Conford House
and 1-21 Exmoor Road,
Felixstowe, FEX 309

Archaeological
Evaluation Report

Client: Lovell Partnership Ltd
OA East Report No: 1427
OASIS No: oxfordar3-138422
NGR: TM 29938 35591

January 2013
Conford House and 1-21 Exmoor Road, Felixstowe.

Archaeological Evaluation

By Jonathan House BA

With contributions by Chris Faine BA Msc Alfa

Editor: Christopher Thatcher BA

Illustrator: Dave Brown BA

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Report Number: 1427
Site Name: Conford House and 1-21 Exmoor Road, Felixstowe.
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Date of Works: Nov 2012
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Position: Regional Manager
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Signed:

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Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast

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Summary

An evaluation was carried out by OA East on the 22nd to 23rd November 2012 on the site of the former Conford House and numbers 1-21 Exmoor Road, Felixstowe (TM 29928 35591).

A total of six trenches were excavated which revealed evidence for post medieval activity, including the burial of a dog, and an undated ditch that was likely to be of a much earlier date, possibly pre-historic.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work
1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on the site of the former Conford House and demolished bungalows on Exmoor Road to the north-west of Felixstowe, centred on TM 29928 35591. This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Judith Plouviez of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

1.1.2 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The results will enable decisions to be made by SCCAS/CT, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.3 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography
1.2.1 The proposed development area lies on relatively flat ground at approximately 20m AOD on a gentle promontory sloping away to the north-east, towards the River Deben, located at a distance of 3.7km, and also towards the River Orwell, 3km to the south-west. The route of the A154 runs south-east to north-west immediately to the north of the site before turning southwards to the east. To the south, the course of Walton High Street runs south-west to north east approximately 250m from the site.

1.2.2 The underlying geology is Red Crag Formation deposits including abundantly shelly sand. These deposits are overlain in places by the drift deposit of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup Sand and Gravel (Woodbridge and Felixstowe: Solid and Drift: Sheet 208). The sand and gravels were overlain by loess, a material consisting of wind blown sands and silts, however within many of the trenches, these deposits were truncated away.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background
1.3.1 The Suffolk Historic Environment Record records a series of Roman cremations which lie to the south and south-east of the site, perhaps following a former road. In addition, although no finds have been recorded from the site itself, remains of prehistoric date might be encountered due to the favourable soils in the area and the presence of later Roman activity.

1.3.2 Recent archaeological investigations carried out 0.8km to the west (Pankhurst, and Hinman, 2012) and north west (House, 2012) recorded features indicative of a prehistoric landscape. This is supported by the abundance of features identified by aerial photography in the vicinity of the site.

1.4 Acknowledgements
1.4.1 The author would like to thank Lovells Partnership Ltd who commissioned and funded the archaeological works. The author would also like to thank the site staff: Andrew Greef, and Dave Brown and also Paul Spoerry, who managed the project, and Judith Plouviez, who monitored the project.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims
2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological investigation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology
2.2.1 The Brief required that all archaeological deposits should be investigated, and recorded.
2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360 type, excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
2.2.3 Several changes were made to the original trench plan. These included widening the trenches from 1.5m to 3m and shortening them from 30m to 15m. These alterations were made to aid the identification of features in potential loess deposits, and enable re-machining of the trenches if required.
2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by Dave Brown using Leica GPS 1200.
2.2.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected finds recovered were obviously modern and were not retained.
2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
2.2.7 No suitable deposits were encountered within the evaluation for environmental analysis.
2.2.8 The site conditions and the weather did not inhibit the archaeological work.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction
3.1.1 A total of six trenches were excavated. The trench dimensions were 3m in width and 15m in length unless otherwise stated. The results are presented by trench below.

3.2 Trench 1
3.2.1 The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.48m at the western end, and 0.44m at the eastern end. The top soil was 0.2m deep, thickening slightly at the western end to 0.26m.
3.2.2 Significant modern disturbance was recorded throughout most of the trench in the form of a large concrete pond. A small area of undisturbed deposits survived in the south-west corner of the trench. This comprised a greyish brown, sandy silt, subsoil 0.12m thick. Loess deposits also survived and were excavated to a depth 0.1m, but not bottomed.
3.2.3 The trench contained no finds or features of archaeological significance.

3.3 Trench 2
3.3.1 The trench was excavated next to Trench 1 as a result of the high level of truncation experienced within Trench 1. It was 2m in width and 20m in length, attempting to follow ground undisturbed by both the construction and subsequent demolition of the 1960s structures previously on the site. It was on average 0.50m deep with the topsoil ranging in depth from 0.32m to 0.30m. The subsoil was a a greyish brown, sandy silt, consistent in thickness within the trench and measuring 0.2m in depth.
3.3.2 A single undated ditch (2) was excavated that was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.4m in width and 0.15m in depth. It was first seen whilst cleaning the trench, cutting the loess material and into the underlying gravels. It contained a single, sterile fill (2) and the excavated section was extended for the purpose of finds retrieval, however no finds were recovered.
3.3.3 The trench contained a high frequency of modern intrusions, no other features of archaeological significance were present.

3.4 Trench 3
3.4.1 The soil deposits in this part of the site were thicker with Trench 3 being up to 0.99m deep. A clean reddish yellow sand, between 0.56m and 0.65m thick, overlay a buried topsoil at the northern end of the trench (see fig. 3 sections 2 and 3).
3.4.2 The buried topsoil measured 0.09m at the northern end of the trench, with the subsoil measuring 0.17m. At the southern end, the buried topsoil measured 0.21m and the subsoil measured 0.22m. A high frequency of red brick fragments and 19th to 20th century pottery sherds were observed within this deposit.
3.4.3 A deposit of loess was present at the southern end of the trench, this deposit thinned out to the north revealing the underlying gravels. A single dog burial was observed within the trench. A sherd of post medieval stoneware and a fragment of glass recovered from this feature suggest an 18th century date for the burial.
3.4.4 No other finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered within the trench.
3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.42m at the southern end, the northern end of the trench measured 0.48m in depth. Similar to Trench 3, the original ground surface was buried by a sand deposit, 0.33m thick at the northern end and 0.15m thick at the southern end. The soils within this trench appeared to have been stripped and replaced, with the original soil stripping also likely removing the loess deposits. The mixed topsoil and subsoil deposits measured 0.18m at the southern end and 0.15m at the northern end.

3.5.2 A machine test pit was excavated at the southern end, to check the gravels were not re-deposited. The trench contained no finds or features of archaeological significance.

3.6 Trench 5

3.6.1 The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.61m at the eastern end, the top soil measuring 0.16m and the subsoil 0.45m. However, as with Trench 4, these deposits appear to have been stripped and replaced. The western end was 0.57m in depth with 0.3m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil, and 0.12m of loess. The southern edge of the trench, although highly disturbed by modern intrusions, had not been previously stripped.

3.6.2 The trench contained no finds or features of archaeological significance.

3.7 Trench 6

3.7.1 The trench had evidently been previously stripped and truncated to the level of the gravels and was excavated to a depth of 0.7m. It revealed a topsoil measuring 0.46m in thickness and a 0.24m thick subsoil deposit.

3.7.2 No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.

3.8 Finds Summary

3.8.1 The only finds retained from the site came from the dog burial in Trench 3. These comprised a sherd of 18th century Stone Ware (pers. comm. Carole Fletcher), with a fragment of bottle glass, and the remains of a dog skeleton. No finds of an earlier date were recovered during the evaluation, either contextual or unstratified.
4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Conclusions

4.1.1 The prior development of the site during the 1960s caused widespread ground disturbance, with large areas of the site being stripped of soils down to the underlying gravels, perhaps for the purpose of levelling the site. This levelling activity may also explain the absence of loess material in parts of the site, and the burial of soil deposits under made ground in the southern part of the site.

4.1.2 The undated ditch (1) identified within Trench 2 almost certainly pre-dates any of the other activity seen on the site. The sterile, leached character of the backfill (2) in particular, suggests a much earlier date. Archaeological investigations to the west (Pankhurst, and Hinman 2012) and to the north-west (House 2012), recorded ditches on similar alignments. It may be that these features represent part of a wider field system; although the wide dispersal of these sites, over a distance of 0.8km, means that further examples within the landscape would be needed to confirm this interpretation.

4.1.3 The presence of brick fragments and pottery sherds within the buried topsoil in Trench 3, suggests the presence of a post medieval structure to the east of the site. The dog burial, which contained finds of 18th century date, also suggests post medieval activity in the vicinity. This may have been a farm building as the site lies at some distance from the former extents of the historic villages of Walton and Felixstowe.

4.1.4 It is quite possible that modern truncation and intrusions have destroyed further archaeological remains, however the absence of unstratified finds earlier than the post medieval period may suggest limited potential for earlier archaeological remains, at least in the immediate vicinity.

4.2 Recommendations

4.2.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.
APPENDIX A. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

A.1 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

A.1.1 Thirty eight fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation weighing 322 grams. All fragments were recovered from context 4 and took the form of a partially articulated skeleton of an adult male dog with a withers height of around 17.1cm.

APPENDIX B. SPECIFICATION
Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

Oxford Archaeology Ltd is an Institute of Field Archaeologists Registered Organisation and follows IFA By-Laws, Standards and Policy.

Site Name: Conford House & 1-21 Exmoor Road, Felixstowe  
Site Code: XSFCOH10  
County (Grid Ref): Suffolk TM 299 355

Project No.: 12410  
Project Type: Evaluation  
Event No.: 

Planning App. No.: C/10/1205  
Client: Lovell Partnership Ltd  
Date: 26/10/10  
Author: Stephen Macaulay

5 1 General Background

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

A programme of archaeological work was requested by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (J. Plouviez 20/9/10) in response to a planning application for the redevelopment of Conford House and 1-21 Exmoor Road, Felixstowe.

The proposed development lies between the historic settlements of Walton and Felixstowe. The site is located in an area of high archaeological potential and close to a number of known archaeological finds.

A Trial Trenching investigation is now required for the site and a minimum 5% sample of the development area is stipulated.

This OAE Specification accepts in full the requirements as set out in the Suffolk County Council Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation – Conford House and 1-21 Exmoor Road, Felixstowe – J Plouviez 20/9/10.
1.2 The Geology and Topography of the Site

The development area (c0.53ha) is located on fairly level ground (c20m OD). Soils are deep loam (Wick3) close to deep sandy (Newport2), derived from the underlying glaciofluvial and Aeolian drift.

1.3 The Proposed Development

The proposed development includes the construction of 14 dwellings and open space and the demolition of Conford House and existing dwellings at 1-21 Exmoor Road.

6 2 Archaeological Background

The proposed development site lies towards the east of Walton and north of Felixstowe. The Suffolk Historic Environment Record records a series of Roman cremations which lie to the south and southeast of the site, perhaps following a former road, to be expected with finds of this nature. In addition, although no finds have been recorded from the site itself, remains of prehistoric date might be encountered due to the favourable soils in the area and the presence of later Roman activity.

7 3 Objectives

3.1 The evaluation will seek to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

3.2 In the event that archaeological remains are present the evaluation will seek to consider appropriate methodologies and suitable resourcing levels for excavation.

8 4 Methods

4.1 Background Research

4.1.1 A suitable level of documentary research will be undertaken in order to determine the expected archaeological character of the site. Existing information from historical sources and previous archaeological finds and investigations in the vicinity will be collated. The likely archaeological potential of the site will then be assessed with regard to current regional and national research issues and preservation criteria.

4.1.2 The results of the background study will not be formally presented

Tender Ref. No. Sept 115/08
separately, but will be incorporated into the final evaluation report.

4.3 **Aerial Photographs**

Aerial photography is not required at this site.

4.4 **Geophysical Survey**

Geophysical survey is not required at this site.

4.5 **Trial Trenching**

4.5.1 Trial trenches will be excavated by machine to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever is encountered first. A JCB wheeled mechanical excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket will be used to open 5 x 30m long trenches across the site (c150m linear trenching = 5% sample of 0.5ha). All trenches will be opened under the supervision of an archaeologist.

4.5.2 A plan of the proposed trenching strategy will be sent to SCCAS Conservation Team for approval before trenching begins. The Trenching Plan will, however, not be produced until after on-site demolition of buildings has taken place. The plan will be sent to SCCAS Conservation team at that time.

4.5.3 Exposed surfaces will be cleaned by trowel and hoe as necessary in order to clarify located features and deposits. During all stages of the excavation metal detector searches will be carried out by an experienced metal detector user.

4.6 **Recording and Sampling**

4.6.1 Records will comprise survey, drawn, written and photographic data. The drawn record will comprise an initial plan (scale 1:50 or 1:100) for each trench. Thereafter, single context and/or excavated feature plans will be produced for all exposed and excavated features. Trenches and
features will be tied in to the OS grid. Sections will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. The written record will comprise context descriptions on OA East pro-forma context sheets. The photographic record will comprise monochrome of trenches and excavated features, and colour slides supplemented by colour and digital photographs.

4.6.2 All features will be investigated and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential whilst at the same time minimising disturbance to archaeological structures, features and deposits.

4.6.3 Bulk samples will be taken by the excavator and in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor and the projects environmental specialist where practicable, to test for the presence and potential of micro- and macro-botanical environmental indicators. The result of any analysis will be incorporated in the evaluation report.

4.7 Human Remains

4.7.1 If Human remains are encountered, the relevant authority and the client will be informed. No further excavation will take place until removal becomes necessary, this will only be carried out in accordance with all appropriate Environmental Health regulations and will only occur after a Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained. Excavation may be required where the remains are under imminent threat or dating/preservation information is required for costing purposes. Due to the wide range of variables costs of excavation, removal and analysis of human remains are not included in any statement of costs accompanying or associated with this specification.

9 4.8 Report, Archive and Oasis record

4.8.1 A report on the results of the evaluation will be completed within 4-8 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

4.8.2 An Oasis report will be submitted on completion of report.

4.8.3 All artefactual material recovered will be held in storage by OA East and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to relevant authority to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated. It is Oxford Archaeology Ltd’s policy, in line with
accepted practice, to keep site archives (paper and artefactual) together wherever possible. All archives will comply in format with MAP 2 recommendations.

10 5 Timetable

5.1 Documentary study will take place before fieldwork begins. Following this it is estimated that the fieldwork will take approximately 3-4 days to complete. These figures do not allow for delays caused by bad weather. Working days are based on a 5-day working week, Monday to Friday.

5.2 Post-excavation tasks and report writing will take a maximum of 8 weeks following the end of fieldwork, unless there are exceptional discoveries requiring more lengthy analysis. A summary statement of results, however, can be produced more quickly if required.

11 6 Staffing and Support

6.1 The following staff will form the project team:

1 x Project Manager (supervisory only, not based on site)
1 x Project Officer/Supervisor (full time)
1-2 x Site Assistant (full time, as required)
1 x Finds Assistant (part time, as required)
1 x Illustrator for post-excavation work (part time)

6.2 The Project Manager and Project Officer/Supervisor will be core staff of OA East. Names, qualifications and experience of key project personnel will be communicated to the relevant authority before the commencement of fieldwork. All Site Assistants will be drawn from a pool of qualified and experienced staff. The Contractor will not employ volunteer amateur or student staff, whether paid or unpaid, to fulfil any of the above tasks except as an addition to the stated team.

6.3 Specialists will be employed for consultation and analysis as necessary. It is anticipated that the site at Conford House, Felixstowe may produce Roman remains and there will be sampling of environmental remains. Sarah Percival will be asked to comment on Prehistoric pottery. Alice Lyons/Stephen Macaulay/Steve Wadeson will be asked to comment on any Roman pottery and Dr Paul Spoerry/Carole Fletcher will be asked to assess any Saxon/medieval pottery. Environmental analysis will be carried out by OA East staff in consultation with Val Fryer and the results will be conveyed to the
English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor. Faunal remains will be examined by Ian Baxter/Chris Faine. Conservation will be undertaken by Colchester Museums. In the event that these specialists are unable to undertake the work within the time constraints of the project or if other remains are found specialists from the list at Appendix 1 will be approached to carry out analysis.

12 7 Further Considerations

7.1 Insurance

OA East is covered by Public and Employer’s Liability Insurance. The underwriting company is Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc, policy number SZ/14939479/06. Details of the policy can be seen at the OA East office.

7.2 Services, Public Rights of Way, Tree Preservation Orders etc.

The client will inform the project manager of any live or disused cables, gas pipes, water pipes or other services that may be affected by the proposed excavations before the commencement of fieldwork. Hidden cables/services should be clearly identified and marked where necessary. The client will likewise inform the project manager of any public rights of way or permissive paths on or near the land which might affect or be affected by the work. The client will also inform the project manager of any trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders within the subject site or on its boundaries.

7.3 Site Security

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

7.4 Access

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

7.5 Site Preparation

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

7.6 Backfilling/Reinstatement

Backfilling of trenches is not included in the cost unless otherwise agreed with the client.

7.7 Monitoring

The relevant planning authority will be informed appropriately of dates and arrangements to allow for adequate monitoring of the works.

7.8 Health and Safety, Risk Assessments

7.8.1 A risk assessment covering all activities carried out during the lifetime of the project is attached at Appendix 2. This draws on OA East’s activity-specific risk assessment literature and conforms with CDM requirements.

7.8.2 All aspects of the project, both in the field and in the office will be conducted according to OA East’s Health and Safety Policy, Oxford Archaeology Ltd’s Health and Safety Policy, and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (J.L. Allen and A. St John-Holt, 1997). A copy of OA East’s Health and Safety Policy can be supplied on request.
7.9 **Invoicing**

7.9.1 Unless otherwise agreed in writing, an invoice for 50% of the agreed costs of the project will be presented on the project’s initiation. This will normally be payable before further works take place. The remaining balance of the fees for the project will be invoiced to the client on completion of the project and presentation of the final report.

7.9.2 It is expected that payment will be received within 30 days of invoicing. If payment is not made within this time interest will be charged at base rate. After a period of three months Oxford Archaeology Ltd employs a debt collection company to recover unpaid invoices and any costs incurred during this process will be passed on to the client.
APPENDIX 1: CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SPECIALISM</th>
<th>ORGANISATION</th>
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Radiocarbon dating is normally undertaken for CAM ARC by Waikate University, New Zealand and by the Oxford University Accelerator Laboratory.

Geophysical prospection is normally undertaken by Cranfield University, Geoquest, and Geophysical Surveys, Bradford.
## APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

<table>
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<th>Author(s)</th>
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**APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM**

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

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#### Please select all techniques used:

- [ ] Aerial Photography - interpretation
- [ ] Aerial Photography - new
- [ ] Annotated Sketch
- [ ] Augering
- [ ] Dendrochronological Survey
- [ ] Documentary Search
- [ ] Environmental Sampling
- [ ] Fieldwalking
- [ ] Geophysical Survey
- [ ] Grab-Sampling
- [ ] Gravity-Core
- [ ] Laser Scanning
- [ ] Measured Survey
- [ ] Metal Detectors
- [ ] Phosphate Survey
- [ ] Photogrammetric Survey
- [ ] Photographic Survey
- [ ] Rectified Photography
- [ ] Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- [x] Sample Trenches
- [ ] Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- [ ] Targeted Trenches
- [ ] Test Pits
- [ ] Topographic Survey
- [ ] Vibro-core
- [ ] Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state “none”.

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**Project Originators**

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<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Judith Plouviez (SCCAS/CT)</td>
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**Archive Contents/Media**

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**Digital Media**

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

**Paper Media**

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey

**Notes:**

A total of six trenches were excavated which revealed evidence for post medieval activity, including the burial of a dog, and an undated ditch that was likely to be of a much earlier date, possibly pre-historic.
Figure 1: Site location map, development area outlined in red
Figure 2: Evaluation trench plans
Figure 3: Selected sections
Plate 1: Ditch 1, taken from north-west

Plate 2: Trench 3, taken from north-east
Plate 3: Post Medieval dog burial, taken from north-west

Plate 4: Site shot showing trench 1 and 2, taken from south-east