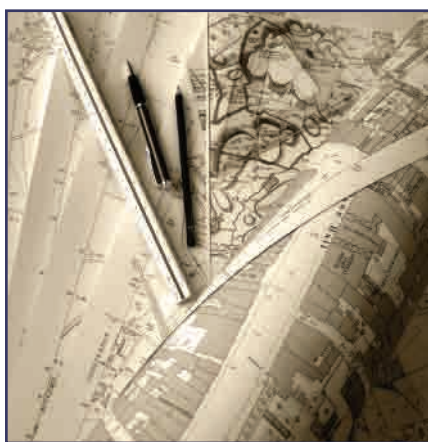


# Fordham Road, Newmarket



## Desk-Based Assessment



November 2012

**Client: AAH Planning Consultants  
on behalf of Countryside Renewables  
(Forest Heath) Ltd**

OA East Report No: 1421

OASIS No: oxfordar3-137537

NGR: TL 632 672

**Fordham Road, Newmarket**

*Desk-Based Assessment*

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*Report Date: November 2012*

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**Site Name:** Fordham Road, Newmarket

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## Summary

*A desk-based assessment was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East for a plot of land to the west of Fordham Road, Newmarket (TL 632 672). It is proposed that a Solar Farm be constructed on the 10 ha site. The land is located directly to the west of the county border between Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, with the town of Newmarket 3km to the south and the villages of Snailwell 1km to the east, Landwade 1km to the north-west and Exning 1.8km to the south-west.*

*The desk-based assessment has revealed that the site is situated within a landscape rich in archaeological remains. Within a 2.5km radius of the site there is evidence of early prehistoric occupation, Bronze Age and possibly Neolithic burial mounds, Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age settlements and a high status Late Iron Age cremation burial. The Icknield Way and another prehistoric route, Street Way, run to the south of the site. In the Roman period there are two villas locally as well as settlement as close as 0.5km to the south. The most significant Anglo-Saxon sites are a cemetery on Windmill Hill in Exning and a Late Saxon settlement further to the south. All medieval and post-medieval sites and buildings are concentrated within the villages of Exning, Landwade and Snailwell. Cartographic sources show that the site has been undeveloped agricultural land since at least the late 18th century.*

*The evidence increases the probability of buried archaeological remains existing within the potential development area. If remains do exist, they are most likely to be prehistoric or Roman in date. As the site has never been developed, any remains should survive relatively intact although the effects of ploughing may have caused minor truncation.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out by Oxford Archaeology East for a plot of land to the west of Fordham Road, Newmarket, within the Forest Heath district of Suffolk (Fig. 1). It is proposed that a Solar Farm be constructed on the site, which covers the entirety of a single field, approximately 10 ha in size.

### 1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The land is located in the north of Newmarket Parish (TL 632 672), directly to the west of the county border between Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, with the town of Newmarket 3km to the south. However, the site is closer to the three surrounding villages of Snailwell (1km to the east, Cambridgeshire), Landwade (1km to the north-west, Suffolk) and Exning (1.8km to the south-west, Suffolk). South of the site, the Icknield Way extends north-east to south-west. The Devil's Ditch/Dyke, a large bank and ditch earthwork which runs for 12km from the fen edge at Reach to Woodditton and is probably Anglo-Saxon in date, is located 5km to the south-west.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (1981) the site is located on Lower Chalk with a capping of 1st and 2nd Terrace Deposits (river gravels) towards the west and south of the site. The River Snail is located less than 300m to the east of the site. The river extends roughly south to north, although has been partially canalised in places.
- 1.2.3 The south-west of the site sits on a raised promontory, orientated north to south, with the highest point being approximately 25m OD. The land slopes down gradually to the north and west, beyond the site itself, and also to the east towards the river. This east facing slope is within the boundaries of the site. To the south the promontory rises to approximately 35m at Windmill Hill in Exning.

### 1.3 Site Visit

- 1.3.1 The site was visited on 8th November 2012 and had obviously been ploughed since removal of the previous crop. Images of the site are included (Plates 1 and 2) although the north and east facing slopes are much more prominent than the plates suggest.

### 1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Countryside Renewables, who funded the archaeological desk-based assessment, and Colin Pendleton of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, who carried out the Historic Environment Record search for the site.



## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOURCES

### 2.1 Historical Sources

- 2.1.1 There are no known primary sources relating to the site. Secondary sources include plenty of detail about the history of Newmarket and surrounding parishes but again, nothing specifically about the site. The Victoria County History for Suffolk does not include topographical parish entries. For Cambridgeshire, the Victoria County History entry for Snailwell mentions a spring in the north-west of the parish, possibly the Snail well itself, as the source of the River Snail (Wareham and Wright 2002).
- 2.1.2 The road from Newmarket to Bury St Edmunds (now the A14) may have been a Roman road, following the approximate line of the Icknield Way (*ibid.*), a major prehistoric routeway. Another route of possible prehistoric origin, Street Way, (known as Ashwell Street further to the west), extends north-east to south-west from Chippenham to Exning (Fox 1923). It passes the study area approximately 600m to the south-east (modern day Snailwell Short Road).
- 2.1.3 The study area has not always been located within Newmarket. Prior to the early 16th century the northern part of Newmarket Parish, corresponding to the old St Mary's Ward, was located within Exning, Suffolk, while the southern part, corresponding to the old All Saints Ward, was in Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (May 1982: 1 – 2). Historical sources record that Newmarket was in existence by 1220 and represented in cartographic sources by 1350, but it was not recognised as a separate administrative unit until much later (*ibid.*).

### 2.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER)

- 2.2.1 Due to the study area straddling two counties, both the Suffolk HER (hereafter SHER) and Cambridgeshire HER (hereafter CHER) were consulted. The HER records everything from individual findspots to large excavations, as well as cropmark sites located through aerial photographs, and listed buildings. Therefore there is a degree of crossover with some other sections below (such as 2.6). In this section a chronological overview of archaeology in the surrounding landscape (using a 2.5km radius) is provided using the records within the respective Historic Environment Records. A table summarising the HER data can be found in Appendix A.

#### ***Prehistoric (Fig. 2)***

##### *Mesolithic (c. 10,000 – 4,000 BC) and Neolithic (c. 4,000 – 2,000 BC)*

- 2.2.2 Early prehistoric archaeology comprises evidence for occupation, cropmark sites of possible long barrows and a number of findspots. Approximately 0.5km to the east of the site three possible Mesolithic worked flints were recovered (CHER 07743A), while 2km to the south-west a scatter of Mesolithic flints were found during a metal detector survey (SHER EXG051).
- 2.2.3 Excavations along the southern end of the Fordham bypass, 1.8km to the north, revealed an extensive area of buried land surface or middening preserved in a natural hollow, beginning in the Late Mesolithic and continuing in to the Early Neolithic. It contained a large and well preserved finds assemblage and showed possible evidence

of land clearance (CHER CB14997; Mortimer 2005). Also found was a double crouched burial of Neolithic date and a Late Neolithic flint scatter around a central post.

- 2.2.4 Neolithic polished axes have been found 1.9km to the north-east of the study area (CHER CB14709) and a similar distance to the north-west (CHER 07737). Close to the latter of these, a fieldwalking survey at Chalk Farm located an area of Neolithic struck flints (SHER EXG038). A number of cropmark sites in the vicinity have been interpreted as possible Neolithic long barrows, including two 0.8km to the west (SHER EXG019 and EXG020), one to the north-west (SHER EXG060) and one approximately 1km to the south-east (SHER EXG017).

*Bronze Age (c. 2,000 – 800 BC)*

- 2.2.5 There is significant evidence of Bronze Age activity in the surrounding landscape; burial mounds are well represented and there is also evidence for Bronze Age field systems and potential settlement. An excavation currently taking place directly south of the Fordham bypass has uncovered two Early Bronze Age burial mounds, previously only known about through aerial photographs (CHER 07433 and 09025; N. Gilmour pers. comm.). The smaller of the two barrows consists of an outer ditch with a cremation burial in a Collared Urn just off centre of the barrow. The larger barrow is more complex. It consists of a 4m wide ring ditch and a large central pit, which contained a single crouched inhumation in its base. Within the base of the ditch a grave of a single individual had been cut. When the ditch had partially silted up a large assemblage of Middle – Late Bronze Age material had been deposited, including pottery, lithics and worked bone implements. Between the two barrows a large cremation cemetery has been discovered, possibly dating to the Middle Bronze Age.
- 2.2.6 At Snailwell Stud, 0.9km to the east of the current site, a burial was discovered in 1880 (CHER 07437). The exact location and details are now uncertain although two Bronze Age vessels given to Cambridge University Museum in 1898 are thought to have been associated. A group of ten burial mounds, the Snailwell barrows, were excavated in 1940 by T.C. Lethbridge, prior to construction of the airfield (CHER 07473; Lethbridge 1950). All of them produced cremations or inhumations, and in some cases both. The cremations included four in Collared Urns, along with 28 without urns. Other finds included bone pins, a bone awl, flint knives and scrapers and a perforated piece of roe deer antler. There are a number of other cropmark sites nearby which consist of ring-ditches. While these are not definitely the remains of Early Bronze Age barrows, the number of excavated examples locally suggests that at least some must be. These include an alignment of three ring-ditches approximately 1km to the west (SHER EXG042, 043 and 044), two more to the north-west (SHER EXG021 and CHER 11105 – described as slightly dubious due to the geological background) and several scattered examples to the south and south-west (SHER EXG037, EXG016, EXG018, EXG032 and CHER 09074).
- 2.2.7 Excavation at Landwade Road, Fordham, 1km to the north, revealed Middle to Late Bronze Age enclosures, a post-built structure, cremation burials, and shallow ditches possibly representing early land division (CHER MCB16109; Connor forthcoming). Further north, the Fordham bypass excavations uncovered a substantial burnt flint mound with a large pit/well on its north-east side (CHER MCB16948), Bronze Age pits, a Middle Bronze Age structure, ditches possibly of Middle Bronze Age date, a Late Bronze Age shaft cut into a solution hollow and a heavily truncated Bronze Age cremation cemetery (CHER CB14997; Mortimer 2005).

*Iron Age (c. 800 BC – AD 43)*

- 2.2.8 There are a number of Iron Age settlements nearby as well as a high status burial and several findspots. The Early Iron Age is represented by a significant site on Windmill Hill, Exning, 1.5km to the south-west. Recent excavation at 7, The Highlands, uncovered a 20m length of a single, 4m wide ditch (SHER EXG082; Craven and Brudenell 2011). Possibly enclosing a hilltop settlement on the high ground of Windmill Hill, the ditch was used for the disposal of domestic waste once it had gone out of use. The upper fills of the ditch contained one of the largest pottery and worked flint assemblages known in Suffolk, with fragments of nearly 800 separate vessels being recovered, dating predominantly to the Early Iron Age, with some Late Bronze Age sherds present. A date range of 800-600/550 BC for the assemblage has been confirmed by radiocarbon dating. The enclosure itself is more likely to be Middle – Late Bronze Age in date, although the pottery assemblage clearly points to an Early Iron Age settlement established within or close to the enclosure.
- 2.2.9 Another extensive Early Iron Age settlement was discovered at Landwade Road, Fordham. Similar to Windmill Hill, the site had Bronze Age origins. Evidence for Early Iron Age occupation was located towards the top of the south-facing slope of a chalk promontory; remains included pits associated with timber-built, four-post structures. Three broad categories of pit types were identified, which included evidence for structured deposition (CHER MCB16109; Connor forthcoming). A large assemblage of Early Iron Age pottery (122kg) was recovered, which dated predominantly to the 6th century BC.
- 2.2.10 The closest Iron Age find to the study area came from metal detecting at the Isolation Hospital, 0.5km to the south. Two silver 'boar-horse' units were detected and reputedly one gold coin (SHER EXG033).
- 2.2.11 Along the southern part of the Fordham bypass a number of tree throws containing large dumps of Early Iron Age pottery were found, along with a roundhouse, 4-post structures and a single burial (CHER CB14997; Mortimer 2005).
- 2.2.12 A high status Late Iron Age cremation burial, possibly that of a warrior, was discovered 1.2km to the east of the site on the higher ground in Snailwell (CHER 07420). It was found in 1952 during pipeline cutting and subsequently excavated (Lethbridge 1954). A pit, measuring approximately 2m<sup>2</sup> and 1.2m deep contained a wooden construction, within which the cremated remains had been placed. Accompanying the remains were rich grave goods including ornamented lengths of bone (probably the cheek pieces of a bridle), a bronze amulet, a shield boss, three amphorae, a number of imported fineware vessels and meat-bearing animal bones.
- 2.2.13 A potential Iron Age site was discovered 1.5km north of the study area during fieldwalking for the Fenland Survey (CHER 07746; Hall 1996). Dark areas of soil were coincident with the finding of Iron Age pottery sherds.
- 2.2.14 Iron Age findspots include a bronze armlet south of Snailwell (CHER 08413), Late Iron Age coins further to the east (CHER CB14733) and pottery to the north-east (CHER 07790). Isolated finds of Iron Age pot within a buried soil horizon were found during a separate evaluation at 8, The Highlands, on Windmill Hill (SHER EXG090).

***Roman (Fig. 3; AD 43 – AD 410)***

- 2.2.15 Evidence for Roman land use is fairly extensive within the local landscape. Two Roman villas are located nearby. The closest is situated 1.1km north of the current site at Biggin Farm, directly to the north of Snailwell Road (CHER 07483). The site has only

been identified through ploughing and is a Scheduled Monument (SM Cambridgeshire 80). Part of a probable hypocaust has been located together with a considerable amount of building material. Pottery indicates occupation in at least the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Not enough has been unearthed for any sort of plan to be obtained, but the presence of a hypocaust and painted wall plaster indicates that it was rather more than a native farmstead. Three other sites or findspots are listed to the north and east of the villa. A puddingstone quern and Roman pottery were found scattered over a wide area approximately 400m to the east of the villa (CHER 07440) while 3 Roman coins, a blue glass bead and pottery including Horningsea ware, were recovered from Snailwell Fen during the Fenland Survey (CHER 07435; Hall 1996). Further to the north a dark area of soil with bone, pottery and red tile was discovered, again during the Fenland Survey (CHER 11533).

- 2.2.16 Exning Roman villa is located 2.1km to the west and was excavated in 1904 and 1958-9 (SHER EXG012; Webster 1987). Early features (possibly 1st to early 2nd century AD) comprised ditches, postholes and pits. A timber aisled building comprised two aisle post rows 31m by 6m wide. The timber building was replaced in masonry after AD 270. This building consisted of at least 9 rooms and measured approximately 40m x 15m. It contained painted wall plaster and one room contained a tessellated floor and a geometric mosaic. A bathsuite was also added to the north-west of the building. The building was destroyed by fire, probably by the mid 4th century.
- 2.2.17 Associated with Exning Roman villa is an extensive settlement found during a pipeline construction directly to the south (SHER EXG013; Taylor 1969). The settlement spread along 1.5km of the pipe trench and consisted of pits, ditches and postholes. There were approximately 40 pits, a series of V-shaped ditches running generally north-west to south-east and a number of 'sleeper-beam' trenches, possibly associated with structures. Large quantities of pottery, mainly 2nd to 4th century in date, were recovered from the pits and ditches, in the spoil heaps and in the surrounding fields. Further Roman V-shaped ditches were located along the pipeline to the north-east (SHER EXG036).
- 2.2.18 Two Roman roads were discovered at the south end of the Fordham bypass excavations, both orientated roughly north to south (CHER MCB16946; Mortimer 2005). The first extends from the bypass and becomes Landwade Road at the point where it crosses the railway. The second was slightly to the east and was probably the precursor of Fordham Road. The two roads run to the east and west of the study area and probably extend as far as the Icknield Way to the south.
- 2.2.19 Closer to the study area, a Roman settlement was discovered 0.5km to the south, firstly during excavation at Newmarket Isolation hospital (SHER EXG074) and subsequently on land adjacent to Beech House (SHER EXG083; Muldowney 2010). These later excavations identified two possible enclosures and a small number of pits and postholes, well dated through pottery and coins to the Late Roman period (late 3rd to 4th century). A layer of Roman tiles was partially exposed towards the centre of the site. Roman coins were also found during a metal detecting survey at the Isolation Hospital (SHER EXG 033).
- 2.2.20 Approximately 0.6km to the east of the site a Roman cremation in a coarse ware jar, accompanied by a samian dish, were ploughed up in 1978 (CHER 07434). Roughly 200m to the south of the cremation a possible Roman settlement was identified during the Fenland Survey (CHER 07743; Hall 1996). In Snailwell village an iron spearhead of Roman date was found close to the church (CHER MCB16680).

- 2.2.21 A number of Roman sites or findspots have been discovered around the village of Exning. Isolated finds of Roman pot were found during the evaluation at 8, The Highlands, on Windmill Hill (SHER EXG090). Roman pottery sherds, including samian and colour coated wares were discovered underneath a mound associated with a medieval moat at The Island in the south of the village (SHER EXG010). Nearby, a Roman disc brooch and a scatter of Roman pottery were found during a metal detecting survey (SHER EXG051). In the far south of Exning parish a site called 'Roman wells' is listed (SHER EXG001), although what the evidence for such features are is unclear.

#### ***Post-Roman (Fig. 4)***

##### *Anglo-Saxon (AD 410 – AD 1066)*

- 2.2.22 Saxon finds and sites are relatively rare compared to those from earlier periods. The most significant site locally is an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery on Windmill Hill in Exning, 1.5km to the south-west. The location was confirmed when two burials were found during excavation of house footings at 8, The Highlands (SHER EXG028). The site had previously been identified slightly further to the south (SHER EXG 005) although this location is probably incorrect. Further to the south at a medieval moated site (The Island) Saxon pottery including Ipswich ware was found as well as timber slots pre-dating the moat mound (SHER EXG010). The presence of Thetford and St Neots ware pottery as well, indicates Late Saxon occupation prior to the construction of the moat mound. This settlement was further examined during construction of the Newmarket bypass when two areas were excavated (SHER EXG052). Two discontinuous beamslots were uncovered, which were believed to represent the sides of a hall type building about 12.5m long by 6.5m wide. Finds consisted of a grass-tempered sherd and a rim of probable Early Saxon date and body sherds of either Ipswich or Thetford type wares from the slots.
- 2.2.23 Closer to the subject site Saxon pottery was found 1km to the east (CHER 07742A) while one Saxon object was reputed to have been detected at the Isolation Hospital site (SHER EXG 033).

##### *Medieval (AD 1066 – c. AD 1500)*

- 2.2.24 Medieval remains are restricted to the surrounding historic villages. In Landwade there are two significant sites located approximately 1.2km north-west of the study area; the 15th century church of St. Nicholas (CHER CB14885) and a moated site east of the church (SHER EXG050; Scheduled Monument Suffolk 241).
- 2.2.25 In Snailwell St. Peter's Church is located 1.2km to the east of the subject site (CHER CB14908). The church is 11th century in date although the only original feature is the round tower. To the south-west of the church is the location of the medieval manor house (CHER 07439).
- 2.2.26 In Exning the area believed to be the historic core is thought to be in the north-west of the village (SHER EXG098), although this is away from the medieval moated site at The Island, which is to the south (SHER EXG010). The rectangular moat and associated mound is on the site of a Saxon settlement (see 2.2.22 above). The Church of St. Martin is originally 12th century in date (SHER EXG031).

*Post-medieval (AD c. AD 1500 – c. AD 1900)*

- 2.2.27 Sites dating to the post-medieval period are again restricted to the villages and include Landwade Hall (SHER EXG062), Four Ponds Moat in Snailwell (CHER 01188) and Exning House and Park (SHER EXG081).

## **2.3 Cartographic Evidence**

- 2.3.1 The subject site appears on a number of historic maps. The earliest viewed map is from Hodskinson's 1783 Map of Suffolk (Fig. 5). It shows the site as part of a much larger open field, prior to enclosure. The only relevant details are the east facing slope on the eastern side of the site and the presence of Fordham Road. John Chapman's map of Newmarket, made a few years later in 1787 is at a larger scale but unfortunately does not extend far enough north to include the current site.
- 2.3.2 An Ordnance Survey map of 1836 (Fig. 6) presents a similar view to the 1783 map although the road running north-west to south-east north of Exning Hall on the 1783 map appears to have disappeared. There is also an additional field boundary to the south of the site. To the north of this field boundary there is a clunch pit marked.
- 2.3.3 By the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, the present day field boundaries for the site are visible, including those marking the site (Fig. 7). However, no trees or wooded areas exist along these boundaries as they do presently. The clunch pit is still marked to the south. The course of the railway is also marked for the first time.
- 2.3.4 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1901 presents a similar view to that of the First Edition (Fig. 8). The main difference is that the Isolation Hospital is shown to the south, directly east of the clunch pit. The building is marked as 'Hospital (Infectious Diseases)'.
- 2.3.5 The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1926 shows further sub-divisions in the fields to the west and south of the site, giving them their present day shape (Fig. 9). The boundaries around the majority of the site are depicted as being tree-lined, as they appear today.

## **2.4 Aerial Photographs**

- 2.4.1 No new aerial photographic assessment was undertaken for the desk-top study due to the number of known cropmark sites already listed locally in the Historic Environment Record. An assessment was carried out prior to excavation at Landwade Road, 1km to the north (Palmer 1996). The survey included the fields directly to the north of the current site but showed that only headlands were visible, as well as the 'dubious' ring-ditch already mentioned in section 2.2.6 (CHER 11105).
- 2.4.2 GoogleEarth and Flash Earth were both accessed for the desk-top study. The only cropmark visible within the study area is a potential headland extending roughly north to south in the south-west corner of the field (Google 2012). The headland follows the approximate course of the 25m contour.

## **2.5 Earthworks**

- 2.5.1 No earthworks are present within the subject site. If any had once been present, the effect of ploughing has long since destroyed them. The closest earthworks are those associated with the medieval moated site in Landwade, 1.1km to the north-west (SHER EXG050; Scheduled Monument Suffolk 241).

## **2.6 Archaeological Excavations and Surveys**

- 2.6.1 The major local excavations have already been covered chronologically within the Historic Environment Record and are summarised again here.
- 2.6.2 To the north the Fordham bypass excavations were conducted in 2004 and uncovered remains dating from the Early Neolithic through to the Roman period (Mortimer 2005; CHER CB14997, MCB16946, MCB16948). Closer to the site, excavations at Landwade Road found remains of an Early Iron Age settlement with possible Bronze Age boundaries pre-dating the settlement (Connor forthcoming; CHER MCB16109).
- 2.6.3 To the south of the study area evaluation and excavation at Newmarket Isolation Hospital discovered extensive Roman settlement remains (Sommers 1998; SHER EXG074), which continued to the south in an excavation area adjacent to Beech House (Muldowney 2010; SHER EXG083).
- 2.6.4 Further to the south, a large evaluation took place at Hatchfield Farm in 2008 (SHER NKT027; see Fig. 2). Despite opening 102 trenches, no features pre-dating the 20th century were encountered. The only significant finds were prehistoric flint concentrations recorded during a prior fieldwalking survey, lying within the course of a former river system.
- 2.6.5 A number of excavations have taken place in Exning. The most significant is a recent excavation at 7, The Highlands. A small trench measuring approximately 25m x 10m within a cul-de-sac of modern houses uncovered a 20m length of a single, 4m wide ditch (SHER EXG082; Craven and Brudenell 2011). The ditch possibly enclosed a hilltop settlement on the high ground of Windmill Hill. The upper fills of the ditch contained one of the largest pottery and worked flint assemblages known in Suffolk, with fragments of nearly 800 separate vessels being recovered, dating predominantly to the Early Iron Age, with some Late Bronze Age sherds present. Close by at 8, The Highlands, two Anglo-Saxon burials were found when excavating house footings in 1981 (SHER EXG028). However, small scale investigations during extension work at the same property (Caruth 1998) and at 14 Thawnie Croft, Windmill Hill (Caruth 2008) have not found any further evidence of burials.

### 3 DEPOSIT MAPPING

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 In this section, an attempt has been made to map all known monuments and events and, based on this mapping, to predict the existence of further remains, specifically within the study area.

#### 3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 Prehistoric remains are extensive within the local landscape. The earliest evidence is restricted to findspots of Mesolithic flints in at least two separate locations. There is evidence of Neolithic land use from the Fordham bypass excavations, in the form of a buried land surface rich in finds, a double crouched burial and a Late Neolithic flint scatter around a central post. A number of cropmark sites may be those of Neolithic long barrows, the closest being 0.8km to the west.
- 3.2.2 In the Bronze Age there are a number of burial mounds in the vicinity. These include excavated examples close to the southern end of Fordham bypass and a group of ten, the Snailwell barrows, to the south-east of the site. Again, a number of cropmark sites may also be those of Bronze Age barrows, including an alignment of three ring-ditches approximately 1km to the west. Excavation at Landwade Road, Fordham, 1km to the north, revealed Middle to Late Bronze Age enclosures, a post-built structure and cremation burials. Further north, the Fordham bypass excavations uncovered Bronze Age pits, a Middle Bronze Age structure, ditches possibly of Middle Bronze Age date, a Late Bronze Age shaft cut into a solution hollow and a heavily truncated Bronze Age cremation cemetery.
- 3.2.3 Iron Age remains include a significant Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement site on Windmill Hill, Exning, potentially part of a hilltop enclosure. Another Early Iron Age settlement was discovered at Landwade Road, Fordham. Occupation was located towards the top of the south-facing slope and included pits associated with timber-built, four-post, structures. A large assemblage of Early Iron Age pottery (122kg) was recovered. A high status Late Iron Age cremation burial, possibly that of a warrior, was discovered 1.2km to the east of the site on the higher ground in Snailwell and a potential Iron Age site was discovered 1.5km north of the study area during fieldwalking. The Fordham bypass excavations also produced remains of Iron Age date.
- 3.2.4 The Icknield Way, a major prehistoric routeway, extends north-east to south-west to the south of the site.
- 3.2.5 Given the amount of prehistoric archaeology locally, there is a higher than average possibility that prehistoric remains exist within the study area. Many of the local sites are either in undeveloped rural locations or were until recent development, which correlates with the subject site. However, there is always the possibility of blank areas in otherwise busy landscapes, evidenced by the large evaluation which took place at Hatchfield Farm 1.5km to the south of the study area. Despite the potential for archaeological features and deposits of prehistoric and Roman date to survive on the site no features pre-dating the 20th century were noted in any of the 102 trenches.



### **3.3 Roman**

- 3.3.1 Roman sites are fewer in number but the ones that do exist are on the whole extensive or significant. They include two Roman villas; one to the north close to Snailwell Road and Exning Roman villa, 2km to the west. Exning Roman villa is associated with an extensive settlement. Evidence of Roman settlement has also been found much closer to the site at Newmarket Isolation Hospital and adjacent to Beech House, only 0.5km to the south.
- 3.3.2 Two definite Roman roads were found at the southern end of the Fordham bypass. Both were orientated north to south and can be traced along modern boundaries and roads. They pass either side of the study area (Landwade Road to the west and Fordham Road to the east) and probably extend to other roads extending perpendicular, on the prehistoric routes of Street Way or the Icknield Way.
- 3.3.3 The presence of Roman settlement only 0.5km to the south at the Isolation Hospital and Beech House increases the possibility of finding Roman archaeology on the current site, especially if Fordham Road does indeed follow the course of a Roman road.

### **3.4 Anglo-Saxon**

- 3.4.1 There are only a few Anglo-Saxon sites nearby and most of these are close to villages. An inhumation cemetery exists on Windmill Hill in Exning while Late Saxon settlement was found further south at The Island in Exning and near by during construction of the Newmarket bypass. Closer to the subject site Saxon pottery was found 1km to the east while one Saxon object was reputed to have been detected at the Isolation Hospital site to the south.
- 3.4.2 The sparsity of Anglo-Saxon sites and finds compared to those of earlier periods makes it unlikely, but not impossible, that remains of that period exist on the current site.

### **3.5 Medieval**

- 3.5.1 All the medieval remains in the vicinity of the site are located within the historic villages. These include moated earthwork sites in Landwade and Exning. The current site is likely to have been part of the open fields of Exning in the medieval period and apart from ridge and furrow and possibly older field boundaries, medieval remains are unlikely to exist.

### **3.6 Post-medieval**

- 3.6.1 The post-medieval remains relate on the whole to Listed Buildings in the nearby villages. As cartographic sources show the site to be undeveloped as far back as 1783 it is very unlikely that post-medieval remains exist there.

### 3.7 Rating

- 3.7.1 Based on the distribution of known finds and sites in the study area, as defined in the previous sections, a rating of low, medium or high can be predicted for the survival of further remains within the study area.

Period	Rating
Prehistoric	Medium-High
Roman	Medium-High
Anglo-Saxon	Low
Medieval	Low
Post-medieval	Low

*Table 1: Predicted rating for archaeological remains within the study area*

## 4 DEGREE OF SURVIVAL

- 4.1.1 This section broadly assesses the degree of survival of archaeological remains in the study area or in other words, what actions (either natural or man-made) may have affected any potential buried remains. The study area is situated on agricultural land and has not seen any major development, which means the preservation of buried remains should be good. One factor which may have affected preservation is damage caused by ploughing, particularly recently with the use of heavy machinery. However, ploughing is only likely to cause partial truncation.
- 4.1.2 As summarised above (section 3) prehistoric and Roman remains are the most likely remains to be present on the current site. There is no reason why such remains should not survive on an undeveloped site like this although it is likely to be negative features such as ditches, pits and postholes which survive. More sensitive features such as buried soils or former land surfaces are unlikely to survive on land where ploughing has been taking place for a long time, unless it has been protected in some other way. For example, the buried Neolithic land surface at the southern end of Fordham bypass survived because it was situated within a large natural solution hollow. Hill wash (colluvium) can also aid preservation of buried remains by building up a greater cover of soil over time, a factor which could be relevant to the current site if buried remains were present towards the lower parts of the slope in the north and east of the field.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The site is clearly located in an area rich in archaeological remains. This landscape has been exploited intensively for millennia due to its position close to the southern fringes of the Fens, an area rich in natural resources, and because of the well-drained soils which are favourable to arable farming. There appears to be a high number of burial mounds in the vicinity, suggesting the area was being venerated early on, certainly by the Bronze Age and possibly in the Neolithic if some of the cropmark sites are indeed long barrows. Prehistoric occupation and settlement is evident, including the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic buried land surface at the Fordham bypass, the artefact-rich Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age hill-top site at Windmill Hill and the extensive Early Iron Age settlement at Landwade Road. There are a number of prehistoric communication routes which pass through the landscape, most notably the Icknield Way. These routes persevere in to the Roman period, during which time roads which are more archaeologically visible were constructed. There are two known Roman villas locally and a number of settlements, probably small farmsteads, the closest only 0.5km to the south of the study area. Post-Roman remains are certainly present but not in the same densities as those of earlier periods. On the whole they are concentrated within or around the historic villages of Exning, Landwade and Snailwell.
- 5.1.2 In considering the likelihood of buried remains existing within the study area an important factor is the topography of the site compared to others locally. The highest part of the site, in the south-west of the field, sits at approximately 25m OD. This is somewhere between the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age site on Windmill Hill, Exning, at approximately 30m OD and the multi-period remains at Landwade Road and the Fordham bypass to the north, at approximately 15m OD. Many of the excavated burial mounds and the potential cropmark examples are located between 15m and 25m OD. A ring ditch to the south (SHER EXG037) sits close to the 25m contour, as did the Snailwell barrows once upon a time (CHER 07423). The two barrows currently being excavated to the north (CHER 07443 and 09025) and the potential examples to the west (SHER EXG019, 020, 042, 043, 044) are all closer to the 15m contour. The Roman settlement uncovered 0.5km to the south at the Isolation Hospital and adjacent to Beech House are at a similar height to the subject site.
- 5.1.3 The accumulative evidence increases the probability of buried archaeological remains existing within the potential development area. The site is on undeveloped agricultural land, similar to the conditions under which most sites have been discovered locally. Although ploughing of the site may have caused some truncation to any underlying remains, it will not have destroyed them completely. Should archaeological remains exist, they are most likely to be prehistoric or Roman in date.

## APPENDIX A. HER ENTRIES

<i>HER no</i>	<i>Site name</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Grid ref</i>
07743A	Flint implements, Fordham	Prehistoric	TL 637 673
11105	Ring ditch, Fordham	Prehistoric?	TL 630 679
11533	Roman artefact scatter, Fordham	Roman	TL 631 691
01188	Four Ponds Moat, Snailwell	Post-medieval	TL 640 677
01696	Prehistoric artefact scatter, Snailwell	Prehistoric	TL 651 656
07420	Snailwell Warrior Burial	Iron Age	TL 645 675
07432	Bronze Age spearhead, Fordham	Bronze Age	TL 624 689
07433	Ring ditch and burnt flint scatter, Fordham	Bronze Age	TL 629 689
07434	Roman cremation, Snailwell	Roman	TL 638 674
07435	Roman finds, Snailwell Fen	Roman	TL 639 687
07437	Bronze Age burial, Snailwell Stud	Bronze Age	TL 642 671
07439	Remains of Manor House, Snailwell	Medieval	TL 641 674
07440	Roman quern and pottery, Snailwell	Roman	TL 644 682
07442	Mesolithic and Bronze Age flints, Fordham House	Mesolithic, Bronze Age	TL 629 691
07473	Snailwell barrows	Bronze Age	TL 649 655
07483	Roman Villa south of Snailwell Fen	Roman	TL 636 683
07737	Neolithic axe, Fordham	Neolithic	TL 624 689
07742	Iron Age site, Snailwell	Iron Age	TL 641 677
07742A	Saxon site, Snailwell	Saxon	TL 641 677
07743	Roman settlement, Snailwell	Roman	TL 637 673
07746	Iron Age site, Snailwell Fen	Iron Age	TL 636 687
07790	Iron Age pottery, Snailwell	Iron Age	TL 643 678
08413	Iron Age bronze armlet, Snailwell	Iron Age	TL 64 67
09025	Ring ditch, Fordham House	Prehistoric?	TL 629 689
09069	Medieval earthworks, Snailwell	Medieval	TL 641 680
09074	Ring ditch, Snailwell	Prehistoric?	TL 641 667
CB14709	Polished axehead, Chippenham Fen	Neolithic	TL 64 69
CB14733	Late Iron Age coins, Foxburrow Plantation	Iron Age	TL 65 67
CB14885	Saint Nicholas' Church, Landwade	Medieval	TL 623 681
CB14908	Saint Peter's Church, Snailwell	Medieval	TL 642 675
CB14997	Fordham Bypass Site 1 (south), prehistoric remains	Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age	TL 630 689
MCB16109	Prehistoric settlement, Landwade Road, Fordham	Bronze Age, Iron Age	TL 631 683
MCB16680	Iron spear head find, Snailwell	Roman	TL 644 674
MCB16946	Fordham Bypass Site 1 (south), Roman remains	Roman	
MCB16948	Fordham Bypass, Bronze Age flint mound and wells	Bronze Age	TL 624 691
EXG 001	Roman wells	Roman	TL 628 649

<i>HER no</i>	<i>Site name</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Grid ref</i>
EXG 005	Windmill Hill	Saxon	TL 6255 6586
EXG 006	Flint implements	Prehistoric	TL 6340 6512
EXG 007	Flint implements	Prehistoric	TL 6323 6500
EXG 008	Flint implements	Prehistoric	TL 6324 6509
EXG 009	Flint implements	Prehistoric	TL 6299 6534
EXG 010	The Island	Saxon, medieval	TL 6221 6525
EXG 012	Exning Roman Villa	Roman	TL 612 676
EXG 013	Roman settlement	Roman	TL 612 676
EXG 014	Cropmark - ring ditch	Prehistoric?	TL 6447 6583
EXG 015	Cropmark - circular enclosure	Prehistoric?	TL 637 664
EXG 016	Cropmark - ring ditch or circular enclosure	Prehistoric?	TL 6386 6660
EXG 017	Cropmark - oval enclosure, possible long barrow	Prehistoric?	TL 6411 6665
EXG 018	Cropmark - ring ditch or circular enclosure	Prehistoric?	TL 6422 6630
EXG 019	Cropmark - roughly circular enclosure	Prehistoric?	TL 6244 6754
EXG 020	Cropmark - oval enclosure, possible long barrow	Prehistoric?	TL 6252 6748
EXG 021	Cropmark - possible ring ditch or enclosure	Prehistoric?	TL 6206 6883
EXG 028	Windmill Hill	Saxon	TL 6266 6589
EXG 031	Church of St Martin, Exning	Medieval	TL 6213 6550
EXG 032	Cropmark - ring ditch or circular enclosure	Prehistoric?	TL 6401 6500
EXG 033	Isolation hospital – metal detecting survey and cropmarks	Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval	TL 633 667
EXG 034	Cropmark – enclosure, close to Roman villa	Roman?	TL 6113 6716
EXG 036	Roman V-shaped ditches	Roman	TL 6159 6796
EXG 037	Cropmark - ring ditch	Prehistoric?	TL 6288 6634
EXG 038	Chalk Farm (OS field 5500). Fieldwalking recovered struck and burnt flints	Neolithic	TL 620 686
EXG 039	Euston to Cambridge mains water pipeline: field 2479	Roman	TL 6115 6768
EXG 042	Cropmark - partial ring ditch	Prehistoric?	TL 6164 6727
EXG 043	Cropmark - ring ditch	Prehistoric?	TL 6172 6735
EXG 044	Cropmark - ring ditch	Prehistoric?	TL 6178 6747
EXG 045	Lodes - Granta Relief Scheme	Prehistoric	TL 646 659
EXG 050	Moated site E of church; Landwade Hall (site of)	Medieval	TL 6241 6812
EXG 051	Metal detecting survey	Post-medieval	TL 618 649
EXG 052	Sites B & C, Newmarket bypass	Saxon	TL 6224 6530
EXG 055	Roman findspot	Roman	TL 6210 6523
EXG 057	Church of St Nicholas, Landwade	Medieval	TL 6232 6810
EXG 060	Cropmark – oval enclosure, Landwade	Prehistoric?	TL 6275 6803
EXG 062	Landwade Hall	Post-medieval	TL 6236 6799
EXG 074	Evaluation and excavation, Newmarket Isolation Hospital	Roman	TL 63232 66549
EXG 081	Exning House & Park	Post-medieval	TL 62337 66138
EXG 082	7 The Highlands, Exning	Iron Age	TL 6266 6583

<i><b>HER no</b></i>	<i><b>Site name</b></i>	<i><b>Period</b></i>	<i><b>Grid ref</b></i>
EXG 083	Land Adjacent to Beech House	Roman	TL 6324 6645
EXG 090	Land at 8, The Highlands, Exning	Iron Age, Roman	TL 6264 6590
EXG 098	Exning historic settlement core	Medieval	TL 6169 6583
NKT 027	Evaluation at Hatchfield Farm, Newmarket	Undated	TL 6391 6562

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### **Cartographic Sources**

- Hodskinson's map of Suffolk 1783. Suffolk Record Office
- John Chapman's map of Newmarket 1787. Suffolk Record Office
- Ordnance Survey map 1836.
- Ordnance Survey First Edition 1885. Internal copy



Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1901. Internal copy

Ordnance Survey Third Edition 1926. Internal copy

***Digital sources***

GoogleEarth, 2012, Imagery date 01/01/1999 (date accessed 12/11/2012)

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-137537		
Project Name	Desk-based assessment for Fordham Road, Newmarket		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	07-11-2012	Finish 15-11-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XSFFOD12	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	n/a	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Other

**Please select all techniques used:**

#### DBA

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Site Visit)

### Monument Types & Period

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

Monument	Period
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none	Select period...
none	Select period...
none	Select period...

### Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Forest Heath	Fordham Road, Newmarket
Parish	Newmarket	
HER	Suffolk	
Study Area	10 ha	National Grid Reference TL 632 672

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Rachel Monk, SCCAS
Project Design Originator	n/a
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Tom Phillips

## Project Archives

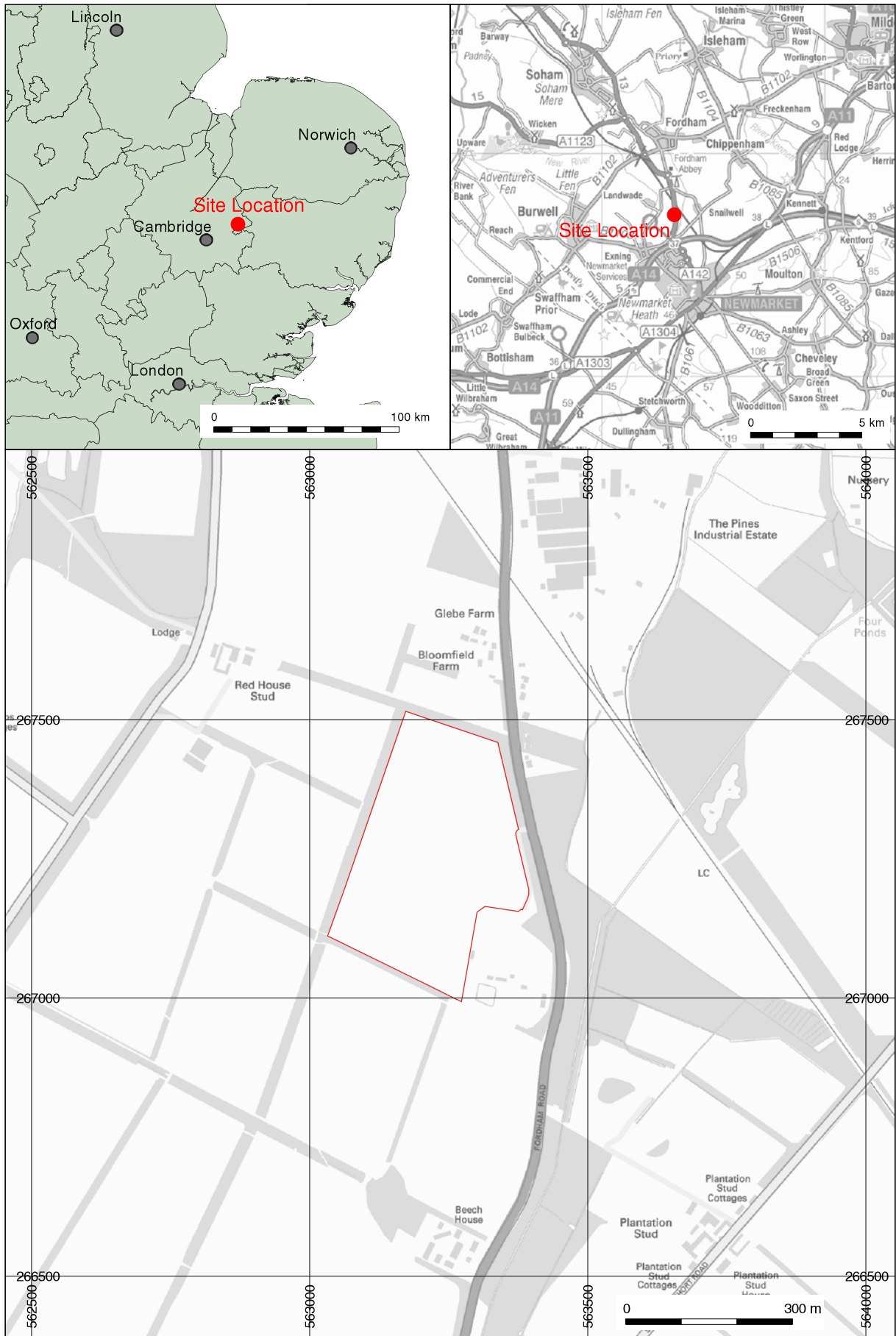
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Suffolk County Council	OA East	Suffolk County Council
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## Archive Contents/Media

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

## Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location











Report Number 1421



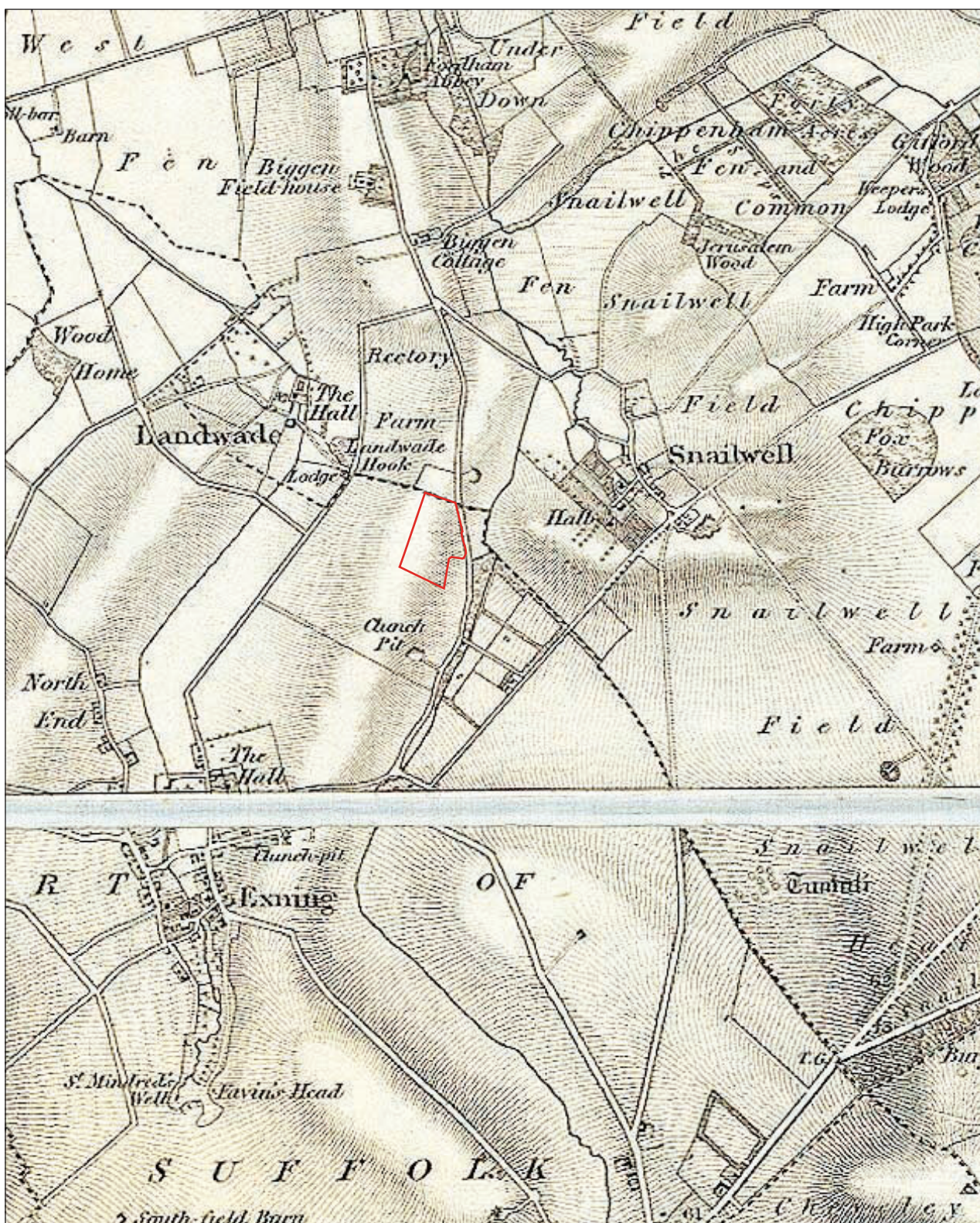


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 1836



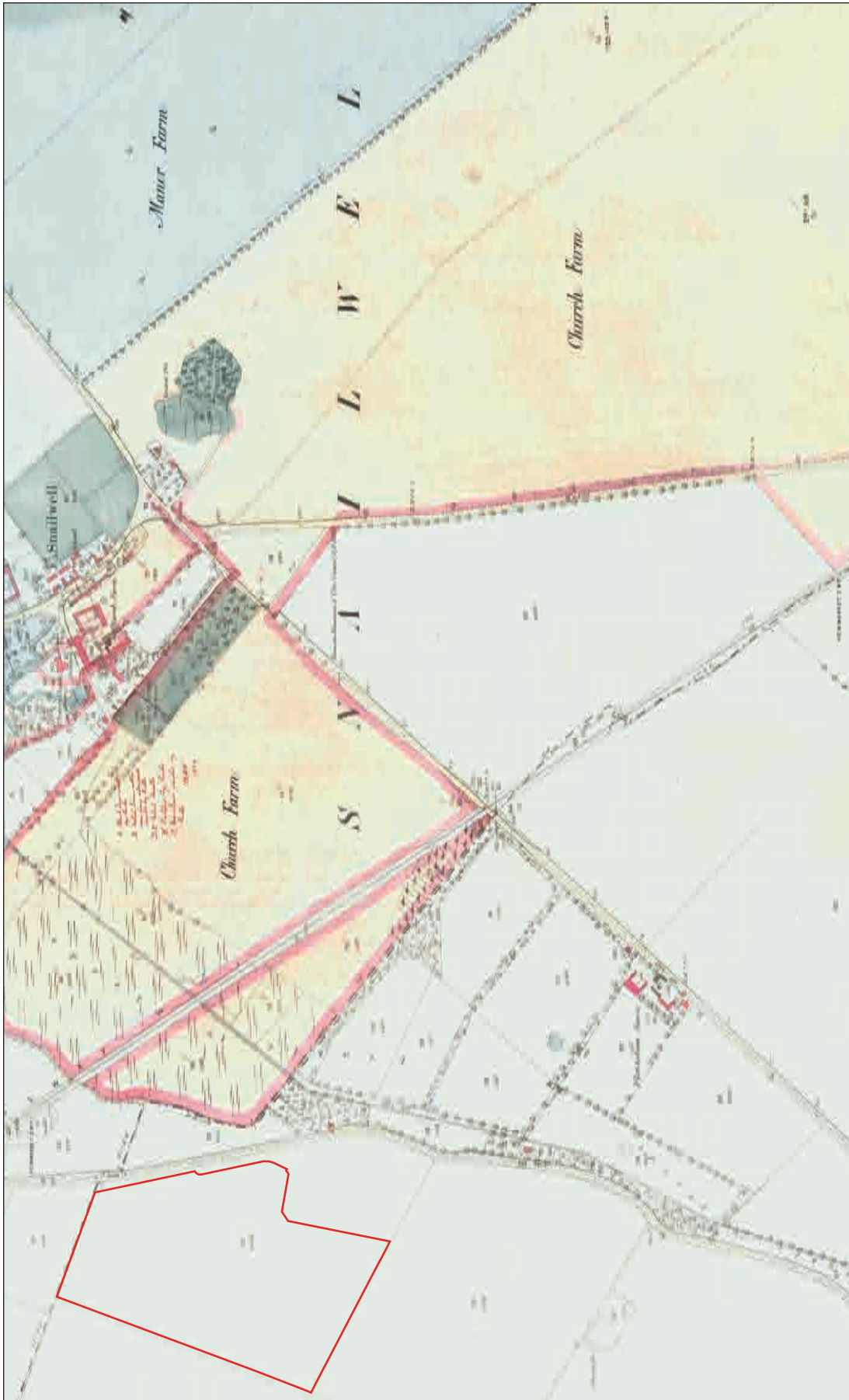


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey First Edition 1885



Figure 8: Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1901



Figure 9: Ordnance Survey Third Edition 1926





Plate 1: Panoramic view of the site from the western boundary



Plate 2: Panoramic view of the site from the northern boundary



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