

# Kelling Heath Holiday Park Weybourne Norfolk



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



July 2014

**Client: Bidwells/ Blue Sky Leisure**

OA East Report No: 1641

OASIS No: oxfordar3-185700

NGR: TG 1171 4140

**Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

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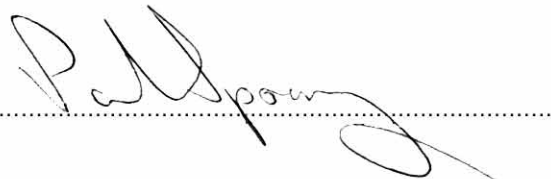
*Report Date: July 2014*

**Report Number:** 1641  
**Site Name:** Kelling Heath Holiday Park  
**HER Event No:** CNF 45216  
**Date of Works:** March 2014  
**Client Name:** Bidwells/ Blue Sky Leisure  
**Client Ref:** -  
**Planning Ref:** PF/13/1026  
**Grid Ref:** TG 1171 4140  
**Site Code:** ENF 132533  
**Finance Code:** XNFKEL14  
**Receiving Body:** NCC Museums Service  
**Accession No:** 2013.270

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## **Summary**

*Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk (TG 1171 4140). The proposed development (Area B in the Design and Access Statement) involves the construction of hard-standings, access roads, parking bays and services for lodges and static caravans.*

*Prior to this work a desk-based assessment and level 1 earthwork survey had been carried out in October 2013 on a site nearby (Site A) which revealed potential for Medieval, Post Medieval and Modern features.*

*Site B consisted of a field under pasture which had previously been the location of a carting/motor-cross track. Three visits were made during the current works and observations were made of a number of service trenches and footings. No archaeological remains were uncovered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, south of Weybourne, North Norfolk, centred on TG 1171 4140 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by David Robertson of Norfolk Environment Service (NES; Planning Application PF/13/1026).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NES, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 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 predominantly on the Wroxham Crag formation of sand and gravel with superficial Head deposits (BGS 2003). The land on which the site is located forms part of the Cromer Ridge which consists of Pleistocene glacial outwash. The ridge rises to around 80m O.D. at Kelling Heath where the deposits slope gently to the south. The coast line lies 2.5km to the north.
- 1.2.2 The proposed development area lies in the south of the parish of Weybourne, 0.7km to the south of the village of Weybourne. The site being developed is approximately 220m by 120m and is located towards the western side of the Holiday Park in an area of grassland with a tree boundary. It is bounded to the north by plots for static homes, to the east by Sandy Hill Lane, which runs north to south between Weybourne and Bodham, and to the south by a fenced property boundary with Breck Farm. There was no marked boundary to the west.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment has been carried out for this site (Rees 2013), taking in to account historical, cartographic, and aerial photograph resources as well including information from the Norfolk historic environment record for sites and monuments within 1km of the development area. This background is reproduced below.

#### **Historical Sources**

- 1.3.2 The site currently lies in parish of Weybourne but its name indicates that this land may once have lain within the bounds of the parish of Kelling or the manors there in. The parish boundary with Bodham currently lies 600m to the south of the site, running roughly through the centre of Hundred Acre Wood, whilst that with Kelling parish follows the western boundary of the wood. The place name 'Kelling' may have an Anglo-Saxon origin, meaning *Cylla's/Ceolla's* people (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk>), whilst the origin of the name '*Weybourne*' is less certain, probably meaning a stream with a weir or mill dam (ibid.). In the 11th century *Ilketeshale's* Manor held control of Kelling whilst the first records of a church at Kelling are from 1266 when Robert de Kelling agreed with the

Bishop of Norwich that his grandsons would become the rectors of Kelling and Salthouse (Blomefield 1808). The Augustin Priory at Weybourne (NHER6278), established in 1190, was located 1.8km to the north of the site (Fairweather 1930).

#### **The Historic Environment Record (HER)**

- 1.3.3 A search was carried out of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service for known sites within 1km of the proposed development area. The results of this search are described below in chronological order.

##### ***Prehistoric***

- 1.3.4 The varied landscape of the north Norfolk coast was an attractive ecotonal environmental for nomadic and semi-sedentary prehistoric communities. The geological formation of the Cromer Ridge not only offered inland shelter from the North Sea winds but also a natural vantage point from which the rich pasture-land along the coast could be seen. A flint working site (NHER6246), now located within the holiday park, dates from the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods and attests to the early prehistoric activity in this area. A Mesolithic flake, leaf shaped arrowhead and flint axe (NHER6257) have also been found 100m to the north-east of the site.
- 1.3.5 Occupation of the area continued into the Neolithic period. A large polished flint axehead has been recovered from the field 200m to the south-east (NHER6259) whilst a fragment of another (NHER40546) and evidence of flint working (NHER30417; 51432) was found 300m to the north-east. The Neolithic communities of the area may have ascribed a ritual significance to some parts of the landscape with cropmarks indicating the location an oval barrow (NHER6300) just over 1km from the proposed development area and a mortuary enclosure (NHER22883) 600m to the south-east.
- 1.3.6 The significance of this part of the landscape continued into the Bronze Age with up to four barrows, generally dating from the beginning of this period, being located close to the proposed development area. It is not uncommon to find these monuments associated with previous Neolithic mortuary structures as well as natural routeways through the landscape, both of which appear to have been a factor in this area. The best preserved of these four barrows, measuring 16m in diameter, is that located 135m to the north-west of the site (NHER6261). Another probable barrow (NHER40492) surviving as an earthwork is located 800m to the north-east. Two ring-ditches observed as cropmarks (NHER32047; 32048), located 1km to to the north-east, may be the location of two other early Bronze Age barrows.
- 1.3.7 There have been no finds or sites identified dating to the Iron Age in this area. The nearest find was that of a miniature copper alloy head (NHER31088) found just over 1km from the current site. The closest major Iron Age site is that of Wareham Camp 16.5km to the west (Davies 1992, 59).

##### ***Roman***

- 1.3.8 Evidence of occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site in the Roman period is sparse. Three finds of Roman pottery, the closest of which being 500m to the north-east, have been recovered from fieldwalking and as chance finds (NHER15604; 15606; 30046). Roman coins have been found near Rosedale Farm, Weybourne, to the north.

##### ***Saxon and Medieval***

- 1.3.9 Place-name evidence from this part of Norfolk suggests that many of the settlements in this area, including Kelling, were founded during the Saxon period. There is very little evidence for Saxon or medieval occupation in the vicinity of the proposed development area but this landscape does appear to have been exploited for its iron ore deposits at this time. Late Saxon to medieval iron extraction pits and quarries have been tentatively identified to the north and east of the site (NHER6280; 6281; 6282; 6283; 6284; 38637; 38640; 38345). Most of these survive as undated earthworks in the form of pits and banks which may represent strip quarrying.



1.3.10 The only medieval moated site known in the area is that which lies near Rosedale Farm, south of Weybourne (NHER6304). This site, just over 1km from the proposed development area, consisted of fishponds and two moated enclosures that overlooked the settlement of Weybourne. These features, seen as cropmarks, are likely to have related to a medieval manor, the occupants of which may have had control over this area in the 11th to 14th century. Finds recovered from a subsequent metal detecting survey of this area (NHER51430) may indicate that the presence of Roman and Saxon predecessors. Access to many of these pits may have been via the medieval field boundaries and trackways (NHER38266) seen on aerial photographs as cropmarks giving access to Weybourne Woods.

1.3.11 Ridge and furrow cultivation (NHER38646) located 1km to the south of the site maybe associated with the medieval occupation of Bodham.

#### ***Post-medieval***

1.3.12 A boundary bank that may represent the original boundary of Hundred Acre Woods (NHER5109) has been identified 800m to the south-west of the proposed development area, whilst a post-medieval pottery kiln was located just under 1km to the south-east of the site (NHER15604).

1.3.13 A water pumping station associated with the Weybourne Court Hotel once stood 300m to the north of the site (NHER31323). There is also evidence of post-medieval quarrying in Weybourne Wood to the south-east (NHER38641).

#### ***Modern***

1.3.14 There is an abundance of features in this area associated with military training and defences constructed during World War I and II. This is due to the location of the military testing and training facility of Weybourne Camp in this area.

1.3.15 Several features have been identified from aerial photographs as training trenches dating to WWI. These are primarily located on Kelling Heath to the west of the proposed development area (NHER38420; 38419) as well as in Weybourne Woods to the north-east (NHER38418).

1.3.16 Two areas of features relating to WWII training have been identified, one on Kelling Heath to the west and the other in Weybourne Woods to the east. Barbed wire enclosures, weapons pits and practice trenches are located on Kelling Heath (NHER38645; NHER38424; NHER38423), whilst earthwork emplacements also formed part of the training camp in Weybourne Woods (NHER38639; 38642; 38348)

1.3.17 Defensive features in this area include two pillboxes (NHER18108, 30m north-east; NHER30708 200m south-east); three spigot mortar bases (NHER40350, 350m to south-east; NHER18109, 400m north; NHER24266, 350m west); a gun emplacement (NHER38421, 980 south-west); a tank trap (NHER40318, 800m east-north-east); and a search light battery (NHER34181, 850m north).

1.3.18 Military earthworks and defensive obstructions have also been identified on Kelling Heath (NHER35551; 38425) and in Hundred Acre Wood (NHER44253).

#### **Archaeological Excavations and Surveys**

##### ***Sheringham Shoal Pipeline (NHER51430-51434, 51725)***

1.3.19 A metal detecting survey, targeted excavation and watching brief was carried out in advance of the construction of a pipe trench associated with the on-shore grid connection of the Sheringham Shoal offshore windfarm (Westall and Smith 2008; Hickling 2010). The route of this cable passed north to south through the western edge of the proposed development area. An excavation 230m to the north of the current site uncovered no archaeological remains despite being in close proximity to the Weybourne Pits possible Late Saxon quarries and the Bronze Age barrow (NHER6261).

- 1.3.20 Excavations were also carried out as part of this project at the Rosedale Farm moated site south of Weybourne. These uncovered three furrows, two ditches and a stakehole, sealed by a layer of medieval subsoil (NHER51430).
- 1.3.21 The metal detecting survey along this route recovered finds dating from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period. Roman finds were recovered predominantly from that part of the cable trench which was located to the north of the current site whilst prehistoric and medieval finds were recovered from the area in Hundred Acre Woods.  
**Weybourne Pit (NHER6283)**
- 1.3.22 An excavation of the Weybourne Pits by Mr. J.D. Nobel in 1956 uncovered iron conglomerate, broken flint and crude hammer stones along with an iron ore layer about 45cm thick. No datable evidence was recovered from this excavation.  
**Other Fieldwork**
- 1.3.23 A fieldwalking survey took place to the south of the development area in 1979 (NHER15606). A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this survey.

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The authors would like to thank Paul Timewell of Blue Sky Leisure who commissioned and funded the work. Paul Spoerry managed the project and edited the report. Anj Beckham of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service conducted the search of the H.E.S records. David Robertson wrote the Brief for archaeological works. Gillian Greer produced the illustrations.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this watching brief 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 that any excavation penetrating the subsoil be observed by an archaeologist. Removal of topsoil did not need to be observed.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 Spoil heaps were observed for any topsoil or subsoil finds whilst photographic evidence was taken of empty trenches

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 Three sites visits were made ot Area B to monitor the excavation of footings and service trneches.
- 3.1.2 During the watching brief a number of areas were excavated. Firstly topsoil was stripped in twenty separate locations, each area measuring approximately 12m by 6m, where stone-footing were planned to be erected (Plate 1). The subsoil was not disturbed here therefore no archaeology was observed.
- 3.1.3 A number of small isolated trenches were excavated which varied in size. These trenches varied in depth, however the natural geology was present in all due to the topsoil and subsoil depths being minimal. No archaeology was present.
- 3.1.4 Finally trenches for services were excavated; these were cut across much of the site. Topsoil and subsoil in these trenches measured approx 0.40m in depth and overlay natural geological deposits (Plate 2).
- 3.1.5 No archaeological features were uncovered during any of the excavations observed.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 A vast area of this field was observed through excavation with natural geology being present no more than 0.5m below the surface. No archaeology was observed in any of the trenches.
- 4.1.2 Preservation may have been effected by the shallow overlying layers of topsoil and subsoil which may not have provided much protection from ploughing. An remains that do survive in this area area likely to be located in the wooded area (see Rees 2013) where ploughing has not taken place in recent years.

## APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Key to English Place names Accessed <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Norfolk/Kelling>  
15/10/2013

## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-185700		
Project Name	Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Weybourne, Norfolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	17-03-2014	Finish	21-03-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF132533	Planning App. No.	PF/13/1026
HER No.	CNF45216	Related HER/OASIS No.	oxfordar3-161216

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

### 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 type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input 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 checked="" 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
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	North Norfolk	Kelling Heath Weybourne Holt	
Parish	Waybourne		
HER	Norwicj		
Study Area	1.2ha	National Grid Reference	TG 1171 4140

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	David Robertson
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry
Supervisor	Kathryn Nicholls

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
2013.270	2013.270	2013.270

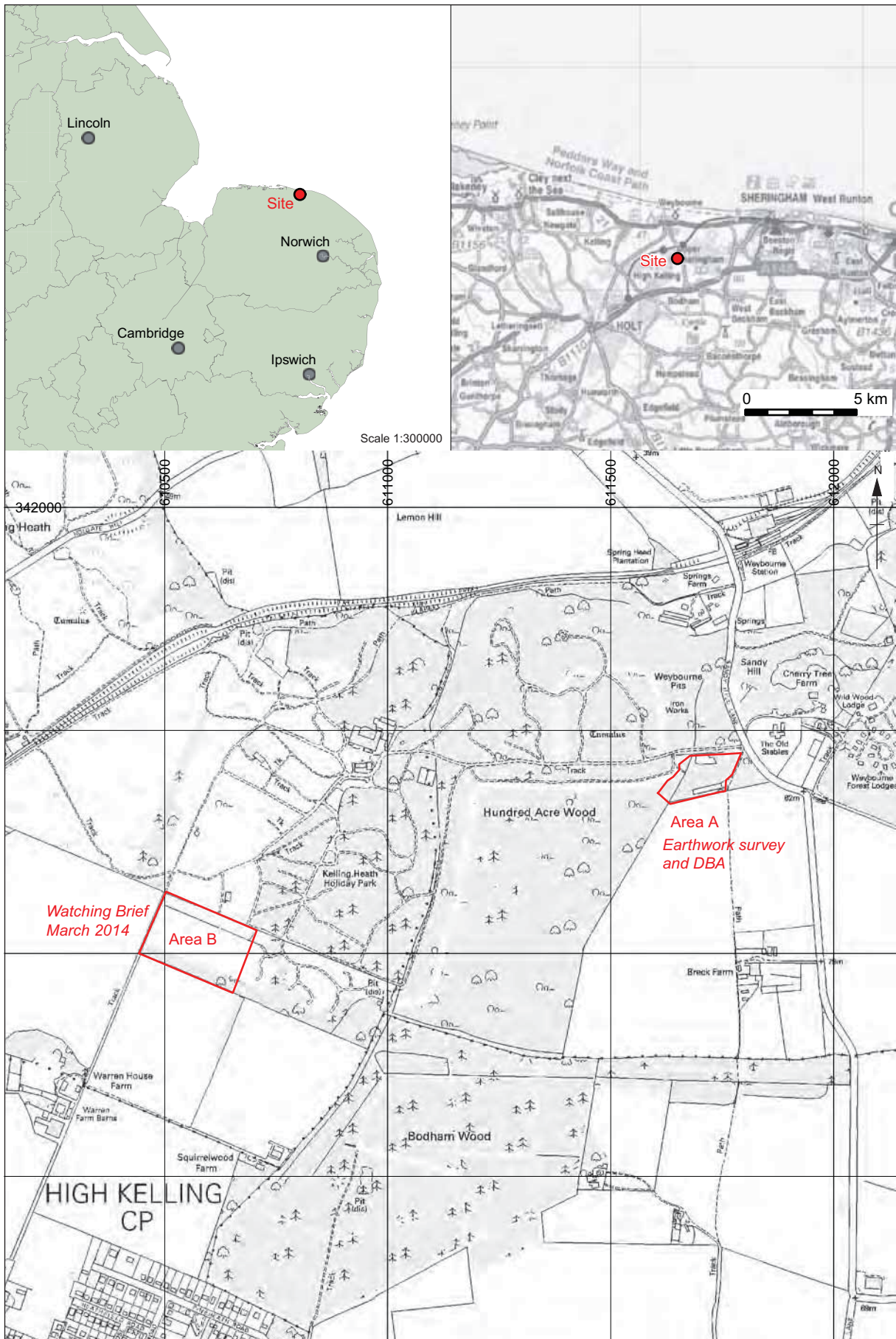
## Archive Contents/Media

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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"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:





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Figure 1: Site location showing development areas A and B (red)



Plate 1: Site conditions, facing north-east



Plate 2: Service trench under excavation showing impact depth



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