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A Project Design for an evaluation by trial-trenching at land adjacent to Trumpingtons Farm, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex

CAT Project reference: 2024/05a

NGR: TL 877 244



¹ OS One Inch Map from 1885-1900 Outline. National Library of Scotland [Map images - National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](https://www.nls.uk/map-images/)

A Project Design for an evaluation by trial-trenching at land adjacent to Trumpingtons Farm,
Great Tey, Colchester, Essex

May 2024

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Executive Summary

This project design is for an evaluation via trial-trenching at land adjacent to Trumpingtons Farm, Great Tey near Colchester in Essex, England. The project design is in response to a Brief issued by T O'Connor of PLACE Services on behalf of Colchester City Council (ECCPS). The proposed development is within an area of potential archaeological activity, including cropmark activity as well as listed architectural assets within the vicinity. The Brief specifies twenty trenches to cover the footprints of a proposed development of three houses as well as associated services and groundworks. This evaluation is estimated to occur between May to June, dependant on the agricultural activity underway on the land. This is also without further delays or unforeseen factors. The approach to this work is evidenced through the following MoRPHE compliant document, outlining key archaeological research questions, roles, procedures, stages and outputs. These outputs are as follows:

Targeted trenching: Twenty trenches are proposed, aiming to investigate the cropmarks of the area which include a potential moated enclosure measuring approximately 38m by 33m.

Grey literature report: Following the completion of fieldwork, a report of the site will be created and subsequently disseminated to the relevant contacts including the EHER (Essex Historic Environment Record) advisor and client.

Digital and physical archive: both a digital and physical archive of documentary and material evidence will be collected and collated by CAT archivists. If the evaluation uncovers no archaeology, the archive will comprise of solely digital evidence uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service.

1.1 Introduction

This document outlines the proposals for a trial-trench evaluation at land adjacent to Trumpingtons Farm in Great Tey, Colchester, Essex. The proposed development is centred at national Grid Reference (NGR) TL 877 244. The proposed development comprises the construction of three detached, three-bedroom houses with associated gardens, access and parking. The land itself would be categorised as a greenfield site, having only previously had agricultural activity within recent decades. The land is currently in the ownership of the nearby farm to the east, Trumpingtons Farm, under F Percival and Sons.

A planning application 24/00507/FUL was submitted to Colchester City Council in January 2024. It proposed *the erection of three detached, three-bedrooms houses with associated gardens, access and parking*. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains an archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021). The following project design is in response to an Archaeological Brief issued by T O'Connor in March 2024.

1.2 Research context

The proposed development is in a rural location in northeast Essex in the southeast of England. The development is located on a bedrock geology of the London Clay formation, which is composed of clay, silt and sand. There are additional superficial deposits of the Lowestoft formation of a chalky till with sands, gravels and clays (British Geological Survey). The site itself is in a rural location with a large amount of vegetation limited to the roadsides in the form of hedgerows. There is an immediate site access off East Gores Road and at the driveway access of Trumpington Farm which is marked by a small wooden sign with a horseshoe. The proposed development area is surrounded by agricultural land, which is presumed to be under the ownership of the Trumpington Farm based company F Percival and Sons. The information within this research is drawn from multiple sources, namely the Colchester Heritage Map which derives data from the Essex Historic Environment Record held in Chelmsford, Essex. The proposed development measures 21,242.5m² and is the location of a cropmark (Monument Record number MCC5698). The enclosure is described online as a “possible moated site approximately 38m by 33m” (Colchester Heritage MAP).

The site is also in the vicinity of Trumpington Farms, which is a historic farmstead centred at TL 8789 2450 (MCC9226). The farm is first visible on Epoch 2 Map from 1870s to 1904. The detached site is composed of six individual buildings; however, it is noted that 10% of these buildings were demolished between 1904 and 1922 as they do not appear on later cartographic evidence. Three of the surviving buildings are listed. The oldest of these is the farmhouse itself, which was Grade II listed and dates from the 15th century (NHLE 1223335) (Historic England, 2024). The structure has later additions, including three red brick chimney stacks and windows. Two barns on the property are also listed. This includes a 17th century barn which is Grade II (LB1223256) and a barn constructed c. 1800 which is also Grade II

(LB1267359). The official listing notes several modern structures surrounding these buildings, in line with the site's present day use as a working farm.

275m northeast of the proposed development site is the location of a historic green (MCC9127) described as Dowsland Green (Colchester Heritage Map, 2018). The green appears first in cartographic evidence in 1897, covering approximately 0.45ha of land in a triangular shape. Several of the structure once present around the green have been demolished. The green is currently north of the present-day location of three 20th to 21st century detached properties.

320m south of the proposed development is an area of cropmarks located at Cuckoo's Farm (MCC8618). These cropmarks are noted as field boundaries, however a small rectilinear enclosure of approximately 15m in width is described further southeast (Colchester Heritage Map, 2015). These cropmarks are all visible on OS 1st edition map of 1872 to 1890, therefore they are likely of agricultural function. Cuckoo's Farm also retains a historic 18th to 19th century farmstead with Grade II Listing (LB1223381).

Cropmarks and listed farmsteads continue west of the proposed development. The closest archaeological investigation to the proposed development was an evaluation in 2021 over 2km southeast. Four trenches did not uncover any archaeological remains (Hicks, 2021). Overall, very little archaeological investigation has been conducted within the immediate area. This has been reasoned by the lack of modern development within the area, therefore no necessity for archaeological investigation. The land's function has been suitable for agriculture activity since at least the 18th century (Beech, 2019).

1.3 Social context

The social context of the area has been heavily influenced by its agricultural past and present. The nearest hamlet to the proposed development is that of East Gores. East Gores is situated close to hamlet Skye Green. The next largest settlement to the development site is Little Tey to the south. The village of less than 100 inhabitants is one of three teys (Marks, Little and Great) within the overall civil parish of Marks Tey to the southeast. The most significant heritage asset within the village is a 12th century church of Norman origins of St James the Less. The church is Grade I listed (NHLE 1224521) and features several religious murals within. Great Tey is the most developed settlement in the proposed site's vicinity. It includes a local primary school, shop and post office as well as a village hall. Socially, the area can be described as formed of rural communities, with many people being born, living and dying within the area for generations. The area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development is sporadically populated by historic houses related to its agricultural past. The area remains rural in nature and setting, with little modern development.

Aims and Objectives

2.1 Project model

The project model is to define and characterise the archaeological character of the development area, including both known and unknown activity. This will be through a programme of intrusive investigations in the form of trial-trenching. After discussion with the EHER Advisor it may become necessary for further investigation of the site via excavation. The project has three aims which will be explored in further detail below.

2.2 Aim One – to define and establish any existing cropmark evidence.

The methodology will aim to define and establish the presence of any existing cropmark evidence present on the site. Extensive cropmark evidence is highlighted within the surrounding area with the vast majority of this dating to the 18th century or later and of an agricultural nature. Cropmarks can also appear as geological variations in the land formation, and it is through investigative methods such as evaluation that they can be analysed thoroughly as either archaeological or geological/ topographical variations.

2.3 Aim Two – to establish and record any evidence of other archaeological activity.

The methodology will aim to establish and record any further evidence of archaeological activity within the proposed development area. This is inclusive but not limited to settlement activity, funerary features and evidence of industry. Essex is characterised by thousands of years of activity, covering a range of time periods from the Palaeolithic to the 20th century. The investigations will establish the presence of any of this activity and duly record it in an appropriate manner.

2.4 Aim Three – to produce an analysis and publication of work undertaken.

The results of the methodology will be collated into an overall analysis. This includes discussions of finds, cartographic evidence and any archaeological activity which may be encountered such as ditches or pits. This work will then be prepared into an appropriate archive and report as established by *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015). The report will be submitted within six months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF. Further details of the archive can be found in further discussion within this document.

Business Case

The project design informs the frameworks of both Historic England and regional frameworks for the East of England. Historic England emphasises the impact that modern agriculture and cultivation has on buried archaeological horizons. The National Implementation of the Conservation of Scheduled Monuments in Cultivation Assessment

(COSMIC 3 6144) (2014) notes some of these results in regard to Scheduled Monuments. Although no scheduled monuments are present within the proposed development, the points of the assessment framework are equally applicable.

The project design can also be linked to the East of England Research Framework as reviewed between 2018 to 2020. As the potential for archaeology from the 18th to 20th centuries remains high, the possibility for outreach and engagement is present (Andrew, 2021). The 'living memory' of archaeology is useful for such a scenario, given the pastoral environment and character of the surrounding landscape. The landscape itself is also noted to be significant given the land partitioning and establishment of farms and fields (Andrew, 2021). This has often been present within the archaeological record but rarely explored in a wider context. As highlighted by Andrew (2021) "work on farm buildings should attempt to consider how they have been used, and their relationship to the farmstead and wider landholding". If present, archaeological activity of an agricultural nature can support this recommendation. This could be evidence of ponds, granaries, or land partition via linear features.

Dissemination and Archive

As stated previously, the report will be submitted within six months of the end of fieldwork to all those required. This includes the EHER advisor and client.

The report will follow the current format as established by CAT (2024).

"It will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10-figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011 (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results."

With the necessary standards outlined by ClfA (2020b) an OASIS summary sheet will be completed and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive.

A copy (with trench plan) will also be sent to the Honorary Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for addition to the annual round-up of projects. Publication takes place at a summary level (i.e. round-up in Essex Archaeology & History) in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. If the site is found to have archaeology present, an allowance will

be made in the project costs for the report to be published in a peer reviewed journal or monograph series (H. Brooks per comms).

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

As a charitable trust, CAT actively engages with the local community where it is deemed appropriate by ECCHEA and the client. This can take the form of open days, talks to local history or archaeology groups and online engagement and outreach via our social media. Our social media currently includes Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn. This is at the discretion of ECCHEA, the client and CAT Director.

Methods Statement

The methodology for the evaluation will be composed of different stages. Once stage one has been completed, stage two will begin. This will follow of the methodology as highlighted by the Archaeological Brief (O'Connor, 2024). Twenty trenches measuring 40m in length and 1.8m in width will be excavated in and around the footings of the three proposed dwellings (see figures one and two). Stripping of the soil will be undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of a project officer or senior field archaeologist. Any archaeological deposits discovered will then be hand excavated using shovels, mattocks, and hand tools until appropriately excavated to the approval of the EHER Advisor. If archaeologically sterile, machine excavation of the ground will continue until natural geology is reached.

Linear features will have 10% of their total length excavated whilst discrete features such as pits will be excavated by 50%. Any complex archaeology will be cleaned and remain unexcavated *in situ* until mitigation later. All features and layers will be planned at 1:10 or 1:20, and photography will occur across all fieldwork. Photography will include a feature number, north arrow and scale representative of 0.2m to 2m. Site surveying will be conducted by a trained member of staff using a GPS or Total Station. The grid of the development area will be in correlation with the National Grid and located using NGR coordinates. Plans of the site will be provided when necessary to the EHER advisor and client. Plans will be included as figures within the overall report completed in stages three and four.

Finds if present will be recovered from their contexts and recorded accordingly to aid dating and interpretation of the area. This includes by is not limited to pottery, metalwork, ceramic building materials and lithics. Any finds found unstratified will also be recovered and labelled accordingly. They will then be washed, relabelled and sent to CAT internal finds specialists to begin their analysis. Any presence of human bone will remain *in situ* unless at risk of damage or as advised by CAT Osteologist or EHER Advisor. Burial licenses will be sought prior to evaluation. If the remains are not archaeologically sensitive and may be the

result of criminality or other such factors, CAT will seek immediate advice of the county coroner and their guidance will inform the next steps.

No trenches will be backfilled without the express permission from the EHER Advisor. At the completion of fieldwork and stage two, a meeting will be organised between the site's project officer and the EHER Advisor. This may take place in-person or via photographic evidence. Stage Three will then commence once approval of the site is granted. The site will be analysed and an assessment of the results, whether positive or negative, will be completed throughout this stage. At the report's completion it will be disseminated to the EHER Advisor and the client at stage four. Archiving of the site will then be completed across all digital, physical and documentary evidence. The archive of both documentary and physical evidence will be deposited with a museum most suited geographically to the development area.

Stage	Description	Project Aims	Products	Task and ID Number
Stage 1	Project Design	Aim 1 to 4	Project Design Document Health and Safety Plan Risk Assessment	1 2 3
Stage 2	Archaeological Evaluation	Aim 1 & 2	Finds On site archive Digital archive Photographic archive	4 5 6 7 8
Stage 3	Report analysis and creation	Aim 3	Evaluation report CAD Figures	9 10 11
Stage 4	Publication and archive	Aim 3	Evaluation report Physical, digital and documentary archive	12 13 14 15

Resources and Programming

3.1 Project Team

The project team is composed of the following individuals. The field team will include HF, ZE, MP, CMH. This team for part of stage one and the entirety of stage two is composed of one project officer (HF), one senior site assistant (ZE) who will also complete the site's survey, and two site assistants (MP and CMH). The most direct CAT contact regarding fieldwork will be AW in his role of Director and former fieldwork manager.

The post-excavation team will be heavily involved in stages three and four. The post-excavation team is as follows: LP, EH, VS, CH. LP as the post-excavation manager will oversee stages three and four and provide final edits for the report as completed by EH. Archiving in both a physical and digital form will be completed by VS and CH also under the supervision of LP.

CAT has several internal finds specialists to complete analysis of any finds which are recovered during archaeological investigations. This basic list is as follows: LP, ML, AW, TL.

External specialists are sought for environmental samples and conservation if required by the site's archaeological activity. Any necessary conservation for material such as metalwork takes places in Norfolk.

3.2 Management structure

As a charitable trust, the entirety of operations is overseen by a Board of Trustees currently chaired by Nick Wickenden. The current company director is AW who was the former fieldwork manager. LP and CL are acting managers of the post-excavation process and business operations. TO'C is the HER Advisor for the Tendring area of Essex on behalf of PLACE Services. Therefore, the management structure of the project will be as follows:

HF (Project Officer), LP/ CL (Managers), AW (Company Director), TO'C (EHER Advisor).

3.3 Facilities

Facilities on site will be provided via portacabins with access to hot water, a drying room and welfare facilities. Clean drinking water will be always provided, and breaks will be maintained throughout the day. Working hours will be 8am to 4pm unless state otherwise prior to further arrangement. Access to the site will be confirmed and agreed prior to the beginning of the evaluation. It is also customary for the phone number of the landowner to be provided to the site project officer in case of emergency or query.

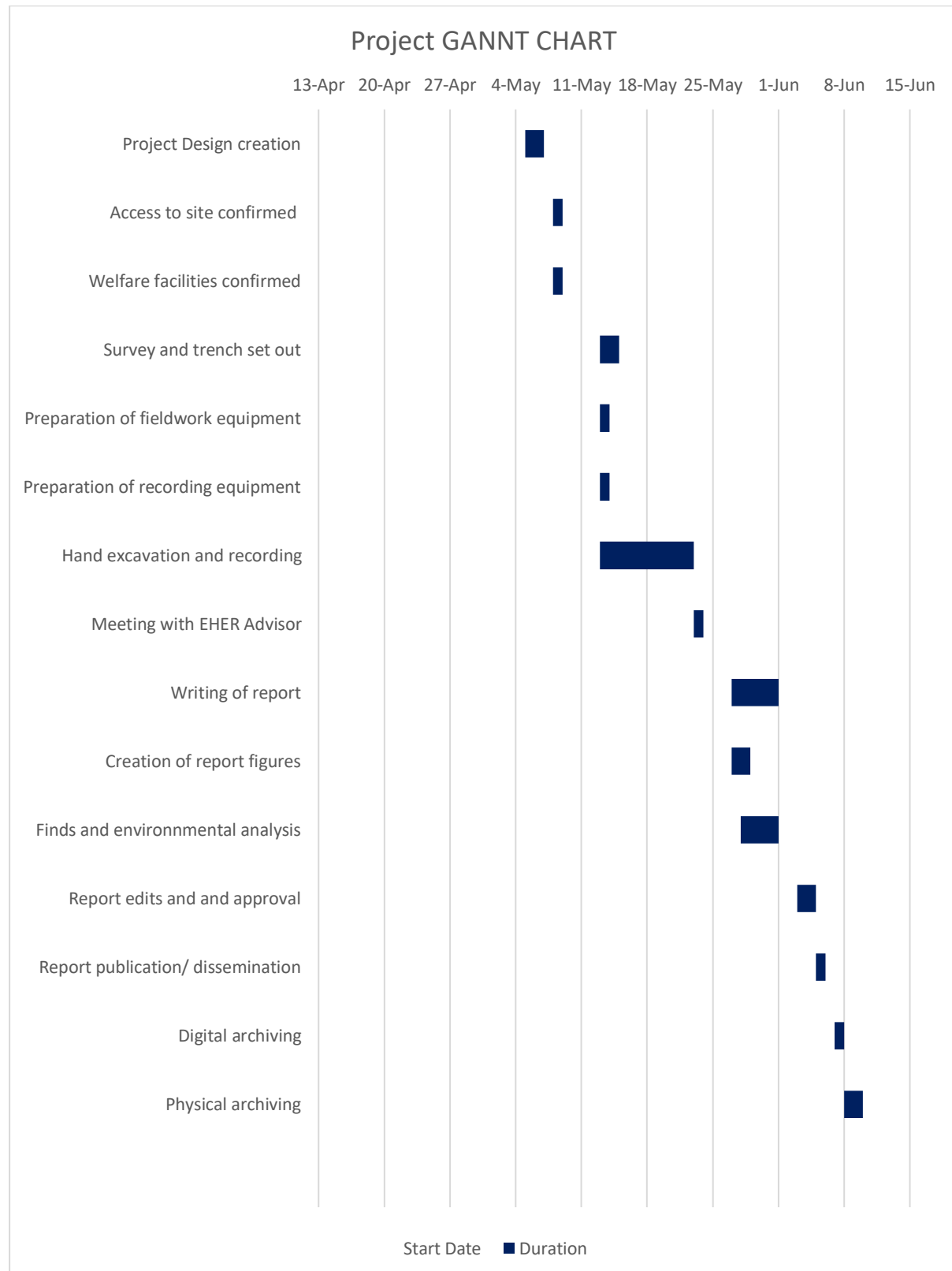
3.4 Task List

Task ID Number	Aims	Task Description	Performed by:	Person Day
1	1-3	Project design creation	TL	1
2	1-3	Access to site confirmed	CL/HF	0.5
3	1-3	Welfare facilities arranged	HF	0.5
4	1-2	Surveying and setting out of trenches	ZE, HF	2
5	1-2	Preparation of site equipment (fieldwork)	All field team	1
6	1-2	Preparation of site equipment (recording)	HF	1

7	1-2	Hand excavation/ recording (photography, illustration, contexts sheets)	ZE, MP, CMH	10
8	1-2	Meeting with EHER Advisor	HF	2
9	1-3	Writing of report	EH	4
10	3	Creation of report figures (plans, illustrations, photography)	EH, CL	1
11	3	Finds and environmental analysis	LP, ML, AW/TL, BQ	4
12	3	Report edits and approval	LP, TO'C	3
13	3	Report publication and dissemination	EH	1
14	3	Digital archiving to ADS/ OASIS	CH	2
15	3	Archiving of physical and documentary evidence	VS	2

3.5 Gantt Chart

Below is a Gantt Chart for the overall project lifecycle, starting with the project design and ending with the final archiving of the site both online and in-person.



3.6 Health and Safety statement

All work that will be carried out by CAT will be in accordance with our relevant Health and Safety Policy as updated in 2023. The policy was created in compliance with:

- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (amended 2003)
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (amended 2013)

It is accepted that health and safety is the responsibility of all staff, employees and volunteers with the aim to maintain high standards of health and safety throughout their conduct. Health and Safety is a key component of the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Code of Conduct. In Point 5.2 it is stated "a member shall give due regard to the requirements of health and safety legislation relating to employees..." (Code of Conduct, 2023).

As a registered organisation of CIfA, CAT maintains annual reviews with the Institute as to the quality, ethics and professionalism of the company. The health and safety requirements as listed above are also in line with additional policies of Code of Conduct, Driving at Work and Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol. All staff members on site are experienced and trained accordingly to their roles. All staff will be provided with basic personal protective equipment including a hard hat, safety footwear, gloves and hi-visibility vests or jackets. Additional PPE can be sought if required by the client. CAT maintains a supply of first-aid kits as well as sanitary bins provided within the facilities. Every member of CAT Staff first-aid trained, with certification from the Red Cross among other organisations. No volunteers or members of the public will be permitted onto site unless inducted and briefed on the risks on site. If necessary, CAT will allow trained metal detectorist G. Lunn to detect the proposed area as overseen by the site's project officer. G. Lunn is an experienced volunteer and has volunteered on several of our large sites as a welcome addition to the fieldwork team.

3.7 Budgets and Resources

The estimated budgets and resources are listed below for the fieldwork and post-excavation of the site. These preliminary estimates can change if significant amounts of archaeology are uncovered, and as further instruction is received from the EHER advisor. The principal contact for any matters regarding budgets or resources is CL who is the contracts managers for CAT. Updates or necessary alterations to the budget will be made throughout all four stages of the work as provided by email.

Staff	Team	Days	Total Days
Year:		2023	
CL	Management	5	5
LP	Management/ Small Finds	11	11

AW	Management/ Lithic Finds	2	2
HF	Project Officer	25	25
ZE	Survey	10	10
MP	Field staff	10	10
CMH	Field staff	10	10
EH	Report writer	2	2
ML	Pottery and CBM expert	4	4
CH	Digital archivist	1	1
TL	Project Design Writer/ Lithics Trainee	2	2
VS	Physical archivist	1	1

Staff	Day rate	Hourly rate	Days	Hours	Costs
TO'C	£360.00	-	-	-	£360
CL	£259.00	£36.30	5	10	£363
LP	£259.00	£36.30	11	10	£363
AW	£259.00	£36.30	2	15	£544.50
HF	£243.00		10	75	£2430
ZE	£197.00		10	75	£1970
MP	£186.00		10	75	£1860
CMH	£186.00		10	75	£1860
EH	£197.00	£26.28	2	15	£394.20
ML	£238.30	£31.38	4	30	£941.40
CH	£186.00		1	7.5	£186.00
TL	£150.00		2	15	£150.00
VS	£186.00		1	7.5	£186.00
Total costs for project brief, project design, fieldwork and report costs:					£11.608.10

Archiving and museum costs	Day rate	Days	Hours	Costs
Creation of archive	£185.44	2		£370.88
Museum box	£7.00	1		£7.00
Storage of museum boxes	£50.00	1		£50.00
ADS	£200.00	1		£200.00
Total:				£627.88
Plant	Day rate	Days	Hours	Costs
7 ton (fast track)	£185.44	2		£370.88
Tractor dumper	£7.00	1		£7.00
Carriage (fast track) -CBC £66/£88 plus £1.10 per mile	£176.00	3		£528.00
Total:				£905.88
Welfare	Week rate	Week	Hours	Costs
ECO UNIT Weekly hire	£126.00	2	-	£252.00
Total:				£252.00

Total costs of project: £13.393.86

Figures



Figure 1: a screenshot from Google Earth highlighting the proposed development area in red. Trumpingtons Farm can be seen to the right of the area.



Figure two: the approximate placement of three dwellings on the proposed development. Access routes and associated structures are subject to change.

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