Archaeological Project Assessment: Roman Cemetery at Fenton's Farm

A programme of archaeological investigation was carried out between 2018 and 2020 prior to the construction of a residential development in Great Whelnetham, Suffolk. The investigation comprised an initial trial-trench evaluation (Muir and Higgs 2018), proceeding with an open area excavation and two archaeological watching briefs (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020). The investigation ultimately revealed a significant 'deviant' Roman cemetery.

The Evaluation

The investigation was prompted by a brief for a trial-trench evaluation from Suffolk County Council (Abraham 2017; Appendix 1). The objectives within the subsequent WSI (AS 2017), and the 'generic' methodology described within the report (Muir and Higgs 2018), are reproduced within Appendix 2 (p.3) and 3 (p.7) respectively. Eight trenches were excavated, employing the appropriate grid layout (Verhagen and Borsboom 2009; Verhagen 2014); just two trenches contained archaeological remains (Fig.1). Although this confirmed the principal location of activity on the site, and the presence of two inhumations, the evaluation did not allude to the *extent* of the remains subsequently encountered – an objective of the brief (Appendix 1: p.3). The utilisation of a geophysical survey for the purpose of prospection and delineation, as defined by Gaffney and Gater (2003), could alternatively have been used to delimit the areas of significant archaeological potential. Inhumations, nonetheless, are often challenging to detect due to their size and the homogeneity of the fill and subsoil (Linford 2004; Schmidt *et al* 2015: 45) – a phenomena noted during the excavation (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020: 22). The cemetery site was formerly unidentified, and due to the graves cutting intercutting quarry pits, the findings of the survey may not have suggested the presence of burials. Regardless of the efficacy of geophysical surveys to identify inhumations, such a survey would have resulted in more targeted trial-trenching that was more cost and time effective – potentially saving resources that could have been utilised to conduct a range of scientific methods at a later stage.

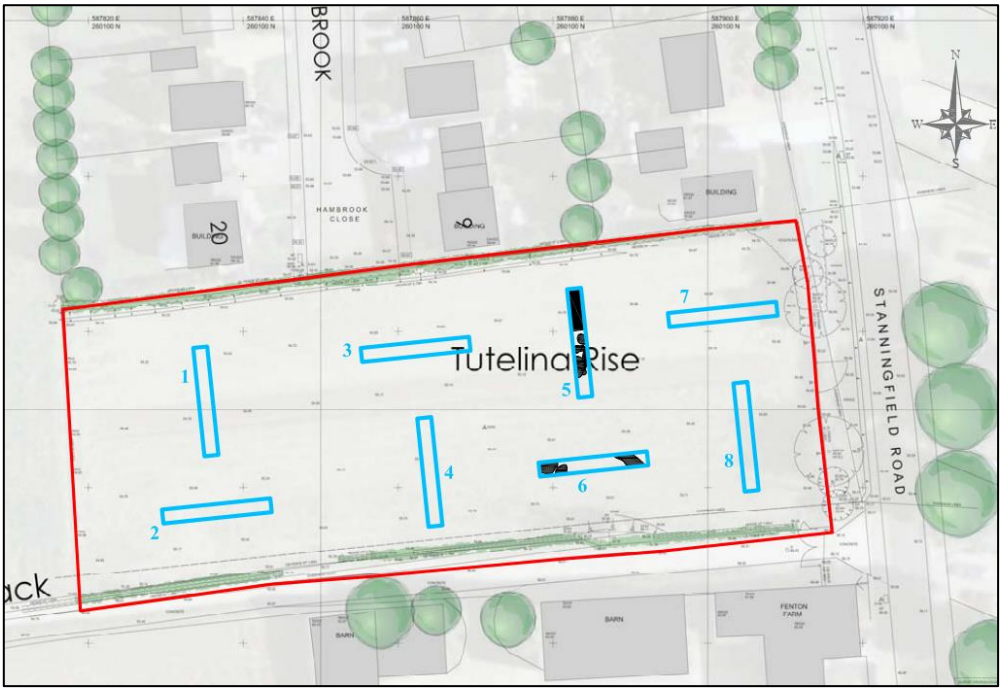

Figure 1: Trial Trench Plan (Muir and Higgs 2018)

The Excavation

Following the trial-trench evaluation, an excavation was required. Perhaps surprisingly, given the intrinsic interest of the remains previously encountered, the project objectives described in the WSI were notably vague and generic (AS 2018; Appendix 4: p.4). Indeed, no specific objectives were detailed regarding human remains. The Updated Project Design (Appendix 5: p.128-133), however, noted the research objectives and methods of the post-excavation analysis (Newton and Bull 2019).

Numerous graves, in addition to a range of other features and finds, were ultimately encountered (Fig. 2). The human remains themselves and the data that can be yielded from them, in addition to the way in which they were interred, represented the principal research opportunity.

Recording the Burials

The method of recording the burials, which are detailed in Appendix 4 (p.14-15), were integral in the production of a workable dataset. Following the pertinent guidelines (Mitchell and Brickley 2017; Historic England 2018), the burials were drawn and photographed *in situ,* and were described using context sheets. This method produced a record of intricately described bone positions and depicted anatomical details, producing a somewhat 'schematic' drawn record (Mickleburgh *et al* 2021). Nonetheless, conventional 2D documentation of inhumations has its limitations. The skill of the documenter is a considerable factor impacting the value and accuracy of the record, something which, to a certain extent, is negated by 3D scanning. A small number of the digitally reproduced drawings from the Fenton's Farm project may arguably fail to provide a *usable* record (Fig. 3). This contrasts with the detailed record that can be produced using 3D modelling (Fig. 4).

Such techniques, besides producing a detailed record that facilitates re-interpretation, can yield previously unknown information. Recent studies have utilised such models to facilitate the interpretation of burial taphonomy (Haddow et al 2016; Ulguim 2017). For example, using 3D modelling Wilhelmson and Dell'Unto (2015: 318) were able to document fracture patterns and necrodynamics that indicated that some individuals were killed and subsequently decomposed where they had originally fallen. If such a 3D model was produced for Fenton's Farm, it would have likely facilitated further interpretations – addressing research objectives related to burial processes, the comingled remains, and the arrangement of 'deviant' burials. As noted in the osteological report many of the bones displayed unhealed cuts or fractures, which may have occurred around the time of death or were the result of post-burial taphonomy (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2021: 139); thorough taphonomic analysis of a 3D model may have alluded to their origin.

It is nonetheless prudent to note that there is merit to utilising hand-drawn sketches and records; the method allows for a different 'way of knowing' a feature and allows the excavator to highlight the aspects of a context that they viscerally engaged with and interpreted (Badillo *et al* 2020: 160).

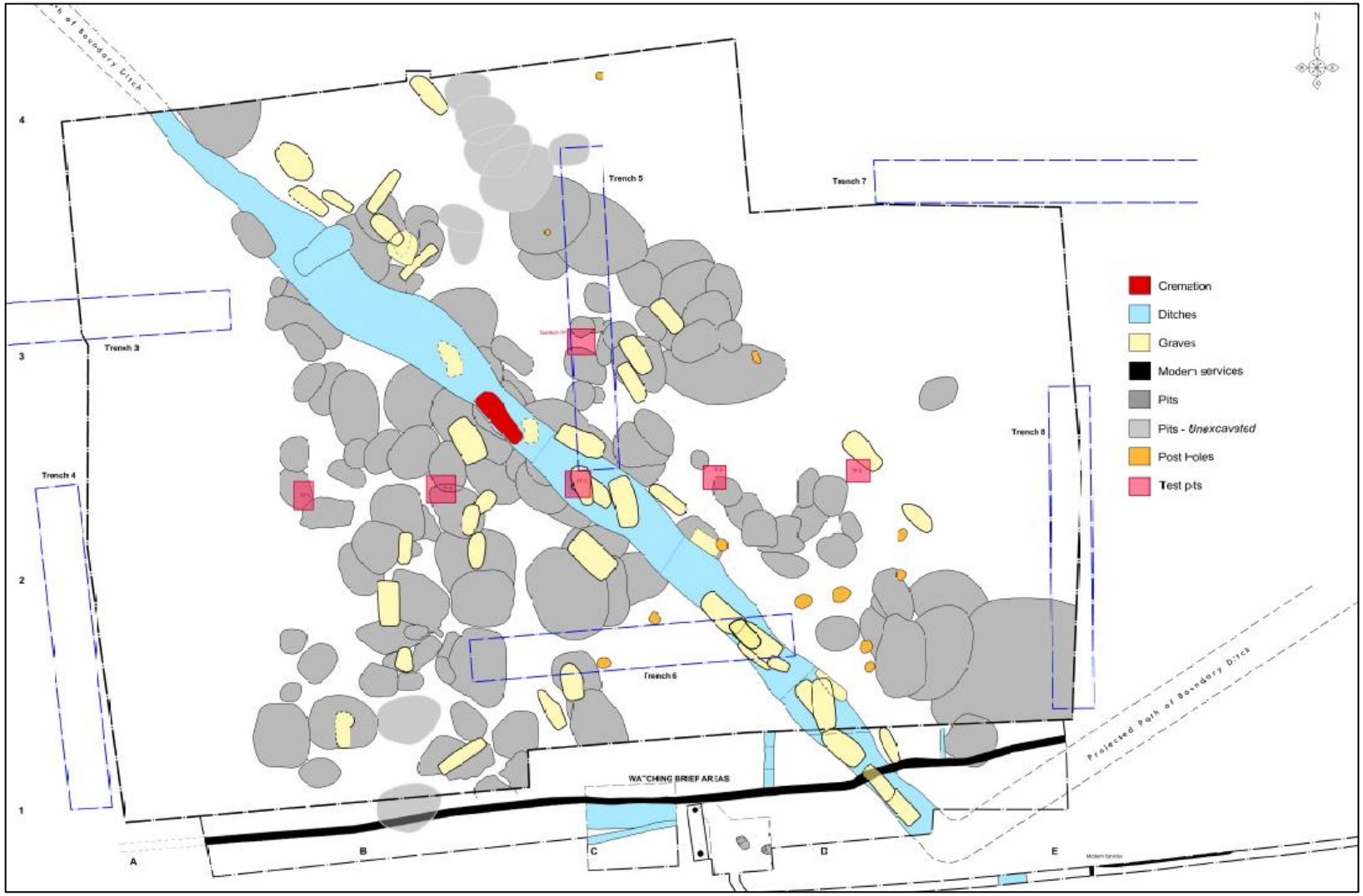

Figure 2: Plan of Excavation Area by Feature Type (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020)

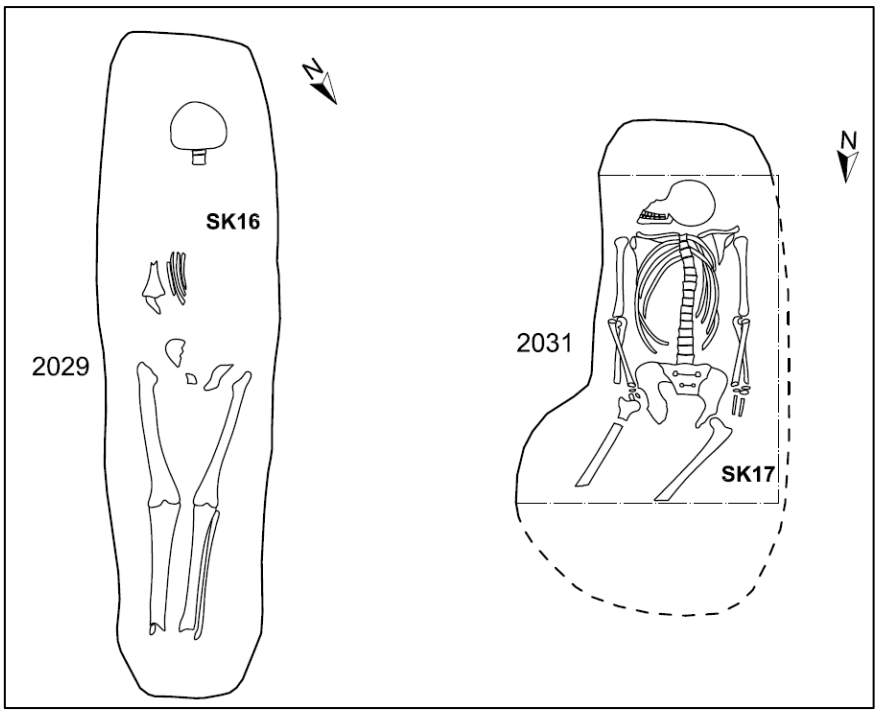

Figure 3: A Sample of the Digitally Reproduced Drawn Record (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020)

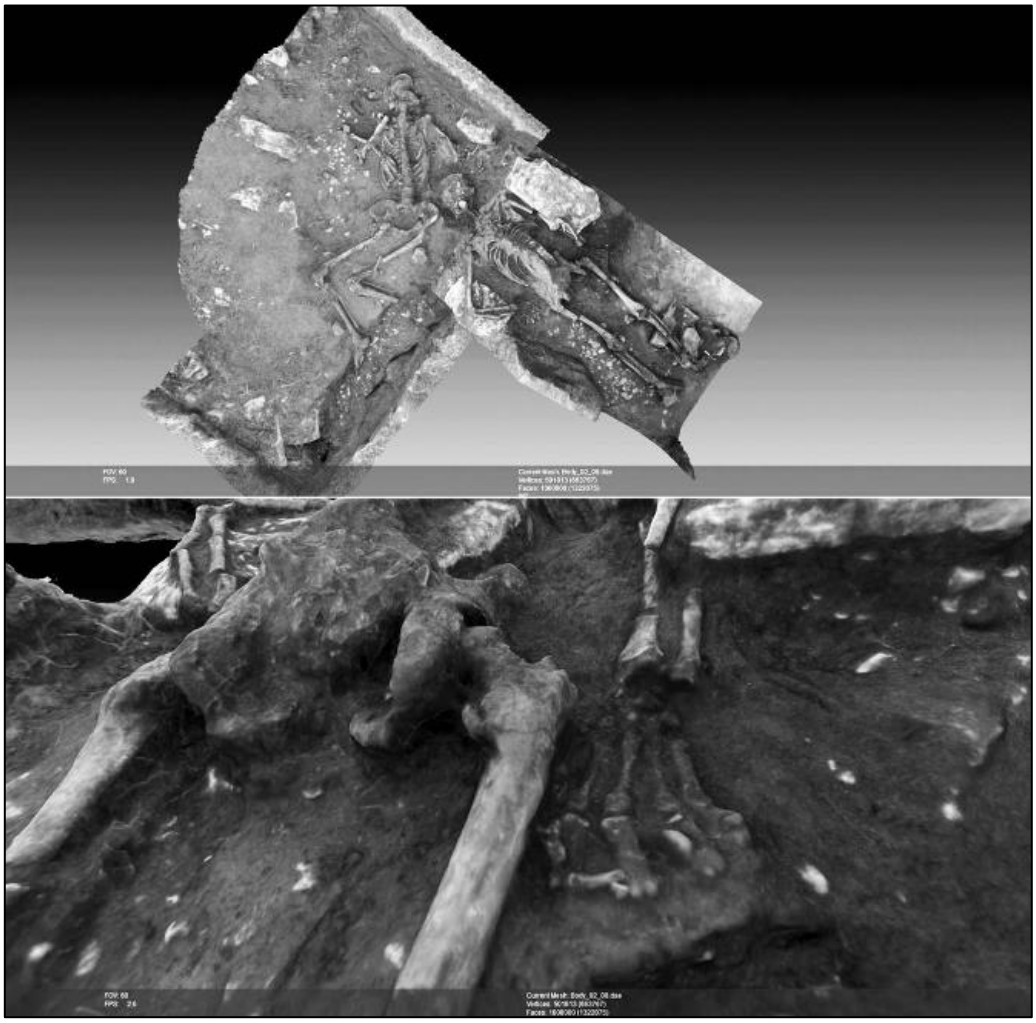

Figure 4: High-resolution 3D model of two individuals from Oland (Wilhelmson and Dell'Unto 2015)

Osteological Objectives and Methodology

The principal osteological research objective of the project was "to obtain as much information as possible regarding the individual represented by their skeletal remains" (Newton and Bull 2019: 130) – encompassing demographic analysis, metrical and morphological analysis, dental analysis, pathological analysis, and the use of radiocarbon dating (Appendix 5: p.130-131). The osteological analysis produced a plethora of useful data, including extensive evidence of pathological conditions and a rare prevalence of traumatic and peri-mortem injury. Ten of the individuals were decapitated prior to burial (Fig.5) and osteological analysis, using a 'typology' defined by Tucker (2015: 63), revealed that most of the decapitated skulls were forcibly removed with chops from the rear.

The variety of scientific investigations, however, was relatively limited and a wider range of methods would have revealed further meaningful data. The methods assessed below had the potential assist in the fulfilment of the research objectives, and may have addressed the methodological issues of the more 'traditional' techniques utilised.

Figure 5: A Group Grave, Containing a Decapitated Burial and Three Disarticulated Skulls (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020)

Isotope Analysis

Multi-isotope investigations, which were not carried out during post-excavation analysis, could have obtained information on the identity of the individuals. This suite of methods, which can be used to better understand diet and mobility (Makarewicz and Sealy 2015), would have been particularly insightful given the number of 'deviant' burials. Indeed, an isotope investigation of a 'deviant' cemetery in York has demonstrated the value of analysing a range of isotopes, to explore the geographic origins of those interred (Muldner *et al* 2011). The remarkable finding of the analysis was not their common origin, like many other Roman cemeteries in York, but instead their diversity and

their 'exotic' geographical backgrounds. The techniques applied to the Fenton's Farm remains with regards to geographical origin were based on cranial indices, a 'racially problematic' method (Tangri *et al* 1994; Siapkas 2016), and produced a paucity of new information besides the raw cephalic data.

DNA Analysis

The analysis of aDNA, a methodology not employed, also had the potential to extract a wide range of relevant information to fulfil the research objectives. Significantly, of the fifty-four individuals, four skeletons could not be sexed and ten were assigned a 'possible' sex (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020: 139). The morphological sex-typing method used to analyse the skeletons has been extensively critiqued, with 26% of the eighty-eight morphologically categorised findings being incongruent with the DNA determination at a medieval cemetery in Austria (Bauer *et al* 2013). If aDNA was preserved such analysis would have been able to definitively establish the sex of the skeletons (Hummel *et al* 1999; Bauer *et al* 2013; Inskip *et al* 2018), and facilitate more accurate interpretations of the demographic make-up of the cemetery.

The methodology would also have been particularly useful vis-à-vis the comingled remains (Fig.6). Skeletons 60 and 62 were found without skulls, and were speculated as having been associated with two nearby disarticulated skulls (SK57 and SK58) (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020: 116). DNA analysis has been demonstrated to ascertain whether disarticulated remains belong to an individual largely interred elsewhere (Gestenberger *et al* 1998; Bramanti 2013), and would have determined to whom which skull belonged. Likewise, genetic analysis could be used to ascertain whether individuals within the cemetery were related (Coble *et al* 2009).

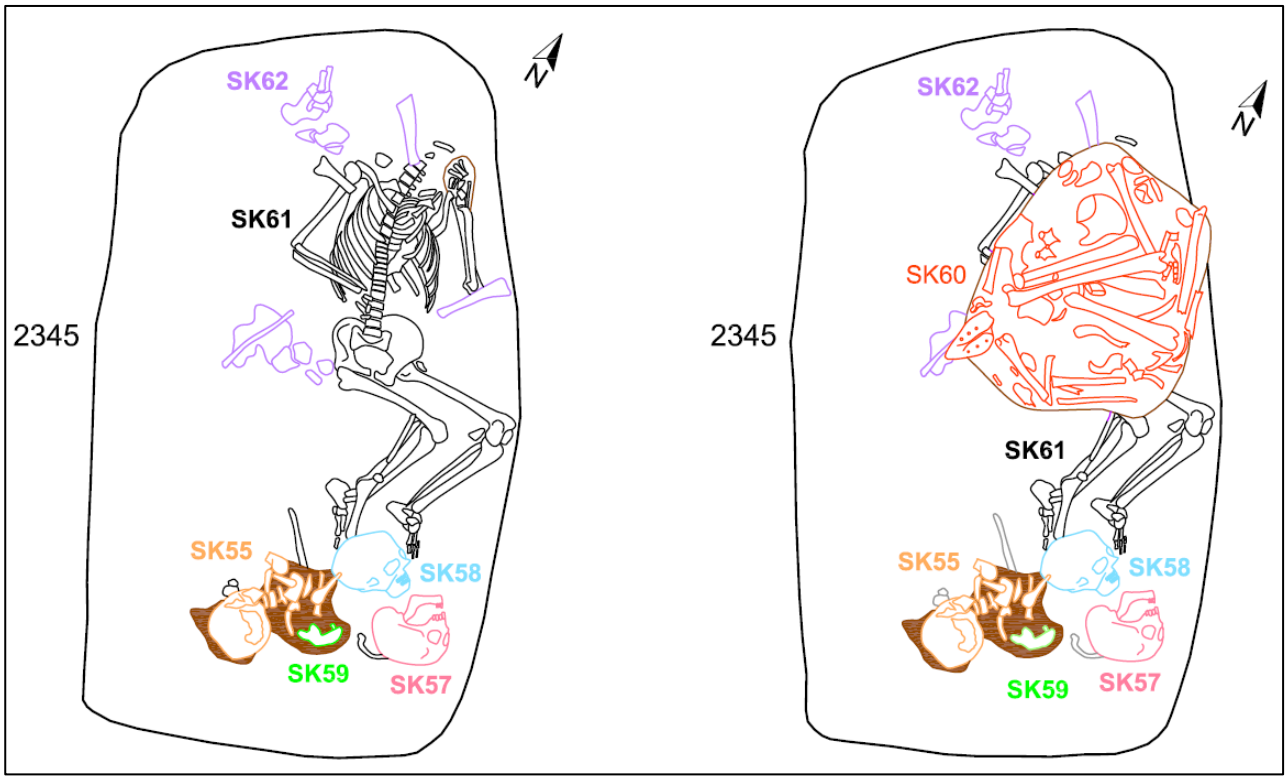

Figure 6: The Comingled Human Remains (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020)

Identifying Pathologies

The osteological analysis revealed a plethora of pathological information, with the identification of disease and injury, as highlighted within the research objectives (Appendix. 5: p.131). Ante-mortem tooth loss and a range of largely degenerative disease and trauma were identified, including evidence for dietary deficiency and possible evidence for tuberculosis (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020: 139). Such data appears to suggest the individuals had spent most or all of their lives working in very physical occupations and many exhibited osteoarthritis and stress legions.

These pathological findings were entirely based on visual examination, which limits the pathological findings to ailments that are visually discernible to the osteologist. DNA analysis of historical samples has been demonstrated to identify visually undetectable genetic anomalies such as cystic fibrosis (Bramanti *et al* 2003) and sickle-cell anaemia (Faerman *et al* 2000), and those that are challenging to identify such as tuberculosis and leprosy (Donoghue *et al* 2015). Radiography has likewise been utilised to identify palaeopathology in skeletal remains and has been demonstrated to detect, for example, childhood fractures (Glencross and Sturt-Macadam 2001) and rickets (Mays *et al* 2006) within assemblages.

Radiocarbon Dating

As specified in within the *Updated Project Design* the two stratigraphically earliest skeletons (SK24 and SK42) and the latest skeleton (SK6), in addition to the cremation (F2365), were subject to radiocarbon dating (Newton and Bull 2019). The radiocarbon dates however contradicted the original chronological interpretation, with SK24 actually representing the latest burial of those dated (Fig. 7), and found that the cemetery spanned *c.*150 years. Stratigraphic relationships were difficult to identify with any certainty; the diffuse edges of the pits, ditches and graves meant that intercutting features were challenging to distinguish in plan or section (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020). With such an unintelligible stratigraphy, a more comprehensive sample would have been useful in constructing a chronology, and distinguishing changes in burial practices through time.

Following post-excavation analysis of burial practices and spatial relationships, seven burial groups were inferred (Fig.8). These groupings potentially represented chronologically dependent patterns in how the cemetery was used (physically and socially) for burial. If budget was not a factor, the testing of a skeleton from each burial groups could refine the proposed phasing and assist interpretations of how Romano-British belief systems, attitudes to the dead, and practices, developed over time. Indeed, as Gerrard (2015) argues many Late Roman cemetery datasets likely contain chronological ambiguities that, until radiocarbon dating is thoroughly employed, will diminish their significance and usability in subsequent works of osteological synthesis.

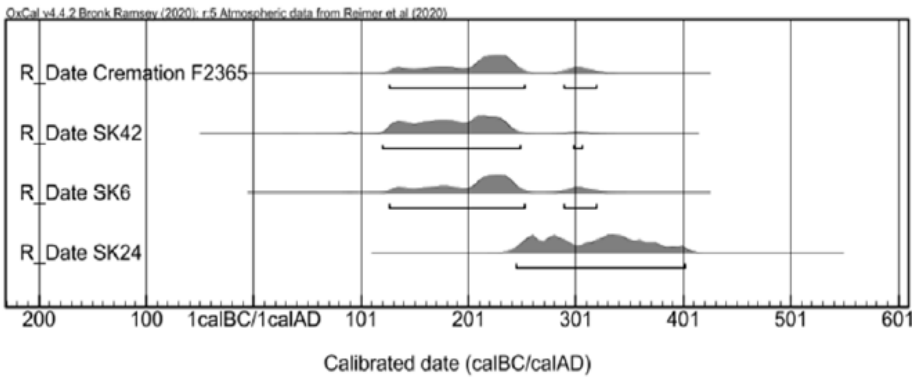

Figure 7: Calibrated Radiocarbon Dates in Chronological Sequence (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020)

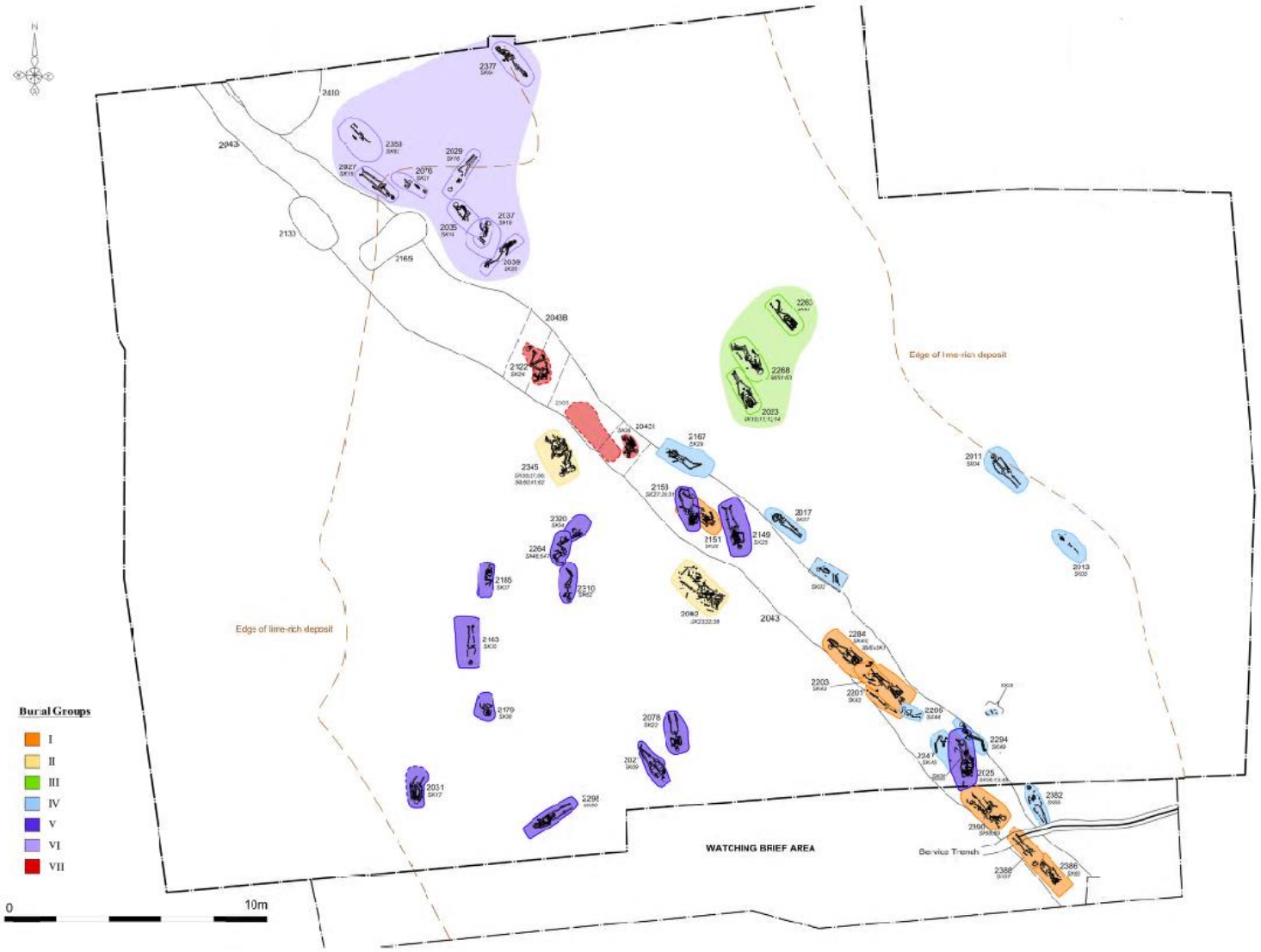

Figure 8: The Fenton's Farm Burial Groups (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020)

SK No.	Grave	Sex	Age	Orient.	Position	Decap.	Evid.	Notes	Decap Cuts	Cuts (PM)	Fractures (AM)	Other Trauma	Sig. Stress	Sinusitus	Periostitus	Associated Finds
Burial Group I: Ditch-line burials																
26/31	2151	F	MA	SE-NW	Supine			Brick placed on throat								Bessalis frag. on throat
35/EvSK1	2284	F	Old	SE-NW	Supine	Decap.	Ex	Skull beside feet		✓			✓			
42	2201	F	Mature	SE-NW	Prone						✓			✓		
43	2203	F	MA	SE-NW	Supine			Possible crucifixion (unlikely)								Fe nail in right hand
48	2284	F	MA-Old	SE-NW	Supine	Decap.	Ex/Sk	Skull at lower L leg	✓				✓			
66	2386	M?	MA+	SE-NW	Supine	Decap.	Ex	Skull on knees					✓			
67	2388	F?	MA+	SE-NW	Supine											
68	2390	M	MA+	SE-NW	Supine	Decap.	Sk	Skull in normal position	✓		✓					
69	2390	M	MA+?	SE-NW	Disartic.											
Burial Group II: Multiple burials																
23.1	2092	M	MA+	-	Disartic.							✓	✓		✓	
23.2	2092	F?	MA+	-	Disartic.								✓			
38	2092	F	MA+	SE-NW	Supine*	Decap.	Ex/Sk	Skull beside R knee	✓				✓			
55	2345	M?	c.17-18	NW	Artic.?					?						
57	2345	M	Mature/Old	-	Disartic.											
59	2345	M	MA+	-	Disartic.											
60	2345	M	MA+	-	Disartic.						✓					
61/58	2345	M	MA	NW-SE	Supine	Decap.	Ex/Sk	Skull at feet	✓		✓	✓	✓			
62	2345	M	Adult	-	Disartic.											
Burial Group III: North-east row																
10/53	2023	F?	Y-MA	SE-NW	Supine						✓					
14/11/12	2023	F	MA+	SE-NW	Supine	?Decap.	Ex	Skull re-deposited in overlying grave SK10			✓		✓	✓		Antler comb (SF58)
47	2263	F	MA-Old	SE-NW	Supine	Decap.	Ex/Sk	Skull under R knee	✓		✓		✓	✓		Antler comb (SF96)
51	2268	M	MA+	SE-NW	Prone								✓			
Burial Group IV(a): East group A																
1	2001	F?	Adult	?NW-SE	Supine?						✓					
44	2205	-	c.11-13	NW-SE	Crouch-R											
45/13	2247	M	Old	NW-SE	Supine?	?Decap.	Ex	Skull re-deposited in overlying grave SK8					✓			
49	2294	F	MA+	NW-SE	Side-R			Skull of Italian Greyhound placed on feet			✓		✓			

65	2382	M	Mature	NW-SE	Supine											
Burial Group IV(b): East group B																
3	2005	M	MA-Old	NW-SE	Crouch-L								✓			
4	2011	M	Old?	NW-SE	Supine							?	✓			
5	2013	F?	Mature	NW-SE	Supine?											
7	2017	M	c.18-19	NW-SE	Supine	?Decap.	Ex	Skull missing; replaced by sherd?								Large sherd in place of skull
29	2167	M	Y-MA	NW-SE	Prone							✓	✓			
Burial Group V: West group																
6	2025	F?	Old	NW-SE	Crouch-R					✓		✓	✓	✓		
8	2021	M	Old	S-N	Supine	Decap.	Ex/Sk	Skull between feet	✓			✓	✓		✓	
9	2031	M	Old?	SE-NW	Prone					✓		✓	✓			
17	2078	F	MA	S-N	Supine*	Decap.	Sk	Skull in normal position	✓	✓						
22	2149	F?	c.16	S-N	Supine											
25	2153	M	MA+	S-N	Supine									✓		
27/28	2153	M	Y-MA?	S-N	Supine	Decap.	Ex/Sk	Skull at R knee	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	2163	F	Y-(MA)	S-N	Supine											
36	2179	-	c.3-4	S-N	Supine	Decap.	Ex	Skull between legs akimbo								
37	2185	-	c.9-10	N-S	Crouch-L									✓		18 hobnails behind back
46	2264	F	Old	SW-NE	Crouch-L	Decap.	Ex	Skull on lower legs, above feet					✓			
50	2298	M	Y	SW-NE	Supine									✓		
52	2310	F	Old	S-N	Supine*							✓	✓	✓		
54	2320	F?	MA?	SW-NE	Supine?	Decap.	Ex/Sk?	Skull besides lower legs above feet	?					✓		
Burial Group VI: Northwest group																
15	2027	M	Old?	SE-NW	Supine								✓	✓		✓
16	2029	M	Y	SW-NE	Supine											
18	2035	M	MA+	NW-SE	?Crouch-R								✓	✓		
19	2037	-	c.8-9	N-S	Crouch-R			V-shaped impression on skull				✓				EBA arrowhead
20	2039	M	MA+	NE-SW	Side-L							✓		✓		
21	2076	M	Old	SE-NW	Supine									✓		
63	2353	M	Adult	NW-SE	Prone											
64	2377	M	Old	NW-SE	Side-R			Circular hole in back of skull		✓			✓	✓		
Burial Group VII: Informal burials																
24	2122	M	MA	S-N	Other	Decap.	Ex/Sk	Skull beside feet	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
56	2341	M	Old	SE-NW	Other			Defensive wounds to hands		✓		✓		✓		

Figure 9: Fenton's Farm Late Roman cemetery: mortuary practice and osteological data (Lloyd-Smith and Bull 2020)

Research Outcomes

Despite the methodological shortcomings of the project, those employed generated a range of meaningful archaeological data. This includes a plethora of stratigraphic data, finds data, faunal data, osteological data, and a significant quantity of meaningful data related to deviant burial practices (e.g Fig.9). The data recovered has the capacity to contribute to our understanding of deviant burials, and included detailed osteological analyses that identified the mode and method of beheading – an important topic highlighted in recent prominent studies of Romano-British decapitation (Tucker 2015; Cerar 2016). Crucially, the research project will culminate with a publication in *Britannia* (Lloyd-Smith, S. 2021, *pers. comm*), arguably the principal journal for advancing academic knowledge for the period. Public 'benefit', as defined by CIfA (2020), was also delivered through the gaining of knowledge, and the subsequent dissemination of the data in an easily accessible way – through the Archaeological Data Service – to the general public.

In addition to academic outcomes, the project included public outreach efforts. Following the excavation there was engagement with a local school, with the children creating drawings and display boards of Romans, and there were well attended talks and find handling events. Coverage of the excavation, given the inherent interest of decapitated burials, was extensive and provided value for the developer. There was widespread internet and press coverage, including articles in the BBC (2019) and Daily Express (2019), in addition to a segment in the television show Digging for Britain (2018).

Conclusion

The methods employed, and indeed the project objectives, must be understood in the context of commercial archaeology. Methodological experimentation, and the range of scientific or technological procedures, is often constrained by pressures on resources and budget (Fulford and Holbrook 2018: 6). There is a considerable gap between vision or potential and reality; as succinctly noted by Parker Pearson and Pryor (2006: 316), "What we would like to do and what we end up doing are often two different things." Nonetheless, within the budgetary constraints, the project employed a range of methods that produced meaningful data in line with the objectives, creating value for both the academic and local community.

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Appendices

1) The Trial Trench Brief (Abraham 2017)
2) The Trial Trench WSI (AS 2017)
3) The Trial Trench Report (Muir and Higgs 2018)
4) The Excavation WSI (AS 2018)
5) The Updated Project Design (Newton and Bull 2019)

All of the appendices are not the complete reports - most contain redacted sections and a number of the pages have not been reproduced here.

Appendix 1: The Trial Trench Brief (Abraham 2017)

Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Land north of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham

PLANNING AUTHORITY: St Edmundsbury Borough Council

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: [redacted]

HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:

GRID REFERENCE:

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:

AREA:

THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Rachael Abraham [redacted]

Date: 15th November 2017

Summary

1.1 Planning permission has been granted with the following condition relating to archaeological investigation:

15. No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
b. The programme for post investigation assessment

c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording
d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation
e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.
g. The site investigation shall be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

No building shall be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed, submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under part 1 and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition.

1.2 This brief stipulates the minimum requirements for the archaeological investigation, and should be used in conjunction with the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service's (SCCAS) Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2017. These should be used to form the basis of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

1.3 The archaeological contractor, commissioned by the applicant, must submit a copy of their WSI to SCCAS for scrutiny, before seeking approval from the LPA.

1.4 Following acceptance by SCCAS, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA. <u>The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of a planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS to advise the LPA that a condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.</u>

1.5 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.

1.6 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (unless a variation is agreed by SCCAS), the evaluation report may be rejected.

1.7 <u>Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (e.g. excavation) will be made by SCCAS, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation report. Any further investigation must be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.</u>

Archaeological Background

2.1 This application site has high potential for the discovery of important hitherto unknown heritage assets of archaeological interest in view of its large size, lack of previous systematic investigation and location close to a number of sites

recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, including a Roman settlement site to the north (WLG 005). As a result, there is high likelihood for archaeological remains to be defined in this location and this proposal involves groundworks that have the potential to cause damage to or destruction of any heritage assets that may exist.

Planning Background

3.1 The below-ground works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

3.2 The Planning Authority were advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation

4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

4.3 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 200m^2. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, using, where possible, a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in *c*. 110m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

4.4 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS before fieldwork begins.

4.5 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the evaluation by a named, experienced metal detector user, including reference either to their contributions to the PAS database or to other published archaeological projects they have worked on. Metal detecting should be carried out before trenches are stripped, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches have been opened.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic

specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

5.4 The archaeological contractor will give SCCAS ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site. The contractor should update SCCAS on the nature of archaeological remains during the site works, particularly to arrange any visits by SCCAS that may be necessary. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to agreed locations and techniques in the WSI.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain a parish code for the work. This number will be unique for each project and must be used on site and for all documentation and archives relating to the project.

6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.

6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.

6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER, and an HER search should be commissioned. In any instances where it is felt that an HER search is unnecessary, this must be discussed and agreed with the relevant Case Officer. **ANY REPORTS WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE AN UP TO DATE HER SEARCH WILL NOT BE APPROVED. ALL REPORTS MUST CLEARLY DISPLAY THE INVOICE NUMBER FOR THE HER SEARCH, OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE RETURNED.**

6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS. No further site work should

be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.

6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.

6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.

6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.

6.10 **This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.**

Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2017 and in SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2017.

Standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2008) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report

Notes

There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (http://www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446).

The Historic Environment Records Data available on the Heritage Gateway and Suffolk Heritage Explorer is **NOT** suitable to be used for planning purposes and will not be accepted in lieu of a full HER search.

Appendix 2: The Trial Trench WSI (AS 2017)

PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT, LAND NORTH OF FENTON'S FARM, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

29th November 2017
Rev 7th December 2017

PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT, LAND NORTH OF FENTON'S FARM, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This specification has been prepared in response to a brief (to be) issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (Rachael Abraham, dated 15th November 2017). It provides for an archaeological trial trench evaluation to be carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a new residential development on land north of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk (NGR TL 878 600), in order to provide further information for the initial requirement of a planning condition on St Edmundsbury Council Planning Approval DC/16/1268/FUL, imposed on approval requiring a programme of archaeological work The evaluation is required by the LPA, based on advice from SCC AS-CT.

1.2 It is understood that the programme of archaeological investigation should comprise an archaeological field evaluation, to comply with the planning requirement of the local planning authority (on advice from SCC AS-CT). This WSI for archaeological evaluation has been prepared for the approval of SCC AS-CT. Further archaeological works may be required by SCC AS-CT following the evaluation, should remains be present, for which a new brief will be issued and a new WSI required for approval.

2 COMPLIANCE

2.1 If AS carried out the evaluation, AS would comply with SCC AS-CT's requirements.

3 SITE & DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 It is proposed to erect a new development of residential dwellings on land north of Fenton's farm, Great Whelnetham. The site is a field on the western side of Stanningfield Road in the village, and extends to some 0.4ha, and it lies at c.55m AOD.

3.2 The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site is an area of archaeological potential, which has not been tested by any previous archaeological investigation, and lies close to a number of sites recorded on the HER close by, including a Roman

settlement site to the north (HER WLG 005) with finds scatters found during building work over a large area, and also Roman cremations (HER WLG 004).

3.3 The site thus has a potential for multi-period archaeological remains, including further evidence of Roman settlement which is known to the north.

3.4 The proposed works will cause significant ground disturbance that has the potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist. The archaeological and historical background of the site will be discussed in the project report and the HER will be consulted.

4 BRIEF FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION SPECIFICATION FOR TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION GENERAL MANAGEMENT

4.1 The principal objectives for the evaluation include:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*

- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence

- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

4.2 Research Design

4.2.1 The regional research frameworks are set out in Glazebrook (1997 and Brown & Glazebrook (2000) and updated by Medlycott and Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011). Medlycott (2011, 47) identifies regional variation and tribal distinctions as underlying themes for research in the Roman period. Research topics for the Roman period previously set out by Going & Plouviez (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 19-22) include analysis of early and late Roman military developments, further analysis of large and small towns, evidence of food consumption and production, further research into agricultural production, landscape research (in particular further evidence for potential woodland succession/regression and issues of relict

landscapes, as well as further research into the road network and bridging points), further research into rural settlements and coastal issues. Medlycott (2011, 47-48) states that these research areas remain valid and presents updated consideration of them. To these themes Medlycott & Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011, 47-48) add rural settlements and landscapes, the process of Romanisation in the region, the evidence for the Imperial Fen Estate, and the Roman/Saxon transition.

4.2.2 Wade (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 23-26) identifies research topics for the rural landscape in the Saxon and medieval periods. These include examination of population during this period (distribution and density, as well as physical structure), settlement (characterisation of form and function, creation and testing of settlement diversity models), specialisation and surplus agricultural production, assessment of craft production, detailed study of changes in land use and the impact of colonists (such as Saxons, Danes and Normans) as well as the impact of the major institutions such as the Church.

4.2.3 Medlycott (2011, 57) states that he study of the Anglo-Saxon period still requires further cooperation between historians and archaeologists. Important research issues for this period comprise: the Roman/Anglo-Saxon transitional period; settlement distribution, which suffers from problems associated with the identification of Saxon settlement sites; population modelling and demographics, which has the potential to be advanced by modern scientific methods; differences within the region in terms of settlement type and economic practice and subjects related to this such as links with the continent, trading practices and cultural influences; rural landscapes and settlements, including detailed study of the changes and developments in such settlements over time and the influence of Saxon landscape organisation and settlements on these issues in the medieval period; towns and their relationships with their hinterland; infrastructure, including river management, the identification of ports and harbours and the role of existing infrastructure in shaping the Saxon period landscape; the economy, based on palaeoenvironmental studies; ritual and religion; the effect of the Danish occupation; and artefact studies (Medlycott 2011, 57-59).

4.2.4 As set out above, the principal research objectives will be to identify any evidence of Roman or later activity on the site.

References

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J (eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

Glazebrook, J (eds), 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 1. Resource Assessment,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3

Medlycott, M & Brown, N, 2008, *Revised East Anglian Archaeological Research Frameworks,* www.eaareports/algaoee

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011, *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, ALGAO East of England Region, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24

5 SPECIFICATION TRENCHED EVALUATION

5.1 Details of Senior Project Staff

5.1.1 AS has developed a professional and well-qualified team who have undertaken numerous archaeological projects (both desk-based and field evaluations) on all types of developments, including commercial, residential, road schemes and golf courses. AS is a Registered Organisation of the CIfA.

5.1.2 Profiles of key project staff are provided (Appendix 3).

A Method Statement is presented
Trial Trench Evaluation Appendix 1

5.1.3 The evaluation will conform with the guidelines set down in the brief and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (revised 2014) and Standard and Guidelines for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (revised 2014).* It will also adhere to the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the requirements of the SCC document *Requirements for a Trenched Evaluation* 2017.

5.1.4 SCC AS-CT require a programme of archaeological trial trenching and stipulate that 110m of trenching at 1.8m width should be excavated on a grid array. Eight trenches of 14m x 1.8m are proposed. A trench plan is appended. AS is happy to review the scale/location of the trenches following comment from the client and/or SCC AS-CT.

5.1.5 The environmental strategy will adhere to the guidelines issued by English Heritage (now Historic England) (*Environmental Archaeology; A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation,* Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, rev 2011). An environmentalist will be invited to visit the

site if remains of interest are found. Dr Rob Scaife/Dr John Summers will be the Environmental Coordinator for the project. The specialist will make his/her results known to the regional science advisor who co-ordinates environmental archaeology in the region on behalf of Historic England.

5.1.6 Estimate of time and resources required for each phase, to complete the trial trenching, project archive and the production of an evaluation report.

Trial Excavation	
Processing, Cataloguing and Conservation of Finds	
Preparation of Report and Archive	*c.*5-10 Days

Staff on site: a Project Officer and Site Assistant/s (as necessary)

5.1.7 In advance of the field work AS will liaise with the Suffolk Archaeological Archive to fulfil their requirements for the long term deposition of the project archive. These will encompass: their collection policy, and their financial and technical requirements for long term storage. The resources include provision for the long term-deposition of the project archive.

5.1.8 Details of staff and specialist contractors are provided (Appendix 2). The project will be managed by Claire Halpin MCIFA /Jon Murray MCIFA.

5.1.9 AS is a member of FAME formerly the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) and operates under the `Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual'. A risk assessment and management strategy will be completed prior to the start of works on site.

5.1.10 AS is a member of the Council for British Archaeology and is insured under their policy for members.

6 SERVICES

6.1 The client is to advise AS of the position of any services which traverse the site.

7 SECURITY

7.1 Throughout all site works care will be taken to maintain all existing security arrangements, and to minimise disruption.

8 REINSTATEMENT

8.1 No provision has been made for reinstatement, excepting simple backfilling, following approval by SCC AS-CT.

9 REPORT REQUIREMENTS

9.1 The report will include (as a minimum):

a) the archaeological background
b) a consideration of the aims and methods adopted in the course of the recording
c) a detailed account of the nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological evidence recorded.
d) Excavation methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion
e) plans and sections of any recorded features and deposits
f) discussion and interpretation of the evidence. An assessment of the projects significance in a regional and local context and appendices.
g) All specialist reports or assessments
h) A concise non-technical summary of the project results
i) A HER summary sheet
j) An OASIS summary sheet

9.2 Draft hard and digital PDF copies of the report will be submitted to SCC AS-CT for approval. If any revisions are required, final hard and digital PDF copies will be supplied to SCC AS-CT for deposition with the HER.

9.3 The project details will be submitted to the OASIS database, and the online summary form will be appended to the project report.

9.4 A summary report will be submitted suitable for inclusion in the annual roundups of *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, dependent on the results of the project.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the Suffolk Archaeological Archives.

10.2 The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. It will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No.2* and according to the document *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in*

Suffolk (SCC AS Conservation Team, 2017). A unique event number and monument number will be obtained from the County HER Officer.

10.3 The full archive of finds and records will be made secure at all stages of the project, both on and off site. Arrangements will be made at the earliest opportunity for the archive to be accessed into the collections of Suffolk Archaeological Archives; with the landowner's permission in the case of any finds. It is acknowledged that it is the responsibility of the field investigation organisation to make these arrangements with the landowner and Suffolk Archaeological Archives. The archive will be adequately catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No.2* and the other relevant reference documents.

10.4 Archive records, with inventory, are to be deposited, as well as any donated finds from the site, at the Suffolk Archaeological Archives and in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data. A unique event number for the report and monument number for any finds will be obtained from the HER.

11 MONITORING

11.1 It is understood that SCCAS-CT will monitor the project on behalf of the local planning authority. Trenches will only be signed off/backfilled following approval by SCC AS-CT.

11.2 ***Notification*** Archaeological Solutions will give SCCAS-CT notification prior to the commencement of the project on site

11.3 ***Monitoring*** SCCAS-CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, both on site and during the post-survey/report stages, to ensure compliance with the planning requirement, the approved WSI and any subsequent Brief and approved WSI for further fieldwork, analyses and publication.

11.4 Any variations to the WSI will be agreed in advance with SCCAS-CT prior to them being carried out.

APPENDIX 1
METHOD STATEMENT

Method Statement for the recording of archaeological remains

The archaeological evaluation will be conducted in accordance with the project brief, and the code of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

1 Mechanical Excavation

1.1 A mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket will be used to remove the topsoil/overburden. The machine will be powerful enough for a clean job of work and be able to mound spoil neatly, at a safe distance from the trench edges.

1.2 The mechanical stripping will be controlled, and the mechanical excavator will only operate under the full-time supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

2 Site Location Plan

2.1 On conclusion of the mechanical excavation, a `site location plan', based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map and indicating site north, will be prepared. This will be supplemented by an `area plan' at 1:200 (or 1:100) which will show the location of the area(s) investigated in relationship to the development area, OS grid and site grid.

3 Manual Cleaning & Base Planning of Archaeological Features

3.1 Exposed areas will be hand-cleaned to define archaeological features sufficient to produce a base plan.

4 Full Excavation

If deep, ‘urban’ type deposits are encountered, or significant deposits of made ground are encountered (which is unlikely on this site) the upper levels of the test pits will be stepped as necessary, within layers of later post-medieval/modern date only, in order to ensure safe working practices. The trenches will be no less than 1.6m wide at base.

Excavation of Stratified Sequences

The trenches will be excavated according to phase, from the most recent to the earliest, and the phasing of features will be distinguished by their stratigraphic relationships, fills and finds.

Deep features e.g. quarry holes, may incorporate stratified deposits which will be excavated by hand-dug sections and recorded.

Excavation of Buildings

Building remains are likely to comprise stake holes, post holes and slots/gullies, masonry foundations and low masonry walls. Associated features may be present e.g. hearths.

The features comprising buildings will be excavated fully and in plan/phase, to a level sufficient for the requirements of an evaluation.

Full Excavation

Industrial remains and intrinsically interesting features e.g hearths, burials will clearly merit full excavation, though will be excavated sufficient to characterise such deposits within the context of an evaluation. Discrete features associated with possible structures and/or settlement will be fully excavated, again sufficient to characterise them for the purposes of an evaluation. Otherwise discrete features (eg pits) will be half-sectioned.

Ditches

The ditches will be excavated in segments up to 2m long (min 1m wide), and the segments will be placed to provide adequate coverage of the ditches, establish their relationships and obtain samples and finds.

Buried Soils

If buried soils are encountered, the surfaces will be cleaned and examined for features/finds, which will be investigated/recorded before any further excavation takes place.

5 Written Record

5.1 All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of the excavation will be fully recorded on the appropriate context, finds and sample forms.

5.2 The site will be recorded using AS.'s excavation manual which is directly comparable to those used by other professional archaeological organisations, including English Heritage's own Central Archaeological Service.

6 Photographic Record

6.1 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be made. It will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm) illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. Digital images will also be taken (Nikon Coolpix L29 16.1 megapixel cameras). It will also include `working and promotional shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operations. The black and white negatives and contacts will be filed, and the colour transparencies will be mounted using appropriate cases. All photographs will be listed and indexed.

7 Drawn Record

7.1 A record of the full extent, in plan, of all archaeological deposits encountered will be drawn on A1 permatrace. The plans will be related to the site, or OS, grid and be drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:20, as appropriate. In addition where appropriate, e.g. recording an inhumation, additional plans at 1:10 will be produced. The sections of all archaeological contexts will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or, where appropriate, 1:20. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

8 Recovery of Finds

GENERAL

The principal aim is to ensure that adequate provision is made for the recovery of finds from all archaeological deposits.

The Small Finds, e.g. complete pots or metalwork, from all excavations will be 3-dimensionally recorded.

A metal detector will be used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey will be conducted prior to and on conclusion of the topsoil stripping, and thereafter during the course of the excavation. The spoil tips will also be surveyed. Regular metal detector surveys of the excavation area and spoil tips will reduce the loss of finds to unscrupulous users of metal detectors (treasure hunters). All non-archaeological staff working on the site should be informed that the use of metal detectors is forbidden.

In the event of items considered as being defined as treasure being found, then the requirements of the Treasure Act 1996 (with subsequent amendments) will be followed. Any such finds encountered during the investigation will be reported immediately to the Suffolk Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer who will in turn inform the Coroner within 14 days

WORKED FLINT

When flint knapping debris is encountered large-scale bulk samples will be taken for sieving.

POTTERY

It is important that the excavators are aware of the importance of pottery studies and therefore the recovery of good ceramic assemblages.

The pottery assemblages are likely to provide important evidence to be able to date the structural history and development of the site.

The most important assemblages will come from `sealed' deposits which are representative of the nature of the occupation at various dates, and indicate a range of pottery types and forms available at different periods.

`Primary' deposits are those which contain sherds contemporary with the soil fill and in simple terms this often means large sherds with unabraded edges. The sherds have usually been deposited shortly after being broken and have remained undisturbed. Such sherds are more reliable in indicating a more precise date at which the feature was `in use'. Conversely, `secondary' deposits are those which often have small, heavily abraded sherds lacking obvious conjoins. The sherds are derived from earlier deposits.

HUMAN BONE

Any human remains present would not normally be excavated at the stage of an evaluation, but would be protected and preserved in situ, on advice from SCC AS-CT. Should human remains be discovered and be required to be removed, the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Ministry of Justice sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Any excavation of human remains at the stage of an evaluation would only be carried out following advice from SCC AS-CT. Excavators would be made aware, and comply with, provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857 and pay due attention to the requirements of Health & Safety.

ANIMAL BONE

Animal bone is one of the principal indicators of diet. As with pottery the excavators will be alert to the distinction of primary and secondary deposits. It will also be important that the bone assemblages are derived from dateable contexts. All animal bone will be collected.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

The sampling will adhere to the guidelines prepared by English Heritage (now Historic England), and the specialist will make his/her results known to the regional science advisor who co-ordinates environmental archaeology in the region on behalf of Historic England. The project will also accord with the guidelines of the English Heritage (now Historic England) document *Environmental Archaeology, a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2011.

Provision will be made for the sampling of appropriate materials for specialist and/or scientific analysis (e.g. radiocarbon dating, environmental analysis). The location of samples will be 3-dimensionally recorded and they will also be shown on an appropriate plan. AS has its own environmental sampling equipment (including a pump and transformer) and, if practical, provision will be made to process the soil samples during the fieldwork stage of the project.

If waterlogged remains are found advice on sampling will be obtained on site from Dr Rob Scaife/Dr John Summers. Dr Rob Scaife/Dr Summers and AS will seek advice from the HE Regional Scientific Advisor if significant environmental remains are found.

The study of environmental archaeology seeks to understand the local and near-local environment of the site in relation to phases of human activity and as such is an important and integral part of any archaeological study.

Environmental remains, both faunal and botanical, along with pedological and sedimentological analyses may be used to understand the environment and the impact of human activity.

There may be a potential for the recovery of a range of environmental remains (ecofacts) from which data pertaining to past environments, land use and agricultural economy should be forthcoming.

Sampling strategies on evaluations aim to determine the potential of the site for both biological remains (plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts which would otherwise not be collected by hand. The number/range of samples taken will represent the range of feature types encountered, but with an aim of at least three samples from each feature type.

For plant remains, the samples taken at evaluation stage would aim to characterise:

- The range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged) and their quality
- Any differences in remains from dated/undated features
- Variation between different feature types/areas

To realise the potential of the environmental material encountered, a range of specialists from different disciplines is likely to be required. The ultimate goal will be the production of an interdisciplinary environmental study which can be of value to an understanding of, and integrated with, the archaeology.

Organic remains may allow study of the contemporary landscape (occupation/industrial/agricultural impact and land use) and also changes after the abandonment of the site.

The nature of the environmental evidence

Aspects of sampling and analysis may be divided into four broad categories; faunal remains, botanical remains, soils/sediments and radiocarbon dating measurements.

a) Faunal remains: These comprise bones of macro and microfauna, birds, molluscs and insects.

a.i) Bones: The study of the animal bone remains, in particular domestic mammals, domestic birds and marine fish will enhance understanding of the development of the settlement in terms of the local economy and also its wider influence through trade. The study of the small animal bones will provide insight into the immediate habitat of any settlement.

The areas of study covered may include all of the domestic mammal and bird species, wild and harvested mammal, birds, marine and fresh water fish in addition to the small mammals, non-harvest birds, reptiles and amphibia.

Domestic mammalian stock, domestic birds and harvest fish

The domestic animal bone will provide insight into the different phases of development of any occupation and how the population dealt with the everyday aspect of managing and utilising all aspects of the animal resource.

Small animal bones

Archaeological excavation has a wide role in understanding humans' effect on the countryside, the modifications to which have in turn affected and continue to affect their own existence. Small animals provide information about changing habitats and thereby about human impact on the local environment.

a.ii) Molluscs: Freshwater and terrestrial molluscs may be present in ditch and pit contexts which are encountered. Sampling and examination of molluscan assemblages if found will provide information on the local site environment including environment of deposition.

a.iii) Insects: If suitable waterlogged contexts (pit, pond and ditch fills) are encountered (which can potentially be expected to be encountered on the project), sampling and assessment will be carried out in conjunction with the analysis of waterlogged plant remains (primarily seeds) and molluscs. Insect data may provide information on local site environment (cleanliness etc.) as well as proxies for climate and vegetation communities.

b) Botanical remains: Sampling for seeds, wood, pollen and seeds are the essential elements which will be considered. The former are most likely to be charred but possibly also waterlogged should any wells/ponds be encountered.

b.i) Pollen analysis: Sampling and analysis of the primary fills and any stabilisation horizons in ditch and pit contexts which may provide information on the immediate vegetation environment including aspects of agriculture, food and subsistence. These data will be integrated with seed analysis.

b.ii) Seeds: It is anticipated that evidence of cultivated crops, crop processing debris and associated weed floras will be present in ditches and pits. If waterlogged features/sediments are encountered (for example, wells/ponds) these will be sampled in relation to other environmental elements where appropriate (particularly pollen, molluscs and possibly insects).

c) Soils and Sediments: Characterisation of the range of sediments, soils and the archaeological deposits are regarded as crucial to and an integral part of all other aspects of environmental sampling. This is to afford primary information on the nature and possible origins of the material sampled. It is anticipated that a range of 'on-site' descriptions will be made and subsequent detailed description and analysis of the principal monolith and bulk samples obtained for other aspects of the environmental investigation. Where considered necessary, laboratory analyses such as loss on ignition and particle size may also be undertaken. A geoarchaeologist will be invited to visit the site as necessary to advise on sampling.

d) Radiocarbon dating: Archaeological/artifactual dating may be possible for most of the contexts examined, but radiocarbon dating should not be ruled out

Sampling strategies

Provision will be made by the environmental co-ordinator that suitable material for analysis will be obtained. Samples will be obtained which as far as possible will meet the requirements of the assessment and any subsequent analysis.

a) Soil and Sediments: Samples taken will be examined in detail in the laboratory. An overall assessment of potential will be carried out. Analysis of particle size and loss on ignition, if required would be undertaken as part of full analysis if assessment demonstrates that such studies would be of value.

b) Pollen Analysis: Contexts which require sampling may include stabilisation horizons and the primary fills of the pits and ditches, and possibly organic well/pond fills. It is anticipated that in some cases this will be carried out in conjunction with sampling for other environmental elements, such as plant macrofossils, where these are also felt to be of potential.

c) Plant Macrofossils: Principal contexts will be sampled directly from the excavation for seeds and associated plant remains. It is anticipated that primarily charred remains will be recovered, although provision for any waterlogged sequences will also be made (see below). Sampling for the former will, where possible (that is, avoiding contamination) comprise samples of an average of 40-60 litres which will be floated in the AS facilities for extraction of charred plant remains. Both the flot and residues will be kept for assessment of potential and stored for any subsequent detailed analysis. The residues will also be examined for artifactual remains and also for any faunal remains present (cf. molluscs). Where pit, ditch, well or pond sediments are found to contain waterlogged sediments, principal contexts will be sampled for seeds and insect remains. Standard 5

litre+ samples will be taken which may be sub-sampled in the laboratory for seed remains if the material is found to be especially rich. The full sample will provide sufficient material for insect assessment and analysis.

d) Bones: Predicting exactly how much of what will be yielded by the excavation is clearly very difficult prior to excavation and it is proposed that in order to efficiently target animal bone recovery there should be a system of direct feedback from the archaeozoologist to the site staff during the excavation, allowing fine tuning of the excavation strategy to concentrate on the recovery of animal bones from features which have the highest potential. This will also allow the faunal remains to materially add to the interpretation as the excavation proceeds. Liaison with other environmental specialists will need to take place in order to produce a complete interdisciplinary study during this phase of activity. In addition, this feedback will aid effective targeting of the post-excavation analysis.

e) Insects: If contexts having potential for insect preservation are found, samples will be taken in conjunction with waterlogged plant macrofossils. Samples of 5 litres will suffice for analysis and will be sampled adjacent to waterlogged seed samples and pollen; or where insufficient context material is available provision will be made for exchange of material between specialists.

f) Molluscs: Terrestrial and freshwater molluscs. Samples will be taken from a column from suitable ditches. Pits may be sampled, based on the advice of the Environmental Consultant and / or Historic England Regional Advisor. Provision will also be made for molluscs obtained from other sampling aspects (seeds) to be examined and/or kept for future requirements.

g) Archiving: Environmental remains obtained should be stored in conditions appropriate for analysis in the short to medium term, that is giving the ability for full analysis at a later date without any degradation of samples being analysed. The results will be maintained as an archive at AS and supplied to the HE regional co-ordinator as requested.

Waterlogged Deposits/Remains

Should waterlogged deposits (such as wells/deep ditches) be encountered, provision has been made for controlled hand excavation and sampling. Dr Rob Scaife/Dr John Summers will visit to advise on sampling as required, and AS will take monolith samples as necessary for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental information and dating evidence.

Scientific/Absolute Dating

- Samples will be obtained for potential scientific/absolute dating as appropriate (eg Carbon-14).

Provision will be made for the sampling of appropriate materials for specialist and/or scientific analysis (e.g. radiocarbon dating, environmental analysis). The location of samples will be 3-dimensionally recorded and they will also be shown on an appropriate plan. AS has its own environmental sampling equipment (including a pump and transformer) and, if practical, provision will be made to process the soil samples during the fieldwork stage of the project.

If waterlogged remains are found they will be sampled by Dr Rob Scaife/Dr John Summers. Dr Rob Scaife and AS will seek advice from the HE Regional Scientific Advisor if significant environmental remains are found.

FINDS PROCESSING

The project director will have overall responsibility for the finds and will liaise with AS's own finds personnel and the relevant specialists. A person with particular responsibility for finds on site will be appointed for the excavation.
The person will ensure that the finds are properly labelled and packaged on site for transportation to AS's field base. The finds processing will take place in tandem with the excavations and will be under the supervision of AS's Finds Officer.

The finds processing will entail first aid conservation, cleaning (if appropriate), marking (if appropriate), categorising, bagging, labelling, boxing and basic cataloguing (the compilation of a Small Finds Catalogue and quantification of bulk finds) i.e. such that the finds are ready to be made available to the specialists. The Finds Officer, having been advised by the Project Officer and relevant specialists, will select material for conservation. AS's Finds Officer, in conjunction with the Project Officer, will arrange for the specialists to view the finds for the purpose of report writing.

Appendix 3: The Trial Trench Report (Muir and Higgs 2018)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND NORTH OF FENTON'S FARM, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

HER No. 9208147

Authors: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs (Background research)	
NGR: TL 878 600	Report No: 5513
District: St Edmundsbury	Site Code: WLG 038
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7445
	Date: 29 January 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Land North of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk*		
The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site is an area of archaeological potential, that lies close a Roman settlement site to the north at Sicklesmere (HER WLG 005), and also Roman cremations (HER WLG 004). Archaeological features were present in Trenches 5 and 6, located in the eastern sector of the site. The features were numerous (Trench 5 (eight) and 6 (seven)), and comprised pits and graves. The pits were either closely-spaced or inter-cutting within Trenches 5 and 6. With the exception of Pit F1024, the majority of the pits were undated or contained sparse Roman pottery. The presence of such pits may be consistent with peripheral activity around the large Roman settlement identified 300m to the north, and potentially also associated with Roman funerary activity that is typically located on marginal areas on the outskirts of settlements. Pit F1007 (Trench 5) contained a small fragment (1g) of copper alloy Roman bracelet. *Partially inter-cutting graves were recorded at the eastern end of Trench 6. Grave F1026 had been disturbed and partially truncated, and the human remains were recorded and lifted. The grave included the significant proportion of a central Gaulish Samian ware cup, dated to the 2nd century AD, which is conspicuously well-preserved in comparison with other Roman pottery sherds from the site, thus may have been a grave good associated with the skeleton. Graves F1028 and F1034 appear to preserve in situ inhumation burials (the former extending beyond the trench), and the skeletons were not excavated, pending subsequent investigations. ?Graves F1030 and F1032, uppermost in the stratigraphic sequence, appeared significantly disturbed and no evidence of human remains was recorded within them. These graves appear to supplement the funerary evidence located on or beyond the southern extent of the Roman settlement at Sicklesmere. The earliest find comprised a single flint blade, potentially of early Neolithic origin, contained as residual material in Grave F1026 (Trench 6).*			
Project dates (fieldwork)	*January 2018*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work*	*TBC*
P. number	*P7445*	*Site code*	*WLG 038*
Type of project	*Archaeological evaluation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Graves, Pits*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Human bone, Roman pottery, animal bone, struck flint, fragment of a cu alloy Roman bracelet*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Suffolk*	*St Edmundsbury*	*Great Whelnetham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record (SCC CHER)*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*0.4ha.*		
NGR	*TL 878 600*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.55m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Suffolk County Council*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*		
Funded by	*Havebury Housing Partnership*		
Full title	*Land North of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Muir, T., and Higgs, K.*		
Report no.	*5513*		
Date (of report)	*January 2018*		

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land north of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk (NGR TL 878 600; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of a new residential development (St Edmundsbury Council Planning Approval DC/16/1268/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT)

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (Rachael Abraham, dated 15th November 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 7th December 2017) and approved by SCC AS-CT. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation included:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*

- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence

- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage

asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 It is proposed to erect a new development of residential dwellings on land north of Fenton's farm, Great Whelnetham. The site is a field on the western side of Stanningfield Road in the village, and extends to some 0.4ha, and it lies at c.55m AOD.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Great Whelnetham lies within a gently undulating landscape. It is located on the south-eastern bank of the River Lark valley, with the river only 200m to the north-west of the site. The site lies at *c.*55m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping downwards to the north-west.

3.2 The underlying geology of the area comprises the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation, all of which were formed in the Cretaceous period (BGS 2015). Such natural geology is overlain by a drift geology of Lacustrine deposits of clay and silt, whilst soils of the area comprise those of the Melford Association, which are described as deep, well drained loamy soils (SSEW 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig.3)

Prehistoric

4.1 The majority of prehistoric remains from the surrounding area attest to the focus of early occupation and exploitation being along the course of the River Lark, which flows through Sicklesmere further northwards and only 300m to the north-west of the site (Hambrook 1970). The early prehistoric period is represented by Palaeolithic animal bones, mammoth tusk and a late Palaeolithic flint hand-axe

discovered in a gravel pit located to the north and on the northern bank of the river at Sicklesmere (HER WLG 024 - MSF30982).

4.2 A former brickworks pit at Sicklesmere, to the north of the River Lark and within the parish of Little Whelnetham, contained late Hoxnian peat deposits and four prehistoric handaxes (HER WLL 008 - MSF30986). A watching brief at the sewage treatment works 300m to the north-west of the site also found a sherd of Roman pottery and late Neolithic or Bronze Age struck flint including a broken retouched blade and a fragment of burnt flint (HER WLG 026 - MSF30983).

Romano-British

4.3 The former village of Sicklesmere to the north has also revealed extensive evidence for Roman settlement close to the banks of the River Lark. Antiquarian discoveries by Mr G. Basil Barham from 1904 onwards indicate a sizable settlement at Sicklesmere (HERs WLG 003 - MSF6238), with finds of '*three small pots, fetters, Samian, lamp slipper etc found in Symonds pit*', as well as Roman coins. A Roman pottery kiln, built from black earth, red wattle and daub, plain fired clay and containing 2nd century coarse grey sherds, is known from behind Sicklesmere garage and 400m north-east of the site (HER WLG 002 - MSF6237). An excavation further northwards of Sicklesmere in 1964 has also revealed four Roman coins, pottery, nails, fragments of bricks and tile and animal bones, as well as a kiln flue and three nails, fragments of bricks and tile and animal bones (HER WLG 007 - MSF4888).

4.4 Evidence for Roman activity comprising an urned cremation and two inhumations, together with Roman coarse pottery, Samian, oysters and animal bones were found during the course of digging house foundations in Sicklesmere (HER WLG 004 - MSF6239). A large Roman settlement has been identified 300m to the north of the site and also along the western frontage of Stanningfield Road (HER WLG 005 - MSF6240; Evershed 2016). Metal detector finds from 350m to the north-north-west of the site comprise 'over 600 Roman coins' and other artefacts including a cosmetic grinder (HER WLG 018 - MSF20600). An additional Roman coin and other items have been found to the north of Sicklesmere (HER WLG 036 - MSF33904). A late 3rd – 4th century Roman pottery scatter and evidence for 'occupation rubbish' is also recorded at Sicklesmere (HER WLG 019 - MSF19164).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

4.5 Place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Great Whelnetham alias *Whelnetham Magna*, which derives from the Old English word *Hvelfiham*, meaning a 'water meadow frequented by swans' (Rye 1991). Archaeological evidence is limited to a find of a lead (probably pewter) disc brooch which was discovered to the north-east of Sicklesmere in 1996 (HER WLG 016 - MSF18006). In 1086 Domesday Book refers to Great Whelnetham as *Huelfiham*, within which were '41 villeins with 6 carucates of land' (Hambrook 1970).

4.6 Although Domesday also refers to 'two churches endowed with 40 acres of free land held by religious service' (*ibid.*), the extant Grade I listed Church of St Thomas a Becket is medieval with 1839 and 1883 alterations (HER DSF9224). A medieval moat is recorded at Great Whelnetham Hall, which stands 800m to the

south of the site (HER WLG 001 - MSF6236). Almost 1km to the east at Little Whelnetham lie the scheduled remains of a circular structure to the east of the church (HERs WLG 006 - MSF2692 & DSF15942). Masonry suggests early Norman but hardly Saxon date and the remains probably represent a chapel, but its precise purpose remains unknown.

Post-medieval

4.7 Listed buildings are located within Great Whelnetham, with the majority on Stanningfield Road to the north of the site. To the immediate south of the site is the Grade II listed Fentons Farmhouse which dates to the early 19th century (HERs DSF8038 & 1230109). Further southwards is the Grade II listed Tutelina Mill, which is a now disused tower mill dated 1865 and described as 'a good example of a small, late windmill and one of the very few tower mills in Suffolk which retains the potential for a full restoration' (HERs DSF9469 & 1230110).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 SCC AS-CT required a programme of archaeological trial trenching and stipulated that 110m of trenching at 1.8m width should be excavated on a grid array. Eight trenches of 14m x 1.8m were excavated (Fig. 4).

5.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

5.3 Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually / visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Fig. 4

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 54.38m AOD		
0.00 - 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.32 - 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, pale yellow brown sandy silt with patches of mid orange brown silty sand and occasional medium sub-angular and sub-rounded flint.

Appendix 4: The Excavation WSI (AS 2018)

PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT, LAND NORTH OF FENTON'S FARM, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

WLG 038

21st February 2018

PROPOSED NEW DEVELOPMENT, LAND NORTH OF FENTON'S FARM, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared in response to a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (Rachael Abraham, dated 16th February 2018). It provides for a programme of archaeological excavation in association with a new residential development on land north of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk (NGR TL 878 600), in order to provide for the requirements of a planning condition on St Edmundsbury Council Planning Approval DC/16/1268/FUL, imposed on approval requiring a programme of archaeological work. The requirement follows a trial trench evaluation of the site by AS (Muir & Higgs 2018). The WSI has been prepared for the approval of SCC AS-CT and the LPA.

2 COMPLIANCE

2.1 The terms and conditions contained in the SCC AS-CT brief have been read, understood and are accepted. The project will adhere also to the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The investigation will adhere to the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (revised 2014);* the SCC AS-CT document *Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2017* and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3 SITE DESCRIPTION NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT & ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 It is proposed to erect a new development of residential dwellings on land north of Fenton's farm, Great Whelnetham. The site is a field on the western side of Stanningfield Road in the village, and extends to some 0.4ha, and it lies at c.55m AOD.

3.2 The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the site is an area of archaeological potential, which has not been tested by any previous archaeological investigation, and lies close to a number of sites recorded on the HER close by, including a Roman settlement site to the north (HER WLG 005) with finds scatters found

during building work over a large area, and also Roman cremations (HER WLG 004).

3.3 The site thus had a potential for multi-period archaeological remains, including further evidence of Roman settlement which is known to the north.

3.4 A trial trench evaluation of the site was carried out by AS (Muir & Higgs 2018). In summary:

Eight trial trenches were excavated across the site. The archaeological features were present in Trenches 5 and 6, located in the central eastern sector of the site. The features were numerous (Trench 5 (eight) and 6 (seven)), and comprised pits and graves. The pits were either closely-spaced or inter-cutting within Trenches 5 and 6. With the exception of Pit F1024, the majority of the pits were undated or contained sparse Roman pottery. The presence of such pits may be consistent with peripheral activity around the large Roman settlement identified 300m to the north, and potentially also associated with Roman funerary activity that is typically located on marginal areas on the outskirts of settlements. Pit F1007 (Trench 5) contained a small fragment (1g) of copper alloy Roman bracelet.

Partially inter-cutting graves were recorded at the eastern end of Trench 6. Grave F1026 had been disturbed and partially truncated, and the human remains were recorded and lifted. The grave included the significant proportion of a central Gaulish Samian ware cup, dated to the 2nd century AD, which is conspicuously well-preserved in comparison with other Roman pottery sherds from the site, thus may have been a grave good associated with the skeleton. Graves F1028 and F1034 appear to preserve in situ inhumation burials (the former extending beyond the trench), and the skeletons were not excavated, pending subsequent investigations. ?Graves F1030 and F1032, uppermost in the stratigraphic sequence, appeared significantly disturbed and no evidence of human remains was recorded within them. Sparse Roman urned cremations and inhumations have previously been recorded at Sicklesmere, and these graves appear to supplement them as part of the funerary evidence located on or beyond the southern extent of the Roman settlement.

The earliest find comprised a single flint blade, potentially of early Neolithic origin, contained as residual material in Grave F1026 (Trench 6); and Pit F1024 (Trench 6) contained a single sherd of modern pottery which may be intrusive.

4 REQUIREMENTS
MITIGATION STRATEGY COMPRISING EXCAVATION

4.1 All stages of the excavation will be carried out in accordance with the brief, and procedures and guidance contained within *Management of Archaeological Projects 2,* English Heritage (1991) and MoRPHE (Historic England 2015) and the SCC AS-CT *Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2017.*

5 MITIGATION STRATEGY DETAILS

5.1 Aims and Objectives

5.1.1 The primary objective is to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

5.2 Research Priorities

5.2.1 Principally:

- Place the activity in context with the known activity of these dates in the surrounding area
- Characterise the activity present within the site
- Identify topographical/geological/geographical influences on the layout and development of the activity present within the current site and in the surrounding area.
- Environmental reconstruction

5.2.2 The research priorities for the region are set out in Glazebrook (1997) and Brown & Glazebrook (2000) and updated by Medlycott and Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011). See 9 below. These will be used to discuss the significance of the results of the project.

6 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

Archaeological Excavation & Monitoring

6.1 The brief requires:

Controlled strip, map and excavation of part of the Phase 2 development area (extending to *c.*1343m2) as defined in the brief and shown on the appended plan, where archaeological features were recorded during the preceding trial trench evaluation. Provision for extension of the excavation area is provided should archaeological remains be found to extend

beyond the area, and until a 10m buffer containing no archaeological remains is defined.

6.2 The site strip will be carried out under archaeological supervision, with a back acting excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The excavation area will be clearly demarcated and machinery will be prevented from tracking across the stripped area until all archaeological investigations are complete, and the site has been signed off by SCC AS-CT and handed back to the developer.

6.3 Details of proposed work are presented below.

6.4 All of the above stages and operations will be carried out in accordance with MAP2 (EH 1991), MORPHE (HE 2015) and the CIFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and *Excavations* (revised 2014), as well as the documents listed in Section 4 (above). A Method Statement for dealing with archaeological remains, if present, is presented below (Appendix 2).

7 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

7.1 As set out in the brief. A Method Statement is presented (Appendix 1).

7.2 The research design and details of proposed work amplify the methodology.

8 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

8.1 As set out in the brief.

8.2 The SCC AS attaches considerable importance to the public archaeology associated with the work. AS also has a commitment to educational work, and will arrange for outreach as required as part of the project. If practical, an Open Day will be arranged. Visits to local schools and a parish-based presentation of the archaeological remains may also be undertaken.

8.3 A programme of environmental sampling will be undertaken according to guidelines of the document *Environmental Archaeology; A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation,* Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, English Heritage (now Historic England), 2011. The results of the project will be made known to the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science. A method statement for sampling and scientific analysis is presented (Appendix 1).

9 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Archaeological Team

As to be set out in the brief. Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the site director and all other key project personnel are provided (as required) (Appendix 2).

Senior Project Manager [redacted]
Project Manager
Project Officer

All have extensive experience of the archaeology of the local area.

All senior AS Field Staff have experience of the use of metal detectors during excavation projects.

AS is recognised as an Investor in People, a Registered Organisation of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and is certified to BSI ISO: 9001 & 14001.

9.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

9.2.1 The previous archaeological evaluation of the site has revealed features/inhumations of Roman date.

9.2.2 The research priorities for the region are set out in Glazebrook (1997) and Brown & Glazebrook (2000) and updated by Medlycott and Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011). Medlycott (2011, 47) identifies regional variation and tribal distinctions as underlying themes for research in the Roman period. Research topics for the Roman period previously set out by Going & Plouviez (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 19-22) include analysis of early and late Roman military developments, further analysis of large and small towns, evidence of food consumption and production, further research into agricultural production, landscape research (in particular further evidence for potential woodland succession/regression and issues of relict landscapes, as well as further research into the road network and bridging points), further research into rural settlements and coastal issues. Medlycott (2011, 47-48) states that these research areas remain valid and presents updated consideration of them. To these themes Medlycott & Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011, 47-48) add rural settlements and landscapes, the process of Romanisation in the region, the evidence for the Imperial Fen Estate, and the Roman/Saxon transition.

9.2.3 Sparse Roman urned cremations and inhumations have previously been recorded associated with the Roman settlement at Sicklesmere to the north, and recent (ongoing) investigations at Erskine Lodge *c*.250m to the north have recorded five inhumations (to date) associated with potential settlement evidence (Evershed 2016). Therefore the graves comprise the southernmost evidence for Roman activity to the south of the settlement at Sicklesmere, but it remains unclear if there was a defined cemetery related to that recorded at Erskine Lodge where a significant component of the pottery was dated to the 2nd century AD (Evershed 2016, 25-7). It is uncertain whether the burials were contemporary with areas of occupation, or whether a postulated route to the south provided a foci. Roadside burials immediately outside settlements in the Roman period are not uncommon. The characterisation of Roman rural settlement, and the importance of identifying Roman burials, especially those in rural cemeteries has long been recognised in research agenda (Going 1997, 37 & 40; Medlycott 2011, 33 & 42), and the results of this evaluation suggest this site has a modest to high potential to contribute to this theme.

References

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J (eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8

Evershed, R. 2016 *Archaeological Evaluation Report: Trial Trenching On Land At Erskine Lodge, Stanningfield Road, Great Welnetham, Suffolk, Phases 1 And 2***.** Allen Archaeology Ltd Report Number AAL2016075

Glazebrook, J (eds), 1997, *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 1. Resource Assessment,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3

Medlycott, M & Brown, N, 2008, *Revised East Anglian Archaeological Research Frameworks,* www.eaareports/algaoee

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011, *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, ALGAO East of England Region, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24

Muir, T & Higgs, K, 2018**,** *Land North of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation,* AS Report 5513

10 DETAILS OF PROPOSED WORK

10.1 Areas of Excavation

The brief requires formal archaeological excavation of the area shown on the attached plan (and within the brief).

The excavation will address the research priorities listed above

10.2 Excavation Methodology

Methodology for the excavation is contained in Appendix 1.

It is understood that the excavation should comprise the following stages:

- Mechanical stripping of topsoil and overburden within the defined area
- Cleaning/base planning of archaeological features
- Review with SCCAS. This will be an ongoing part of management of the project at regular intervals. Monitoring visits will include all phases of the excavation and will be essential at key points e.g. decisions to vary requirements in the brief or this WSI, any proposal for supplementary machine stripping of layers or features, before any area is treated as completed and backfilled or otherwise degraded.
- Full excavation and recording of the archaeological deposits as specified in the brief and Appendix 1

The above will be carried out according the requirements of the document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (Historic England 2015).

10.4 Arrangements for Access

Access is to be arranged by the client.

10.5 Security

Throughout all site works care will be taken to maintain all existing security arrangements and to minimise disruption to landowners and local residents.

10.6 Reinstatement

No provision has been made for reinstatement of the excavation areas, not even backfilling.

10.7 TIMETABLE FOR THE PROPOSED WORK

[redacted]

10.8 DETAILS OF ALL SPECIALISTS

10.8.1 Details of all specialists are presented (Appendix 2) as required

10.9 METHOD OF RECORDING

10.9.1 Details of the method of recording are presented (Appendix 1) as required.

10.10 LEVELS AND GRADES OF ALL KEY PROJECT STAFF

10.10.1 The levels and grades of all key project staff are presented (Appendix 2) as required. AS is a recognised Investor in People.

10.11 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION

10.11.1 This specification includes provision for the post-excavation assessment, analysis and final publication of the project results, to the requirements and timescales set out in the SCC AS brief, and to be agreed with SCC AS following the results of the excavation and assessment. An interim report will be prepared

immediately on conclusion of the site works, followed by a Post-Excavation Assessment (PXA). This will follow the guidelines and format outlined in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE (English Heritage 2006), and the *Draft Post-Excavation Assessments: Notes on a New Guidance Document* (East Anglian Archaeology 2012). The need for a full PXA will be discussed and formally agreed with ASS AC-ST within 4 weeks of the conclusion of fieldwork.

10.11.2 The PXA will present a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological significance and value of the results and identify the research potential, using the *East Anglian Archaeological Research Frameworks*. It will present and Updated Project Design with a timetable for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

10.11.3 Provision for full publication of the project results will be made in the appropriate county journal or the relevant national period-specific journal, depending on the results of the project. As a minimum, a summary will be prepared for the annual round-up of archaeological projects in *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology & History.*

11 CONSTRAINTS

11.1 All constraints will be identified prior to the start of works.

12 HUMAN REMAINS

12.1 As set out in the brief and also Appendix 1. The advice in the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England document *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains* (2017) will be followed as appropriate.

13 RISK ASSESSMENT & INSURANCES

13.1 A risk assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of the field work.

13.2 AS is a member of FAME, formerly the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) and operates under the 'Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual'.

13.3 AS is a member of the Council for British Archaeology and is insured under their policy for members.

14 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LONG TERM STORAGE AND DEPOSITION OF ALL ARTEFACTS

14.1 As set out in the brief and Method Statement (Appendix 1). Any necessary conservation of items will be carried out by the specialists listed in Appendix 2. Long-term storage and deposition of all artefacts will be at the SCC County Archives Store and in accordance with *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk (2017).*

15 PROJECT ARCHIVE

15.1 The SCC County Archives Store, Suffolk, will be the depository for the resulting project archive. The deposition of the archive will be agreed prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. A unique reference number will be obtained.

15.2 The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. It will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No.2* and according to the document *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* (SCC AS Conservation Team, 2017). A unique event number and monument number will be obtained from the County HER Officer.

15.3 The full archive of finds and records will be made secure at all stages of the project, both on and off site. Arrangements will be made at the earliest opportunity for the archive to be accessed into the collections of Suffolk Archaeological Archives; with the landowner's permission in the case of any finds. It is acknowledged that it is the responsibility of the field investigation organisation to make these arrangements with the landowner and Suffolk Archaeological Archives. The archive will be adequately catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No.2* and the other relevant reference documents.

15.4 Archive records, with inventory, are to be deposited, as well as any donated finds from the site, at the Suffolk Archaeological Archives and in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data. A unique event number for the report and monument number for any finds will be obtained from the HER.

16 MONITORING

16.1 As set out in the brief. It is understood that SCCAS-CT will monitor the project on behalf of the local planning authority.

16.2 ***Notification*** Archaeological Solutions will give SCCAS-CT notification prior to the commencement of the project on site

16.3 ***Monitoring*** SCCAS-CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, both on site and during the post-survey/report stages, to ensure compliance with the planning requirement, the approved WSI, analyses and publication.

16.4 Any variations to the WSI will be agreed in advance with SCCAS-CT prior to them being carried out.

17 CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SCCAS

17.1 As set out in the brief

18 OASIS REPORTING

18.1 The results of the project will be communicated to the OASIS project. An outline OASIS record will be completed and a copy of the summary record will be included in the archaeological report.

APPENDIX 1

METHOD STATEMENT

The archaeological excavations will be conducted in accordance with the project brief, and the code and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and the SCC AS-CT document *Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2017*

1 Topsoil Stripping

1.1 A mechanical excavator with a 1.8-2 m wide toothless bucket will be used to remove the topsoil. The machine will be powerful enough for a clean job of work and be able to mound spoil neatly, at a safe distance from the trench edges.

1.3 Removal of overburden will be controlled, under the full-time supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

2 Grid and Bench Marks

2.1 Following the stripping the temporary bench marks (with corrected levels) and an accurate site grid (pegs at 5-10 m intervals) will be surveyed.

3 Site Location Plan

3.1 On conclusion of the site stripping, a `site location plan', based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map and indicating site north, will be prepared. This will be supplemented by an `area plan' at 1:200 (or 1:100) which will show the location of the area(s) investigated in relationship to the development area, OS grid and site grid. The location of the OS bench marks used and site TBMs will also be indicated. The site surveying will utilise a Leica GS09 net rover survey grade GPS, with RTK corrections.

4 Manual Cleaning & Base Planning of Archaeological Features

4.1 As set out in the brief.

4.2 Ahead of any excavation a complete site plan will be composed. The principal purpose will be to quantify the composition of the site from the outset in order to agree a detailed excavation strategy.

5 Archaeological Excavation

The archaeological features will be excavated according to the requirements of the SCCAS brief

Archaeological Excavation Strategy

Negative features will be half-sectioned and box sections may be excavated through more homogeneous layers as appropriate. These may provide a window into any underlying deposits present on the site.

Where archaeological features are encountered at a 'high' level; e.g. cutting earlier horizons, they will be base planned, cleaned, hand excavated and recorded prior to excavation proceeding to the underlying archaeological horizons.

100% excavation will be undertaken of

- **structural features;** (including post holes unless clearly not part of a recognisable structure)

- **surviving internal floors;** e.g. within ring gullies, or buildings, will be fully exposed, carefully cleaned, planned (at 1:50 or 1:20) and photographed, prior to being hand excavated to reveal possible underlying features. Where appropriate these surfaces will be excavated in a grid of 1m^2 test pits, in 5cm spits in order to assess artefact density and distribution.

- **positive features obscuring earlier features;** will be cleaned, photographed and planned (at 1:50 or 1:20) prior to being excavated stratigraphically and in phase. Component deposits or structural elements will be recorded on *pro-forma* recording (Context) sheets and in section if appropriate prior to 100% excavation.

- **hearths;** will be hand cleaned and planned, hand excavation of 50% of the feature will be carried out stratigraphically and in phase in order for a profile to be drawn and a full assessment the component deposits be made. Additional environmental and specialist sampling will be carried out on specialist advice, prior to 100% hand excavation of the feature.

- **graves or animal burials;** each grave cut will be cleaned, fully defined and planned. The grave fill(s) will be hand excavated in phase and any skeletal remains carefully cleaned and exposed; environmental bulk samples will be taken from the grave fill(s) and abdominal cavity (for stomach contents, kidney stones etc) as appropriate. The exposed skeletal remains will be recorded

using *pro forma* recording (Skeleton) sheets photographed and planned at 1:20 or 1:10 dependant on size and complexity. Small finds such as grave goods, shroud pins or coffin fittings will be will be three dimensionally recorded.

- **industrial features**; (pottery kilns, furnaces etc) will be excavated stratigraphically and in phase. Sections will be recorded through the length of each feature (large features such as a limekiln may be quadranted) incorporating any surviving flue or stoke hole allowing a full assessment the component deposits be made and any industrial waste, or structural components (e.g. kiln furniture, tuyeres) to be identified. These features will photographed and planned at 1:20. All industrial features will be sampled for appropriate scientific analysis (e.g. archaeometallurgical, artefactual and environmental analysis). The document *Archaeometallurgy* (Historic England 2015) will be used to give guidance to the project. Advice on archaeomagnetic dating will be obtained from the relevant specialists (e.g. Dr Cathy Batt, University of Bradford) as necessary.

wells; will be hand excavated stratigraphically and in phase. The backfills of the well shaft will be 'half-sectioned' to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The deposits revealed will be recorded using *pro-forma* recording (Context) sheets, photographed and drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate, any lining or structure will be cleaned and recorded prior to 100% excavation and investigation of any possible construction cut. Excavation will only continue beyond a depth of 1.2m once the area of excavation has been made safe either by 'stepping' or shoring. Specialist advice (such as Maisie Taylor) will be sought if a preserved wooden lining or water-logged remains are encountered.

50% excavation will be undertaken of

discrete features, pits, post and stake holes (the latter which are clearly not part of a structure). Pits with a suggestion of 'placed' deposits or which contain significant artefactual/ecofactual assemblages will be 100% excavated as required, as will other features to be agreed with SCC AS-CT on site, as set out in the SCC AS-CT document *Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2017*

10% excavation will be undertaken of

simple linear features not directly associated with core settlement, with more detailed investigation of intersections/terminals/re-cuts/specialised deposits etc

A minimum of 25% excavation will be undertaken of linear features associated with settlement in hand excavated slots up to 2m in length.

Building remains

Building remains may be encountered. These structures are likely to comprise stake holes, post holes, beam slots, gullies and, more rarely masonry foundations or low masonry walls. Associated features may be represented e.g. stone, tile floors, cobbled yard surfaces and hearths.

These features will be fully excavated in plan/phase.

Where encountered the structural remains of early buildings will be hand cleaned to reveal their full extent and then planned at 1:50 or 1:20 as appropriate.

The internal areas will be stratigraphically excavated and recorded by quadrants where appropriate to establish the sequence of post-use deposition and abandonment and to identify any *in situ* occupation or floor surfaces.

Any surviving walls or foundations of structures will be cleaned and recorded using *pro forma* recording (Masonry) sheets. Elevations will be drawn of external and internal wall faces as appropriate. Sections will be excavated and recorded through the fabric of the walls in order to fully understand their construction.

Samples of worked stone, early tile and any bonding or render material will be taken for specialist analysis.

Waterlogged Deposits/Remains

Should deposits such as the above be encountered, provision has been made for controlled hand excavation and sampling. Appropriate specialists will be on hand to advise as necessary.

All industrial features will be sampled for appropriate scientific analysis (eg archaeometallurgical, artefactual and environmental analysis). The document Archaeomaetallurgy (Historic England Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2015) will be used to give guidance to the project.

Sieving Strategy

Dry-sieving of onsite deposits will be carried out to enhance finds recovery.

6 Written Record

6.1 All archaeological deposits and artefacts encountered during the course of the excavation will be fully recorded on the appropriate context, finds and sample forms.

6.2 The site will be recorded using AS's excavation manual which is directly comparable to those used by other professional archaeological organisations, including English Heritage's (now Historic England's) own Central Archaeological Service. Information contained on the site record forms will be entered into a database programme to enable computerised manipulation of the data. The data entry will be undertaken in tandem with the fieldwork.

7 Photographic Record

7.1 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be made. It will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm) illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. It will also include 'working and promotional shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operations. The black and white negatives and contacts will be filed, and the colour transparencies will be mounted using appropriate cases. All photographs will be listed and indexed.

8 Drawn Record

8.1 A record of the full extent, in plan, of all archaeological deposits encountered will be drawn on A1 permatrace. The plans will be related to the site, or OS, grid and be drawn at a scale of 1:50. Where appropriate, e.g. recording an inhumation, additional plans at 1:10 will be produced. The sections of all archaeological contexts will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or, where appropriate, 1:20. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

9 Recovery of Finds

GENERAL

The principal aim is to ensure that adequate provision is made for the recovery of finds from all archaeological deposits.

The Small Finds, e.g. complete pots or metalwork, from all excavations will be 3-Dimensionally recorded.

A metal detector will be used to enhance finds recovery. The metal detector survey will be conducted on conclusion of the topsoil stripping, and thereafter during the course of the excavation. The spoil tips will also be surveyed. Regular metal detector surveys of the excavation area and spoil tips will reduce the loss of finds to unscrupulous users of metal detectors (treasure hunters). All non-archaeological staff working on the site should be informed that the use of metal detectors is forbidden.

In the event of items considered as being defined as treasure being found, then the requirements of the Treasure Act 1996 (with subsequent amendments) will be followed. Any such finds encountered during the investigation will be reported immediately to the Suffolk Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer who will in turn inform the Coroner within 14 days

WORKED FLINT

When flint knapping debris is encountered large-scale bulk samples will be taken for sieving.

POTTERY

It is important that the excavators are aware of the importance of pottery studies and therefore the recovery of good ceramic assemblages. A ceramic specialist will visit during the excavations as required, to provide on-site advice.

The pottery assemblages are likely to provide important evidence to be able to date the structural history and development of the site.

The most important assemblages will come from 'sealed' deposits which are representative of the nature of the occupation at various dates, and indicate a range of pottery types and forms available at different periods.

'Primary' deposits are those which contain sherds contemporary with the soil fill and in simple terms this often means large sherds with unabraded edges. The sherds have usually been deposited shortly after being broken and have remained undisturbed. Such sherds are more reliable in indicating a more precise date at which the feature was 'in use'. Conversely, 'secondary' deposits are those which often have small, heavily abraded sherds lacking obvious conjoins. The sherds are derived from earlier deposits.

The pottery specialist is likely to seek important or key groups which will be studied in detail.

If several sherds from a single pot are found, the other half of the feature will be dug to obtain conjoins and a more complete pottery profile.

METALWORKING

The excavation team will be made fully aware of the potential presence of any early metalworking evidence. It is envisaged that where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues will be collected by hand. Separate smaller samples will be collected for micro-slags, as detailed in the Historic England document *Archaeometallurgy (2015).* Appropriate specialists (e.g. Jane Cowgill/Oxford University Research Laboratory for Archaeology) will be invited to visit the site if significant deposits (e.g. slag) are encountered.

The requirements of the Treasure Act 1996 (with subsequent amendments) will be adhered to, in the event of significant items of metalwork being recovered.

HUMAN BONE

Human remains will be encountered. AS will obtain an exhumation licence for human remains from the Ministry of Justice.

Post-excavation analysis will follow the guidelines outlined in the English Heritage document *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites, Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2002. The advice in the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England document *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains* (2017) will be followed as appropriate.

ANIMAL BONE

Animal bone is one of the principal indicators of diet. As with pottery the excavators will be alert to the distinction of primary and secondary deposits. It will also be important that the bone assemblages are derived from dateable contexts. All animal bone will be collected.

SAMPLING

Provision will be made for the sampling of appropriate materials for specialist and/or scientific analysis (e.g. radiocarbon dating, environmental analysis). The location of samples will be 3-

dimensionally recorded and they will also be shown on an appropriate plan. AS has its own environmental sampling equipment (including a pump and transformer) and, if practical, provision will be made to process the soil samples during the fieldwork stage of the project.

The programme of environmental sampling will adhere to the guidelines, in particular, it will accord with *Model clauses on Archaeological Science for Briefs and Specifications* (EH Advisors for Archaeological Science from all 9 regions), December 2000 and the document *Environmental Archaeology; a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*, Historic England, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 2011.

If waterlogged remains are found advice on sampling will be obtained on site from Dr Rob Scaife/Dr John Summers. Dr Rob Scaife/Dr John Summers and AS will seek advice from the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor if significant environmental remains are found.

The study of environmental archaeology seeks to understand the local and near-local environment of the site in relation to phases of human activity and as such is an important and integral part of any archaeological study. The evaluation report notes the potential of deposits within the site for the preservation of charred plant remains.

Environmental remains, both faunal and botanical, along with pedological and sedimentological analyses may be used to understand the environment and the impact of human activity.

There may be a potential for the recovery of a range of environmental remains (ecofacts) from which data pertaining to past environments, land use and agricultural economy should be forthcoming.

To realise the potential of the environmental material encountered, a range of specialists from different disciplines is likely to be required. The ultimate goal will be the production of an interdisciplinary environmental study which can be of value to an understanding of, and integrated with, the archaeology.

Organic remains may allow study of the contemporary landscape (Romano-British occupation/industrial/agricultural impact and land use) and also changes after the abandonment of the site.

The nature of the environmental evidence

Aspects of sampling and analysis may be divided into four broad categories; faunal remains, botanical remains, soils/sediments and radiocarbon dating measurements.

a) Faunal remains: These comprise bones of macro and microfauna, birds, molluscs and insects.

a.i) Bones: The study of the animal bone remains, in particular domestic mammals, domestic birds and marine fish will enhance understanding of the development of the settlement in terms of the local economy and also its wider influence through trade. The study of the small animal bones will provide insight into the immediate habitat of any settlement.

The areas of study covered may include all of the domestic mammal and bird species, wild and harvested mammal, birds, marine and fresh water fish in addition to the small mammals, non-harvest birds, reptiles and amphibia.

Domestic mammalian stock, domestic birds and harvest fish

The domestic animal bone will provide insight into the different phases of development of any occupation and how the population dealt with the everyday aspect of managing and utilising all aspects of the animal resource.

Small animal bones

Archaeological excavation has a wide role in understanding humans' effect on the countryside, the modifications to which have in turn affected and continue to affect their own existence. Small animals provide information about changing habitats and thereby about human impact on the local environment.

a.ii) Molluscs: Freshwater and terrestrial molluscs may be present in ditch and pit contexts which are encountered. Sampling and examination of molluscan assemblages if found will provide information on the local site environment including environment of deposition.

a.iii) Insects: If suitable waterlogged contexts (pit, pond and ditch fills) are encountered (which can potentially be expected to be encountered on the project), sampling and assessment will be carried out in conjunction with the analysis of waterlogged plant remains (primarily seeds) and molluscs. Insect data may provide information on local site environment (cleanliness etc.) as well as proxies for climate and vegetation communities.

b) Botanical remains: Sampling for seeds, wood, pollen and seeds are the essential elements which will be considered. The former are most likely to be charred but possibly also waterlogged should any wells/ponds be encountered.

b.i) Pollen analysis: Sampling and analysis of the primary fills and any stabilisation horizons in ditch and pit contexts which may provide information on the immediate vegetation environment including aspects of agriculture, food and subsistence. These data will be integrated with seed analysis.

b.ii) Seeds: It is anticipated that evidence of cultivated crops, crop processing debris and associated weed floras will be present in ditches and pits. If waterlogged features/sediments are encountered (for example, wells/ponds) these will be sampled in relation to other environmental elements where appropriate (particularly pollen, molluscs and possibly insects).

c) Soils and Sediments: Characterisation of the range of sediments, soils and the archaeological deposits are regarded as crucial to and an integral part of all other aspects of environmental sampling. This is to afford primary information on the nature and possible origins of the material sampled. It is anticipated that a range of 'on-site' descriptions will be made and subsequent detailed description and analysis of the principal monolith and bulk samples obtained for other aspects of the environmental investigation. Where considered necessary, laboratory analyses such as loss on ignition and particle size may also be undertaken. A geoarchaeologist will be invited to visit the site as necessary to advise on sampling.

d) Radiocarbon dating: Archaeological/artifactual dating may be possible for most of the contexts examined, but radiocarbon dating should not be ruled out

Sampling strategies

Provision will be made by the environmental co-ordinator that suitable material for analysis will be obtained. Samples will be obtained which as far as possible will meet the requirements of the assessment and any subsequent analysis.

a) Soil and Sediments: Samples taken will be examined in detail in the laboratory. An overall assessment of potential will be carried out. Analysis of particle size and loss on ignition, if required would be undertaken as part of full analysis if assessment demonstrates that such studies would be of value.

b) Pollen Analysis: Contexts which require sampling may include stabilisation horizons and the primary fills of the pits and ditches, and possibly organic well/pond fills. It is anticipated that in some cases this will be carried out in conjunction with sampling for other environmental elements, such as plant macrofossils, where these are also felt to be of potential.

c) Plant Macrofossils: Principal contexts will be sampled directly from the excavation for seeds and associated plant remains. It is anticipated that primarily charred remains will be recovered, although provision for any waterlogged sequences will also be made (see below). Sampling for the former will, where possible (that is, avoiding contamination) comprise samples of an average of 40-60 litres which will be floated in the AS facilities for extraction of charred plant remains. Both the flot and residues will be kept for assessment of potential and stored for any subsequent detailed analysis. The residues will also be examined for artifactual remains and also for any faunal remains present (cf. molluscs). Where pit, ditch, well or pond sediments are found to contain waterlogged sediments, principal contexts will be sampled for seeds and insect remains. Standard 5 litre+ samples will be taken which may be sub-sampled in the laboratory for seed remains if the material is found to be especially rich. The full sample will provide sufficient material for insect assessment and analysis. Where wood is found, representative material will be sampled during the excavation and stored wet/moist to facilitate later identification.

d) Bones: Predicting exactly how much of what will be yielded by the excavation is clearly very difficult prior to excavation and it is proposed that in order to efficiently target animal bone recovery there should be a system of direct feedback from the archaeozoologist to the site staff during the excavation, allowing fine tuning of the excavation strategy to concentrate on the recovery of animal bones from features which have the highest potential. This will also allow the faunal remains to materially add to the interpretation as the excavation proceeds. Liaison with other environmental specialists will need to take place in order to produce a complete interdisciplinary study during this phase of activity. In addition, this feedback will aid effective targeting of the post-excavation analysis.

e) Insects: If contexts having potential for insect preservation are found, samples will be taken in conjunction with waterlogged plant macrofossils. Samples of 5 litres will suffice for analysis and will be sampled adjacent to waterlogged seed samples and pollen; or where insufficient context material is available provision will be made for exchange of material between specialists.

f) Molluscs: Terrestrial and freshwater molluscs. Samples will be taken from a column from suitable ditches. Pits may be sampled, based on the advice of the Environmental Consultant and / or Historic England Regional Advisor. Provision will also be made for molluscs obtained from other sampling aspects (seeds) to be examined and/or kept for future requirements.

g) Archiving: Environmental remains obtained should be stored in conditions appropriate for analysis in the short to medium term, that is giving the ability for full analysis at a later date without any degradation

of samples being analysed. The results will be maintained as an archive at AS and supplied to the HE regional co-ordinator as requested.

Waterlogged Deposits/Remains

Should waterlogged deposits (such as wells/deep ditches) be encountered, provision has been made for controlled hand excavation and sampling. Dr Rob Scaife/Dr John Summers will visit to advise of sampling as required, and AS will take monolith samples as necessary for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental information and dating evidence.

Scientific/Absolute Dating

- Samples will be obtained for potential scientific/absolute dating as appropriate (eg Carbon-14).

FINDS PROCESSING

The Project Manager (and Project Officer) will have overall responsibility for the finds and will liaise with AS's own finds personnel and the relevant specialists. A person with particular responsibility for finds on site will be appointed for the excavation.

The person will ensure that the finds are properly labelled and packaged on site for transportation to AS's field base. The finds processing will take place in tandem with the excavations and will be under the supervision of AS's Finds Officer.

The finds processing will entail first aid conservation, cleaning (if appropriate), marking (if appropriate), categorising, bagging, labelling, boxing and basic cataloguing (the compilation of a Small Finds Catalogue and quantification of bulk finds), i.e., such that the finds are ready to be made available to the specialists.

The Finds Officer, having been advised by the Project Officer and relevant specialists, will select material for conservation. AS's Finds Officer, in conjunction with the Project Officer, will arrange for the specialists to view the finds for the purpose of report writing.

Appendix 5: The Updated Project Design (Newton and Bull 2019)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND NORTH OF FENTON'S FARM, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND MONITORING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

Authors: Andrew A. S. Newton MPhil (Report) Kerrie Bull (Fieldwork & report) Illustrations: Danielle Hall	
NGR: TL 878 600	Report No: 5898
District: St Edmundsbury	Site Code: WLG 038
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: P7445
	Date: 23 September 2019 rev. 18 March 2020

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Land North of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk*		
During June and July 2018, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation on land north of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk. The excavation was undertaken prior to the proposed construction of a new residential development and was preceded by an archaeological trial trench evaluation, also conducted by AS. *The excavation revealed archaeological features solely of Romano-British date. Initial examination of the results of the excavation suggests that these features represent three distinct phases of activity. The earliest of these is dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD and consists of a large of number of pits containing only minimal artefactual assemblages. It appears that they may have been excavated in order to utilise the underlying natural substrate. The second phase of activity is represented by the excavation of a substantial ditch running across the site on a broadly north-west to south-east alignment. It is likely that this represents the remnant of a fairly large scale boundary feature. The third phase of activity has been initially dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries. It consists of an inhumation cemetery containing the remains of at least 69 individuals. A number of these burials have been decapitated, something which is not uncommon in rural late Romano-British cemeteries, but there are some indications that some of these individuals were executed rather than having their heads carefully removed after death. Other burials have been interred in a prone position. Grave goods are limited but include bone combs and a number of small purple beads. The chronology of the burials is interesting as some appear to have been deposited directly into the Phase 2 Ditch.* *The site is positioned over an interesting geological feature, consisting of a band of sandy material flanked by clayey deposits rich in gravel. It seems likely that the archaeology either targeted or was influenced by this feature.*			
Project dates (fieldwork)			
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work*	*N*
P. number	*P7445*	*Site code*	*WLG 038*
Type of project	*Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)			
Significant finds (+dates)			
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Suffolk*	*St Edmundsbury*	*Great Whelnetham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record (SCC CHER)*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*0.4ha.*		
NGR	*TL 878 600*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c.55m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Suffolk County Council*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Archaeological Solutions Ltd*		
Funded by	*Havebury Housing Partnership*		
Full title	*Land North of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk. Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring. Archaeological Assessment and Updated Project Design*		
Authors	*Bull, K, Newton, A. A. S.*		
Report no.	*5898*		
Date (of report)	*23 September 2019; 18 March 2020*		

LAND NORTH OF FENTON'S FARM, STANNINGFIELD ROAD, GREAT WHELNETHAM, SUFFOLK
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND MONITORING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

Summary

During June and July 2018, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation on land north of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk. The excavation was undertaken prior to the proposed construction of a new residential development and was preceded by an archaeological trial trench evaluation, also conducted by AS.

The excavation revealed archaeological features solely of Romano-British date. Initial examination of the results of the excavation suggests that these features represent three distinct phases of activity. The earliest of these is dated to the 1st to 2nd centuries AD and consists of a large of number of pits containing only minimal artefactual assemblages. It appears that they may have been excavated in order to utilise the underlying natural substrate. The second phase of activity is represented by the excavation of a substantial ditch running across the site on a broadly north-west to south-east alignment. It is likely that this represents the remnant of a fairly large scale boundary feature. The third phase of activity has been initially dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries. It consists of an inhumation cemetery containing the remains of at least 69 individuals. A number of these burials have been decapitated, something which is not uncommon in rural late Romano-British cemeteries, but there are some indications that some of these individuals were executed rather than having their heads carefully removed after death. Other burials have been interred in a prone position. Grave goods are limited but include bone combs and a number of small purple beads. The chronology of the burials is interesting as some appear to have been deposited directly into the Phase 2 Ditch.

The site is positioned over an interesting geological feature, consisting of a band of sandy material flanked by clayey deposits rich in gravel. It seems likely that the archaeology either targeted or was influenced by this feature.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between the 18th of June and 6th of July 2018, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation on land north of Fenton's Farm, Stanningfield Road, Great Whelnetham, Suffolk (NGR TL 878 600; Figs. 1 - 2). The excavation was undertaken prior to the proposed construction of a new residential development on the site. It was carried out according to the requirements of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT), and was required in compliance with a planning condition on approval requiring a programme of archaeological work (St Edmundsbury Council Planning Approval DC/16/1268/FUL). The excavation was preceded by an archaeological trial trench evaluation (Muir & Higgs 2018).

1.2 The project accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (Rachael Abraham, dated 16th February 2018), and a specification compiled by AS (5th March 2018). It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2014) and adhered to relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 This document is presented in two parts. Part I briefly outlines the preliminary results of the archaeological fieldwork, while Part II – the Updated Project Design – sets out the framework for post-excavation analysis and report writing.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The principal objective was to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the site by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

2.2 The principal research aims were to: -

- Place the activity in context with the known activity of these dates in the surrounding area;
- Characterise the activity present within the site;
- Identify topographical/geological/geographical influences on the layout and development of the activity present within the current site and in the surrounding area; and
- Environmental reconstruction.

Research Design

2.3 The previous archaeological evaluation of the site has revealed features/inhumations of Roman date.

2.4 The research priorities for the region are set out in Glazebrook (1997) and Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and updated by Medlycott and Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011). Medlycott (2011, 47) identifies regional variation and tribal distinctions as underlying themes for research in the Roman period. Research topics for the Roman period previously set out by Going & Plouviez (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 19-22) include analysis of early and late Roman military developments, further analysis of large and small towns, evidence of food consumption and production, further research into agricultural production, landscape research (in particular further evidence for potential woodland succession/regression and issues of relict landscapes, as well as further research into the road network and bridging points), further research into rural settlements and coastal issues. Medlycott (2011, 47-48) states that these research areas remain valid and presents updated consideration of them. To these themes Medlycott & Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011, 47-48) add rural settlements and landscapes, the process of Romanisation in the region, the evidence for the Imperial Fen Estate, and the Roman/Saxon transition.

2.5 More specific research themes include the need to understand the site within its local and regional HER context, particularly in terms of patterns of Roman settlement and funerary activity. In light of this, it will be necessary to integrate findings with those from the large Roman settlement to the north of the site (HER WLG 005), incorporating and area of cremations (HER WLG 004); provision will be made at PXA stage to obtain details of the results of this project. Full reporting and illustration of the finds evidence may also allow an assessment of various social questions, including levels and rates of Romanisation and the relative status of the site's inhabitants. It might also be possible to explore social and/or economic links with other settlements in the area, e.g. the large Roman settlement at Pakenham (HER PKM 007), some 8.6km distant. Similar analyses have been undertaken by AS at Asheldham Quarry, Essex (Mustchin *et al.* forthcoming) and Woodditton on the Suffolk/Cambridgeshire boarder (Mustchin *et al.* 2016).

2.6 The layout and chronological development of the Roman site, in addition to any evidence of settlement continuity with earlier and later periods, is another important research avenue. Spatial analyses may allow an assessment of the zoning of different activities within the site (and over time), possibly including industrial activity, agricultural processing and craft-level production. The graves recorded by the evaluation also present the potential to investigate any spatial/chronological patterning of funerary activity within the site and its immediate environs. The intercutting inhumation burials and possible burials identified within Trial Trench 6 appear to form part of a more

extensive funerary landscape (see below). Depending on the preservation state of human remains (particularly in the case of inhumations) and the presence of grave goods, it may also be possible to assess the relative status of the burial population as well as make various osteological and demographic assessments. The requirement/potential for scientific dating of funerary contexts will be discussed with SCC AS-CT at PXA stage.

2.7 Sparse Roman urned cremations and inhumations have previously been recorded associated with the Roman settlement at Sicklesmere to the north, and recent (ongoing) investigations at Erskine Lodge *c.*250m to the north have recorded five inhumations (to date) associated with potential settlement evidence (Evershed 2016). Therefore the graves comprise the southernmost evidence for Roman activity to the south of the settlement at Sicklesmere, but it remains unclear if there was a defined cemetery related to that recorded at Erskine Lodge where a significant component of the pottery was dated to the 2nd century AD (Evershed 2016, 25-27). It is uncertain whether the burials were contemporary with areas of occupation, or whether a postulated route to the south provided a foci. Roadside burials immediately outside settlements in the Roman period are not uncommon. The characterisation of Roman rural settlement, and the importance of identifying Roman burials, especially those in rural cemeteries has long been recognised in research agenda (Going 1997, 37 & 40; Medlycott 2011, 33 & 42), and the results of this evaluation suggest that this site has a modest to high potential to contribute to this theme.

3 THE SITE

3.1 The site comprises land north of Fenton's farm, Great Whelnetham (Figs. 1 & 2). It was a field on the western side of Stanningfield Road in the village, and extends to some 0.4ha, and it lies at *c.*55m AOD.

4 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.1 Great Whelnetham lies within a gently undulating landscape. It is located on the south-eastern bank of the River Lark valley, with the river only 350m to the north-west of the site. The site lies at *c.*55m AOD, with the surrounding relief sloping downwards to the north-west.

4.2 The underlying geology of the area comprises the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation, all of which were formed in the Cretaceous period (BGS 2015). Such natural geology is overlain by a drift geology of Lacustrine deposits of clay and silt, whilst soils of the area comprise those of the Melford Association, which are described as deep, well drained loamy soils (SSEW 1983).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

5.1 The majority of prehistoric remains from the surrounding area attest to the focus of early occupation and exploitation along the course of the River Lark, which flows through Sicklesmere further northwards and only 300m to the north-west of the site (Hambrook 1970). The early prehistoric period is represented by Palaeolithic animal bones, mammoth tusk and a late Palaeolithic flint hand-axe discovered in a gravel pit located to the north and on the northern bank of the river at Sicklesmere (HER WLG 024 - MSF30982).

5.2 A former brickworks pit at Sicklesmere, to the north of the River Lark and within the parish of Little Whelnetham, contained late Hoxnian peat deposits and four prehistoric handaxes (HER WLL 008 - MSF30986). A watching brief at the sewage treatment works 300m to the north-west of the site also found a sherd of Roman pottery and late Neolithic or Bronze Age struck flint including a broken retouched blade and a fragment of burnt flint (HER WLG 026 - MSF30983).

Romano-British

5.3 The hamlet of Sicklesmere to the north has also revealed extensive evidence for Roman settlement close to the banks of the river Lark. Antiquarian discoveries by Mr G. Basil Barham from 1904 onwards indicate a sizable settlement at Sicklesmere (HERs WLG 003 - MSF6238), with finds of '*three small pots, fetters, Samian, lamp slipper etc found in Symonds pit*', as well as Roman coins. A Roman pottery kiln, built from black earth, red wattle and daub, plain fired clay and containing 2nd century coarse grey sherds, is known from behind Sicklesmere garage and 400m north-east of the site (HER WLG 002 - MSF6237). An excavation further northwards of Sicklesmere in 1964 has also revealed four Roman coins, pottery, nails, fragments of bricks and tile and animal bones, as well as a kiln flue and three nails, fragments of bricks and tile and animal bones (HER WLG 007 - MSF4888).

5.4 Evidence for Roman activity comprising an urned cremation and two inhumations, together with Roman coarse pottery, Samian, oysters and animal bones was found during the course of digging house foundations in Sicklesmere (HER WLG 004 - MSF6239). A large Roman settlement has been identified 300m to the north of the site and also along the western frontage of Stanningfield Road (HER WLG 005 - MSF6240; Evershed 2016). Metal detector finds from 350m to the north-north-west of the site comprise 'over 600 Roman coins' and other artefacts including a cosmetic grinder (HER WLG 018 - MSF20600). An additional Roman coin and other items have been found to the north of Sicklesmere (HER WLG 036 - MSF33904). A late 3rd – 4th century Roman pottery scatter and evidence for 'occupation rubbish' is also recorded at Sicklesmere (HER WLG 019 - MSF19164).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

5.5 Place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Great Whelnetham, alias *Whelnetham Magna*, which derives from the Old English word *Hvelfiham*, meaning a 'water meadow frequented by swans' (Rye 1991). Archaeological evidence is limited to a find of a lead (probably pewter) disc brooch which was discovered to the north-east of Sicklesmere in 1996 (HER WLG 016 - MSF18006). In 1086 Domesday Book refers to Great Whelnetham as *Huelfiham*, within which were '41 villeins with 6 carucates of land' (Hambrook 1970).

5.6 Although Domesday also refers to 'two churches endowed with 40 acres of free land held by religious service' (*ibid.*), the extant Grade I listed Church of St Thomas a Becket is medieval with 1839 and 1883 alterations (HER DSF9224). A medieval moat is recorded at Great Whelnetham Hall, which stands 800m to the south of the site (HER WLG 001 - MSF6236). Almost 1km to the east at Little Whelnetham lie the scheduled remains of a circular structure to the east of the church (HERs WLG 006 - MSF2692 & DSF15942). Masonry suggests early Norman but hardly Saxon date and the remains probably represent a chapel, but its precise purpose remains unknown.

Post-medieval

5.7 Listed buildings are located within Great Whelnetham, with the majority on Stanningfield Road to the north of the site. To the immediate south of the site is the Grade II listed Fentons Farmhouse which dates to the early 19th century (HERs DSF8038 & 1230109). Further southwards is the Grade II listed Tutelina Mill, which is a now disused tower mill dated 1865 and described as 'a good example of a small, late windmill and one of the very few tower mills in Suffolk which retains the potential for a full restoration' (HERs DSF9469 & 1230110).

6 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

6.1 Archaeological Evaluation (Fig. 2b)

A trial trench evaluation of the site was carried out by AS (Muir & Higgs 2018). In summary:

Eight trial trenches were excavated across the site. The archaeological features were present in Trenches 5 and 6, located in the central eastern sector of the site. The features were numerous (Trench 5 (eight) and 6 (seven)), and comprised pits and graves. The pits were either closely-spaced or inter-cutting within Trenches 5 and 6. With the exception of Pit F1024, the majority of the pits were undated or contained sparse Roman pottery. The presence of such pits may be consistent with peripheral activity around the large Roman settlement identified 300m to the north, and potentially also associated with Roman funerary activity that is typically located on marginal areas on the outskirts of settlements. Pit F1007 (Trench 5) contained a small fragment (1g) of copper alloy Roman bracelet.

Partially inter-cutting graves were recorded at the eastern end of Trench 6. Grave F1026 had been disturbed and partially truncated, and the human remains were recorded and lifted. The grave included the significant proportion of a central Gaulish Samian ware cup, dated to the 2nd century AD, which is conspicuously well-preserved in comparison with other Roman pottery sherds from the site, thus may have been a grave good associated with the skeleton. Graves F1028 and F1034 appear to preserve in situ *inhumation burials (the former extending beyond the trench), and the skeletons were not excavated, pending subsequent investigations. ?Graves F1030 and F1032, uppermost in the stratigraphic sequence, appeared significantly disturbed and no evidence of human remains was recorded within them. Sparse Roman urned cremations and inhumations have previously been recorded at Sicklesmere, and these graves appear to supplement them as part of the funerary evidence located on or beyond the southern extent of the Roman settlement.*

The earliest find comprised a single flint blade, potentially of early Neolithic origin, contained as residual material in Grave F1026 (Trench 6) and Pit F1024 (Trench 6) contained a single sherd of modern pottery which may be intrusive.

7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 Based on the results of the archaeological evaluation SCC AS-CT required a programme of open excavation and monitoring to further investigate archaeological remains within the site. This was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by SCC AS-CT (dated 16th February 2018) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 5th March 2018).

7.2 The brief required:

- Controlled strip, map and excavation of part of the Phase 2 development area (extending to *c.*1343m2) as defined in the brief and shown on the appended plan, where archaeological features were recorded during the preceding trial trench evaluation. Provision for extension of the excavation area is provided should archaeological remains be found to extend beyond the area, and until a 10m buffer containing no archaeological remains is defined.

- The site strip will be carried out under archaeological supervision, with a back acting excavator fitted with a wide toothless ditching bucket. The excavation area will be clearly demarcated and machinery will be prevented from tracking across the stripped area until all archaeological investigations are complete, and the site has been signed off by SCC AS-CT and handed back to the developer.

7.3 The upper levels of the site were homogenous and the initial site strip ceased at the level of the original trial trenches. While some features were visible at this level, a test pitting exercise, indicated that grave cuts were not visible. The mechanical excavation proceeded in shallow (*c.*5cm) spits until feature cuts were visible or human bone was encountered. Finds exposed during machining were assigned to L2001, and their location was recorded so that they could be assigned to underlying features.

During the machining metal detection of each spit was undertaken and the finds recovered.

7.4 More graves were found than anticipated i.e. indicated by the trial trench evaluation, and the majority graves cut were not visible. When the excavation was `complete' the site was substantially re-machined in the area of the burials (and garden area of the development) so that the site was thoroughly searched to a depth of 2m for all burials.

7.5 The quarry pits were substantially, but not fully, excavated so as to dedicate the resources to the recovery and analysis of the burials.

7.6 Exposed surfaces were cleaned as and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavation area was scanned by metal detector.

7.7 Graham Brandejs detected the site prior to the soil stripping; surveying the site based on a 5m grid and locating the finds by GPS. Regular additional surveys were undertaken during the execution of the excavation.

Environmental sampling

7.8 The evaluation revealed numerous features, including pits and graves, attributable to the Roman period. The activity was interpreted as peripheral activity around a large Roman settlement. As such, there is the potential for the deposition of occupation debris within these features and for the recovery of valuable environmental archaeological remains. Samples from large Roman pits will be taken from each fill.

7.9 Preservation is likely to be in the form of carbonised material, which will be recovered through a programme of bulk sampling. Sampling will focus on stratified pit and ditch features, many of which are likely to date to the Roman period. These have the potential to retain carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal. Carbonised macrofossils, which are largely representative of cereal cultivation, have the potential to provide valuable insights into diet and economy. This will add to understanding of the nature activity represented by the archaeological deposits, as well as put the site in context. Sampling of grave fills is also essential, most significantly for the recovery of small skeletal elements and artefacts, but also to assess the environmental archaeological potential of these deposits.

8 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Based on the recovered artefact assemblage (pottery and CBM) and recorded stratigraphic sequence, Three principal phases of past activity were interpreted, dating to the Romano-British period (Fig. 3b). A small number of features which contained no datable material were encountered and have been tentatively dated by considering their similarities, or dissimilarity, (and spatial relationship) to dated features.

analysis will incorporate comparison between the burials recorded at this site and those at other sites to determine if this site contains a higher incidence of potentially executed individuals. Comparison with burials recorded at the settlement site further to the north in Great Whelnetham (e.g. Evershed 2016) to determine if there are any clear differences in the chronology of the cemeteries, the burial rites observed, and the treatment of the dead will be carried out. If differences in the latter two factors are observed, this might indicate differential treatment of the dead and may explain the choice of this location away from the main areas of settlement.

10.6 The burials, their possible treatment at the time of death, their treatment after death, the layout of the cemetery, and the demographics of the cemetery population form the main areas of research interest for this site. Additionally, the site can contribute important information to the development and layout of the Roman settlement at Great Whelnetham/Sicklesmere and such issues will form a further area of research interest to be addressed during post-excavation.

PART II. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

11 UPDATE OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

The original academic aims and objectives of the project are presented in Section 2 of this report (above).

Following the completion of fieldwork, these aims remain valid. The original aims and objectives are incorporated into, and expanded upon, by the Updated Aims and Objectives set out in Section 12, below. These are derived from the assessments of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence from the site, presented in Part I of this document. They have been developed with the updated regional research framework for Eastern England (Medlycott 2011). The suggested bibliography, comprising material for comparison and reference, is presented in Section 13.

12 UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.

Dating, phasing and chronological development of the site

<u>Research objectives</u>

Re-examination of dating evidence

- While the Phase 1 pits clearly represent the first stratigraphic phase of activity, the stratigraphic relationship between the (Phase 3) cemetery and the (Phase 2) Ditch F2043 is unclear as some burials appear to have been placed into the ditch and have no clear grave cuts. The initial objective of post-excavation analysis will be to refine the phasing of the site through further interrogation of the stratigraphic evidence and the dateable artefactual evidence. This is likely to be aided by

further work on the finds assemblages, particularly the small finds which may contain important indicators of date.

Phase 1. Excavation of pits

Research objectives

The function of the pits

- The Phase 1 pits appear to have been focussed on the band of natural geological sandy deposits present at the site. It is possible that their function was directly associated with this. Medlycott (2011, 48) indicates that impact of Roman quarrying and extractive industries on the landscape needs further study.
    - In order to determine if these pits were the result of the utilisation of the sandy deposits, their shape and dimensions will be analysed and compared with those at other Roman sites where quarrying is recorded (e.g. Parry 1999; Parry 2011). This will be combined with examination of synthetic studies of Roman quarrying (e.g. Pearson 2005) to understand how the quarrying activity may have been carried, what the material was used for, and whether or not this might have been an economic industrial undertaking.
    - Examination of the nature of the geological feature that the pits appear to target will be carried out in order to understand the purpose for which these deposits may have been extracted.
    - The limited finds assemblages will be re-examined to determine if the pits may have had an alternative or secondary function, such as the deposition of refuse.

Phase 2. Ditch F2043

Research objectives

The function of Ditch F2043

- The function of Ditch F2043 is not immediately clear, although it potentially represents a boundary of some description. As Medlycott (2011, 46) identifies rural settlements as an important area of research for the Romano-British period it will be important to utilise information from this site to contribute to an understanding of the form of the Roman settlement at Great Whelnetham/Sicklesmere. Identifying the role and function of this ditch will contribute to a greater understanding of how land was organised during the Romano-British period in the vicinity of Great Whelnetham. This will be carried out by examining previously recorded evidence for Roman settlement at Great Whelnetham (e.g. Evershed 2016), to determine how it may have related to the rest of the settlement, and work on the importance and significance of boundaries in the Roman period (e.g. Burleigh 2015; Hingley 1990) to understand the possible functions for a ditch of this scale in this position.

Phase 3. The Roman cemetery

The Romano-British cemetery population is the aspect of the site which has most research significance. This has the potential to provide information relating to demography, health/disease, and lifestyle amongst the local Romano-British population. It is also likely to provide information relating to ritual practices (an important area of research for the period, as identified by Medlycott (2011, 48)) due to the identified presence of a variety of burial practices/positions.

<u>Research objectives</u>

The human remains

- To obtain as much information as possible regarding the individual represented by their skeletal remains
    - Demographic analysis, metrical and morphological analysis, dental analysis, and analysis of pathologies will be required, as detailed by Anderson, Ch. 9.6, above. Comparison of this data with similar information from comparable sites (e.g. Lucy & Evans 2016; Matthews 1981, McKinley 1993, McKinley & Dinwiddy 2009; Mudd 2002; Müldner *et al* 2011; Nicholson 2006; Wells 1976) will contribute to an understanding of how the Great Whelnetham population compared in terms of these criteria to other populations from Suffolk and further afield in the eastern region.
    - Radiocarbon dating of the skeletal remains will help to establish the date of these burials and to identify the period of time over which the burial ground was in use.

- To establish what the burial positions, the arrangement of the graves, the apparent 'deviant' burials, and the arrangement of the cemetery reveal about Romano-British belief systems, attitudes to the dead, and the identity of the dead.
    - Essays relating to identity, ethnicity, gender, age status and religion are presented and edited by Diaz-Andreu *et al* (2005). Keegan 2002 and White 2007 discuss the role of identity in relation to burial rites.
    - Decapitated burials are discussed by Crerar (2012), Boylston *et al* (2000), Harman *et al* (1981), Müldner *et al* (2011), and Tucker (2013). This synthetic research will provide a basis for understanding the decapitated burials and the circumstance surrounding the removal of their heads
    - 'Deviant' burials of the Romano-British period in general are discussed by Crerar (2016) and McKinley & Dinwiddy (2009). These studies will contribute to an understanding of such burial practices and allow the burials at Great Whelnetham to be set into context.

- Roman burial practice in general is discussed by Black (1986), Casa Hatton (1999), Gerrard (2015), Hope (1999), Hope (2007), Philpott (1991) and Toynbee (1996).
- Analysis of the distribution of individuals of different ages and genders, followed with comparison of such distribution with other relevant sites.

- To establish what the evidence for disease and injuries (of all forms) indicates about the cemetery population.
  - Can the identified pathologies be used to identify the levels of wealth or social status of the individuals represented here?
  - Are particular activities or trades indicated by the pathologies?
  - Can the pathologies be linked to certain environmental factors?

Finds recovered with the human remains

- Only a small number of burials were considered to have been buried with associated grave goods during excavation. These consisted of bone combs (initially dated as 4th century) with SK14 and SK47, a barbed and tanged arrowhead found with SK19, a nail and metal studs found with SK37, small glass beads found with SK44, and hobnails with SK 56. However, other finds were recovered from a larger number of burials. This includes small quantities of slag from five of the graves- in other periods and locations, a symbolic significance has been attached to slag found in graves. Post-excavation research will examine:
  - The meaning and function of those objects identified as grave goods to determine if there was a symbolic meaning to their presence within the grave or if they imply represent the remnants of the clothing/costume that the deceased was buried wearing. Studies of artefacts of these types (e.g. Ashby 2007; Guido 1978; Dungworth 1998) may help to elucidate both their function and the role they may have played in the funerary/burial rite.
  - The possibility that the artefacts recovered from graves but not initially identified as grave goods had a specific meaning or function as part of the burial rite rather than simply being accidental inclusions in the grave fills. This may be particularly pertinent with regard to the slag (e.g. Shepherd 1997).

- To establish what the small finds assemblage/grave goods indicate about the social status, levels of wealth, trade connections, and religious beliefs of the individuals and wider community represented by these burials.
  - Essays relating to identity, ethnicity, gender, age status and religion are presented and edited by Diaz-Andreu *et al* (2005). Keegan (20020, Rosten (2007) and (White 2007) discuss the role of identity in relation to burial rites.
  - Henig (1984) discusses Roman religion and Black (1986) discussed Roman religion in relation to burial practice. These studies will be used to identify if religious practice or beliefs can be understood from the burials

- de la Bédoyère (2014), Faulkner (2002 & 2003), and Taylor, J. (2001) provide information regarding rural and late Romano-British society which will be used to understand the cultural norms and modes of behaviour influencing the population who were burying their dead at Great Whelnetham.

Organisation and arrangement of the cemetery

- To understand the arrangement of the cemetery and how this may have been influenced by the local geography/geology, pre-existing features, and ritual/religious considerations (including Roman and local belief systems).
    - What is the relationship between the graves and the large ditch which crosses the site?
    - What evidence is there for the use of grave markers?
    - What evidence is there for funerary architecture?
    - Henig (1984) discusses Roman religion and Black (1986) discussed Roman religion in relation to burial practice.
    - Roman burial practice in general is discussed by Black (1986), Casa Hatton (1999), Gerrard (2015), Hope (1999), Hope (2007), Philpott (1991) and Toynbee (1996).

The current site and the wider Roman settlement

<u>Research objectives</u>

Medlycott (2011, 46) identifies rural settlements as an important area of research for the Romano-British period. Information from this site will contribute to an understanding of the form of the Roman settlement at Great Whelnetham/Sicklesmere and will therefore contribute to other research objectives relate to rural settlement identified by Medlycott (2011).

The development of the site

- Through comparison with the available evidence from excavations of elements of the Roman settlement elsewhere in Great Whelnetham it will be attempted to identify commonalities in chronological development between the different excavated sites. It may be possible to identify developmental events which coincide with the stratigraphic phases evident at the current site. This will be aided by the refining of the phasing which will be carried out as the initial phase of post-excavation research

The position of the site within the wider settlement

- Through comparison with the available evidence from excavations of elements of the Roman settlement elsewhere in Great Whelnetham and with other comparable rural Roman sites (e.g. Ashwin 7 Tester 2014; Atkins & Connor 2010; Hinman 2003; Lucy & Evans 2016; Nicholson & Woolhouse 2016; Smedley 1960) it will be attempted to reconstruct the possible layout of Roman Great Whelnetham.

- This will be supported through reference to works regarding the Roman rural landscape both in Suffolk and further afield (e.g. Cameron 1993; Hingley 1989; Moore *et al* 1988; Plouviez 1995 & 1999; Scarfe 1972; Taylor 2010).

The wider Roman world

- An examination of the artefactual evidence will be used to identify any clear links with other settlements in the surrounding area or further afield.

Radiocarbon dating

Radiocarbon dating is likely to have limited benefits in elucidating the chronology of the site. However, the pottery recovered from the graves is indicative of a 2nd to 3rd century date which appears to be at odds with the date of the bone combs which have been recovered as grave goods from two of the burials. Radiocarbon dating may be used to determine the approximate date of the cemetery. Stratigraphic relationships between the graves are limited and the sequence in which they were cut is not immediately clear. However, based on the limited stratigraphic relationships that do exist it is possible to speculate that Grave F2201 is potentially the earliest grave in the sequence and that Grave F2035 is potentially the latest. Dating of human remains from these graves should provide a base range which can be used to revise a Bayesian model and plan for future C14 dating. Dating of the stratigraphically early cremation from F2365 should provide a date for the earliest of the site for the deposition of human remains.

Contexts which have been selected for C14 dating are:

- The cremation recovered from F2365 L2366
- The dog remains recovered from F2294 L2295
- Human skeletal material from Grave F2035 (L2036)- potentially the most recent grave
- Human skeletal material from Grave F2201 (L2202)- potentially the earliest inhumation grave in the sequence

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