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Environmental Impact Assessment

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Interpretation, Design & Display

**Land off Cromer Road, Hunstanton,
Norfolk:
Archaeological Evaluation
Report No. MK098/17**

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes
MK12 5LY

Tel: 01908 226124
Mob: 07741 313975
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Marta Perlinska MA PCIfA
Illustrator	Marta Perlinska MA PCIfA
Approver	Mark Roberts BA MLitt MCIfA
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CONTENTS

1. SUMMARY.....	3
2. INTRODUCTION.....	3
3. WORKING METHODS.....	5
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	6
5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.....	6
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	7
7. APPENDIX 1: Trench Summary.....	9

Illustrations (bound at rear)

Fig. 1 – Site location and plan

Fig. 2 – Site prior to evaluation, taken from NE

Fig. 3 – Trench 1, taken from N

Fig. 4 – Trench 3 with feature 0304 visible in the middle, taken from E

Fig. 5 – Trench 5, taken from N

Fig. 6 – Trench 7, taken from E

Fig. 7 – Trench 9, taken from W

Fig. 8 - Trench 11, taken from S

Fig. 9 – Trench 13, taken from N

Fig. 10 – A sheep/goat skeleton in feature 0304, taken from E

1. SUMMARY

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out a trial trench evaluation on a proposed development off Cromer Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk (centred on TF 6807 4167). The evaluation took place between the 9th and 14th of August 2017. Thirteen trenches were dug, revealing no archaeology. The only feature found was a small linear containing articulated skeleton of sheep or goat, with fragments of field drain.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. General

This document presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between the 9th and 14th of August 2017 on a proposed housing development. The work was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Bennett Homes.

The work was carried out to fulfill the a planning condition attached to planning application (Ref 16/00082/OM) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated May 2017 covering this programme of works produced by Lanpro and approved by the Planning Archaeologist for Norfolk County Council.

2.2. Project Background

The Site (Fig. 1 and Fig. 2) is approximately 7ha and occupies open farm land located in the north-eastern edge of Huntstanton. It is bounded to the west by Cromer Road, the north by Chapel Bank, the south by playing fields and allotments and to the east by farmland.

The Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council has granted planning permission for residential development of up to 120 dwellings with associated landscaping, open space, car parking and access from Cromer Road and Chapel Bank.

2.3. Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey were conducted prior to the works commencing (Atkins 2015, Richardson 2014). The findings of both are summarized in the WSI as follows:

1.3.2 The Norfolk HER lists 10 earlier prehistoric records at a distance of between c.100 to 500m from the site, in addition to five /iron Age/Roman records located some 100m-500m away.

No records relating to Anglo-Saxon activity were identified and just three medieval records are present, between 200m and 400m away. The bulk of the NHER material consists of more than 60 post-medieval and modern records. The only archaeological feature recorded within the site comprises a minor routeway that also appears as a cropmark and is shown on the 1615 map of Hunstanton.

1.3.3 Map evidence shows that the site was part of the medieval (and early post-medieval) strip fields of Hunstanton before it was enclosed in the late 18th century. Analysis of the maps also demonstrates that the field boundaries of the site have not changed in the last 200 years.

1.3.4 The geophysical survey undertaken in April 2014 did not identify any anomalies of probable archaeological origin but did map the periglacial natural features in addition to a modern service pipe and a single linear anomaly.

1.3.5 The DBA assessed that there is low potential for archaeological remains of all periods within the site, apart from for the earlier prehistoric period (and the later routeway mentioned above). There is medium potential for remains of prehistoric date, based on the presence of four areas of Neolithic and Bronze Age flintworking that have been recorded nearby (between 100-300m away).

2.4. Geology

The bedrock underlying the Site is chalk of the Hollywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation with the superficial geology being Holkham Till Member diamiction (BGS).

2.5. Objectives

In accordance with WSI the aim of the project was to obtain sufficient information as to the archaeological significance and potential of the Site to determine the scope and extent of any further mitigatory work that could be required. This was achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains

- To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
- To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To produce a site archive for deposition with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service information for accession to the Norfolk HER.

The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by:

- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997).
- Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).
- A Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Medlycott and Brown 2008).

3. WORKING METHODS

3.1. General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance (2014a, 2014b, 2014c, 2014d).

3.2. Trenching

In total, 13 trenches were excavated, of which 11 were measuring 50m x 1.8m and two 25m x 1.8m. Trenches 6 and 7 were deployed to cross a road or track seen on historic mapping. Trench 11 was deployed to cross the linear geophysical anomaly.

3.3. Excavation and Recording Strategy

Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision until the features of archaeological interest were exposed.

The trenches were surveyed using a Trimble Geo7X GPS unit which has an accuracy of 8mm horizontally and 12mm vertically. Each trench was recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming

to Cifa standards (2014c) and CFA's quality manuals. A digital and 35mm B&W film photographic record was made of each trench.

The convention used for numbering contexts was trench number followed by the layer number, e.g.: 0101 was topsoil in Trench 1. Where layers are discussed collectively across trenches, the trench numbers are substituted by a hash tag, e.g.: #01.

3.4. Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans and reports, will be deposited at Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service and will conform to its requirements (NMaAS 2010) and current guidelines e.g. MoRPHE (HE 2015), Brown (2011), Cifa (2014d), MGC 1994, SMA 1995, Walker 1990. A proper transfer of ownership will be ensured, according to the guidance mentioned above. The Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service accession number (TBC) will appear on archived items and all related reports.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1. General

The locations of the trenches are shown in Fig. 1. Illustrations and photos referred to in the text can be found at the back of the report. An overview of the trenches is presented below.

4.2. Trench Description

4.2.1. All trenches (Fig. 3-9)

In all cases, the topsoil (#01) consisted of very dark brown silty sand with occasional stones. The subsoil (#02) was dark ginger brown silty clayey sand with packed chalk layer just underneath. This turned out to be an upper layer of natural geology, followed by (#03), a grey-light yellow to dark brown-orange sand with frequent chalk and occasional veins of 02. Trenches 10 and 11 were dug to the depth of 1002 and 1102.

4.2.2. Trench 3 (Fig. 10)

A small linear was found in Trench 3, running on a north-south alignment. It had a gentle-sided cut (0304) with irregular bottom, measuring 0.6m in width and 0.25m in depth. It was filled with 0305, a dark brown-orange silty sand of moderate compaction, with frequent chalk flakes and small stones. It contained modern brick fragments and a near-complete skeleton of a sheep or goat (Fig. 8).

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The evaluation has revealed a small linear feature, but no significant archaeology. The former road or track was not identified nor was the single geophysical anomaly. It is inferred from the shallow topsoil and absence of deep old cultivation soil beneath it that the site was heathland for much of its history until recent cultivation.

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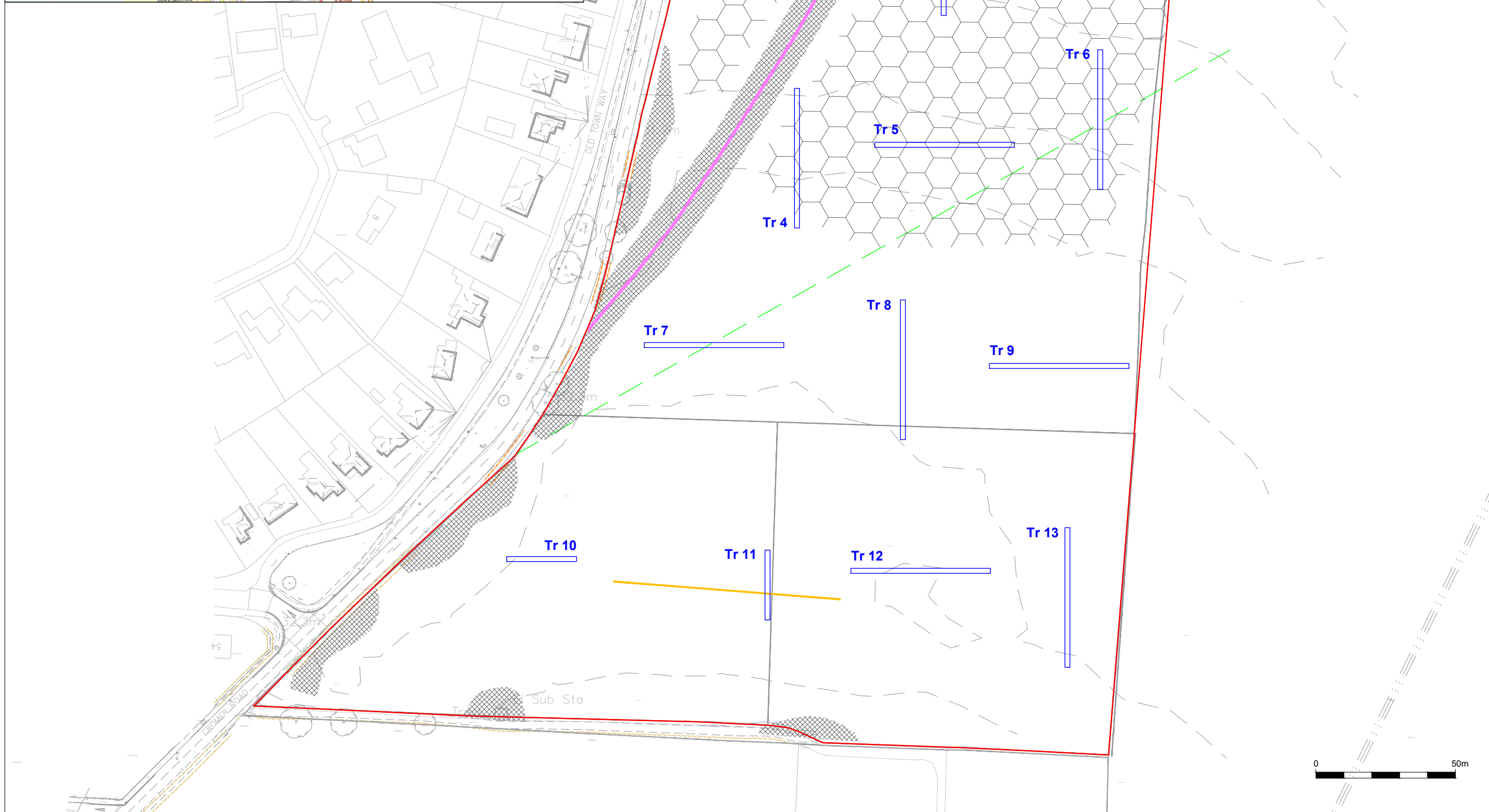
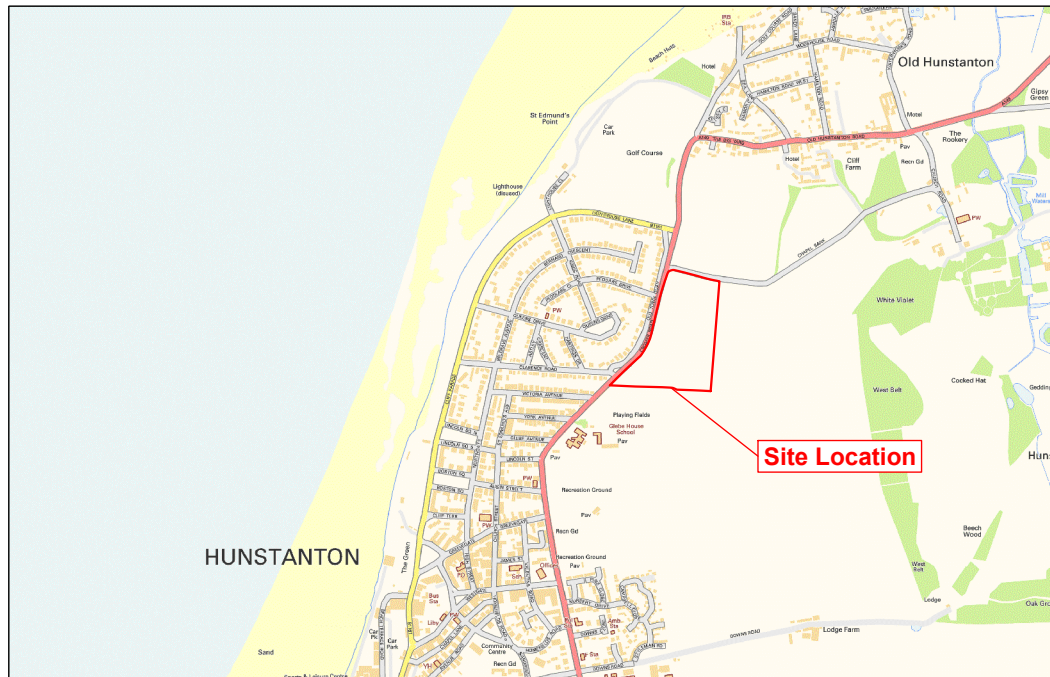
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7. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARY

Trench 01			Trench Size 50m x 1.8m	Orientation: NE-SW
Trench Depth 0.74-0.75m			Topsoil Depth 0.3-0.47m	Upper Geology Depth 0.08-0.17m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 02			Trench Size 50.5m x 1.8m	Orientation: N-S
Trench Depth 0.77-0.85m			Topsoil Depth 0.36-0.5m	Upper Geology Depth 0.13-0.28m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 03			Trench Size 51m x 1.8m	Orientation: W-E
Trench Depth 0.8-0.95m			Topsoil Depth 0.4-0.45m	Upper Geology Depth 0.08-0.24m
<i>Context</i>	<i>Fill of</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	
0304		Cut of linear	N-S alignment; gentle-sloped sides with irregular bottom; L: 2+m, W: 0.6m; D: 0.25m;	
0305	0304	Fill of linear	Dark-brown orange silty sand of moderate compaction, with frequent chalk and small stones; contained modern bricks and a near complete skeleton of sheep/goat	
Trench 04			Trench Size 50m x 1.8m	Orientation: N-S
Trench Depth 0.7-0.97m			Topsoil Depth 0.4-0.45m	Upper Geology Depth 0.16-0.5m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 05			Trench Size 50m x 1.8m	Orientation: W-E
Trench Depth 0.85-0.97m			Topsoil Depth 0.4-0.48m	Upper Geology Depth 0.15-0.35m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 06			Trench Size 50.5m x 1.8m	Orientation: N-S
Trench Depth 0.75-0.8m			Topsoil Depth 0.4-0.45m	Upper Geology Depth 0.08-0.15m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 07			Trench Size 50m x 1.8m	Orientation: W-E
Trench Depth 0.61-0.92m			Topsoil Depth 0.22-0.4m	Upper Geology Depth 0.28-0.53m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 08			Trench Size 51m x 1.8m	Orientation: N-S
Trench Depth 0.7-0.9m			Topsoil Depth 0.3-0.45m	Upper Geology Depth 0.25-0.4m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 09			Trench Size 50m x 1.8m	Orientation: W-E
Trench Depth 0.73-0.97m			Topsoil Depth 0.32-0.48m	Upper Geology Depth 0.2-0.3m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 10			Trench Size 25m x 1.8m	Orientation: W-E
Trench Depth 0.54-0.56m			Topsoil Depth 0.33-0.38m	Upper Geology Depth 0.12-0.2m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 11			Trench Size 25m x 1.8m	Orientation: N-S
Trench Depth 0.3-0.65m			Topsoil Depth 0.24-0.3m	Upper Geology Depth 0.05-0.33m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 12			Trench Size 50m x 1.8m	Orientation: W-E
Trench Depth 0.8-0.84m			Topsoil Depth 0.33-0.4m	Upper Geology Depth 0.1-0.49m
<i>No archaeology</i>				
Trench 13			Trench Size 50m x 1.8m	Orientation: N-S
Trench Depth 0.8-1m			Topsoil Depth 0.4-0.55m	Upper Geology Depth 0.1-0.2m
<i>No archaeology</i>				



- Key:**
- Site Boundary
 - Trench Outline
 - Excavated Feature
 - Former Service
 - Former Road Line
 - Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
 - Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
 - + Scattered magnetic debris
 - Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable periglacial cracking



STATASCAN
 GEOPHYSICS FOR ARCHAEOLOGY
 AND ENGINEERING

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
 Town Hall
 Creed Street
 Wolverton
 Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
 T: 01908 226 124
 M: 07741 313975
 miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Site location and plan

Project:
**Land off Cromer Road,
 Hunstanton, Norfolk:
 Archaeological Evaluation**

Client:
**Lanpro Services on behalf of
 Bennett Homes**

Scale at A3:
1:1500

Drawn by: MP	Checked by: SW	Date: 07/09/2017
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Report No: MK098/17	Fig. No: 1
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Fig. 2 - Site prior to evaluation, taken from NE



Fig. 3 - Trench 1, taken from N

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
T: 01908 226 124
M: 07741 313975
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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Fig. 4 - Trench 3 with feature 0304 visible in the middle, taken from E



Fig. 5 - Trench 5, taken from N

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
T: 01908 226 124
M: 07741 313975
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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Fig. 6 - Trench 7, taken from E



Fig. 7 - Trench 9, taken from W

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
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Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
T: 01908 226 124
M: 07741 313975
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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Fig. 8 - Trench 11, taken from S



Fig. 9 - Trench 13, taken from N

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
T: 01908 226 124
M: 07741 313975
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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Report No: MK098/17		Fig. No: 8-9



Fig. 10 - A sheep/goat skeleton in feature 0304, taken from E

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CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
Town Hall
Creed Street
Wolverton
Milton Keynes, MK12 5LY
T: 01908 226 124
M: 07741 313975
miltonkeynes@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

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Report No: MK098/17		Fig. No: 10