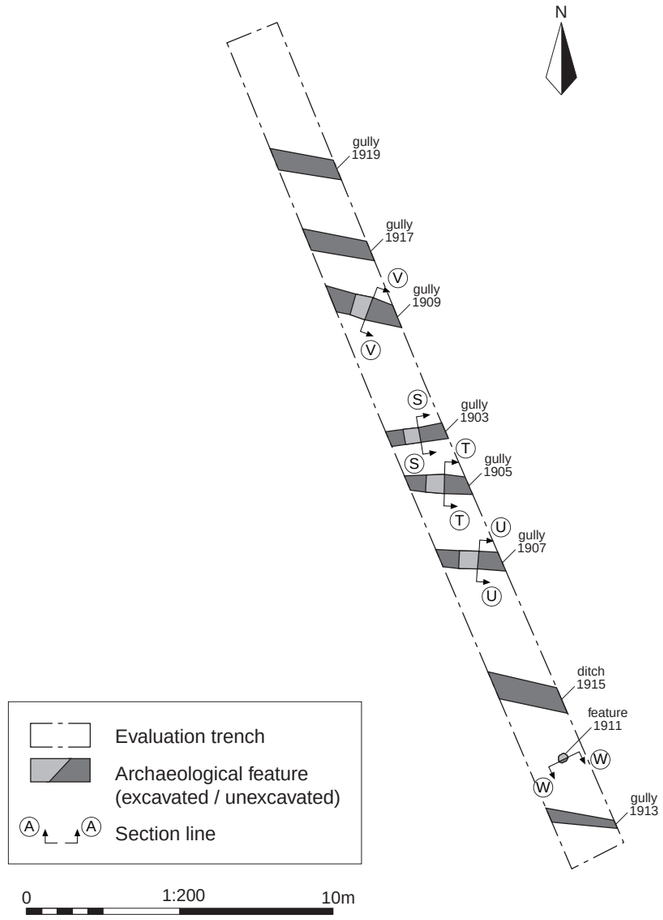
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**21**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200, 1:20**	

Trench 19



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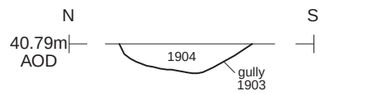

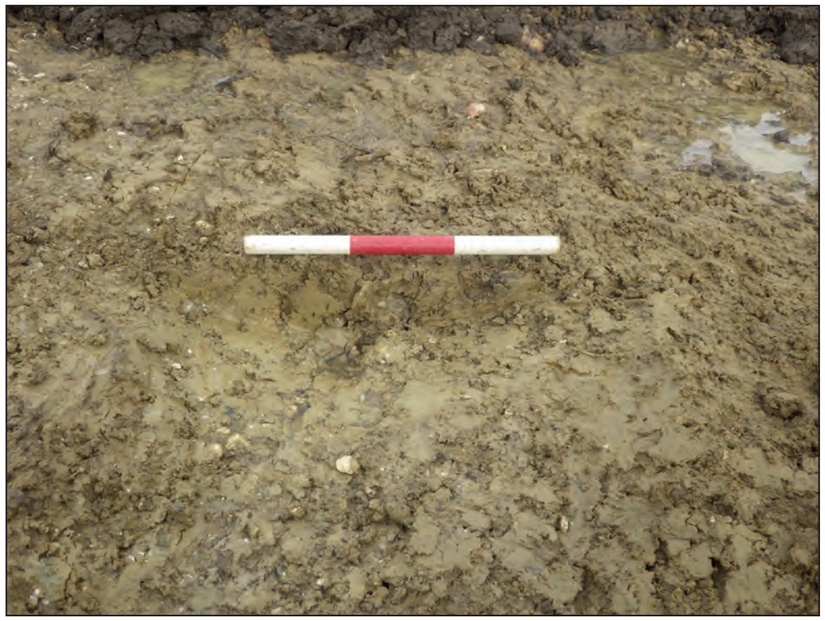

Gully 1903, looking east (0.3m scale)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 19: plan, section and photograph

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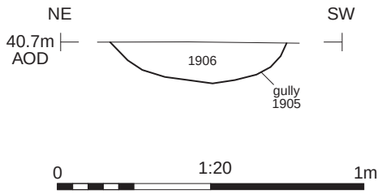
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**22**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:200, 1:20**	

Section TT



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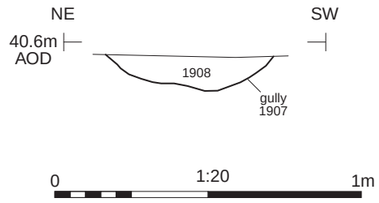

Gully 1905, looking east (0.3m scale)

Gully 1907, looking east (0.3m scale)

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Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 19: sections and photographs

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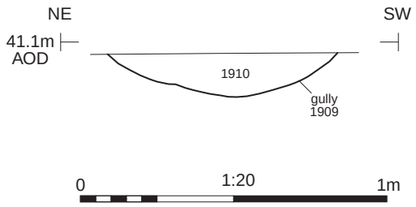
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**23**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

Section VV



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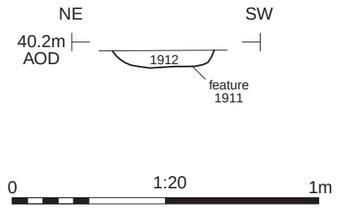
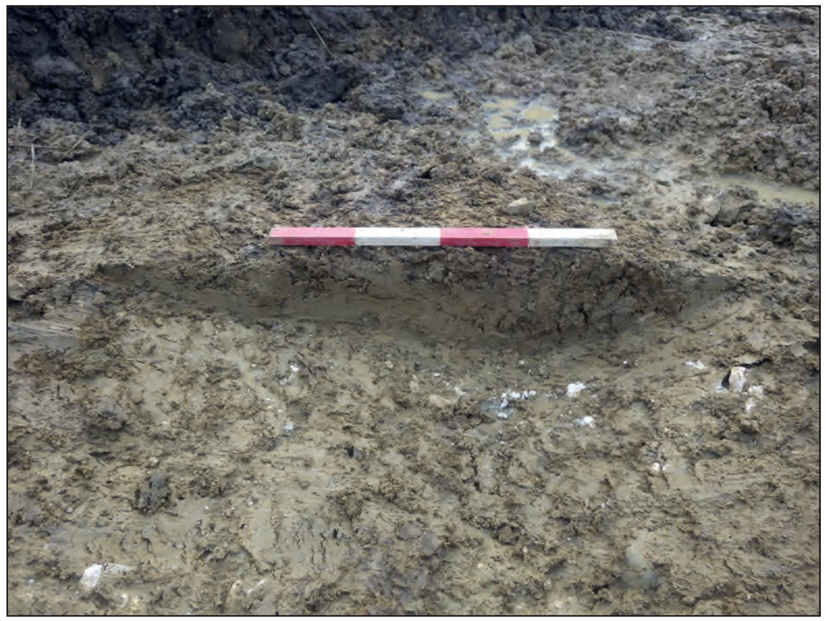
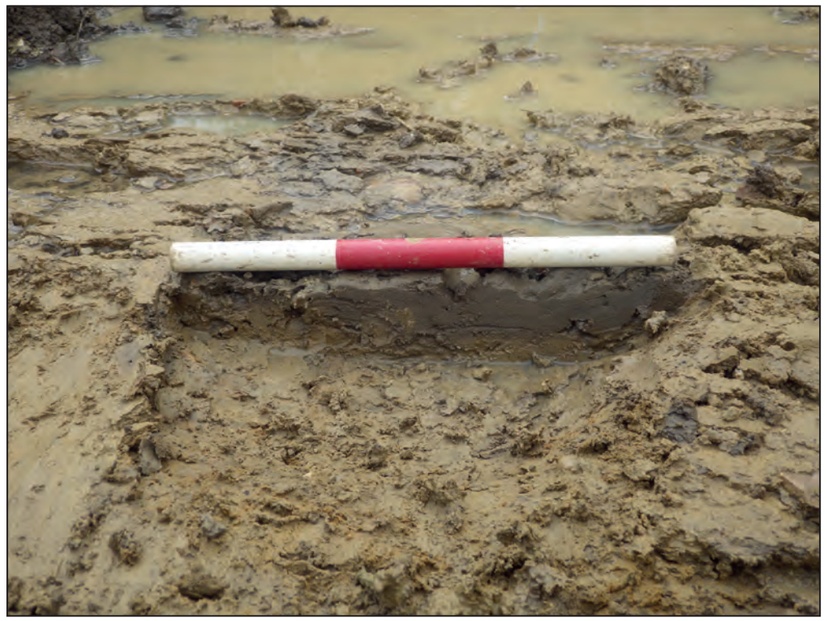




Gully 1909, looking east (0.4m scale)



Feature 1911, looking south-east (0.3m scale)

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Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 573970
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 19: sections and photographs

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CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**17/03/2021**	**24**
APPROVED BY	**MC**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:20**	

APPENDIX A: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Depth to Natural	Description	Summary	Associated Contexts
01	27.47	NNW-SSE	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.4-1	Topsoil over colluvium and natural colluvium at N end only	ditch 104 sealed by colluvium	0101, 0102, 0103, 0104, 0105
02	29.6	NE-SW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	ditch 203	0201, 0202, 0203, 0204
03	28.66	NNE-SSW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.80-0.90	topsoil over colluvium and natural	gully terminus 304	0301, 0302, 0303, 0304, 0305
04	19.77	NNW-SSE	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	two un-excavated drainage gullies	0401, 0402
05	28.75	NNE-SSW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	large quarry pit 503 and ditch 507	0501, 0502, 0503, 0504, 0505, 0506, 0507, 0508, 0509
06	28.92	E-W	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	ditch 603, drainage gully 605 cut by pit 608, pit 610 and pit 612. 1 unexcavated pale drainage gully	0601, 0602, 0603, 0604, 0605, 0606, 0607, 0608, 0609, 0610, 0611, 0612, 0613
07	29.19	N-S	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.45	topsoil and subsoil over natural. 1 geo-tech pit	No archaeology	0701, 0702, 0703
08	29.45	NNE-SSW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.35	topsoil over natural	quarry pit 802. pit 810 cutting gully 812	0800, 0801, 0802, 0803, 0804, 0805, 0806, 0810, 0811, 0812, 0813
09	29.45	NE-SW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	3 x un-excavated drainage gullies	0901, 0902
10	19.07	WSW-ENE	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.35-0.90	topsoil over made ground and natural. Made ground at western trench end only	ditch 1004 1 x un-excavated ditch terraced at the western	1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Depth to Natural	Description	Summary	Associated Contexts
					terraced at the western end of the trench from ditch 1004	end of the trench from ditch 1004	
11	24.04	NNE-SSW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	1.45	topsoil over made ground in turn over a buried soil/occupation layer that in turn overlay colluvium and then natural	ditch 1108 1 unexcavated posthole 1 unexcavated pit deposit of buried soil or occupation deposit	1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111
12	28.97	E-W	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	no archaeology	1201, 1202
13	28.79	NW-SE	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	gully 1305 cutting gully 1303	1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306
14	25.99	N-S	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.35	topsoil over natural	Pit 1403 Pit 1405 Deposit 1403 Gully 1404 1 un-excavated post-med ditch 1 un-excavated ditch/pit 3 un-excavated pits 2 unexcavated post pads 1 unexcavated posthole	1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419
15	29.2	N-S	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	2 un-excavated drainage gullies 1 un-excavated post medieval field boundary	1501, 1502
16	28.85	E-W	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	two un-excavated drainage gullies	1601, 1602

Trench Number	Length	Orientation	Geology	Depth to Natural	Description	Summary	Associated Contexts
17	18.98	NNW-SSE	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural	five un-excavated drainage gullies	1701, 1702
18	29.51	NE-SW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.30	topsoil over natural 1 geo-tech pit	bioturbation 1820 nine un-excavated drainage gullies 1 mole drain	1801, 1802, 1820, 1821
19	29.03	NW-SE	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.35	topsoil over natural	Gully 1903 Gully 1905 Gully 1907 Gully 1909 bioturbation 1911	1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912
20	18.55	NNE-SSW	pale yellow brown clay freq. flint and chalk	0.95	topsoil over colluvium over natural	no archaeology	2001, 2002, 2003

APPENDIX B: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
0101		01		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.40	0102					
0102		01		Layer	mid orange brown soft silty clay occ. flint and chalk inclusions, occ. peg tile at the interface between topsoil and colluvium	colluvium			0-0.60	0103, 0105	0101				
0103		01		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0102				
0104	0104	01	Ditch	Cut	curvi-linear orientated N-S heading SW at its southern end with steep concave sides to a concave base	small ditch sealed by the colluvium, function unknown. 100% excavated in search of finds none recovered		0.42	0.33		0105				
0105	0104	01	Ditch	Fill	moderate compacted grey brown with orange mottling silty clay, v occ. flecks of cbm and chalk	fill of ditch similar in colour to the colluvium		0.42	0.33	0104	0102				
0201		02		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	0202, 0204					
0202		02		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0201				
0203	0203	02	Ditch	Cut	ditch orientated WNW-ESE with steep sides to a concave flat base	small ditch function unknown		0.58	0.15		0204				
0204	0203	02	Ditch	Fill	moderate compacted mid grey brown silty clay with occ. charcoal and chalk	single fill of ditch, gradual accumulation		0.58	0.15	0203	0201				
0301		03		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	0302					
0302		03		Layer	mid orange brown soft silty clay occ. flint and chalk inclusions, occ. peg tile at the	colluvium			0.5-0.6	0303	0301				

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
					interface between topsoil and colluvium										
0303		03		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk, occ. orange clay	natural					0302				
0304	0304	03	Gully	Cut	ditch orientated NE-SW with moderate sloping sides to a rounded base	terminus of gully, function unknown		0.30	0.13		0305				
0305	0304	03	Gully	Fill	moderate compacted mid grey brown silty clay with occ. charcoal and stone	single fill of gully		0.30	0.13	0304					
0401		04		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	0402					
0402		04		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0401				
0501		05		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	0502					5
0502		05		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0501				
0503	0503	05	Pit	Cut	sub circular in plan extending beyond the southern, western and eastern limits of excavation. Concave with moderate sloping sides. Base not reached	large quarry pit	4.34>	1.8>	0.66>		0506				
0504	0503	05	Pit	Fill	compact mid grey brown silty clay occ. cbm and charcoal and sub-ang stones	upper fill of quarry pit deliberate dis-use deposit	4.34>	1.8>	0.28>	0509, 0505					
0505	0503	05	Pit	Fill	compact mid grey, orange brown silty clay occ. cbm and charcoal and sub-ang stones	deliberate dis-use deposit			0.28>	0506	0504				
0506	0503	05	Pit	Fill	compact mid gey brown silty clay with freq. chalk cbm and charcoal	deliberate dis-use deposit			0.48>	0503	0505				

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
0507	0507	05	Ditch	Cut	ditch orientated E-W with moderate sloping sides to a concave base	undated drainage ditch		0.92	0.34		0508				
0508	0507	05	Ditch	Fill	mid orange brown silty clay with occ. chalk and charcoal flecks	deliberate dis-use deposit		0.92	0.34	0507					
0509		05		Layer	cleaning layer above pit 0503	cleaning layer above pit 0503 containing finds					0504				10
0601		06		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	0602					
0602		06		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0601				
0603	0603	06	Ditch	Cut	ditch orientated N-S with steep sides to a concave base	medieval ditch, function unknown		1.22	0.47	0606	0607		0606		
0604	0603	06	Ditch	Fill	moderate compact mid grey brown silty clay	upper fill of ditch 0603 gradual accumulation following dis-use		1.12	0.21	0607					
0605	0605	06	Gully	Cut	WNW-ESE orientated gully with moderate sloping sides to a concave base	drainage gully		0.60	0.17		0606			1	
0606	0605	06	Gully	Fill	moderate compact orange yellow silty sand	pale fill of drainage gully		0.60	0.17	0605	0608, 0603	0603, 0608			
0607	0603	06	Ditch	Fill	moderate compact mid grey brown silty clay occ. charcoal cbm and chalk	lower fill of ditch, gradual accumulation		1.22	0.28	0603	0604				
0608	0608	06	Pit	Cut	posthole/pit sub circular in plan with steep sides to a concave base	medieval pit/posthole, function unknown	0.61	0.57	0.43	0606	0609		0606		
0609	0608	06	Pit	Fill	moderate compact mid grey brown silty clay with occ. charcoal and chalk	single fill of posthole/pit gradual accumulation	0.61	0.57	0.43	0608				2	
0610	0610	06	Pit	Cut	shallow sub circular pit/posthole with moderate sloping sides to a flat base	truncated possible pit or posthole with in-situ burning	0.47	0.39	0.07		0611				

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
0611	0610	06	Pit	Fill	moderate compacted mid reddish orange sandy silty clay	in-situ burning within poss. pit/posthole	0.47	0.39	0.07	0610				3	
0612	0612	06	Pit	Cut	sub-circular posthole/pit with steep sides to a rounded base	possible posthole/pit	0.58	0.45	0.44		0613				
0613	0612	06	Pit	Fill	moderate compacted mid grey brown silty clay with occ. charcoal and cbm	single fill of posthole/pit gradual accumulation	0.58	0.45	0.44	0612				4	
0701		07		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	0702					
0702		07		Layer	mid brown firm silty clay	subsoil			0.15	0703	0701				
0703		07		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0702				
0800		08		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.35	0801					9
0801		08		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0800				
0802	0802	08	Pit	Cut	quarry pit extending beyond the eastern and western trench limit with steep sides. Base not reached	large quarry pit	1.90	1.8>	0.54>						
0803	0802	08	Pit	Fill	compact mid brown yellow silty clay with small chalk flecks	lower fill of pit, redeposited natural a probable slump deposit	0.7		0.20		0805				
0804	0802	08	Pit	Fill	friable dark brown silty clay occ. cbm, charcoal and chalk flecks	lower fill of pit, likely deliberate dump of waste material	0.70>		0.18		0805			6	
0805	0802	08	Pit	Fill	compact mid yellow brown silty clay with chalk and stone inclusions	middle fil of pit, likely deliberate dump deposit following disuse			0.36	0803, 0804	0806				
0806	0802	08	Pit	Fill	compact mid brown grey silty clay with occ. chalk cbm, fired clay and pottery	deliberate dump deposit following dis-use of feature			0.34	0805					

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
0810	0810	08	Pit	Cut	circular pit/posthole with steep sides to a concave base	possible posthole or pit	0.85		0.43	0813	0811		0813		
0811	0810	08	Pit	Fill	compact mid grey brown silty clay mixed with orange redeposited clay occ. chalk flecks and stones	single fill of pit/posthole. deliberate dump deposit	0.85		0.43	0810				7	
0812	0812	08	Gully	Cut	shallow gully orientated NE-SW terminating within the trench and extending NE beyond the limit of excavation.	small gully, function unknown	0.40		0.08		0813				
0813	0812	08	Gully	Fill	compact mid yellow brown silty clay	single fill of gully gradual accumulation		0.40	0.08	0812	0810	0810			
0901		09		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	0902					
0902		09		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					0901				
1001		10		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.35	1002					
1002		10		Deposit	mid-dark brown silty clay with occ. chalk flecks	made ground deposit perhaps laid down to level and infill the terrace.			0-0.55	1003, 1005	1001				
1003		10		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1002				
1004	1004	10	Ditch	Cut	NNE-SSW orientated ditch with a steep eastern side and gradual western side to a gradual concave base	back boundary ditch to potential medieval settlement activity that fronts onto the road		1.46	0.60		1006				
1005	1004	10	Ditch	Fill	upper fill of ditch of dark greyish brown compact silty clay with occ. chalk cbm and charcoal deposits	upper fil of ditch, deliberate dis-use deposit		1.46	0.40	1006	1002				
1006	1004	10	Ditch	Fill	moderately compacted mid yellow brown silty clay, occ. charcoal and chalk flecks	lower fil of ditch gradual accumulation		1.46	0.20	1004	1005				

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
						whilst feature was in use									
1101		11		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.35-0.48	1102					7, 8
1102		11		Deposit	mid-dark brown silty clay with occ. chalk flecks	made ground deposit perhaps laid down to level and infill the terrace.			0.15-0.40	1103, 1105	1101				11
1103		11		Deposit	dark brown silty clay with frequent fired clay	occupation layer or buried topsoil at northern end of trench sealing un excavated posthole 1106 and pit 1107. Cut by ditch 1108.			0.14-0.20	1106, 1107, 1104	1102, 1108	1108			2
1104		11		Layer	mid orange brown soft silty clay occ. flint and chalk inclusions	colluvium deposit cut by ditch 1108, posthole 1106 and pit 1107			0.74	1111	1106, 1108, 1107, 1103	1106, 1107, 1108			
1105		11		Deposit	dark brown silty clay with frequent gravel	occupation layer or buried topsoil at southern end of trench Cut by ditch 1108.			0.20-0.48		1102, 1108	1108			
1106	1106	11	Posthole	Cut	Un-excavated posthole, with a fired clay and charcoal rich fill. Sealed by deposit 1103	un-excavated posthole				1104	1103		1104		
1107	1106	11	Pit	Cut	un-excavated pit with a dark brown silty clay fill with occ. gravel inclusions	un-excavated pit sealed by deposit 1103				1104	1103		1104		
1108	1108	11	Ditch	Cut	WNW-ESE orientated ditch with gradual sloping sides to a flat undulating base	medieval ditch possibly enclosing a structure to the north		1.96	0.46	1103, 1105, 1104	1109		1103, 1105, 1104		
1109	1108	11	Ditch	Fill	lower fill of ditch 1108 comprising a mid brown-orange sandy clay with occ. chalk flecks and charcoal	lower fil of ditch formed by natural accumulation whilst the ditch is in use		0.74		1108	1110				

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
1110	1108	11	Ditch	Fill	upper fill of ditch comprising a mid brown sandy clay occ. chalk and charcoal	upper fill with a large quantity of pottery. Likely gradual accumulation whilst ditch was in use		1.46	0.46	1109	1102			9	
1111		11		Layer	pale orange brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1104				
1201		12		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	1202					
1202		12		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1201				
1301		13		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	1302					
1302		13		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1301				
1303	1303	13	Gully	Cut	E-W orientated gully with moderate sloping sides to a concave base	undated gully function unknown		0.60	0.14		1304				
1304	1303	13	Gully	Fill	moderately compacted mid orange grey sandy silty clay with occ. charcoal chalk and stone	single fill no finds		0.60	0.14	1303	1305	1305			
1305	1305	13	Gully	Cut	N-S orientated gully with moderate to steep sides leading to a rounded base	gully function unknown		0.70	0.24	1304	1306		1304		
1306	1305	13	Gully	Fill	moderate compact mid grey brown silty clay with occ. charcoal and chalk	single fill no finds		0.70	0.24	1305					
1401		14		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.35	1402					3
1402		14		Layer	pale yellow brown grey clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1401				
1403		14		Deposit	brick rubble and flint deposit with occ. dark brown silty clay	possible consolidation deposit in a soft area or an upper fill of pit,	1.7	1.8	0.22		1404	1404			

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
						removed by machine to identify features below									
1404	1404	14	Gully	Cut	E-W orientated gully/ wheel rut cutting through a brick consolidation deposit with steep sides to a concave base	poss. wheel rut or gully		0.54	0.18	1403	1410		1403		
1405	1405	14	Pit	Cut	large pit extending beyond the eastern and western trench limits with steep sides to a flattening base	poss. extraction pit	8?	1.8	0.60		1406				
1406	1405	14	Pit	Fill	firm green brown silty clay with occ. chalk and flint	single fill. Green in colour so may contain remnants of cess?	8?	1.8	0.60	1405				8	1
1407	1407	14	Pit	Cut	large pit extending beyond the eastern and western trench limits with gradual sides to a flattening base	large pit likely function extraction	1.8	3	0.42		1408				
1408	1407	14	Pit	Fill	firm green brown silty clay with occ. chalk and flint	lower fill of pit. Green in colour so may contain remnants of cess?	1.8	3	0.42	1407	1409				6
1409	1407	14	Pit	Fill	Firm grey brown silty clay with rare flint and pebble	upper fill of pit or fill of a separate cut feature.			0.14	1408					
1410	1404	14	Gully	Fill	dark brown silty clay freq. charcoal and chalk	lower fill of gully/ wheel rut		0.50	0.14	1404	1411				
1411	1404	14	Gully	Fill	redeposited green grey silty clay	upper fill of feature		0.20	0.07	1410					
1412	1412	14	Ditch	Cut	un-excavated post-med ditch										
1413	1413	14	Post pad	Cut	un-excavated square possible post pad										
1414	1414	14	Post pad	Cut	square poss. post pad filled with chalk										
1415	1415	14	Posthole	Cut	un-excavated posthole cutting poss. post-pad 1414										

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
1416	1416	14	Pit	Cut	un-excavated pit extending beyond the western trench limit										
1417	1417	14	Pit	Cut	un-excavated large pit extending beyond the eastern trench limit										
1418	1418	14	Pit	Cut	un-excavated pit extending beyond the western trench limit										
1419	1419	14	Ditch	Cut	un-excavated large pit/ditch extending beyond the eastern trench limit										
1501		15		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	1502					
1502		15		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1501				
1601		16		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	1602					
1602		16		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1601				
1701		17		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30						
1702		17		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1701				
1801		18		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	1802					
1802		18		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1801				
1820	1820	18	Bioturbation	Cut	small sub-circular moderate sides and flat base	small bioturbation	0.46	0.40	0.11		1821				
1821	1820	18	Bioturbation	Fill	soft mid brown grey silty clay freq. charcoal	single fill of bioturbation	0.46	0.40	0.11	1820				5	
1901		19		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.30	1902					

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
1902		19		Layer	pale yellow brown clay with freq. flint and chalk	natural					1901				
1903	1903	19	Gully	Cut	E-W orientated gully with shallow sides to a concave base	drainage gully		0.40	0.10		1904				
1904	1903	19	Gully	Fill	friable mid brown orange silty clay with small stones	single fill of drainage gully, very pale fill similar to natural		0.40	0.10	1903					
1905	1905	19	Gully	Cut	E-W orientated gully with shallow sides to a concave base	drainage gully		0.56	0.14		1906				
1906	1905	19	Gully	Fill	friable mid brown orange silty clay with small stones	single fill of drainage gully, very pale fill similar to natural		0.56	0.14	1905					
1907	1907	19	Gully	Cut	E-W orientated gully with shallow sides to a concave base	drainage gully		0.50	0.14		1908				
1908	1907	19	Gully	Fill	friable mid brown orange silty clay with small stones	single fill of drainage gully, very pale fill similar to natural		0.50	0.14	1907					
1909	1909	19	Gully	Cut	E-W orientated gully with shallow sides to a concave base	drainage gully		0.70	0.16		1910				
1910	1909	19	Gully	Fill	friable mid brown orange silty clay with small stones	single fill of drainage gully, very pale fill similar to natural		0.70	0.16	1909					
1911	1911	19	Bioturbation	Cut	sub-circular in plan with moderate sides to a flat base	bioturbation	0.30	0.32	0.04		1912				
1912	1911	19	Bioturbation	Fill	friable mid grey brown silty clay occ. chalk flecks and sub-rounded stones	fill of bioturbation	0.30	0.32	0.04	1911					
2001		20		Layer	firm dark brown silty clay occ. small pebbles	topsoil			0.35	2002					

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Cut by	Cuts	Samples	Small Finds
2002		20		Layer	mid orange brown soft silty clay occ. flint and chalk inclusions. 2 metal finds	colluvium			0.60	2003	2001				4
2003		20		Layer	pale yellow grey clay with freq. flint and chalk occ. orange sandy clay patches	natural					2002				

APPENDIX C: THE FINDS TABLES

Table 9: Finds concordance

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fired Clay		Iron nails		Worked flint		Animal bone		Shell		Other finds	Spotdate	Samp No.
	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g	No	Wt/g			
0305	1	6														BA?	
0504	2	6														Med	
0509	2	14			2	9										Med	
0604	12	50							1	3	1	9				Med	
0609	4	7			3	8										?Sax, Med	2
0611																	3
0613	1	7			2	108										Med	4
0803	3	8														Pre	
0804																	6
0806	3	35					1	6								Pre, Med	
0811	2	16									1	3	1	4		?Sax, Med	7
1002			1	5	2	6					3	106					
1005	7	47					3	15			4	15	1	17		Med	
1101			2	47			1	1								Pmed	
1102	5	30					5	40								Med	
1103					6	120	2	13								?Med	
1105	1	25					4	37			7	95				Med	
1109	22	375					1	17	2	51	1	1	11	64		Med	
1110																	9
1403	1	122	7	5683												Lmed/pmed	
1406	1	41									1	8			Slag:1-175g	Med	8
1408	1	7			5	50	2	30								Med	
1409	1	2													B Glass : 1-4g	Pmed	
1821					1	1											
1904					1	1											
1910					1	1	2	22									

NB Quantities do not include artefacts from samples

Table 10: Pottery totals by fabric

Description	Fabric	Dates	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Unidentified handmade	UNHM	BA?	1	6		1
Early medieval ware	EMW	11th-12th c.	8	19		6
EMW micaceous	EMWM	11th-12th c.	2	12		2
Early medieval ware shelly with sand	EMSS	11th-13th c.	4	42		3
Early medieval sparse shelly gritty ware	EMWSG	11th-13th c.	5	22	0.04	5
Early medieval sparse shelly ware	EMWSS	11th-13th c.	19	148	0.25	15
EMW shell-dusted ware	EMWSD	11th-13th c.	5	8		1
Yarmouth-type ware	YAR	M.11th–12th c.	12	33		12
Medieval coarseware micaceous	MCWM	12th-14th c.	15	311	0.18	9
Medieval East Suffolk coarseware	MESCW	13th-14th c.	3	10		2
South Cove medieval coarseware	SCVMCW	13th-14th c.?	1	6		1
Stowmarket Hollesley-type ware	SKTHOLL	13th-14th c.?	1	7		1
Waveney Valley coarseware micaceous	WVCWM	L.12th-14th c.	1	25	0.04	1
Waveney Valley Sandy Ware	WVSW	12th-14th c.	1	4		1
Hollesley glazed ware	HOLG	L.13th-E.14th c.	1	15		1
Late medieval and transitional wares	LMT	15th-16th c.	4	30		4
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	16th-18th c.	2	123		2
Totals			*85*	*821*	*0.51*	*67*

Table 11: Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date	Date range
0305	UNHM	1	6	1			BA?	
0504	EMW	1	2	1				11th-12th c.
0504	MCWM	1	3	1				12th-14th c.
0509	LMT	1	11	1				15th-16th c.
0509	MESCW	1	2	1				13th-14th c.
0604	EMSS	2	16	1				11th-13th c.
0604	EMW	2	1	2				11th-12th c.
0604	EMW	3	10	1				11th-12th c.
0604	EMWSS	3	8	3				11th-13th c.
0604	YAR	10	26	10				M.11th–12th c.
0609	EMWSD	5	8	1				11th-13th c.
0613	EMWSS	2	11	2				11th-13th c.
0803	EMWSS	3	8	1				11th-13th c.
0806	EMSS	1	20	1				11th-13th c.
0806	EMW	1	3	1				11th-12th c.
0806	EMWSS	1	13	1				11th-13th c.
0811	EMSS	1	6	1				11th-13th c.
0811	EMWSS	1	10	1				11th-13th c.
0811	YAR	2	7	2				M.11th–12th c.
1005	EMW	1	3	1				11th-12th c.
1005	EMWM	1	5	1				11th-13th c.
1005	LMT	1	16	1				15th-16th c.
1005	MCWM	1	2	1				12th-14th c.
1005	SKTHOLL	1	7	1				13th-14th c.?
1005	WVSW	1	4	1				12th-14th c.
1102	EMWSG	1	5	1				11th-13th c.
1102	HOLG	1	15	1				L.13th-E.14th c.

Context	Fabric	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date	Date range
1102	MCWM	3	10	1				12th-14th c.
1105	WVCWM	1	25	1	bowl	EVSQ	13.14	L.12th-14th c.
1109	EMWM	1	7	1				11th-13th c.
1109	EMWSS	7	60	5				11th-13th c.
1109	EMWSS	2	38	2	jar	EVBD	12-13	11th-13th c.
1109	MCWM	1	19	1				12th-14th c.
1109	MCWM	3	58	1				12th-14th c.
1109	MCWM	1	14	1				12th-14th c.
1109	MCWM	3	157	1	bowl	EVLSEV	13-14	12th-14th c.
1109	MCWM	1	7	1	jar	UPTHFT	13-14	12th-14th c.
1109	MESCW	2	8	1				13th-14th c.
1110	EMWSG	3	10	3				11th-13th c.
1110	SCVMC	1	6	1				13th-14th c.?
1403	GRE	1	121	1	LSV			16th-18th c.
1406	LMT	2	3	2				15th-16th c.
1406	MCWM	1	41	1				12th-14th c.
1408	EMWSG	1	7	1	jar	EVBD	12-13	11th-13th c.
1409	GRE	1	2	1				16th-18th c.

Key. Form: LSV – large storage vessel. Rim: EVBD – everted beaded; EVSQ – everted square-beaded; EVLSEV – everted with lid-seated everted tip; UPTHFT – upright thickened with flat top.

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: cotswold2-419214

Project details

Project name	Land East of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk
Short description of the project	In March 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land on the east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk. A total of twenty trenches were excavated across the development area. A single Bronze Age gully and a small assemblage of worked flints of the late prehistoric period found residually within medieval features suggests limited activity on the site. On the high point of the site focussed on Trenches 5, 6 and 8 small scale settlement evidence dating between the 11th-13th century was identified, in the form of a ditch, three postholes and two large quarry pits. The features suggest that the settlement activity was limited. The colluvium deposit was also identified in the southwest corner of the site where it was cut by medieval features that were in turn sealed by a medieval occupation layer or buried topsoil, all of which were located in an area that had been terraced and enclosed by a ditch. The finds and features were focussed on Trench 10 and 11, close to Aspall Road and suggest roadside settlement activity in the 12th-14th century. A dense area of intercutting features of medieval or late medieval date were identified in Trench 14 that likely relate to
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2021 End: 08-03-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SU0232 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DBN 238 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	GULLY Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Medieval

Monument type	QUARRY PIT Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	OSYTER SHELL Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Medieval
Significant Finds	HEAT-ALTERED FLINT Medieval
Significant Finds	STRAP END Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Medieval
Significant Finds	STRAP END Medieval
Significant Finds	NAILS Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK DEBENHAM Land East of Aspall Road
Postcode	IP14 6QA
Study area	2.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 17450 63760 52.228508172972 1.184453461307 52 13 42 N 001 11 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38m Max: 45m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	Cotswold Archaeology (Suffolk)
Project director/manager	Richard Mortimer
Project supervisor	Martin Cuthbert
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hopkins & Moore Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archive
Physical Archive ID	DBN 238
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archive
Digital Archive ID	DBN 238
Digital Contents	"Metal"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Archive
Paper Archive ID	DBN 238
Paper Contents	"Metal"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Cuthbert, M.
Other bibliographic details	SU0232_1
Date	2021
	Cotswold Archaeology

Issuer or publisher	
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market
Description	A4 ring bound report with colour photos and figures
Entered by	martin cuthbert (martin.cuthbert@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	13 April 2021

OASIS:

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Client

RPS Consulting Services

For

Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Ltd

Survey Report

SUMO-01277

Date

December 2020

Survey Report 01277: Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Survey dates	04 December 2020
Field co-ordinator	Simon Lobel BSc
Field Team	Liam Brice-Bateman BA Jasmin Folland MA
Report Date	17 December 2020
CAD Illustrations	Thomas Cockcroft MSc
Report Author	Thomas Cockcroft MSc
Project Manager	Simon Haddrell BEng AMBCS PCIfA
Report approved	Dr John Gater BSc DSc(Hon) MCIfA FSA

SUMO Geophysics Ltd
Cowburn Farm
Market Street
Thornton
Bradford
BD13 3HW

T: 01274 835016

SUMO Geophysics Ltd
Vineyard House
Upper Hook Road
Upton upon Severn
Worcestershire
WR8 0SA

T: 01684 592266

www.sumoservices.com
geophysics@sumoservices.com

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Figure 03	1:1000	Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation
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Figure 05	1:1000	1904 Ordnance Survey Mapping
Figure 06	1:1000	Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plot

2. SURVEY TECHNIQUE

Detailed magnetic survey (magnetometry) was chosen as the most efficient and effective method of locating the type of archaeological anomalies which might be expected at this site.

Bartington Grad 601-2 Traverse Interval 1.0m Sample Interval 0.25m

3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

3.1 A magnetometer survey of 2.4 ha of land off Aspall Road, Debenham has not detected any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. Several discrete anomalies and two trends have been recorded in the dataset and have been classified as being of uncertain origin. The magnetic signature of two of the discrete responses in the north of the dataset is potentially indicative of fired remains but the lack of other associated features and/or 'noise' suggests they could be due to ferrous objects. It is probable the trends are a result of modern agricultural or natural processes. Four broad linear anomalies have been detected and have interpreted as former field boundaries.

4 INTRODUCTION

4.1 **SUMO Geophysics Ltd** were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by **RPS Consulting Services** on behalf of **Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Ltd**.

4.2 Site details

NGR / Postcode	TM 17441 63735 / IP14 6JD
Location	The site is located 5.5km north-east of Stoneham Aspal and 6km west of Earl Soham. The survey area is bounded to the west by Aspall Road / B1077 and to the south by a cemetery.
HER	Suffolk County Council
HER Event No.	DBN 238
OASIS Ref No.	sumogeop1-410939
District	Mid Suffolk
Parish	Debenham Civil Parish
Topography	Generally Flat
Current Land Use	Arable Agriculture
Geology (BGS 2020)	Bedrock: Crag Group - sand Superficial: Lowestoft Formation - diamicton
Soils (CU 2020)	Soilscape 9: Lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.
Archaeology (RPS 2020)	Data available from Historic England and the Local Planning Authority shows that there are no designated Scheduled Monuments within the proposed development site or a surrounding search area. The only archaeological discovery currently recorded within the site is a scatter of Medieval artefacts and pottery (DBN 052) within the northern part of the site. It is likely that this represents a spread due to manuring rather than evidence for any buried remains. Based on the available archaeological data for the site and surrounding area as well as the site's location within the river valley of the River Deben, the site is considered to have a low to moderate potential for Prehistoric remains and a low potential for significant (i.e. non- agricultural) remains of all other periods.
Survey Methods	Magnetometer survey (fluxgate gradiometer)
Study Area	2.4 ha

4.3 **Aims and Objectives**

To locate and characterise any anomalies of possible archaeological interest within the study area.

5 RESULTS

Specific anomalies have been given numerical labels [1] [2] *which appear in the text below, as well as on the Interpretation Figure(s).*

5.1 ***Probable / Possible Archaeology***

5.1.1 No magnetic responses have been recorded that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest.

5.2 ***Uncertain***

5.2.1 Several discrete, well-defined magnetically enhanced but isolated responses have been recorded in the dataset. The magnetic signature of anomalies [1 and 2] might indicate highly fired remains, just possibly small kilns, and given the scatter of Medieval pottery within the northern part of the site such an interpretation cannot be totally ignored. However, the lack of responses from say waste heaps, ditches, pits and gullies, which are normally associated with kiln features, suggests that the responses are probably due to other processes. Depending upon the alignment of a piece of iron in the ground, various spurious anomalies can result. Consequently anomalies [1 and 2] have been assigned to the category of *Uncertain*.

5.2.2 A couple of weak linear and curvilinear trends have been detected in the survey. They form no obvious patterns and lack context; therefore, they are likely to be due to natural or agricultural processes. These anomalies have also been categorised as *Uncertain*.

5.3 ***Former Field Boundary (Corroborated / Conjectural)***

5.3.1 Two broad linear anomalies correspond with the location of two former field boundaries that are recorded on historic mapping (see Figures 04 and 05). Additionally, a second pair of linear responses are visible which share a similar magnetic signature. consequently, it is likely that these are also former field boundaries hence the conjectural interpretation.

5.4 ***Ferrous / Magnetic Disturbance***

5.4.1 An area of magnetic disturbance in the south west of the survey area corresponds with the location of a small land parcel which is visible on the historic mapping (see Figure 04 and 05). It is likely that concentrated activity within the paddock and/or the removal of the associated field divisions has caused the disturbance.

5.4.2 Ferrous responses close to boundaries are due to adjacent pond, fences and gates. Smaller scale ferrous anomalies ("iron spikes") are present throughout the data and are characteristic of small pieces of ferrous debris (or brick / tile) in the topsoil; they are commonly assigned a modern origin. Only the most prominent of these are highlighted on the interpretation diagram.

6 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

6.1 Historic England guidelines (EH 2008) Table 4 states that the typical magnetic response on the local soils / geology is generally good. The results from this survey indicate the presence of former field boundaries and discrete responses; as a consequence, there is no *a priori* reason why archaeological features would not have been detected, if present.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The magnetometer survey has not recorded any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest. Several discrete responses and a couple trends have been detected which has been classified as being of uncertain origin. While two of the discrete anomalies have a thermoremanent (fired) magnetic signatures; the lack of any features that might be associated with kilns suggests they are due to large pieces of iron. The trends visible in the data are likely to be due to modern agricultural or natural processes. Four broad linear anomalies have been detected, two of which correspond to former field boundaries that are recorded on historic mapping and two of which are conjectural boundaries.

8 REFERENCES

BGS 2020 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer [accessed 17/12/2020] *website*: (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/home.html?Accordion1=1#maps)

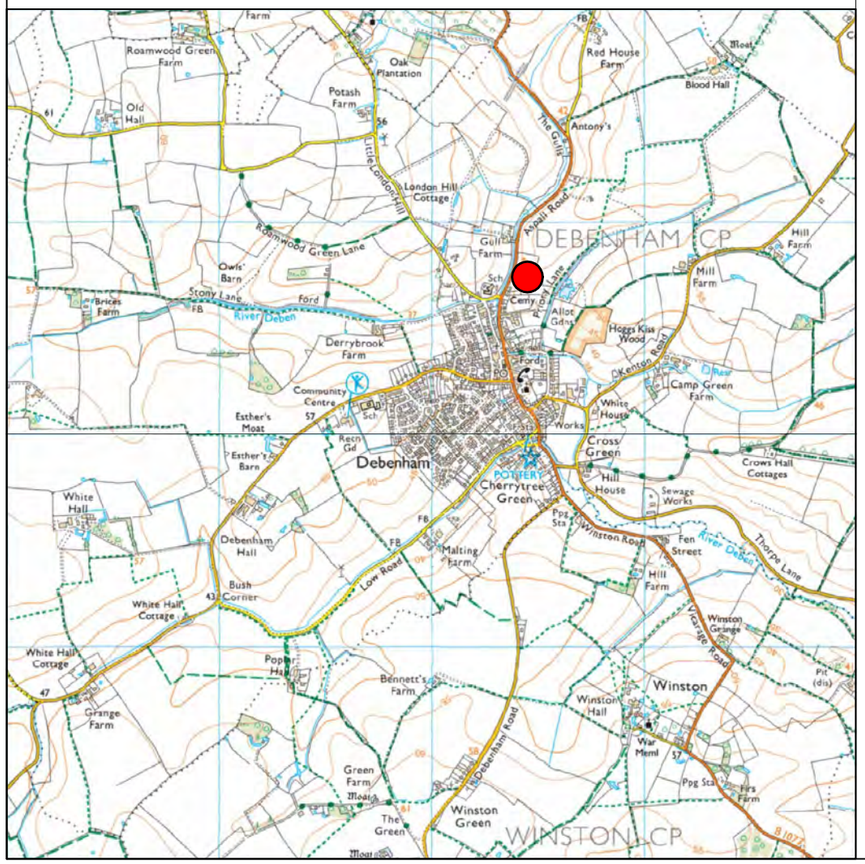
CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey.* Amended 2016. CIfA Guidance note. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GGeophysics_2.pdf

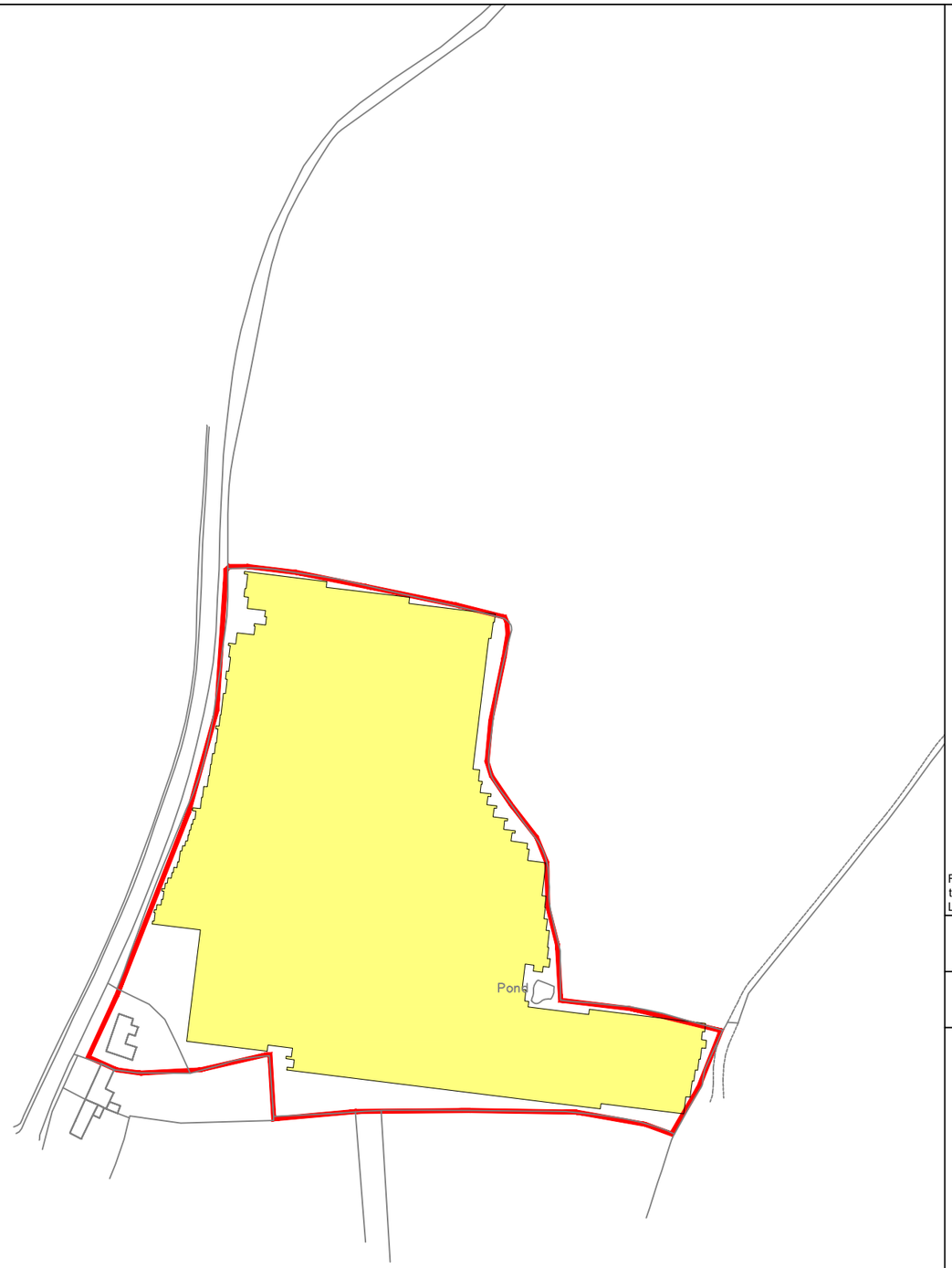
CU 2020 The Soils Guide. Available: www.landis.org.uk. Cranfield University, UK. [accessed 17/12/2020] *website: http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html*

EAC 2016 *EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology,* European Archaeological Council, Guidelines 2.

EH 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation.* English Heritage, Swindon https://content.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/geophysical-survey-in-archaeological-field-evaluation/geophysics-guidelines.pdf/

RPS 2020 *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk.* RPS Consulting Services, Newark





Site Location

Survey Areas

N

sumo Survey
GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Title:
Site Location

Client:
RPS Consulting Services

Project:
01277 - Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Scale:
NOT TO SCALE

Fig No:
01

sumo Survey
GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

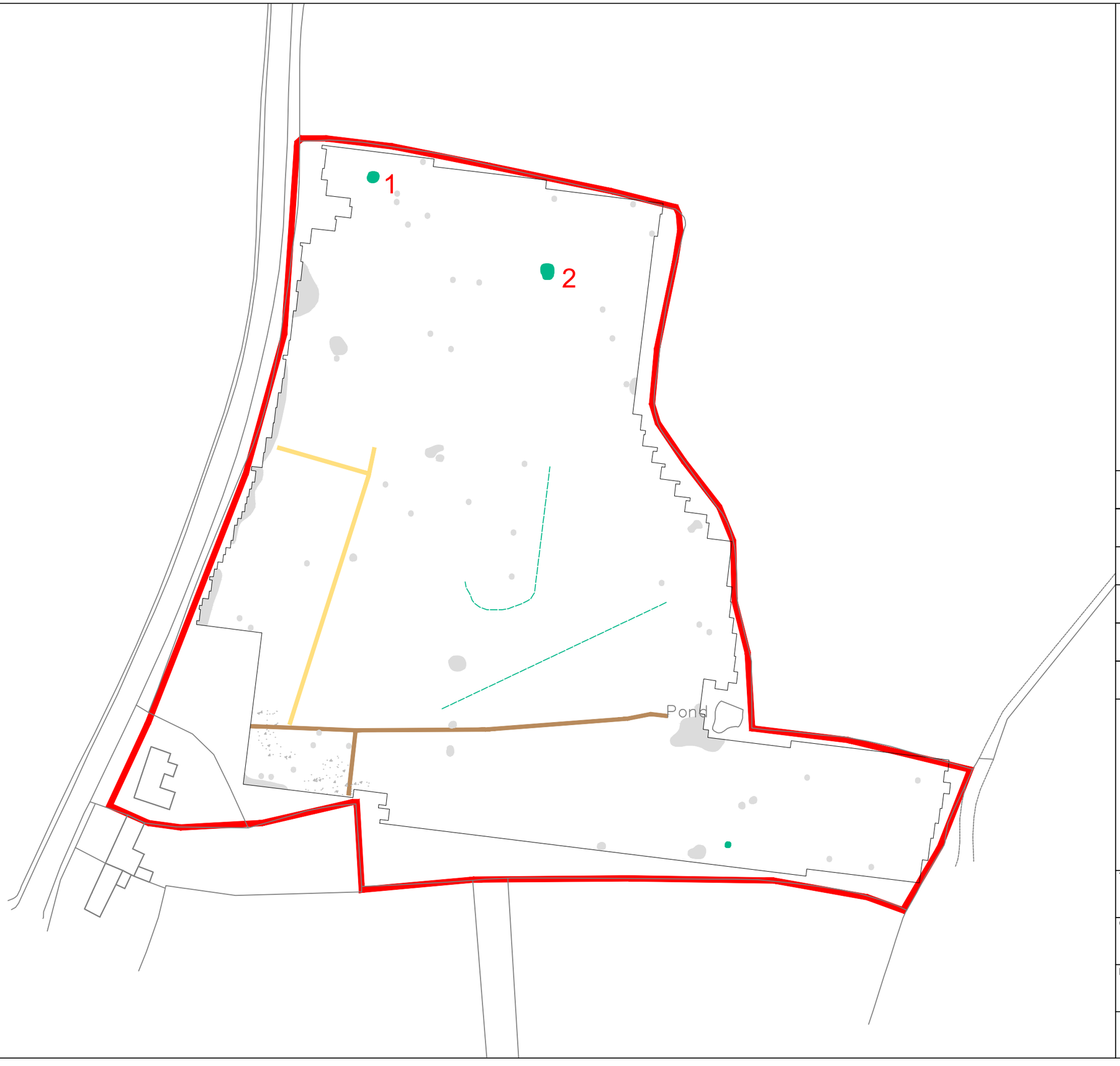
Title:
Magnetometer Survey - Greyscale Plot

Client:
RPS Consulting Services

Project:
01277 - Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Scale:
0 metres 50
1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:
02



N

KEY

	Uncertain Origin (Discrete anomaly / Trend)
	Former Field Boundary (Corroborated)
	Former Field Boundary (Conjectural)
	Magnetic Disturbance
	Ferrous

sumo Survey
GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Title:
Magnetometer Survey - Interpretation

Client:
RPS Consulting Services

Project:
01277 - Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Scale:
0 metres 50
1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:
03

sumo Survey
GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

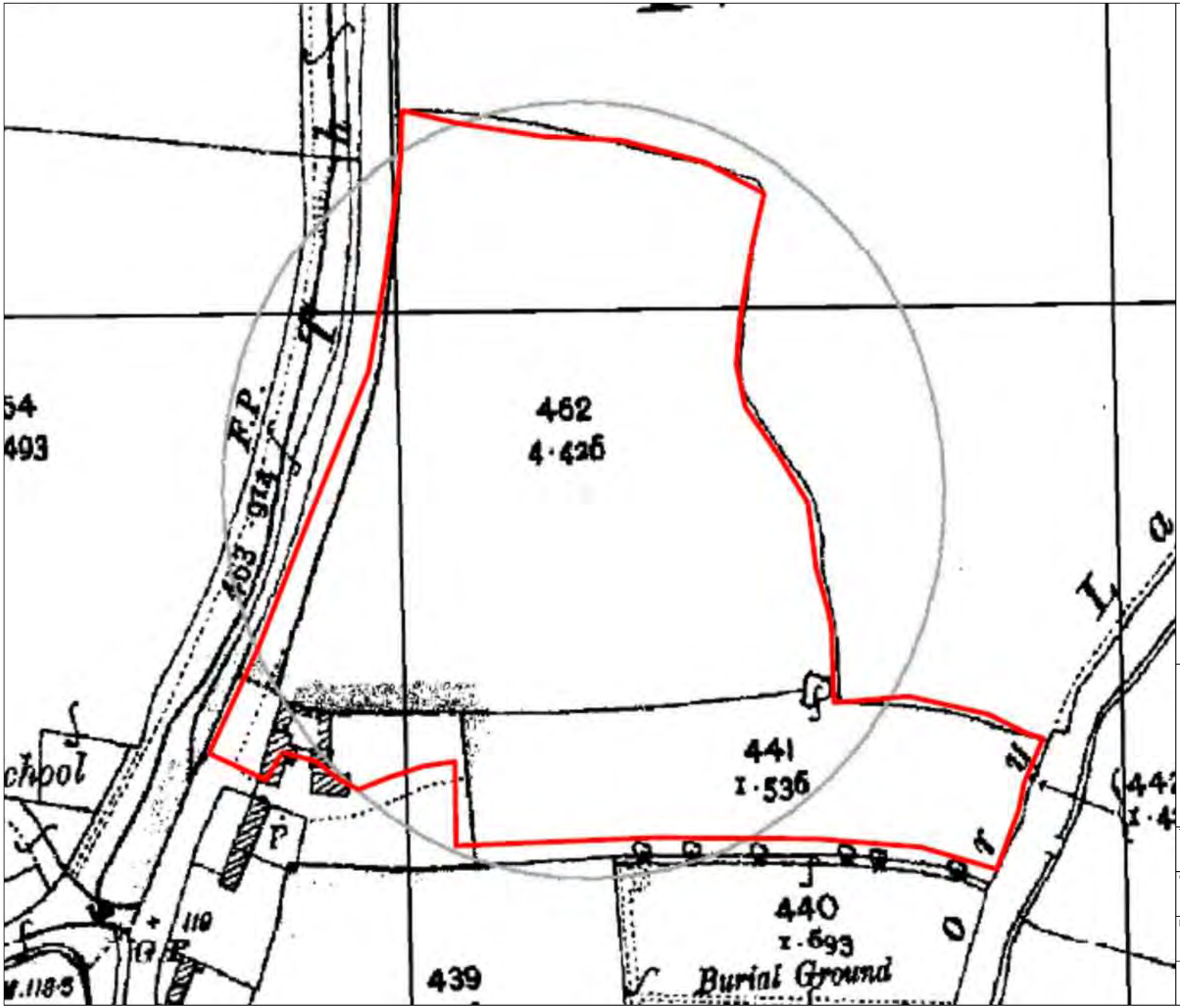
Title:
1837 Plan of the Parish of Debenham (RPS 2020)

Client:
RPS Consulting Services

Project:
01277 - Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Scale:
0 metres 50
1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:
04



sumo Survey
GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Title:
1904 Ordnance Survey Mapping (RPS 2020)

Client:
RPS Consulting Services

Project:
01277 - Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Scale:
0 metres 50
1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:
05

N

+5nT

-5nT

sumo Survey

GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Title:

Minimally Processed Data - Greyscale Plot

Client:

RPS Consulting Services

Project:

01277 - Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk

Scale:

0 metres 50

1:1000 @ A3

Fig No:

06

APPENDIX F: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Cotswold Archaeology

Land east of Aspall Road Debenham Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

for:
RPS Group Plc

on behalf of:
Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Ltd.

CA Project: SU0232
OASIS ID: cotswold2-414663
HER Ref: DBN 238

February 2021

Land east of Aspall Road
Debenham
Suffolk

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: SU0232
OASIS ID: cotswold2-414663
HER reference: DBN 238

Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	5 Feb 21	M. Sommers		Internal review	–	

Cirencester
Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t. 01285 771 022

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

t. 01908 564 660

Andover
Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t. 01264 347 630

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

t. 01392 573 970

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

t. 01449 900 120

e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) for an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk (centred at NGR: 617450,263760). This WSI has been prepared for RPS Group Plc, who are acting on behalf of their client, Hopkins and Moore (Developments) Ltd.

1.2. The Local Planning Authority (LPA), Mid Suffolk District Council, have been advised by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), as Curator and archaeological advisor to the LPA, that development of this site could affect important archaeological deposits and has stipulated the need for archaeological field evaluation prior to the determination of a planning application. Such work is to be undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The evaluation results will be used to define any archaeological mitigation requirements for the site. The evaluation should also determine whether there are any significant remains that may require preservation *in situ* within the proposed development area. Any further archaeological work that may then be required would need to be subject to a separate WSI.

1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined in a brief (SCCAS 2021). This WSI will be submitted to the Curator for review.

1.4. This WSI has been guided in its composition by the Brief (SCCAS 2021), *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2020)*, Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

1.5. The proposed development site is located on the northern edge of Debenham to the east of Aspall Road. It comprises *c.*2.4ha of arable land. It is bounded by hedges to north, east and south and beyond that by open fields in the north, the Hoppit Wood and Lake in the east, a cemetery, playing field and residential housing in the south and by Aspall Road in the west. The site slopes up gently from *c.*38m AOD in the west

to *c.*45m AOD in the east, a tributary stream of the River Deben is located *c.*60m to the south-west at its closest point to the site.

1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site, as mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2021), comprises sands of the Crag Group, a sedimentary deposit formed up to five million years ago in the Quaternary and Neo-gene Periods in a local environment previously dominated by shallow seas. These are shallow-marine in origin, detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained (locally with some carbonate content) and forming interbedded sequences. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton, formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These sedimentary deposits are glacigenic in origin, detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater. They can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and interglacial periods during the Quaternary.

1.7. A geophysical survey of the site has been undertaken (SUMO 2020). In summary, the survey did not detect any magnetic responses that could be interpreted as being of definite archaeological interest although several discrete anomalies and two trends have been recorded in the dataset and have been classified as being of uncertain origin. The magnetic signature of two of the discrete responses in the north of the dataset is potentially indicative of fired remains but the lack of other associated features and/or 'noise' suggests they could be due to ferrous objects. It is probable the trends are a result of modern agricultural or natural processes. Four broad linear anomalies have been detected and have interpreted as former field boundaries. Two of the linear anomalies appear to be on the same alignment as field boundaries marked on the Tithe map of 1837.

A desk-based assessment (DBA) was also undertaken (RPS 2020). Integration of the County Historic Environment Record (HER) revealed a number of prehistoric flint scatters in the local area, the site of cropmark relating to a probable prehistoric monument (DBN 039), some 350m to the southwest of the site, and a Middle Bronze Age cremation cemetery (DBN 132) *c.*750 southwest. A possible Roman settlement site is located to the south-east of the site (DBN 011) and there is an antiquarian record of the foundations of a substantial building having been found in the early 19th century. Scatters of 3rd and 4th century Roman pottery and a probable tile tessera have been recorded in this area by modern fieldwalking. A second Roman settlement site may be present *c.*100m north-west of the site where sherds of early Roman

pottery are recorded as surface finds (DBN 041). Later activity is represented by a scatter of possible Ipswich ware sherds and a rim of later Thetford-type ware are recorded *c.*50m to the north-west of the site (DBN 040). The only entry on the HER within the site is a scatter of medieval artefacts and pottery (DBN 052), which could be indicative of settlement or are possibly simply the result of the spreading of waste material to manure the fields. The historic medieval core of the village (DBN 131) lies directly to the south-west of the site and a possible medieval priory is suggested by the plot named 'Priory Field', which lies close to the southeast of the site.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. The general objective of the evaluation is to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Mid Suffolk District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 7).

2.2. Specific objectives of the evaluation are: to 'ground truth' the geophysics results, particularly to investigate a sample of the recorded 'spikes' (SUMO 2020); to test for the presence of medieval settlement within the area of the medieval pottery scatter recorded on the HER (DBN 052); and to determine if any remains associated with the adjacent Roman building (DBN 011) and a possible medieval priory enter into the proposed development site boundary.

2.3. If significant archaeological remains are identified, the evaluation report will make reference to the research framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011) so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional contexts.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The evaluation will comprise the excavation of twenty trenches (locations shown on the attached plan) - sixteen trenches measuring 30m in length and four measuring 20m, with a width of at least 1.8m. This equates to approximately 4% of the site by area. A further 1% of trenching is available as a contingency should the need to expand or add a additional trench arise.

3.2. A number of the trenches have been located to test a sample of the geophysical anomalies (i.e. the 'spikes'), the area of a medieval pottery scatter and to determine if the known Roman activity to the southeast continues into the site. The balance of the trenches are located to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.

3.3. Trenches will be set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. They will be scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and genny equipment, in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*. The positions of the trenches may be adjusted on site to account for services or other constraints, with the approval of Curator.

3.4. Overburden will be stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first significant archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately adjacent to each trench.

3.5. Following machining, any archaeological features present will be investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. All linear features will be sampled through the excavation of 1m wide slot and a minimum of 50% of each pit will be excavated (although, at the discretion of the curator, full excavation may be required). Each context will be recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description. Hand-drawn sections of excavated archaeological features will be prepared (scale 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate). Features/deposits will be recorded in plan using Leica GPS or Total Station (as appropriate), in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*. Photographs (digital colour) will be taken as appropriate.

3.6. Sample excavation of archaeological deposits will be sufficient to achieve the aims and objectives identified in Section 3 (above). All features encountered will be sampled unless agreed otherwise with the curator. All excavation should be undertaken by hand unless an alternative method is agreed with the curator.

3.7. . Excavation (where undertaken) will not compromise the integrity of the archaeological record and will be carried out in such a way as to allow for the subsequent protection of remains, either for conservation or to allow more detailed investigations to be conducted at a later date.

3.8. Metal detector searches (non-discriminating against iron), undertaken by an experienced metal-detectorist (CA staff Steve Hunt, Michael Green, Matt Stevens), will be carried out. This will include prior to the trenches being dug, during the machine excavation and the subsequent hand-excavation phase as well as scanning the upcast spoil. Metal finds recovered which are not from hand-excavated features will have their location recorded by GPS.

3.9. Upon completion of the evaluation, all trenches will be backfilled by a mechanical excavator once they have been approved and signed off by the curator.

Artefacts

3.10. Artefacts will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*. Artefacts will be collected and bagged by context. Artefacts from topsoil, subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest. All artefacts from stratified excavated contexts will be collected, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material may be noted and not retained or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained.

Environmental remains

3.11. The selection, collection and processing of environmental samples will follow the guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. Bulk samples will be a minimum of 40l (or the full context if smaller).

3.12. Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential and, where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated. The sampling strategy will be adapted for the specific circumstances of the site, in close consultation with the CA Environmental Officer and Curator, but will follow the general selection parameters set out in the following paragraphs.

3.13. Secure, phased deposits, especially those related to settlement activity and/or structures, will be considered for sampling for the recovery of charred plant remains, charcoal and mineralised remains. Any cremation-related deposits (where excavated; see *Human remains*, below) will be sampled appropriately for the recovery

of cremated human bone and charred remains. If any evidence of *in situ* metal working is found, suitable samples will be taken for the recovery of slag and hammerscale.

3.14. Where sealed waterlogged deposits are encountered, samples will be considered for the recovery of waterlogged remains (including insects, molluscs and pollen) and any charred remains. The taking of sequences of samples for the recovery of molluscs and/or waterlogged remains will be considered through any suitable deposits, such as deep enclosure ditches, barrow ditches, palaeochannels, or buried soils. Monolith samples may also be taken from suitable deposits as appropriate to allow soil and sediment description/interpretation, as well as sub-sampling for pollen and other micro/macrofossils such as diatoms, foraminifera and ostracods.

3.15. The need for more specialist samples (such as OSL, archaeomagnetic dating and dendrochronology) will be evaluated on site. If required, any such samples will be taken in consultation with the relevant specialists.

3.16. Sample processing will be carried out in conjunction with the relevant specialists. Flotation or wet sieve samples will be processed to 0.25mm. More specialist samples, such as those for pollen, will be prepared by the relevant specialists.

Treasure

3.17. Upon discovery of treasure, CA will notify the client and the Curator immediately. CA will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein. Findings will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

Human remains

3.18. Any human remains (skeletal or cremated) will be treated with due decency and respect at all times.

3.19. Small slots will be hand-excavated across any suspected burial features (inhumations or cremated bone deposits) in order to confirm the presence and condition of any human bone. Once confirmed as human, the buried remains will not normally be disturbed through any further investigation at the evaluation stage, and will be left *in situ* where possible.

3.20. Where further disturbance is unavoidable, or where full exhumation of the remains is deemed necessary, exhumation will be conducted following the provisions of the Coroner's Unit in the Ministry of Justice. All excavation of human remains and associated post-excavation processes will be in accordance with the standards set out in *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (CIfA 2017).

4. PROGRAMME

4.1. It is anticipated that the project fieldwork will require six to eight days. It is anticipated that analysis of the results and subsequent reporting will take up to a further six weeks.

5. PROJECT STAFF

5.1. This project will be under the management of Richard Mortimer, MCIfA, Project Manager, CA. The Project Manager will direct the overall conduct of the evaluation during the period of fieldwork. Day-to-day responsibility will, however, rest with the Project Leader, who will be on-site throughout the project.

5.2. The field team will consist of a maximum of three staff (one Project Officer, and two Archaeologists).

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

- **Ceramics:** Stephen Benfield MCIfA (CA)*
- **Metalwork:** Ruth Beveridge MCIfA (CA)
- **Flint:** Mike Green PCIfA (CA)
- **Animal bone:** Andy Clarke BA (Hons) MA (CA)/Matty Holmes BSc MSc ACIfA (freelance)
- **Human bone:** Sharon Clough MCIfA (CA)
- **Environmental remains:** Anna West MCIfA (CA)
- **Conservation:** Pieta Greeves BSc MSc ACR (Drakon Heritage and Conservation)

*If required, a specialist familiar with the Suffolk post roman pot series, such as Sue Anderson (freelance, as referenced in Appendix A), will be engaged.

5.4. Depending on the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered, it may be necessary to consult other specialists not listed here. A full list of specialists currently used by CA is given as Appendix A.

6. POST-EXCAVATION, REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

Reporting

6.1. An illustrated typescript report will be compiled on the evaluation results. This report will include:

- an abstract preceding the main body of the report, containing the essential elements of the results;
- a summary of the project's background;
- a description and illustration of the site location;
- a methodology of the works undertaken;
- integration of, or cross-reference to, appropriate cartographic and documentary evidence and the results of other research undertaken, where relevant to the interpretation of the evaluation results;
- a description of the evaluation results;
- an interpretation of the evaluation results, including a consideration of the results within their wider local/regional context;
- a site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey (or equivalent) base-map;
- a plan showing the locations of the trenches in relation to the site boundaries;
- plans of each trench, or part of trench, in which archaeological features were recorded. These plans will be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features to be shown and understood. Plans will show the orientation of trenches in relation to north. Section drawing locations will also be shown on these plans. Archaeologically sterile areas will not normally be illustrated;
- appropriate section drawings of trenches and archaeological features. These drawings will include OD heights and will be at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail being represented. Drawings will show orientation in relation to north/south/east/west;
- photographs showing significant archaeological features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs will contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the photograph captions;

- summary tables of the recorded contexts and recovered artefacts;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and details of its location;
- specialist assessment or analysis reports (where undertaken). Specialist artefact and palaeoenvironmental assessments will take into account the wider local/regional contexts and will include:
    - specialist aims and objectives;
    - processing methodologies (where relevant);
    - any known biases in recovery, or problems of contamination/residuality;
    - quantities of material; types of material present; distribution of material;
    - for environmental material, a statement on abundance, diversity and preservation;
    - a summary and discussion of the results, to include significance in a local and regional context.

6.2. The draft evaluation report will be distributed to the client and the Curator for review prior to finalisation. All copies of the report (draft and final) will be issued in pdf format. A hard copy will be made available to the HER if so required.

6.3. A digital vector trench plan showing recorded archaeological features and excavated sections, compatible with QGIS software, will be submitted to the Suffolk HER.

Academic and public dissemination

6.4. It is anticipated that a short note on the evaluation results will be produced for inclusion within an appropriate local archaeological journal (i.e. the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History).

6.5. Subject to any contractual constraints, a summary of information from the project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain (ref. cotswold2-414663). This will include a digital (pdf) copy of the final report, which will also appear on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website once the OASIS record has been verified.

6.6. A digital (pdf) copy of the final report will also be made available for public viewing via CA's *Archaeological Reports Online* web page (http://reports.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk).

Archive deposition

6.7. All artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved and packaged in accordance with CA technical manuals and the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Archive Guidelines (SCCAS 2020).

6.8. An ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007) and *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe: EAC Guidelines 1* (Europae Archaeologia Consilium 2019), as well as the relevant Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service guidelines.

6.9. Depending on the nature and scope of any subsequent programme of archaeological mitigation works at the site, the evaluation archive may be combined with that for any subsequent works and deposited as a single archive. Confirmation of this will be included in any forthcoming WSI.

6.10. CA will make arrangements with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for the deposition of the site archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection.

Selection strategy

6.11. As noted in para. 4.8, artefacts from topsoil, subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted but not retained unless they are of intrinsic interest. All artefacts from stratified excavated contexts will be collected, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material may be noted and not retained or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be collected and retained.

6.12. The site-selected material archive returned to the CA offices will be reviewed following analysis. Stakeholders will make selection decisions based on CA Finds Manager/Officer reports and selection recommendations. The selection will take place during archive compilation. After discussion with the relevant museum Curator and the CA Finds Managers/Officers, it is possible that no material postdating AD 1800 will be retained for inclusion in the preserved archive.

Digital archive

6.13. A digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). This archive will be compiled in accordance with the *ADS Guidelines for Depositors*.

Data management

6.14. All born-digital and digitally-transferred project data created during fieldwork and post-excavation (other than duplicated files) will be stored by CA. Upon project completion and deposition, the data will be transferred to a secure external server. Data will be selected for inclusion in the final digital archive, as detailed below. It is proposed that data selection will occur following completion of post-excavation work.

6.15. Selected digital files will be transferred to Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service with the documentary and material archive and to the ADS, in line with the relevant guidance and standards for both organisations. In adherence to CA's *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives* (2017), it is proposed that the selected files will include final versions only. Digital photographs will be selected for inclusion in the archive in line with CA's *Guidelines for essential archive tasks and the preparation of archives* (2017) and *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015). Data produced by external specialists or sub-contractors will be granted under license to CA to allow inclusion in the digital archive as required.

7. HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

7.1. CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent health and safety legislation, as well as the CA Health and Safety and Environmental policies and the CA Safety, Health and Environmental Management System (SHE). Any client/developer/Principal Contractor policies and/or procedures will also be followed. A site-specific Construction Phase Plan (form SHE 017) will be formulated prior to commencement of fieldwork.

8. INSURANCES

8.1. CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000.

9. MONITORING

9.1. Notification of the start of site works will be made to Curator so that there will be opportunities to visit the evaluation and check on the quality and progress of the work.

10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

10.1. CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the Code of Conduct (CIfA 2019) and the *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020). All CA Project Managers hold Member status within the CIfA.

10.2. CA operates an internal quality assurance system as follows: projects are overseen by a Project Manager, who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive, who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors and, in cases of dispute, recourse may be made to the Chairman of the Board.

11. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION AND BENEFIT

11.1. It is not anticipated that this evaluation will afford opportunities for public engagement or participation during the course of the fieldwork. However, the evaluation results will be made publicly available on the ADS and CA websites, as set out in Section 7.

12. STAFF TRAINING AND CPD

12.1. CA has a fully documented mandatory performance management system for all staff. This system reviews personal performance, identifies areas for improvement, sets targets and ensures the provision of appropriate training within CA's adopted training policy. In addition, CA has developed an award-winning career development programme for its staff. This ensures a consistent and high-quality approach to the development of appropriate skills.

12.2. As part of CA's requirement for continuing professional development, all members of staff are required to maintain a personal development plan and an associated log; these are reviewed within the performance management system.

13. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2021 *Geology of Britain Viewer* https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/ Accessed 5 February 2021

Medlycott, M, (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

RPS 2020, *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk*

SCCAS (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) 2021, *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land east of Aspall Road, Debenham*

SCCAS (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) 2020, *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*

SCCAS (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service) 2020, *Archive Guidelines*

SUMO 2020, *Geophysical Survey Report: Land off Aspall Road, Debenham, Suffolk* Report No. SUMO-01277

APPENDIX A: COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS

Ceramics

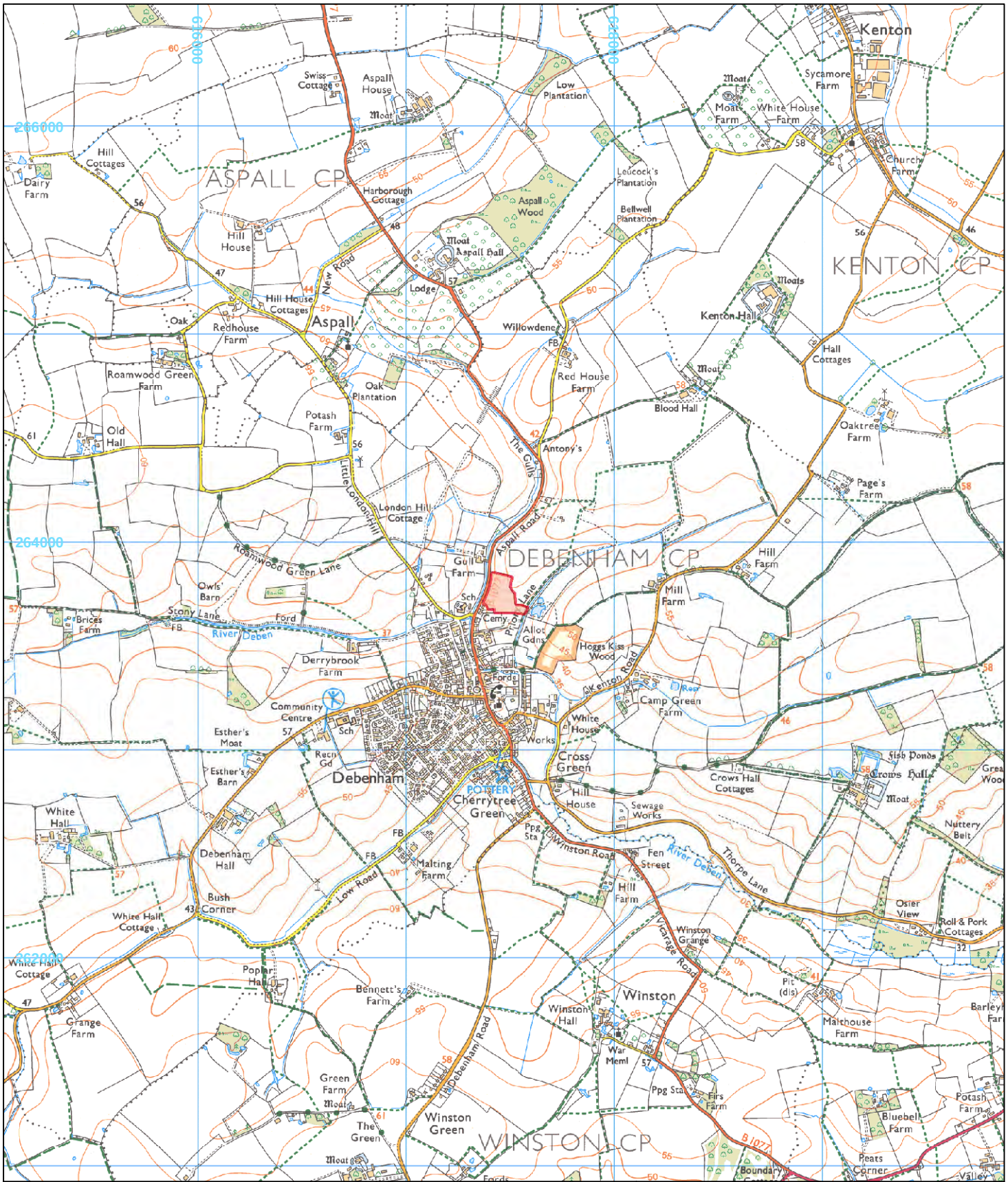
Neolithic/Bronze Age	Ed McSloy BA MCIFA (CA) Emily Edwards (freelance) Dr Elaine Morris BA PhD FSA MCIFA (University of Southampton) Anna Doherty MA (Archaeology South-East) Sarah Percival MA MCIFA (freelance) Steve Benfield BA (CA)
Iron Age/Roman	Ed McSloy BA MCIFA (CA) Kayt Marter Brown BA MSc MCIFA (freelance) Steve Benfield BA (CA)
(Samian)	Gwladys Montell MA PhD (freelance) Steve Benfield BA (CA)
(Amphorae stamps)	Dr David Williams PhD FSA (freelance)
Anglo-Saxon	Paul Blinkhorn BTech (freelance) Dr Jane Timby BA PhD FSA MCIFA (freelance) Sue Anderson, M Phil, MCIFA, FSA (freelance)
Medieval/post-medieval	Ed McSloy BA MCIFA (CA) Kayt Marter Brown BA MSc MCIFA (freelance) Stephanie Ratkai BA (freelance) Paul Blinkhorn BTech (freelance) John Allan BA MPhil FSA (freelance) Richenda Goffin BA MCIFA (CA) Sue Anderson M Phil, MCIFA, FSA (freelance)
South-West	Henrietta Quinnell BA FSA MCIFA (University of Exeter)
Clay tobacco pipe	Reg Jackson MLitt MCIFA (freelance) Marek Lewcun (freelance) Kieron Heard (freelance) Richenda Goffin BA MCIFA (CA)
Ceramic building material	Ed McSloy MCIFA (CA) Dr Peter Warry PhD (freelance) Sue Anderson M Phil, MCIFA, FSA (freelance) Richenda Goffin (Roman painted wall plaster) CBM, BA MCIFA (CA) Steve Benfield BA (CA)

Other finds

Small finds	Ed McSloy BA MCIFA (CA) Richenda Goffin, (non-metalwork) BA MCIFA (CA) Steve Benfield CA Dr I Riddler (freelance) Dr Alison Sheridan, National Museum of Scotland
Metal artefacts	Ed McSloy BA MCIFA (CA) Dr Jörn Schuster MA DPhil FSA MCIFA (freelance) Dr Hilary Cool BA PhD FSA (freelance) Dr I Riddler (freelance)
Lithics	Ed McSloy BA MCIFA (CA) Jacky Sommerville BSc MA PCIFA (CA) Michael Green (CA) Sarah Bates BA (freelance)
(Palaeolithic)	Dr Francis Wenban-Smith BA MA PhD (University of Southampton)
Worked stone	Dr Ruth Shaffrey BA PhD MCIFA (freelance) Dr Kevin Hayward FSA BSc MSc PhD PCIFA (freelance)

Inscriptions	Dr Roger Tomlin MA DPhil, FSA (Oxford)
Glass	Ed McSloy MCIFA (CA) Dr Hilary Cool BA PhD FSA (freelance) Dr David Dungworth BA PhD (freelance; English Heritage) Dr Sarah Paynter (Historic England) Dr Rachel Tyson (freelance) Dr Hugh Wilmott (University of Sheffield)
Coins	Ed McSloy BA MCIFA (CA) Dr Ruth Beveridge (CA) Dr Peter Guest BA PhD FSA (Cardiff University) Dr Richard Reece BSc PhD FSA (freelance) Jude Plouviez (freelance) Dr Andrew Brown (British Museum) Dr Richard Kelleher (Fitzwilliam Museum) Dr Philip de Jersey (Ashmolean Museum)
Leather	Quita Mould MA FSA (freelance)
Textiles	Penelope Walton Rogers FSA Dip Acc. (freelance) Dr Sue Harrington (freelance)
Iron slag/metal technology	Dr Tim Young MA PhD (Cardiff University) Dr David Starley BSc PhD Lynne Keys (freelance)
Worked wood	Michael Bamforth BSc MCIFA (freelance)
Biological remains	
Animal bone	Dr Philip Armitage MSc PhD MCIFA (freelance) Dr Matilda Holmes BSc MSc ACIFA (freelance) Julie Curl (freelance) Lorrain Higbee (Wessex Archaeology)
Human bone	Sharon Clough BA MSc MCIFA (CA) Sue Anderson M Phil, MCIFA, FSA (freelance)
Environmental sampling	Sarah Wyles BA MCIFA (CA) Sarah Cobain BSc MSc ACIFA (CA) Dr Keith Wilkinson BSc PhD MCIFA (ARCA) Anna West BSc (CA) Val Fryer (freelance)
Pollen	Dr Michael Grant BSc MSc PhD (University of Southampton) Dr Rob Batchelor BSc MSc PhD MCIFA (QUEST, University of Reading)
Diatoms	Dr Tom Hill BSc PhD CPLHE (Natural History Museum) Dr Nigel Cameron BSc MSc PhD (University College London)
Charred plant remains	Sarah Wyles BA MCIFA (CA) Sarah Cobain BSc MSc ACIFA (CA)
Wood/charcoal	Sarah Cobain BSc MSc ACIFA(CA) Dana Challinor MA (freelance) Dr Esther Cameron (freelance)
Insects	Enid Allison BSc D.Phil (Canterbury Archaeological Trust) Dr David Smith MA PhD (University of Birmingham)
Mollusca	Sarah Wyles BA MCIFA (CA) Dr Keith Wilkinson BSc PhD MCIFA (ARCA) Dr Mike Allen (Allen Environmental Archaeology)

Ostracods and Foraminifera	Dr John Whittaker BSc PhD (freelance)
Fish bones	Dr Philip Armitage MSc PhD MCIFA (freelance)
Geoarchaeology	Dr Keith Wilkinson BSc PhD MCIFA (ARCA)
Soil micromorphology	Dr Richard Macphail BSc MSc PhD (University College London) Dr Mike Allen (Allen Environmental Archaeology)
Scientific dating	
Dendrochronology	Robert Howard BA (NTRDL Nottingham)
Radiocarbon dating	SUERC (East Kilbride, Scotland) Beta Analytic (Florida, USA)
Bayesian chronological modelling	Dr Derek Hamilton (SUERC) Professor John Hines (Cardiff University)
Archaeomagnetic dating	Dr Cathy Batt BSc PhD (University of Bradford)
TL/OSL Dating	Dr Phil Toms BSc PhD (University of Gloucestershire)
Conservation	Karen Barker BSc (freelance) Pieta Greaves BSc MSc ACR (Drakon Heritage and Conservation) Julia Park-Newman (Conservation Services, freelance)



Cotswold Archaeology

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Aspall Road
Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	KW	PROJECT NO.	SU0232	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	MS	DATE	10/02/2021	1
APPROVED BY	MS	SCALE @ A4	1:25,000	

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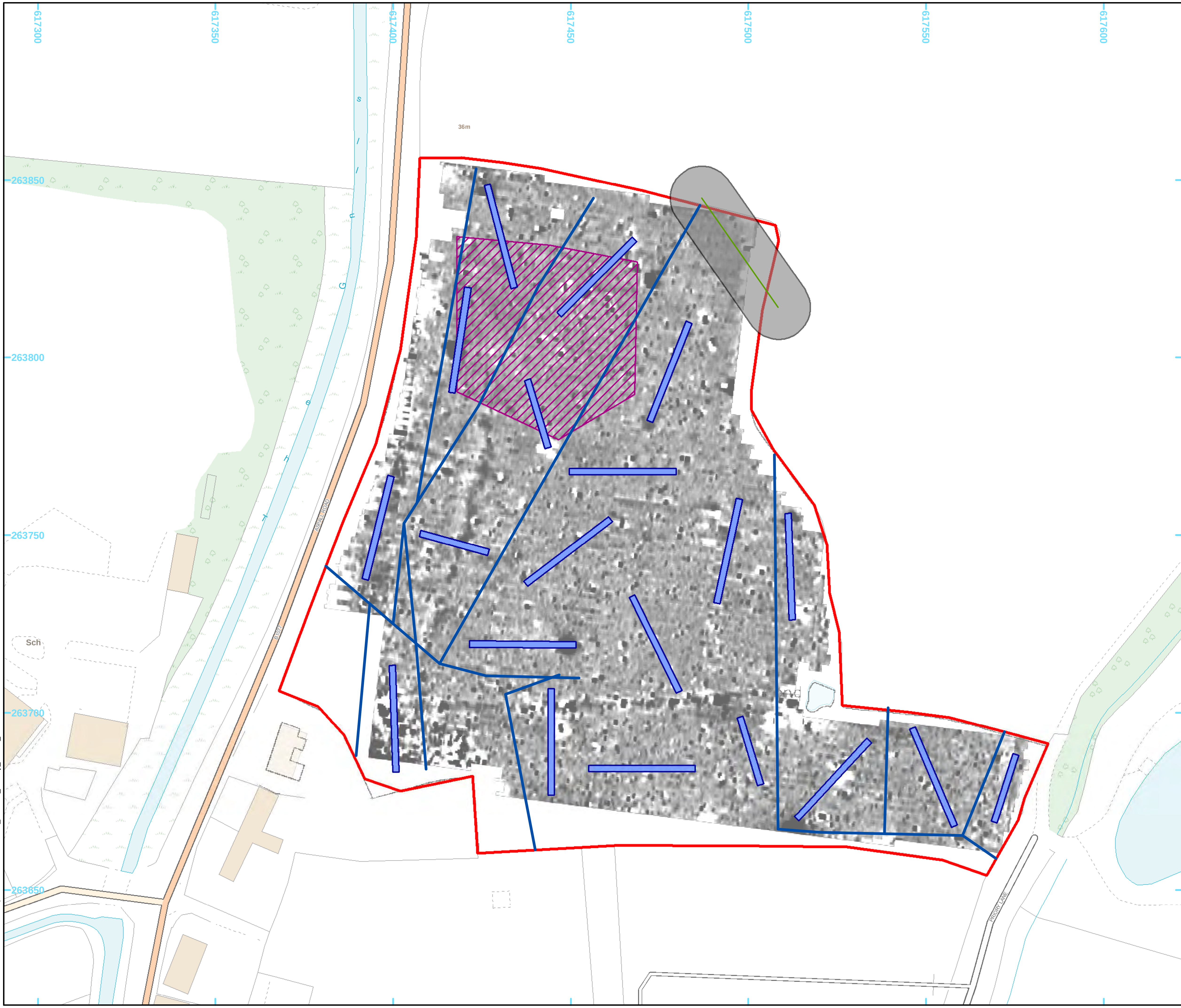

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Legend

- Proposed evaluation trench
- Overhead cable 9m buffer
- DBN 052
- Land drains

0 40m

Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
Suffolk	01449 900120

w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Aspall Road
Debenham, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing geophysical survey results (greyscale)

DRAWN BY	KW	PROJECT NO	SU0232	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	MS	DATE	11/02/2021	2
APPROVED BY	MS	SCALE@A3	1:1,000	

Document Path: P:\SU0232 Aspel, Debenham\GIS\CA_SU0232_Survey_master_WSI.mxd

Cotswold Archaeology

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