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# LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM HOUSE, COCKFIELD ROAD, FELSHAM, SUFFOLK

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION



REPORT NUMBER: 1015

SEPTEMBER 2012

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**LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM HOUSE, COCKFIELD ROAD,  
FELSHAM, SUFFOLK**

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation**

Prepared for:

Mr Kukula  
C/O Mrs S Pearle  
Mausoleum House  
Cockfield Road  
Felsham  
Suffolk

By:

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August 2012

SITE CODE	FHM021	NGR	59451 25704
PLANNING REF.	3442/10	OASIS	britanni1-134230
APPROVED BY	 TIM SCHOFIELD	DATE	September 2012



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## **Abstract**

*Despite a high potential, the evaluation identified no archaeological features. The Topsoil 1000, contained modern brick rubble and a metal gate spike (not retained), but no other archaeological finds were present.*

*The absence of evidence for archaeological activity is perhaps due to the small scale of the investigation and the results may not be representative of the wider area as a whole. The evaluation did establish that the site has been ploughed at some point in the past and that the overlying stratigraphy is very shallow suggesting limited human activity in the immediate area or previous earlier ground truncation.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to Mausoleum House, Cockfield Road, Felsham, Suffolk (NGR 59451 25704). This project was carried out on behalf of Mr Kukula C/O Mrs S Pearle as a condition of planning application reference 3442/10 (Fig. 1).

The design Brief was issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT), (Tipper, J. dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012), comprising the excavation of two trial trenches covering the footprints of two proposed detached buildings (Figs. 1 & 2). Trenches were laid out in a systematic grid pattern to best establish the presence of archaeological remains, while concentrating on areas where the development would significantly disturb underlying deposits.

## **2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 1)**

The site covers an area of c.0.07ha located on land to the south of Cockfield Road in Felsham, approximately 10km south-east of Bury St Edmunds. It is bounded to the North by Cockfield Road, to the west and south by an existing access track and to the east by hedgerows. The Brett River lies 300m south of the site and the Rattlesden River a tributary of the Gipping lies 100m to the north. Conifers, shrubs and grassland cover the site which lies between 85 and 90m AOD.

The underlying solid geology comprises Crag Group Sand, while the superficial deposits are Lowestoft Formation Diamicton, described as moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel.

## **3.0 PLANNING POLICIES**

The archaeological investigation was carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaced *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for*



*the Historic Environment* (PPS5, DCLG 2010). The relevant local planning policy is the *Mid Suffolk District Local Plan; (1998)* which is due to be replaced with the *Mid Suffolk District Local Development Framework* in the near future.

### **3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLG March 2012)**

The NPPF recognises that 'heritage assets' are an irreplaceable resource and planning authorities should conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance when considering development. It requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. The key areas for consideration are:

- The significance of the heritage asset and its setting in relation to the proposed development;
- The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance;
- Significance (of the heritage asset) can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification;
- Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred;
- Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.

### **3.2 Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998).**

The local plan for Mid Suffolk deals with development on archaeological sites in policy HB14, this states the following:

- Where there is an overriding case for preservation, planning permission for development that would affect an archaeological site or setting will be refused.
- Having taking archaeological advice, the district planning authority may decide that development can take place subject to either satisfactory measures to preserve the archaeological remains in situ or for the site to be excavated and the findings recorded. In appropriate cases the district planning authority will expect a legally binding agreement to be concluded or will impose a planning agreement to be concluded or will impose a planning condition requiring the developer to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the archaeological remains.

In section 2.2.3 of the Local Plan the Heritage and Listed Building objectives are: -

- to maintain or enhance the quality of Mid Suffolk's heritage, particularly through safeguarding its Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings
- to protect ancient monuments and their settings
- to give protection to parks and gardens of historic or landscape importance



- to control change in ways that will protect the character of towns and villages and their settings
- to give protection to archaeological sites and to ensure they are properly investigated and recorded if such sites are disturbed by development.

#### 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)

The following archaeological background utilises the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER), Suffolk Record Office, English Heritage PastScape ([www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)), Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)) and the Archaeological Data Service ([www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)) (ADS).

##### 4.1 Archaeological/Historical Sources

Felsham is a small village in mid Suffolk located 8 miles south-east of Bury St Edmunds. It is thought to have Saxon origins with its name derived from the Saxon word 'faele' meaning good or faithful and was established by a least 1086AD having an entry in Domesday as *Fealsham*.

A 200m search around the site revealed 30 heritage assets that date from the Palaeolithic to the Second World War. The earliest is a Palaeolithic large fan shaped flint core (FHM010) located during the excavation of a septic tank at Chantry Cottage 60m to the north-east.

Other prehistoric sites include 9 Lime Walk (FHM 013) where a Bronze Age bronze palstave was located in 1970, 15m to the west. Two Bronze Age axe fragments were found by metal detector (FHM 014) 50m to the south-east, and just 10m north-east of these 4 socketed axe fragments, 2 ingots and 6 pieces of Bronze Age metal debris (FHM 015) were detected. The Iron Age is represented by one bronze coin (GDD 010) located 100m to the north-east.

The Romano-British period is represented by a Roman scatter of metalwork and pottery recorded 100m to the north-east (GDD 010), a Roman metal work scatter located by metal detector that includes vessels and bronze strap fittings (FHM 020) were found 20m south-west of the site. One hundred metres to the south-east a scatter of Roman artefacts with occasional medieval finds (FHM 023) were also detected.

Anglo Saxon metalwork discovered by metal detector 20m to the south-west includes one strap and two unidentified bronze objects, one further piece dating to the medieval period was also recovered (FHM 020).

Field names suggesting the likely location of a dovehouse and dovecote (FHM Misc) nearby the moated Felsham Hall (FHM 003) have been noted 35m to the west. Medieval moated sites also seem plentiful in the area at Priory Farm (GDD 002) 100m north-east, Grange Farm (FHM 017) 110m south-east, a moat 70m south-east (FHM 008), Brooke Hall moat (FHM 004) 100m south-east, Brooke Hall Cottage moat (FHM 006) 90m south-east and the previous Maiden Hall (FHM 018) 45m to the south-west of the site. The



Church of St Peter (FHM 012) located 20m to the east also dates back to the medieval period. It lies in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, the archdeaconry of Sudbury and the deanery of Thedwastre. The 103 acres of Felshamhall Wood and Bradfield Woods (BSG 008) also date back to the medieval period, formerly belonging to the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds.

A medieval metal detector scatter (FHM 015) was discovered 50m to the south-east that also contained post-medieval metalwork. A silver seal matrix (FHM 014) with Suffolk Castle, the badge of the Sheriff, the initials IW and a small crest with a bird (Wenyeye) is that belonging to John Wenyeye of Brettenham Hall, Sheriff of Suffolk 1784, it is recorded 50m to the south-east. Woodland (FHM 026) dating to the post-medieval is also to be found 75m to the south-west of the site. Felsham Mausoleum (FHM 024) was built in 1755 and is located 30m to the south-east. The later Maiden Hall (FHM 025) is a Late 17<sup>th</sup> Century timber framed house located 55m to the south-west. Felsham Castle (FHM 016) the seat of the Reynolds family was a mansion pulled down at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the later farm house Mausoleum House was then erected on this same site, located adjacent to the current evaluation area.

A Second World War Pillbox type 23 (FHM 022) is present 60m to the south-east. It has a blast wall in the front entrance that Faces WSW, a brick ricochet wall and a central concrete pillar. The embrasures lie at different levels in the roofed and unroofed sections. Steps are present down at the inner and outer entrances.

## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The specific aim of the evaluation is to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified (Brief, Section 3.1).

## 6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24, Maria Medlycott, 2011.

The specific objectives are set out in the SCCAS/CT brief and are summarised below (Brief Section 3.2):

- 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.





## **7.0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)**

The SCCAS/CT brief required the excavation of two trial trenches located over the footprints of the proposed buildings (Fig. 2). A 9 tonne 360° rubber tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket was employed to excavate the trenches, under the direct supervision of a suitably qualified professional archaeologist. Topsoil and subsoil overburden was mechanically removed to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation was undertaken by hand.

Archaeological features were recorded using pro-forma record sheets, plans, section drawings and appropriate photographs. A pre/post-excavation base plan accurately plotting all features was produced employing a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) with all drawings tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A site location plan based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map and indicating site north was also prepared and supplemented with the site plan showing the area of investigation in relation to the proposed development.

## **8.0 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS (Appendix 1)**

No archaeological features were present during the evaluation.

19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century brick and a metal gate spike (not retained) were present in the topsoil, 1000. No other finds were present.

## **9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs 4 & 5)**

The deposit model differed slightly in each trench with Trench 1 being deeper in the west due to the presence of material associated with a probable bank and recently removed hedge line for the existing western boundary ditch. The site was fairly level at a height varying between 87.36 to 87.49m AOD.

Topsoil 1000, was the upper layer in the stratigraphic sequence and comprised a mid-yellow brown, compact clay silt with lenses of modern brick rubble. It varied in depth between 0.28m and 0.40m being deepest at the southern end of Trench 2. The lenses of brick rubble relate to the redevelopment of one of the adjacent barns in the 1970s when this area of the site was used by builders as a dump.

Subsoil 1002, was stratigraphically below Topsoil 1000 and was only present in Trench 1. It comprised a mid-light, compact clay silt with occasional flint stones and was more prevalent in the west of the Trench where the bank from the existing boundary ditch was present. It occurred as small lenses in the rest of the Trench, suggesting the area had been ploughed prior to its current use.

Natural Drift Geology 1001, was present at the base of the stratigraphic sequence and comprised a mid-light orange yellow, compact clay with lenses of chalk flecking and





sand. It occurred at a depth of between 0.35 and 0.54m below the current ground surface.

## 10. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Despite a high potential, the evaluation did not identify any features or finds in the excavated trenches. This is perhaps due to the small scale of the investigation which was sufficient to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity of the proposed buildings, but may not be representative of the wider area as a whole.

The deposit model suggests a shallow stratigraphic sequence above the Natural Drift Geology indicative of rural landscapes and limited human activity. It is also clear from the fragmentary lenses of subsoil in Trench 1 that the area has been ploughed extensively, although it is not clear whether this occurred recently or in antiquity.

In light of the findings, it is unlikely that further work would uncover archaeological material or significantly contribute to questions raised in the Research Agendas.

## 11. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Britannia Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mrs Sharon Pearle and Mr M Kukula for commissioning the project and for their advice and assistance.

We are also grateful to Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team for his input and advice.

## 12.0 PROJECT ARCHIVE & DEPOSITION

A full archive will be prepared for all work undertaken in accordance with guidance from the *Selection, Retention and Dispersion of Archaeological Collections*, Archaeological Society for Museum Archaeologists, 1993. Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with the relevant museum or the Suffolk HER Office.



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English Heritage PastScape [www.pastscape.org.uk](http://www.pastscape.org.uk)

Heritage Gateway [www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) [www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)

English Heritage National List for England  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england)

DEFRA Magic <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic>



## APPENDIX 1 DEPOSIT MODEL TABLES AND FEATURE DATA

### TRENCH 1

<b>Trench No</b> 1		<b>Orientation</b> WNW – ESE	<b>Height AOD</b> 0.00 = 87.49	<b>Shot No</b> DP5
<b>Sample Section No</b> 1A		<b>Location</b> WNW End	<b>Facing</b> SSW Facing	
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Deposit Description</b>		
1000	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid-yellow brown, compact clay silt with lenses of modern brick rubble		
1002	0.35 – 0.54m	Subsoil. Mid-light, compact clay silt with occasional flint stones		
1001	0.54m+	Natural Drift Geology. Mid-light orange yellow, compact clay with lenses of chalk flecking and sand		

<b>Trench No</b> 1		<b>Orientation</b> WNW – ESE	<b>Height AOD</b> 0.00 = 87.36	<b>Shot No</b> DP6
<b>Sample Section No</b> 1B		<b>Location</b> ESE End	<b>Facing</b> NNE Facing	
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Deposit Description</b>		
1000	0.00 – 0.28m	Topsoil. Mid-yellow brown, compact clay silt with lenses of modern brick rubble		
1002	0.28 – 0.35m	Subsoil. Mid-light, compact clay silt with occasional flint stones		
1001	0.35m+	Natural Drift Geology. Mid-light orange yellow, compact clay with lenses of chalk flecking and sand		

Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds. The western end was deeper where the remains of a bank and hedge line associated with the existing boundary ditch was present.

### TRENCH 2

<b>Trench No</b> 2		<b>Orientation</b> N – S	<b>Height AOD</b> 0.00 = 87.46	<b>Shot No</b> DP1
<b>Sample Section No</b> 2A		<b>Location</b> S End	<b>Facing</b> E Facing	
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Deposit Description</b>		
1000	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Mid-yellow brown, compact clay silt with lenses of modern brick rubble		
1001	0.40m+	Natural Drift Geology. Mid-light orange yellow, compact clay with lenses of chalk flecking and sand		



<b>Trench No</b> 2		<b>Orientation</b> N – S	<b>Height AOD</b> 0.00 = 87.46	<b>Shot No</b> DP2
<b>Sample Section No</b> 2B		<b>Location</b> N End	<b>Facing</b> E Facing	
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Deposit Description</b>		
1000	0.00 – 0.37m	Topsoil. Mid-yellow brown, compact clay silt with lenses of modern brick rubble		
1001	0.37m+	Natural Drift Geology. Mid-light orange yellow, compact clay with lenses of chalk flecking and sand		

Trench 2 contained no archaeological features. Modern brick rubble and a metal gate spike (not retained) were present in the Topsoil 1000, but no further archaeological finds were present.

## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

### OASIS ID: britanni1-134230

#### Project details

Project name Land Adjacent to Mausoleum House, Felsham, Suffolk

#### Short description of the project

A small 2 trench evaluation targeting the footprints of two proposed residential buildings. Despite a high potential, the evaluation identified no archaeological features. The Topsoil 1000, contained modern brick rubble and a metal gate spike (not retained), but no other archaeological finds were present. The absence of evidence for archaeological activity is perhaps due to the small scale of the investigation and the results may not be representative of the wider area as a whole. The evaluation did establish that the site has been ploughed at some point in the past and that the overlying stratigraphy is very shallow suggesting limited human activity in the immediate area or previous earlier ground truncation.

Project dates Start: 18-09-2012 End: 18-09-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes FHM021 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes P1011 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

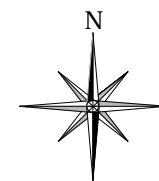
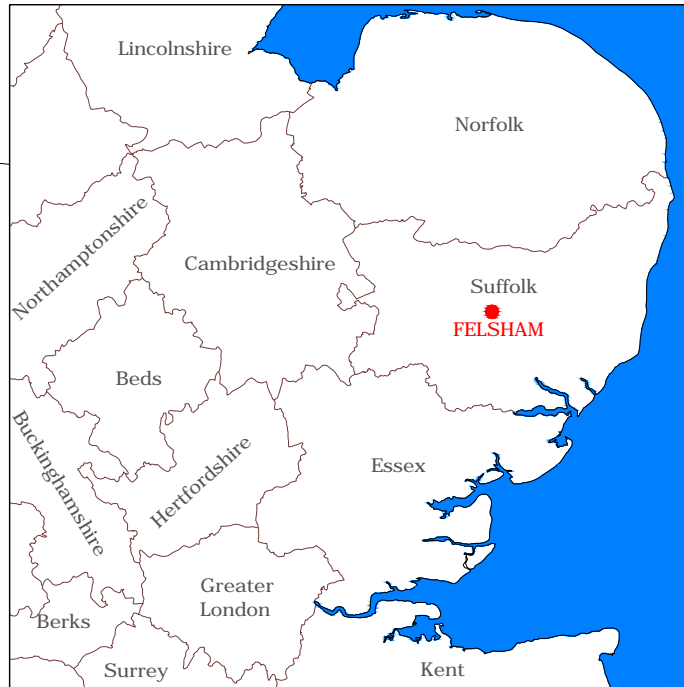
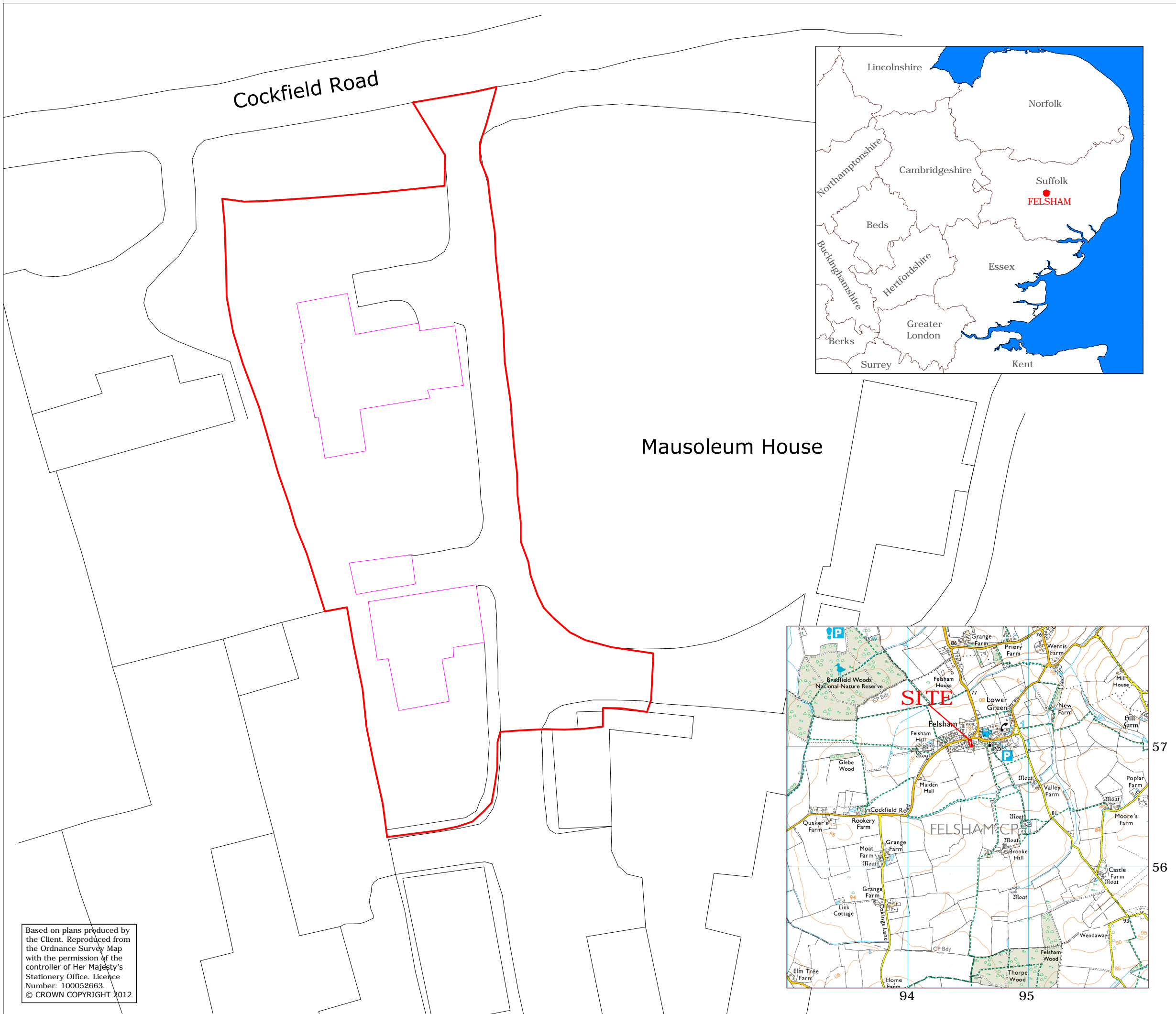
Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 12 - Verge

Monument type NONE None

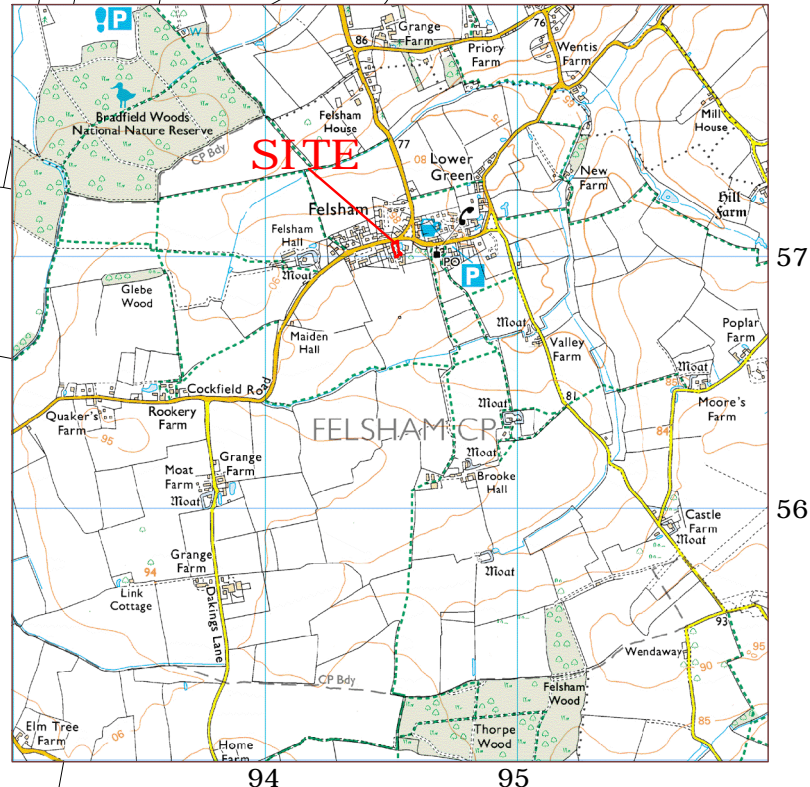




Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK FELSHAM FHM021 Land Adjacent to Mausoleum House, Cockfield Road
Postcode	IP30 0PL
Study area	0.07 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9450 5702 52 0 52 10 35 N 000 50 41 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 87.36m Max: 87.49m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Tim Schofield
Project director/manager	Timothy Schofield
Project supervisor	Matthew Adams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mrs S Pearle and Mr M Kukula
Entered by	Matt Adams (matt@britannia-archaeology.com)
Entered on	21 September 2012



Mausoleum House

Cockfield Road



	Proposed Building Location
	Site Boundary Location

NGR: 594530 257034	REPORT NUMBER: 1015
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PROJECT:  
**LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM HOUSE, FELSHAM, SUFFOLK**

CLIENT:  
**MR M. KUKULA  
C/O MRS S PEARLE**

DESCRIPTION:  
**PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATION PLAN**

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**



4 THE MILL, CLOVERS COURT, SUFFOLK  
IP14 1RB

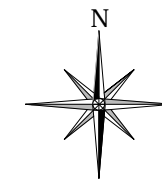
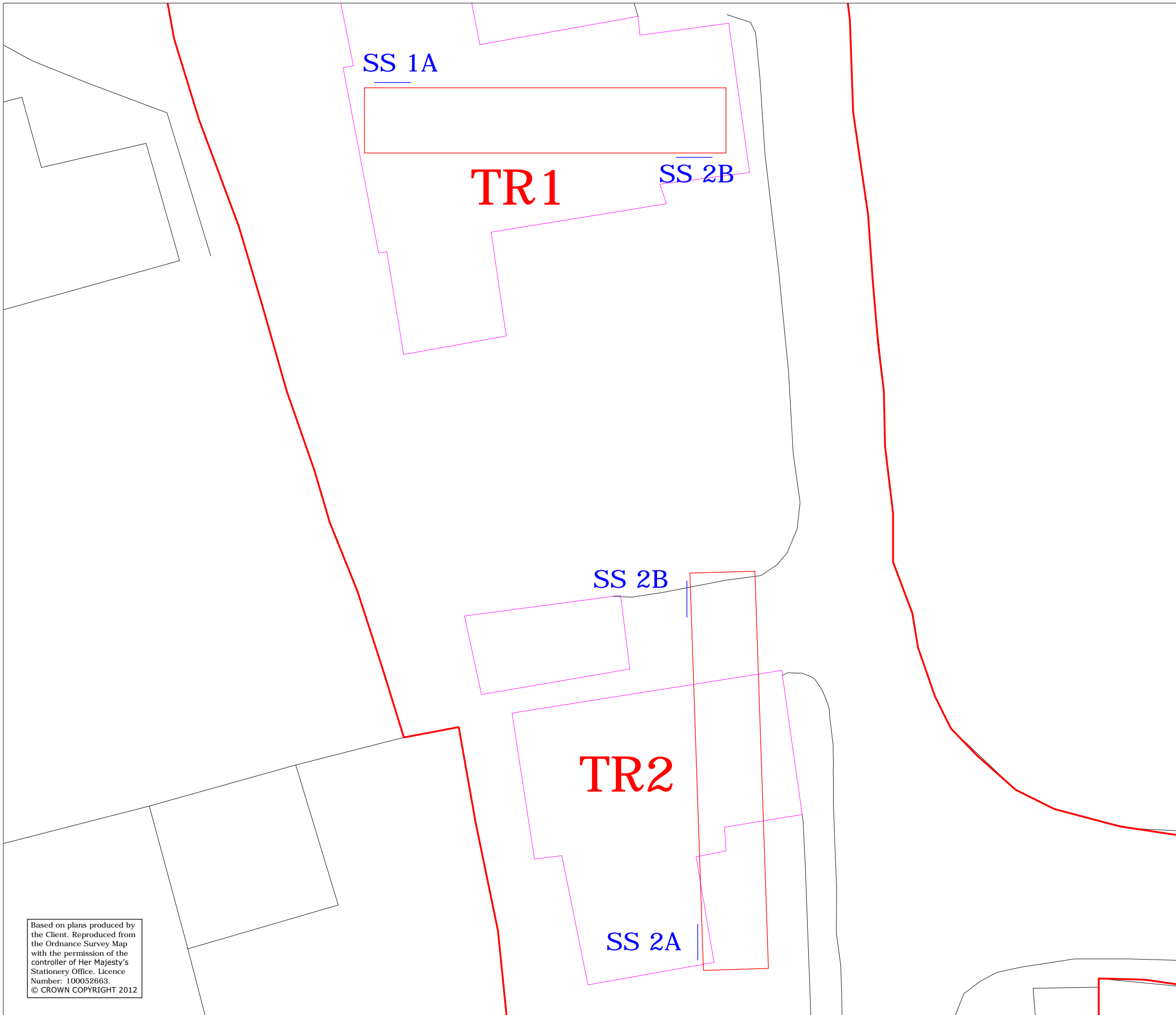
T: 01449 763034  
E: info@britannia-archaeology.com  
www.britannia-archaeology.com

SCALE: <b>1:250</b>	
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PLOT: <b>A3</b>	APPROVED: <b>TPS</b>	VERSION: <b>01</b>
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DATE: <b>SEP 2012</b>	AUTHOR: <b>MCA</b>	FIGURE: <b>01</b>
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<u>SS 1A</u>	Sample Sections
	Proposed Building Location
	Trench Location
	Site Boundary Location

NGR: 594530 257034      REPORT NUMBER: 1015

PROJECT:  
LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM HOUSE, FELSHAM, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
MR M. KUKULA  
C/O MRS S PEARLE

DESCRIPTION:  
TRENCH, FEATURE AND SAMPLE SECTION LOCATIONS

**BRITANNIA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**



4 THE MILL, CLOVERS COURT, SUFFOLK  
IP14 1RB

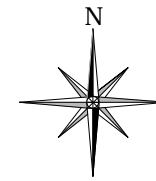
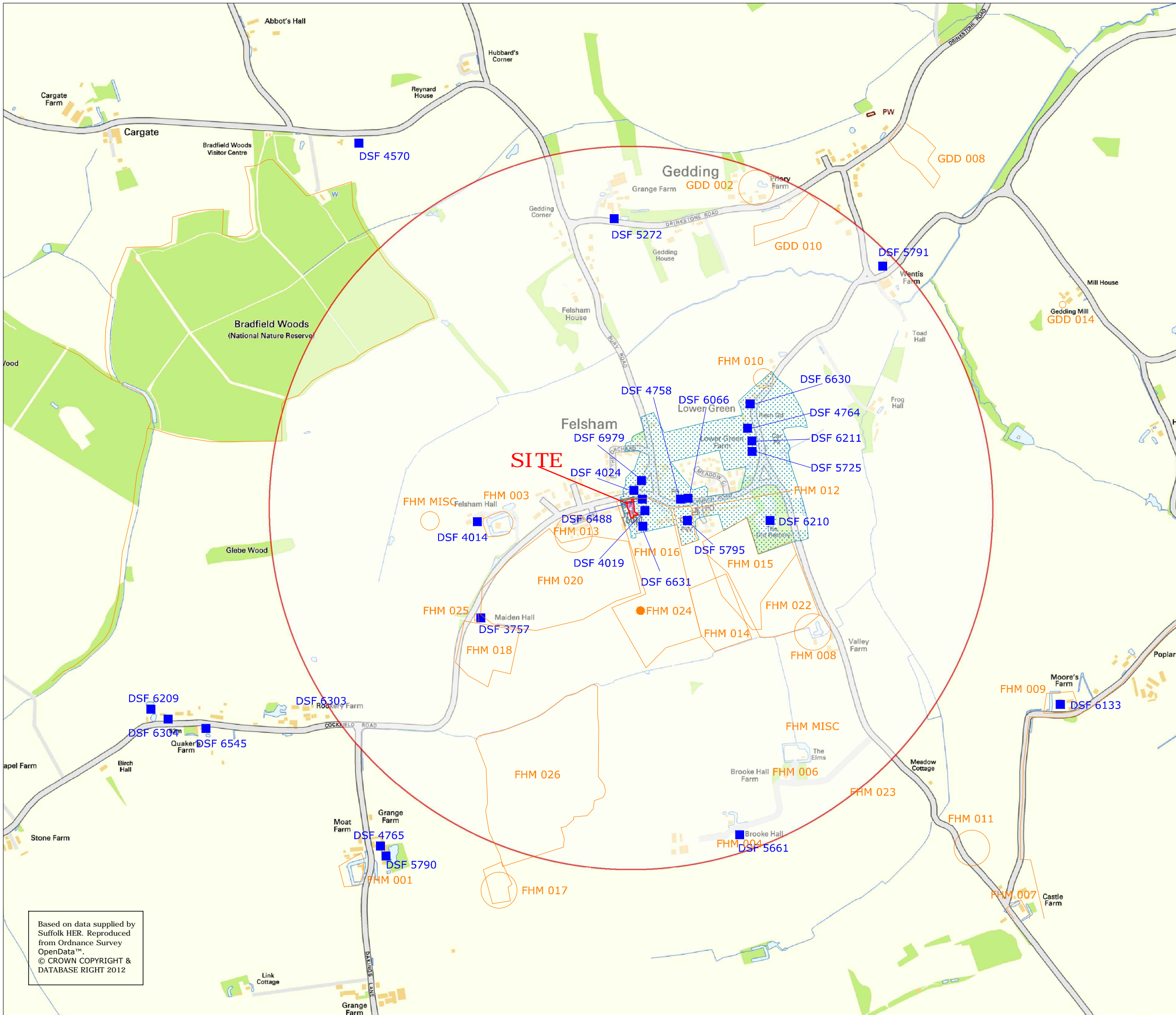
T: 01449 763034  
E: info@britannia-archaeology.com  
www.britannia-archaeology.com

SCALE: 0 50m  
**1:100**

PLOT: A3	APPROVED: TPS	VERSION: 01
DATE: SEP 2012	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: <b>02</b>

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	HER Search Radius
	Conservation Area
	Listed Building
	Archaeological Event
	Site Boundary Location

NGR: 594530 257034      REPORT NUMBER: 1015

PROJECT:  
LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM HOUSE, FELSHAM, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
MR M. KUKULA  
C/O MRS S PEARLE

DESCRIPTION:  
HER DATA

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SCALE: 0 500m  
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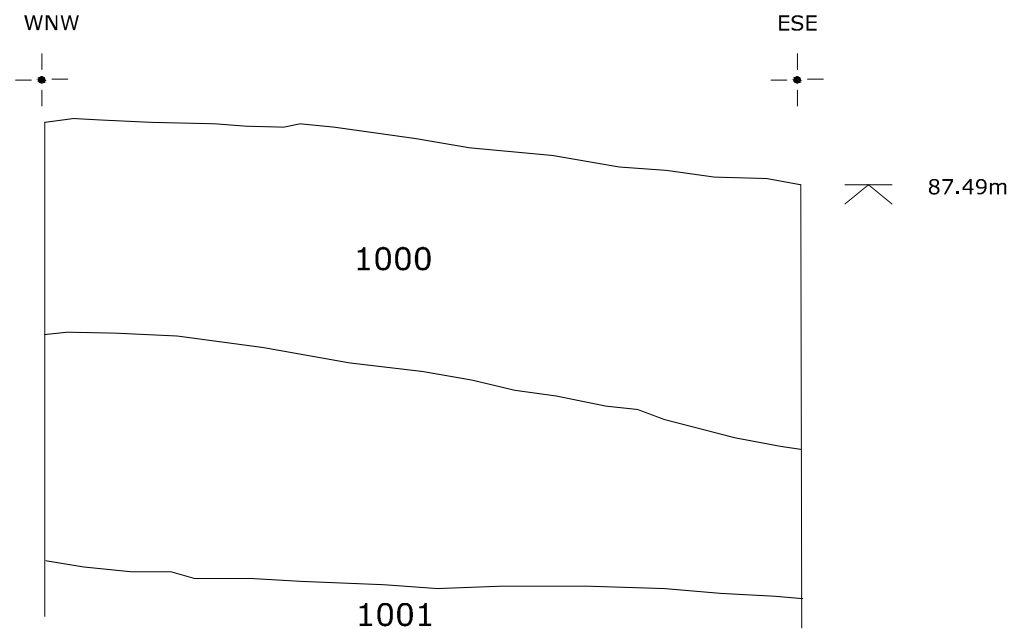
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DATE: SEP 2012	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 03
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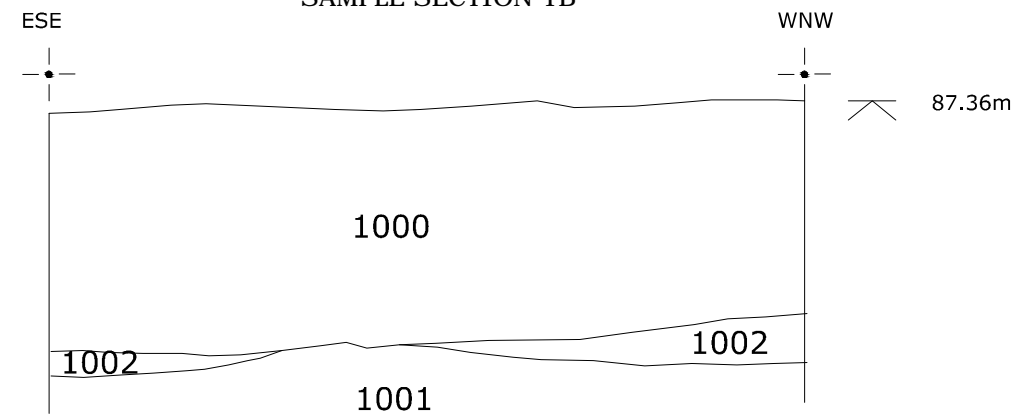
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TRENCH 1  
SAMPLE SECTION 1A



TRENCH 1  
SAMPLE SECTION 1B



NGR: 594530 257034 REPORT NUMBER: 1015

PROJECT:  
LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM  
HOUSE, FELSHAM, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
MR M. KUKULA  
C/O MRS S PEARLE

DESCRIPTION:  
TRENCH 1 SAMPLE SECTIONS

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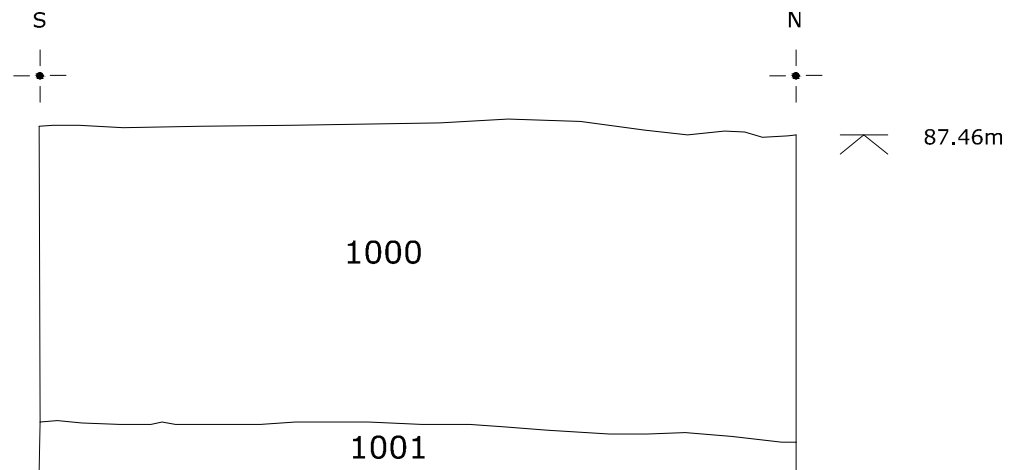
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PLOT: A3	APPROVED: TPS	VERSION: 01
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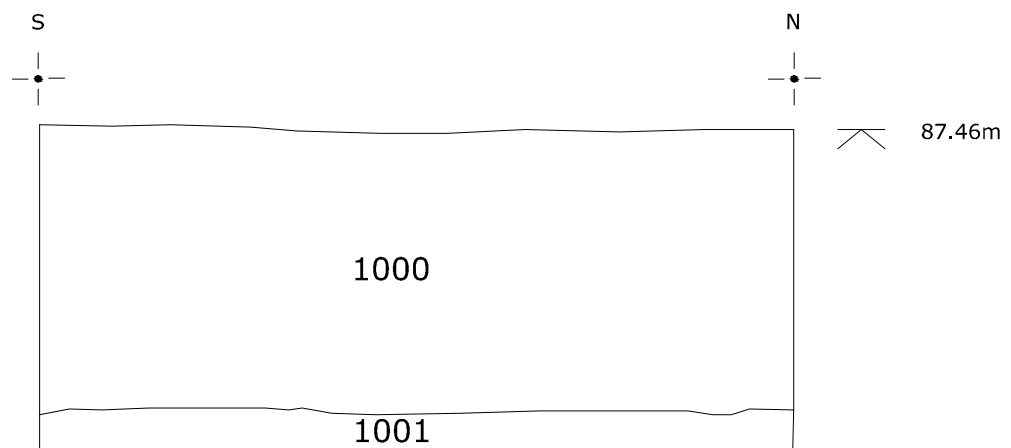
DATE: SEP 2012	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 04
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TRENCH 2  
SAMPLE SECTION 2A



TRENCH 2  
SAMPLE SECTION 2B



NGR: 594530 257034	REPORT NUMBER: 1015
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PROJECT:  
LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM  
HOUSE, FELSHAM, SUFFOLK

CLIENT:  
MR M. KUKULA  
C/O MRS S PEARLE

DESCRIPTION:  
TRENCH 2 SAMPLE SECTIONS

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SCALE:  
NOT TO SCALE

PLOT: A3	APPROVED: TPS	VERSION: 01
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DATE: SEP 2012	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 05
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TRENCH 2 - Post Excavation looking south



General site shot looking south



General shot showing the northern plot looking south west



TRENCH 1 - Post Excavation looking west

NGR: 594530 257034 REPORT NUMBER: 1015

PROJECT: LAND ADJACENT TO MAUSOLEUM HOUSE, FELSHAM, SUFFOLK

CLIENT: MR M. KUKULA  
C/O MRS S PEARLE

DESCRIPTION: DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

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SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

PLOT: A3	APPROVED: TPS	VERSION: 01
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DATE: SEP 2012	AUTHOR: MCA	FIGURE: 06
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