

Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Andrew Hawes

on behalf of:
Guy Nicholls (Tippers 'R' Us)

CA Project: SU0422
CA Report: SU0422_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-506968
HER Ref: BGL 064

August 2022



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Brightwell Hall Farm
Location:	Brightwell, Suffolk
NGR:	625339 243256
Type:	Trenched Evaluation
Date:	27th – 30th June 2022
Planning reference:	DC/22/0939/AGO
OASIS ID:	Cotswold2-506968
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Suffolk County Council (SCCAS) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	BGL 064

In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Brightwell Hall Farm. Eight trenches were excavated within the c.0.74 hectare proposed development area.

Deep stratigraphy was encountered with depths of up to 2.2m at the western side of the site. The layers comprised multiple humic peat deposits, colluvial layers and flood deposits from which no finds were recovered. A small 'burnt mound' spread was discovered towards the northern end of the site along with a small post-medieval ditch. A mix of modern, post-medieval and medieval material was recovered from the topsoil and within made ground deposits recorded on the eastern side of the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Brightwell Hall Farm (centred at NGR: 625339 243256; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Andrew Hawes, who were acting on behalf of Guy Nicholls (Tippers 'R' Us).
- 1.2. East Suffolk Council had granted outline planning permission for the construction of an agricultural reservoir (planning ref: DC/22/0939/AGO). Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) stated that any planning permission should be conditional on the completion of a programme of archaeological mitigation.
- 1.3. The initial scope of archaeological mitigation, a trenched evaluation, was detailed in a Brief prepared by SCCAS archaeologist Hannah Cutler in a document dated 26th April 2022. Subsequently, the evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Hannah Cutler.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment* (ClfA 2020b) the SCC Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2021), the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), 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* and *Project Planning Note 3* (Heritage England 2015a and 2015b respectively).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed agricultural lake site is approximately c.0.74 hectare in extent comprising parts of two pasture fields; both are bounded by the Mill River immediately to the south-west and open fields to the east, north and west. The site is relatively flat and straddles the 5m contour line with steep rises to the east and north-east.

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- 1.6. The surface geology is mapped as alluvium - clay, silt, sand and gravel. Superficial deposits formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period in a local environment previously dominated by rivers. These sedimentary deposits are fluvial in origin, detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained and form beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (if in a coastal setting) (BGS 2022). However, a recent geological trial-pitting of the site (Hawes Associates 2020) has shown that these deposits are overlain by a more recent humic peat type formation of between 0.8 and 1.7m in depth.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A formal HER search was conducted for the site (dated 07/06/2022) which revealed sixty-five HER monuments and events recorded within the 1km search area (Fig. 3).
- 2.2. The most numerous HER data entries relate to prehistoric crop marks, find scatters and find spots. There are also entries relating to the Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 2.3. The earliest evidence within the search is from the Neolithic period. Flint tools and struck flint debitage was recorded during fieldwalking at BGL 058, BGL 059, BGL 056 and BGL 032, including an axe head and arrowhead.
- 2.4. Bronze Age evidence is mostly in the form of crop marks with numerous circular ring ditches indicating barrows or round houses, for example NBN 001, NBN 002, NBN 003, NBN 004, NBN 005, NBN 006, NBN 022 and NBN 031. A Bronze Age metalwork scatter (NBN 039) was also recorded to the east of the proposed development area.
- 2.5. Iron Age activity is present in the form of crops marks (BGL 037 and BGL 038) and artifact scatters (BGL 027 and NBN 025) with undated crop marks NBN 027 and BLG 026 also likely to date to the Bronze Age or Iron Age periods.
- 2.6. Evaluation trenching to the north-west of the development (BGL 049) found Late Iron Age to Early Roman features and finds.
- 2.7. Roman evidence is not as well represented with just one finds scatter (BGL 052) recorded to the west of the site.

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- 2.8. Anglo-Saxon evidence is exclusively in the form of finds scatters such as NBN 024 and BGL 032 located to the north and east of the proposed development.
- 2.9. Later medieval and post-medieval evidence is also well represented in the area with medieval finds scatters such as NBN 045 and BGL 052. The church of John the Baptist (BGL 029) with medieval origins is also located to the north-west.
- 2.10. The HER monuments in the closest proximity to the site are post-medieval in date. The 17th to 18th century Brightwell Hall (BGL 028), which was demolished in the late 1800's, is located to the north with an associated farmstead (BGL 061). A heath and common grounds (BGL 063) was also located to the south-east and was shown on mapping in the 1800's.
- 2.11. In addition, the location of the site is such that it would have been attractive for occupation of all periods with the adjacent spring possibly a focus of activity, particularly in the prehistoric period.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. 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 SCCAS to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of any future 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 2021). A further objective of the project is to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.
- 3.2. The SCCAS Brief (Section 4.2) states the specific aims of the evaluation are to:
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

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- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and order of costs.

3.3. It was also stated that any significant archaeological remains identified would be put into their local and regional context with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Agenda (Medleycott 2011) and the more recent updated version (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>) along with reference to *Deposit Modelling and Archaeology; Guidance for Mapping Buried Deposits* (Historic England 2020).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight stepped trenches to reach the geological natural (Fig. 2):

- 5 no. 30m x 4.2m trenches;
- 1 no. 25m x 4.2m trench;
- 1 no. 21m x 4.2 trench;
- 1 no. 10m x 2m trench.

4.2. The trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the site. The below amendments were made due to constraints and the archaeological findings, all with agreement from SCCAS.

- Trench 4 was moved slightly north-east due to vegetation and trees.
- Trench 5 was moved south-west by 4m due to a buried water run off pipe.
- Trench 6 was shortened and only part excavated due to deep deposits and water inundation.
- An additional trench, Trench 8, measuring 10m in length and 2m in width was excavated to the west of Trench 5 to ascertain the extent of the burnt mound discovered in Trench 5.

4.3. All changes made to the trench layout were made with the approval of Hannah Cutler (SCCAS).

4.4. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Due to the deep alluvial and humic layers encountered, 4.2m width trenches were excavated to 1m in depth, with an further 2m wide component excavated in the centre of the wider trench to reach the geological horizon. 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, or the level in which archaeological features were first encountered.

- 4.5. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.6. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.7. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.8. CA will make arrangements with SCCAS for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020) and *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk, Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS 2022).
- 4.9. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B while the environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are presented in Section 7 and Appendix C.
- 5.2. The trenching revealed deep layers of humic organic peat like deposits along with alluvial and colluvial layers. The eastern trenches were generally shallower with differing deposits of made ground and colluvial layers. A ditch and a small, 12m diameter, 'burnt mound' deposit were recorded in Trenches 5 and 8.

Site sequence

- 5.3. The deep organic deposits and alluvial layers were mostly observed within the western trenches (Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 7). These deposits did however differ in character and depth within the trenches, probably representing a dynamic and changeable river edge environment which was likely mixed due to natural spring head upwellings.
- 5.4. The general sequence seen within the western trenches comprise a mixed soft mid grey brown humic topsoil containing post-medieval material and measuring up to 0.35m in depth. A less mixed soft dark brown layer of humic peat type deposit lay directly below the topsoil in all trenches measuring from 0.1 - 1m in thickness. Most trenches then displayed a second layer of dark brown black humic deposit, up to 0.8m in thickness that, in Trenches 6 and 7 was overlain by an upper alluvial yellow sand and white clay deposit measuring 0.1 - 0.2m thick. An additional thin layer of humic material was then present within some trenches before the basal layer. In most trenches the basal layer encountered comprised mixed yellow sand and white/blue clay mixed alluvial deposit which overlay the yellow sand and gravel geological natural.
- 5.5. The eastern trenches were generally shallower and more disturbed with modern to post-medieval made ground and colluvial deposits.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 4)

- 5.6. Trench 1 was located towards the northeast edge of the site and measured up to 1.4m in depth. Five layers were recorded, and the edge of the humic peat type deposit was observed. No cut features were revealed, and no finds were recovered.
- 5.7. A recent deposit of orange sand upcast 0100 measuring 0.4m thick was seen at the top of the sequence immediately below the turf. This was likely upcast generated during the formalisation the current active spring located next to the trench to the north.
- 5.8. Humic deposit 0101 lay below the upcast 0100, measuring 0.6m in thickness and extending only part way across the trench at its south-west end (Fig. 2). Two mixed layers of sand and gravel (0102) and humic sand and gravel (0103) were also only present at the south-west end of the trench, each measuring 0.2m in thickness.

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- 5.9. The basal light grey sand and gravel colluvial layer 0104 was present throughout the trench measuring up to 0.4m in thickness. Only deposits 0100 and 0104 were present at the north-east end of the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 4)

- 5.10. Trench 2, located on the eastern side of the site, differed from the other trenches, measuring up to 1.6m in depth with multiple modern and post-medieval layers of made ground likely filling a natural hollow within the field. These probably relate to the demolition of Brightwell Hall in the 1800's.

- 5.11. Layer 0200 was present at the top of the sequence, equating to layer 0100 with a large amount of rubble waste; it measured up to 0.6m in thickness. Layers 0201 and 0202 were mixed orange brown sand and dark brown humic material with white sand measuring 0.3 - 0.5m thick. A basal light grey colluvial sand 0203 was present throughout the trench measuring 0.1m thick. Post-medieval CBM and glass, Saxo-Norman, medieval and post-medieval pottery and bone was recovered from layer 0200 and post-medieval/ medieval pottery was recovered from layer 0202.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 5.12. Trench 3 was located at the southern end of the and measured 2m in depth. The trench contained the riverine sequence described in 5.4. No features were revealed.

- 5.13. Mixed humic topsoil 0300 (0.35m thick) overlay a dark brown humic peat like deposit 0301 (0.4 - 0.6m thick) which in turn overlaid a darker humic deposit 0302 (0.35 - 0.5m thick) and a basal alluvial white clay and grey sand deposit 0303 (0.25 - 0.5m thick.). A struck flint was recovered from layer 0301 which probably dates from the Neolithic to Bronze Age periods.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 5)

- 5.14. This trench was located central to the southern half of the site, measuring 2.2m in depth. It contained the riverine sequence described in 5.4 with an additional humic basal layer seen at the north-west end only. No features were present and a post-medieval Crotal bell (RA 1) was recovered from topsoil 0400.

- 5.15. Mixed humic topsoil 0400 (0.35m thick) overlay a dark brown humic peat like deposit 0401 (1m thick) which in turn overlaid a darker humic deposit 0402 (0.55m thick). Below the humic layers an intermittent white clay and yellow sand alluvial deposit 0403 (0.3m thick) was seen directly overlying the geological natural for most

of the trench, but covered a basal humic black and mixed white sand layer 0405 at the north-west end (0.5m thick).

Trenches 5 and 8 (Figs 2, 6 and 7)

- 5.16. Trench 5 was located toward the north-east end of the site. It measured up to 1.6m in depth and revealed a small 'burnt mound' spread with a later ditch cutting the mound. An additional trench (Trench 8) was excavated to ascertain the extent of the 'burnt mound' spread but was not excavated fully down to the geological natural.
- 5.17. Topsoil 0500 and 0800 measured 0.22 - 0.3m in depth. In Trench 5 this lay directly above a mixed humic sand deposit 0501 (0.2m thick) which is likely related to modern disturbance.
- 5.18. Below the topsoil in Trench 8 and below 0501 in Trench 5, a humic dark brown peat-type layer (0801 and 0502), similar to that seen the other trenches was recorded. It measured 0.52m in thickness in Trench 8 and up to 0.8m thick (north-west end only) in Trench 5.
- 5.19. The 'burnt mound' deposit 0503/0802 appeared to be located at the base of layers 0801/ 0502 and comprised moderately compact black charcoal rich humic silt with frequent heat-altered flints and stones. It measured 12m in diameter and c.0.2m thick. No cut features were seen associated with the spread although two pieces of probably later Bronze Age struck flint were recovered from 0503. A bulk soil sample (Sample 2) was taken from this deposit.
- 5.20. Below the 'burnt mound' deposit in Trench 8, an alluvial layer 0803 was recorded. It comprised a plastic white clay with yellow sand patches and measured up to 0.6m in thickness.
- 5.21. A lower humic layer 0804 and 0504 was present below the alluvial layer, measuring 0.3m in thickness in Trench 5, with a 0.2m thickness excavated in Trench 8.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 8)

- 5.22. Trench 6 was located on the west side of the site and measured 2.1m in depth. It contained the same riverine sequence described in section 5.4 with additional alluvial and humic layers present. The trench was not fully excavated due to rapid water inundation. No finds or features were identified; a bulk soil sample (Sample 1) was taken from layer 0604.

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- 5.23. Mixed humic topsoil 0600 (0.30m thick) overlay a thin dark brown humic peat like deposit 0601 (0.1m thick) which in turn overlay a white clay and sand alluvial layer 0602 (0.1m thick). Two layers of dark humic peat-like deposits were present below the alluvial layer, 0603 and 0604 (0.5m and 0.9m thick respectively) which, at the western end of the trench only, overlay an additional alluvial layer 0606 (0.2m thick).

Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 8)

- 5.24. Trench 7 was located at the northern end of the, measuring 2.1m in depth. The trench contained the riverine sequence described in section 5.4 and was similar to Trench 6.
- 5.25. Mixed humic topsoil 0700 (0.35m thick) overlay a thick dark brown humic peat-like deposit 0701 (1m thick) which in turn overlaid a mixed white clay and dark brown humic layer 0702 (0.2m thick) seen only at the north-western end of the trench. A single dark humic peat-like deposit was then present 0703 (0.45m thick) which overlay an alluvial layer 0704 (0.1m thick) present throughout the trench. Post-medieval tile and pottery was recovered from topsoil 0700.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. The finds assemblage is a small, but contains material of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date. The prehistoric period is represented by a few struck flints, the medieval finds consist of pottery sherds with the post-medieval period also represented by pottery sherds along with pieces of ceramic building material (CBM), a piece of a glass bottle and a metal crotal bell associated with livestock.
- 6.2. Many of the finds, medieval and post-medieval, were associated with a made ground deposit, 0200 in Trench 2. A 'burnt mound' deposit 0503 in Trench 5, produced two prehistoric worked flints, probably of later Bronze Age date.
- 6.3. All the finds have been cleaned and recorded in accordance with ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2021, Type 1 assemblage). Quantification was by count and weight by material type in each context. The finds have been briefly summarised with quantities and spot dates in Table 1 (Appendix B).

Pottery

Introduction

- 6.4. Nine sherds of pottery (193g), were recovered from three contexts located in two trenches: Trenches 2 and 7. Almost all the pottery comes from Trench 2 (8 sherds weighing 174g) and most of this comes from a single layer of made ground, context 0200 (7 sherds weighing 172g). Much of the pottery has some abrasion (apart from sherds of stoneware) and overall is in a fair condition.
- 6.5. While several broad vessel types could be recognised (jar, mug, jug) the dating of the pottery relies on the currency of the various fabrics. These are discussed with the pottery by period (below) and all the pottery is listed by fabric together with the currency of the individual fabrics in Table 2 (Appendix B).
- 6.6. The date range of the pottery making up the assemblage includes a sherd dating to the Saxo-Norman period of the 10th-11th century, later medieval pottery (12th/13th-14th century), late medieval transitional pottery (15th-16th century) and post-medieval pottery of which the latest piece dates to the period of the 17th-19th century.

Medieval pottery

- 6.7. The earliest pottery is a sherd from what appears to be a typical Thetford ware-type jar in a greyware fabric (THET) and current in the period of the 10th-11th century. There is also a moderately coarse, sandy sherd in a grey fabric that is probably Hollesley-type ware (HOLL2). Three medieval coarseware sherds (MCW), one of which has part of an applied thumbled strip, are not closely identified to a production source or named fabric group. It seems likely at least one of these, a relatively thin in a fine sand fabric that is partly oxidised, is probably also Hollesley-type ware. The other two have a silty or fine sand fabric with a few coarser sand grains, a grey fabric core and dark grey surfaces. All the pottery above comes from made ground in Trench 2 (context 0200).
- 6.8. A single glazed sherd of medieval or early post-medieval date comes from layer 0202 in Trench 2. The sandy fabric is oxidised orange and contains a moderate amount of white or milky quartz sand grains. This can be identified as Colchester-type ware (COLC) and dates to the period of the late 13th-mid 16th century (Cotter 2000, 107-180).

Late medieval and post-medieval pottery

- 6.9. One sherd of late medieval transitional ware (LMT) from the made ground deposit, 0200. This is quite abraded, and the exterior surfaces has been entirely removed. This fabric is current from the 15th-16th century.
- 6.10. Sherds of imported German stoneware were recovered from made ground 0200 in Trench 2 and from topsoil in Trench 7 (context 0700). That from layer 0200 is part of the frilled base of a mug from the Raeran/Aachen potteries (GSW3) and can be dated to the period of the late 15th-16th century. The other stoneware sherd is from the Westerwald potteries (GSW5) and dates to the period of the mid-17th-19th century. It is from the rim of a jug with an upright neck, almost certainly a baluster jug, decorated with bands of blue glaze.

Discussion

- 6.11. Only a small amount of pottery was recovered and almost all of this comes from one deposit of made ground in Trench 2 (context 0200). This deposit produced a very mixed, small group of pottery sherds of early medieval, medieval and post-medieval date.
- 6.12. Overall, the pottery is typical of assemblages from south Suffolk, with the medieval pottery including both relatively local Suffolk kiln products and material from the Colchester potteries in north Essex. A similar pattern can be seen among the large assemblage from Cedars Park, Stowmarket (Anderson 2006) which also includes Thetford-type wares. In the post-medieval period, imported German stoneware is also a relatively common pottery type and a common excavation find.
- 6.13. The absence of modern factory pottery, dating to after the late 18th century is noted and could indicate that the made ground in Trench 2 dates no later than the 18th century.

Ceramic building material

- 6.14. There are six pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) (2,634g). This consists of pieces from a flat thin roofing tile, almost certainly a peg tile, and pieces of brick.
- 6.15. There was one stratified piece (62g) of roofing tile recovered from the made ground deposit (context 0200) in Trench 2. This is in a fine-medium sand fabric (f-ms) with few or no significant other inclusions. There are also three unstratified pieces (368g) from topsoil (0700) in Trench 7.

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- 6.16. There are two pieces of brick, both unfrosted. One piece is a large part of a brick (1,267g) stratified in ditch 0805 (context 0806) in Trench 8. In effect, this is the trunk of a brick, both ends are missing, and the remaining part (much of the brick) is damaged and abraded. However, measurements of original size can still be made at 110mm width and 55mm thick. The fabric is fine sand with moderate-common very dark-red ferrous fragments (fsfe) and is orange in colour. The size and nature of the brick suggest a post-medieval date, c.late 17th-18th century.
- 6.17. An end of a brick (937g) was recovered as an unstratified piece from topsoil (0700) in Trench 7. This is in an orange coloured, fine-medium sand fabric with dark red ferrous inclusion (f-msfe) and has dimensions of 120mm x 60mm. It can be broadly dated as post-medieval, c.16/17-18 century and probably dates toward the end of the range.

Glass (bottle glass)

- 6.18. The part of the neck with a complete rim of a post-medieval glass wine bottle (53g) was recovered from a layer of made ground located in Trench 2 (0200). The glass is medium-dark green in colour and the surfaces are iridescent and flaking from devitrification. The applied glass string is set well below the rim. The position of the string and the colour of the glass and the devitrification of the surfaces indicate a late 17th or early 18th century date (Andrews 2006, 80).

Registered artefacts

- 6.19. A single metal object (Ra 1), a copper alloy crotal (animal) bell of 18th century date was recovered from topsoil layer 0400 in Trench 4.
- 6.20. The artefact has been catalogued directly onto an MS Access database and recorded in accordance with guidelines set out in the ClfA Toolkit for Specialist Recording (ClfA 2021). It has been examined with the assistance of low powered magnification but without the assistance of radiography. The artefact has been fully recorded to archive standards and is described below.
- 6.21. The overall condition of the object is generally fair, displaying evidence of wear and corrosion consistent with spending much time in the bio-turbated topsoil. It has been packed in a perforated bag and stored in an airtight box with silica gel.

Post-medieval

- 6.22. (Ra1) context 0400 Trench 4. Crotal bell of spherical form (weight 53.9g) with a rectangular suspension loop which retains its internal iron pea. It has a raised moulded midrib and is decorated with incised curvilinear motifs on the lower half of the sound-chamber. This decoration surrounds the founders' mark present on opposing sides of the basal slit, though only one initial (**G**) survives due to surface corrosion/loss. It is impossible to state with certainty who this might be, though it is known that the Aldbourne foundry of William Gwynn (active c.1770-1813) was one of the major crotal bell producers during the late 18th and early 19th century (Blunt 2005).

Discussion

- 6.23. This solitary metal find adds practically nothing to wider understanding of the site, aside from implying probable use of the land for pastoral grazing or an association with droving during the 18th century. It probably entered the archaeological record as a casual loss.

Lithics

- 6.24. Three struck flints (138g) were recovered by hand excavation from two deposits: a humic layer 0301 in Trench 3 and 'burnt mound' deposit 0503 located in Trenches 5 and 8. The flints consist of one flake and two shatter pieces.
- 6.25. The flint is struck from blue black glassy flint (Shepherd 1972) and shows no patination or edge damage.
- 6.26. A single flint flake from layer 0301 is probably the earliest of the three as typologically it is likely to be Neolithic. Its condition suggests it is unlikely to be residual in this context.
- 6.27. Two shatter pieces recovered from 'burnt mound' deposit 0503 are both crude with single small flakes removed. These simple struck flints most likely dated to the period of the later Bronze Age but, given the very limited size of the assemblage a broad, more general date as Bronze Age is probably to be preferred (Humphrey 2007).
- 6.28. The small number of flints recovered indicates that limited knapping was taking place in the area during the prehistoric period, probably in both the Neolithic and the later Bronze Age. In relation to the 'burnt mound', that only two pieces of worked

flint were recovered is not unusual. There is often only a low number of finds associated with these deposits and this matches the low finds recovery rate commonly seen with other similar features.

Summary

- 6.29. The finds assemblage recovered is small. The earliest finds are three pieces of prehistoric stuck flint. One from Trench 3 is probably Neolithic, the other two from a 'burnt mound' deposit in Trenches 5 and 8 are probably later Bronze Age. These demonstrate some activity in the prehistoric period and help confirm a prehistoric (Bronze Age) date for the 'burnt mound' deposit that results from specific activity on the site during that period involving the heating of water and probably communal in nature.
- 6.30. Most of the remaining finds come from a layer of made ground 0200, located in Trench 2 which contained various finds (pottery, glass bottle, ceramic building material, animal bone) dating to the medieval and post-medieval period. The medieval pottery finds are almost exclusively from this layer and consist of a single sherd dated to the 10th-11th century, but most of the few sherds recovered are dated to the later medieval period of the 13th-14th century. The same is true of the post-medieval finds, with almost all associated with this layer of made ground.
- 6.31. Although the nature of the made ground deposit is not clear to the author, given that most of the finds from the site are associated with it and that they are of a mixed date, it seems possible or even probable that this layer could represent a dump of soil brought onto the site from elsewhere.
- 6.32. The remaining few medieval and post-medieval finds would appear to relate to some limited activity here, but this is probably agricultural rather than any more intensive or archaeologically significant activity and may relate to manuring of the land from settlement based middens, or even casual loss.
- 6.33. A single metal find of a crotal bell (Ra1), a form of bell specifically associated with livestock keeping but which might possibly also be associated with droving through the area, suggests pasture here. This might explain the otherwise low numbers of medieval and post-medieval finds if the land were not actively cultivated.

-
- 6.34. It is noted that no finds that can be dated later than the late 18th or early 19th century are present among the finds from the layer of made ground in Trench 2 nor from any of the trenches located on the rest of the site.

Archaeological significance of the finds

- 6.35. The most significant of the finds is incidental to this finds report and is that of the prehistoric 'burnt mound' in Trenches 5 and 8 of which two flints associated with it indicate is likely to be Bronze Age. This demonstrates a specific focus of activity here during that period, although not necessarily of any significant duration.
- 6.36. The finds of medieval and post-medieval date are limited, and mostly come from a particular area of made ground located in Trench 2. It is likely that this soil, and the finds within it, may have been imported onto the site from elsewhere possibly generated by a specific area of activity and introduced as a single event.
- 6.37. The very low incidence of finds, especially in relation to trenches other than that containing the made ground deposit, suggests possible agricultural use. A find of a crozier of late post-medieval bell might indicate the area was pasture. Given no finds that can be dated later than the late 18th or early 19th century this might also reflect pasture into recent times and given the low numbers of finds from earlier periods might also reflect earlier usage.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1. The environmental finds reported on in this report consist of pieces of domestic animal bone recovered from two contexts, one in Trench 2, the other in Trench 7.

Two bulk soil samples taken from peat layers in Trench 5 (context 0503) - Sample 2, and Trench 6 (context 0604). The recovery of identifiable waterlogged or charred plant remains were limited, however, the remains examined do suggest areas of damp grassland, possible vegetative river or water edge and tree growth of species more tolerant to damp conditions within the vicinity. No remains were recovered that could provide landscape information during the period of activity associated with the 'burnt mound' structure.

Animal bone

- 7.2. There are two pieces of animal bone (159g). One is a complete sheep tibia (41g) recently broken into two joining parts from the made ground deposit (0200) in

Trench 2. The complete bone is 190mm in length. The surface has patchy brown staining all over. There are several horizontal, parallel, small nicks and shallow grooves on one area mid shaft. It is in fair condition, but surfaces are stained.

7.3. The other is a piece of bone (118g) and comes from topsoil (0700) in Trench 7. This is a mid-section from the long bone of a large mammal, almost certainly cattle. It has been shattered at both ends by a heavy blow and was probably broken in this way for marrow extraction. There is a longitudinal split along the bone extending much of the way along the length. The surface is stained a dark medium brown.

7.4. The bone recovered is effectively undated and one piece is essentially unstratified in topsoil. The complete sheep tibia from made ground (0200) was associated with pottery of medieval and post-medieval date with no finds certainly dated later than the late 18th century. Given its fair condition and survival in the soil deposit seems likely that this bone is of post-medieval date.

Plant macrofossils

7.5. Two bulk samples (20 litres) were taken from humic rich soils identified during the evaluation. A 1 litre subsample was processed from these samples in order to assess the quality of preservation of any plant remains present, and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

7.6. The sub-samples were processed using standard wet sieving for waterlogged remains (CA Technical Manual No.2) and the material was collected in 10mm, 5mm, 2mm, 1mm, 0.5mm and 300µm sieves. This material was then scanned using a binocular microscope at x10 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or artefacts are noted below. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles (Stace 1995).

Trench 5: layers 0503 (Sample 2)

7.7. Layer 0503 (Sample 2), within Trench 5, was identified as a 'burnt mound' deposit and described as black, charcoal rich humic soil with frequent heat-altered flint and stone. Identifiable waterlogged plant remains were absent from this deposit, although small indeterminate rootlet fragments were common; these may represent later vegetation material from the period of peat accumulation represented by overlying deposit 0501. Wood charcoal fragments were frequent within layer 0503 and were generally less than 2mm, and therefore unsuitable for species identification or radiocarbon dating.

-
- 7.8. Heat-altered (fire-cracked) flint fragments were common within this sample representing material derived from deposits that accumulated during the use and development of the 'burnt mound' structure. A total of 500g of fire-cracked flint was recovered from the 1 litre (1,000g) sub-sample processed from this deposit.

Trench 6: layer 0604 (Sample 1)

- 7.9. Layer 0604 (Sample 1) was identified as a dark brown to black, humic rich peat-like soil on site. Waterlogged plant macrofossils were frequent within this sample. Twig fragments were common within the 10mm fraction some of which are possibly from alder or birch (*Alnus/Betula* sp.). A small number of buds were observed within the 2mm fraction and may represent alder/birch and possibly ash (*Oleaceae* sp.).
- 7.10. A low number of sedge family (*Carex* sp.) urticles were recorded within the 1mm and the 0.5mm fractions, indicative of damper areas of ground, possibly wet grassland or vegetative growth at the side of a body of water or a river edge. A single grass seed, possibly of fescue/meadow-grass (*Festuca/Poa* sp.) may suggest grasslands in the near vicinity.
- 7.11. The waterlogged remains recovered from this sample suggest a broadly open landscape, areas of damp grassland, with some trees more tolerant of damp or waterlogged conditions within the vicinity. Insect and beetle fragments were rare within this sample however, and again may suggest the presence of both dry ground and wetter areas within the vicinity.

Conclusions

- 7.12. The material examined from these samples is consistent with a wet, or waterlogged environment along the river edge. Areas of wet grassland may also be present within the area, although vegetation cover appears to be absent from the immediate vicinity of Trench 5 during the period of activity associated with the 'burnt mound' deposits.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation discovered prehistoric evidence in the form of a small 'burnt mound' and later mixed medieval and post-medieval made ground deposit.
- 8.2. The evaluated area showed clear signs of spring head creation, with a single active spring still located within the area. Together with the formation of the springs,

intermittent flood events and movements of the spring heads have resulted in most of the peat-type deposits have become mixed within the area.

- 8.3. The site sequence gives relative dating on the recorded deposits. The 'burnt mound' was created on top of the latest clay flood deposit indicating the peat-type layers and earlier flood deposits pre-date the mound which, itself, is probably later Bronze Age in date. This makes it likely that the lower peat and lower flood events date between the Mesolithic to earlier Bronze Age periods.
- 8.4. The differential deposits recorded in Trenches 1 and 2 are mainly due to the topography on the site. The layers seen in Trenches 1 and 2 are near the rising ground (to the north-east) where colluvium has formed, and also post-medieval dumps are present.
- 8.5. The mixed medieval and post-medieval material recovered from the topsoil and the dump deposit in Trench 2 may all be linked to the demolition of Brightwell Hall. The presence of the earlier medieval pottery within the post-medieval finds assemblage may also show that some earlier medieval activity was present near to the location of the hall which has become mixed into the demolition waste.

Bronze Age (2400 BC–700 BC)

- 8.6. A single struck flint which may be Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was recovered from the upper peat-like formations in Trench 3 (0301) and a later Bronze Age 'burnt mound' containing two struck flints was recorded in Trenches 5 and 8. The 'burnt mound' was relatively small and the heat-altered deposits were thin making it likely that this deposit was formed during a single localised event. This activity shows that this area was also utilised in the prehistoric period and forms part of a wider prehistoric landscape around Brightwell.

Medieval (1066–1539) and post-medieval (1540–1800)

- 8.7. The medieval evidence from the site is all residual, being found alongside later, post-medieval material. However, this material may suggest that the post-medieval Brightwell Hall occupied a site where earlier activity had occurred.
- 8.8. The post-medieval finds from the site probably relate to the demolition of Brightwell Hall, although the small ditch containing post-medieval brick seen cutting the 'burnt mound' deposits in Trench 8 suggest that this wet area was managed and utilised during this period, likely for grazing.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Michael Green who also wrote this report. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Michael Green, Anna West, Sue Anderson, Alex Bliss and Stephen Benfield respectively. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled by Michael Green and prepared for deposition by Zoe Emery. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Boulter who also edited the report.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Feature Type	Trench	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under
100		1	Layer	Made ground, orange sand		30	4.2	0.4	101	
101		1	Layer	Dark brown peat		30	4.2	0.6	102	100
102		1	Layer	Orange and grey sand and gravel, SW end only		30	4.2	0.2	103	101
103		1	Layer	Mixed peat and colluvium, orange and grey sand and gravel and peat		30	4.2	0.2	104	102
104		1	Layer	Colluvium, light grey sand and gravel		30	4.2	0.4	105	103
105		1	Layer	Natural, yellow, and orange sand and gravel		30	4.2			104
200		2	Layer	Made ground/dump, Modern and post-med orange sand, brown sand and peat with tile, glass and CBM.		30	4.2	0.6	201	
201		2	Layer	Made ground, orange brown sand		30	4.2	0.4	202	200
202		2	Layer	Dark brown peat and white sand		30	4.2	0.5	203	201
203		2	Layer	Mixed colluvium, light grey sand		30	4.2	0.1	204	202
204		2	Layer	Natural, yellow, and white sand						203
300		3	Layer	Topsoil, mid grey-brown soft peat		30	4.2	0.35	301	
301		3	Layer	Dark brown peat		30	4.2	0.6	302	300
302		3	Layer	Black peat		30	4.2	0.5	303	301
303		3	Layer	Flood, white clay, and grey sand		30	4.2	0.5	304	302
304		3	Layer	Natural, yellow sand and gravel		30	4.2			303
400		4	Layer	Topsoil, mid grey brown soft peat		30	4.2	0.35	401	
401		4	Layer	Dark brown peat		30	4.2	1	402	400
402		4	Layer	Dark brown peat with wood		30	4.2	0.55	403	401
403		4	Layer	Flood, white clay, and yellow sand		30	4.2	0.3	404, 405	402
404		4	Layer	Natural, patchy yellow sand		30	4.2			403, 405, 403
405		4	Layer	Mixed black peat and white sand only in NW end			4.2	0.5	404	403
500		5	Layer	Topsoil, mid grey-brown sandy peat		30	4.2	0.3	501	
501		5	Layer	Mixed sand silt, and peat		30	4.2	0.2	502	500
502		5	Layer	Dark peat		30	4.2	0.8	503	501
503		5	Layer	dark brown black compact silty peat with very frequent heat-altered burnt flint and stone, and occasional white clay patch.	Burnt mound deposit	12	12	0.2m	504	502
504		5	Layer	White sand and peat		30	4.2	0.3	505	503
505		5	Layer	Natural, yellow sand		30	4.2			504
600		6	Layer	Topsoil, mid grey-brown soft peat		30	4.2	0.3	601	
601		6	Layer	Dark brown peat		30	4.2	0.1	602	600

Context Number	Feature Type	Trench	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under
602		6	Layer	Flood, white sandy clay		30	4.2	0.1	603	601
603		6	Layer	Dark brown peat		30	4.2	0.5	604	602
604		6	Layer	Dark black peat		30	4.2	0.9	605, 606	603
605		6	Layer	Natural, yellow sand		30	4.2			604, 606
606		6	Layer	Flood, mixed yellow and white clay. West end only			4.2	0.2	605	604
700		7	Layer	Topsoil, mid grey-brown soft peat		30m	4.2	0.35	701	
701		7	Layer	Thick top peat layer, black peat		30	4.2	1	702	700
702		7	Layer	Peat with occasional patches of white clay		30	4.2	0.2	703	701
703		7	Layer	Black peat		30m	4.2	0.2	704	702
704		7	Layer	Mixed yellow sand and white clay		30	4.2	0.1	705	703
705		7	Layer	Natural, yellow sand		30	4.2			704
800		8	Layer	Topsoil, mixed peat		10	2	0.22	801, 806	
801		8	Layer	Dark brown peat		10	2	0.52	802	800, 805
802		8	Layer	Dark brown black compact silty peat, v. frequent heat-altered flint and stone, occ. white clay patches.	Burnt mound deposit	12	12	0.2	803	801
803		8	Layer	Flood, white sandy clay		10	2	0.6	804	802
804		8	Layer	Black lower peat		10	2	0.2	804	803
805	Ditch	8	Cut	Linear ditch aligned N-S with moderately concaved sides and a flat base	Cut of post med ditch, cutting burnt mound and peat layer 801	2m	1.1	0.45	801, 803	806
806	Ditch	8	Fill	Mid orange sand with no inclusions	Fill of post-med ditch cutting burnt mound and peat layer	2	1.1	0.45	805	800

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1. Finds concordance

Trench	Context	Sample/ RA	Feature/ layer	Material/ find type	Description and fabrics list	Ct.	Wt.	Finds spot date
2	0200		Made ground	Pottery	Medieval THET	1	19	Post medieval c. 17-18C (Residual medieval)
					HOLL2	1	14	
					MCW	3	22	
					LMT	1	39	
				Post-medieval GSW3	1	78		
CBM	Roofing tile (peg tile) (f-ms)	1	62					
Animal bone	Sheep tibia	1	41					
	0202		Soil layer	Pottery	Medieval COLC	1	2	Medieval/post medieval c L13-M16C
3	0301		Peat layer	Worked flint	large thick tertiary core rejuvenation flake, hard hammer struck, no patination, no edge damage, likely of Neolithic date	1	51	Neolithic
4	0400	Ra1	topsoil	metal	Crotal bell (copper alloy)	1	54	Post-medieval (c. 18-E19C?)
5	0503		Burnt Mound deposit	Worked flint	Thick irregular shatter pieces with single flakes removed, very crude, no patination, no edge damage	2	88	Bronze Age/ later bronze Age
7	0700		topsoil	Pottery	Post-medieval GSW5	1	19	Post-medieval c. 17-19C
				CBM	Roofing tile/ peg tile (fscp, f-ms)	3	368	
					Brick (f-msfe)	1	937	
				Animal bone	Cattle	1	118	
8	0806		Ditch 0805	CBM	Brick (fsfe)	1	1267	Post-medieval (c. L17-18C?)

Table 2 Pottery fabrics and quantity of pottery by fabric

Code	Fabric	Ct	Wt	EVE	Fabric date
THET	Thetford-type ware (Dallas 1984)	1	19	0.15	10th-11th C
HOLL2	Hollesley-type ware (Anderson 2016)	1	14		L13-14C
COLC	Colchester-type ware (Cotter 2000, Fabric 21)	1	2		L13-M16C
MCW	Medieval coarsewares (General) - possibly Hollesley-type ware	3	22		c. 12/13-14C
LMT	Late medieval transitional wares (Jennings 1981)	1	39		15-16C
GSW3	Raeran/Aachen Stoneware (Jennings 1981)	1	78		L15-16C
GSW5	Westerwald stoneware (Jennings 1981)	1	19	0.10	17-19C
<i>Totals</i>		9	193	0.25	

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: contents of sample fractions

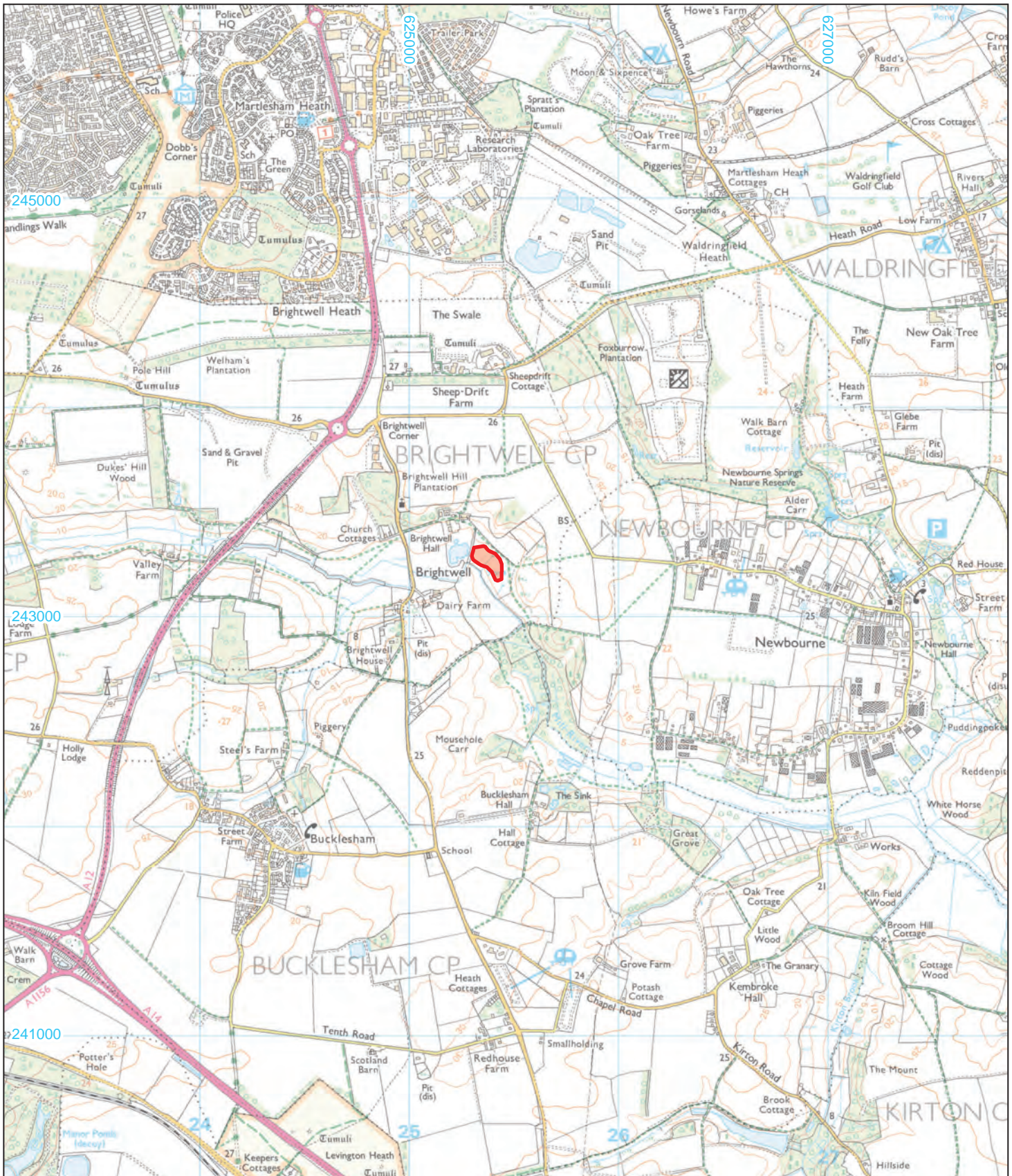
Sample no.		1						2			
Context no.		604						503			
Fraction (mm)		10	5	2	1	0.5	0.3	2	1	0.5	0.3
Scientific names	Common names										
Waterlogged plant material											
cf. Alnus/Betula sp. (twig/root fragments)	alder/birch	xx									
Indeterminate (twig/root fragments)			xx	xx							
cf. Alnus/Betula sp. (buds)	alder/birch			#							
cf. Oleaceae sp. (buds)	ash			#							
Carex sp. (urtilce)	sedges				#	#					
Poaceae (floret) cf. Festuca/Poa sp.	fescue/meadow grass					#					
Poaceae leaf fragments	grass family		#	x	xx	xx	xx				
Indeterminate rootlet fragments		xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	xx	xx	xxx	xxx
Charred plant remains											
Charcoal 0-5mm								xx	xx		x
Other remains											
Beetle/insect frags					#	#					
Fire-cracked flint								xxx	xxx	xxx	
Sample volume (litres)		1						1			
Flot sorted %		75%						75%			

Key: # 1-10 items x – rare, xx – frequent, xxx - common

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID (UID)	cotswold2-506968
Project Name	Evaluation at Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell
Site name	Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	SU0422
Planning Id	DC/22/0939
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Dates	27-Jun-2022 - 30-Jun-2022
Location	Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell NGR : TM 25339 43256 LL : 52.0418761765551, 1.28440104755734 12 Fig : 625339,243256
Administrative Areas	Country :England County : Suffolk District : East Suffolk Parish : Brightwell
Project Methodology	The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight stepped trenches to reach the geological natural. Due to deep alluvial and humic layers 4.2m width trenches were excavated to 1m in depth with an additional central 2m width trench excavated in the center of the wider trench to reach the geological horizon. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, or the level in which archaeological features were first encountered.
Project Results	In June 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Brightwell Hall Farm. Eight trenches were excavated within the c.0.74 hectare proposed development area. Deep stratigraphy was encountered with depths of up to 2.2m at the western side of the site. The layers comprised multiple humic peat deposits, colluvial layers and flood deposits from which no finds were recovered. A small 'burnt mound' spread was discovered towards the northern end of the site along with a small post-medieval ditch. A mix of modern, post-medieval and medieval material was recovered from the topsoil and within made ground deposits recorded on the eastern side of the site.

Keywords	Burnt Mound - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Andrew Hawes
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Green
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - BGL064
Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;



 Site boundary



Andover 01264 347630
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 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	SU0422	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/07/2022	1
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Deposit



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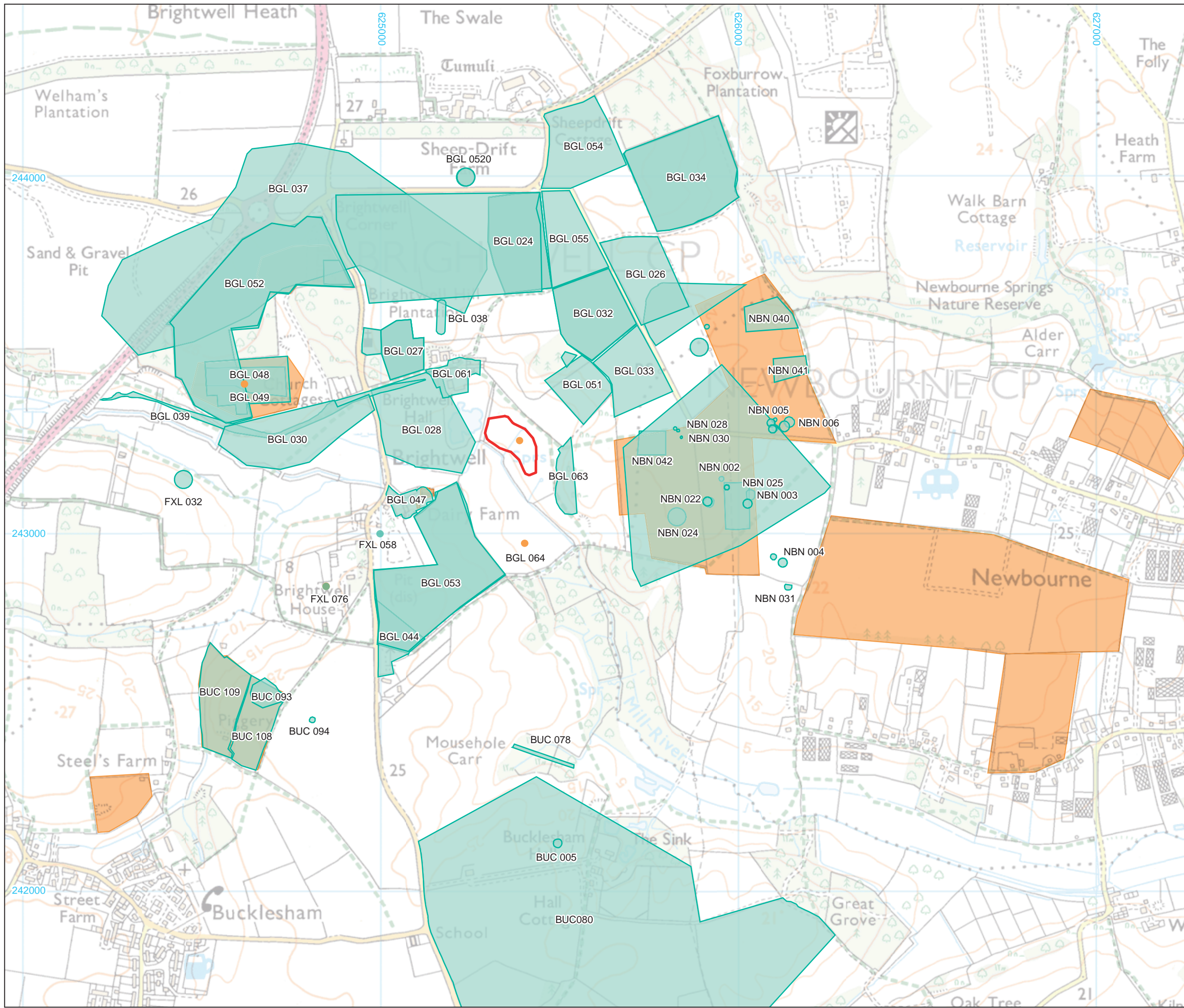
Cotswold Archaeology

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PROJECT TITLE
 Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	SU0422	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/07/2022	2
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE@A3	1:1000	



 Site boundary

HER Data

 HER Monument

 HER event



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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
HER data

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	SU0422	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/07/2022	3
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE	A3 1:10,000	



Trench 1, looking north-east (1m scale)



Trench 2, looking north (1m scale)



Trench 1, looking north-west (1m scale)



Trench 2, looking east (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 1 and 2: photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	SU0422	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/07/2022	4
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE@A3	NA	



Trench 3, looking north-east (1m scale)



Trench 4, looking south-east (1m scale)



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scale)



Trench 4, looking south-east (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
 Trenches 3 and 4: photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	SU0422	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/07/2022	5
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE	@A3 NA	



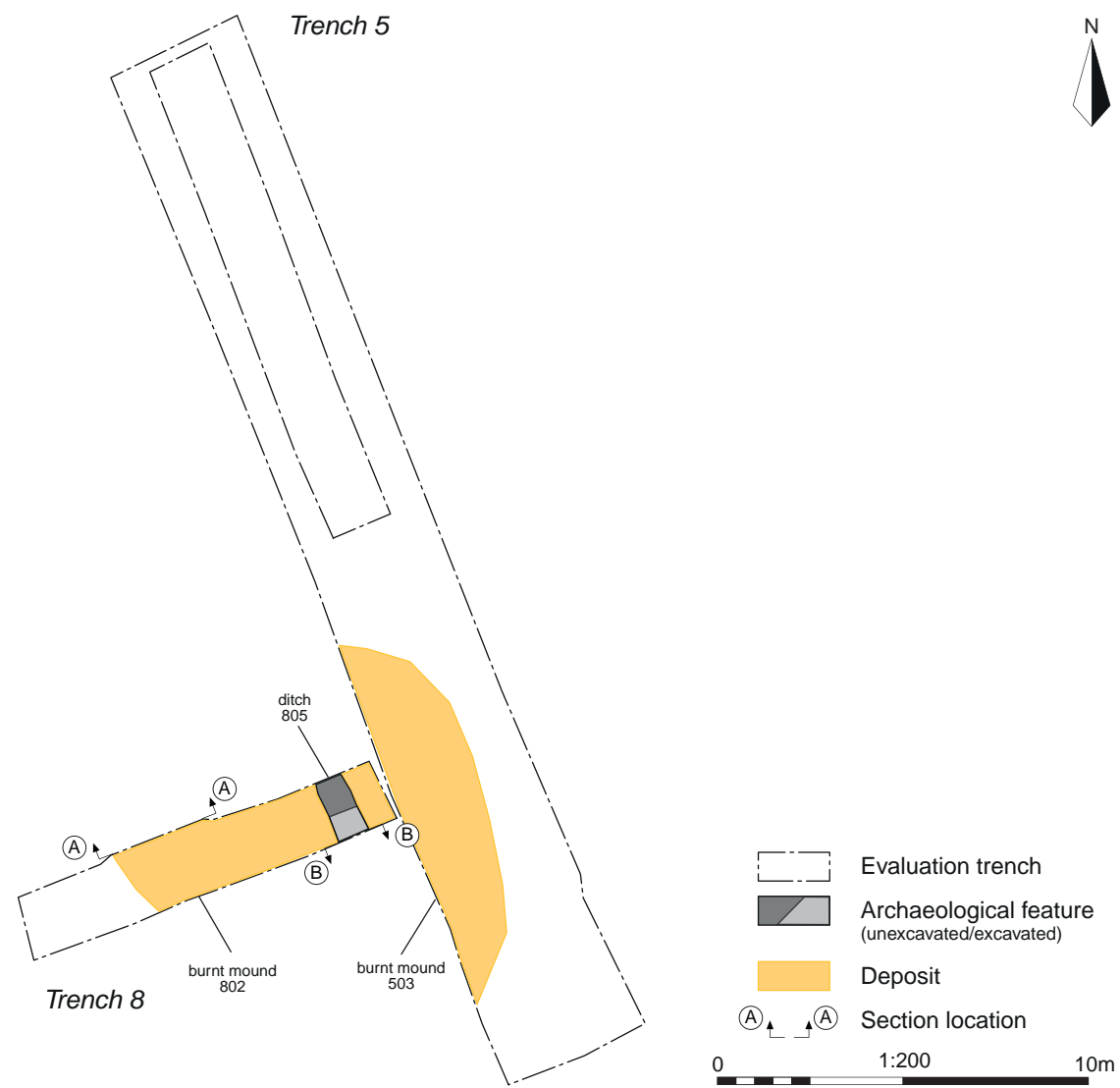
Trench 5, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 8, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trenches 5 and 8, looking north-west (1m scales)

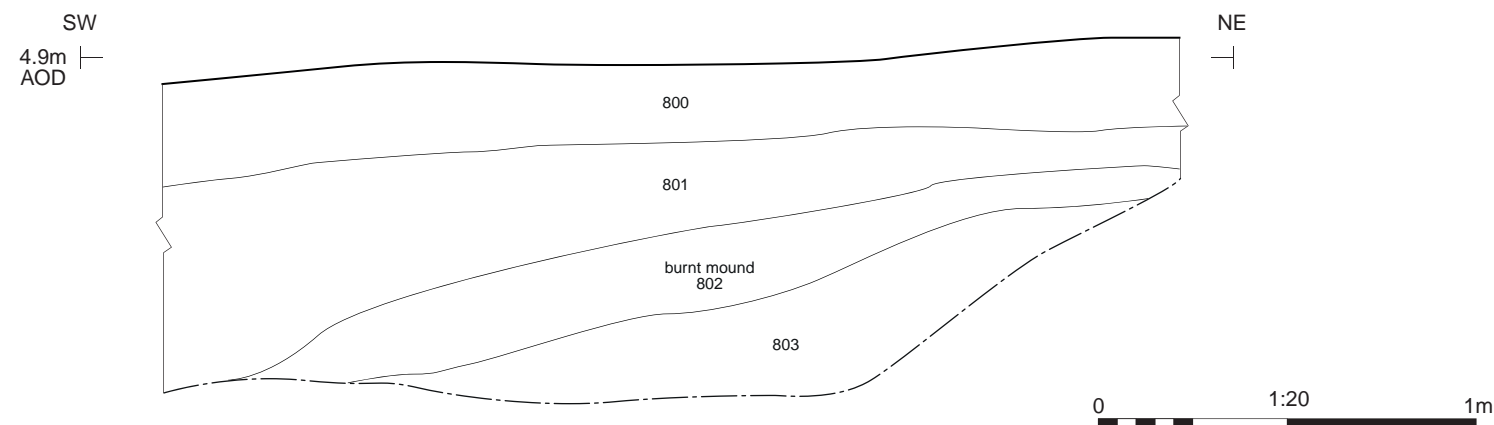


Trench 8, looking north-east (1m scales)

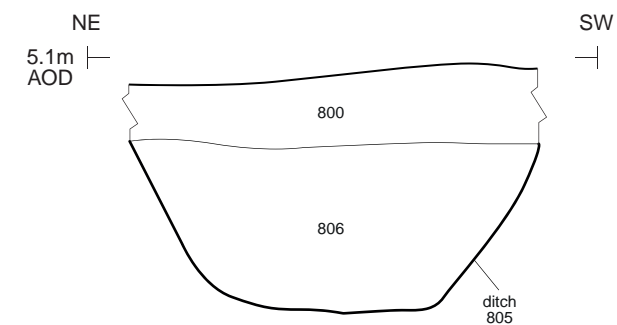


Ditch 805, looking south-east (1m scale)

Section AA



Section BB





Trench 6, looking east (1m scale)



Trench 7, looking north-east (1m scale)



Trench 6, looking north (1m scale)



Trench 7, looking north-west (1m scale)


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PROJECT TITLE
Brightwell Hall Farm, Brightwell, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Trenches 6 and 7: photographs

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	SU0422	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	06/07/2022	8
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE	@A3 NA	

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