

# Land Adjacent to Kiln Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2012

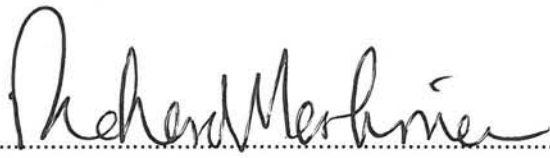
**Client: VOSA**

OA East Report No: 1364  
OASIS No: oxfordar3-124116  
NGR: TL 976 632

**Report Number:** 1364  
**Site Name:** Land Adjacent to Kiln Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk  
**HER Event No:** EWL029  
**Date of Works:** April 2012  
**Client Name:** VOSA  
**Client Ref:** EWL029  
**Planning Ref:** Mid Suffolk District Council (3512/10)  
**Grid Ref:** TL 976 632  
**Site Code:** EWL029  
**Finance Code:** XSFELM12  
**Receiving Body:** Suffolk Museums  
**Accession No:** EWL029

Prepared by: Graeme Clarke  
Position: Acting Supervisor  
Date: April 2012

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Position: Senior Project Manager  
Date: May 2012  
Signed: .....



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## **Land Adjacent to Kiln Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Report Date: May 2012*

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## **Summary**

*On 23rd April 2012, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Kiln Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk. This took the form of five 40m x 1.8m trenches and four 20m x 1.8m trenches across the proposed development area. One shallow linear ditch was revealed running north-to-south across the site; no artefacts were recovered from this feature which is likely to be post-medieval, or the subsoil and topsoil extending across the site.*

*The evaluation has demonstrated that no archaeological deposits or artefacts are present on this site.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land adjacent to Kiln Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk on the 23rd April 2012.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Sarah Poppy of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT; Planning Application: Mid Suffolk District Council 3512/10), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Mott MacDonald.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by Suffolk County Council, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found (since the production of the WSI, PPS5 has been replaced by NPPF).
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

### 1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north of the A14 at junction 47 with the A1088, in the parish of Elmswell (Fig. 1). It comprises an undeveloped parcel of land within a loop of the A1088 leading to a flyover across the A14. The site is flat in the eastern and central parts at approximately 50m above ordnance datum. The western part of the site slopes up towards the A1088 and flyover.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises bedrock of chalk, overlain by superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey; Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50000 ([http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html))).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section reproduces information sourced from the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation by Mott MacDonald (Adams 2011).
- 1.3.2 The earliest human activity identified within 1km of the site comprises findspots of Bronze Age date (EWL014 and WPR 016) and are likely to represent chance losses, there is no evidence of organised settlement in the area at this time. Similarly the only Iron Age evidence comprises a La Tene bow brooch and cupheaded pin fragment (EWL 019). A small number of residual prehistoric flints were discovered within ditches tentatively dated to the Roman period (EWL 013).
- 1.3.3 The Roman road from Bildesten to Ixworth is likely to have crossed Woolpit village on a slightly south-east to north-west alignment (Margary 1973) therefore bypassing Elmswell. The site is located just to the north of the projected route of the Roman road. Evidence of Roman activity has been identified to the north of the site and includes

various pottery scatters, coins and other items lost accidentally (EWL 014, EWL 001, EWL 005, EWL 025 and WPT 015). A Roman pottery kiln was identified to the north-east of the site (EWL003) and therefore is more indicative of settlement activity. Three ditches, tentatively dated to the Roman period were identified at a site to the north-east, possibly associated with Roman agricultural practices (EWL 013).

- 1.3.4 A Late Saxon brooch comprises the only recorded find of that date within 1km of the site (EWL 010). The name of Elmswell probably derives from the Old English Elmswella meaning 'Spring or Stream where elms grow' and thus indicating a Late Saxon origin for the village. The village is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 with 40 households, one church (EWL 007) and held by the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds (Rumble 1986).
- 1.3.5 A variety of medieval finds have been identified through various archaeological surveys including metal detecting and watching briefs (EWL 010, EWL 014 and EWL 021). A rabbit warren was established at Elmswell by the Abbot of Bury St Edmunds during the medieval period, though its exact location is unknown (Bailey 1988).
- 1.3.6 The railway line between Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich was constructed during the middle of the 19th century and brought investment and development to Elmswell. The 19th century maps indicate that the northern area of the site was prone to flooding due to its location close to the Black Bourne. The Cross Ways is a listed early 19th century farmhouse to the south-east of the site (LBS 1032471) and it is clear that throughout recent history the site has remained pasture/arable farmland. The 1884 Ordnance Survey shows a road (later called Earthfield Lane) running through the southern part of the site. This road forms a cross-road junction at the Cross Ways farm with a second road which ran north-east to south-east. No change is recorded until the early 1970s when the boundary around the small field or paddock in the western area of the site was removed, concurrently with the A45 (now A14) being constructed to the south. By 1981 the A1088 and its roundabout are constructed and Earthfield Lane is cut off, though access points to the field remain at the former junctions
- 1.3.7 Earthfield Lane is visible as a cropmark on current aerial photography, as are the former field boundaries.
- 1.3.8 A search of past Ordnance Survey maps of the site at <http://old-maps.co.uk> was carried out to determine the more recent use of the site. It was determined that the area encompassing the site was divided into small fields or paddocks in as far back as 1884.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The Author would like to thank Ian Watkins of VOSA and Phillippa Adams of Mott MacDonald who respectively commissioned and monitored the project, Mike Green who assisted in the excavation of the site and Richard Mortimer the Project Manager at OA East. Sarah Poppy monitored the works on behalf of Suffolk County Council. The Author would also like to thank Dave Brown for conducting the survey and illustrations.



## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required a programme of linear trial trenching to adequately sample the area to conform with the aims of the investigation. This comprised five 40m x 1.8m wide trenches and four 20m x 1.8m wide trenches.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS 1200.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 No features or layers were encountered that had potential for environmental sampling.
- 2.2.7 The site conditions were good with fair weather. The trial trenches were located within a grassed area.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section, full descriptions with dimensions are given in Appendix A, with locations and surface levels above ordnance datum given in Figure 2. Photographs showing the general site conditions are included in Plates 1 and 2.

### 3.2 Trench Descriptions

3.2.1 Excavation of the trenches revealed varying deposits across the proposed development area.

3.2.2 The natural Head deposits (3) were encountered in Trench 4, the south eastern half of Trench 5 and in Trenches 6 to 9 at a depth of between 0.3m and 0.6m below ground level. These deposits comprised loose orange and pale grey silty sand and flint gravel.

3.2.3 Made ground (4) was encountered at the base of Trenches 1, 2, 3 and the north western half of Trench 5. The made ground comprised of firm orange, brown and grey sandy clay with some wood, brick and tarmac fragments.

3.2.4 The natural deposits in Trenches 7, 8 and 9 were overlain by a subsoil (2) comprising compact light brown sandy silt with rare flint gravel between 0.2m and 0.3m thick.

3.2.5 In all trenches these deposits were overlain by topsoil (1) comprising mid brown sandy silt between 0.3m and 0.6m thick.

### 3.3 Features Encountered

3.3.1 A ditch **5** was encountered at the south eastern end of trench 6. The ditch comprised a shallow linear cut with a U shaped profile (1m wide by 0.45m deep) running north to south. The fill (6) consisted of mid brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. This feature was sealed by the overlying topsoil.

### 3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 No artefacts were recovered from the features encountered or the excavated subsoil and topsoil excavated during trenching. No metal detected finds other than those of a clearly modern date were recovered.

### 3.5 Environmental Summary

3.5.1 No deposits were identified with potential for environmental sampling.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Conclusions

- 4.1.1 The ditch identified at the south east end of Trench 6 probably represents a post-medieval field or paddock boundary identified in the archaeological and historical background (as described in section 1.3.6 and 1.3.8).
- 4.1.2 There is evidence of much disturbance to the natural ground levels across the site due to the recent construction of the surrounding road junction and flyover. There is a significant build up of made ground, rising from east to west, in the western part of the site to accommodate the flyover. This gives a maximum thickness to the made ground at the western end of site of approximately 3.5m. The central part of the site lacks the subsoil shown to exist beneath the eastern part of the site indicating the land surface to have been further disturbed in this part of the site.

### 4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The evaluation at Land Adjacent to Kiln Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk has demonstrated that no archaeological deposits or artefacts are present on this site.

### 4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by SCCAS.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Made Ground	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Made Ground	-	-
Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying made ground.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Made Ground	-	-

Trench 4						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural deposits.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.45
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying made ground in the NW half and natural in the SE half of the trench.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.3
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4	Layer	-	-	Made Ground	-	-
Trench 6						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		E-W
Consists of topsoil overlying natural deposits. One post-medieval ditch at south east end.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.3
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
5	cut	1	0.45	ditch	-	post-medieval
6	fill	-	-	disuse	-	post-medieval

Trench 7						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural deposits.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.5
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 8						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural deposits.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.5
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 9						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural deposits.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.6
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adams, P., 2011 *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation: New VOSA Checkpoint, Elmswell, EWL029*, Mott MacDonald, dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (unpublished)

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Margary, I., 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain* Third Edition John Baker: London

Poppy, S., 2011 *Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Elmswell A14/A1088 New VOSA Checkpoint, Elmswell (3512/10)*, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, dated 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011 (unpublished)

Rumble, A., 1986 *Domesday Book: Suffolk* Phillimore: London

Electronic Source

[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)

<http://old-maps.co.uk>

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-124116		
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at Land Adjacent to Kiln Lane, Elmswell, Suffolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	23-04-2012	Finish	23-04-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	EWL029	Planning App. No.	3512/10
HER No.	EWL029	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Service Infrastructure

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Mid Suffolk	Land Adjacent to Kiln Lane Elmswell Suffolk
Parish	Elmswell	
HER	Suffolk Museums	
Study Area	1.5 ha	National Grid Reference TL 976 632



## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Sarah Poppy (SCCAS/CT)
Project Design Originator	P. Adams (Mott MacDonald)
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer (OA East)
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke (OA East)

## Project Archives

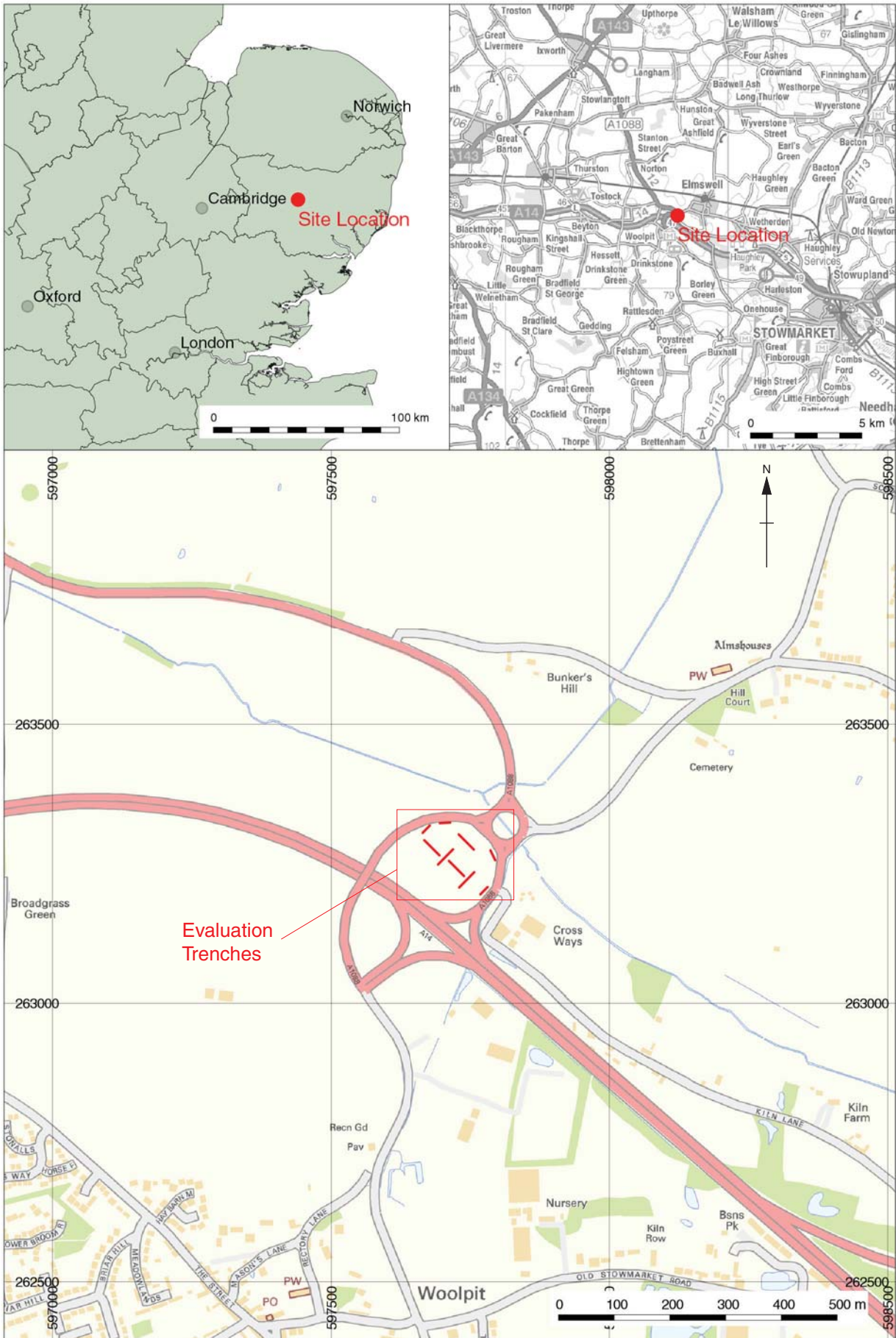
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
na	Suffok Museums	Suffolk Museums
na	EWL029	EWL029

## Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

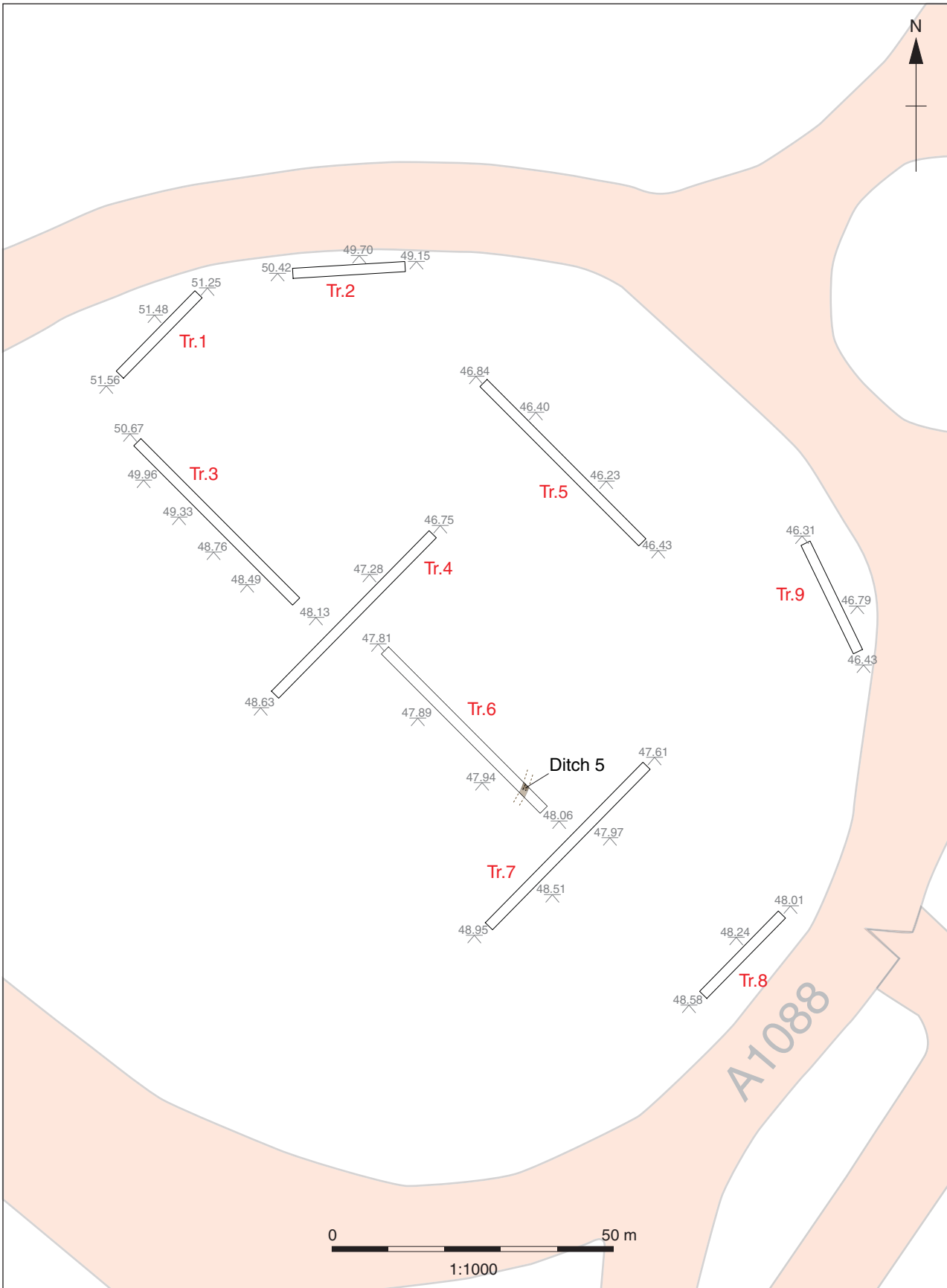


Figure 2: Trench layout and height data (levels in metres OD)





Plate 1: Working shot of site looking north



Plate 2: Working shot of site looking south-east



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