

PROPOSED ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY AT SPRING GROVE FARM, WITHERSFIELD, NORTHWEST OF HAVERHILL, CB9 7SW

Heritage Desk-Based Assessment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Heritage Desk-Based Assessment has assessed the potential impacts on the built historic environment and archaeological remains associated with the Proposed Development of an AD facility on the land located north of the A1307, approximately 3km east of Haverhill town centre.

The proposed development would accept in the region of 92,000 tonnes per annum of feedstock per annum from the applicant's landholding and local farms, which would undergo a process of controlled decomposition (anaerobic digestion) within the Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility. This anaerobic digestion generates biogas which is upgraded on site into biomethane, before being removed by tanker to a central facility for injection into the national grid. The AD facility would have the capacity to produce **9,773,133Nm³** of biomethane per annum.

Site facilities include storage facilities for the incoming feedstock types, five digester tanks, three digestate covered lagoons, digestate separator, a rainwater lagoon and a power generation unit (comprising two Combined Heat and Power (CHP) engines). A buried pipeline, running approximately 2.5km north, will connect the AD facility to a lagoon, located 2km south of the village of Carlton Green.

A further two digestate lagoons are to be located some 2.5km to the north and connected to the main site via a pipeline.

Heritage

The potential impact on Silver Street Farmhouse (**NHLE 1236109**) has been assessed.

The assessment has concluded that though the development would result in a slight change to peripheral views from the asset there would be no impact on the important setting elements associated with the asset such that the ability to understand and appreciate the asset would be wholly unaffected. There would be no harm to the asset.

Archaeology

It is the conclusion of this assessment that the archaeological potential for the Site is generally low with the exception of possible Medieval or Post-Medieval agricultural remains, remains associated with the demolished RAF Watting Common, and a geophysical anomaly potentially aligned with the Worsted Street Roman Road. Overall, in conclusion it is not assessed that the archaeological potential within the Site would preclude development, any reasonably predicted remains not being worthy of preservation in situ.

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1.0 Introduction

In June 2022, SLR Consulting was commissioned by Acorn BioEnergy Limited to prepare a Heritage Desk-based Assessment in relation to a proposed development at Spring Grove Green Power, on land immediately north of the A1307, to the northwest of Haverhill, Suffolk (NGR TL 64498 46819) (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'; **Fig. 1**).

The proposed development comprises the construction of an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility. The development also includes a buried pipeline, running approximately 2.5km north, that will connect the AD facility to a lagoon, located 2km south of the village of Carlton Green.

1.1 The Site

The Site (**Fig. 2**) consists of two fields where the AD facility will be constructed, and then a linear pipeline leading to two lagoons. The AD facility, approximately 9.8ha, is located 250m to the northwest of the town of Haverhill. It is located across two agricultural fields, and is bordered to the north and west by a hedgerow with trees, and to the south by an area of woodland and the Stour Brook, beyond which is the A1307 road. The eastern border of the Site Boundary is open, overlooking the remainder of the field to the east and Haverhill beyond. A small offshoot extends south from the eastern field to connect the Site to the A1307, though no development is planned within this area.

The 2.5m wide pipeline extends roughly 2.5km north of the AD facility, cutting through agricultural fields, crossing Horseheath Road and Skipper's Lane, running north parallel to the Stour Brook, before connecting to the lagoon, located immediately northeast of Cadge's Wood. The offsite lagoon area is approximately 1.5ha in size, and is located in the southeast corner of an arable field.

The Site is located on the border of West Suffolk and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, and though the Site is contained within West Suffolk the Study Area used for this assessment crosses into both District Councils.

There are no designated heritage assets located within the Site.

1.2 Purpose of this report

Archaeology

In relation to archaeological remains, this report identifies known and potential archaeological remains within the Site and discusses their significance, in accordance with the NPPF (2021) paragraph 194. The possible effect of the proposals upon the significance of those remains *as a result of any physical change*, e.g. their truncation or removal during construction groundworks, is also discussed, as far as possible, with reference to the latest design iteration.

Heritage

This report also identifies any heritage assets within the Site which could be affected through physical impact and the presence of designated heritage assets within the wider Site environs with the potential to be affected by the proposals *as a result of change to their setting*; this includes both above-ground heritage assets, e.g. Listed buildings, and buried heritage assets, e.g. Scheduled buried remains. The significance of those assets is described, including any contribution made by their inherent interests and their setting, in accordance with the NPPF (2021) paragraph 194. The possible effect of the proposals upon the significance of those assets, and the ability to appreciate their significance, is then discussed, as far as possible, with reference to the latest design iteration.

As the pipeline will be buried and the visual impact of the lagoon will be limited, the settings assessment has been limited to the area of the AD facility.

1.3 Report Structure

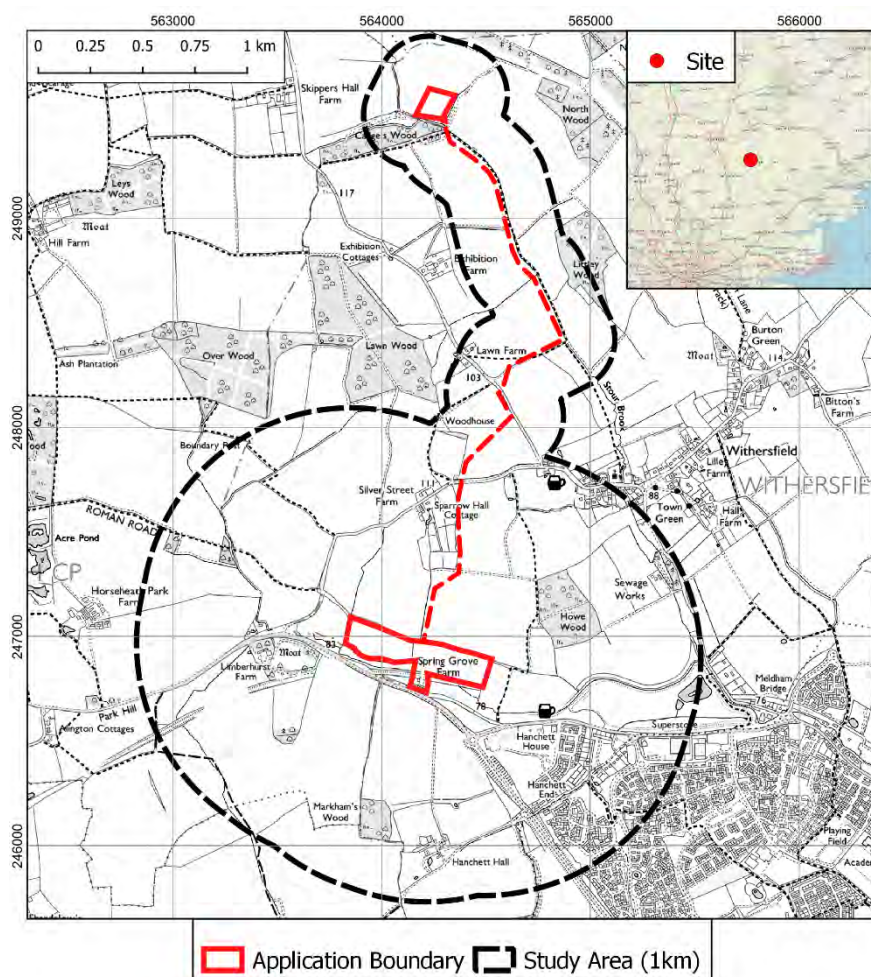
The report addresses potential Archaeology and Heritage receptors. The front end of this report references Policy and Legislation and a Methodology in respect to both Archaeology and Heritage receptors. Thereafter the Baseline, Significance Statements and anticipated Effects for Archaeology and Heritage are presented separately. Compliance with Legislation and Policy and Conclusions are drawn together at the back of the report.

1.4 Standards

The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant statute, policy and guidance, including the NPPF (2021), the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2017), Historic England's *Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2017), and Historic England's *Statements of Heritage Significance* (2019).

The assessment has been undertaken, and the report prepared, by Elliot Grater (PCIfA), Senior Consultant (Archaeology and Cultural Heritage), and Harry Towers (ACIfA) Senior Consultant (Archaeology and Cultural Heritage) of SLR Consulting. SLR Consulting is a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME).

Figure 1
Site Location



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Figure 2
Site and Lagoon Plan





2.0 Legislation and Policy

Designated heritage assets protected by statutory legislation comprise Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wrecks, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

Nationally significant archaeological sites, monuments and structures are protected under the **Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)**.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are protected under the **Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)**. In relation to development proposals, the legislation states that:

‘in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the secretary of state shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses’ (section 66).

With regards to Conservation Areas, it states that:

‘special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character of that area’ (section 72).

2.1 Planning Policy

2.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (Revised 2021)

Applicable national policy comprises the National Planning Policy Framework (2021), and specifically the following paragraphs:

Paragraph 194, which states that:

‘In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. 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. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.’

Paragraphs 199 and 200, which provide for designated heritage assets, and state respectively that:

‘When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance,’ and

‘Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;*
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.’*

Paragraph 201, which relates to instances of ‘substantial harm’, and states that:

'Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and*
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.'*

Paragraph 202, which relates to instances of 'less than substantial harm', and states that:

'Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.'

Paragraph 203, which relates to non-designated heritage assets, and states that:

'The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.'

2.1.2 Local Planning Policy

Local planning policy is provided in:

- West Suffolk Local Plan (consisting of the former Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury areas)¹
- South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (Adopted 2018)²
- Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan (adopted 2020)

Relevant policies comprise the following-

Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan: Joint Development Management Policies Document (Feb 2015)

Policy DM15 – Listed Buildings

Proposals to alter, extend or change the use of a listed building, or development affecting its setting, will be permitted where they:

- a) demonstrate a clear understanding of the significance of the building and/or its setting, alongside an assessment of the potential impact of the proposal on that significance;...*
- d) are of an appropriate scale, form, height, massing, and design which respects the existing building and its setting;...*
- g) respect the setting of the listed building, including inward and outward views;*
- h) respect the character or appearance of a park, garden or yard of historic or design interest, particularly where the grounds have been laid out to complement the design or function of the building. A curtilage*

¹ https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/local_plans/west-suffolk-local-plan-former-forest-heath-and-st-edmundsbury-areas.cfm

² Note, while the development is located wholly within West Suffolk there is still the possibility of indirect impact on the settings of assets within South Cambridgeshire, so relevant policies have been included here.

and/or setting which is appropriate to the listed building, and which maintains its relationship with its surroundings should be retained; and...

... All development proposals should provide a clear justification for the works, especially if these works would harm the listed building or its setting, so that the harm can be weighed against any public benefits. The level of detail of any supporting information should be proportionate to the importance of the building, the works proposed and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance and/or setting.

Policy DM17: Conservation Areas

Proposals for development within, adjacent to or visible from a Conservation Area should:

- a) preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area or its setting, and views into, through, and out of the area; ...*
- b) be of an appropriate scale, form, height, massing, alignment and detailed design which respect the area's character and its setting; ...*
- g) demonstrate a clear understanding of the significance of the Conservation Area and/or its setting, alongside an assessment of the potential impact of the proposal on that significance. The proposal should demonstrate how the key characteristics of the character area have been addressed.*

All development proposals should provide a clear justification for the works, especially if these works would harm the significance of a Conservation Area or its setting, so that the harm can be weighed against any public benefits. The level of detail of any supporting information should be proportionate to the importance of the area, the works proposed and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance and/or setting.

Policy DM20: Archaeology

Development will not be acceptable if it would have a material adverse effect on Scheduled Ancient Monuments or other sites of archaeological importance, or their settings.

On sites of archaeological interest, or of potential archaeological importance, provided there is no overriding case against development, planning permission will be granted subject to satisfactory prior arrangements being agreed.

This will include one or a combination of the following:

- a) an appropriate desk based assessment and/or field evaluation of the archaeological interest or significance prior to determination.*
- b) the preservation of archaeological remains in situ;*
- c) the adequate recording of the heritage asset by archaeological investigation before development commences (preservation by record).*

South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (Adopted 2018)

Policy NH/14: Heritage Assets

1. Development proposals will be supported when:

- a) They sustain and enhance the special character and distinctiveness of the district's historic environment including its villages and countryside and its building traditions and details;*
- b) They create new high quality environments with a strong sense of place by responding to local heritage character including in innovative ways.*

2. Development proposals will be supported when they sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets, including their settings, as appropriate to their significance and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, particularly:

- c) Designated heritage assets, i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens;*
- d) Non-designated heritage assets including those identified in conservation area appraisals, through the development process and through further supplementary planning documents;*
- e) The wider historic landscape of South Cambridgeshire including landscape and settlement patterns;*
- f) Designed and other landscapes including historic parks and gardens, churchyards, village greens and public parks;*
- g) Historic places;*
- h) Archaeological remains of all periods from the earliest human habitation to modern times.*

Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan (adopted 2020)

Policy GP4: General environmental criteria

Minerals and waste development will be acceptable so long as the proposals, adequately assess (and address where applicable any potentially significant adverse impacts including cumulative impacts) on the following...

- f) Historic environment, archaeology, heritage assets, and their setting;*

Policy WP 17: Design of waste management facilities

Waste management facilities will be considered favourably where they incorporate...

- d) measures which will protect, preserve and where practicable enhance the natural, and historic environment including the setting, landscape and built environment...*

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Baseline Data Collection

The purpose of this assessment is to understand the potential impact of the proposals on heritage assets. A staged approach is required to understand potential impact (significance of effect). In the first instance a baseline is gathered in order to understand the presence/absence of archaeology and heritage receptors.

The following sources were consulted where appropriate in respect to potential archaeological and heritage receptors:

- the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), for all records relating to designated heritage assets;
- the local Historic Environment Records (HERs), for sites, events and Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) data;
- the Environment Agency's library of open access LiDAR data (DSM, DTM and point cloud);
- the Ordnance Survey open-source library, for topographic and cartographic data, including elevation point cloud, contour and hydrological data;
- historic cartographic sources, including large-scale county surveys, tithe mapping and early Ordnance Survey editions;
- other online resources, including: the British Geological Survey; the Cranfield University Soilscape viewer; and the National Library of Scotland's online mapping database;
- West Suffolk and South Cambridgeshire's Council's online planning application portals, for relevant documentation submitted in relation to proximate applications; and
- grey literature relating to excavations within, and within proximity to, the Site.

3.1.1 NHLE/HER Datasets

Archaeology

For purposes of baseline data collection, a 1km study area was utilised for designated and non-designated heritage assets of an archaeological nature around the AD facility area. A 250m study area was utilised for the pipeline given its limited footprint.

A proportionate level of HER data, sufficient to inform the assessment of archaeological potential, significance and potential impact presented in this report, were obtained. The HER data was reconciled and analysed within the context of the objectives of the present assessment.

While all of the HER data received have been reviewed and considered, not all HER records (sites and events) are discussed further within this report, only those that are of relevance, to the determination of potential, significance and potential impact.

All data supplied by the HER are presented in **Appendix 1**.

Heritage

For purposes of baseline data collection, a maximum 1km study area was utilised for designated heritage assets.

3.1.2 Site visit

As part of baseline collection, a Site inspection was also undertaken in April 2022 in order to assess the AD Plant Site within its wider landscape context, identify any evidence for previous disturbance, and examine any known

or suspected archaeological features. A second visit was conducted in January 2023 to assess the landscape context of the lagoon and pipeline route. Field observations in respect to potentially sensitive designated heritage assets within the search area were also collected at the time of the Site inspection, assets being assessed from within the Site and/or publicly accessible areas as appropriate towards achieving an understanding of their significance and the contribution of setting towards this.

3.1.3 Evaluation fieldwork

A geophysical survey was undertaken on the Site where possible, as the eastern field was at the time a wildflower meadow. This is appended in full to this report, see **Appendix 3**.

3.1.4 Assessment of significance

With reference to the policy contained within the NPPF, the significance of heritage assets can be described in terms relating to their designated status. This essentially equates to assigning a descending level of importance as set out below.

1. Designated heritage assets of the highest significance (importance) are identified in paragraph 200 of the NPPF as comprising Grade I and II* Listed buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, World Heritage Sites and Registered Battlefields and non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments (as identified in footnote 63 of the NPPF).
2. Designated heritage assets of less than the highest significance (importance) are identified in paragraph 200 of the NPPF as comprising Grade II Listed buildings and Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens.
3. Non-designated heritage assets are defined within the PPG as “buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets”.³

However, whilst acknowledging that assets have varying levels of designated status (as set out above), understanding the effect of proposals rests on achieving an understanding of where the ‘significance’ of an asset lies and the effect of the proposed development on this ‘significance’. The NPPF defines ‘significance’ as:

‘the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.’

The NPPF glossary and the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) provides a definition for these interests as:

- Archaeological interest: “there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.”
- Architectural and artistic interest: “These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture.”
- Historic interest: “An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation’s history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.”

³ MHCLG, PPG, paragraph 039, reference ID: 18a-039-20190723.

Historic England's recently published guidance: *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12* (2019),⁴ concurs with the use of this terminology and methodology, both of which are thus adopted for the purposes of this report.

With specific regard to the assessment of impacts to designated heritage assets, in particular, as stated within the NPPF 'significance derives not only from the physical fabric of a heritage asset but also from its setting' (MHCLG 2021, Annex 2 page:72).

In respect of identifying the importance of setting to the identified significance of a heritage asset, Historic England's good practice guidance presented in the Setting of Heritage Assets (Historic England GPA 3 2017) will be utilised; specifically, the five-step approach to assessment:

- Step 1 – Identify which heritage assets and their settings may be affected;
- Step 2 – Assess the degree to which settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
- Step 3 – Assess if any change to the setting identified would affect the appreciation/ understanding of an asset's significance (there may be no change);
- Step 4 – Explore ways to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm;
- Step 5 – Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

A non-exhaustive list provided within the document (2017:11) identifies themes such as:

- Physical Surroundings;
 - Topography;
 - aspect;
 - functional relationships and communications;
 - history and degree of change over time; and
- sense of enclosure, seclusion, intimacy or privacy.
 - Experience
 - views from, towards, through, across and including the asset;
 - intentional inter-visibility with other historic assets and natural features; and
 - sense of enclosure, seclusion, intimacy or privacy.

3.1.5 Assessment of Effects

An understanding of the presence/absence of receptors, their designated status and their significance provided by the above approach allows for a detailed and justifiable determination of how proposals would affect the archaeology and heritage resource. Once an understanding of significance has been achieved, the effect of proposals can be gauged on the basis of how the proposed development would affect the significance held by the asset (the designated status of an asset providing for some weighting in either how the impact is expressed or considered).

Potential development effects to **designated heritage assets** are discussed in terms of *harm to significance*. As clarified in the High Court, preservation does not mean no change; it specifically means no harm.⁵ This is echoed

⁴ Historic England, *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12* (Swindon, October 2019).

⁵ *R (Forge Field Society) v Sevenoaks District Council* [2014] EWHC 1895 (Admin).

in GPA 2, which states that “*Change to heritage assets is inevitable but it is only harmful when significance is damaged*”.⁶

Where harm is identified, the NPPF (2021), references the follows levels of harm with respect to **designated heritage assets**:

- **‘Substantial harm or total loss’**

*Being a level of harm that would “have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether or very much reduced”;*⁷ and

- **‘Less than substantial harm’**

Being any lesser level of harm than that defined above; recent case law has confirmed that this includes any level of harm (not considered substantial) regardless of its quantification, e.g. the finding of a ‘negligible’ level of harm must still be treated as less than substantial harm and be weighed in the balance under paragraph 202.

With reference to the broad parameters referenced above, the PPG provides that the category of harm identified for any given asset be ‘*explicitly identified*’, and that the extent of that harm be ‘*clearly articulated*’.⁸ For purposes of this assessment, this can be done with reference to a ‘spectrum’, e.g. *at the lower/upper end of the spectrum of less than substantial*.

- **The NPPF does not provide that harm to non-designated heritage assets be categorised as ‘substantial’ or ‘less than substantial’, only that the scale of any harm or loss is articulated.**

The assessment of anticipated development effects can thus be seen to have been undertaken in accordance with a robust methodology, formulated within the context of current best practice, the relevant policy provisions, and key professional guidance.

⁶ Historic England, GPA 2, p. 9.

⁷ *Bedford Borough Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* [2013] EWHC 2847 (Admin), para. 25.

⁸ MHCLG, PPG, paragraph 018, reference ID: 18a-018-20190723.

4.0 Archaeological Baseline

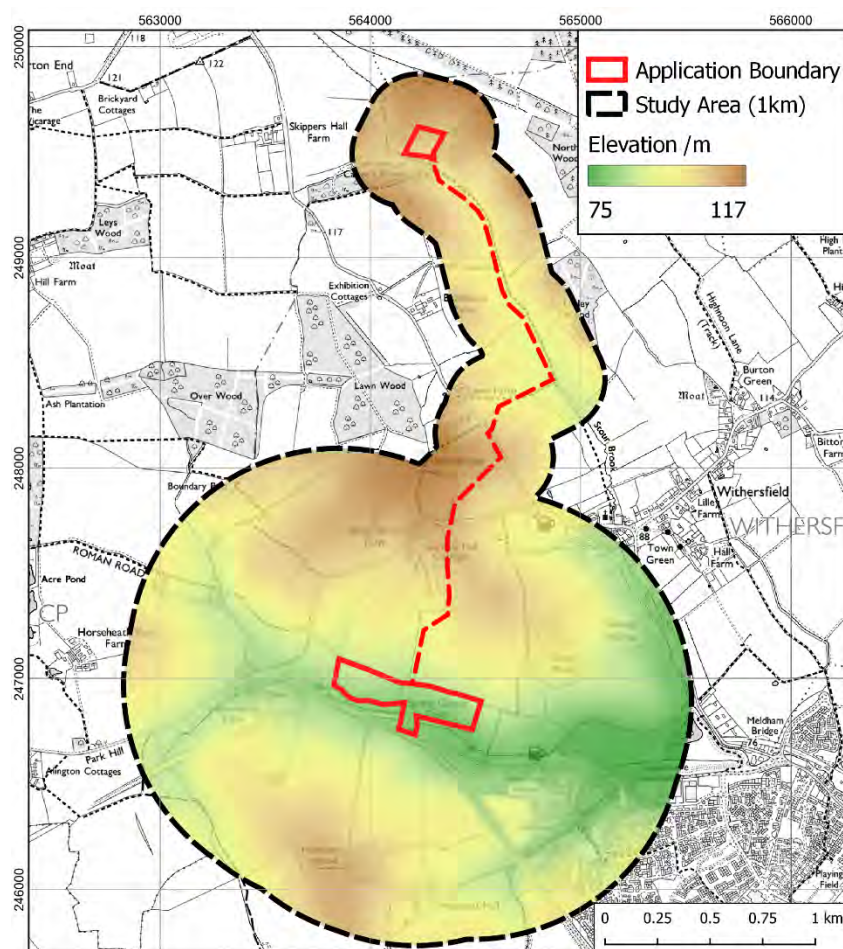
4.1 Designated assets

There are no scheduled monuments located within the Site or within the 1km study area.

4.2 Geology and Topography

The proposed AD facility is located to the immediate north of the Stour Brook, running east-west below the Site, and sits in a shallow valley, with higher ground (113m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at highest point), to the north and south. The area of the AD facility itself gently slopes from north to south towards the Stour Brook, with a high point in the northwest corner of 92m metres aOD, sloping down to 83m aOD in the southeast corner. A narrow, straight watercourse runs north-south through the centre of the two fields, running into the Stour Brook. The pipeline, running north, gains elevation to approximately 110m aOD after crossing Horseheath Road, before turning east towards the Stour Brook, then running north parallel to the brook on its western bank. The Stour Brook is located in a shallow valley that rises north from 90 aOD to 105 aOD at the point of the lagoon. Surrounding the lagoon is higher ground to the north, east, and west.

Figure 3
Terrain Model



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The bedrock geology of the Site is chalk, overlain with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation Diamicton till which has a high chalk and flint content.

The soils consist of freely draining slightly acidic loamy soils in the southern portion of the two fields and lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage in the north of the fields continuing to the lagoon⁹.

4.3 Previous Surveys

No previous archaeological work has taken place within the Site or the immediate surrounding area. To the southeast of the Study Area within Haverhill there has been limited archaeological activity in the form of two separate trial trenching evaluations, which revealed evidence of ancient woodland (**HVH 057**) and archaeological features comprising two possible post holes and a curving ditch which contained Iron Age Pottery (**HVH 025**). The distance of these excavations limit their relevance for informing the archaeological potential of the Site itself, but do contribute to the understanding of the wider historic landscape. A series of fieldwalking and earthworks surveys took place to the south of the Site at Shudy Camps between 1998-2000 (**ECB2534**), with the northern extent of the survey just within the Study Area. Numerous finds and features were recorded from prehistory to post-medieval, but aside from a possible Roman road (**08229**), no assets found during the fieldwork are recorded within our study area.

Amateur metal detecting in fields 800m to the east of the Site, with finds reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), has revealed a quantity of objects from the Iron Age to the post-medieval periods, but the extent that has been covered by metal detecting is not clear, and therefore it is quite limited in its ability to inform as to archaeological potential within the Site.

4.4 Chronological Background

4.4.1 Prehistoric

Prehistoric environment is shown in **Drawing 1**.

There are no prehistoric assets within the Site.

The closest potential prehistoric asset is a possible Bronze Age Ring Ditch (**WTH 005**), located 220m southwest of the northern end of the pipeline. Discovered in aerial photographs as a cropmark, the asset is isolated, with no other known prehistoric features in proximity, though it is recorded in the HER that flint flakes were identified during fieldwalking within the field the asset is located.

Within the wider area evidence of prehistoric activity is limited to two Iron Age coin findspots 700m to the east of the site (**WTH 019**, **WTH 020**) uncovered through metal detecting, and the Iron Age features identified during trial trenching in Haverhill (**HVH 025**, Section 4.3), 950m to the southeast. The scattered and limited nature of these assets are of limited usefulness in determining the prehistoric potential of the site.

Summary of prehistoric potential

Given the above, the potential for prehistoric remains to survive buried within the Site is considered low. Prehistoric assets are limited to isolated features and find spots outside the Site, and with the exception of the possible ring ditch (**WTH 005**) and have no obvious correlation relating to areas of the Site. The lack of any known related remains to the ring ditch, the distance from the pipeline, and the relatively small footprint of the pipeline to the ring ditch is limited means that the chance of disturbing related remains is low.

⁹ [Soilscapes soil types viewer - National Soil Resources Institute, Cranfield University \(landis.org.uk\)](https://landis.org.uk/soilscapes-soil-types-viewer)

The lack of archaeological investigation of the surrounding area may be a reason for the limited prehistoric archaeology discovered to date, but the paucity of remains in the wider area is likely a reflection of general activity.

4.4.2 Romano-British context

The Romano-British historic environment is shown in **Drawing 1**. Running east-west across (and overlapping on several locations) the northern edge of the AD facility, is the possible course of a Roman Road, *Worsted Street* (also known as the *Via Devana*), which is purported to extend from Chester, through Cambridge, to Colchester (Margary 1967). Two separate courses are given for the roads (**07970** and **WTH 007**), which broadly overlap, though **WTH 007** is more within the footprint of the AD facility itself. The route of the road by the Site broadly aligns with the current field boundaries. The proposed pipeline is located over both possible courses for the road, bisecting at a roughly 90 degree angle.

The road, and its supposed route to Colchester, was coined *Via Devana* by the antiquarian Dr. Mason in the 1750s. The route of the road to the west in Cambridgeshire was well defined, traced from Cambridge to the village of Streetly End in the early 20th century (Condrington 1903), 2.5km to the northwest of the Site. Excavations at Mount Farm, Fulbourn, immediately east of Cambridge and 15km northwest of the Site, confirmed that the road existed in a well-preserved state between Fulbourn and Cambridge, with chalk foundations and a gravel metalled surface. However, to the southeast, beyond the modern footprint of the A11, little evidence for a road was uncovered, leading to the conclusions that the road beyond may be a Romanised track, rather than a purpose-built Roman road, or even that the known pathway is actually a later medieval trackway, unrelated to the Roman period at all (Wait 1992). Evidence in support of the route of the Roman road is recorded in the Suffolk HER through possible traces of the gravel surface 500m and 1km to the east of the Site, but no certainty of its route is given. The route of the road is recorded on the 1st edition OS map (1885, 6 inch) running west from Streetly End up to the border of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, and the current proposed route continues this alignment towards the Site. The topography of the area also lends some support to the proposed location, as the conjectured road runs east-west through the valley of the Stour Brook, staying level and broadly following the course of the river.

Within the wider Study Area, further scattered evidence of Romano-British activity exists. A further possible Roman road was recorded 780m to the southwest during fieldwalking (**08229**), which due to its proximity might bear a relationship to *Via Devana* (**MCB9602/07970**) but its existence has not been confirmed through archaeological investigation, and its alignment northwest-southeast would not suggest it would intersect with the Site. Multiple Roman find spots have been uncovered 800m northeast of Site through metal detecting, in the same vicinity as the few Iron Age objects uncovered. The Roman finds have included a brooch (**WTH 052**) and fourth century coins (**WTH 020**). Limited Roman evidence has been uncovered within Haverhill, with one further find spot (**HVH 042**), and a single ditch dated to the Roman period (**HVH 058**). The presence of Roman artefacts to the east of the Site is suggestive of further activity in that area, though no definitive settlement evidence has been found to date. Known Roman assets do not form an obvious pattern with the conjectured route of the Roman Road, and are not suggestive of subsidiary activity associated with the Road such as road-side settlements. The distance from the Site boundary to these artefacts makes it difficult to draw any conclusions on the Roman potential of the site itself based on the surrounding area.

Summary of Romano-British potential

Worsted Street is recorded on the HER as crossing over the proposed pipeline route, although site walkover does not indicate any upstanding remains. While roadside remains and potential roadside activity cannot be ruled out, geophysical survey suggests any such remains, if present, are limited in extent.

4.4.3 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

The Early Medieval historic environment is shown in **Drawing 2**. One Anglo-Saxon asset is recorded in the footprint of the pipeline, a metal-detected Middle Saxon strap-end fragment (**WTH 026**). Two separate HER records exist for the find, one of which is west of the pipeline and one of which overlaps it, and it is not clear which one is more accurate for the location of the find. Regardless, this is an isolated single find with no known archaeological features associated with it.

Other Anglo-Saxon/early medieval assets are limited to a few scattered find spots within the wider study area (See **Appendix 1**). The greatest concentration of artefacts is a collection of 35 artefacts (**WTH 038**) recorded approximately 500m southeast of the Site, recovered during metal detecting on a development, and possibly related to a burial. This asset likely relates to the Anglo-Saxon settlement at Haverhill (see 4.4.4 for Domesday Book discussion) and does not suggest any further archaeology within the Site itself.

Summary of Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval potential

Given the above, the potential for early medieval remains to survive buried within the site is considered negligible/nil. Though a single metal detected find may have been detected in the footprint of the pipeline, there is no evidence of related archaeological features within the footprint of the Site. This is reflective of the general paucity of Anglo-Saxon remains in England in general.

4.4.4 Medieval context

The Medieval historic environment is shown in **Drawing 2**.

No medieval assets are located within the Site.

Assets in the wider area include scattered artefacts to the east (recovered in the same area as LIA and Roman artefacts), and to the southeast, all of which are located at the periphery of the Study Area and have little ability to inform as to the archaeological potential of the Site. They are likely associated with the expansion of the settlements of Withersfield and Haverhill, both recorded in the Domesday Book as sites of multiple dwellings by 1086, and neither of which expand into the boundaries of the Site. A full list of these assets is contained within **Appendix 1**.

Two assets are located close to the west of the AD facility.

Horseheath Park (**MCB17529**), c.500m west of the Site, is a 140 hectare area of land put aside for the hunting of deer, and enveloping the medieval settlement of Horseheath. The area, originally consisting of enclosed grassland and woodland, was imparked in 1448 by William Alington, though reached its greatest extent in 1770, when it enclosed just under 300 hectares. The park is associated with a former manor dwelling, Horseheath Hall, the location of which is beyond the study area. The boundary of the HER puts the park 450m to the western extent of the Site. It is not recorded in the HER data that the park was enclosed or ditched, and there is no evidence to suggest that archaeology associated with the park would be within the Site.

Immediately adjacent to the park, and 340m southwest of the Site are the earthwork remains of a moated site, Limbery Moat (**01170**). This moated, rectangular site, measuring 300ft by 275ft, is purported to be the remains of a homestead, though no associated buildings are known, and the western and southern moat arms are mostly filled in, with the centre of the site occupied by more recent farm buildings. The asset is not close enough to the Site boundary to suggest that associated buried archaeology would be present within the Site, but it is suggestive of agricultural activity within the wider area during the medieval period. The Historic Land Character (HLC) data highlights that land to the west and north of the Site, encapsulating Limbery Moat is characterised as pre-18th century enclosures, though this does not continue into the Site itself (as discussed in Section 4.4.5).

Summary of Medieval potential

Given the above, the potential for medieval remains to survive buried within the Site is considered low. Should any such remains survive buried within the Site they would most likely be agricultural in nature, e.g. remnant field boundary ditches.

4.4.5 Post Medieval

The Post-Medieval historic environment is shown in **Drawing 3**.

Two post-medieval assets are located within the Site, the Stour Valley Railway Line (**SUF 075**) and Spring Grove Farm (**WTH 055**), though both are located in an area of the Site (as per Figure 2) where no development is to take place, and therefore there should be no chance of direct impact on the assets.

A series of post-medieval assets are located within the wider study area, including several Listed Buildings, which are discussed in Section 6.

The majority of post-medieval assets can be broadly categorized into two groups, houses/cottages associated with the growth of Withersfield and Haverhill, and scattered farmhouses and associated infrastructure associated with post-medieval farming activity in the area.

A review of historic mapping shows how the land within the Site developed and changed during the post-medieval period. The Early OS Boxstead map (1799, not reproduced here) shows that the western field was at the time a woodland, while the eastern field was divided into several smaller fields. The 1840 Withersfield Tithe map (see **Figure 3**) confirms the woodland in the western field as 'Bonsey wood', part of the land owned by Thomas Duffield, which extended into the eastern field known as 'Great Low Ground'.

The proposal for the pipeline and lagoon crosses over many fields and field boundaries, both those still in use and former boundaries from the post-medieval period. All linears that the pipeline crosses shown on the LIDAR that are not current field boundaries, are shown on historic mapping (Figures 3 & 4) and can all be identified as former field boundaries or paths. The Early OS Boxstead map (1799, not reproduced here) and 1840 Withersfield Tithe maps show that the route of the pipeline travels through an area that has remained in agricultural use since the post-medieval period, with little change to the landscape except the moving of field boundaries and the loss of patches of woodland.

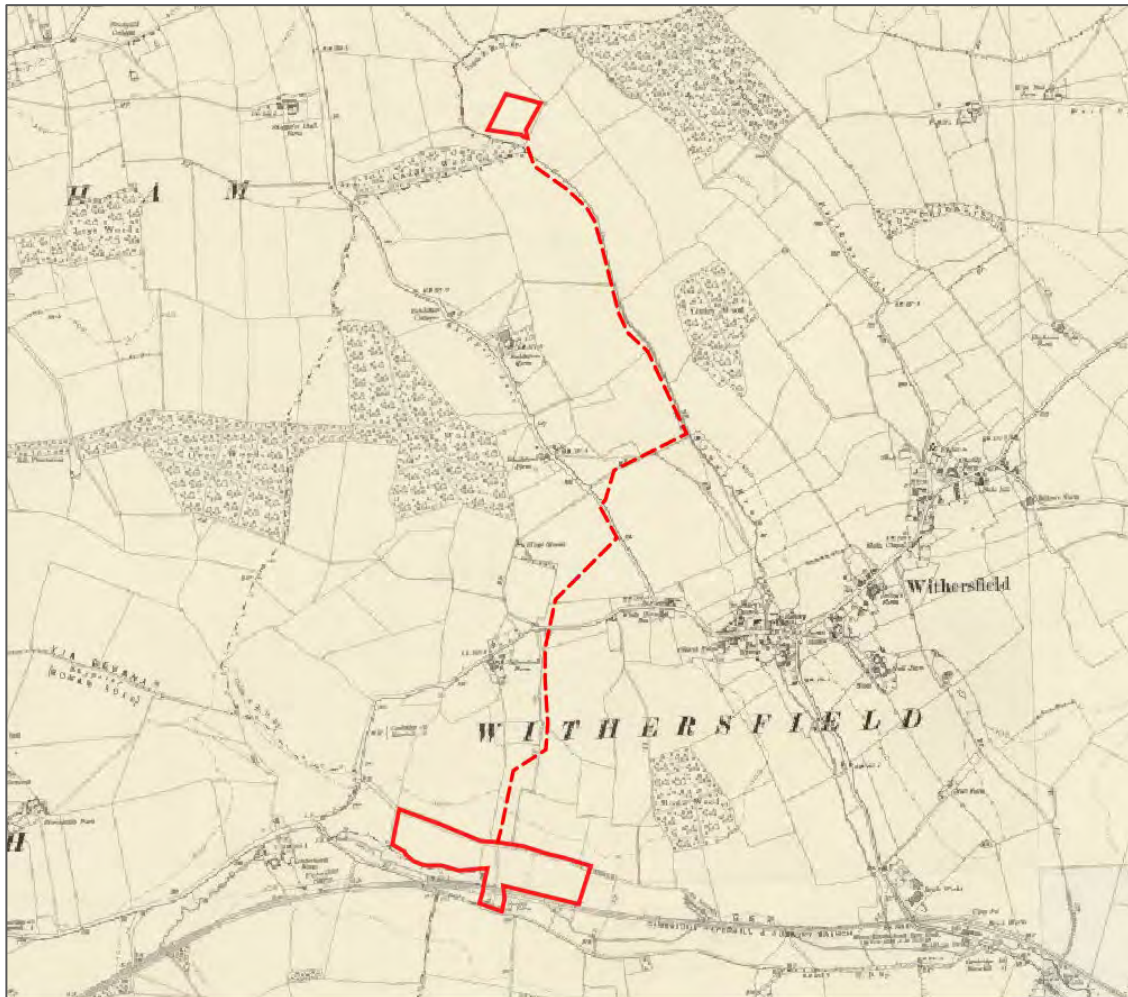
Figure 4
Withersfield Tithe Map (1840), reproduced with permission from The Genealogist



A significant alternation to the landscape occurs between 1849-1865 with the opening of the Stour Valley Railway Line (**SUF 075**), which ran east-west to the immediate south of the Site, intersecting the Site at one point. A signal post adjacent to the northern side of the line may have been located within the boundary of the Site. This line is visible on the 6" 1885 OS 1st Ed (Cambridgeshire Sheet LVI.SW) where it can also be observed that the western field within the Site has been cleared of forestry, and a footpath runs north-south across the eastern field (see Figure 4). This extended to Spring Grove Farm and likely facilitated the use of the Site for agricultural purposes in relation to this farm at this time. Little further change is noted in later OS map editions. A property is still located at Spring Grove Farm today, but the original 19th century asset has suffered significant loss to its

traditional farm buildings. The Stour Valley railway line closed in 1967, and the area it occupied to the south of the Site is now wooded.

Figure 5
1885 OS Map



The area of the AD facility is classified in the HLC as part of a post-1950's agricultural landscape, but with the exception of the removal of the railway, there has been little change to the land within the Site since the end of the 19th century, and any changes to the landscape have been the result of border loss. Approximately 900m north of the AD facility, the pipeline crosses into an area classified pre-18th century field enclosures, though the mapping and LIDAR data does show how field boundaries have continued to change and develop into the modern era. The lagoon itself is yet again located in an area of post-1950's agricultural landscape.

Summary of Post-Medieval potential

The western field of the AD facility was potentially under woodland for much of the post-medieval period, as such apart from any forestry related features, there is a low to nil potential for archaeology associated with the post-medieval period. The eastern field has a high potential for surviving archaeology in the forms of former field boundaries and footpaths. Furthermore, there is some potential for trackside archaeology associated with the Stour Valley railway given its proximity to the Site and the annotation of a signal post on the 1885 Ordnance Survey, albeit the area where the track bed crosses into the Site is not an area that is due to be disturbed as part of the development. The pipeline and lagoon are located in an agricultural landscape that has continued to develop and change in the post-medieval period, and are likely to encounter and cross archaeological remains

associated with this activity, though these remains are almost certainly exclusively agricultural in nature, primarily former field boundaries.

4.4.6 Modern/World War Two

The modern historic environment is shown in **Drawing 3**. The northern end of the pipeline and the lagoon fall within the former location of RAF Wratting Common (**CB15159**), a Bomber Command airfield established in 1943, which had multiple functions during the war, including the basing of Stirling and Lancaster bomber squadrons and Horsa Gliders, as well as a base where crews could convert from one aircraft type to another. The base was closed in 1946, and the land has mostly returned to its former agricultural boundaries, with the exception of a memorial erected in memory of those who served at the base, and the footprints of the former runways, 300m north of the Site. It is possible to identify, through, LIDAR and aerial photography, cropmarks of paths and structures associated with the airfield, and it is known from historic plans of the base¹⁰ that the area of the base that the Site crosses into was part of a bomb dump, consisting of a series of buildings including bomb and grenade stores, and a series of connecting roads. Several of these trackways survive today as modern paths centred around Cadge's Wood. Aerial photography showed a possible hardstanding or building base visible within woodland at the southeast corner, which is still present as confirmed during the Jan 2023 site walkover. The feature corresponds to a bomb store visible on the plan of the airfield. The pipeline crosses several of the paths, and potentially over the location of a bomb store, and the lagoon is partially sighted over another store. Photographs taken in the 1980s, when the buildings were still upstanding, show them to be of a fairly standard Nissan Hut design with a prefabricated corrugated iron design¹¹.

Figure 6
RAF Wratting Common c.1945



Summary of Modern/World War Two Potential

¹⁰ [History of RAF Wratting Common \(wcnhistory.org.uk\)](http://www.wcnhistory.org.uk)

¹¹ <http://www.wcnhistory.org.uk/tags-gallery-buildings.html>

There is the high potential for surviving archaeological remains associated with RAF Wrattling Common (**CB15159**). The features located within the Site consist of bomb stores and associated paths, and are well documented on aerial photography and contemporary maps. Given the demolition of the site in 1946, these remains would likely consist of hardstanding, former trackways, and demolition rubble, and would be of low archaeological value.

4.4.7 Undated

Undated HER entries are shown in **Drawing 4**. Three areas of ancient woodland (**WTH 014**, **WTH 015**, **WTH 017**) are located within the study area. These are visible on the 1840 Witherfield Tithe Map along with the woodland then recorded in the western portion of the Site, and **WTH 015** is also recorded as owned by Thomas Duffield, but it is not possible to confirm if this woodland predates the post-medieval period.

The value of these assets is limited in informing on the archaeological potential of the Site, though they may form a reference for understanding the former woodland within the Site and are surviving elements of the post-medieval (and possibly earlier) agricultural landscape.

4.5 LIDAR and Aerial Photographic Review

A review of LIDAR data does not reveal any likely anomalies within the AD facility, though highlighted the gently sloping nature of the fields towards the Stour Brook. The only features recorded on the LIDAR over the pipeline corresponded to field boundaries and footpaths identifiable on historic mapping.

A review of available aerial photography did not reveal any likely archaeological features.

4.6 Site walkover

A walkover survey was undertaken in April 2022. The conditions during the survey were dry, with a mix of clear and cloudy weather. Both fields within the Site were accessed. The eastern most field was under arable cultivation with early stage crops, whereas the western field contained more significant vegetation growth across the length of it. A further walkover in January 2023 of the lagoon and pipeline route did not reveal any visible archaeological or landscape features.

No differential crop growth or earthwork features were identified in either field. Plates below are included to show the site conditions and general shots of the fields.

Plate 1
East facing overview of the eastern field



Plate 2
South facing shot of the eastern field



Plate 3
West facing shot of the Site, showing both eastern and western fields



Plate 4
West facing shot of the western field



Plate 5
North facing shot showing boundary between western and eastern fields



Plate 6
Lagoon Site from Skippers Lane (TL 63592 49628)



Plate 7
Ring Ditch WTH 005 Location TL 64143 49234

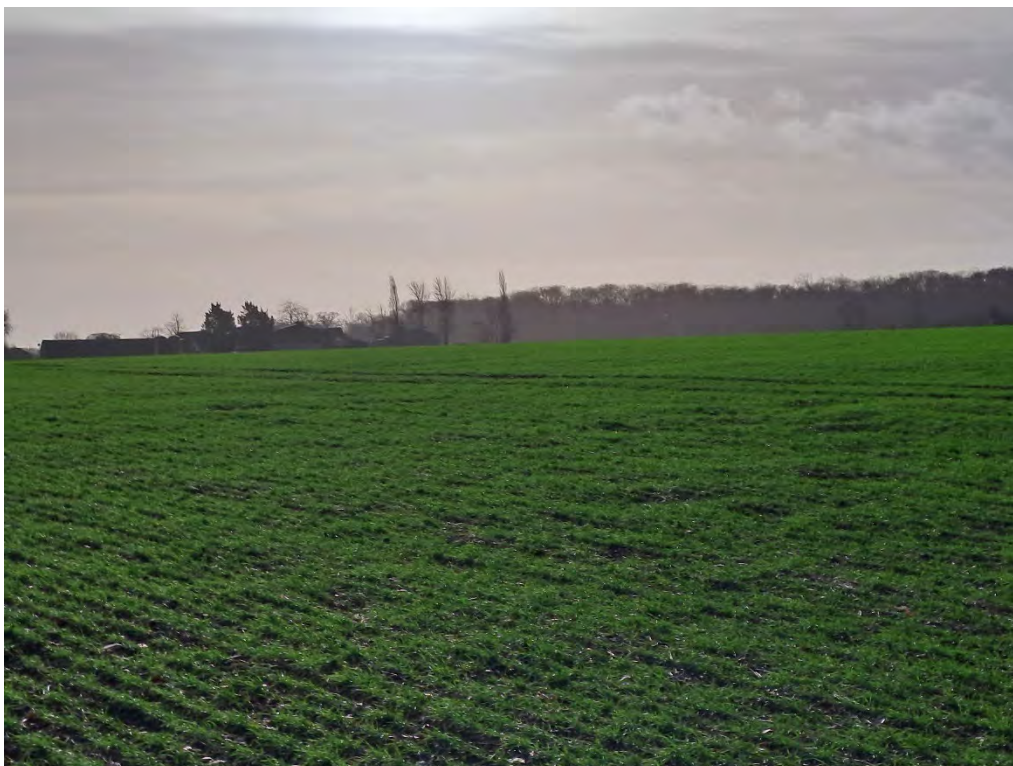


Plate 8
Nissan Huts Adjacent to Pipeline from TL 64143 49324



Plate 9
Hard Standing Adjacent to Pipeline from TL 64143 49324



Plate 10
Hangars adjacent to Lagoon Site from TL 64310 49442



Plate 11
Lagoon site from TL 64344 49574



Plate 12
Pipeline Route Looking North from TL 64626 48891



Plate 13
Findspot Location WTH 026 from TL 64739 48731



Plate 14
Pipeline route looking North at entrance to AD Plant Site



Plate 15
Possible Route of Worsted Street north of AD Plant Site looking West



4.7 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was undertaken in March 2022. The results of the survey are appended in full, see **Appendix 3**. In summary, only the eastern half of the area proposed for the AD facility was able to be surveyed, with an area of 4.6ha to the west inaccessible due to overgrown vegetation. The survey revealed a limited number of linear and discrete anomalies for which an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out albeit they are notable in their sparsity. Whilst the survey did not detect any evidence of the conjectured route of the Roman Road (**07970/WTH 007**) (though the northern edge of the survey area was obscured by a high level of magnetic disturbance), the longest linear anomaly recorded (adjacent to the southern boundary of the Site) is aligned roughly parallel to the conjectured route of the road and may therefore be associated, potentially as a field boundary respecting the alignment of the road present further to the north. A natural spread was located across the field which may concur with the differential soil types in the north and south of the AD facility.

4.8 Summary potential

Based on an understanding of the baseline provided above, any sequential events which may have affected potential from preceding periods and the results of a geophysical survey, the summary potential for remains to be extant within the boundary of the Site is as follows.

- Prehistoric – Low – A possible Bronze Age Ring Ditch (**WTH 005**) is identified 220m southwest of the northern end of the pipeline. Though it is in relatively close proximity to the Site, the fact that the feature is isolated, with no other known prehistoric activity in the vicinity, and the footprint of the pipeline will be small, the chance of encountering associated features is considered low. The area of the AD facility has no known prehistoric features within it, and the scattered Iron Age find spots and features that have been detected in the wider study area have no correlation with the location of the Site. Association with the Stour Brook and position at the base of the valley. Furthermore, the geophysical survey does not indicate a particular potential for remains of this date, the anomalies recorded being few and isolated examples not indicative of the survival of archaeology from this period.
- Roman – moderate – The possible location of *Worsted Street* (**07970** and **WTH 007**) on the HER places it on the northern boundary of the AD facility, with the pipeline crossing it. However, the recorded route is conjectural and the geophysical survey does not provide strong evidence for the presence of a road, albeit it may have been affected by ‘noise’ along the northern boundary and a single linear was recorded which may be associated with a roadside field boundary or (if it is the road itself) evidence suggestive that the road has been truncated (due to a general lack of associated response).
- Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval – Negligible/Nil – Only scattered Anglo-Saxon and early medieval finds and features have been recovered, mostly to the southwest during archaeological excavations around Haverhill. With the exception of a single Middle Saxon strap-end fragment (**WTH 026**), the locations of their discovery have no correlation on the location of the Site, i.e. association with the Stour Brook and position at the base of the valley.
- Medieval – Low – There is a low potential for archaeology associated with Horseheath Park (**MCB17529**) and Limbery Moat (**01170**), both of which are located close to the western boundary of the site, as well as the possible enclosures within Lawn Wood (**WTH 063**), located west of the pipeline route, though any archaeology is likely agricultural (field boundaries etc.).
- Post-Medieval – High – There is a potential in the eastern field for archaeology associated with former field boundaries and footpaths observable on historic mapping, though less potential within the western field during to it being wooded for most of the post-medieval period. There is the high potential for post-medieval activity across the pipeline route and lagoon, as the Site crosses several post-medieval field boundaries visible on historic mapping and LIDAR. These features are almost certainly all agricultural field boundaries and footpaths. There is a potential for archaeology associated with the Stour Valley

Railway Line, specifically remains associated with a signal post, (**SUF 075**), though where the footprint of the Railway crosses into the Site, there is no development planned that would affect buried archaeology.

- Modern/World War Two – High – There is the high potential for archaeological remains associated with RAF Wrattling Common (**CB15159**) within the vicinity of the proposed lagoon and northern portion of the pipeline. Well documented on maps and aerial photographs, the Site is located in an area used for storage, and formally consisted of bomb stores and connecting roads, the footprints of which are still partially visible on LIDAR and aerial photography. Photographs of the bomb stores show them as standard Nissan Hut design, with no obviously unique or interesting features. With the airfields demolition, any surviving remains would likely consist of the buried remains of the roads, building foundations and hardstanding.

5.0 Archaeology: Statement of Significance & Effects

This assessment has identified that the following archaeological remains may be affected by the proposals:

- *Worsted Street* Roman Road (**WTH 007/07970**);
- RAF Wratting Common (**CB15159**);
- Post-medieval field boundaries and footpaths;
- Other remains.

5.1 Significance

Worsted Street Roman Road (**WTH 007/07970**) (**Drawing 01**)

Depending upon their nature, extent and level of survival, any remains associated with *Worsted Street* would be of archaeological interest. The existence of such remains could confirm the location and alignment of the road, the typology of its construction and any pre-Roman/post Roman use. This could help inform as to Romano-British activity across the Cambridge-Suffolk border, the potential connections between Cambridge and the East Anglian coast, and the level of Roman activity within the local area. Unless such remains were particularly well-preserved, representative of their type and/or unique, however, or they retained a particular sense of stratigraphic coherence, they would be unlikely to be considered heritage assets of the highest significance under the terms of the NPPF and would be unlikely to require preservation *in situ*. Certainly if the remains are present, the geophysical survey indicates that they would be truncated and fragmented.

RAF Wratting Common (**CB15159**)

Depending on the condition of their survival, the remains associated with RAF Wratting Common may provide limited archaeological interest. If any buried remains (likely to consist of roads, hardstanding/foundations, and demolition rubble), survived their demolition, and 80 subsequent years of farming, they may provide limited new information as to the construction techniques and materials used for the base. As the base is well recorded in historical mapping and aerial photography, and is just one of many temporary World War Two bases located within eastern and southern England, the historical information that any remains could provide are limited in potential. The buildings in the area that the Site is located in appear to have all been Nissan Huts, a common design across the UK. Though there may be some local and specialist interest in the archaeological remains associated with the airfield, it is highly unlikely that they would be considered heritage assets of the highest significance under the terms of the NPPF and would be unlikely to require preservation *in situ*.

Post-medieval field boundaries and footpaths (**Drawing 03**)

Historic agricultural remains would retain little, if any, archaeological interest. They would not be considered to comprise heritage assets of the highest significance, and they would not warrant preservation *in situ* or otherwise preclude development within the Site.

Other

As a precaution, 'other' remains are referenced in the event that geophysical anomalies are archaeological in origin and do not correspond with the above. A potential field boundary interpretation for the largest linear has been intimated in respect to its alignment respecting the nearby conjectural route of a Roman road. A Roman date for this would provide it with some archaeological interest in respect to the Roman agricultural landscape. A later date may place it in the category of field boundaries discussed above. In any case it wouldn't be expected to hold a level of archaeological significance that would preclude development. Similarly, archaeological remains associated with other anomalies would likely be truncated/isolated features which would not preclude development.

5.2 Development Effects

The proposed development would comprise the construction of an Anaerobic Digester (AD) Plant, including three Silage Clamp areas, five digesters, three ecobags, and a lagoon, along with associated infrastructure and landscaping. A 2.5km pipeline will connect the AD facility to two lagoons located to the north of the main site area.

Worsted Street's potential location is at the northern boundary of the AD facility, in an area of landscaping and two of the ecobags, with the pipeline crossing both potential locations for the road at a 90-degree angle.

Within the AD facility, the post-medieval field boundaries are likely located in the eastern field, where the four ecobags are located. The construction of these facilities would likely have an impact on buried archaeology. Other post-medieval field boundaries that are crossed by the pipeline would be impacted by construction, though it is worth considering the small footprint of the pipeline would mean impact would be minor and only across a small portion of each field boundary.

The northern portion of the pipeline and the lagoon are located within the footprint of the former RAF Wrattling Common, with the footprint of the Site covering at least two former bomb stores, as well as their connecting roads. Though the size of the pipeline is relatively small, any surviving archaeological remains associated with the airfield within its footprint would be likely impacted by its construction. Any remains within the lagoon would be likely disturbed by construction activity.

The fact that part of the AD facility has been under woodland during the post-medieval period, as evidenced in historic mapping, should be considered when discussing possible impact on archaeology, as any archaeology that predates the woodland has potentially been disturbed by root damage.

In the worst case the proposed development would harm significance through the removal of archaeological remains. Any harm should be weighed in the planning balance consistent with paragraph 203 of the NPPF, but it would not be anticipated to preclude development of the nature and on the scale proposed within the Site.

6.0 Heritage Baseline

The following Historic England baseline datasets have been reviewed:

- World Heritage Sites – within 1km of the Site¹²;
- Scheduled Monuments – within 1km of the Site;
- Grade I Listed Buildings – within 1km of the Site;
- Grade II* Listed Buildings – within 1km of the Site;
- Grade II Listed Buildings – within 1km of the Site;
- Registered Parks and Gardens – within 1km of the Site;
- Conservation Areas – within 1km of the Site; and
- Historic Battlefields – within 1km of the Site.

Assets as specified above are set out in below.

Number	Name	Designation
NHLE reference 1236073	Little Thatch	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1236072	The Grange	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1236071	13,14 and 14A, Church Street	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1236070	Elm Lea	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1375499	Hanchet End Farmhouse	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1375498	Hanchet End Cottage	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1331011	Limberhurst Thatch	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1264841	Turnpike House	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1264778	Four Cottages Immediately West of Little Thatch	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1264776	Long Cottage	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1264777	Church Farmhouse	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1236109	Silver Street Farmhouse	Grade II Listed Building
NHLE reference 1236074	White Horse Inn	Grade II Listed Building
n/a	Witherfield Conservation Area	Conservation Area

¹² Due to the fact that the pipeline and lagoon will have a very limited visual impact on the landscape, they have been excluded from setting assessment, and the 1km study area is focused exclusively on the location of the AD facility.

Of the assets listed above it is anticipated that the asset types listed below would not be affected by the proposals (significance is sustained). This is due to their significance lying wholly/predominantly within their fabric and/or the lack of change which the proposals would cause in respect to elements of setting which contribute towards their significance. These types of assets would not therefore be taken forward within the assessment i.e. the types of assets listed below are considered scoped out of further assessment:

- assets in built up areas for which cones of view to/from are not significant;
- distant farmhouses with no historic links to the land within the footprint of the site;
- ancillary farm buildings to which an understanding and a perception of is restricted to the principal farmhouse and/or the immediate rural backdrop which would be unaffected; and
- distant cottages and other assets to which rural setting is restricted with no historic link to the land within the footprint of the site.

Subsequent to this filtering process the assets listed below were subject to field observation to determine the necessity for assessment of their significance in accordance with the Historic England Good Practice in Planning Advice Note 3 'The Setting of Heritage Assets' (2017) and Advice Note 12 'Statements of Heritage Significance' (2019).

- Silver Street Farmhouse (**NHLE reference 1236109**)
- Limberhurst Thatch (**NHLE reference 1331011**) due to relative proximity.
- White Horse Inn (**NHLE reference 1236074**)

The assets listed were assessed in the field on the 27/04/2022, to ascertain the necessity of providing a full statement of significance to assess the potential impact of the proposals. In the field it was established that the following assets would not require further assessment within this report.

- White Horse Inn (**NHLE reference 1236074**) – c.1km north of the Site
 - The asset was observed as a precaution due to the lack of intervening development and in recognition that it sits alongside the roadside with an important view on the approach from the north. During field observations it was noted that the Site would not be visible from the asset, and vice-versa, because of a ridgeline rising between the two, and the asset being located at the base of the Store Valley. It was noted that there is also no inter-visibility between the two assets from approaches or third party viewpoints. Additionally, the asset does not affect the ability to appreciate the asset in relation to the contemporaneous Little Thatch cottages (**NHLE 1264778** & **NHLE 1236073**) or understand its setting as a coaching inn on Horth Heath Road on the edge of the settlement at Witherfield
- Limberhurst Thatch (**NHLE reference 1331011**) – c.400m west of the Site
 - The asset is located within a closely defined plot within which it is experienced in an intimate and enclosed setting through the presence of mature vegetation including evergreen trees. The proposed development would have no effect on appreciating the asset's architectural and historic interest from within this historic space.
 - Neither would the proposals affect the ability to understand the asset against an immediate rural setting (beyond its private grounds).

The following assets will be taken forward for further assessment within this report:

- Silver Street Farmhouse (**NHLE 1236109**)
 - Due to a potential to view the domes of the digestors from the property.

7.0 Heritage: Statements of Significance

This assessment has identified that the significance of the following assets may be susceptible to harm as a result of change to their setting under the proposals:

- Silver Street Farmhouse (**NHLE 1236109**)

The asset is depicted on **Drawing 03**.

The heritage interests pertaining to this asset, and the contribution of those interests to the assets' significance, are described below.

7.1 Silver Street Farmhouse (NHLE 1236109)

The significance of the asset lies principally within historic and architectural interests.

7.1.1 Historic and Architectural Interest

Silver Street Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building and therefore a designated heritage asset of less than the highest significance. As a 16th century building it is one of the oldest Listed Buildings in the Study Area, the majority being from the 17th-19th century. The asset therefore derives some interest by being one of the oldest preserved buildings, and an example of Tudor architecture, within the area, and is able to potential provide information on local architectural styles of the period.

It is a two-storey dwelling built in the timber-frame and plaster style with a crosswing jettied on the 1st storey. The building has undergone renovation in the 20th century, with the additional of a brick nogging on the 1st storey at the front of the building, and casement windows installed. The house is now 2 tenements. The historic crosswing timbers and brick chimney face to the front of the building to the north, and are visible on approach from Silver Street.

The asset is now located next to two buildings, a 19th century farmstead to the immediate west (**WTH 054**), and a house opposite the road. The farmstead is not distinguished from the asset on historic mapping, suggesting it is an expansion of the property rather than a separate entity.

Historic mapping shows that the house was owned by Thomas Duffield by at least 1840 (Witherfield Tithe Map), an estate that also included the area of the Site, albeit the Site was not located within the farmstead's associated holding.

7.1.2 Setting

The assets setting is the farmstead within which the farmhouse is located, though it draws wider understanding and appreciation from the historic landholding which it overlooks. The farmstead has seen significant alteration, with most buildings, and parts of the asset itself, now dating to the 19th century at the earliest. As these buildings have kept their rural characteristics and were built with the same function as part of a farm, it is still possible to appreciate the asset within the context of being part of a farmstead, albeit not in its original 16th century form.

This is much the case of the wider rural landscape. Though the area has retained its rural characteristics and agricultural purpose, despite the expansion of nearby Haverhill, the nature and division of land has changed dramatically in the last 200 years. Comparing the Early OS Boxstead map (1799) map to modern satellite imagery shows how fields in the area have become larger and fewer, and other changes have occurred, such as the area of woodland within the Site being removed (though other ancient woodland like Howe Wood (**WTH 014**) survive). Analysing the HLC data shows that land immediately encompassing the property and to the north and west retains the characteristics of pre-18th century enclosures, but land to the south is now characterised as a post-1950s agricultural landscape, primarily due to the loss of historic boundaries between fields.

In judgement, the setting of the asset has undergone alteration in the last 500 years, with development and expansion of the farmstead, and changes to the wider landscape. Despite these changes, the rural and agricultural nature of the wider setting has remained, and it is possible to appreciate the asset within this context. The setting of the asset remains a positive contributor to understanding the asset.

7.1.3 Contribution of Setting to Significance

The following aspects of the asset's setting are considered to make a key positive contribution to its significance and the ability to appreciate that significance:

- The wider farmstead buildings make a positive contribution to appreciating the asset within the context of it being associated with farming, though this contribution is lessened by the fact that the majority of the farmstead is not contemporaneous to the asset.
- The wider landscape, particularly the historic landholding, provides a contextual backdrop within which to appreciate the asset within its rural, agricultural setting. This is particularly the case in the immediate fields around the asset and to the north where the fields have retained their pre-18th century characteristics.

8.0 Heritage: Development Effects

Potential harm to the significance of heritage assets as a result of change to setting under the proposals is discussed below.

8.1 Silver Street Farmhouse (NHLE 1236109)

8.1.1 Change

The development consists of the building of an AD plant on two fields c.1km to the south of the asset, which form part of the asset's wider rural backdrop.

From the field observations, it was noted that due to the Site being located in the base of the Stour Valley, and the asset at the top of the northern ridge, much of the asset would be screened by the topography. However, it is likely that the domed tank tops, which sit approximately 16m high, would be potentially visible, against a woodland backdrop.

When approaching the asset from the south along Silver Street, more prominent views of the development may be possible at the base of the road, though the development will be shielded by planting and it is likely that again, only the digesters will be visible. From the base of Silver Street where the development would be most prominent, it is not possible to see the asset due to the topography and vegetation, and the affect is limited to change to the wider rural backdrop, away from the immediate contextual rural backdrop associated with the asset.

The development would not obscure views to or from the asset and the remaining areas of pre-18th century enclosure farmland, which is primarily located around, and to the north, of the asset, and the only change would be limited alterations to the wider rural landscape within which the asset is set, and possible minor changes to the peripheral views to the south.

It is noted, however that change does not equate to harm.

8.1.2 Effect

In the above context, this level of change would result in **no harm** to the significance of the asset. This is primarily due to the following factors:

- the development would not affect the understanding and appreciation of the asset within its immediate context of the farmstead, or the wider remaining pre-18th century landscape within which the asset is appreciated and understood.
- the topography of the landscape, existing vegetation, and screening associated with the development, would prevent intervisibility of the asset and development from approaches from the south.
- no important views of or from the asset would be affected.
- an understanding of important setting elements on approach to the asset would be unaffected.

Plate 16
View from Silver Street Farmhouse to the Site



9.0 Compliance with Legislation and Policy

9.1 Legislation

Archaeology

The proposals would not cause direct impact to a Scheduled Monument. The proposals would not engage consideration of the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Heritage

In reaching the conclusions presented in this report, the need for the application to comply with Section 66 (1) and 72 (1) the Planning Act has been considered. It is considered that the proposals would be in compliance with these statutory conditions, there being no anticipated adverse effects to Conservation Areas or Listed Buildings.

9.2 National Policy

Archaeology

The assessment provided by this report has set out the significance of potential archaeological remains in full accordance with paragraph 194 of the NPPF. A geophysical survey has also provided for any 'necessary' evaluation. The application is in full accordance with national policy.

Heritage

This assessment has provided proportionate statements of significance for potentially sensitive heritage receptors in full accordance with paragraph 194 of the NPPF. No harm has been identified to Silver Street Farmhouse (NHLE 1236109). In the event that a consideration of public benefits is required in respect to paragraph 202 the carbon natural and renewable energy objectives of the proposals should be considered favourably.

9.3 Local Policy

Archaeology

This assessment has provided an appropriate desk-based assessment, along with field evaluation within the AD facility through the form of Geophysical Survey to assess the archaeological interest and significance of the Site, as per Policy DM20 of the Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan, and Policy GP4 of the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

Heritage

This assessment has provided proportionate assessment of significance for heritage assets, and an assessment of the possible effects on their setting, as per Policies DM15 and DM21 of the Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan, taking into account any potential harm versus the public benefit of the proposed development. It has assessed whether the proposals sustain the significance of heritage assets, including their setting, as per Policy NH/14 of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, and considered how, through the design, the proposed development will protect the setting of historic assets as per Policy WP 17 of the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

10.0 Conclusions

This assessment, undertaken with due regard to the guidance published by Historic England and in full accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, has identified those heritage assets located within the Site and its vicinity and has described their significance. Potential development effects have also been discussed, as far as possible, with reference to the latest design iteration.

Archaeology

Archaeological potential for the Site is generally limited, with the exception of the possible presence of *Worsted Street* (**07970** and **WTH 007**) which may be located along the northern boundary of the AD facility and potentially crossed by the pipeline. With respect to this, it is noted that the geophysical survey did not reveal any anomalies indicative of the presence of particularly significant remains albeit a single anomaly parallel to the conjectured route of the road may be associated with it (either as a contemporary field boundary or a truncated road feature). Other anomalies may represent truncated features, albeit the baseline evidence for pre and post Roman activity is sparse, with other remains most likely limited to post medieval field boundaries (which the aforementioned geophysical anomaly may also relate to).

Though the potential for archaeological remains associated with RAF Wrattling Common (**CB15159**) is high, given the evidence that shows that the Site crosses over bomb stores and associated infrastructure, it is not considered that the archaeological remains would be of significant value, likely consisting primarily of the demolished remains of buildings of common design of the period, which are well documented in historical records and maps, and would not be of great archaeological or historical importance.

Overall, in conclusion, the archaeological potential of the Site would not preclude development, any reasonably predicted remains not being worthy of preservation in situ.

The proposals are considered to be compliant with the legislative and planning policy provisions relevant to archaeology.

Heritage

All assets potentially sensitive to setting change were considered with full regard to guidance and planning policy. One asset, Silver Street Farmhouse (**NHLE 1236109**), was subject to the preparation of a significance statement. It was concluded that, though the development would result in a slight change to peripheral views from the asset there would be no impact on the important setting elements associated with the asset such that the ability to understand and appreciate the asset would be wholly unaffected. There would be no harm to the asset.

The proposals are considered to be compliant with the legislative and planning policy provisions relevant to heritage.

References

- Condrington, T. (1903) *Roman Roads in Britain*. Society of Promoting Christian Knowledge; London.
- Margery, I. D. (1967) *Roman Roads in Britain (revised edition)*. John Baker; London.
- Wait, G. A. (1992) *Worsted Street, Roman Road Mount Farm, Fulborun*. Unpublished.

APPENDIX 1 HER ENTRIES

Table 1
HER Monuments

Monument ID	Name	Type	Period	Dates
HVH 017	Sainsbury's	Cropmark	Unknown	Undated
HVH 023	Haverhill bypass proposed Spoil Disposal Area, Hanchett End	Pit; Post Hole; Ditch; Artefact Scatter	Medieval	1066 to 1539
HVH 025	Bypass soil disposal area, Hanchett End	Feature; Ditch; Post Hole; Artefact Scatter	Iron Age	-800 to 42
HVH 044	Hanchett End; Haverhill & Withersfield parish boundary	Bank (Earthwork); Parish Boundary	Medieval to IPS: Post Medieval	1066 to 1900
HVH 057	Hanchet End; Dukes Cany Wood; Chimswell Common; Cany Common	Wood; Field Boundary	Medieval to IPS: Post Medieval	1066 to 1900
HVH 058	Land north of Apple Acre Road	Ditch	Roman	43 to 409
HVH 131	Farmstead: Hatchet End Farm	Farmstead; Farmhouse; Regular Courtyard U Plan; Barn	17th century to 19th century	1600 to 1899
WTH 014	Markhams Wood	Wood; Earthwork	Unknown	Undated
WTH 015	Ancient woodland as defined in (S1).	Wood	Unknown	Undated
WTH 019	December 1994: Metal detector find of LIA silver coin.	Findspot	Iron Age	-800 to 42
WTH 020	December 1994: Metal detected Gallo-Belgic quarter-stater of 'Geometric type'. (IA)	Findspot	Iron Age	-800 to 42
WTH 020	December 1994: Metal detected scatter of Med finds, including four long cross pennies (one of	Artefact Scatter	Medieval	1066 to 1539

Monument ID	Name	Type	Period	Dates
	Edward I, 1272-1307). (Med)			
WTH 020	December 1994: Thin metal detected scatter of PMed finds. (PMed)	Artefact Scatter	Post Medieval	1540 to 1900
WTH 020	December 1994: Metal detected scatters of Rom finds including 18 C4 bronze coins. (Rom)	Artefact Scatter	Roman	43 to 409
WTH 020	December 1994: Metal detected small oval buckle with rectangular plate with three rivets (two in situ). (Sax)	Findspot	Saxon	410 to 1065
WTH 025	Silver Street Farm	Late Saxon strap end	Unknown	Undated
WTH 054	Farmstead: Silver Street Farm	Barn; Farmstead; Farm Building; Farmhouse; Regular Courtyard F Plan	19th century	1800 to 1899
WTH 055	Farmstead: Spring Grove Farm	Barn; Farmstead; Farm Building; Farmhouse; Regular Courtyard F Plan	19th century	1800 to 1899
WTH 056	Farmstead: Hanchet Hall	Barn; Farmstead; Farm Building; Farmhouse; Loose Courtyard Plan (Two Sided)	19th century	1800 to 1899
WTH 059	Farmstead: Church Farm	Farmhouse; Loose Courtyard Plan (Two Sided); Barn; Farmstead; Farm Building	17th century to 19th century	1600 to 1899
WTH 041	OUTLINE RECORD: Late Saxon and Medieval artefact scatter (BACKLOG)	Null	Unknown	Undated
HVH 042	Hanchet End (Rom)	Artefact Scatter	Roman	43 to 409
HVH 042	Hanchett End (Med)	Artefact Scatter	Medieval to IPS: Post Medieval	1066 to 1900
WTH 053	December 1994: Detector finds of very worn long cross penny of Henry II (AD	Findspot	Medieval	1066 to 1539

Monument ID	Name	Type	Period	Dates
	1158-1180) and a bronze padlock (Rom or Med?)			
WTH 052	December 1994: Metal detector finds of Colchester derivative, double lug type, brooch & bronze padlock (Rom or Med?). Formerly recorded as WTH MISC	Findspot	Roman	43 to 409
WTH 048	OUTLINE RECORD: The Grain Store, Oaky Barn (HE) HAA	Null	Unknown	Undated
WTH 027	OUTLINE RECORD: DEER PARK	Null	Unknown	Undated
SUF 075	Stour Valley Railway Line (Great Eastern Railway)	Railway	19th century to IPS: Modern	1849 to 2050
WTH 007	Possible Rom road - Margary's route 24 (R1) Colchester to Cambridge via Wixoe (S1).	Road	Roman	43 to 409
SUF 075	Stour Valley Railway Line (Great Eastern Railway)	Railway	19th century to IPS: Modern	1849 to 2050
WTH 045	OUTLINE RECORD: Roman coin and pottery and Medieval coins (BACKLOG)	Null	Unknown	Undated
WTH 038	An assemblage of 35 objects	An assemblage of 35 objects	Saxon	410 to 1065
WTH 005	Ring ditch (R1)	Ring Ditch	Bronze Age	-250 to -701
WTH 017	Littley Wood	Wood, earthwork	Unknown	Undated
WTH 026	Metal Detector find of MSax strap end fragment	Findspot	Saxon	410 to 1065
01170	Former moat, Limberhurst Farm, Horseheath	Moat	Medieval	
08229	Possible line of Roman road, Shudy Camps	Road	Roman	
07970	Worsted Street (Via Devana) Roman road	Road	Roman	

Monument ID	Name	Type	Period	Dates
06326	Sawston - Haverhill railway	Railway	19th century to Late 20th century	
MCB17529	Horseheath Park	Deer Park	15th century to 16th century	
01170	Limberhurst Farm, Horseheath	Farmhouse; Barn	Post Medieval	
CB15159	WWII airfield, Wratting Common	Military Airfield; Hanger	Modern	

Table 2
HER Events

ID	Name
HVH 057	Hanchett End, Haverhill
HVH 057	Trenched evaluation
HVH 023	Trenched evaluation, bypass spoil disposal area
HVH 023	Fieldwalking bypass spoil disposal area
HVH 058	Land north of Apple Acre Road, Hanchett End, Haverhill
HVH 025	Monitoring partial strip of spoil disposal area
ECB2534	Fieldwalking and earthwork survey of Shudy Camps, 1998-2000

APPENDIX 2

NHLE Listings

Table 3
NHLE

NHLE No	Name	Grade	Distance to Site
1236070	Elm Lea	II	960m northeast of Site
1236071	13,14 and 14A, Church Street	II	980m northeast of Site
1236072	The Grange	II	990m northeast of Site
1236073	Little Thatch	II	970m north of Site
1236074	White Horse Inn	II	930m north of Site
1236109	Silver Street Farmhouse	II	660m north of Site
1264776	Long Cottage	II	980m northeast of Site
1264777	Church Farmhouse	II	930m northeast of Site
1264778	Four Cottages Immediately West of Little Thatch	II	970m north of Site
1264841	Turnpike House	II	1km northeast of Site
1331011	Limberhurst Thatch	II	400m west of Site
1375498	Hanchet End Cottage	II	750m southeast of Site
1375499	Hanchet End Farmhouse	II	700m southeast of Site

APPENDIX 3

Geophysical Survey

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