

# Compound strip on land off Beech Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk Archaeological Strip, Map and Excavation

September 2019

Client: RPS Consulting on behalf of Hopkins Homes

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## Compound Strip on land off Beech Road, Saxmundham

## Archaeological Strip, Map and Excavate Report

## Written by Thomas Lucking BA

With illustrations by Isobelle Ward BA MA PCIfA

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## Summary

Between the 12th and 13th August 2019, Oxford Archaeology East undertook the archaeological strip, map and excavation of an area of 0.12 hectares of land off Beech Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk, in advance of the construction of a compound associated with a residential development. Apart from a short section of modern field boundary ditch being exposed in the northeastern corner of the site, no further archaeological remains were uncovered.

It was expected that a further section of post-medieval ditch, identified during previous archaeological works would be exposed running northeast to southwest across the central part of the site, but this was not present, suggesting that this ditch either terminates or turns abruptly southwards and does not enter the site.



## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Richard Mortimer of RPS Consulting for commissioning this project on behalf of Hopkins Homes. Thanks are also extended to Rachael Abraham who monitored the work on behalf of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Louise Moan. The fieldwork was directed by Thomas Lucking. Thanks are also extended to the illustrator and the editor.



## **1** INTRODUCTION

## **1.1** Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of Hopkins Homes to undertake an archaeological strip, map and excavation on land proposed for a compound associated with a residential development to the west of Beech Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk (TM 38907 63482, Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 At the request of Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by OA (Moan 2019) detailing the Local Authority's requirements for necessary work and how OA intended to meet these requirements. A copy of the WSI is attached as Appendix C.

## **1.2** Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies on a west-facing slope above the River Fromus 200m to the west, and is cut by a number of shallow valley-tributaries running down to the valley floor. The area, including the 2018 excavation area, varies in height from 23m OD in the east to 13m OD in the west.
- 1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the area comprises sands of the Crag Group. These are overlain by sands and gravels of the Lowestoft Formation (exposed to the west), and these in turn by diamicton (to the east). (BGS map viewer http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)
- 1.2.3 Prior to excavation, the site formed part of a large arable field.

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the archaeological background for the site and its immediate surroundings. This draws on information obtained from the following sources, with relevant sites referenced in Figure 2:
  - Cox, N. & Moan, L. 2019, Bronze Age to Post-Medieval Remains to the North-East of Beech Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Archaeological Excavation Report. Oxford Archaeology East report 2261
  - Bush, L, 2017. Land north-east of Street Farm, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Archaeological Evaluation report. Oxford Archaeology East report 2144
  - Clarke, G, 2017. Bronze Age and Early Saxon settlement remains on land east of Warren Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Oxford Archaeology East report 2029.
  - Newton, A.A.S. 2013, Beaker Pits at Church Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History 43, 1-23.
  - The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER).

#### Prehistoric

1.3.2 There is now widespread evidence for prehistoric activity in the Fromus Valley dating from the Mesolithic to Iron Age (SXM 022; SXM 036; SXM 037; SXM 043; SXM 049; SXM 051 (the 2018 excavation)). Of particular note are previous excavations to the immediate west and south-west of the site, which have revealed scattered pits and pit



clusters of Early Bronze Age date yielding pottery and worked flint (SXM 022; SXM 036; SXM 043; SXM 051).

1.3.3 Archaeological excavation on the adjacent site, to the immediate west, revealed a small number of Early Bronze Age pits along with Middle and Late Iron Age pits, posthole buildings and ditches. These yielded a modest assemblage of Middle and Late Iron Age pottery and at least two triangular loomweights (SXM 051). A near complete triangular weight of Iron Age date was also recovered from the site during the evaluation (SXM 049).

#### Roman

- 1.3.4 Whilst surrounding investigations have revealed a Roman presence in the landscape, to date no clear settlements or settlement-related sites have been positively identified. The excavation immediately adjacent to the west revealed a number of Late Iron Age to Early Roman features and associated pottery (722g, 102 sherds). No pottery post-dating the 2nd century AD was identified.
- 1.3.5 Small sherds of abraded Roman pottery were also recovered from deposits during the evaluation (SXM 049), with further residual finds (include tegula and Roman glass) recovered from the investigation to the west and south-west (SXM 036; SXM 043). A Roman lamp was also found c. 200m to the west of the site (SXM 001).

#### Anglo-Saxon

1.3.6 Excavations to the west revealed an Early Anglo-Saxon settlement (SXM 043) with remains of a large rectangular post-built hall, two further post-built structures and nine sunken-featured buildings (SFBs); the latter producing evidence for textile weaving, crop processing, horn working and antler working. Pottery from the site dated to the 6th century.

#### Post-medieval and modern

1.3.7 The current site lies outside of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Saxmundham (known historically as 'Samundeham, Sasmundeham, Sasmundeham and Saxmondeham'). However, the excavation to the immediate west (SXM 051) revealed a post-medieval field boundary ditch along with post-medieval and modern metalwork from the colluvium. The earlier evaluation (SXM 049) also revealed cultivation features of a former post-medieval field system. Investigations immediately south (SXM 036) also identified one pit containing a sherd of medieval pottery.



## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were to investigate and record archaeological features or deposits encountered during ground works for the compound. Where archaeological features were present their character, condition, date and purpose was investigated.

## 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 An area of approximately 0.12ha was excavated, covering the entirety of the proposed compound area.
- 2.2.2 All machine excavation took place under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.3 Topsoil and subsoil was stripped to the horizon with the natural geology or the upper interface of archaeological features/deposits. A toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the area. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.
- 2.2.4 Metal detector searches took place at all stages of the fieldwork by an experienced metal detector user (Tom Lucking). Excavated areas were detected immediately before and after mechanical stripping. Both excavated areas and spoil heaps were checked.
- 2.2.5 The top of an exposed modern field boundary ditch was cleared by machine, then cleaned off by hand. As agreed with SCCAS and stated in the WSI, the modern field boundary ditch revealed within the stripped area was not excavated as it is extant on mapping as late as the 1950s.
- 2.2.6 Excavation characterised the full archaeological sequence down to undisturbed natural deposits.



## **3 RESULTS**

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 No archaeological remains apart from a modern field boundary ditch were encountered during the excavations, and no residual finds collected.

## **3.2** General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform. The natural geology of clay was overlain by a silty clay topsoil. No subsoil was present on this site, and modern plough scarring was visible cutting into the natural geology across the excavated area.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the strip, map and excavation were generally good, although it was noted that the natural geology became dry and cracked very quickly after exposure.

#### 3.3 Results

- 3.3.1 A modern field boundary ditch was exposed in the northeast corner of the site. The presence of large quantities of coal, modern ceramic building material and pieces of agricultural ironwork in the top of the fill (not retained) confirmed its modern date and it aligns well with a field boundary shown on twentieth-century mapping.
- 3.3.2 No further archaeological remains were exposed.

#### 3.4 Finds summary

3.4.1 No finds of any period were collected from any context during this investigation.



## 4 **DISCUSSION**

## 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Apart from the modern field boundary ditch, no archaeological features were exposed during this investigation, but the clear contrast of the natural geology against the overlying layers suggests that if any features were present they would have been visible within the exposed area. For this reason, the results of this strip, map and excavation are considered to have a good level of reliability.

## 4.2 Interpretation

- 4.2.1 The lack of archaeological features revealed during this investigation correlates with a previous excavation to the west (SXM 051; Cox and Moan 2019) where archaeological remains were present in greater density on the sandier soils lower down the slope and were sparse on the slightly higher clay soils.
- 4.2.2 The modern field boundary ditch aligns with a field boundary shown on Ordnance Survey mapping as late as the 1950s, suggesting that this boundary was infilled at some point after this date.
- 4.2.3 A post-medieval boundary ditch exposed during previous excavations to the west of the compound area did not continue into the excavated area, suggesting that this boundary either terminated or turned abruptly.

## 4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The lack of archaeological remains on the higher clay slopes in this area is comparable with other excavations nearby, and suggests that locally, archaeological remains may be present, or better preserved, in greater density on the sandier soils lower down the slope.



## APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Compound Area							
General o	descriptio	n		Orientation	-		
Area con	tained or	Length (m)	35				
archaeolo	ogy. Cons	ists of to	Width (m)	35			
boulder c	lay.		Avg. depth (m)	0.30			
Context	Туре	Width	Depth	Description	Finds	Date	
No.		(m)	(m)				
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-	



## APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bush, L, 2017, *Land north-east of Street Farm, Saxmundham, Suffolk*. Archaeological Evaluation report. Oxford Archaeology East report 2144. Unpublished

Clarke, G, 2017, Bronze Age and Early Saxon settlement remains on land east of Warren Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Oxford Archaeology East report 2029. Unpublished

Cox, N. & Moan, L, 2019, *Bronze Age to Post-Medieval Remains to the North-East of Beech Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Archaeological Excavation Report*. Oxford Archaeology East report 2261. Unpublished

Moan, L, 2019, *Compound strip on land off Beech Road, Saxmundham. Written Scheme of Investigation*. Oxford Archaeology East. Unpublished

Newton, A.A.S, 2013, Beaker Pits at Church Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk. *Proceeding of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History* 43, 1-23

#### **Electronic Sources**

BGS map viewer <u>http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html</u> accessed 14/08/19.



#### **APPENDIX C**

## SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Proj	iect	De	tails

Project Details						
OASIS Number	oxfordar3-357338					
Project Name	Compound strip on land off E	Beech Road, Saxmund	lham, Suffolk			
Start of Fieldwork	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	End of Fieldwork	13 <sup>th</sup> August 2019			
Previous Work	Ν	Future Work	N			
<b>Project Reference</b>	Codes					
Site Code	SXM068	Planning App. No.	n/a			
HER Number	SXM068	Related Numbers	oxfordar3-320745			
		-				

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded

## Techniques used (tick all that apply)

Aerial Photography – interpretation		Grab-sampling		Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
Aerial Photography - new		Gravity-core		Sample Trenches
Annotated Sketch		Laser Scanning		Survey/Recording of
				Fabric/Structure
Augering		Measured Survey		Targeted Trenches
Dendrochonological Survey	$\boxtimes$	Metal Detectors		Test Pits
Documentary Search		Phosphate Survey		Topographic Survey
Environmental Sampling		Photogrammetric Survey		Vibro-core
Fieldwalking		Photographic Survey		Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
Geophysical Survey		Rectified Photography	$\boxtimes$	Watching Brief

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Modern (1901 to	None	None
	present)		

#### **Project Location**

County	Suffolk
District	Suffolk Coastal
Parish	Saxmundham
HER office	Suffolk County Council
Size of Study Area	0.12 hectares
National Grid Ref	TM 38907 63482

#### Address (including Postcode)

Land to the west of Beech Road, Church Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1ES

#### **Project Originators**

Organisation	OA East	
Project Brief Originator	Rachael Abraham	
Project Design Originator	Louise Moan	
Project Manager	Louise Moan	
Project Supervisor	Thomas Lucking	

#### **Project Archives**



Version 2

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	SCC Store	SXM068
Digital Archive	SCC Store	SXM068
Paper Archive	SCC Store	SXM068

## **Physical Co**

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones			
Ceramics			
Environmental			
Glass			
Human Remains			
Industrial			
Leather			
Metal			
Stratigraphic			
Survey			
Textiles			
Wood			
Worked Bone			
Worked Stone/Lithic			
None	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$
Other			

#### **Digital Media**

Database	
GIS	
Geophysics	
Images (Digital photos)	$\boxtimes$
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	
Moving Image	
Spreadsheets	
Survey	
Text	$\boxtimes$
Virtual Reality	

#### **Paper Media**

Aerial Photos	
Context Sheets	
Correspondence	
Diary	
Drawing	
Manuscript	
Мар	
Matrices	
Microfiche	
Miscellaneous	
Research/Notes	
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	
Plans	$\boxtimes$
Report	$\boxtimes$
Sections	
Survey	

#### **Further Comments**



Version 2

## APPENDIX D WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION



## Compound strip on land off Beech Road, Saxmundham Written Scheme of Investigation

## **Client: Hopkins Homes**

Prepared by	L. Moan
Date prepared	July 2019
Version	2

Planning application no.n/aSite codeXSFSSC19Project number23640Project typeStrip, map and excavateNGRTM 38907 63482Parish codeSXM 068OASIS no.oxfordar3-357338



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#### 1 GENERAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 This WSI conforms to the principles identified in Historic England's guidance documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, specifically the MoRPHE *Project Manager's Guide* (2015) and *Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation.*
- 1.1.2 All work will be conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Strip, Map and Excavate.
- 1.1.3 This WSI also incorporates the requirements of the EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service's standards for archaeological evaluation (SSCAS 2017).

#### 1.2 Circumstances of the project

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) have been commissioned by RPS Consulting, on Behalf of Hopkins Home (the Client), to conduct a programme of archaeological strip, map and excavate on an area of land proposed for a compound associated with the residential development off Beech Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk (centred TM 38907 63482). A plan of the proposed compound location is appended to this document.
- 1.2.2 This WSI has been prepared on behalf of the Client at the request of Rachael Abraham of the SCCAS.
- 1.2.3 This work follows on from an excavation (SXM051) undertaken on land immediately adjacent to the proposed compound location (Cox & Moan 2019).

#### 1.3 The proposed archaeological strategy

- 1.3.1 OA East will coordinate the stripping of the compound (which measures 35 x 35m) and then excavate and record any archaeological features identified. The proposed compound is to be located where the continuation of a post-medieval ditch identified during the excavation is known to extend (see attached plan at the end of this document). This ditch was investigated during the excavation and therefore, no interventions will be excavated into it during this phase of work.
- 1.3.2 The stripped area and spoil heaps will be metal detected by an experienced metal detectorist during stripping.

#### 1.4 Changes to this method statement

1.4.1 If changes need to be made to the methods outlined below – either before or during works on site – SCCAS will be informed and asked to consider changes before they are made. Changes will be agreed in before work on site commences, or else at the earliest available opportunity.



## 2 THE GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND OTHER FEATURES OF THE SITE

- 2.1.1 The site lies on a west-facing slope above the River Fromus 200m to the west, and is cut by a number of shallow valley-tributaries running down to the valley floor. The area varies in height from 23m OD in the east to 13m OD in the west.
- 2.1.2 The bedrock geology of the area comprises sands of the Crag Group. These are overlain by sands and gravels of the Lowestoft Formation (exposed to the west), and these in turn by diamicton (to the east). (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).
- 2.1.3 The location of the proposed compound area is currently an arable field.



## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The following section provides a brief summary of the archaeological background for the site and its immediate surroundings. This draws on information obtained from the following sources:
  - Cox, N. & Moan, L, 2019, Bronze Age to Post-Medieval Remains to the North-East of Beech Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Archaeological Excavation Report. Oxford Archaeology East report 2261
  - Bush, L, 2017, Land north-east of Street Farm, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Archaeological Evaluation report. Oxford Archaeology East report 2144
  - Clarke, G, 2017, Bronze Age and Early Saxon settlement remains on land east of Warren Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Oxford Archaeology East report 2029.
  - Newton, A.A.S, 2013, Beaker Pits at Church Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk. Proceeding of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History 43, 1-23.
  - The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER).

#### 3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 There is now widespread evidence for prehistoric activity in the Fromus Valley dating from the Mesolithic to Iron Age (SXM 022; SXM 036; SXM 037; SXM 043; SXM 049; SXM 051). Of particular note are previous excavations to the immediate west and south-west of the site, which have revealed scattered pits and pit clusters of Early Bronze Age date yielding pottery and worked flint (SXM 022; SXM 036; SXM 043; SXM 051).
- 3.2.2 Archaeological excavation on the adjacent site, to the immediate west, revealed a small number of Early Bronze Age pits along with Middle and Late Iron Age pits, postholes buildings and ditches. These yielded a modest assemblage of Middle and Late Iron Age pottery and at least two triangular loomweights (SXM 051). A near complete triangular weight of Iron Age date was also recovered from the site during the evaluation (SXM 049).

#### 3.3 Roman

- 3.3.1 Whilst surrounding investigations have revealed a Roman presence in the landscape, to date, no settlements or settlement-related features have been positively identified. The excavation immediately adjacent to the west revealed a number of Late Iron Age to Early Roman features and associated pottery (722g, 102 sherds). No pottery post-dating the 2nd century AD was identified.
- 3.3.2 Small sherds of abraded Roman pottery were also recovered from deposits in during the evaluation (SXM 049), with further residual finds (include tegula and Roman glass) recovered from the investigation to the west and southwest (SXM 036; SXM 043). A Roman lamp was also found c. 200m to the west of the site (SXM 001).



#### 3.4 Anglo-Saxon

3.4.1 Excavations to the further to the west revealed an Early Anglo-Saxon settlement (SXM 043) with remains of a large rectangular post-built hall, two further post-built structures and nine sunken-feature buildings (SFBs); the latter producing evidence for textile weaving, crop processing, horn working and antler working. Pottery from the site dated to the 6th century.

#### 3.5 Post-medieval and modern

3.5.1 The current site lies outside of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Saxmundham (known historically as 'Samundeham, Sasmundeham, Sasmundesham and Saxmondeham'). However, the excavation to the immediate west (SXM 051) revealed a post-medieval field boundary ditch along with post-medieval and modern metalwork from the colluvium. The earlier evaluation (SXM 049) also revealed cultivation features of a former post-medieval field system. Investigations immediately west also (SXM 036) also identified one pit containing a sherd of medieval pottery.



#### 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 4.1 Aims of the strip, map and excavation

- 4.1.1 This strip, map and excavation will investigate and record archaeological features or deposits encountered during ground works for the compound. Where archaeological features are present their character, condition, date and purpose will be investigated.
- 4.1.2 Metal detecting will also be undertaken of both the excavated areas and spoil heaps to aid recovery of metal objects.

#### 4.2 Research frameworks

- 4.2.1 This strip, map and excavation takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:
  - Glazebrook J. (1997). *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3.
  - Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. (2000). *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8.
  - Medlycott, M. (2011). *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24.

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## 5 METHODS

#### 5.1 Background research

5.1.1 A suitable level of background research has previously been undertaken. This research drew on information in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record and Records Office, and included historical sources, maps, previous archaeological finds, and past archaeological investigations in the vicinity. The results are presented separately in previous reports associated with the site (Bush 2017; Clarke 2017; Cox & Moan 2019).

#### 5.2 Event number and site code

5.2.1 A parish code (SXM 068) has been obtained from the Suffolk HER, and a unique site code assigned to the project (XSFSSC19).

#### 5.3 Strip, map and excavate

#### **Excavation standards**

- 5.3.1 The proposed fieldwork and analysis will be conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines.
- 5.3.2 All work will be conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- 5.3.3 All fieldwork will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the OA Field Manual (ed. D Wilkinson 1992), and the revised OA fieldwork manual (publication forthcoming). Further guidance is provided to all excavators in the form of the OA *Fieldwork Crib Sheets a companion guide to the Fieldwork Manual.* These have been issued ahead of formal publication of the revised Fieldwork Manual.
- 5.3.4 The excavation will also adhere to the SCCAS *Requirements for Excavation* (2017).

#### Strip, map and excavation procedures

- 5.3.5 All machine excavation will take place under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 5.3.6 Topsoil and subsoil will be stripped to the horizon with the natural geology or the upper interface of archaeological features/deposits, whichever is encountered first. A toothless ditching bucket will be used to excavate the trenches. Overburden will be excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.
- 5.3.7 The top of the first archaeological deposit will be cleared by machine, then cleaned off by hand. Exposed surfaces will be cleaned by trowel and hoe as necessary, in order to clarify located features and deposits.



- 5.3.8 All features will be investigated and recorded to provide an accurate understanding of their date, character and function. All relationships between features or deposits will be investigated and recorded. Any natural subsoil surface revealed will be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. A variety of features will be sampled for environmental remains (see 5.9 for full sampling strategy).
- 5.3.9 Excavation will characterise the full archaeological sequence down to undisturbed natural deposits. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) will be sampled sufficiently to establish their character.
- 5.3.10 All excavation of archaeological deposits will be done by hand, unless agreed with SCCAS that there will be no loss of evidence using a machine. The post-medieval field boundary ditch identified on the adjacent site will not be excavated if it is revealed within the stripped area.

#### 5.4 Recording of archaeological deposits and features

5.4.1 Records will comprise survey, drawn, written, and photographic data.

#### Survey

- 5.4.2 Surveying will be done using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica CS10/GS08 or Leica 1200) fitted with "smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 5.4.3 The site grid will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and located on the 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. Elevations will be levelled to the Ordnance Datum.

#### Written records

- 5.4.4 A register of all trenches, features, photographs, survey levels, small finds, and human remains will be kept.
- 5.4.5 All features, layers and deposits will be issued with unique context numbers. Each feature will be individually documented on context sheets, and handdrawn in section and plan. Written descriptions will be recorded on proforma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.
- 5.4.6 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a Harris Matrix will be compiled during the course of the excavation.

#### Plans and sections

- 5.4.7 Site plans will be drawn at 1:50. Detailed plans of individual features or groups will be at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20).
- 5.4.8 Long sections showing layers will be drawn at 1:50. Sections of features or short lengths of trenches will be drawn at 1: 10 or 1:20. All section levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 5.4.9 All site drawings will include the following information: site name, site code, scale, plan or section number, relevant context or feature numbers, orientation, date and the name or initials of the archaeologist who prepared the drawing.

#### Photogrammetric recording

5.4.10 Plans and sections may be supplemented with photogrammetric recording of the excavation areas. Photogrammetric models will be based on high-resolution digital photographs with a minimum file size of 5 MB. Photogrammetric processing will be conducted using the Agisoft Photosoft (Professional Edition) software, and will incorporate reference points taken by GPS-based survey equipment.

#### Photographs

- 5.4.11 The photographic record will comprise high resolution digital photographs.
- 5.4.12 Photographs will include both general site shots and photographs of specific features. Every feature will be photographed at least once. Photographs will include a scale, north arrow, site code, and feature number (where relevant), unless they are to be used in publications. The photograph register will record these details, and photograph numbers will be listed on corresponding context sheets.

#### 5.5 Exceptional remains, including human remains

#### Significant archaeological features

5.5.1 If exceptional or unexpected features are uncovered, SCCAS will be informed, and their advice sought on an excavation strategy, as deemed necessary.

#### Human remains

- 5.5.2 If human remains are encountered, the Client, County Coroner, and SCCAS will be informed immediately.
- 5.5.3 Human remains will be excavated in accordance with all appropriate legislation and Environmental Health regulations. Excavation will only take place after Oxford Archaeology has obtained a Ministry of Justice exhumation licence.

#### 5.6 Metal detecting and the Treasure Act

- 5.6.1 Metal detector searches will take place at all stages of the fieldwork by an experienced metal detector user (Tom Lucking). Excavated areas will be detected immediately before and after mechanical stripping. Both excavated areas and spoil heaps will be checked. To prevent losses from night-hawking, features will be metal detected immediately after stripping.
- 5.6.2 Metal detectors will not be set to discriminate against iron.
- 5.6.3 Artefacts will be removed and given a small find number. Labels will be placed on the location of each 'small find' and surveyed in with a GPS.
- 5.6.4 If finds are made that might constitute 'Treasure' under the definition of the Treasure Act (1996), they will, if possible, be excavated and removed to a safe place. Should it not be possible to remove the finds on the day they are found, suitable security will be arranged. Finds that are 'Treasure' will be reported to the landowner and County Coroner within 14 days, in



accordance with the Act. The Suffolk Finds Liaison Officer from the Portable Antiquities Scheme will also be informed.

## 5.7 Post-excavation processing

- 5.7.1 Processing on any finds and environmental remains will take place immediately after fieldwork finishes. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent for appropriate treatment.
- 5.7.2 Finds will be marked with context numbers, site code or accession number, as detailed in the requirements of the Suffolk County Council Store.

#### 5.8 Finds recovery and processing

#### Standards for finds handling

- 5.8.1 Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged, and boxed in line with the standards in:
  - United Kingdom Institute for Conservators (2012) *Conservation Guidelines No. 2*
  - Watkinson & Neal (1988) First Aid for Finds
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of* Archaeological Materials
  - English Heritage (1995) *A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds.*
- 5.8.2 Where finds require conservation, this will be done in accordance with the guidelines of the Institute for Conservation (ICON),

#### Procedures for finds handling

- 5.8.3 At the start of work, a finds supervisor will be appointed to oversee the collection, processing, cataloguing, and specialist advice on all artefacts collected.
- 5.8.4 Artefacts will be collected by hand, sieving, and metal detector. Excavation areas and spoil will be scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts. All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning and analysis. 'Special/small finds' may be located more accurately by GPS if appropriate.
- 5.8.5 Processing will take place in tandem with excavation, and advice will be sought from relevant specialists on key artefact types. (See the Appendix for a list of specialists.)
- 5.8.6 All artefacts recovered from excavated features will be retained for postexcavation processing and assessment, except:
  - those which are obviously modern in date
  - where very large volumes are recovered (typically ceramic building material)
  - where directed to discard on site by SCCAS.



5.8.7 Where artefacts are not removed from site, a strategy will be employed to ensure a sufficient sample is retained, in order to characterise the date and function of the features they were excavated from. A record will be kept of the quantity and nature of artefacts which are not removed from site.

#### 5.9 Sampling for environmental remains and small artefact retrieval

#### Standard methodology – summary

5.9.1 Sampling methods will follow guidelines produced by Historic England and Oxford Archaeology. The project team will consult Historic England's Scientific Advisor on environmental sampling and dating where necessary. Where possible an environmental specialist(s) will visit the site to advise on sampling strategies which will be reviewed periodically during the length of the excavation. Specialists will be consulted where non-standard sampling is required (e.g. TL, OSL or archaeomagnetic dating) and if appropriate will be invited to visit the site and take the samples.

#### Standards for environmental sampling and processing

Paleoenvironmental remains will be sampled and processed in accordance to the OA Sampling Policy (2005) with reference to the relevant guidelines produced by Historic England:

- Oxford Archaeology 2005. Environmental Sampling Guidelines, 2nd ed.
- Historic England 2011. *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation*, (2nd ed)
- Historic England 2008. *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains*.
- Historic England 2010. *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood.*
- Historic England 2012. *Waterlogged organic artefacts. Guidelines on their recovery, analysis and conservation.*
- Historic England 2008. *Investigative conservation. Guidance on how detailed examination of artefacts from archaeological sites can shed light on their manufacture and use.*
- Historic England 2014. *Animal Bones and Archaeology. Guidelines for Best Practice*.
- Historic England 2004. *Dendrochronology: Guidelines on Producing and Interpreting Dendrochronological Dates*.
- Historic England 2006. *Archaeomagnetic Dating. Guidelines for Producing and Interpreting Archaeomagnetic Dates.*
- Historic England 2008. Luminescence Dating. Guidelines on Using Luminescence Dating in Archaeology.
- Historic England 2015. Archaeometallurgy. Guidelines for Best Practice.
- Historic England 2015 Geoarchaeology. Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record.



#### Procedures for sampling and processing

- 5.9.2 Environmental samples (up to 40 litres or 100% of context if less is available) will be taken from a range of potentially datable features and well-stratified deposits to target the recovery of plant remains, fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone and small artefacts. Samples will be labelled with the site code, context number, and sample number and a register will be kept.
- 5.9.3 Larger soil samples (up to 100L) may be taken for the complete recovery of animal bones, marine shell and small artefacts from appropriate contexts. Smaller bulk samples (general biological samples) of 20 litres will be taken from any waterlogged deposits present for the recovery of macroscopic plant remains and insects. Series of incremental 2L samples may be taken through buried soils and deep feature fills for the recovery of snails and/or waterlogged plant remains, depending on the nature of the stratigraphy and of the soils and sediments.
- 5.9.4 Columns will be taken from buried soils or waterlogged feature fills for pollen and/or phytoliths, diatoms, ostracods if appropriate. Soil samples will be taken for soil investigations (particle size, organic matter, bulk chemistry, soil micromorphology etc.) in consultation with the appropriate specialists. Where features containing very small artefacts such as micro-debitage and hammerscale are identified, 1L grid sampling may be employed.
- 5.9.5 Typically, 20 litres of each bulk sample will be processed standard water flotation using a modified Siraf-style machine and meshes of 0.3mm (flot) and 0.5 or 1mm depending on sediment type and like modes of preservation (residue). The remaining soil from a sample will be subsequently processed if appropriate based on the results of an initial assessment. Normally, early prehistoric samples will be fully processed and samples containing human remains will always be fully processed. Heavy residues will be wet sieved, air dried and selectively sorted. Samples taken exclusively for the recovery of bones, marine shell or artefacts will be wet sieved to 2mm. Waterlogged samples will have a sub-sample (approximately 10L) processed as above and the flot will assessed whilst wet and again once dried. Snail samples (2L) will be processed by hand flotation with flots and residues collected to 0.5mm; these flots and residues will be sorted by the specialist.
- 5.9.6 Where practical, waterlogged wood specimens will be recorded in detail on site, in situ. When removed, they will be cleaned and photographed, and stored in wet cool conditions for assessment by a suitably qualified specialist (see the Appendix).



#### 6 REPORTING

#### 6.1 Report

6.1.1 Post-excavation analysis and reporting will follow guidance in Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2006, reissued 2015).

#### 6.2 Contents of the report

- 6.2.1 The report will include:
  - a title page detailing site address, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address
  - full list of contents
  - a non-technical summary of the findings
  - the aims of the strip, map and excavate
  - a description of the geology and topography of the area
  - a description of the methodologies used
  - a description of the findings
  - tables summarising features and artefacts
  - site and trench location plans, and plans of each area excavated showing the archaeological features found
  - sections of excavated features
  - interpretation of the archaeological features found
  - specialist reports on artefacts and environmental finds
  - relevant colour photographs of features and the site
  - a discussion of the relationship between findings on the site and other archaeological information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record
  - a bibliography of all reference material
  - a copy of the WSI
  - the OASIS reference and summary form.

#### 6.3 Draft and final reports

- 6.3.1 A draft copy of the report will be supplied to SCCAS for comment. Following approval of the report, one printed copy and one digital copy (PDF) will be presented to the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.
- 6.3.2 If SCCAS requires no further excavation on the site, a summary report will be prepared for the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.

#### 6.4 OASIS

6.4.1 A digital copy of the approved report will be uploaded to the OASIS database. A copy of the OASIS Data Collection Form will be included in the report.



## 7 ARCHIVING

#### Archive standards

- 7.1.1 The site archive will conform to the requirements Appendix 1 of Historic England's (2015) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE), and the SCCAS *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition* (2017).
- 7.1.2 The preparation of the archive will follow the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990), *Standards in the Museum care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992), and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007).

#### Archive contents

- 7.1.3 The archive will be quantified, ordered, and indexed. It will include:
  - artefacts
  - ecofacts
  - project documentation including plans, section drawings, context sheets, registers, and specialist reports
  - photographs (digital photographs will be stored on CD-ROM, and colour printouts made of key features)
  - an archive-standard CD-ROM with electronic documentation (such as GIS and CAD files)
  - a printed copy of the Written Brief
  - a printed copy of the WSI
  - a printed copy of the final report
  - a printed copy of the OASIS form.
- 7.1.4 It is Oxford Archaeology Ltd's policy, in line with accepted practice, to keep site archives (paper and artefactual) together wherever possible.
- 7.1.5 A digital security copy of all documentary parts of the archive will also be made and retained by Oxford Archaeology.

#### Transfer of ownership

- 7.1.6 The archaeological material and paper archive produced from this investigation will be held in storage by OA East who will seek to transfer the complete project archive to the Suffolk County Council Stores, in order to facilitate future study and ensure long-term public access to the archive.
- 7.1.7 Where the landowner wishes to retain items recovered during excavation, all selected artefacts will be fully drawn and photographed, identified, analysed, documented and conserved in order to create a comprehensive catalogue of items to be kept by the landowner before the remainder of the archive can be deposited in the Suffolk County Council Stores. A written transfer of ownership document will be forwarded to SCCAS before the archive is deposited. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant



monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation, separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated following the creation of a comprehensive illustrated catalogue, as described above.



#### 8 TIMETABLE

8.1.1	The archaeological strip, map and excavate is expected to take up to two
	working days to complete, based on a five-day week, working Monday to
	Friday. This does not allow for delays caused by bad weather, but it does
	include time for site set-up and final backfilling of trenches.

- 8.1.2 Post-excavation tasks and report writing will take a maximum of four weeks following the end of fieldwork, unless there are exceptional discoveries requiring lengthier analysis.
- 8.1.3 The project archive will be deposited within six months of delivering the final report, unless SCCAS requires further excavation on the site.



## 9 STAFFING AND SUPPORT

#### 9.1 Fieldwork

- 9.1.1 The fieldwork team will be made up of the following staff:
  - 1 x Project Manager (supervisory only, not based on site)
  - 1 x Project Officer/Supervisor (full-time)
  - 1 x Finds Assistant (part-time, as required)
  - 1 x Environmental Assistant (part-time, as required)
- 9.1.2 The Project Manager will be Louise Moan. Site work will be directed by Tom Lucking.

#### 9.2 Post-excavation processing

- 9.2.1 We anticipate that the site may produce later prehistoric to post-medieval remains. Environmental remains will also be sampled.
- 9.2.2 Pottery will be assessed by Matt Brudenell (prehistoric), Katie Anderson and Alice Lyons (Roman) and Carole Fletcher (Anglo-Saxon and medieval).
- 9.2.3 Environmental analysis will be carried out by OA East staff, in consultation with the OA Environmental Department in Oxford. The results will be reported to Historic England's Regional Scientific Advisor. Environmental analysis will be undertaken by Rachel Fosberry (charred plant macrofossils, plant macrofossils), Liz Stafford (land molluscs), and Denise Druce and Mairead Rutherford (pollen analysis).
- 9.2.4 Faunal remains will be examined by Hayley Foster.
- 9.2.5 Conservation will be undertaken by Ipswich and Colchester Museums / Karen Barker (Antiquities Conservator), and will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Conservation (ICON).
- 9.2.6 In the event that OA's in-house specialists are unable to undertake the work within the time constraints of the project, or if other remains are found, specialists from the list in the Appendix will be approached to carry out analysis.



## 10 OTHER MATTERS

#### 10.1 Monitoring

10.1.1 SCCAS will be updated on the findings once the area is open to allow for adequate monitoring and site visit, if deemed necessary. Sign off of the archaeological works will need approval from SCCAS prior to any groundworks for the compound commencing.

#### 10.2 Insurance

10.2.1 OA East is covered by Public and Employer's Liability Insurance. The underwriting company is Lloyds Underwriters, policy number CC004337. Details of the policy can be supplied on request to the Oxford Archaeology East office.

#### 10.3 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

10.3.1 Oxford Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), and is bound by CIfA By-Laws, Standards, and Policy.

#### 10.4 Services, Public Rights of Way, Tree Preservation Orders etc.

- 10.4.1 The client will inform the project manager of any live or disused cables, gas pipes, water pipes or other services that may be affected by the proposed excavations before the commencement of fieldwork. Hidden cables/services should be clearly identified and marked where necessary. If there are overhead cables on the site or in the approachways, a survey must be completed by the relevant authority before plant is taken onto site.
- 10.4.2 The client will likewise inform the project manager of any public rights of way or permissive paths on or near the land which might affect or be affected by the work.
- 10.4.3 The client will inform the Project Manager if the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or any other type of designated site. The client will also inform the project manager of any trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders, protected hedgerows, protected wildlife, nesting birds, or areas of ecological significance within the site or on its boundaries.

#### 10.5 Site Security

10.5.1 Unless previously agreed with the Project Manager in writing, this specification and any associated statement of costs is based on the assumption that the site will be sufficiently secure for archaeological work to commence. All security requirements, including fencing, padlocks for gates etc. are the responsibility of the client.



#### 10.6 Access

10.6.1 The client will secure access to the site for archaeological personnel and plant, and obtain the necessary permissions from owners and tenants to place a mobile office and portable toilet on or near to the site. Any costs incurred to secure access, or incurred as a result of withholding of access will not be Oxford Archaeology's responsibility. The costs of any delays as a result of withheld access will be passed on to the client in addition to the project costs already specified.

#### 10.7 Site Preparation

10.7.1 The client is responsible for clearing the site and preparing it so as to allow archaeological work to take place without further preparatory works, and any cost statement accompanying or associated with this specification is offered on this basis. Unless previously agreed in writing, the costs of any preparatory work required, including tree felling and removal, scrub or undergrowth clearance, removal of concrete or hard standing, demolition of buildings or sheds, or removal of excessive overburden, refuse or dumped material, will be charged to the client, in addition to any costs for archaeological evaluation already agreed.

#### 10.8 Site offices and welfare

10.8.1 All site facilities – including welfare facilities, tool stores, mess huts, and site offices – will be positioned to minimise disruption to other site users, and to minimise impact on the environment (including buried archaeology).

#### 10.9 Health and Safety, Risk Assessments

- 10.9.1 A risk assessment and method statement (RAMS) covering all activities to be carried out during the lifetime of the project will be prepared before work commences, and sent to the County Archaeologist.
- 10.9.2 The risk assessment will conform to the requirements of health and safety legislation and regulations, and will draw on OA East's activity-specific risk assessment literature.
- 10.9.3 All aspects of the project, both in the field and in the office will be conducted according to OA East's Health and Safety Policy, Oxford Archaeology Ltd's Health and Safety Policy, and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (J.L. Allen and A. St John-Holt, 1997). A copy of OA East's Health and Safety Policy can be supplied on request.





## 11 APPENDIX: CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS

NAME	SPECIALISM	ORGANISATION
Allen, Leigh	Worked bone, CBM, medieval metalwork	Oxford Archaeology
Allen, Martin	Medieval coins	Fitzwilliam Museum
Allen, Martyn	Zooarchaeology	Oxford Archaeology
Anderson, Katie	Roman pottery	Freelance
Anderson, Sue	Medieval & post-medieval pottery (specifically from Norfolk & Suffolk), CBM and human remains	Freelance
Bamforth, Mike	Woodworking	York University
Barker, Karen	Small find conservation & X-Ray	Freelance
Bayliss, Alex	C14 advice	Historic England
Biddulph, Edward	Roman pottery	Oxford Archaeology
Billington, Lawrence	Lithics	Oxford Archaeology
Bishop, Barry	Lithics	Freelance
Blinkhorn, Paul	Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery	Freelance
Booth, Paul	Roman pottery and coins	Oxford Archaeology
Boreham, Steve	Pollen and soils/ geology	Cambridge University
Broderick, Lee	Zooarchaeology	Oxford Archaeology
Brown, Lisa	Prehistoric pottery	Oxford Archaeology
Brudenell, Matt	Prehistoric pottery	Oxford Archaeology
Cane, Jon	Display & reconstruction artist	Freelance
Champness, Carl	Molluscs, geoarchaeology	Oxford Archaeology
Cotter, John	Medieval/post-medieval finds, pottery, CBM	Oxford Archaeology
Crummy, Nina	Small finds	Freelance
Cowgill, Jane	Slag/metalworking residues	Freelance
Dickson, Anthony	Worked Flint	Oxford Archaeology
Dodwell, Natasha	Osteology, including cremations	Oxford Archaeologist
Donelly, Mike	Lithics	Oxford Archaeology
Doonan, Roger	Slags, metallurgy	Freelance
Druce, Denise	Pollen, charred plants, charcoal/wood identification, sediment coring and interpretation	Oxford Archaeology
Drury, Paul	CBM (specialised)	Freelance
Fletcher, Carole	Medieval & post-medieval pottery, glass, shell & small finds	Oxford Archaeology
Fosberry, Rachel	Charred waterlogged and mineralised plant remains	Oxford Archaeology
Foster, Hayley	Zooarchaeologist	Oxford Archaeology
Fryer, Val	Molluscs/environmental	Freelance



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Walker, HelenMedieval pottery (Essex)Essex CC	Vickers, Kim	Insects	Sheffield University
	Walker, Helen	Medieval pottery (Essex)	Essex CC



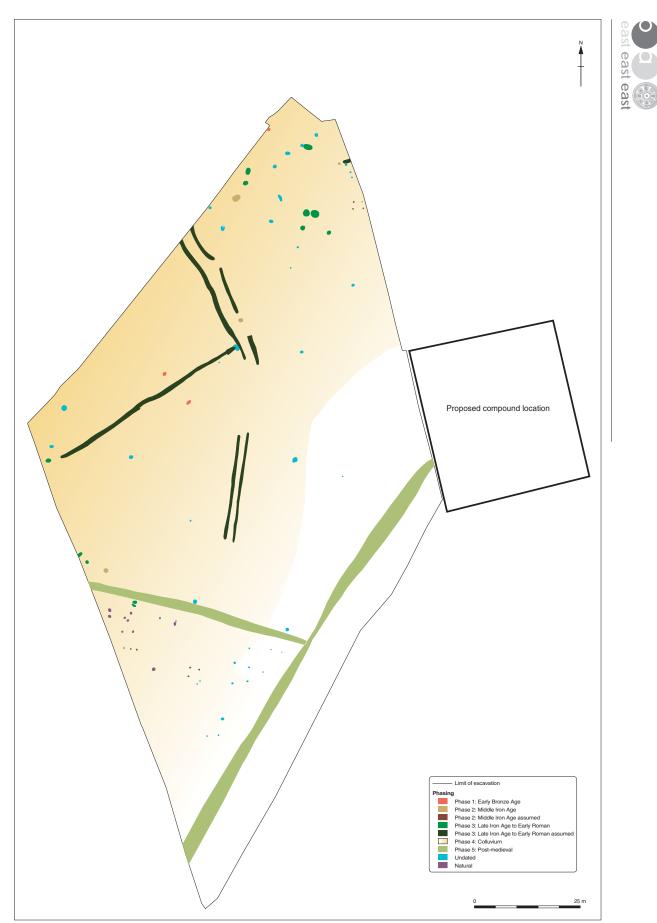
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

NAME	SPECIALISM	ORGANISATION
Way, Twigs	Medieval landscape and garden history	Freelance
Webb, Helen	Osteology	Oxford Archaeology
Young, Jane	Medieval Pottery (Lincolnshire)	Freelance
Zant, John	Roman coins	Oxford Archaeology

Radiocarbon dating is normally undertaken for Oxford Archaeology East by SUERC and by the Oxford University Accelerator Laboratory.

Geophysical prospection is normally undertaken by Magnitude Surveys Ltd.





Plan showing compound location with adjacent excavation findings





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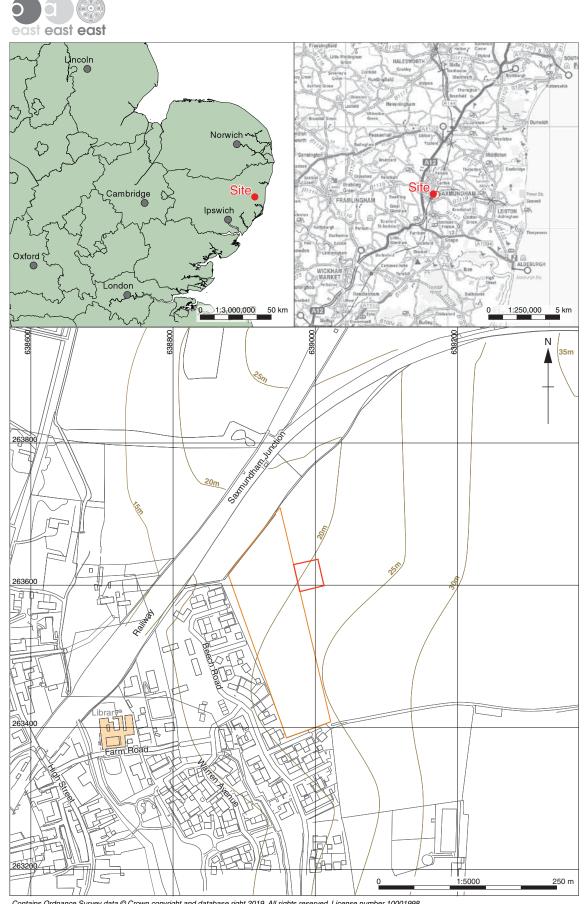
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Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a Private Limited Company, N<sup>0</sup>: 1618597 and a Registered Charity, N<sup>0</sup>: 285627



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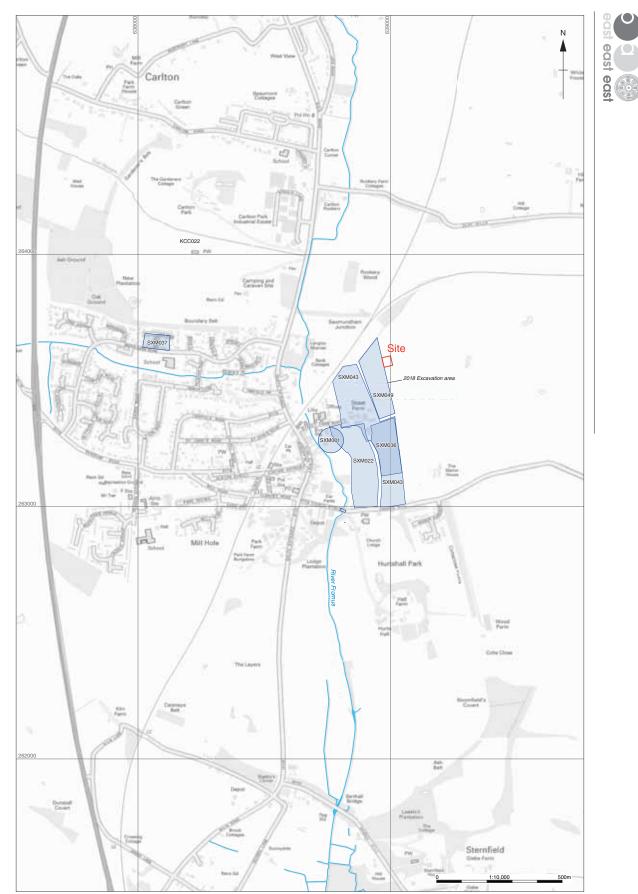
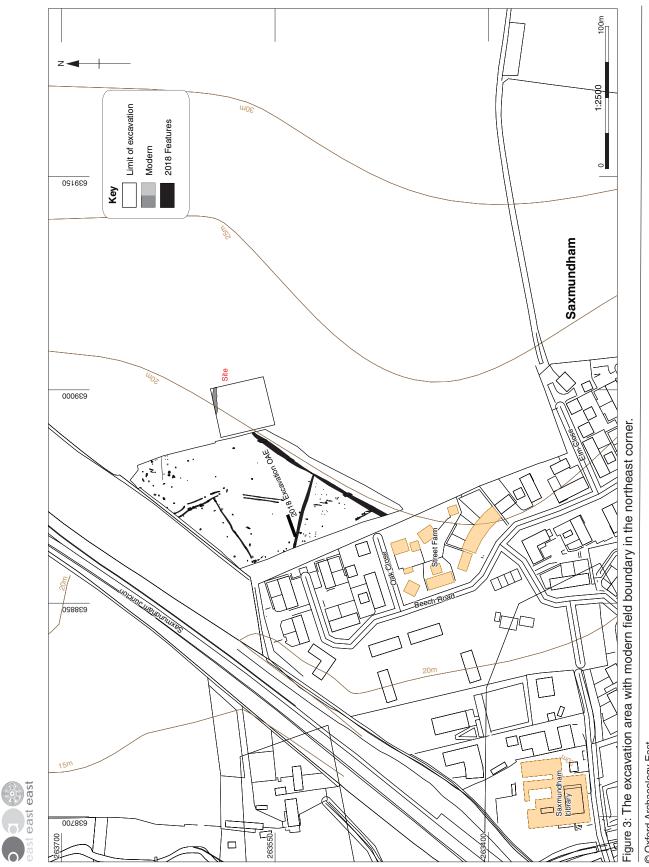




Figure 2: Map showing location of SHER entries



Report Number 2365

C Oxford Archaeology East





Plate 1: Modern field boundary ditch, looking east.



Plate 2: Compound area stripped, looking south.





Plate 3: Compound area stripped, looking southeast.





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