

# Archaeological evaluation on land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk, IP30 9HJ

October 2021



**by Sarah Veasey**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley  
figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Ziya Eksen, Tabitha Lawrence and William Bateson

**Commissioned by Sophie Gittins  
on behalf of Granville Developments**

NGR: TL 99448 64867 (centre)

Planning ref: DC/18/04264

CAT project ref.: 2021/08j

Suffolk Parish Number: EWL 063

OASIS ref: colchest3-428988



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**CAT Report 1737**

November 2021

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological and landscape background	1
4	Aims	3
5	Methodology	3
6	Results	3
7	Finds	6
8	Conclusion	6
9	Acknowledgements	6
10	References	7
11	Abbreviations and glossary	7
12	Contents of archive	7
13	Archive deposition	8
Appendix 1 Context list		9
Figures		after p9
CAT WSI		
OASIS summary sheet		

## List of photographs and figures

Cover: Site shot

Photograph 1	F6 sx 2 – view south-west	4
Photograph 2	F9 and T3 rep sx – view south-west	5
Photograph 3	T4 trench shot – view west	5
Photograph 4	T7 trench shot – view east	6

Fig 1	Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development
Fig 2	Development site shown in relation shown in relation to archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record
Fig 3	Results
Fig 4	Trench plans
Fig 5	Feature and representative sections.

## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk in advance of the construction of six new dwellings. The development site is located to north of the village of Elmswell, with a historic green known as Boten Haugh Green (EWL 061) which dates back to at least the 12th century. The evaluation uncovered 13 features: two ditches, a gully and ten pits. Post-medieval/modern finds were recovered from one ditch and the rest of the features were undated.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk which was carried out on 13th to 14th October 2021. The work was commissioned by Sophie Gittins on behalf of Granville Developments in advance of the construction of six new dwellings. This was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Mid Suffolk District Council: Planning reference DC/18/04264) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at land south of Field View, Elmswell, Suffolk* detailing the required archaeological work written by Hannah Cutler (SCCAS 2021a), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14, 24 and <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), as well as the *SCCAS Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2021b).

## 3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record ([archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)), SCC invoice number 9509386.

### Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site as neogene and quaternary rocks (undifferentiated) – gravel, sand, silt and clay, with superficial deposits of till – diamiction.

### Historic landscape

The development site is located in an area defined as *ancient plateau claylands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as Landscape type 2.2 (18th century and later enclosure – former common pasture, built margin). The landscape immediately around the site is characterised as: Landscape sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields), 1.4 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields), 3.2 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from

<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

<sup>3</sup> The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

rectilinear fields), 3.4 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from irregular co-axial fields) and 10.3 (Built up area – village).

#### **Archaeology<sup>4</sup>** (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

This background is focused on results within a 1km radius of the site.

Elmswell is one of the largest villages in Mid Suffolk District situated between Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. The development site is located inside of Boten Haugh Green, a historic green (EWL 061) and fronts onto an ancient route as indicated by historic buildings along it.

#### **Prehistoric:**

There were no prehistoric finds or features within the search area.

#### **Roman:**

A single ditch of probable Roman date with a single sherd of pottery recovered was identified during evaluation trenching on the former Grampian Food Site, St Edmunds Drive. A further two ditches contained a small amount of animal bone. These are probably part of a system of Roman field boundaries (EWL 032, 577m SW).

#### **Medieval:**

Oak Farmhouse is a 13th- to 14th-century aisled hall which later on had its aisles removed. Trenches were undertaken by Suffolk Archaeological Service to look for evidence of the aisle walls and hearths but they found poorly defined patches of flint (EWL 008, 183m SW).

East Wood is an area of historic woodland named and defined in the 1841 title map as a large irregular area (EWL 012, 1388m NE). The northern half was used during WWI and WWII as an airfield and the southern half is possibly surviving.

The development area is located inside the southern edge of the site of a former historic green (EWL 061 centre 1013m NNW). The green has been named different things over time including Pasturam de Buttehac (1156-80), Botenhagh (1286) and Boten Haugh Green (1783).

#### **Post-medieval to modern:**

The Suffolk Historic Environment Team have been working on a project to record lost and existing farmsteads in Suffolk. Farming has been a major factor in the development of Suffolk's landscape, both physically and socially throughout time. The farm buildings can help us to understand the agricultural practices and their development since the medieval period (SCCAS 2019a). Farmsteads within the search area are recorded on 19th-century mapping (but may be much earlier in date). These include: a loose courtyard with a two to four-sided plan formed by working agricultural buildings (Eastwood Farm EWL 048, 882m NE, Willow Farm, EWL 057 438m SW and Mulberry Farm EWL 058, 339m SW); those of dispersed cluster plans formed by working agricultural buildings (Hill Farm EWL 050, 751m N, Grove Farm EWL 052 390m NE, and Street Farm EWL 056 787m SSW); and regular courtyard L-shaped plan (Botany Bay EWL 051, 904m E, White House Farm EWL 053, 468m S).

Elmswell railway station was opened by the Bury Railway Company in 1846. Although the station is still in use some buildings on the north platform were demolished in 1974 and the signal box dismantled in 1986 (EWL 020, 1007m SSW). The Ipswich to Bury St Edmunds railway line cuts across the search area running N-S and was opened in 1846 (SUF 069, 967m S).

Approximately 630m west/northwest of the site is the edge of the location of a former military airfield. During WWI the airfield was the base of 51 and 75 squadron and used by the Royal

<sup>4</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Flying Core. During WWII the base was in use by the United States Air Force as the base of the 38th bombardment group. The main runway is still in use today as a private landing strip (EWL 026, 1809m NE).

#### Listed buildings<sup>5</sup>

There were 9 Grade II Historic England Listed Buildings within the search area. These are all historic farmhouses dating from the 15th century (Willow Farmhouse DSF281124 426m SW and Oak Farmhouse DSF4893 183m SW), 16th century (Grove Farmhouse DSF5777 364m NE, The Old Bank House DSF5275 918m SSW), 17th century (Green Farmhouse DSF4120 313m SW, Dagwood Farmhouse DSF5045 116m WSW, Street Farmhouse DSF4137 923m SSW and Rose cottage DSF6612, 586m SSW) and 19th century (White Farmhouse DSF5044 434m SSE).

## 4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were 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.
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

## 5 Methodology

As per the WSI (appended to this report), seven trial-trenches were laid out across the development site, providing a 5% sample of the site.

The trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist, and all archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. There was sufficient excavation to give evidence for the period, depth and nature of all archaeological deposits.

Individual records of deposits were entered on pro-forma record sheets. The evaluation trenches were surveyed by GPS with sections drawn by hand at 1:10. All trenches were digitally photographed with a scale and north arrow. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata.

## 6 Results (Figs 3-4)

Seven trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 25m long and 1.8m wide unless stated below. The trenches were excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.11-0.36m thick) and a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.06-0.16m thick) into natural (L3, c 0.21-0.53 below current ground level [bcgl]). A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

No archaeological remains were uncovered in T6. Sondages were excavated in T1, T4 and T6 to confirm the identification of natural.

### Trench 1 (T1)

Two pits and a gully were uncovered in T1, all of which were undated. Gully F1 (1.18m long, 0.41m wide and 0.14m deep, aligned NE/SW) and pit F2 (0.48m by 0.83m and 0.12m deep)

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<sup>5</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

were located in the north of the trench while pit F3 (0.49m by 0.60m and 0.10m deep) was located in the south.

#### **Trench 2 (T2)**

Undated pits F4 and F5 were located in T2. Pit F4 was 0.48m by 0.78m and 0.10m deep, and pit F5 was 0.59m by 0.49m and 0.14m deep.

#### **Trench 3 (T3)**

E/W aligned ditch F9 was wide and shallow (2.50m wide and 0.20m deep) and possibly represents a field boundary.

#### **Trench 4 (T4): 22m long**

Four undated pits were uncovered in the western end of T4. Pits F8 (0.61m by 1.05m and 0.20m deep), F12 (0.91m by 0.52m and 0.17m deep) and F13 (0.35m by 0.73m and 0.13m deep) were all oval in shape while pit F7 was elongated (0.79m by 1.50m and 0.51m deep).

#### **Trench 5 (T5)**

Post-medieval/modern ditch F6 (0.81m wide and 0.20m deep) produced a fragment of peg-tile and clinker. It was aligned E/W and covered the length of the trench. Ditch F6 possibly represents a field boundary.

#### **Trench 7 (T7)**

Undated pits F10 (0.34m by 0.61m and 0.10m deep) and F11 (0.45m by 0.42m and 0.09m deep) were the only features uncovered in T7.



**Photograph 1** F6 sx 2 – view south-west



**Photograph 2** F9 and T3 rep sx – view south-west



**Photograph 3** T4 trench shot – view west



**Photograph 4** T7 trench shot – view west

## 7 Finds

*by Dr. Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley*

Ditch F6 produced a piece of peg-tile (19g) and one fragment of clinker (45g), indicating the ditch is likely of post-medieval/modern date.

## 8 Conclusion

Thirteen features were identified on land south of Field View: ten pits, two ditches and a gully. Despite being located in an archaeologically sensitive area only one feature produced finds, which were of a post-medieval/modern date. The two ditches (F6 and F9) uncovered could potentially represent field boundaries, although they are not present on any historic maps.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Sophie Gittins and Granville Developments for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen, T Lawrence and W Bateson. Figures are by B Holloway, L Pooley and S Veasey. The project was monitored by Hannah Cutler for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

## 10 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- |                           |      |  |
|---------------------------|------|--|
| Brown, N & Glazenbrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT                       | 2021 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological</i>   |



		<i>evaluation at Land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk, IP30 9HJ by E Holloway</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation.</i> Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020
Historic England MHCLG	2015 2019	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
SCCAS	2019	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition</i>
SCCAS	2021a	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk,</i> by H Cutler
SCCAS	2021b	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation.</i> Updated Jan 2021

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Iron Age (Early)	Early Iron Age, period from c 600 – 400BC
Iron Age (Middle)	Middle Iron Age, period from c 400 – 100BC
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1737)

SCCAS evaluation brief

Original site record (trench sheet and sections)

Photographic log

Photographic archive thumbnails

### Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1737)

SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

### 13 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number EWL 063. The archive will be deposited in line with SCCAS guidance (SCCAS 2019).

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#### Distribution list:

Granville Developments  
Hannah Cutler, SCCAS  
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



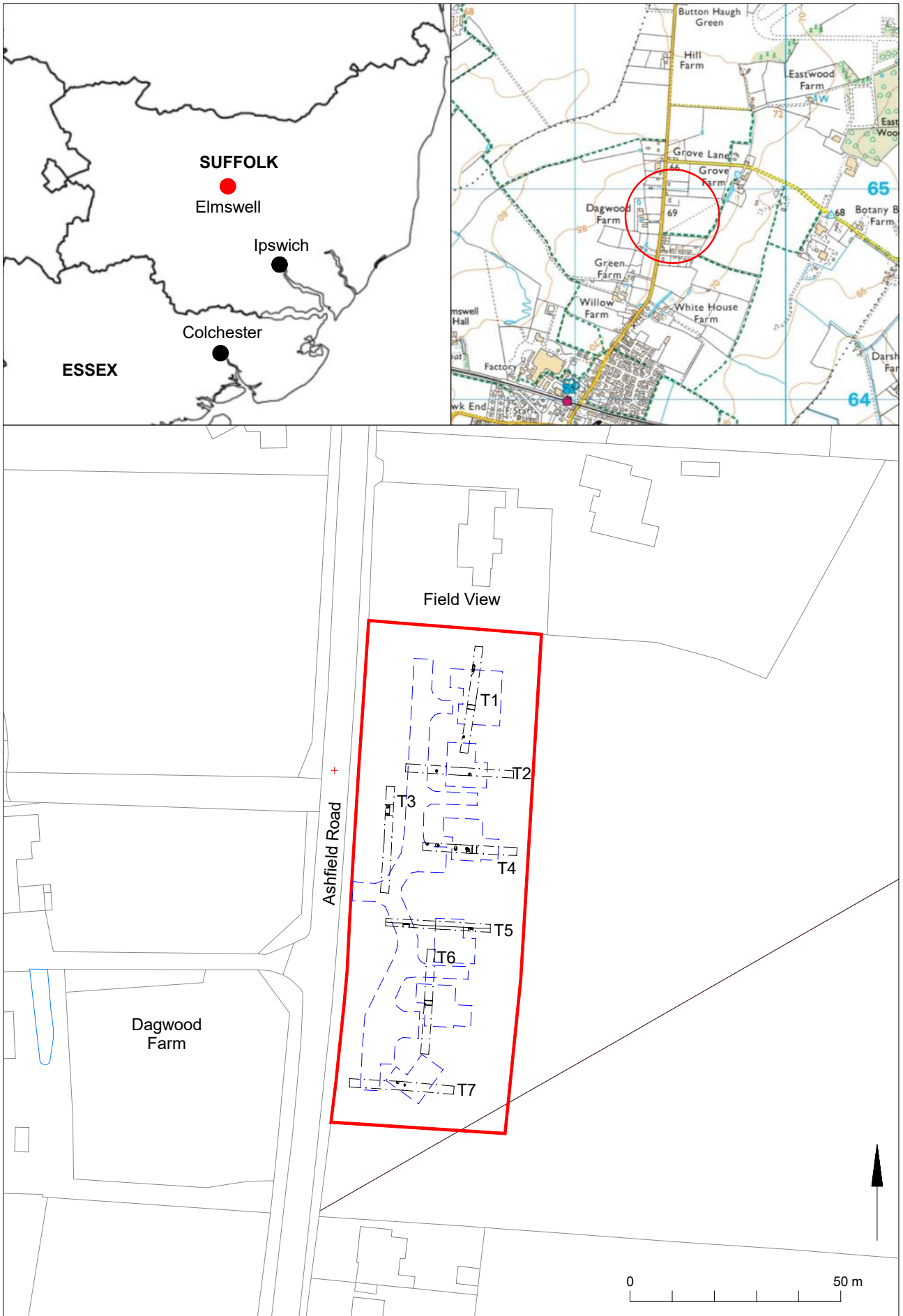
#### Colchester Archaeological Trust

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email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

checked by: Philip Crummy  
date:

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench	Finds No.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	soft moist dark brown/black silty sand and inclusions of: stone 10%	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 5%	Post-glacial
L3	All	-	Natural	firm moist medium orange/brown clayey and inclusions of: stone 5%	Post-glacial
F1	1	-	Gully	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 10%	Undated
F2	1	-	Pit	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 2%	Undated
F3	1	-	Pit	firm moist grey/brown clayey and inclusions of: stone 5%	Undated
F4	2	-	Pit	firm moist medium brown sand clay and inclusions of: stone 10%	Undated
F5	2	-	Pit	firm moist medium orange/grey sand clay and inclusions of: stone 5%	Undated
F6	5	1, 2	Ditch	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay	Post-medieval/ modern
F7	4	-	Pit	firm grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 10%	Undated
F8	4	-	Pit	firm moist grey/brown clayey and inclusions of: stone 8%	Undated
F9	3	-	Ditch	firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silty clay and inclusions of: stone 10%	Undated
F10	7	-	Pit	firm moist medium orange/grey silty clay	Undated
F11	7	-	Pit	firm moist medium orange/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks	Undated
F12	4	-	Pit	soft moist grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 5%	Undated
F13	4	-	Pit	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 5%	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blues lines).

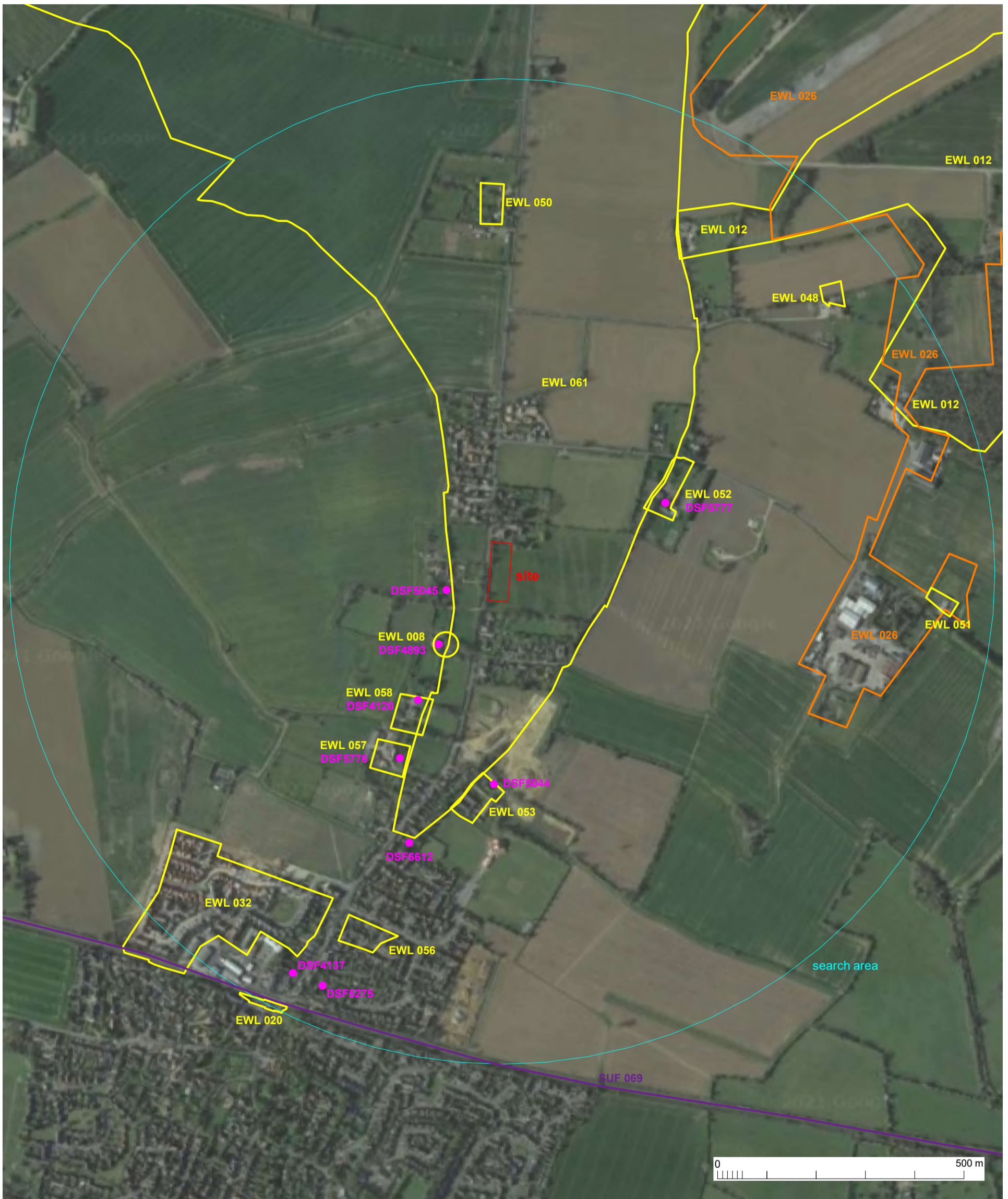


Fig 2 Development site (in red) shown in relation to archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.

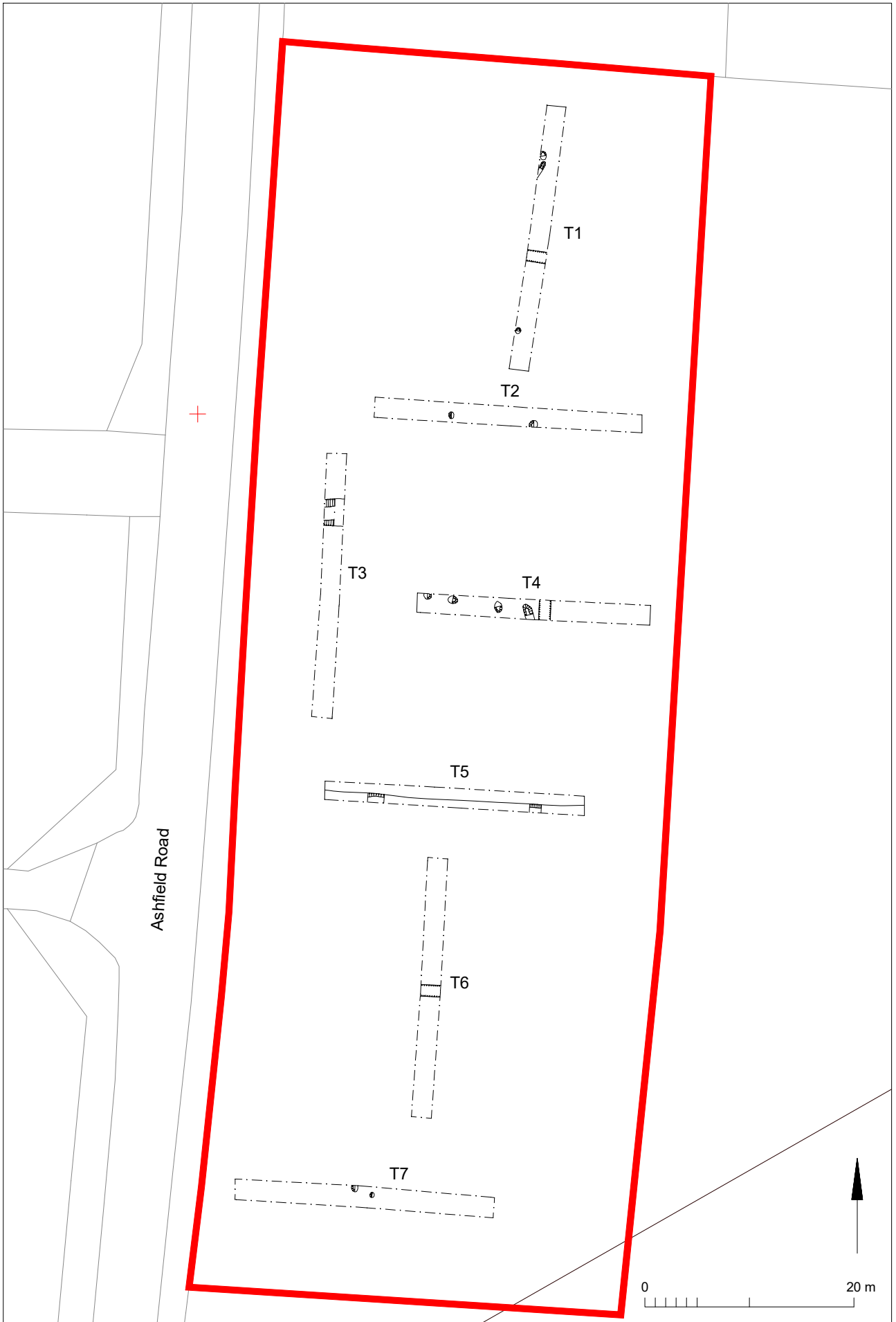


Fig 3 Results

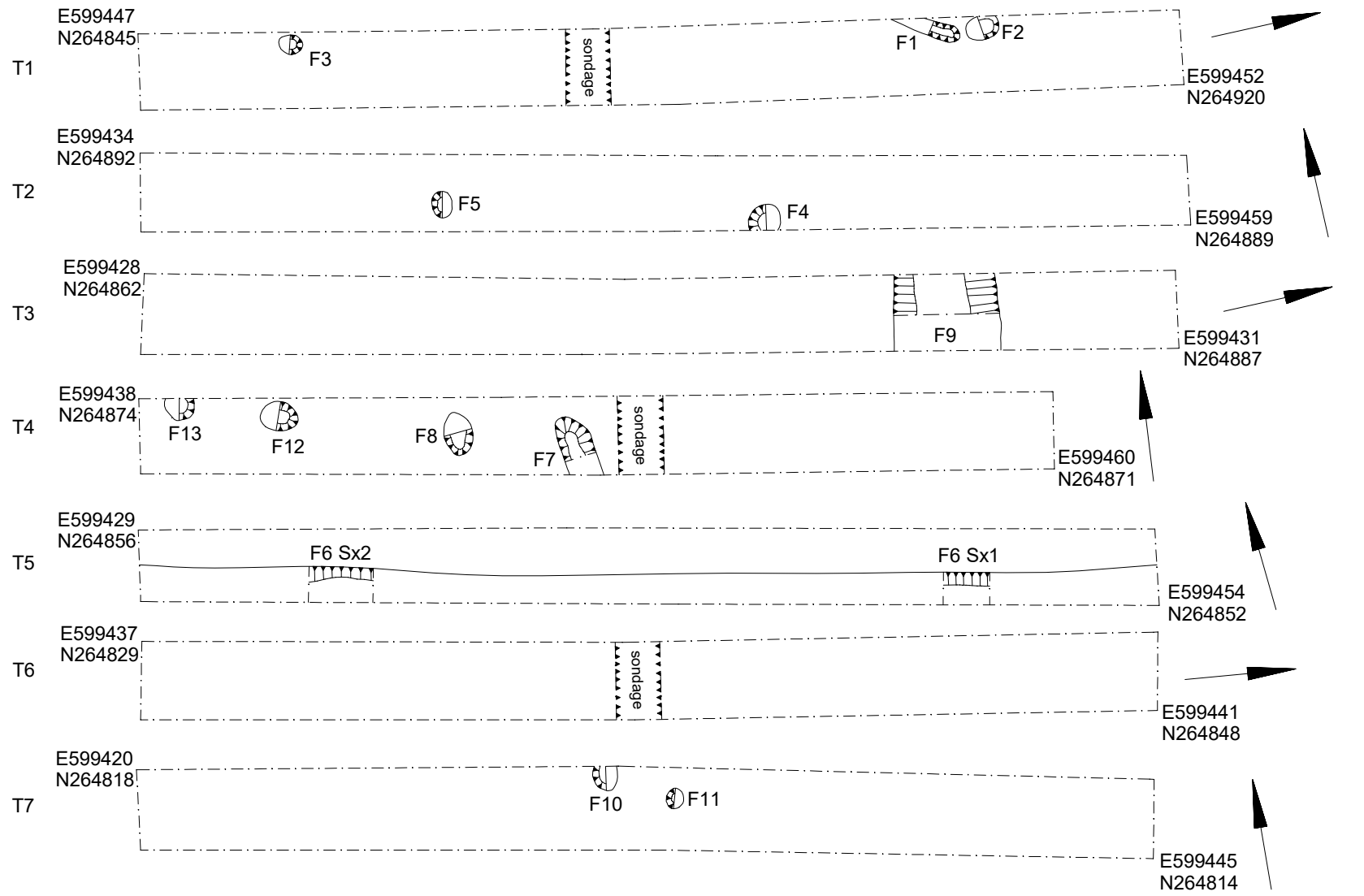


Fig 4 Trench plans

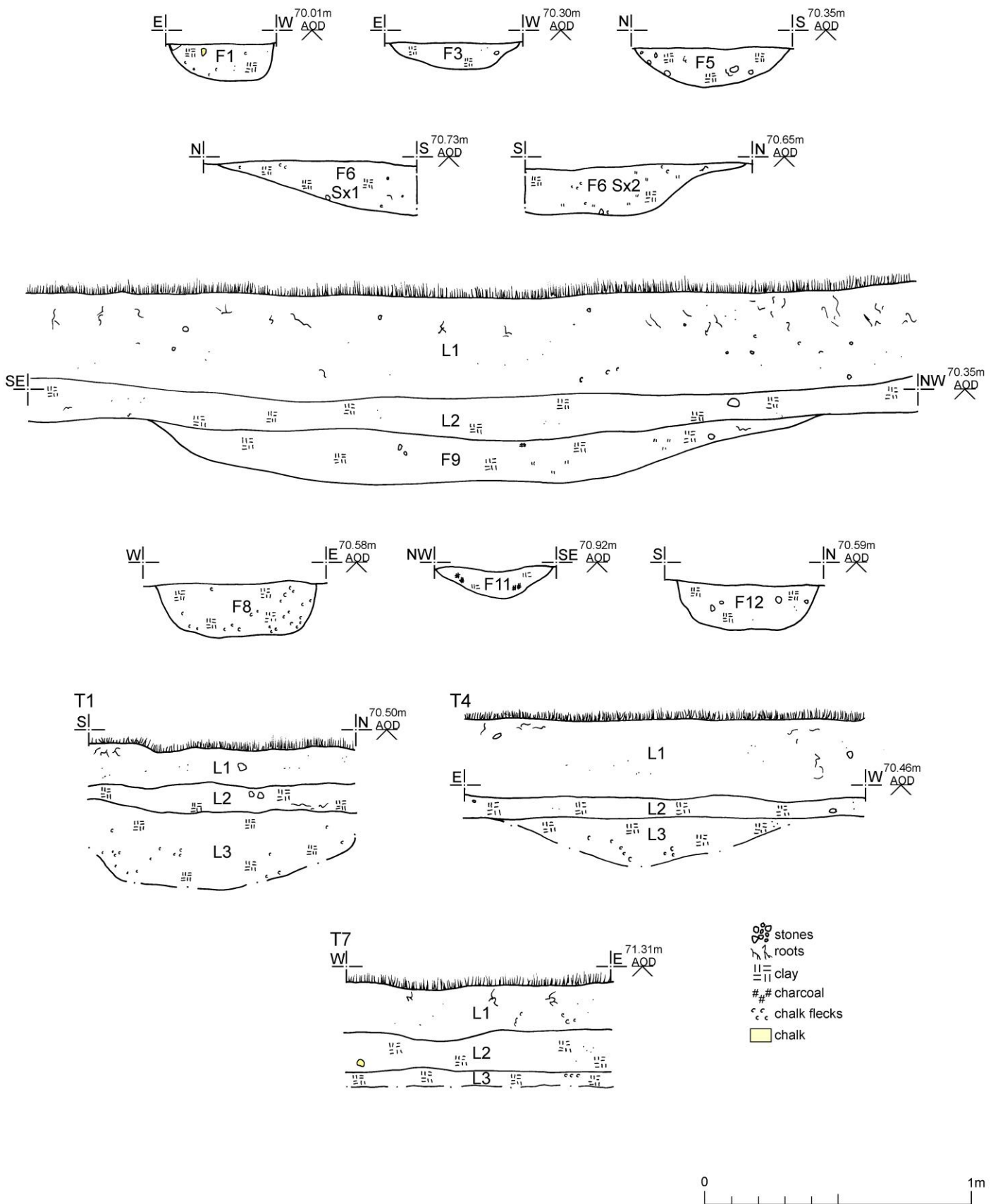


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.



# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Land south of field view, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk, IP30 9HJ

**NGR:** TL 99448 64867

**Planning reference:** DC/18/04264

**District:** Mid Suffolk District Council

**Parish:** Elmswell

**Commissioned by:** Sophie Gittins

**Client:** Granville Developments

**Curating museum:** Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

**Suffolk parish number:** EWL 063

**CAT project code:** 2021/08j

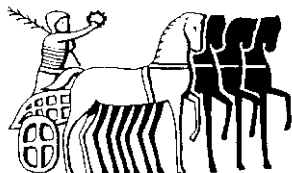
**OASIS reference no.:** colchest3-428988

**Contracts manager:** Chris Lister

**Site manager:** Adam Wightman

**SCCAS Monitor:** Hannah Cutler

**This WSI written:** 01/09/2021



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## Site location and description

The site is located north-northeast from the main edge of the village of Elmswell on land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk, IP30 9HJ (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 99448 64867. The site comprises of a 0.62 hectare plot currently in use as an area of maintained grassland.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of six dwellings with new vehicular access and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record ([archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)), SCC invoice number 9509386.

### Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site as neogene and quaternary rocks (undifferentiated) – gravel, sand, silt and clay, with superficial deposits of till - diamiction.

### Historic landscape

The development site is located in an area defined as *ancient plateau claylands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as Landscape type 2.2 (18th century and later enclosure - former common pasture, built margin). The landscape immediately around the site is characterised as: Landscape sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields), 1.4 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields), 3.2 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from rectilinear fields), 3.4 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from irregular co-axial fields) and 10.3 (Built up area – village).

### Archaeology<sup>4</sup> (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

This background is focused on results within a 1km radius of the site.

Elmswell is one of the largest villages in Mid Suffolk District situated between Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. The development site is located inside of Boton Haugh Green, a historic green (EWL 061) and fronts onto an ancient route as indicated by historic buildings along it.

### **Prehistoric:**

There were no prehistoric finds or features within the search area.

### **Roman:**

A single ditch of probable Roman date with a single sherd of pottery recovered was identified during evaluation trenching on the former Grampian Food Site, St Edmunds Drive. A further two ditches containing a small amount of animal bone. These are probably part of a system of Roman field boundaries (EWL 032, 577m SW).

### **Anglo-Saxon-Medieval:**

Oak Farmhouse is a 13th to 14th century aisled hall which later on had its aisles removed. Trenches were undertaken by Suffolk Archaeological Service to look for evidence of the aisle walls and hearts but they found poorly defined patches of flint (EWL 008, 183m SW).

<sup>1</sup> British Geological Survey – <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

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<sup>3</sup> The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

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#### **Post-Medieval-modern:**

The Suffolk Historic Environment Team have been working on a project to record lost and existing farmsteads in Suffolk. Farming has been a major factor in the development of Suffolk's landscape, both physically and socially throughout time. The farm buildings can help us to understand the agricultural practices and their development since the medieval period (SCCAS 2019a). Farmsteads within the search area are recorded on 19th century mapping (but may be much earlier in date). These include: of a loose courtyard with a two to four-sided plan formed by working agricultural buildings (Eastwood Farm EWL 048, 882m NE, Willow Farm, EWL 057 438m SW and Mulberry Farm EWL 058, 339m SW), those of dispersed cluster plans formed by working agricultural buildings (Hill Farm EWL 050, 751m N, Grove Farm EWL 052 390m NE, and Street Farm EWL 056 787m SSW), regular courtyard L-shaped plan (Botany Bay EWL 051, 904m E, White House Farm EWL 053, 468m S).

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Approximately 630m west/northwest of the site is the edge of the location of a former military airfield. During WWI the airfield was the base of 51 and 75 squadron and used by the Royal Flying Corps. During WWII the base was in use by the United States Air Force as the base of the 38th bombardment group. The main runway is still in use today as a private landing strip (EWL 026, 1809m NE).

#### **Listed buildings<sup>5</sup>**

There were 9 Grade II Historic England Listed Buildings within the search area. These are all historic farmhouses dating from the 15th century (Willow Farmhouse DSF281124 426m SW and Oak Farmhouse DSF4893 183m SW), 16th century (Grove Farmhouse DSF5777 364m NE, The Old Bank House DSF5275 918m SSW), 17th century (Green Farmhouse DSF4120 313m SW, Dagwood Farmhouse DSF5045 116m WSW, Street Farmhouse DSF4137 923m SSW and Rose cottage DSF6612, 586m SSW) and 19th century (White Farmhouse DSF5044 434m SSE).

### **Project background**

A planning application was submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council in September 2018 (DC/18/04264) proposing *outline Planning Application (Access to be considered) - Erection of up to 6no. dwellings with garages and construction of new vehicular access.*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the condition based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

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<sup>5</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

## Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for trenched archaeological evaluation. Details are given in the Project Brief (*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation land south of Field View, Elmswell*) written by SCCAS (2021a).

The brief stated the evaluation would involve a 5% sample of the site area by linear trenching. CAT proposes 7 trenches, six 25m long (T1-3 and T5-7) and one 22m long (T4). All trenches will be 1.8m wide. This equates to 172m of trenching covering an area of 309.60m<sup>2</sup> primarily targeting the footprints and access routes of the proposed houses (see Fig 1).

Localised extensions to trenches may be required by the SCCAS after the site monitoring visit. This will only be used if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy.

Trial-trenching is required 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
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

All work will take place within and contribute to the goals of the Regional Research Frameworks. This includes the regional review by Medlycott (2011) and the recently revised period specific frameworks (accessible via <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

Decision on the need for any further archaeological investigation (eg excavation) will be made by SCCAS, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the report for this evaluation. Any further investigation will be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation ONLY; this document alone will NOT result in the discharge of the archaeological condition.

## Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus three archaeologists for three days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

## General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003)
- Regional research and resource frameworks for the East of England (Medlycott 2011 and <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021), including a Risk Assessment which will be carried out before the evaluation begins.
- the Project Brief issued by SCCAS (2021a)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2021b) to be used alongside the Project Brief.

CAT is covered by Aviva Insurance Ltd, 006288/04/21, which includes Professional Indemnity £2,000,000, Employer's Liability £10,000,000 and Public Liability £5,000,000.

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to SCCAS ten days before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

Prior to the commencement of the site a HER parish code will be sought from the HER team. The HER parish code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to SCCAS. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

## Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached. Machine assistance may also be required for very large/deep features and a contingency has been made within the budget if required, but all features will be hand excavated unless specifically agreed with SCCAS.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded. **All** features will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the SCCAS, will it be removed.

Trenches will first be stepped where appropriate to allow for safe excavation of deep features. After discussion with SCCAS the use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) will be used where necessary to gain information from very deep deposits/features if depth cannot be established through hand excavation.

Any complex/unexpected deposits will be discussed with SCCAS to agree a strategy.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

The use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) will be used where necessary to gain information from very deep deposits/features.

A metal detector will be used to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. This will be carried out by trained CAT staff under the supervision of project manager/supervisors Adam Wightman, Nigel Rayner or Ben Holloway who have over 5 years experience of metal detecting on archaeological sites. Experienced metal detectorist Geoff Lunn will be available for advice and support throughout the project. Geoff has 4 years experience and has worked with CAT to recover finds from recent excavations at the Mercury Theatre and Essex County Hospital sites in Colchester, and who has also worked with the Colchester Archaeological Group, Suffolk Archaeology, Access Cambridge Archaeology, The Citizen Project (MOLA) and others. If considered necessary, Geoff will be employed by CAT for to assist with the metal detecting. All finds will have their location recorded via GPS or with the Total Station. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the SCCAS.

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

CAT aims to follow guidance set out in the Historic England guide for Environmental Archaeology (Historic England 2011). The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will

process the samples (unless complex or otherwise needing specialist processing) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and SCCAS will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Following HE guidance (Historic England 2018) all archaeological human remains excavated during the course of the evaluation will either be analysed and reported by CAT project osteologist Megan Seehra or will be sent to external specialist Julie Curl.

## **Photographic record**

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits and follow HE guidelines (Historic England 2015a). A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Basic site record shots will be taken using the site recording tablet at a resolution of 2592 x 1944 (5 megapixels).

Photographs of significant archaeological features and deposits will be taken using a Nikon D3500 DSLR camera with a 24.2 megapixel DX-format sensor.

## **Post-excavation assessment**

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with SCCAS.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

## **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

- ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Dr Matthew Loughton
- animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)
- small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
- non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
- flints: Adam Wightman
- environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
- project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

- animal and human bone: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)
- environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
- radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
- conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe, LR Conservation / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

- flint: Tom Lawrence
- prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
- Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
- Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
- Roman glass: Hilary Cool
- small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and reported immediately to the Suffolk FLO (Finds Liaison Office) who will inform the coroner within 14 days, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with SCCAS and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS 2019b).

## Results

Notification will be given to SCCAS when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b).

The draft final report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by SCCAS.

The approved final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA8, EAA14 & EAA24).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Appendices to include a copy of the completed OASIS summary sheet and the approved WSI

Results will be published, to at least a summary level, in the PSIAH (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History) annual round up should archaeological remains be encountered in the evaluation. An allowance will be made for this in the project costs for the report.

Final reports are also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.



## **Archive deposition**

The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service as per their archive guidelines (SCCAS 2019b).

If the client does not agree to transfer ownership to SCCAS they will be required to nominate another suitable repository approved by SCCAS or provide funding for additional recording and analysis of the finds archive (such as, but not limited to, additional photography or illustration of objects). In the rare event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated, provided they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner or an approved third party, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the SCCAS.

The archive will be deposited with the SCCAS within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

## **Monitoring**

SCCAS officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Suffolk and will need to inspect site works at an appropriate time during the fieldwork and will review the progress of excavation reports and/or archive preparation.

Notification of the start of work will be given to SCCAS ten days in advance of its commencement and a monitoring visit will be booked with SCCAS at this time.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with SCCAS prior to them being carried out.

SCCAS will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of SCCAS shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

### ***SCCAS remote monitoring requirements during the Covid-19 pandemic***

Currently SCCAS are undertaking monitoring visits.

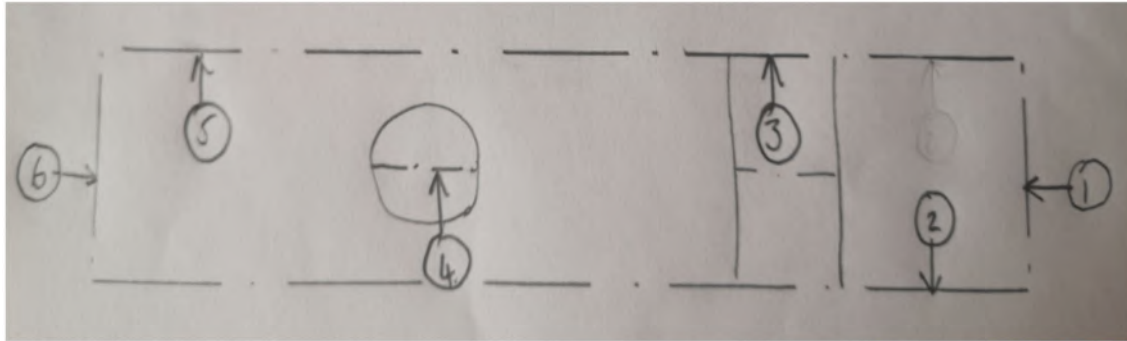
However, if government/local government advice changes due to a spike in cases/localised lockdown, *etc.* SCCAS may have to start remotely monitoring sites again.

In this case, the following remote monitoring requirements have been laid-out by SCCAS:

- All features present in the trenches, including presumed natural and geological features are to be investigated as per the WSI

In addition, the following must be sent to the SCCAS to enable them to decide if the fieldwork can be signed-off and trenches backfilled.

- GPS trench plans showing what is present in each trench – with context numbers included,
- Written text stating what finds were found (if any) in each context, with provisional date,
- Text stating which features environmental samples have been taken from,
- Photographs of 1) each trench, from each end of the trench; 2) trench sections (bulk); and 3) features (all photographs will be taken at appropriate times of day and not in bad lighting conditions and once trenches, sections, features have been cleaned)
- A diagram showing the direction each photograph was taken from, with photograph number. For example,



Provision will be made in the timetable of works for the SCCAS to review the remote monitoring documents and for any queries to be resolved.

CAT understands that if SCCAS cannot gain sufficient information remotely, they will not be able to sign off fieldwork which may lead to delays in the completion of projects.

### Education and outreach

The CAT website ([www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk](http://www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk)) is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785.

### References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2021	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2011	<i>Environmental archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation</i> . By G Campbell, L Moffett and V Straker
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital image capture and file storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing,

SCC	2012	Communities and Local Government. <i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map</i> , version 3
SCCAS	2019a	<i>Farmsteads in the Suffolk Countryside Project</i> . G Campbell and G McSorley
SCCAS	2019b	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition</i>
SCCAS	2021a	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at land south of Field View, Elmswell</i> , by Hannah Cutler
SCCAS	2021b	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i> . Updated Jan 2021

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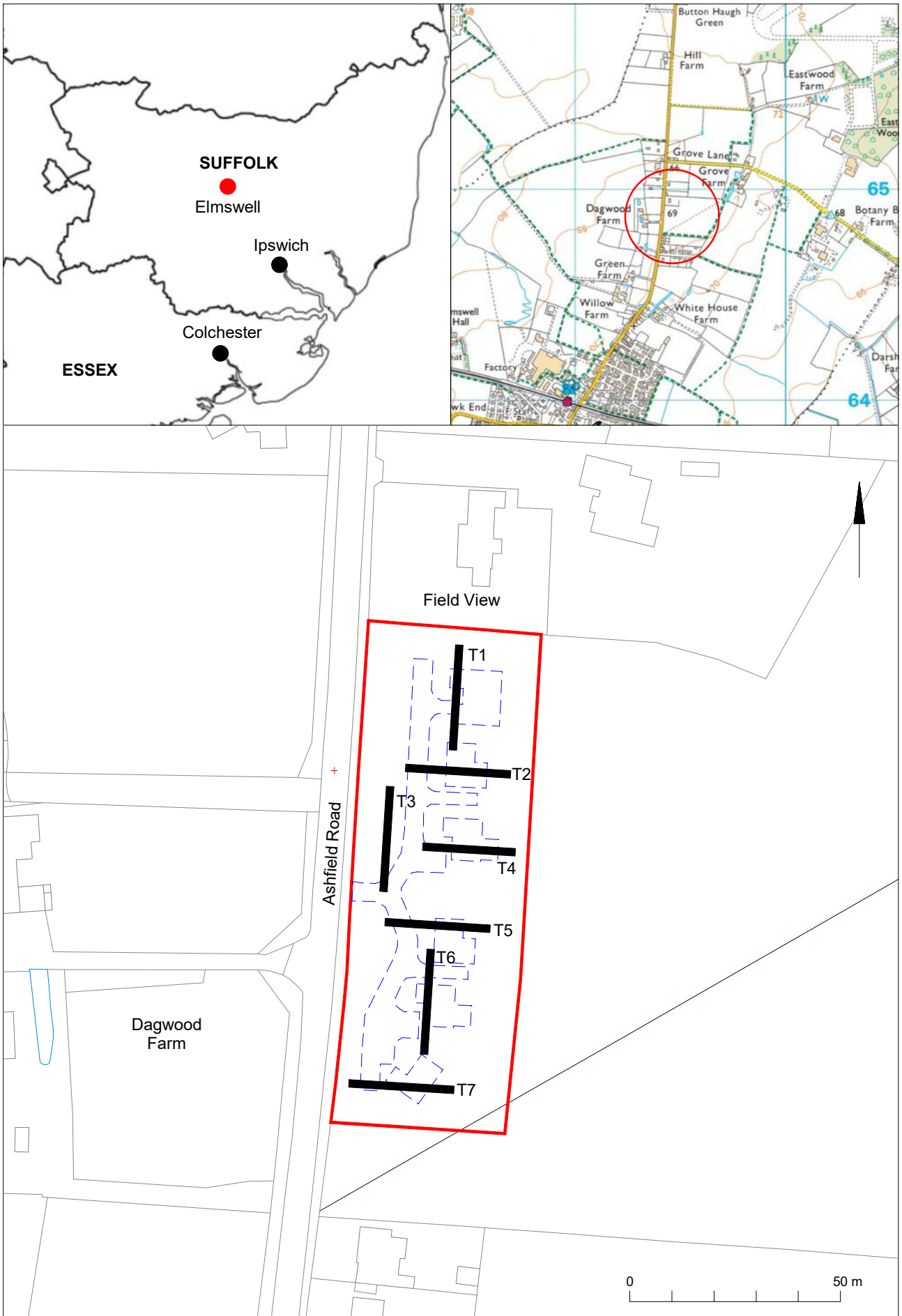


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blues lines).

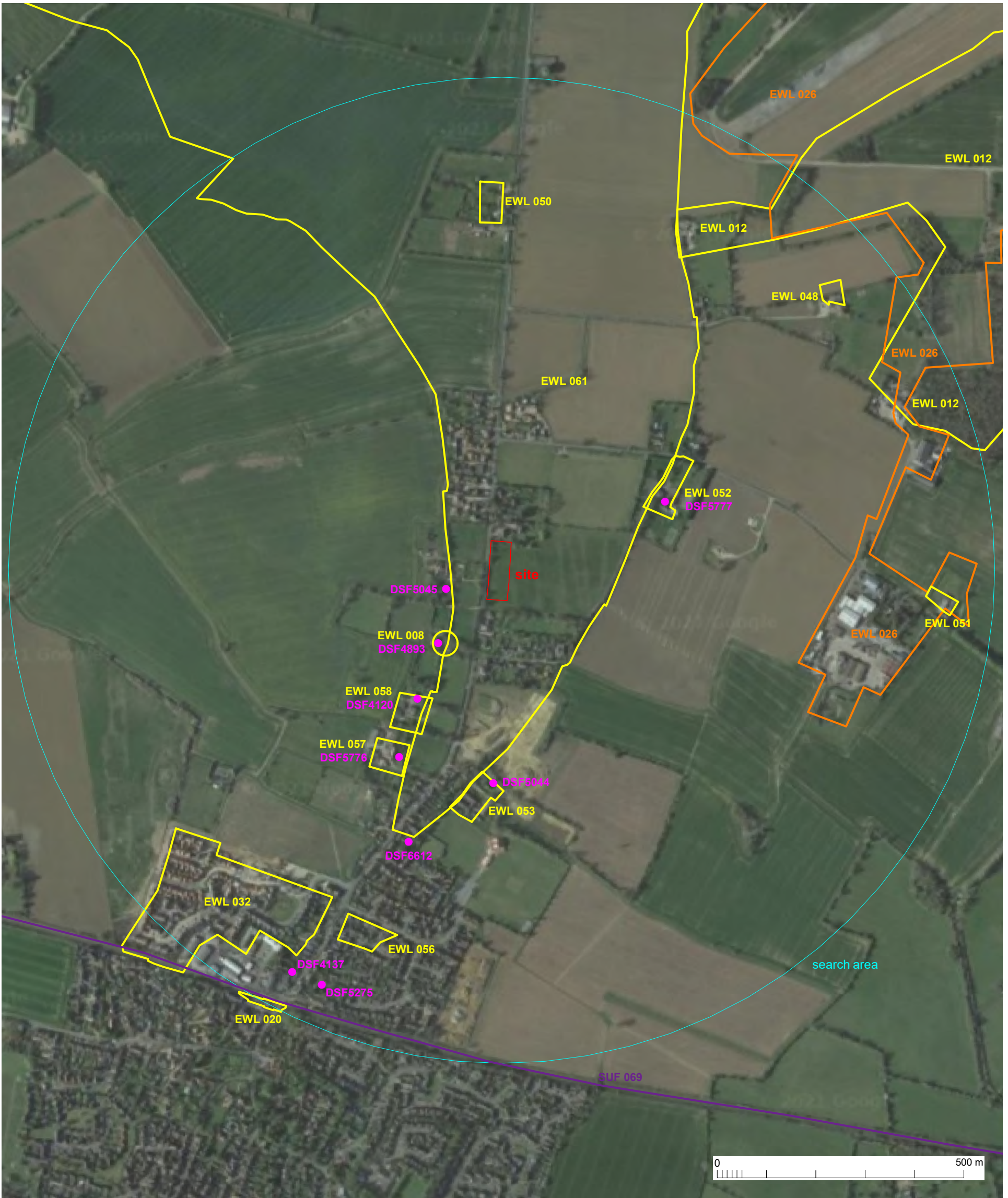


Fig 2 Development site (in red) shown in relation to archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.

Imagery ©2021 CNES/Airbus, Getmapping PLC, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, Map data © 2021 HER data © Suffolk Historic Environment Record

## Summary for colchest3-428988

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-428988
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk
Activity type	TRIAL TRENCH
Project Identifier(s)	2021/08j
Planning Id	DC/18/04264
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	14-Oct-2021 - 15-Oct-2021
Location	Land South of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell NGR : TL 99448 64867 LL : 52.2458298148141, 0.920103248681791 12 Fig : 599448,264867
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Mid Suffolk Parish : Elmswell
Project Methodology	<p>As per the WSI (appended to this report), seven trial-trenches were laid out across the development site, providing a 5% sample of the site.</p> <p>The trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist, and all archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. There was sufficient excavation to give evidence for the period, depth and nature of all archaeological deposits.</p> <p>Individual records of deposits were entered on pro-forma record sheets. The evaluation trenches were surveyed by GPS with sections drawn by hand at 1:10. All trenches were digitally photographed with a scale and north arrow. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata.</p>

Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Field View, Ashfield Road, Elmswell, Suffolk in advance of the construction of six new dwellings. The development site is located to north of the village Elmswell, with a historic green known as Boten Haugh Green (EWL 061) which dates back to at least the 12th century. The evaluation uncovered 13 features, two ditches, a gully and ten pits. Post-medieval/modern finds were recovered from one ditch, the rest of the features were undated.
Keywords	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service