

The Firs, Burstall Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Mick Carter

CA Project: SU0554
CA Report: SU0554_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-516403
HER Ref: SPT 112

August 2023



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SUMMARY

Project name:	The Firs, Burstall Lane
Location:	Sproughton, Suffolk
NGR:	611595 244851
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	21st July 2023
Planning reference:	DC/22/04266/FUL
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-516403
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	SPT 112

In July 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at The Firs, Burstall Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk.

One 15 m long x 1.8 m wide trench was opened within the footprint of the proposed building. No archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts were recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In April 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on the land at The Firs, Burstall Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk (centred at NGR: 611595 244851; Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Stan Beanland (Beanland Associates Architects Ltd) on behalf of their client, Mick Carter.
- 1.2. Planning permission on application DC/22/04266/FUL was part conditional on the completion of a programme of archaeological mitigation, the scope of which was defined by Matthew Baker of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the Archaeological Advisors (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in a Brief dated 17th February 2023 (Baker 2023). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a WSI prepared by CA (2023) and approved by Matthew Baker.
- 1.3. The evaluation also complied with SCCAS Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (SCCAS 2023), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015a) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015b).

The site

- 1.4. The development site lies within a plot of land immediately to the west of The Firs. It is bounded by Burstall Lane to the south, the garden of The Firs to the east and an arable field to the west and north. The plot lies on a gentle east facing slope at a height of c.40m AOD on the crest of the west side of the valley of the River Gipping; the river itself flows in a south-easterly direction c.950m to the east of the site.
- 1.5. The bedrock geology is mapped as Thames Group - Clay, silt and sand, a sedimentary rock formed between 56 and 33.9 million years ago during the Palaeogene period while the overlying superficial deposits are Lowestoft Formation - Sand and Gravel, sedimentary deposits formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period. <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The SCCAS Brief stated that 'This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER), in close proximity to a Bronze Age burial mound (HER no. SPT 041). Recent archaeological evaluations

adjacent this site (STP 065) have identified archaeological features as well as the presence of a buried soil in the trenches closest to the site'. **Louisa Cunningham (SCCAS) confirmed there was no need for a formal HER search to be carried out for this project.**

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The main objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation. In accordance with Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2020a), the evaluation was designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered would enable SCCAS to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

3.2. The Brief (Baker 2023) stated the specific aims of the evaluation were 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.

3.3. Any archaeological remains identified would also have been put into their local and regional context with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Agenda (Medlycott 2011) and the more recent updated version (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The fieldwork comprised the mechanical excavation of a single 15m long, 1.8m wide trench within the footprint of the new building (Fig. 2).

-
- 4.2. The trench was set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS and scanned for live services using CAT and Genny equipment. Overburden was stripped from the trench by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Upcast spoil was scanned for artefactual evidence and subject to a metal detector survey.
 - 4.3. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
 - 4.4. CA will make arrangements with SCCAS for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2020b) and SCCAS (2022) guidelines .
 - 4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. The excavated trench was 15m long by 1.8m wide and oriented northeast to southwest (Fig. 2). The surface context (100) was a mid-greyish brown silty sand with frequent small stones and 0.35m thick. This appeared to be redeposited material which covered a former topsoil (101), which was 0.20m deep. The subsoil (102), a mid-greyish-brown silty sand with frequent gravel was 0.35m deep over the natural (103), a reddish yellow coarse sand with reddish brown gravelly sand patches (Fig. 3).

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. No finds were recovered and no contexts required sampling.

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1. No finds or features were recovered from the trench which was devoid of archaeology. Previous activity at the location appears to have involved the redeposition of topsoil. This may have been undertaken to level the area.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

10.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Preston Boyles. This report was written by Claire Halley. The illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer. The project archive has been prepared for deposition by Zoe Emery. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Boulter who also copyedited this report.

9. REFERENCES

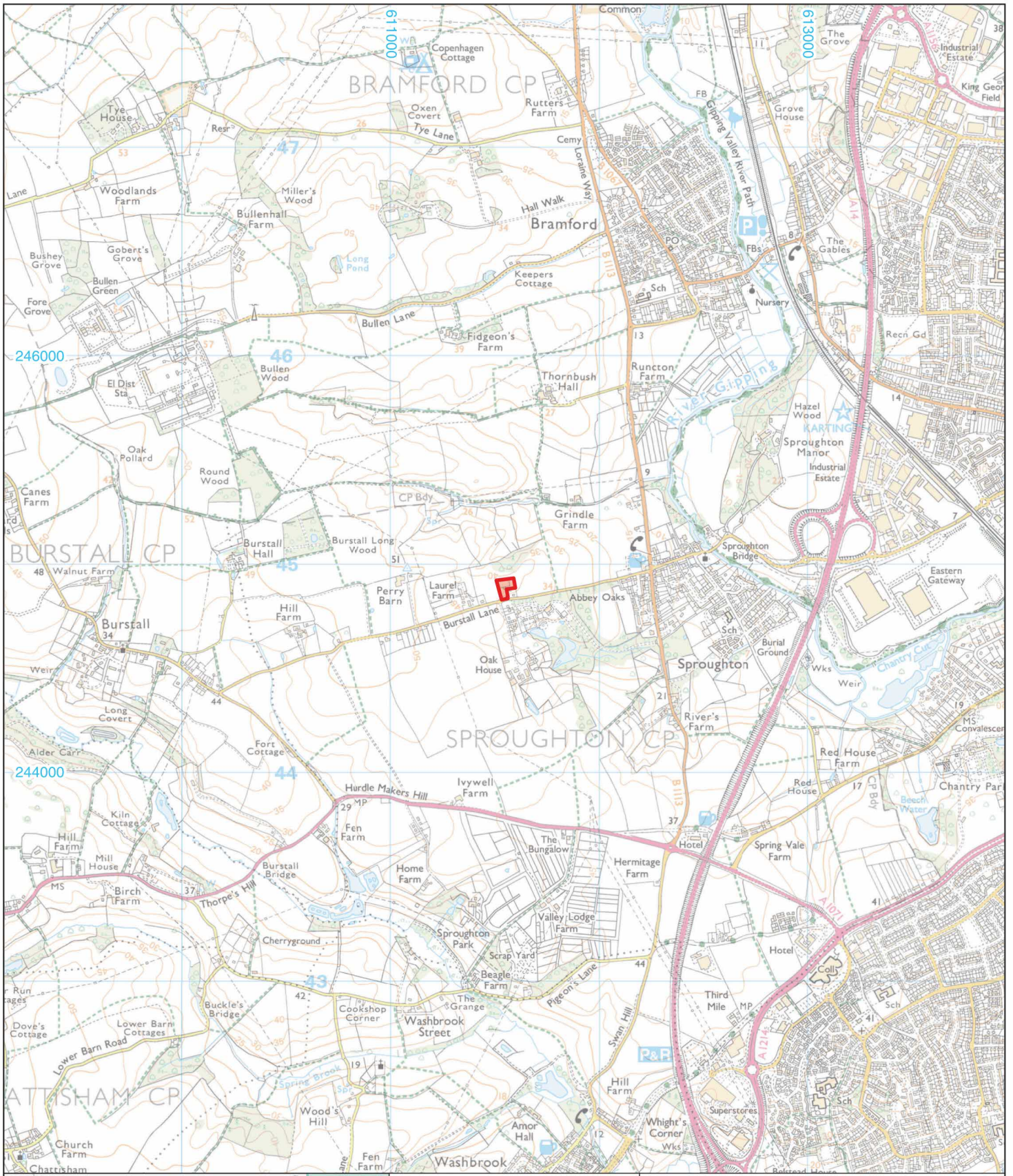
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https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.36736869.41801157.1668691102-1716593036.1668691102 Accessed 16 August 2023
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- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2021 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- SCCAS 2022, *Guidelines for Archive Preparation and Deposition*
- SCCAS 2023, *Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Feature Type	Category	Feature Number	Description	Depth (m)
100	Redeposited Topsoil	Layer		Mid greyish brown soft silty sand with frequent small stones.	0.35
101	Topsoil	Layer		Mid greyish brown soft silty sand with frequent small stones.	0.20
102	Subsoil	Layer		Mid greyish brown firm silty sand with frequent gravel	0.35
103	Natural	Layer		Reddish yellow coarse sand with reddish brown gravelly sand patches	-

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	The Firs, Burstall Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk	
Short description	<p>In July 2023, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at The Firs, Burstall Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk.</p> <p>One 15m x 1.8m evaluation trench was dug. No finds or features were revealed. The trench was devoid of archaeology.</p>	
Project dates	21 July 2023	
Project type	Evaluation Test Trench	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Not known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	The Firs Burstall Lane, Sproughton, Suffolk	
Study area (m ² /ha)	c.0.1 hectares	
Site co-ordinates	611595 244851	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	SCCAS	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Stuart Boulter	
Project Supervisor	Preston Boyles	
MONUMENT TYPE	N/A	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	N/A	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	SCCAS	Report
Digital	ADS	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2023 The Firs, Burstall Lane Sproughton, Ipswich, Suffolk: <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA report SU0554_1		



 Site boundary



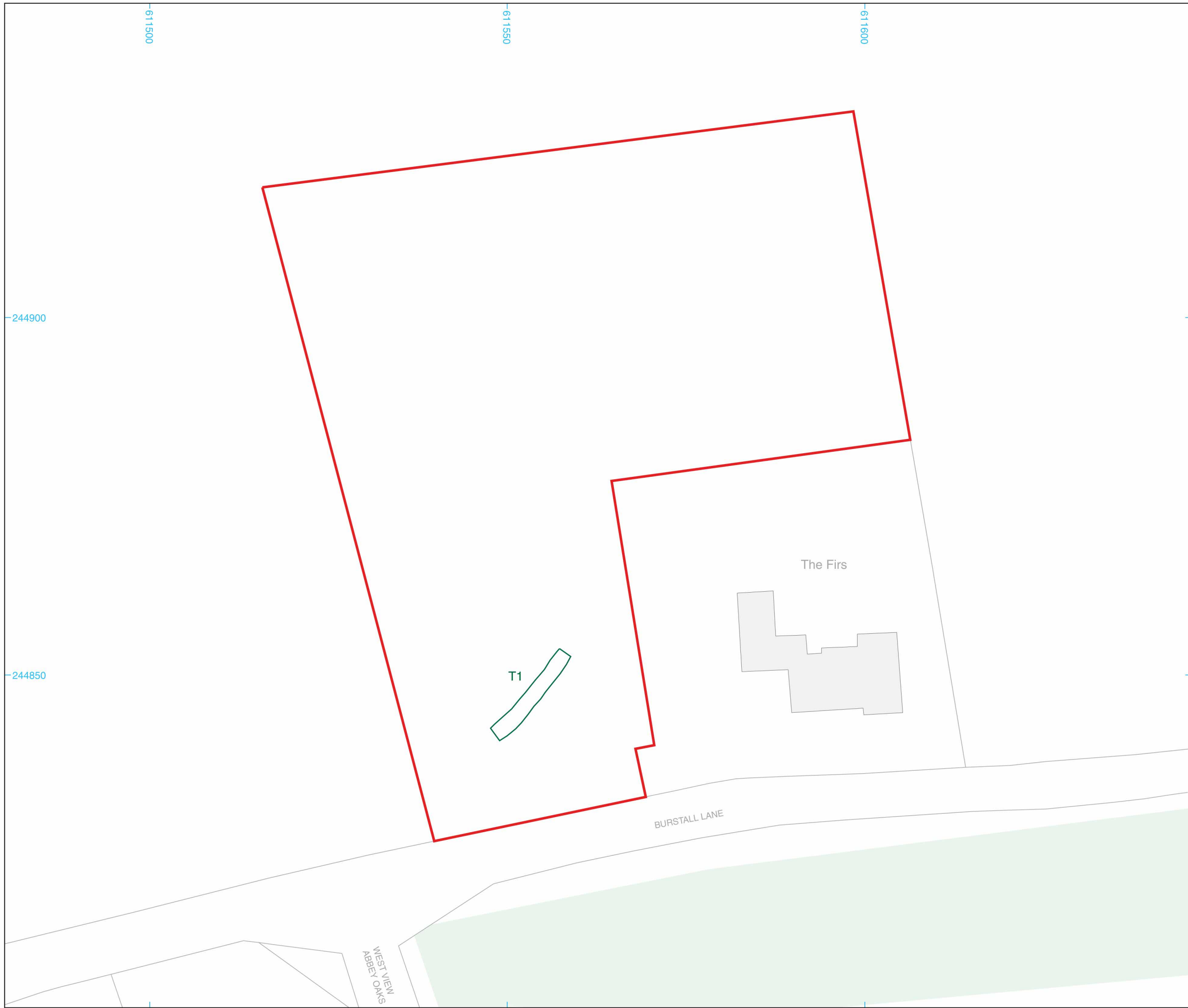
PROJECT TITLE
The Firs, Sproughton, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan



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DRAWN BY	KL	PROJECT NO.	SU0554	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	16/08/2023	1
APPROVED BY	SB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench



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PROJECT TITLE
The Firs, Sproughton, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE
Evaluation trench location

<small>DRAWN BY</small> KL	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> SU0554	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DB	<small>DATE</small> 16/08/2023	2
<small>APPROVED BY</small> SB	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:500	



Trench 1, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 1, representative section, looking south-east (1m scale)



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Archaeology

www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

The Firs, Sproughton, Suffolk

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

DRAWN BY KL PROJECT NO. SU0554
 CHECKED BY DB DATE 16/08/2023
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FIGURE NO.

3

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