

**Land South of Eye
Airfield, Suffolk
Archaeological
Evaluation**

DRAFT

Client: Eye Town Council

AB Heritage Project No:60122

Date: 25/10/2017

Land South of Eye Airfield, Suffolk Archaeological Evaluation

Client Eye Town Council
Project Number 60122
Prepared By Zoe Richardson
Approved By Daniel Dodds

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1.0	Draft	ZR & MH	DD	25/10/2017

This document has been prepared in accordance with AB Heritage standard operating procedures. It remains confidential and the copyright of AB Heritage Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited

Enquiries To:

AB Heritage Limited (Head Office)
Jarrow Business Centre, Rolling Mill Road
Jarrow, South Tyneside, NE32 3DT
Email: info@abheritage.co.uk
Tel: 03333 440 206



CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	2
1.1	Project Background	2
1.2	Site Location & Description.....	2
1.3	Geology & Topography.....	2
1.4	The site lies at approximately 40 mOD.....	2
1.5	Planning Background.....	2
1.6	Archaeological Background.....	3
2.	Aims & Methodology	4
2.1	Aims of Works	4
2.2	Methodology of Work.....	4
3.	Results	5
3.1	Introduction.....	5
3.2	Trench 1	5
3.3	Trench 2	5
3.4	Trench 3	5
3.5	Trench 4	6
3.6	Trench 5 and Trench 6	6
3.7	Trench 7	6
3.8	Trench 8	7
3.9	Trench 9 and Trench 10	7
3.10	Trench 11	7
3.11	Trench 12	7
3.12	Trench 13, Trench 14 and Trench 15	8
3.13	Trench 16	8
3.14	Surface Metal Detection	8
4.	Discussion.....	9
4.2	Conclusion.....	9
5.	Plates	10
6.	Archive	13
7.	References.....	14

FIGURES

Fig. 1: Site Location

Fig. 2: Trench Plan

Fig. 3: Plans and Sections

PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 8 looking north-west, with 1m and 2m scales.

Plate 2: Feature [205] looking north-east, with 1m scale.

Plate 3: Features [404] and [408] looking south-west, with 1m scale.

Plate 4: Feature [408] looking south-west, with 1m scale.

Plate 5: Feature [1105] looking south-east, with 1m scale.

Plate 6: Feature [1205] looking south-west, with 1m scale.

Plate 7: Feature [1604] looking north-east, with 1m scale.

DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Land South of Eye Airfield, Eye, Suffolk. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. This report has been prepared by Zoë Richardson of L-P: Archaeology on behalf of AB Heritage Ltd.

The site is located to the northwest of the centre of the town of Eye, Suffolk. Previous archaeological work had been undertaken on the land to the west and east and on the land of Hartismere School to the south. A possible Early Neolithic settlement site was recorded as well as a group of three graves of Anglo-Saxon dating, which may be related to a nearby Anglo-Saxon settlement site. To the north of the site is Brome/Eye airfield which was opened in 1944 and closed in 1945.

The objectives of the evaluation were to identify and record any archaeological remains preserved on the site.

The trial trenching uncovered features likely corresponding with those found in the land to the west and east with archaeological features appearing primarily on the western border of site, in trenches 2 and 4. Features found in trenches 7, 8, 10, 11, and 16 appeared Post Medieval or modern in date. No archaeological features were evident in the remaining trenches. Four trenches were unable to be opened due to the in use allotments on the area.

Further work is likely due to the presence of possible Anglo-Saxon graves and will likely take the form of mitigation by design or further archaeological work or a combination of the two.

DRAFT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeological investigations were undertaken by AB Heritage Limited (hereafter AB Heritage) using their elected contractor, L-P: Archaeology.
- 1.1.2 This evaluation report has been prepared by Zoë Richardson of L-P: Archaeology on behalf of AB Heritage Ltd.
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork was carried out by Zoë Richardson and Charlie Scovell of L-P: Archaeology between 4th to the 10th November 2017.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation was instigated due to potential for archaeological remains on the site in order to help inform on planning decisions.
- 1.1.5 The work was carried out in accordance with the written scheme of investigation prepared by John Duffy of L-P: Archaeology (Duffy, 2017).

1.2 Site Location & Description

- 1.2.1 The site is located in Eye at Land South of Eye Airfield, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The National Grid Reference is 613830, 274390.
- 1.2.2 The site code allocated by Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) is EYE 139 and the event number is ESF25877.
- 1.2.3 The field was in use as agricultural cultivation, with the top soil across site heavily disturbed by rooting and ploughing.
- 1.2.4 Mapping from the 1990s show allotments on proposed area. A small derelict shed lies at the northwest corner of site and is still extant, whilst being in a ruinous state.

1.3 Geology & Topography

- 1.3.1 The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on a bedrock formation of Crag Group (sand) with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (British Geological Survey 2017). This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data.
- 1.3.2 During excavation, the undisturbed natural soil was largely a yellow/orange sand, with large pockets of yellow clay consistently throughout the site. The level of natural deposit ranged from 39.5 mOD to 40 mOD.
- 1.3.3 The site is located to the north west of the centre of the town of Eye, Suffolk. The site slopes to the south towards the River Dove, a tributary of the River Waveney and facing towards the town.
- 1.3.4 The site area consists of open land and allotments and measures 1.4ha.
- 1.4 The site lies at approximately 40 mOD.

1.5 Planning Background

- 1.5.1 The evaluation was conducted prior to any planning application.

- 1.5.2 The site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.
- 1.5.3 The local planning authority for this project is the Mid Suffolk District Council.
- 1.5.4 In considering any planning application for development the local planning authority, Mid Suffolk District Council, must consider the Policies HB13 (Protecting ancient monuments) and HB14 (Ensuring archaeological remains are not destroyed) of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan (1998) saved policies (2007). On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Mid Suffolk District Council take impartial advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS).
- 1.5.5 Eye Town Council and Mid Suffolk District Council have agreed the methodology for these works in the written scheme of investigation (Duffy 2017). The written scheme of investigation (Duffy 2017) was based on a brief provided by SCCAS who also provided advice throughout this project.

1.6 Archaeological Background

- 1.6.1 The areas to the east and west of site were excavated in 2015 by Oxford Archaeology (EYE 123).
- 1.6.2 During the work conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (EYE 123) a pair of ditches, running parallel, and determined to be an Iron age trackway, were uncovered. Two postholes containing worked flint and pottery assigned to the Neolithic to Bronze age dating were also revealed, with the suggestion that these postholes formed part of a structure. In the area local to site, a tranverse arrowhead of nearly Neolithic dating (EYE 026) was recovered as a spot find, supporting evidence of occupation and activity in the area.
- 1.6.3 A ditch from the Roman period was revealed during the 2015 evaluation (Oxford Archaeology East 2015), with a pit containing metal working debris of Roman date, suggesting possible metalworking in the area.
- 1.6.4 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was identified during an evaluation (Oxford Archaeology East 2015), with three graves and four possible graves. Whilst no grave goods were recovered, only a portion of the graves were revealed, with very little excavation occurring. However, due to metal detecting of Anglo-Saxon finds in the area (EYE 051) (EYE 053) (EYE 052), this date was given to the graves.
- 1.6.5 During geophysical survey in 2015, a rectangular field boundary was revealed, whilst excavation during evaluation (Oxford Archaeology East 2015) provided a Medieval date for the ditch, thus suggesting a field boundary was in use during the Medieval period.
- 1.6.6 South of the site the structural remains of a windmill built in 1779 and in use until the 1930s, prior to its collapse in 1955 still stand (EYE 032).
- 1.6.7 Brome Airfield was in use on the area from 1944 to 1945 (EYE 072) before passing into disuse, with agricultural work on the area in the 1970s.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Works

2.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were:

- To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site. The results will include a comment on the quality and significance of the remains.
- To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- To assess the anticipated impact of any development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- To assess whether the Anglo-Saxon burials discovered in 2015 are part of a larger burial group.

2.1.2 The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

2.2 Methodology of Work

2.2.1 For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the written scheme of investigation (Duffy, 2017).

2.2.2 16 trenches were laid out on northwestern by southeastern, and northeastern by southwestern axes. These trenches were 20m in length and 1.8m in width (Plate 1).

2.2.3 The written scheme of investigation proposed 20 trenches (Fig. 2). However, the four southern-most trenches, Trenches 17 to 20, were unable to be opened due to an in-use allotment on the proposed area.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Results are given below trench by trench, with consecutive blank trenches listed together. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Due to limited finds recovery, information about finds are with the corresponding trenches.

3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 A thick silty clay, mid greyish brown topsoil (101) of 0.3m thick was identified along the entire length of the trench. Below this was a dark reddish brown silty sand subsoil with manganese flecks (102) across the trench.
- 3.2.2 The natural deposit was a light brownish yellow clay with yellow sand inclusions (103) throughout the trench.
- 3.2.3 No archaeological deposits were identified in the trench.

3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 The trench was excavated to the north of Trench 1.
- 3.3.2 The profile of Trench 2 was similar to that of Trench 1, with a topsoil (201), 0.25m thick, over a 0.15m thick dark reddish-brown subsoil. The natural below this (203) was a dark brownish yellow sand with patches of yellow clay throughout the length of the trench.
- 3.3.3 A small hand dug sondage measuring 0.5m by 0.5m was dug at the northern end of the trench to determine natural.
- 3.3.4 A linear feature [205] was identified at the northern end of the trench (Plate 2). In plan, the feature was a regular linear and ran east – west across the trench. It measured 1.8m in length from both limits of excavation, and was 0.7m wide with a depth of 0.27m. It was filled with a light greyish brown silty sand (204) and contained frequent irregular stones, and one piece of flint debitage. No corresponding linear was discovered in the remaining trenches, however, [205] appears to follow an alignment with an Iron Age ditch found in the excavations to the north and east of site (Oxford Archaeology East 2015) and may have been part of an enclosure.

3.4 Trench 3

- 3.4.1 A thick silty clay, mid greyish brown topsoil (301) of 0.3m thick was identified along the entire length of the trench. Below this was a dark reddish brown silty sand subsoil with manganese flecks (302) spanning across the trench at 0.2m depth.
- 3.4.2 The natural deposit was a light brownish yellow clay with yellow sand inclusions (303) throughout the trench.
- 3.4.3 No archaeological deposits were identified in the trench.

3.5 Trench 4

- 3.5.1 A thick sandy silt, mid greyish brown topsoil (401) of 0.32m thick was identified along the entire length of the trench and was disturbed by frequent root activity. Below this was a dark reddish brown clay sand subsoil with small rounded stones (402) across the trench.
- 3.5.2 The natural deposit was a light reddish brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded stone inclusions (403) throughout the trench.
- 3.5.3 Three features were identified as potential archaeological deposits [404], [406], [408]. Due to their similarity to features identified as Anglo-Saxon graves (OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST 2015), these features were not excavated but were photographed (PLATE 3) and planned (FIGURE 3).
- 3.5.4 Feature [404] was a rectilinear cut 0.6m wide, and 1.35m in length to the edge of trench, on a Northeastern by Southwestern alignment. It was filled with a mid reddish brown clay sand (405) with no visible inclusions.
- 3.5.5 Feature [406] was similar to [404], of a sub-circular shape and spanning 1.2m in width and 0.7m to the western limit of excavation. Like [404], the fill was a mid reddish brown sandy clay (407).
- 3.5.6 Feature [408] was a rectilinear possible terminus of a sub ovoid feature, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.8m in length to the limit of excavation. Like the other features in the trench, the fill (409) consisted of a mid reddish brown sandy clay, with no obvious inclusions visible (PLATE 4).
- 3.5.7 All features were investigated by the metal detector and brought up no metal signals.
- 3.5.8 The form and fill of the features, as well as the lack of metal signals, provide support for features [404], [406], and [408] to be part of the Anglo-Saxon burial complex excavated in 2015 (Oxford Archaeology East 2015).

3.6 Trench 5 and Trench 6

- 3.6.1 Trenches 5 and 6 were similar in their topsoil and subsoil deposits. Both consisting of a thick mid greyish brown silty clay disturbed by plough activity, and a reddish brown silty sand subsoil with manganese inclusion.
- 3.6.2 The natural on both trenches was of a dark orangey yellow sandy clay with yellow clay patches.
- 3.6.3 The topsoil (501) of Trench 5 was 0.25m, whilst the topsoil of Trench 6 (601) was 0.30m thick, spanning the extent of each trench. The subsoil of trench 5 (502) was 0.2m thick, whilst that of trench 6 (601) was 0.25m in thickness.
- 3.6.4 Neither trench contained any evidence of archaeology features.

3.7 Trench 7

- 3.7.1 A thick mid greyish brown silty clay of 0.2m thickness (701) was identified along the length of the trench, with a reddish brown silty sand subsoil (702) beneath, of 0.2m in thickness.
- 3.7.2 The natural deposit (703) was a light brownish yellow sand with light yellow clay inclusions throughout the extent of the trench.

- 3.7.3 At the eastern end of the trench, a feature was recognised [705], a square cut with sharp, distinguished edges, and a dark blackish brown silty sand fill containing pieces of scrap metal (704). The feature measured 2m across and 0.5m to the limit of excavation. Due to the similarity to feature [805], which contained asbestos, the decision was made to not excavate feature [705]. It seemed likely that [705] was used in the 20th century as a pit to dump rubble and waste.

3.8 Trench 8

- 3.8.1 A thick greyish brown silty clay ploughed topsoil (801) covered the extent of the trench at 0.4m depth. Below this was a subsoil (802) of a reddish brown silty sand at 0.2m thickness.
- 3.8.2 The natural deposit (803) was an orangey yellow sandy clay spanning the extent of the site.
- 3.8.3 In the middle of the trench was a square feature [805], with a fill of dark blackish brown sandy clay (804) (Plate 1). The feature was partially removed by the machine, and revealed scrap metal, glass, and slabs of asbestos, so the decision was made to record the trench and immediately backfill without investigating feature [805].

3.9 Trench 9 and Trench 10

- 3.9.1 Trench 9 and 10 were of a similar nature, in the centre of the site. Both trenches consisted of a greyish brown sandy silt, disturbed by root and plough activity, both (901) and (1001) were 0.25m in depth. Beneath was a subsoil, (902) and (1002), consisting of a reddish brown sandy clay of 0.18m depth in trench 9 and 0.25mm in depth in Trench 10.
- 3.9.2 The natural deposit for both trenches was a light yellow brown sandy clay with frequent large stones and flints (903) and (1003), spanning the length of the trenches.
- 3.9.3 No archaeological deposits were identified in either trench.

3.10 Trench 11

- 3.10.1 Trench 11 was at the southernmost end of the opened area of site. A thick silty clay topsoil with root disturbance (1101) of 0.32m in thickness was identified along the length of the trench, with a reddish brown sandy silt subsoil (1102) beneath.
- 3.10.2 The natural deposit (1103) consisted of a light yellow clay with yellow sandy inclusions.
- 3.10.3 One archaeological feature was identified at the eastern end of Trench 11 (PLATE 5). A small pit was evident against the southern limit of excavation [1105], and contained a dark brownish grey silty clay with flecks of charcoal (1104). Only 0.2m of the feature was evident in length and 0.4m in width, with a depth of 0.07m was exposed of the feature. Due to the limited remains, it is difficult to determine the date or use of feature [1105].

3.11 Trench 12

- 3.11.1 The topsoil consisted of greyish brown silty clay (1201) measuring at a thickness of 0.4m, above a thin reddish brown silty sand subsoil (1202) of 0.1m thickness.
- 3.11.2 The natural deposit (1202) was a light brownish yellow sand that spanned the extent of the trench.

3.11.3 One archaeological feature was recorded at the southern end of the trench. A linear [1205] running on an east-west alignment was not seen in another other trench (Plate 6). The fill was a dark brownish grey silty clay (1204) and contained glass bottle fragments and pottery of Post Medieval date, suggesting a modern use of the feature. The feature was over 1.8m in length, and 0.78m in width, with a depth of 0.4m. The sides of the linear were vertical, with a moderate slope to the upper break of slope before a sharp lower break of slope.

3.12 Trench 13, Trench 14 and Trench 15

3.12.1 Trenches 13, 14, and 15 were similar in nature, and situated on the eastern edge of site.

3.12.2 The topsoil of all three trenches consisted of a greyish brown sandy silt, with frequent root activity and small stone and flint inclusions (1301), (1401), (1501) all with the thickness of 0.3m. A consistent subsoil was evident in all three trenches, a reddish brown sandy clay (1302), (1402), (1502) and was quite thin in trenches trench 13 and 14, measure in at 0.1m and 0.2m respectively, whilst (1502) was 0.3m thick.

3.12.3 The natural was similar throughout all three trenches, consisting of a light yellowish brown sandy clay (1303), (1403), and (1503).

3.12.4 No features were identified in any of the three trenches.

3.13 Trench 16

3.13.1 A thick greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (1601) of 0.34m thickness was identified along the entire length of the trench. Below this was a reddish brown sandy clay with manganese deposits (1602).

3.13.2 The natural (1603) consisted of a reddish brown sandy clay with frequent medium to large stones and flints.

3.13.3 A deep, steep sided feature [1604] running northeast-southwest within the centre of the trench was excavated to the depth of 1.1m. The feature was 1.10m in width and extended the 1.8m of the trench (Plate 7). The fill consisted of a dark greyish brown sandy silt with patches of yellow clay with modern glass, iron, and wire being recovered (1605). As such, the feature was deemed modern and no further work was done in regards to taking samples or recording finds.

3.14 Surface Metal Detection

3.14.1 A local metal detectorist, Paul Kemp, was agreed with by SCCAS and L-P: Archaeology to provide metal detection for the site. Mr Kemp surveyed the trenches prior to opening, then again once they were open, as well as top and subsoil deposited by the machine. Finds were only recovered in the topsoil, with nothing recovered in the subsoil, and all trenches bar Trench 1 had recorded metal finds. A coin found in the topsoil of Trench 13 (1301) appeared to be hammered silver, showing a king likely to be Edward II or Edward III. All other finds were of Post Medieval date.

4. DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 A site at land south of Eye Airfield is being considered for redevelopment. The archaeological remains identified on site will be considered when assessing the potential for redevelopment.
- 4.1.2 Examination of the available data indicates that the site does not contain any scheduled monuments or listed buildings.

4.2 Conclusion

- 4.2.1 Anglo-Saxon artefacts recovered by metal detectorists on previous occasions, as well as examination of graves found in 2015, support an Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area. Features in previous trenching evaluation phases suggest a potential Anglo-Saxon cemetery site. Iron Age features and enclosure ditch also suggest Iron Age activity in the proposed area.
- 4.2.2 The results of trial trenching by L-P: Archaeology revealed more potential Anglo-Saxon graves and a possible continuation of an Iron Age enclosure ditch though these features were confined to Trenches 2 and 4, both running Northeast by Southwest along the western perimeter of site.
- 4.2.3 Trenches 11 and 12 contained features of Post Medieval date, which may indicate activity on the site. Trenches 7, 8, and 16 revealed similar features containing modern waste, with an exploratory slot dug into feature [1604] and suggests a series of similar features in the area, potentially associated with the 1990s use of the site. These features do not appear to be of archaeological interest, and evidence of asbestos was seen in Trench 8.
- 4.2.4 Due to the presence of features likely to be graves of Anglo-Saxon date, it is advised that the western edge of the site be earmarked as a no dig zone. The area to the south of site currently containing allotments will need to be investigated should further work be carried out in the area.

5. PLATES



Plate 1. Trench 8 looking north-west, with 1m and 2m scales.



Plate 2. Feature [205] looking north-east, with 1m scale.

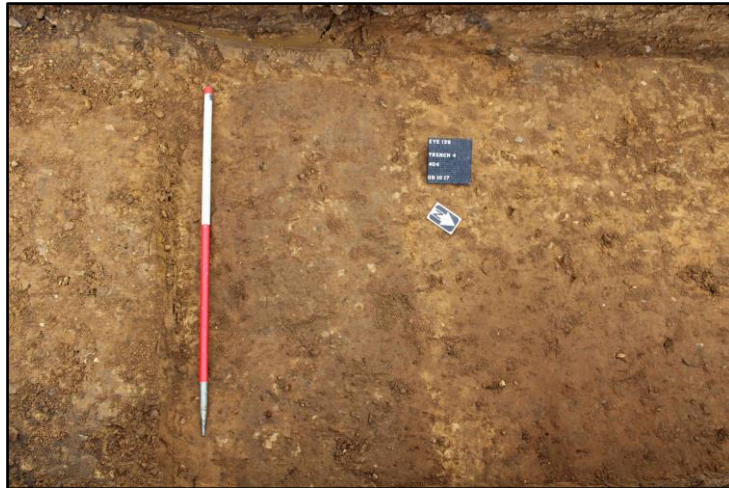


Plate 3. Features [404] and [408] looking south-west, with 1m scale.



Plate 4. Feature [408] looking south-west, with 1m scale.



Plate 5. Feature [1105] looking south-east, with 1m scale.



Plate 6. Feature [1205] looking south-west, with 1m scale.



Plate 7. Feature [1604] looking north-east, with 1m scale.

6. ARCHIVE

6.1.1 The paper archive consists of:

- 6x Trench sheets
- 4x Context sheets
- 15x JPEG photo files
- 15x CR2 photo files

6.1.2 The finds archive consists of:

- Box artefacts as described in Section 5

6.1.3 The archive is to be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store.

DRAFT

7. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, 2017. 'British Geological Survey GeoIndex'. Available at: www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex.

Duffy J., 2017. Written Scheme for Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation, Land South of Eye Airfield. L-P: Archaeology. Doc Ref: LP2596E-SAE-v1.1

Oxford Archaeology East, 2015. Multi-period Remains at Eye Airfield, Parcels 13-15, Eye, Suffolk.

DRAFT

FIGURE I // Site Location



0 500 m



PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

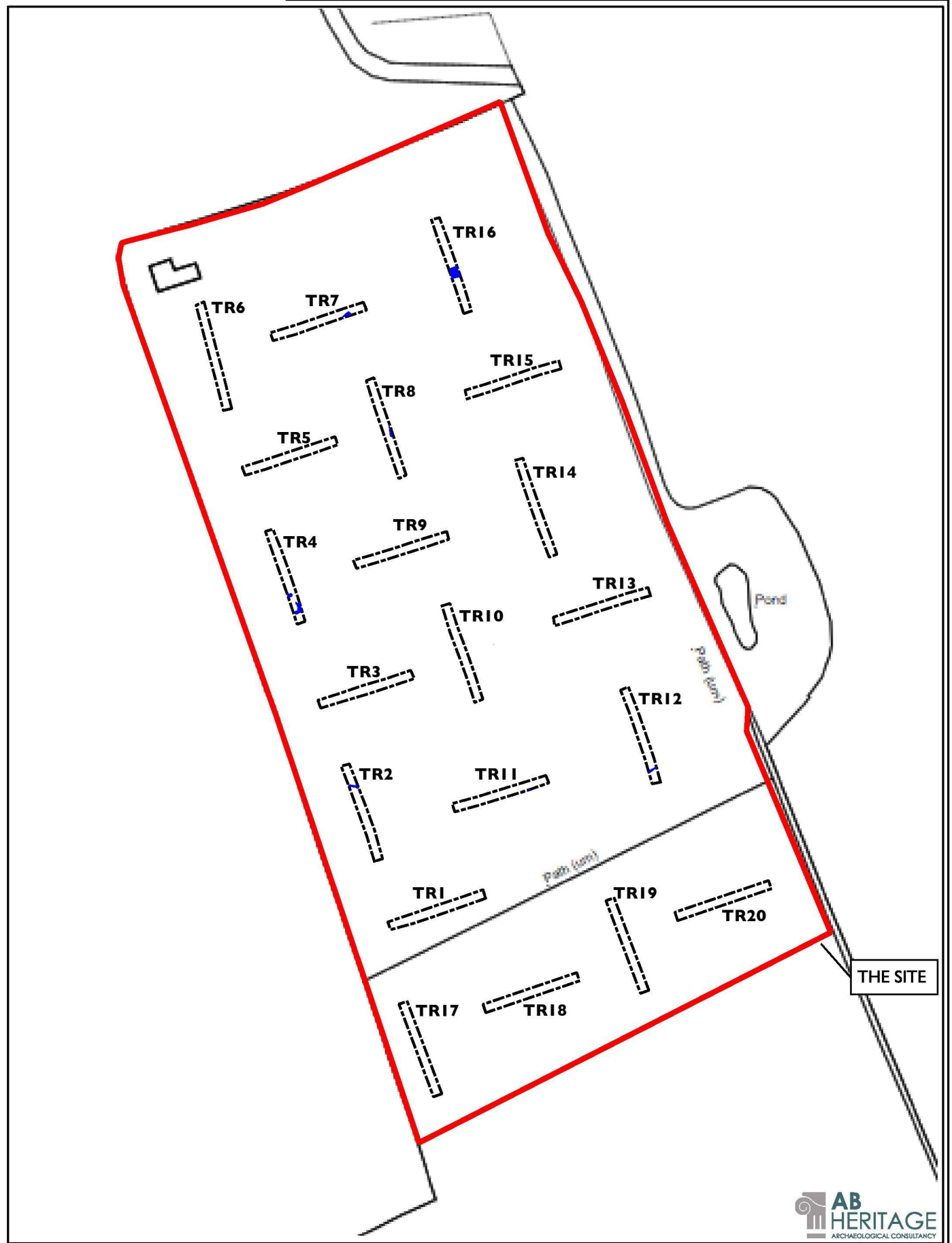
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO. Licence no. 100053067

DOC REF: LP2596E-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Trench Plan



PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

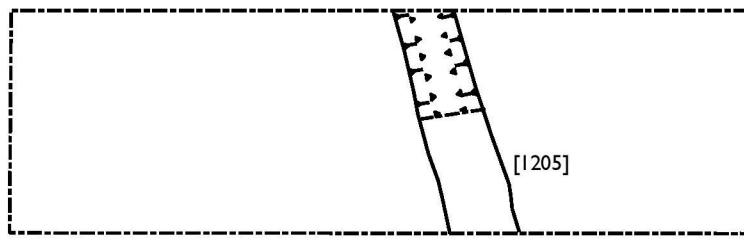
DESCRIPTION // Trench Plan

Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO. Licence no. 100053067

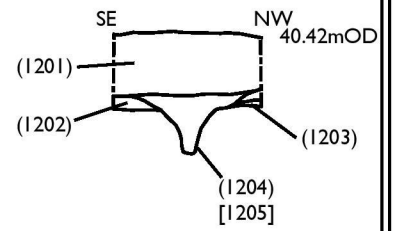
DOC REF: LP2596E-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

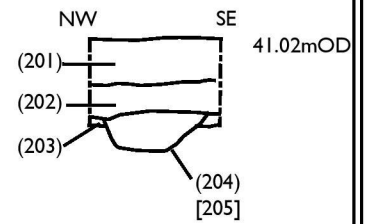
FIGURE 3 // Plans and Sections



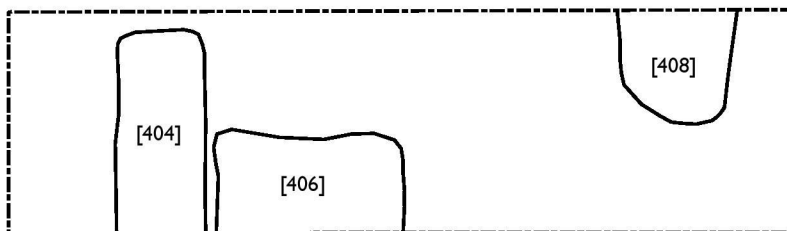
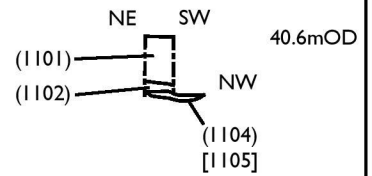
Plan of [1205]
Trench 12



Plan of [205]
Trench 2



Plan of [1105]
Trench 11



Plan of potential graves
Trench 4



PROJECT // 2596E - Land South of Eye Airfield

DESCRIPTION // Plans and Sections

DOC REF: LP2596E-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY



AB Heritage Limited (Head Office)
Jarrow Business Centre, Rolling Mill
Road, Jarrow, South Tyneside, NE32 3DT
Tel: 03333 440 206
e-mail: info@abheritage.co.uk