Lawn Farm, Wetherden, Suffolk

Archaeological Monitoring

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LAWN FARM, WETHERDEN, SUFFOLK:

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HER site code: WDN 15

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Summary

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook the archaeological monitoring of works in preparation for future gravel and sand extraction at Lawn Farm located to the south-west of the village of Wetherden, Suffolk between 15th May and 24th May 2013. The monitoring revealed land use in the form of field boundaries and small pits most likely dating to the prehistoric period. Remnants of a large controlled rabbit warren were also exposed possibly associated with the medieval period.

INTRODUCTION

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook the archaeological monitoring of works in preparation of the development area at Lawn Farm near Wetherden Suffolk for gravel and sand extraction between 15th May and 24th May 2013. The monitoring was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of the client S Walsh and Sons, with the aim of establishing and recording the presence, date, condition and significance of any archaeological remains. The monitoring was carried out in accordance with specification produced by the CAU (Gibson 2013). The site code is WDN 15, and planning reference 0141/09.

Location and Topography

The Lawn Farm site is situated on an underlying solid geology of chalk (Chatwin 1954). The surface geology is a comprised of sands and gravels resulting from glacial outwash and ancient river deposits (Wymer 1999). The topsoil on the site is formed from loose mid-brown coarse sandy silt containing frequent small flints. A thin subsoil had been formed from the mixing of the natural and the topsoil by ploughing (Dymond & Martin 1999).

The proposed development area (DA) is centred upon TL 99341-62615 Grid Reference TL 997 624 and a height of 65-71m OD.

Archaeological and Historical Background

Within the area of the disused quarry and the immediate vicinity of the DA (proposed development area) limited archaeological material has been found. In 1956 Neolithic flint flakes were recovered from a 'new' gravel pit (SHER WDN 002) in the south east part of the site. Investigations of the eastern part of the site during July 1959 by Basil Brown recovered Roman ceramic material, a decorated bronze strip and worked flints, further investigation later in the year uncovered "Belgic pottery", two hearths and a ditch (SHER EWL 004). In 2008 NAU Archaeology conducted an archaeological evaluation of the PDA revealing three small shallow pits containing charcoal-rich fills, a shallow burnt patch on the surface of the gravel, a gully, a shallow ditch and a possible post-hole. One of the shallow pits contained prehistoric, probably Iron Age, pottery and the fill of the possible post-hole contained a moderate amount of burnt flint (Crawley 2008).

The Franchise Bank, a boundary and track traversed the site in an approximate north east to south west direction was marked on a 16th C. map and notated as 'The old ditch' divided the Franchise of St Edmund from the Geldable (SHER EWL 015). It was also known as the Procession Way, dividing the parishes of Elmswell and Wetherden. The track is probably medieval or earlier, at its southern end it joins a possible Roman road (SHER WPT misc).

Several references are noted suggesting the use of the site during the 16th C. as part of a forty acre warren that had fallen out of use by the 18th C. (Crawley 2008). The Suffolk Records has an undated late sixteenth century map of 'An Estate in Elmswell, Wetherden and Woolpit' (ref. HD417/13), the map is 'apparently a late copy of a pre-reformation map'. The map shows an area roughly corresponding to the site with an inscription in Latin and Middle English, translated as '*Free Warren of the Lord Abbot called Le Connyger containing 40 acres lying in Elmyswell*'(Josephs 2008). To the south-east of the quarry site a 16th-century map depicts a boundary and track labelled

as ‘an ancient ditch dividing grass-field from Woolpit Heath’ (SHER WPT 028). The features may represent a warren boundary bank associated with the former site of the medieval Warrener’s Lodge to the south-east of the quarry site (SHER EWL 015). To the south of the PDA the site of a former windmill is named Warren Windmill on the 1958 Ordnance Survey map (SHER WDN009). The naming of the lane to the west of the PDA as Warren Lane would also appear to reference the presence of a warren in the vicinity.

More recent archaeological evaluations 2002(Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report 02/118) and 2008 (Crawley 2008) have noted that the site has been subject to extensive disturbance as a result of activity related to the quarry, during the period of the current monitoring verbal conformation of extensive exploratory test pitting by JCB’s was given by local contractors who had been employed at the quarry and had spent time ‘testing’ the area outside of the then quarry boundary for suitable areas for gravel extraction.

Methodology

The objective of the archaeological monitoring was to determine the presence or absence and character of any surviving archaeology within the area of works. Initial stripping of the proposed Haul road and area for the Plant Yard were conducted using a 360 machine. Any archaeological features were to be excavated by a hand. All work in archaeologically sensitive areas was carried out under archaeological supervision by CAU staff. Any potential archaeological features were investigated and treated in concordance with the specifications drawn up by the CAU (Gibson 2013). The recording was carried out following the CAU modified MoLAS system (Spence 1990) of archaeological site recording. All work was carried out in accordance with statutory Health and Safety legislation and with the recommendations of SCAUM (Allen & Holt 2002).

RESULTS

The works monitored consisted of the top and sub soil stripping in preparation for the creation of a haul road following the west and northern boundary of the PDA and a large open area designated for use as plant yard, aligned east-west along the southern edge of the PDA. During the monitoring of the haul road area 18 potential archaeological features (6 linear and 10 discrete features) were investigated and recorded. In total an area of approximately 0.9 hectares was monitored.

Two small pits (**f.no’s 2 and 3**) where investigated along the western segment of the haul road, both contained deposits of burnt material but no evidence for in-situ burning or dateable material was recovered. Within the NW corner of the PDA along the haul road a cluster of pits and two linear features were investigated. The two parallel linear features (**f.no’s 5 and 6**) had similar profiles and alignment (N-S). The fill of both ditches was similar and suggested a gradual silting up of the features by natural processes, no dateable material was recovered from either feature. A small possible post hole (f.no 4) with a slightly undercut profile to the east was noted, burnt material was recovered from the fill but no dateable material was recovered. No other posthole type features were noted in the exposed stripped area in the vicinity of the feature (**f.no 4**) however further features could have lain outside the limits of excavation.

To the east of the two linear features (**f.no's 5 and 6**) three similar shallow pits were investigated (**f.no's 8, 9 and 11**), all contained traces of burnt material with signs of in situ burning, no dateable material was recovered from any of the three features. Feature no. 11 had been severely disturbed by rodent burrowing. Continuing to the east a further linear feature was encountered (**f.no 12**) aligned in a north to south direction. The feature was deeper and more sharply defined than the previous linear features (**f.no's 5 and 6**). The feature was on a similar alignment to a path and field boundary visible on the surface of the site. No dateable material was recovered from the feature.

Closer to the eastern end of the haul road three further pits filled with burnt material were investigated, all had evidence of in situ burning. Two of the features (**f.no's 14 and 15**) were similar in size and profile to those already encountered, the third (**f.no 13**) was a larger sub rectangular shallow feature. Within the feature there was a dense focus of burnt material and scorching in the north east corner with slighter traces of burnt material well distributed throughout the shallow feature. None of the three features produced any dateable material. At the extreme eastern end of the haul road the edge of the earlier quarry was encountered with evidence of machine truncation and backfilling with modern debris.

During the monitoring numerous machine dug and rodent created features were encountered, after initial testing by excavation for their nature and composition, similar features where then only noted without further intervention.

Across the southern segment of the site designated as a "plant yard" several short linear features where noted all with distinctive JCB "teeth" marks, f.no. 1 at the start of haul road was excavated to confirm the nature and dating of these type of features as modern "exploratory test pits" as previously mentioned. Within the stripped area a large sub rectangular area bounded by a possible shallow ditch was noted. Within the area the sub strata was heavily impacted upon by rodent activity in the form of rabbit burrowing. The activity took the form a complex network burrows with numerous large chambers and smaller side chambers. The burrow network would had to have been well established over a long period to establish the complexity observed. Outside of the area bounded by the shallow ditch (**f.no 16**) only a few burrows occurred with most of these being single runs with a couple of chambers, none of the burrows outside of the delimited area showed anywhere near the same degree of complexity as that exhibited inside the bounded area. Part of the area had been removed by modern exploratory quarrying activity. No other features or archaeological material was recorded in the southern segment of the PDA.

Discussion

The small number of features discovered during the monitoring exhibit a similar pattern to that seen in the earlier evaluation (Crawley 2008) of the larger part of the development area enclosed by the planned haul road. The nature and profile of most of the features observed in the current monitoring phase can be mirrored in those noted in the earlier work of evaluation. In the NAU Archaeology report (Crawley 2008) several small pits (**NAU pits 5 and 7**) were noted with burnt material and traces of in-situ burning, these pits are similar in composition to f.nos 8, 9, 11, 14 and 15 observed in the current phase of monitoring. The sub rectangular pit (**NAU pits 3**) is similar in profile and composition to f.no 13 with a similar

localised dump of burnt material. The ditches observed around the periphery of the site along the haul road also have parallels seen in the evaluation trenches however in all cases intervening trenches do not show continuity, suggesting that the observed ditches from the evaluation phase may be part of similar systems but not continuations of the ditches from the monitoring phase. The environmental evidence from the small pits (see de Vareilles appendix 2) does give a good indicator of fires and hearths being used across the site, although a period cannot be positively given the lack of material culture and environmental factors mentioned might favour an early prehistoric date.

The four linear features (**f.no's 1,5,6 and 12**) investigated showed no sign of contamination by burnt material seen elsewhere despite being open to the elements for a period and in close proximity in some cases to features containing burnt material, it would suggest they belong to a different phase of use of the landscape than the small pits. No dateable material was recovered from the linear features, the absence of any more recent material might suggest an earlier prehistoric to Roman date however this can only be speculation.

The extensive area of established rabbit activity noted within the area of the proposed plant yard could be from the period during the 16th C. when the land was part of a forty-acre warren. The distinctive boundary between the area intensively occupied by rabbits and the adjacent area lacking evidence of any occupation by rabbits is suggestive of the controlled environment of an enclosed warren. The shallow ditch feature noted that occurred around most of the perimeter of the "warren" may have been the base for some form of perimeter structure using a ditch and raised bank encompassing the warren however the truncation of the feature was too severe to establish the precise form that this may have taken.

The recent use of the area for agriculture and the exploratory works for the establishment of a quarry may have resulted in the truncation and removal of any upstanding features that would normally be observed in pillow warrens (Williamson 2007) and other warren constructions.

As most of the structural evidence has been removed and no dating evidence was recovered it is not clear if the small enclosed warren formed a small local resource for a household or if the warren was part of a larger industrial scale complex with multiple dispersed enclosures across a wider landscape that may have been the 16th C. forty-acre warren.

Further work will enable a greater understanding of the overall significance of the archaeology at the quarry as a whole, and therefore further analysis and assessment will be undertaken.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of client S Walsh and Sons and was monitored by Jess Tipper for Suffolk County Council. The project was managed for the CAU by David Gibson. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dave Webb and Lawrence Billington. Survey of the site was conducted by Jonathon Moller. A photographic archive was compiled by Dave Webb and the graphics for the report were produced by Bryan Crossan.

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Abbreviations used in text

SHER	Suffolk Historic Environment Records
PDA	Proposed Development Area
CAU	Cambridge Archaeology Unit

Appendix 1: Feature Descriptions

Due to the variation in top soil and sub soil cover created by the machine strip and recent landscaping depths are taken from the base of the sub soil.

F.no 1 (599255/262561)
A sharply defined cut [2] of a linear feature aligned in an east to west direction. The feature has steep sloping straight sides with flat base and a slightly concave butt end. The base of the feature is scarred by four parallel thin grooves that continue up the side of the butt end. The fill [1] was comprised of a mid orange brown sandy silt with rare to occasional small gravel inclusions. Within the fill were frequent lenses of fine yellow sand and occasional lenses of a mid grey brown sandy silt top-soil. No archaeological material was recovered.
Dimensions: Width 0.39m, depth 0.44m.

The feature is the result of modern machine activity.

F.no 2 (599249/2622620)
A well defined cut [4] of small oval pit located within a natural irregular feature (probable tree throw). The feature has an oval cut with moderate sloping slightly concave sides with a concave base. The fill [3] was comprised of dark reddish brown grey silty sand with occasional patches of charcoal, scorched flint and stone inclusions.
Dimensions: Length 0.69m Width 0.48m, depth 0.18m.

The feature is a small pit containing a deposit of burnt material, no sign of any in-situ burning.

F.no 3 (599203/262700)
A well defined cut [9] of a small oval pit. The feature has an oval cut with steep straight sides with a slightly concave base. The fill was comprised of a dump of four layers. The upper layer [5] was comprised of a yellowish orange sandy silt. Layer [6] was comprised of a mid grey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecs, lumps, burnt flint and burnt stone. Layer [7] was comprised of a mix of orange silty sand with lenses pale yellow sand and bluish grey silty sand. The lowest layer [8] was comprised of a bluish grey silty sand with patches of orange silt. The base layers [7 & 8] may represent a primary phase of weathering.
Dimensions: Length 1.10m Width 0.67m, depth 0.47m.

The feature is a small pit containing a deposit of burnt material, no sign of any in-situ burning.

F.no 4 (599215/262735)
A small moderately well defined cut [16] of a discrete feature circular in plan. The feature has steep sloping near vertical sides with slight undercutting on the west side, the base is flat. The fill [15] is comprised of dark grey silty sand with frequent charcoal flecs and lenses of pale yellow sand.
Dimensions: Width 0.26m, depth 0.22m.

The feature is possibly a posthole where the post has been extracted by a rocking action causing the "undercut" profile and lenses of material, however it should be noted that the dimensions and fill are not dissimilar to the extensive burrows seen across the site.

F.no 5 (599237/262739)
A well defined cut [12] of a shallow linear feature aligned in a north to south direction. The feature has moderate sloping straight sides with a flat base. The upper fill [10] was comprised of a brownish orange silty sand with frequent gravel inclusions. The lower fill was comprised of brownish orange silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions.
Dimensions: Length 1.0m (excavated) unknown Width 1.38m, depth 0.22m.

The linear feature is a shallow ditch possibly paired with similar feature f.no 6.

F.no 6 (599243/262740)
A well defined cut [14] of a shallow linear feature aligned in a north to south direction. The feature has moderate sloping straight sides with a flat base. The fill [13] was comprised of a brownish orange silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions. Dimensions: Length 1.0m (excavated) unknown Width 1.30m, depth 0.21m.

The linear feature is a shallow ditch possibly paired with similar feature f.no 5.

F.no 7 (599254/262745)
A natural feature.

F.no 8 (599253/262746)
A well defined cut [21] of a discrete feature circular in plan. The feature has moderate sloping concave sides with a concave base. The upper fill [19] was comprised of a dark grey silty sand with moderately frequent charcoal inclusions. The lower fill [yellowish brown sand with moderate gravel inclusions.
Dimensions: Width 0.70m, depth 0.17m.

A small pit.

F.no 9 (599269/262747)
A moderately well defined cut [24] of a discrete feature oval in plan. The feature has moderate sloping concave sides with a slightly concave flattish base. The fill [22] was comprised of a dark grey silty sand with frequent flecs of charcoal, burnt stone and burnt flint. At the interface with the cut [24] a patch of scorched red sand overlain by a thin lens of charcoal was noted on the south side of the feature. A segment of the northern edge of the feature was less well defined [23] the layer was comprised of a greyish brown silty sand probably the result of edge slippage.
Dimensions: Length 0.88m, Width 0.74m, depth 0.80m.

A small pit with evidence of in-situ burning possible fire pit or hearth.

F.no 10 (N/A)
A natural feature.

F.no 11 (599286/262741)
A well defined cut [28] of a discrete feature circular in plan partly concealed by northern limit of excavated area. The feature has moderate sloping concave sides with a flat base. The northern side is slightly disturbed by an intrusive rabbit burrow. The fill [25] was comprised of a brownish grey silty sand with a moderate frequency of

small charcoal flecs. At the interface with the cut [28] a patch of scorched red sand and gravel [27] was noted on the south side of the feature this was overlain by a thin lens of charcoal [26].
Dimensions: Length 1.15m, Width 0.86m (full extents not visible), depth 0.17m.

A small pit with evidence of in-situ burning possible fire pit or hearth.

F.no 12 (599311/262733)
A well defined cut [31] of a shallow linear feature aligned in a north to south direction. The feature has a steep sloping straight side to the west whilst the east side has a moderate sloping straight side with a flat base. The upper fill [29] was comprised of a greyish brown sandy silt with rare gravel inclusions. Underlying [29] was a basal layer [30] comprised greyish brown gritty silty sand with occasional small gravel inclusions.
Dimensions: Length 1.0m (excavated) unknown, width 1.09m, depth 0.35m.

The linear feature is similar in profile to f.no's 5 and 6 with a similar alignment.

F.no 13 (599425/262789)
A well defined cut [35] of a discrete feature, sub rectangular in plan. The feature has moderate sloping slightly straight sides with a flat slightly undulating base. The feature is aligned east to west. The upper fill [32] is comprised of a grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecs and small gravel inclusions. At the interface with the cut [35] was an irregular pattern of scorched red sand and gravel [34] overlain by a lens of charcoal lumps and flecs [33].
Dimensions: Length 1.85m, width 1.10m, depth 0.90m.

A small pit with extensive evidence of in-situ burning possible fire pit or hearth.

F.no 14 (599426/262790)
A well defined cut [38] of a discrete feature circular in plan. The feature has moderate sloping concave sides with a flat base. The upper fill was comprised of a grey silty sand with a moderate frequency of charcoal flecs and small gravel inclusions. The lower fill was comprised of a grey silty sand with an abundant frequency of charcoal flecs and small gravel inclusions.
Dimensions: Width 0.65m, depth 0.80m.

A small pit with extensive burnt material, although no sign of scorching probably a fire pit or hearth.

F.no 15 (599431/262793)
A well defined cut [42] of a discrete feature circular in plan, slight disturbance on eastern side from burrowing. The feature has moderate sloping concave sides with a slightly concave base. The upper fill [39] is comprised of a dark grey silty sand with a moderate frequency of charcoal flecs and small gravel inclusions. The lower layer [40] was comprised of a dark grey sandy silt with abundant charcoal and pale grey ash. At the interface with the cut [42] was an extensive pattern of scorched red sand [41] and gravel.
Dimensions: Width 1.33m, depth 0.26m.

A small pit with extensive evidence of in-situ burning possible fire pit or hearth.

F.no 16 (599439/262794)
Large linear feature with distinctive toothed bucket marks most likely exploratory quarrying to find the extents of the underlying gravels.

Exploratory quarrying.

F.no 17 (599297/262523)
A large area occupied by distinctive rabbit burrowing, with large main chambers and side chambers.

A well established rabbit warren.

F.no 18 (599300/262500)
A poorly defined shallow broad linear feature, slightly irregular in nature due to severe truncation, defining the boundary of the rabbit warren (F.no.17). The remaining fill was a dark brownish grey silty sand. The feature clearly defined the boundary of the warren on the eastern side of the warren, recent intrusive machine quarrying had obscured the precise extent of the feature on the south and west sides however short truncated stretches of the feature had survived sufficiently to give an approximate definition of the boundary on these sides.

Boundary ditch for warren.

Appendix 2: Assessment of Bulk Environmental Samples from WDN015
Anne de Vareilles

Methodology

Three pits were sampled. The undated bulk soil samples were processed using an Ankara-type flotation machine. The flots were collected in 300µm aperture meshes and the remaining heavy residues washed over a 1mm mesh. The flots were dried indoors prior to analysis. J. Hutton sorted the >4mm fractions of the heavy residues by eye; her finds of burnt stone and burnt flint are included in table1. Dry flots were separated through a stack of sieves; fractions were sorted and macro remains identified under a low power binocular microscope (6x-40x magnification) by the author. Nomenclature follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for all other flora. All environmental remains are listed in table 1.

Preservation
The archaeobotanical remains were all carbonised. The plant remains are in excellent condition: charcoal is present in large fragments and high concentrations, and seeds are mostly whole and undamaged. There are very few signs of bioturbation.

Results

F.14 [37]
The 6litre sample produced a large flot of well-preserved charcoal (*c*.400ml.) and a little burnt flint.

F.15 [40]
The 8litre sample produced a similarly large flot of well-preserved charcoal (c.600ml.), a single hulled barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare sensu lato*) and two fragments of hazel nut shell (*Corylus avellana*).

F.2 [8]
The thin dark lens within F.2 produced a small 0.5L sample relatively rich in charcoal. Pieces are large and well preserved, and were found with three wild plant seed. One was only a fragment but the other two were intact and could be identified to a meadow or lesser rue (*Thalictrum flavum/minus*) and a knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*).

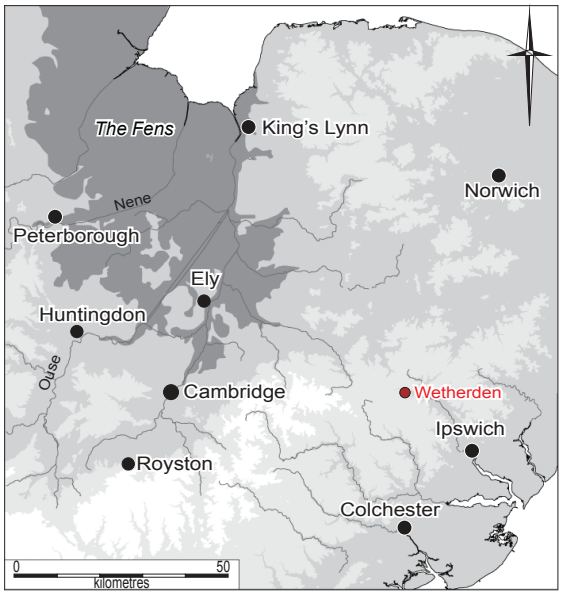
Conclusion

Despite the general lack of archaeological finds there is good evidence for fires or hearths. These were either built within the fires and then quickly buried, perhaps as a means to extinguish them, or lit near to the pits and the ash/embers cleared into the pit. The excellent condition of the plant remains indicates that these did not suffer much abrasion or erosion post carbonisation. It is possible that cereal processing was not performed extensively at the site. The presence of a single well preserved barley grain, within what is probably the whole or majority of a hearth clearing, suggests a real absence or paucity of fresh grain around the pits sampled. Although the plant remains are not strictly indicative of a particular archaeological period, hazel nut shells and low levels of cereal grain are often recovered from early prehistoric sites.

Table 1: Charred Plant Macro-Remains from the Bulk Soil Samples

Sample number		**1**	**2**	**3**
Context		37	40	8
Feature		14	15	2
Date		Probably Prehistoric		
Sample volume - litres		6	8	0.5
Flot fraction examined -%		all of ≥2mm, 1/2 of <2mm	all of ≥2mm, 1/4 of <2mm	100%
large charcoal (>4mm)		+++	+++	+
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+++	+++	+
small charcoal (<2mm)		+++	+++	+++
estimated total flot charcoal volume - mililitres		400 ml.	600 ml.	<1 ml.
Cereal and wild plant remains				
Hordeum vulgare sensu lato	hulled barley grain		1	
Thalictrum flavum/ minus L.	Common/Lesser Meadow-rue			1
Corylus avellana L.	Hazel nut shell frags.		2	
Polygonum aviculare L.	Knotgrass			1
Indet. Wild plant seed				1
Non-Biological finds				
Burnt stone			+	+
Burnt flint		++	++	+

Key: '-' 1 or 2 items, ' +' <10 items, '++' 10-50 items, '+++' >50 items.



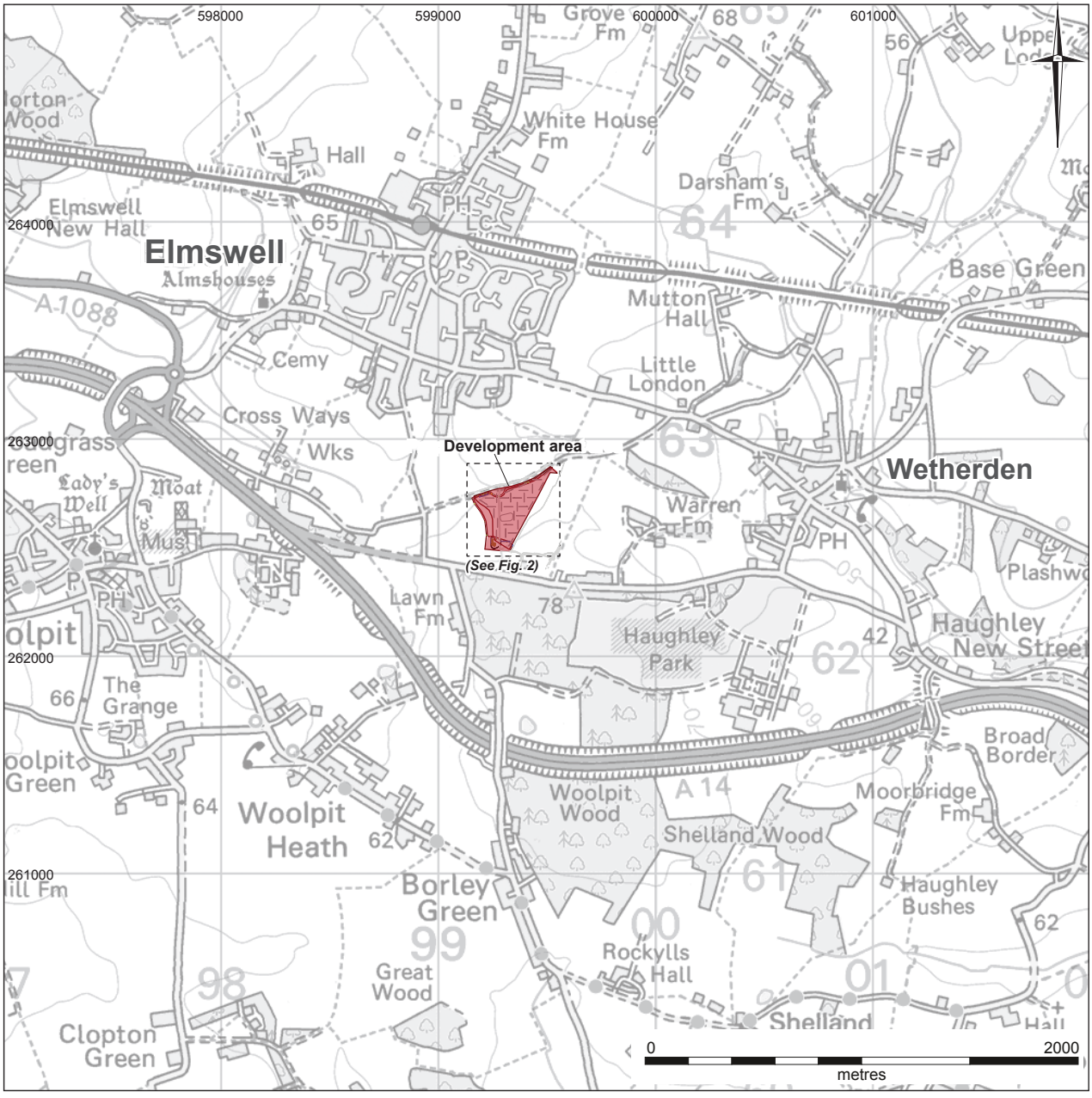


Figure 1. Location Plan

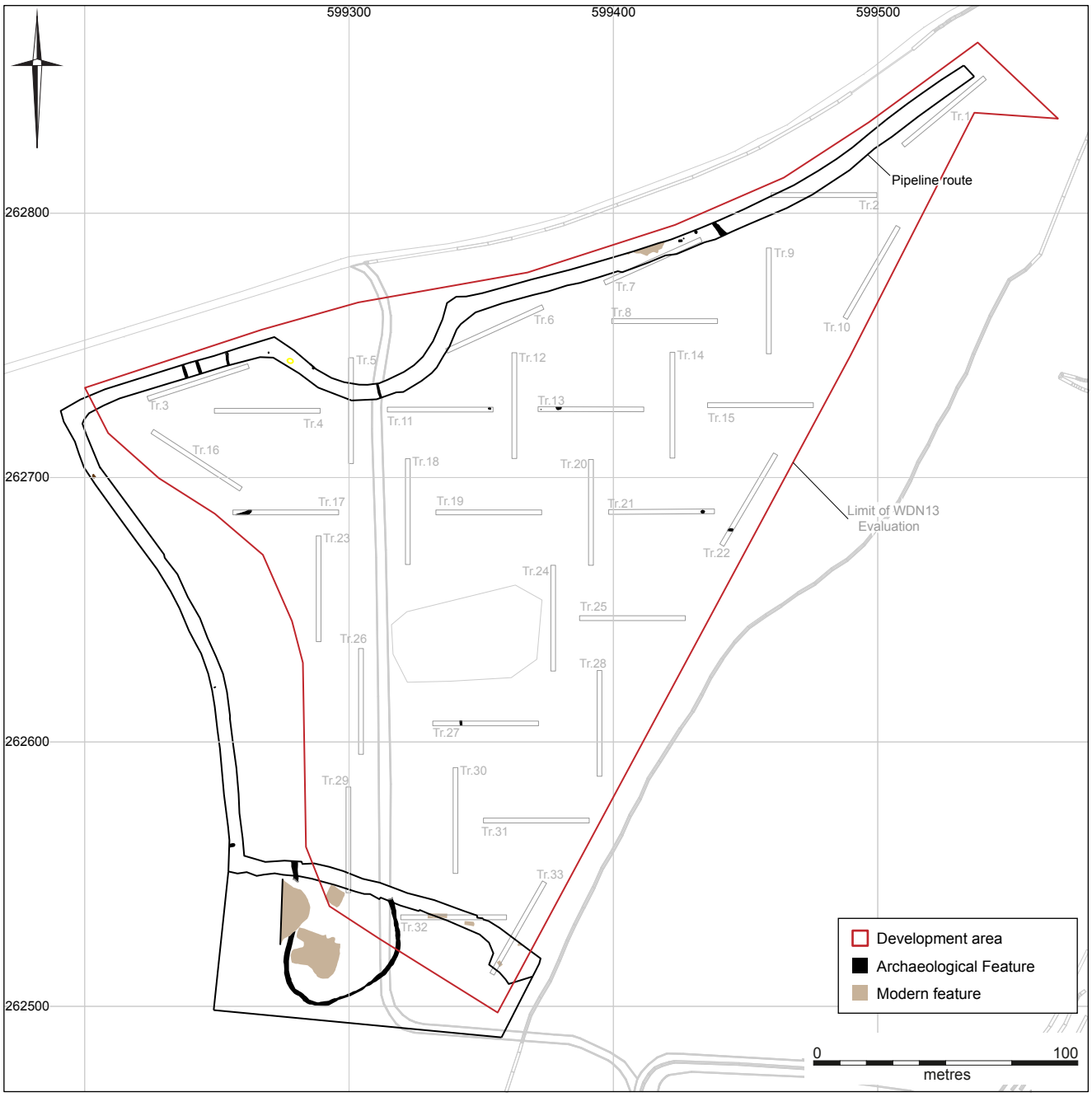


Figure 2. Plan of Pipeline route and previous evaluation Trenching (WDN13)

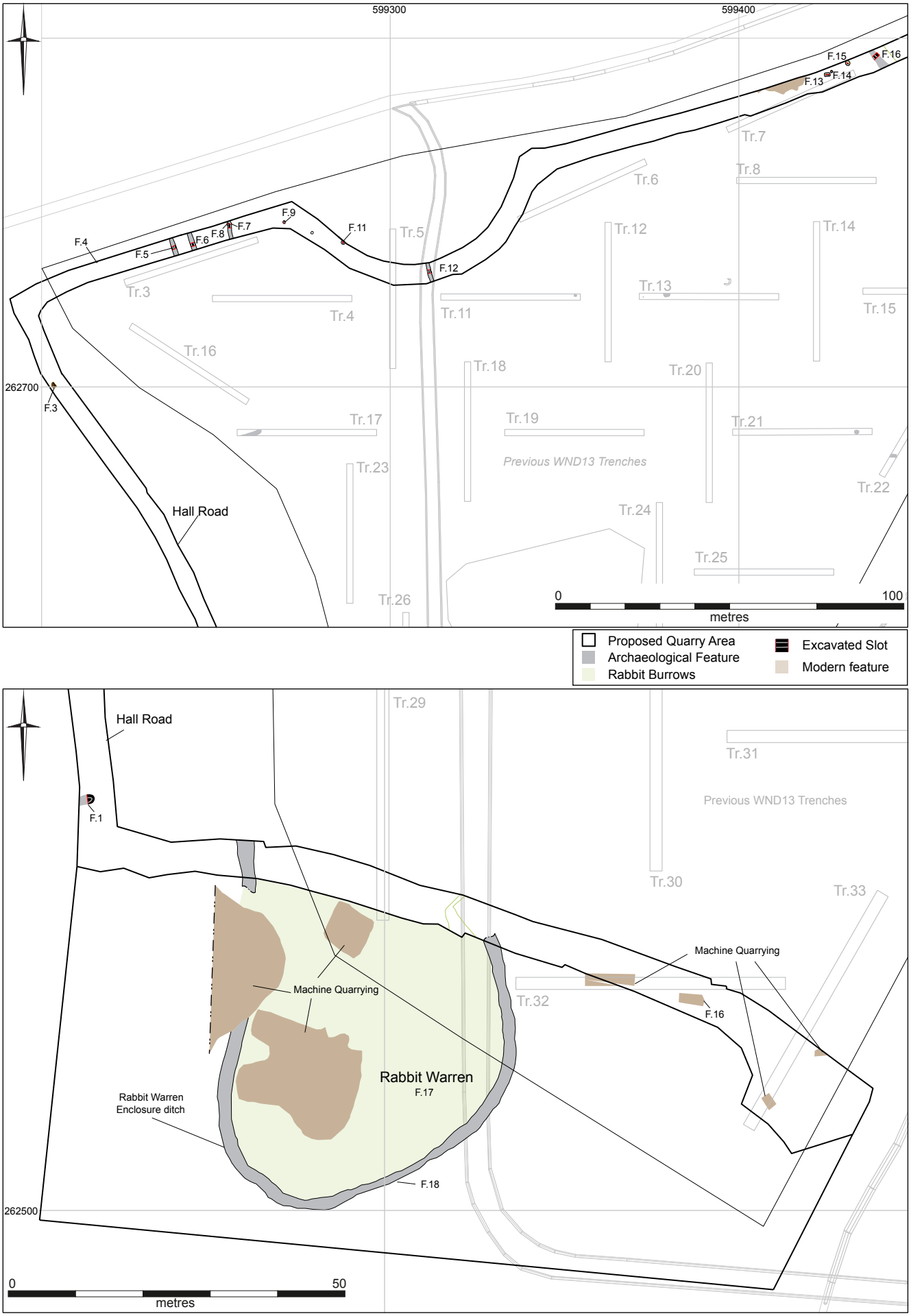


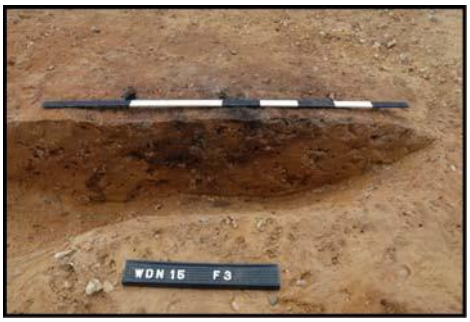
Figure 3. Areas of Archaeological interest

Appendix3: Photographic Archive

WDN15 Fno 1 DSC_1177.TIF

WDN15 Fno 1 DSC_1179.TIF

WDN15 Fno 2 DSC_mod1193.tif



WDN15 Fno 3 DSC_1199.TIF

WDN15 Fno 5 _6 DSC_1219.TIF

WDN15 Fno 5 DSC_1217.TIF

WDN15 Fno 6 DSC_1214.TIF

WDN15 Fno 8 DSC_1220.TIF

WDN15 Fno 9 DSC_1222.TIF

WDN15 Fno 11 DSC_1224.TIF

WDN15 Fno 12 DSC_1282.TIF

WDN15 Fno 13 DSC_1269.TIF

Appendix3: Photographic Archive

WDN15 Fno 14 DSC_1244.TIF

WDN15 Fno 15 DSC_1255.TIF

WDN15 Fno 15 DSC_1266.TIF

WDN15 Fno 16 Machine Cut DSC_1189.TIF

WDN15 Fno 16 Machine Cut DSC_1187.TIF

WDN15 Fno 18 Burrows DSC_1186.TIF

WDN15 Fno 18 Warren Edge DSCN0459.TIF

WDN15 Haul Rd DSC_1165.TIF

Appendix 4: WSI

A Specification for Archaeological Excavation Permitted Mineral Development, Lawn Farm, Wetherden, Suffolk

Prepared by David Gibson

Client: S Walsh and Sons

Contractor: Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Consultant: Andrew Josephs Associates

Date: 7th May 2013

Archaeological Excavation is required to address a condition placed upon planning permission for the extraction of mineral on land at Lawn Farm, Wetherden, Suffolk (NGR 995 626). Based on the results of the archaeological evaluation (ref WDN 013) of the Permitted Development Area (PDA), and to comply with a planning condition, the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) has requested the excavation of archaeological deposits that will be affected by development in order to preserve them by record

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 PDA Description

1.1.1 The PDA lies on an underlying solid geology of chalk. The more recent surface geology consists of sand and gravel 'Till' deposited through ancient glaciations and watercourses. The area consists of gently rolling small and low hills, which, along with the gavel natural, aid drainage. The topsoil on the site is formed from loose mid-brown coarse sandy silt containing frequent small flints (Martin 1999).

1.2 Previous Work

1.2.1 A trenched archaeological evaluation defined scattered archaeological features of probable late prehistoric date across the evaluated area (Crawley 2008).

1.2.2 The known archaeology from the PDA and it's immediate vicinity is fully characterised and reported in the Cultural Heritage Assessment (Josephs 2008).

1.2.3 The most relevant findings were that a number of finds are believed to have been made within the eastern part of the PDA (although there is some confusion over their actual location), which has been subjected to extraction. These include Neolithic flint flakes from a 'new' gravel pit in 1956, a spread of Roman pottery sherds and a further 18 sherds of Roman pottery found by Basil Brown in 1959.
1.2.4 Within the vicinity of the PDA there has been no reported systematic fieldwalking or metal detecting.

1.3 Circumstances of the Project

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted with a condition that relates to archaeology. This document is a specification addressing that condition.

1.4 Archive Deposition

1.4.1 Finds and archive will be stored at the CAU presuming final deposition in an approved County storage facility. Ownership of the finds rests with the landowners.

1.5 Research Aims and Objectives

1.5.1 The principal objective is to determine presence/absence and character (e.g. degree of preservation and chronological range) of the probable late prehistoric archaeological remains within the development area.. An assessment will also be made of the environmental potential of the site, with particular reference to the alluvial sequences in the area.

1.5.2 The research agendas in Medlycott (ed) 2011 are noted and this project has the potential to aid the lack of progress in Mesolithic research (p7), the question of non-permanent settlement in the Neolithic (p14) and the apparent scarcity of Middle Bronze Age settlement sites (p24).

2. METHOD STATEMENT

The work will be carried out in full accordance with the IfA's Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (IfA 2008), Gurney, D. 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers East of England Region) and the SCCAS Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2012.

2.1.2 A full desktop assessment has been prepared of known data relating to the site including the Suffolk HER, reports of previous archaeological work in the area, historical records and maps (Josephs 2008).

2.1.3 This will form the introductory section to the excavation report, and thereby set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context. It will also inform aspects of the excavation fieldwork where appropriate.

2.1.4 Machining

2.1.5 Excavation methodology will follow SCCAS Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2012.

2.1.6 Attention will be paid to the amount of truncation to buried deposits, the presence or absence of a palaeosol or 'B' horizon and the preservation of deposits within negative features and site formation processes generally.

2.1.7 All features will be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS/CT. Investigation slots through all linear features will be at least 1m in width. Discrete features will be half-sectioned or excavated in quadrants in the first instance.

2.1.8 Should human remains be encountered a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and the appropriate Environmental Health Office advised.

2.1.9 The CAU conducts its onsite health and safety procedures in line with the FAME Manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2010). A risk assessment will be made prior to the commencement of work.

2.1.10 The CAU carries Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. Details are available on request.

2.2 Recording Procedures

2.2.1 Recording of features and deposits will be carried out using standard CAU trench and context sheets. The CAU uses an amended version of the Museum of London system (Spence 1994), which is based on single context recording, but is supplemented by section information and base plans.

2.2.2 Base plans of the excavation will be drawn at 1:50, excavation plans at 1:50 or 1:20 and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.

2.2.3 The area will be surveyed into the OS grid using an EDM/GPS.

2.2.4 Photography will consist primarily of digital images and black and white film.

2.2.5 The site archive and finds will receive immediate conservation as part of the excavation process. Further conservation needs will be discussed following the fieldwork phase.

2.3 Environmental potential

2.3.1 The environmental sampling strategy will follow guidelines outlined in Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (English Heritage 2011).

2.3.2 Assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits will be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist (see below). Forty litre samples (including pollen) will be taken from appropriate contexts (e.g. waterlogged or charcoal rich) across the site This may include:

- retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features.
- retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.

2.3.3 A copy of the report of any such results will be sent to the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor.

2.4 Post-Excavation Assessment

2.4.1 Resources have been allocated within the budget to allow for the preparation of the archive, the production of a report to include a digital photographic record of the main deposit sequences encountered across the site and the deposition of the archive. The archive will be prepared in line with the SCCAS guidelines (SCCAS 2010). An OASIS form will be completed on the submission of the assessment report.

2.4.2 Provision is made for specialist assessments to be prepared. Specialists likely to be used include:

Flint E. Beadsmoore/L. Billington
Prehistoric Pottery M. Knight
Roman Pottery K. Anderson
Medieval & Post Medieval Pottery D. Hall
Metalwork/glass A. Dickens (CAU)
Animal Bone V. Rajkovaca (CAU)
Environmental A. de Vareilles (CAU)
Human remains N. Dodwell (CAU)

2.4.3 A report will be produced setting out the results of the work. This will include scale drawings and any specialist reports. A draft copy of the report will be submitted to SCCAS/CT, once accepted, a paper copy and a digital copy of the report will be submitted to the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. In addition, details of the project will be made available online at the following internet address: ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis.

2.4.4 A summary report will be prepared for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

3. RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

3.1 Staffing

3.1.1 The precise form of the field team is not yet determined, but all employees of the CAU are professional archaeologists. The Project Manager is David Gibson.

3.1.2 The excavation team will consist of an experienced field director and up to three site assistants from the CAU.

3.1.3 Post-excavation finds work will be co-ordinated by the CAU Finds Officer and conform to the practices and standards described in the Institute of Archaeologist's Codes of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2008).

3.2 Timetable

3.2.1 It is anticipated that the trenching programme will take 3-8 weeks to complete.

3.2.2 Post excavation and report production is partly dependent on the availability of specialists, but the aim would be to produce the report within 12 weeks of completing the fieldwork.

3.3 Budget

3.3.1 An adequate budget will be agreed with the Client to cover the cost of the excavation and reporting.

4. Management and Monitoring

4.1.1 The project will be managed on behalf of S Walsh and sons by Andrew Josephs Associates.

4.1.2 The SCCAS/CT will be advised of the start date of the excavation and arrangements will be made to allow monitoring visits.

5. REFERENCES

Crawley P. 2008 An Archaeological Evaluation at Lawn Farm, Wetherden, Suffolk NAU Report No. 1977.

English Heritage. 2011. Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation (second edition).

Glazebrook, J. (ed) 1997 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource Assessment EAA Occasional Paper No. 3

Glazebrook, J. and N. Brown (eds) 2000 Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: Research Agenda and Strategy EAA Occasional Paper No. 8

Gurney, D. 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England EAA Occasional Paper No. 14

IfA 2009 Code of Conduct: The Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

IfA 2008. Codes of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Josephs A. 2008 Cultural Heritage Assessment of Lawn Farm, Wetherden, Suffolk

Martin E. 1999 'Soil Regions' In Dymond D. and Martin, E. An historical Atlas of Suffolk. 3rd Edition. Suffolk County Council Environment and Transport in conjunction with Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History. 16-17.

Medlycott, M. (ed) 2011 Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. EAA Occasional Paper No.24

Spence, C. 1990. Archaeological site manual. Museum of London.

SCCAS_Excavation Requirements 2012

SCCAS_archive guidelines 2010

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: OASIS ID: cambridg3-268922

Project details
Project name LAWN FARM, WETHERDEN, SUFFOLK: Archaeological Monitoring

Short description of the project The Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) undertook the archaeological monitoring of works in preparation for future gravel and sand extraction at Lawn Farm located to the south-west of the village of Wetherden, Suffolk between 15th May and 24th May 2013. The monitoring revealed land use in the form of field boundaries and small pits most likely dating to the prehistoric period. Remnants of a large controlled rabbit warren were also exposed possibly associated with the medieval period.

Project dates Start: 15-05-2013 End: 24-05-2013

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes WDN15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 7 - Mineral extraction

Monument type FIELD SYSTEM Uncertain

Monument type RABBIT WARREN Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques ''Targeted Trenches''

Development type Mineral extraction (e.g. sand, gravel, stone, coal, ore, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location
Country England
Site location SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK WETHERDEN Lawn Farm, Wetherden

Postcode IP14 3JU

Study area 0.9 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 599744 262486 51.911291760978 0.326055701604 51 54 40 N 000 19 33 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 65m Max: 71m

Project creators
Name of Organisation Cambridge Archaeological Unit

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator David Gibson

Project director/manager David Gibson

Project supervisor David Webb

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body S Walsh and Sons

Project archives
Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Suffolk CC

Digital Archive ID WDN15

Digital Contents ''Stratigraphic''

Digital Media available ''Images raster / digital photography'',''Survey''

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk CC

Paper Archive ID WDN15

Paper Contents ''Stratigraphic''

Paper Media available ''Plan'',''Report'',''Survey ''

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title LAWN FARM, WETHERDEN, SUFFOLK: Archaeological Monitoring

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