Continuous Archaeological Recording on Land at Laneham Yard Church Street Lavenham Suffolk

Grid reference: TL 915 490
Planning Application No: B/10/01340/FUL
HER no: LVM 063
Oasis No.: 154443

DRAFT

Prepared for
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Summary

Continuous Archaeological Recording was carried out on land at Laneham Yard, south of Laneham House, Lavenham, Suffolk, from the 20th–28th of March 2013. This was in advance of the erection of a new dwelling. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated May 2011 (revised update request, 4th of March 2013).

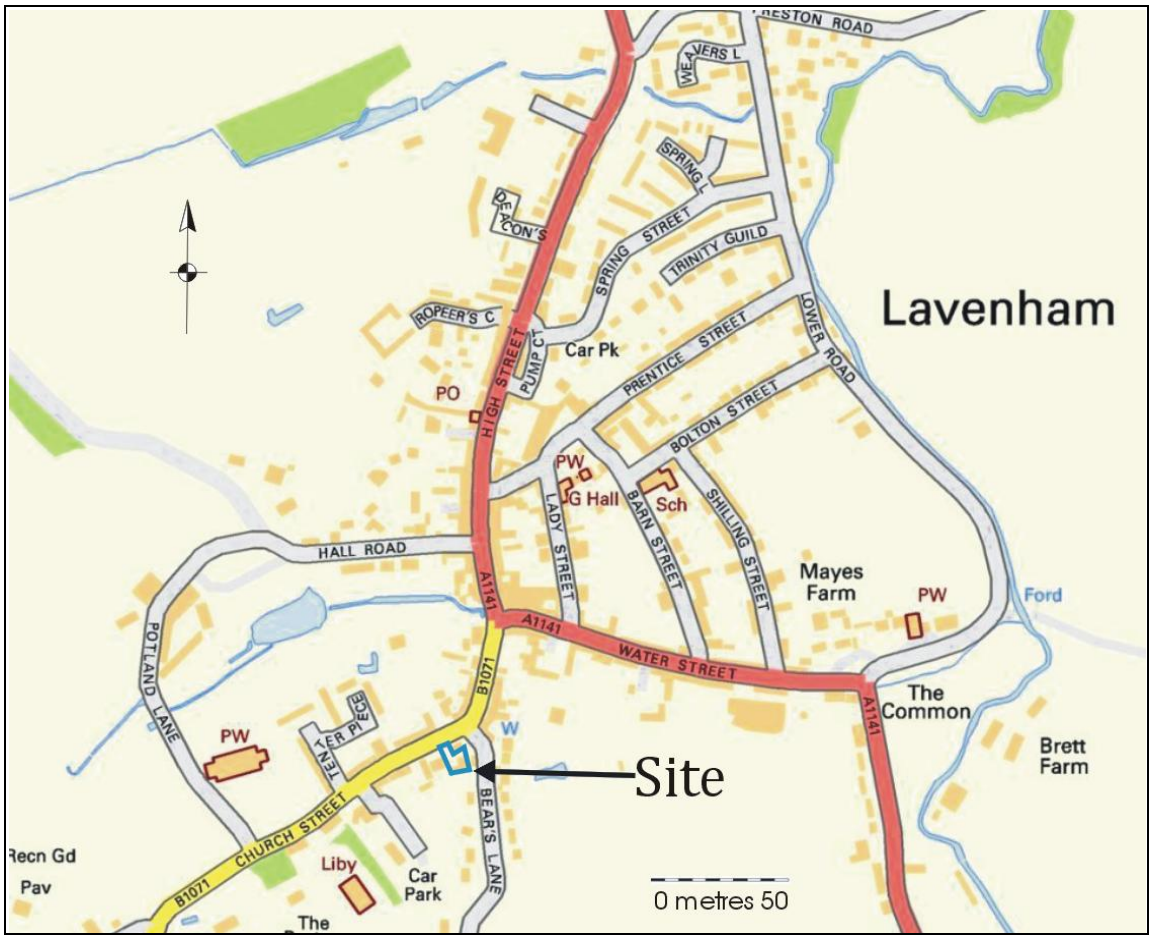
During the excavation of foundation trenches and levelling of the site, a number of features were encountered. These included pits from quarrying with reuse as cess pits, a brick floor and a cobbled surface, representing back yard activity, buildings and waste disposal dating from the medieval to the post-medieval periods.

1. Introduction

An application was made by the client, Mr Peter Barnes for the construction of a single new dwelling at Laneham Yard, Church Street, Lavenham, Suffolk (TL 915 490). The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development begins in accordance with the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010). This sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made. The *Local Plan Policy B22*, while stating that there should be a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological features and sites, outlines the process to be followed in order that the archaeological importance of a site may be determined and mitigation strategies put in place if necessary. This is also the requirement of the Deposit Joint Replacement Structure Plan (Policy 7, June 1998). As a result of the application, and to comply with planning policy, an archaeological evaluation was commissioned from Archaeoserv – DP Archaeological Services. Research was undertaken at the Suffolk Records Office Ipswich and the Suffolk Historic Environment Record office was consulted. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Suffolk HER and an on-line report will be made available with the Archaeological Data Service/Project Oasis.

2 Site Location and Description

Grid Reference: TL 915 490



Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

Figure 1. Location of site in Lavenham

The site is located on the south side of Church Street, close to the junction with Bear's Lane at Laneham Yard, within the historic core of Lavenham at 68.70m OD. The site is bounded by the properties of New House to the SW, and Laneham House to the NE. The site is located on gravel and silt deposits of glacial or fluvial origin overlying chalky till from the Anglian glaciations (BGS 206).

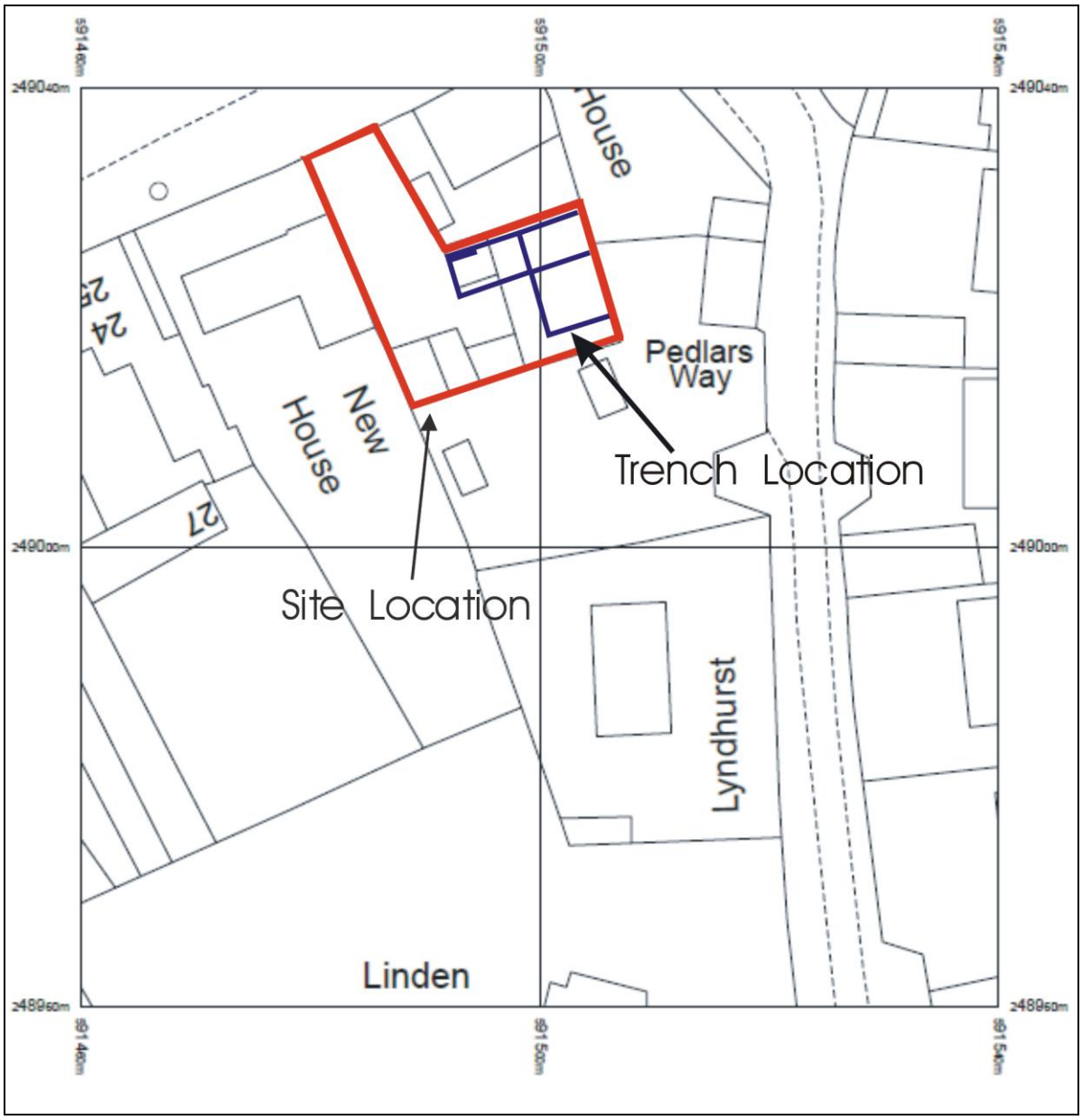


Figure2. Site and Trench Location in Laneham Yard

3 Results

3.1 Fieldwork

A plan of the site was drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections were drawn to a scale of 1:10 and larger features at 1:20.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project.

All artefactual evidence was retained for dating and analysis.

A full photographic archive was produced consisting of colour slide, monochrome print and digital at 10 million pixels resolution, and will form part of the site record to be curated at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

All features were described in detail with an overall statement of the potential for further work.

Levels were taken from a TBM located on the road adjacent to the site at 68.70 OD.

3.2 The Archaeological Recording

Recording of the groundworks commenced 0n the 23rd of November 2011when two test pits were excavated in the south-east corner of the site to ascertain the geology. No archaeological evidence was noted on this occasion. Site work recommenced on the 20th of March 2013 to record the excavation of the footings for the new dwelling. Subsequent visits, due to the logistical problems of spoil movement, required further visits up until the 29th of March during which time a number of features were observed and recorded. These included several pits of medieval and post medieval date, a post-medieval brick floor and cobbled surface.

3.3 Results of Footings Inspection

Of the pits observed were two large intercutting large pits with pit [030] cutting pit [028]; section 5 (fig.8; S. 4); both pits collapsed immediately after the footing trench was dug due to water saturation of the fills, rendering recording somewhat problematic. The primary fill (027) of pit [028] was a cess-like odorous deposit and the main fill of pit (026), a silty clayey deposit which contained four sherds (7gm) of medieval pottery; 8gm of fired clay; 3g of animal bone and 2gm of shell from the environmental sample. Above the main fill was a silting-up layer (042) and above this a compacted layer of stones with the whole series capped with a malleable clay layer (014) which probably extended beyond the pit cut and seen over both pits and two further features.

Pit [030] was the larger of the two pits with a primary deposit (038) consisting of a highly odorous, anaerobic, silty clay below a main fill (029) of slightly less odorous silty clay, again saturated by water; this was very similar to (026) in pit [028], but with small stones and differing in colour (see context list, p. 10).

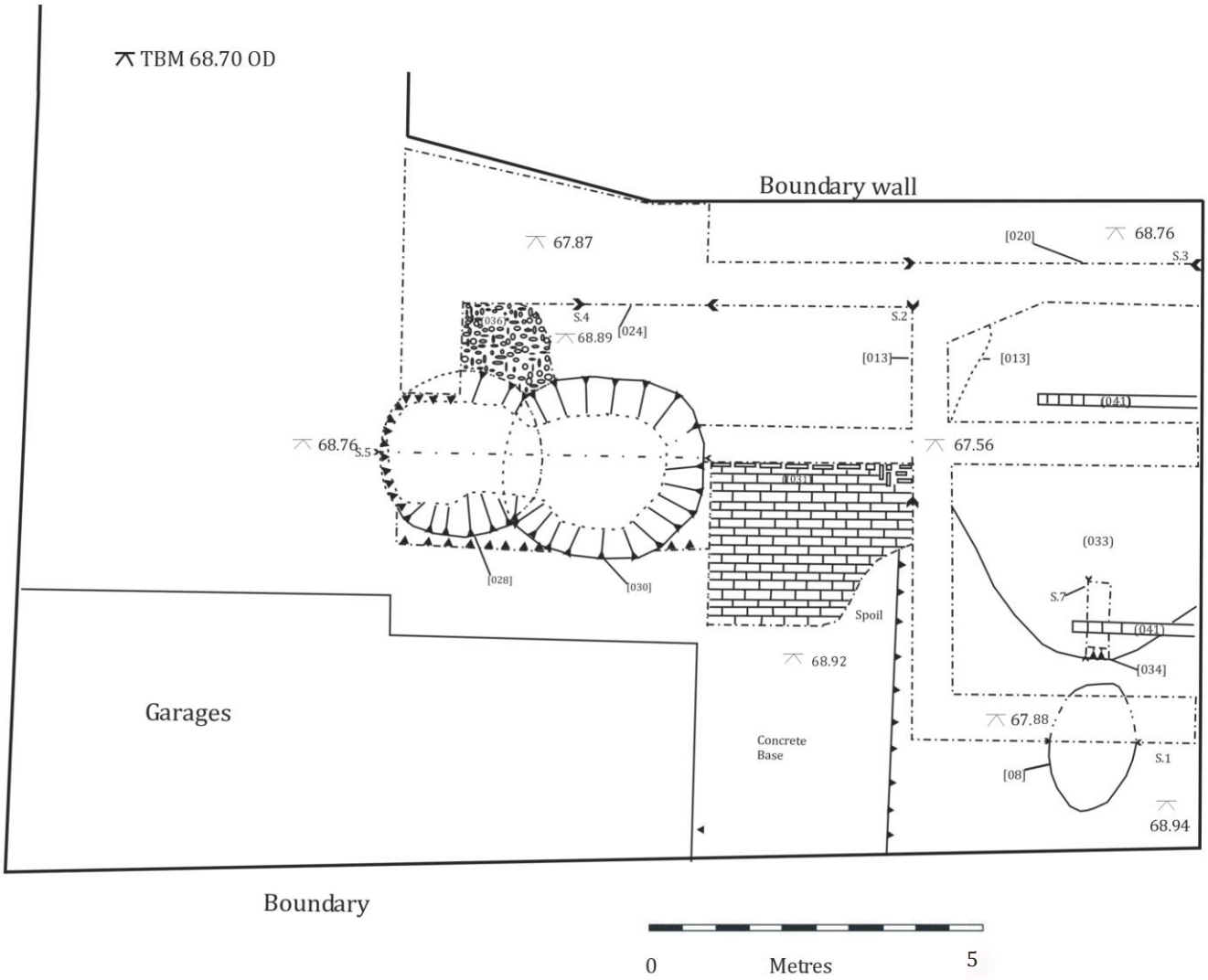


Figure 3. Plan of Site, scale 1:50

Above (029) was a layer (032) of silty clay and common stones below a sealing layer of the same malleable clay (014) seen over pit [028].

A further pit [020] was located in the north-east corner of the site (fig.6; S.3). This feature was concealed by layer (03), a recent re-deposited composite material of cbm and soil which covered the whole site. The extent of this feature could not be established due to its location on the site edge but continued as far as the footings trench. This pit was sealed by the same re-deposited clay layer (014) above a debris layer or spread (015) containing high inclusions of pottery, brick, glass, bone, ferrous objects including nails and other metal objects, all of an 18^{th}-19^{th} century date. The upper fill of the pit (016) was a very compacted, light brown soil mainly of re-deposited chalk, lying above (017), a silty clay with a high ash component, which was above a charcoal- rich layer (018). The main fill (019) of pit [020] was a mid-grey silty clay of a sticky consistency and odorous. The secondary fill (021), similar to the main fill but much darker in colour (greenish-grey) and very odorous, lay above a primary layer (022), again very similar but darker in colour and exceptionally odorous. Contexts (018, 019) were sampled for further analysis with (018) containing a rib bone from a cow; two minute pottery fragments; 155 gm of cbm; mortar; fired clay; an iron nail and the highest concentration of animal bone and shell than any other context from the site; all surprisingly from a very small context, and accordingly some of the finds were probably intrusive from neighboring contexts, in particular context (019). Context (019) contained only 4gm of pottery and a fairly high content of cbm at 111gm; mortar; fired clay; and the second largest content of animal bone.

Pit [08] (fig. 4, S. 1) was located in the south-east corner of the site and was masked by the re- deposited material (03) from recent site activities. The final fill of the pit (04) was a light-brown to orangey-red burnt clay, suggestive of in-situ burning as opposed to dumped fire deposits. Below this was a charcoal –rich layer with further evidence of burning in-situ (035). The tertiary fill (05), a silty clay, possibly re-deposited with darker lenses. Below (05) was fill (06), a mottled brown, orange and grey silty clay overlying a primary fill (07) of dark greyish-brown silty clay.

Feature [013], a shallow pit or spread (fig .5, S. 2), although not very deep, was quite different to the features already discussed. The feature contained the richest deposit of ceramics: 41 sherds of medieval pottery from the bulk fill, context (010), weighing a total of 439gm from both the excavated sample and environmental sample. The sample also produced fifty particles of fired clay, an iron nail, very low bone evidence at 1gm and some oyster shell. Above the single fill of the feature was the base for the concrete (011) and the concrete itself (012), suggesting that the feature might be truncated.

Feature [024], (fig.7, S.4) appeared similar to the feature previously mentioned, was excavated as far as possible in section but produced no finds, as a result it was considered not to sample it. The single fill (023) lay below the ubiquitous clay layer (014), which sat below the recent re-deposited (03) material.

3.4 Results of Site Leveling

Leveling of the site was carried out by mechanical excavator after the footings were excavated and filled with concrete. This exercise revealed an additional number of features in plan that had been masked by the overburden material (03).

At the start of leveling, two brick courses (041) of two parallel walls, (fig. 3) on an east-west alignment, were immediately revealed below the overburden layer (03), measuring 2.50m and 2m in length and abutted the modern wall to the east of the site boundary (fig. 3).

The edge of a large feature [034], (fig. 9, S.7) was revealed, the full extent of which is unknown but was certainly large and possibly similar to the two intercutting pits mentioned earlier. A sondage was excavated into the edge of the feature with the resulting fill (033), containing 18 sherds of pottery weighing a total 132 gm; an iron nail; a small quantity of fired clay; cbm and a small amount of animal bone.

A portion of a brick floor (031), measuring 3m by 2.80m (fig. 3) comprising of *Woolpit White's* was revealed, laid on edge above a base of sand (039), which was laid on a buried soil (040).

On the western edge of the site, as leveling was being completed, a compacted stone layer (036), measuring 1.80m by 1.80m was revealed (fig. 3) consisting of cobble stones with a gravel and cbm infill (fig. 3). This had been laid over pit [028] and pit [030] and can be seen in section as layer (025) and probably layer (032) of the collapsed pits (figs. 3 and 8).

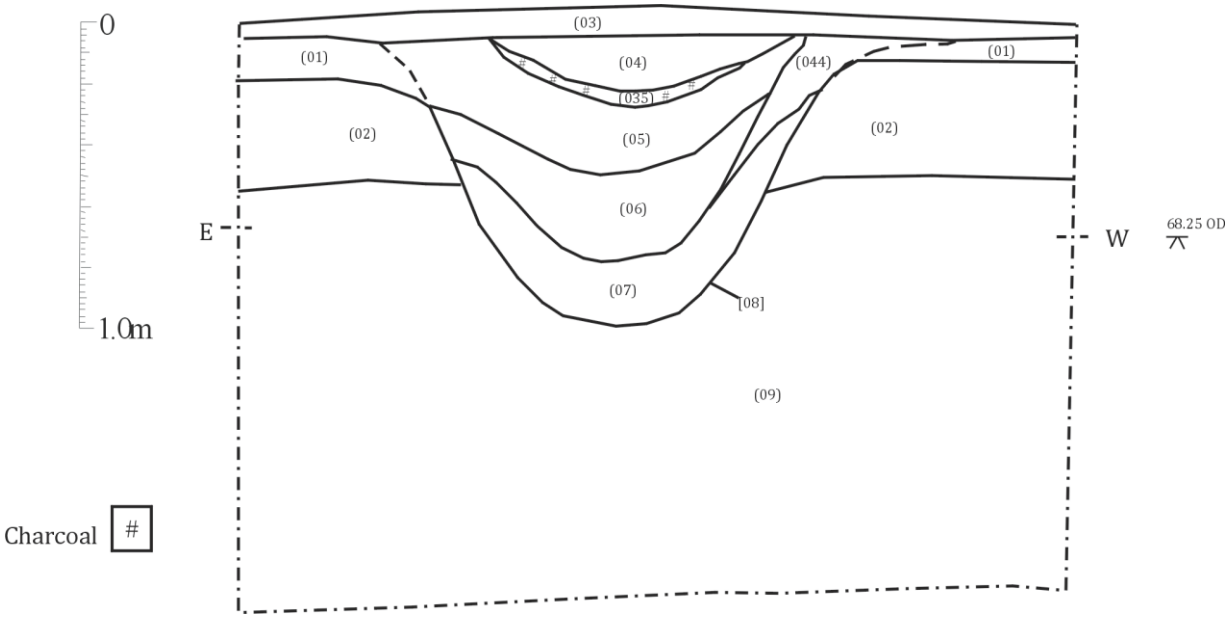


Figure 4. Section 1, pit [08], scale: 1:20

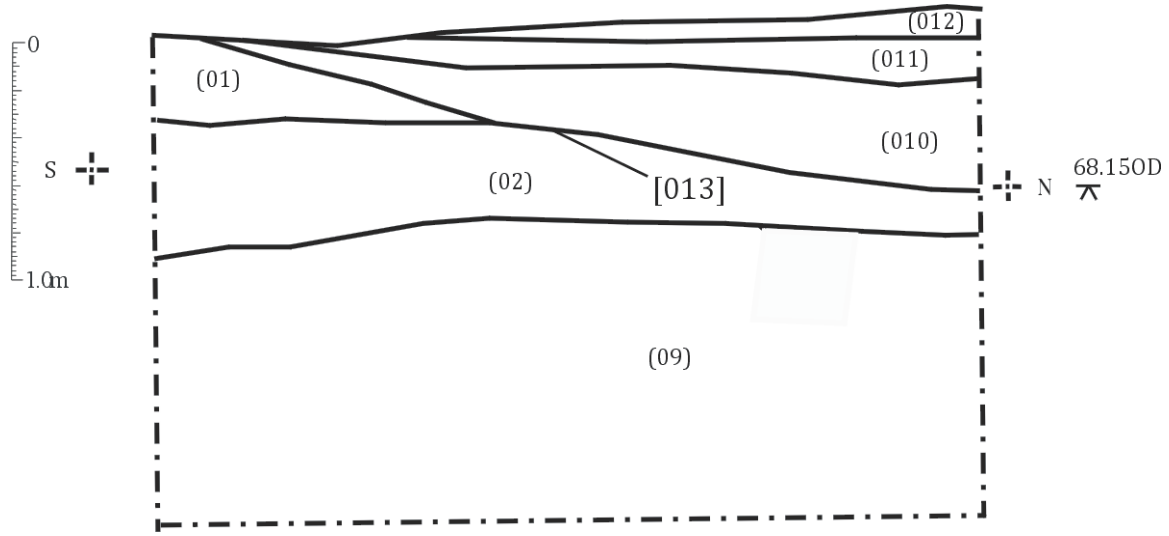


Figure 5. Section 2. Shallow Pit [013], scale 1:20

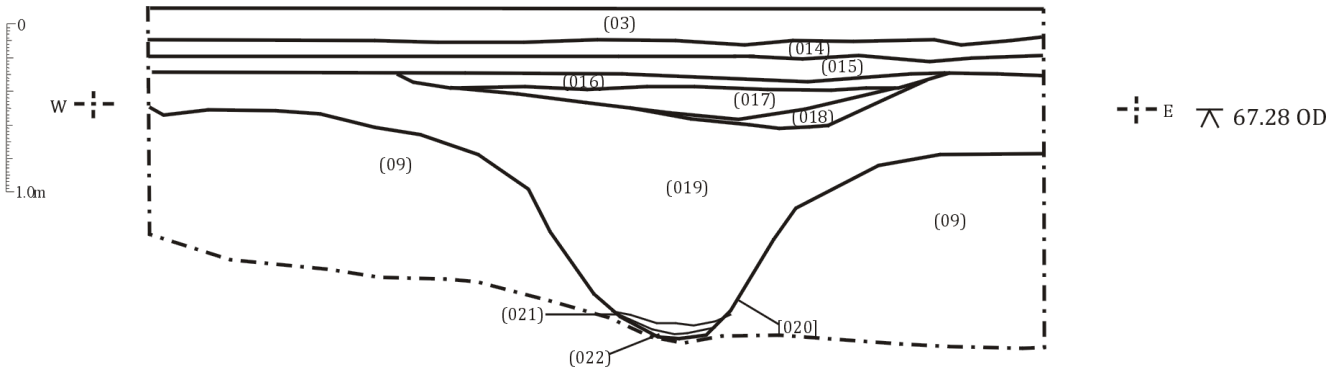


Figure 6. Section 3, pit [020], scale 1:20

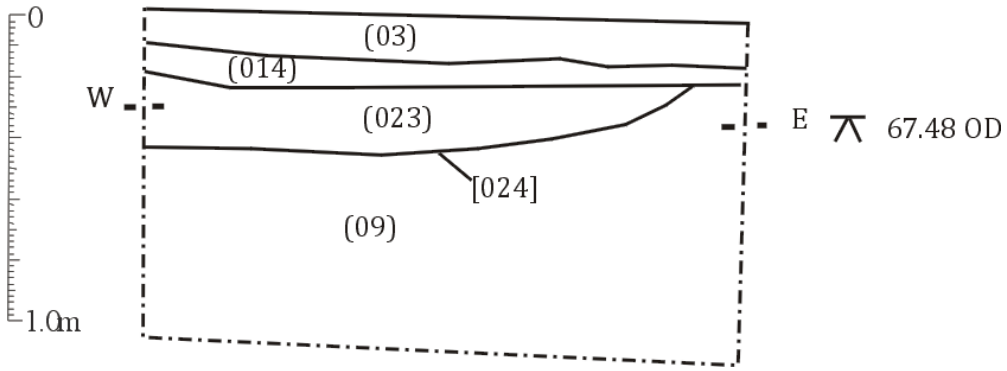


Figure 7. Section 4. Shallow Pit [024], scale 1:20

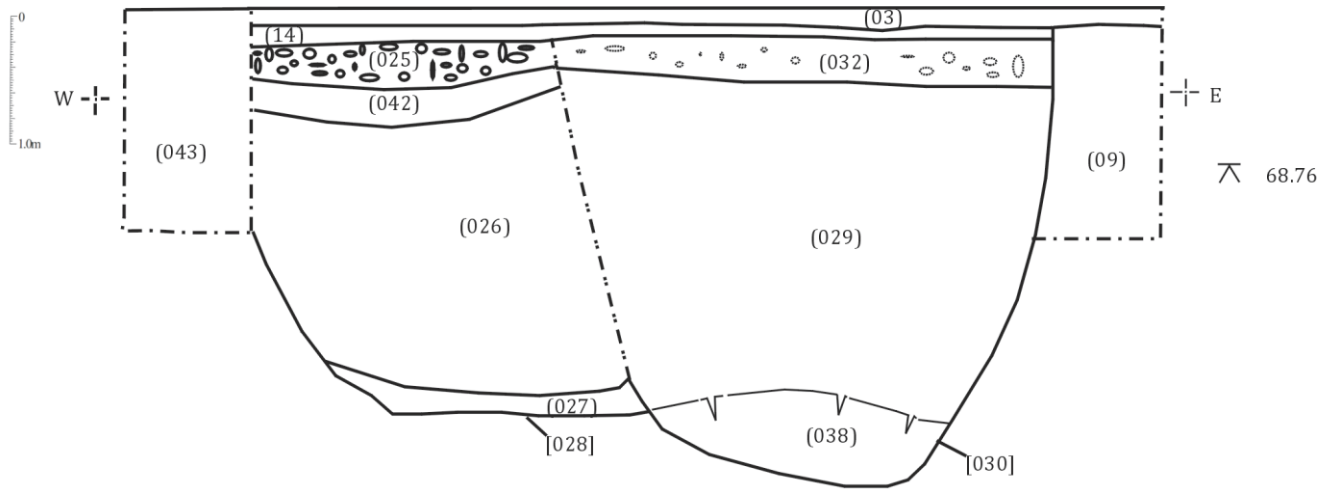


Figure 8. Section 5 of Quarry pits [028,030] showing modern trench cuts to either side, scale 1:20

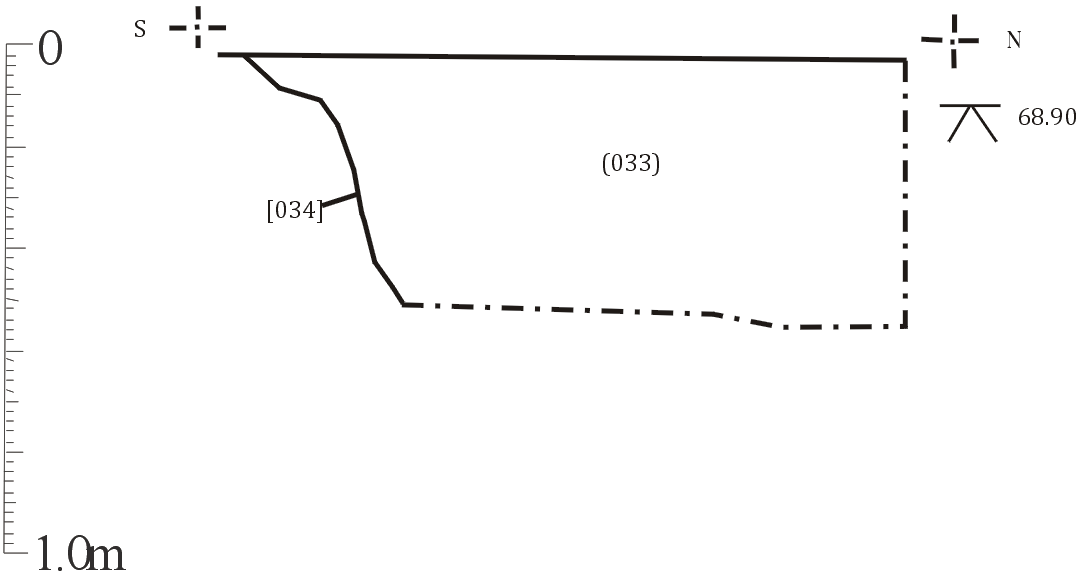


Figure 9. Section 7, large feature [034], scale 1:20

Contexts

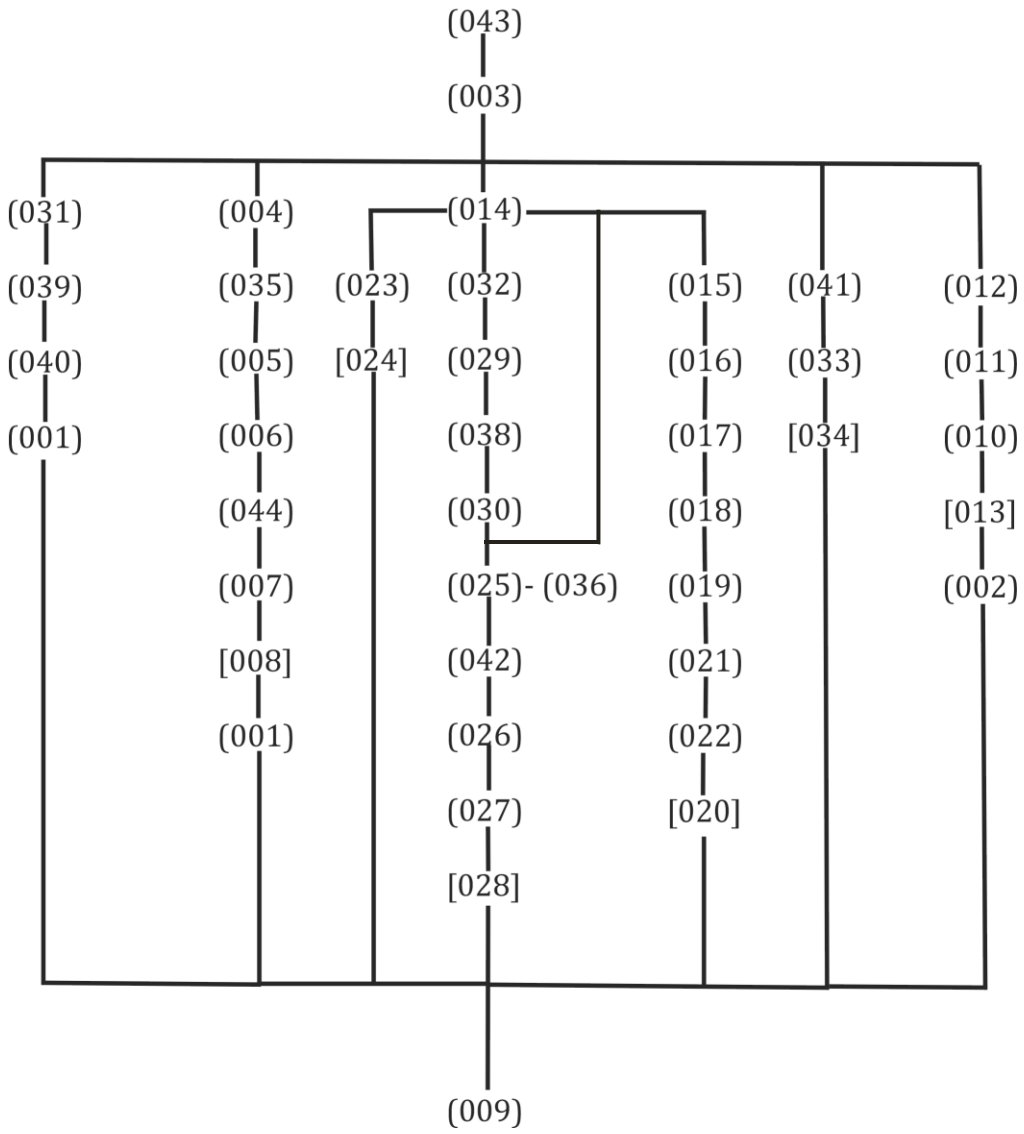
Table 1. Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Description/Dimensions	Interpretation	Find Types /comments
(01)	Layer	Topsoil; depth, 0.15m (max)	Garden soil	n/a
(02)	Layer	Subsoil; depth, 0.37m (max)	Subsoil	n/a
(03)	Layer	CBM and general debris; depth 0.10m	Redeposited material from soil movement/tracking by excavator	Glass, Ferrous objects, non-ferrous objects of modern date
(04)	Fill of [08]	Light-brown and orangey-red burnt clay; 0.22 depth, width 1m	Base for fire	Charcoal
(05)	Fill of [08]	Light brownish-beige silty clay with dark brown lenses; depth 0.23m, width, 1.30m	Re-deposited clay possibly for use as capping to cess pit	n/a
(06)	Fill of [08]	Orangey-brown silty clay with mid-grey lenses; depth,0.28m, width, 1.25m	Cess-type material	n/a
(07)	Fill of [08]	Mid grey-brown silty clay: depth 0.23m, width, 1.15m	Cess-like deposit	n/a
[08]	Cut	Pit; width 1.50m, depth 0.93m	Cess pit?	n/a
(09)	Layer	Clay with high gravel and stone component	Natural geology	n/a
(010)	Fill of [013]	Dark greyish-brown silty clay; width, 2.80m, depth 0.44m	Midden deposit?	Medieval, black burnished ware pottery sherds
(011)	Layer	Yellowish brown sandy gravel; width 3m, depth 0.16	Base for concrete	modern
(012)	Layer	Concrete; width 3m, depth, 0.20m	Base	modern
[013]	Cut	Pit or Spread; width, 3m, depth, 0.40m	Shallow midden/pit	medieval
(014)	Layer	Yellowish, light brown silty clay, very malleable; width, 4.80m, depth 0.10m	Clay layer	capping layer
(015)	Layer/fill	Mid-grey silty soil with common stones; width, 4.40m, depth 0.08m	Layer of debris containing pottery, tile bone, shall, metal, glass	post-medieval spread with high debris content (demolition)
(016)	Fill of [020]	Brownish-white soil with chalk – very compacted; width 1.50m, depth 0.08m	Sealing layer over cess pit	n/a
(017)	Fill of [020]	Mid-light grey silty clay with ash component; width, 2.50m, depth, 0.16m	A secondary sealing layer of cess pit	n/a
(018)	Fill of [020]	Black silty ash/charcoal; width1.70m, depth 0.08m	A primary layer over cess deposit (to reduce odour?)	n/a

(019)	**Fill of [020]**	**Mid –grey silty clay; width 4.80m, depth, 1m**	**Very clayey cess deposit**	**odorous**
[020]	**Cut**	**Pit; width 4.80m, depth, 1.50m**	**Possible quarry pit with reuse as a probable cess pit**	**n/a**
(021)	**Fill of [020]**	**Greenish-grey clay; width 0.80m, depth 0.14m**	**Cess deposit**	**odorous**
(022)	**Layer**	**Dark green silty clay; width, 0.40m, depth, 0.06m**	**Leaching or staining from cess deposit, probably extends down beyond cut of pit [020]**	**Very odorous**
(023)	**Fill of [024]**	**Dark greyish-brown silty clay; width, 2m, depth, 0.23m**	**Demolition deposit**	**Crushed brick and tile**
(024)	**Cut**	**Shallow pit-like feature; width, 2m, depth, 0.23m**	**Possible pit or spread**	**n/a**
(025)	**Layer**	**Dark brown silty infill of cobbled stone layer; width, 1.80m exposed, depth 0.22m**	**Same as (036) cobbled surface floor laid over pit [028]**	**n/a**
(026)	**Fill of [028]**	**Mid grey-brown silty clay; width1.78m, depth, 1.97m**	**An organic silty clay, secondary fill**	**n/a**
(027)	**Fill of [028]**	**Dark greyish-green silty clay; width 1.60m, depth 0.18m**	**Primary fill of a cess deposit into redundant quarry pit**	**Very organic and odorous**
([28]	**Cut**	**Large pit feature; width, 2.30m, depth, 2.30m**	**Quarry pit? Reused as a cess pit**	**n/a**
(029)	**Fill of [030]**	**Dark greyish-green silty clay with occasional small sub-angular stones; width 2.30m, depth, 2.90m**	**Cess deposit filling redundant quarry pit**	**Fill collapsed before recording**
(030)	**Cut**	**Large pit feature cutting pit [028]; width, 2.30m. depth 2.90m**	**Quarry pit reused for cess**	**n/a**
[031]	**Layer**	**Suffolk (Woolpit) white bricks, one course laid on ends; 3m by 2m (exposed)**	**Floor for building**	**n/a**
(032)	**Fill of {030]**	**Dark brown silty clay with common stones; width, 3.10m, depth, 0.30m**	**Possible sealing deposit over cess deposit (029)**	**n/a**
(033)	**Fill of [034]**	**Mid greyish-brown silty clay; length, 1.30m, width, 0.40m, depth 0.50m**	**Sondage into large feature [034] seen in plan, but not bottomed**	**Pottery, brick, tile, bone, shell, probably post medieval**

[034]	**Cut**	**Sondage into pit –like feature only seen in plan; width 4m**	**Possibly a quarry pit**	**n/a**
(035)	**Fill of [08]**	**Orangey brown silty clay- fired clay; 0.90, depth, 0.10m**	**Very compacted, base for hearth in top of pit or in-stu burning**	**n/a**
(036)	**Layer**	**Stone layer of compacted cobbles with a silty infill; 1.80m by 1.80m (exposed), depth, 0.25m**	**Stone cobbled floor, possibly a yard area, related to brick floor (031)**	**n/a**
037	**Not used**			
(038)	**Fill**	**Watery clay with oil –like residue; cess material, only seen after pit collapse but at least 0.30m depth**	**Contamination from modern oil dumping**	**n/a**
(039)	**Layer**	**Sandy layer below(031); width 1m, depth 0.10m**	**Base for brick floor**	**n/a**
(040)	**Layer**	**Mid brown silty top soil; width, 1m, depth 0.15m**	**Old top soil or buried soil below a sandy base of brick floor (031)**	
(041)	**Wall**	**Brick course bonded, seen in two portions extending from extant eastern boundary wall .**	**Wall remains of former building**	**18^{th}-19^{th} century**
(042)	**Fill of [028]**	**Light to mid greenish-grey silty clay; width 2.30m, depth, 0.20m**	**Silting-up layer of pit [028]**	**n/a**
(043)	**Fill/layer**	**Modern concrete footings**	**n/a**	**n/a**
(044)	**Fill of [08]**	**Mid greyish-brown silty clay; width, 0.33m, depth 0.55m**	**Slump deposit from buried soil (01)**	**n/a**

Site Matrix
(Stratigraphical Sequence)



4 Interpretation

Laneham Yard has produced evidence for activity from the medieval to post medieval period. The house that stands to the immediate north of the site is a modern reconstruction of a demolished late medieval house from elsewhere in Lavenham. It is not known if it stands on the site of a previous building but map evidence suggests that there were buildings all along Church Street at the time of Hodskinson's map from 1783 (fig. 3 of the specification attached to this report), so it is most likely that where the reconstructed house stands there could have been earlier buildings at this location, especially being within the historic core of the town. The 19th century maps show an L-shaped building on the southern point of the development site with the entrance a vacant piece of land.

The evidence of relatively high quantities of cbm, fired clay, tile, floor tile and mortar in a number of the features on this site is suggestive of a building in close proximity that has been demolished. The large intercutting pits [028, 030], due to their size, are interpreted as evidence for quarrying. The reuse of the quarry pits as cess pits, along with, possibly, other pits on the site was a convenient method for re-filling. If this is the case it is unlikely that any house or other inhabited building would be too close to these for obvious reasons. It is more likely that these cess pits were for communal use for neighboring properties. and that the site was waste ground when the pits were in use for this purpose

As none of the features on site were able to be fully excavated it is difficult to compile a chronology from sections, but sampling of the features has given an indication of period and use (see site matrix, p.15). The earliest of the two quarry pits was sampled, but very low (7gm) of medieval pottery were retrieved and that suggests they are intrusive, but such a small sample from such a large context as (26) is problematic. The fact that both pits had collapsed completely after the footings were excavated did not allow for a clear solid section to be recorded, the sections drawn therefore are based on best estimate with the residual deposits adhering to the pit sides after the collapse. One of the largest deposits of cbm came from layer (025), within the top fill of pit [028] later seen as part of the cobbled surface (036), seen in plan later on. This shows that a building may have been demolished close to or on this site at the end of use for the cess pits. Alternatively, the building could have stood derelict whilst the cess pits were at their end of usage; there is also the possibility that waste building material was being dumped on site from elsewhere. A curious clean re-deposited clay layer (014) was noted over pits [028, 030] and was also seen over pit [020, 024] and is interpreted as a sealing layer after the cess pits went out of use; this feature is likely to be the key for dating much of the site as will be elucidated later on. It is also possible that this layer acted as a floor to an earlier building, but it could not be seen over feature [013] containing the largest deposit of medieval pottery located in the middle of the intercutting pits and pit [020] in the north-east corner of the site. If it were a floor it could be assumed that it should have extended across this whole area. The pottery evidence suggests a date for the quarry pits as late medieval to post-medieval (15th-16th century); however, when considering the very low medieval pottery content weighing 7gm, its extremely fragmentary nature, it is likely to be residual.

The quarry/cess pits are therefore likely to be later than what the pottery evidence suggests and could be as late as the 18th c. when considering the dating evidence of fill (015) with a high content of debris and artefacts of the late 17th – 19th centuries, which is capped by layer (014), seen over these pits a further pit and another feature.

The earliest evidence for activity on the site comes from feature [013], its fill (010) contained a relatively large deposit of medieval pottery (41 sherds weighing 439 gm) and by far the largest sample on site. One sherd, a rim, was closely datable to the 12th-13th centuries; the remainder fitted the same date range but could be a little later. The sooted nature of the sherds displays cooking waste disposal from very close by. The fired clay found in (010) was very abraded, weighing only 1 gm per sherd on average and may have come from a kiln or oven, whilst the small amount of animal bone and shell is normal in any quantity with cooking waste.

The enigmatic feature [034], seen only in plan, produced the second largest collection of medieval pottery, but still way less at only eighteen sherds weighing 132 gm with post-medieval cbm and so either could be residual bearing in mind that only the top layer of this feature was explored (see finds and environmental reports in appendices II & III).

Pit [020] was possibly of similar date to the two intercutting quarry pits, having the same clay sealing layer (014) over the fills. Below (014) was a debris layer (015) containing a great deal of material including glass, pottery, iron objects, tile, bone, cbm, etc: a rubbish dump spread over the pit. On-site analysis of the debris layer dated this material to the 18th century, giving a *terminus post quem* for the sealing layer (014) over pit [020] of around this date. Layers (016, re-deposited chalky clay (017), silty clay with ash, (018), charcoal rich silty deposit), are interpreted as sealing layers over an odorous, silty clay (019) thought to be a cess deposit. The primary and secondary contexts (021, 022) were far more odorous, anaerobic and darker in colour, forming residuals at the base of the pit.

Pit [08], (fig. 4, S.1) located in the south-east corner of the site was the smaller of the pits found, its fill being more sequential than the large main fills of the larger pits mentioned, demonstrating that this pit was left open for a longer period of time; this is borne out by the slump of buried soil (044) seen in the western edge of the pit. Considering its longevity it seems also to have been used for cess. The final fill (04) was a burnt clay, orangey-red in colour and contained charcoal, above a very compacted clay layer (035) containing high densities of charcoal; it was not capped by the clay layer (014) seen elsewhere. Unfortunately this feature was not sampled, however from its composition it is most likely to be of a similar date to the other post-medieval cess pits. At some point this pit was used as a base or hearth for a fire as is evidenced from the layers showing in-situ burning, being further evidence for this being a cess pit, as the charcoal and burning is an efficient way of sealing off odorous deposits.

The brick floor (031) revealed consisting of *Suffolk Whites* can date from the Late 16th-18th centuries when these bricks were being produced at Woolpit. Its discovery immediately below modern concrete may suggest the latter date for this feature. The owner of the property states that the floor was part of a demolished stable block and if that is the case it could also be part of the L-shaped building shown on the 19th century maps in the accompanying brief.

The last feature revealed, during leveling of the site, was the compacted stone layer (036), and interpreted as a cobbled surface or floor. It was also seen in section over pit [028] and probably pit [030]; during recording of the pits, during which time its function was unclear.

5 Discussion

Medieval to Post Medieval

The site at Laneham Yard Lavenham has been used, probably continually, since the 12th century (earliest) based on the pottery evidence and accompanying finds evidence from the samples taken from a number of features. The higher proportions of cbm, all of late medieval to post-medieval date, in relation to the quantity of earlier medieval pottery found would suggest that the earlier medieval pottery, at less than 1 gm per sherd in some cases, is intrusive within the larger intercutting pits, a further pit and the large feature of unknown extent, which appeared to date to the Late medieval to post-medieval period. However the clay layer seen over at least three of the pits would suggest a later date more into the 18th century when the pits fell out of use, deduced from good evidence to that effect from pit [020] where the clay layer sealed a late post-medieval (18th c.) deposit.

Feature [013], a possible pit was more conclusive with its large deposit of pottery from the late 12th-14th centuries and can therefore be more securely dated to this time.

The site is some distance away from what is now the central core of the medieval town and during the 12th century it is quite likely that the area may have been extra-mural and used for a variety of functions. However, further work in the town may prove otherwise and that the area closest to the church has the earliest origins for Lavenham and Laneham Yard has been a small window into that early focus of settlement. Certainly by the later medieval and post-medieval period the site was used for domestic waste from neighboring houses or other buildings, many of which can still be seen today.

Post medieval to Modern

The brick floor and cobbled surface gave further evidence for activity on the site as building evidence and yard activity from the post-medieval period through to the 19th century. The remains of two brick wall courses were part of a presumed stable block, possibly the L-shaped building seen on the 19th century mapping. Finally, the site was used as a builder's yard since the early 20th c. until very recently.

The small size of the plot with fairly dense archaeology was hampered by continual tracking and back tracking from the mechanical digger, during which time spoil management became logistically challenging. In spite of the restrictive nature of the site, a number of archaeological features were able to be observed and sampled, giving an insight into the chronology and development over the last seven hundred years at Laneham Yard.

The archaeological Recording therefore, was successful in revealing and presenting the evidence for previous activity on the site and its use prior to its redevelopment.

6 Conclusion

As a result of the Archaeological Recording and its findings, no further work is deemed necessary on this site. Any further redevelopment in the vicinity would be highly advantageous to understanding the archaeology and development of the medieval town of Lavenham and would be strongly recommended to enhance the knowledge so far gained within this report.

7 Archive Deposition

The paper and photographic archive will be held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

A digital record and copies of the report can be viewed at The Historic Environment Record office, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds and online at:
http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html.

The finds archive is held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

8 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Peter Barnes who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

This report for archaeological evaluation was written by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) (Archaeoserv), who also managed the project and carried out the field-work.

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PastScapes http://www.pastscape.org/homepage/index.htm

Appendix I: Digital Images

Plate 1. Pre-excavation of Site from the West

Plate 2. Test pit showing Potential Archaeology

Plate 3. Pit [08] revealed in section

Plate 4. Pit [08]revealed in the footings trench from the west

Plate 5. Pit/Spread [013]containing the pottery at base of fill

Plate 6. Pit [020] sealed by layers (003; 014; 015)

Plate 7. Pit [020] showing capping layer of clay (014) and debris layer (015) continuing on past the pit cut

Plate 8. Pit [024], similar to [013] with capping layer (014)

Plate 9. Pit [028] after collapse

Plate 10. Pit [030] after collapse

Plate 11. Pit [028] after cleaning with exposed section (dark layer at top) of cobbled surface (036)

Plate 12. Pit [030] primary fill (038), primary fill of cess material

Plate 13. Brick Floor of Woolpit Bricks (031)

Plate 14. Brick Floor (031) with base layer (039) and remnant garden soil layer (040)

Plate 14. Sondage in to large feature [034]; possibly a large pit

Plate 15. Feature [034] from the south-west

Plate 16. Cobbled surface (036) exposed during leveling of the site

Appendix II: Specialists Reports

The Finds

Bulk finds catalogue

Context No	Pottery No	Pottery Wt (g)	CBM No	CBM Wt (g)	Plaster /Mortar No	Plaster/ Mortar Wt (g)	FClay No	FClay Wt (g)	Iron No	Iron Wt (g)	ABone No	ABone Wt (g)	Shell No	Shell Wt (g)	Overall Date
0010	13	360	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	Medieval
0010 sample	28	79	0	0	2	4	50	68	1	6	6	1	4	13	Medieval
0018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	0	0	
0018 sample	2	1	13	155	12	14	15	7	1	2	41	30	6	31	15th-16th C
0019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0019 sample	3	4	8	111	10	15	61	85	0	0	26	5	4	6	Med but some cbm late med/pmed
0025	0	0	5	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	Late med/pmed
0026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0026 sample	4	7	0	0	0	0	11	8	0	0	12	3	2	4	Medieval
0033	8	89	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	25	1	6	Medieval but later cbm
0033 sample	10	43	1	26	0	0	6	9	1	2	21	11	1	1	Medieval but later cbm

Laneham Yard, Lavenham (LVM 063/LYL V13)

Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin

Introduction

Finds were recovered from the monitoring at Lavenham from hand collection and through samples taken for environmental processing. They have been quantified and catalogued (Appendix *1). Table *1 shows the quantities by material total.

Material	Quantity	Weight (g)
Pottery	68	583
Ceramic Building Material	28	449
Mortar	24	33
Fired clay/daub	143	177
Iron	3	10
Animal bone	106	103
Shell	19	66

Table *1. Finds quantities

The Pottery

Introduction and methodology

A total of sixty-eight sherds of pottery was recovered overall, weighing 583g. The ceramics were quantified using the recording methods recommended in the MPRG Occasional Paper No 2, Minimum standards for the processing, recording, analysis and publication of Post-Roman ceramics (Slowikowski et al 2001). The number of sherds present in each context by fabric, the estimated number of vessels represented and the weight of each fabric was noted. Other characteristics such as form, decoration and condition were recorded, and an overall date range for the pottery in each context was established.The pottery was catalogued on proforma sheets by context using letter codes based on fabric and form and has been inputted as on the database (Appendix *).

The codes used are based mainly on broad fabric and form types identified in *Eighteen centuries of pottery from Norwich* (Jennings 1981), and additional fabric types established by the Suffolk Unit (S Anderson, unpublished fabric list).

Almost the entire assemblage is medieval, with one sherd dating to the late medieval/ early post-medieval period.

The Assemblage

Forty-one sherds of medieval coarseware were recovered from the fill 0010 of a shallow pit behind the late medieval house. Many small sherds were collected from the environmental sample processing, but two rim sherds were present. One of these has a thickened flat topped rim dating from the 12th to the early 13th century. Many of the sherds are sooted showing they had been used as cooking vessels. Small quantities of medieval pottery were also recovered from pit fill 0026.

A slightly more varied group of pottery from feature 0033 included the base of a Hedingham fineware jug dating from the mid 12th to the mid 13th century, together with a second fragment of glazed medieval pottery and another cooking vessel with a flat-topped rim. Two fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material also came from this context.

Medieval coarsewares were found in pit fill 0019, although some fragments of later ceramic building material were also recovered from this feature.

Two very small sherds were recovered from the sampling of charcoal rich layer 0018, weighing less than a gramme. A fragment of medieval coarseware was present and a small fine glazed redware which is a late medieval and transitional variant dating to the 15th-16th century.

Discussion

The pottery assemblage is dominated by the medieval coarsewares, some of which are made in coarse, gritty variants. It is likely that many of these wares came from Essex kiln sites such as Mile End, and Great Horksley (Cotter 92). The Hedingham fineware also originates from a production site in Northern Essex. Although some of the features such as pit fill 0010 contained only medieval pottery, most of the other features have ceramic building material dating to the late medieval/post-medieval period, indicating that some of the ceramics are likely to be residual, unless the later finds are intrusive.

Ceramic building material

Introduction

Twenty-eight fragments of ceramic building material were collected from the monitoring, including many small pieces which were recovered through environmental processing.

The Assemblage

Small pieces of roofing tile with reduced cores were present in pit fill 0019 dating to the medieval period, but some larger fragments from this feature are fully oxidised and are likely to be late medieval or post-medieval in date.

In addition to some very small scrappy fragments of ceramic building material in the charcoal rich layer 0018, two larger fragments of roofing tile are hard fired, fully oxidised and also date to the late medieval-post-medieval period.

Further fragments of roofing tile were present in 0025. These are fully oxidised but are made in fine sandy fabrics, with some clay pellets (fabric type fscp), suggesting that the tiles date to the late medieval/early post-medieval period (15th-16th C). A small fragment of brick was also identified in this context, which has an overall height of *c.*34mm and which may be medieval.

Two small fragments of cbm were recovered from the fill 0033 of another possible pit. One of these was a small hard fired fragment made in a fine dense fabric with occasional grog/red clay pellets and calcareous inclusions and voids in a pale orange matrix (height *c.* 40mm). This is most probably a small fragment of a post-medieval floor tile dating to the late 16th century or later (Drury, 1993, 166). A small amorphous fragment of? Brick from this context also appears to be post-medieval.

Fired clay

Small fragments of fired clay were collected from all the finds-bearing contexts. The assemblage consists for the most part of many small fragments, most of which are made in the same fabric type. This is a buff to pale orange fine sandy fabric containing moderate small to large (up to 14mm in length) chalk inclusions and sparse small red clay pellets. None of the fragments showed any evidence of impressions such as from wattling on the reverse sides, but some of the larger pieces have flat roughly smooth surfaces. This chalk-tempered fabric is often associated with the construction of oven domes during the medieval period (Sue Anderson, pers. comm.), although none of these fragments were diagnostic.

Mortar

Twenty-four fragments of mortar were identified in three contexts (0010, 0018 and 0019). All are made in a similar fabric type, an off-white sandy hard mortar. One fragment from charcoal rich layer 0018 has a final surface layer of whitewash.

Iron

A small iron nail was present in the burnt layer 0018 within the pit, and another nail was found in pit fill 0010. The very fragmentary remains of another iron object (a small flat item 23mm in length) was recovered from the possible pit fill 0033.

Faunal remains

Small quantities of very fragmentary animal bone were recovered from four contexts, but very little of it was diagnostic. The remains of part of a sheep mandible were present in fill 0033. A rib of a large mammal, probably a cow, was found in burnt layer 0018.

Shell
Fragments of nineteen shells were recovered from all contexts, mainly through the environmental processing. Oyster shell is the main species, with small numbers of mussel shell and one example of a cockle fragment in fill 0019 of the cesspit.

Discussion of material evidence

A considerable quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from the monitoring, with some ceramic building material and fired clay which is also likely to be medieval. The finds are probably associated with activity in the back yards of properties close to the centre of Lavenham. A small sherd of pottery in pit fill 0018 and a small quantity of ceramic building material in some of the features such as fill 0019 of a cesspit are later in date however.

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Pottery List

Context No	Fabric	Form	Sherd No	ENV	Weight (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
10	MCW	CP/JAR	1	1	67	S	Thickened flat topped, L12th-E13th C	L12th-14th C	L12th-E13th C
10	MCWG	CP/JAR	1	1	19		Flat topped	L12th-14th c	
10	MCWG	BODY	1	1	28	S	Body sherd, coarse quartz	L12th-14th C	
10	MCW	BODY	10	0	246	S	Base sherds	L12th-14th C	
10	MCW	BODY	28	0	79	S	From sample	L12th-14th C	
18	MCW	BODY	1	1	1		From sample	L12th-14th C	
18	LMTE	BODY	1	1	1		From sample	15th-16th C?	
19	MCW	BODY	1	1	1		From sample	L12th-14th C	
19	MCW	BODY	2	1	4	S	Reddish brown margins	L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
26	MCW	BODY	2	2	6		From sample	L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
26	MCW	BODY	1	1	1		From sample, redware, oxid, sandy	L12th-14th C	
26	MCW?	BODY	1	1	1		From sample	L12th-14th C	
33	MCW	CP/JAR	1	1	15	A	Flat-topped, squared rim, L12th-E13th C	L12th-E13th C	
33	HFW1	BASE	1	1	19	A	Abraded jug base, small spots ld gl, int & splash	M12th-M13th C	
33	UPG	BODY	1	1	5	A		L12th-14th c	
33	MCW	BODY	4	0	26	RA		L12th-14th C	
33	MCW	CP/JAR	1	0	23	AAS	Very abraded, Int beaded	L12th-13th C	L12th-13th C

An assessment of the plant macrofossils from a monitoring at Laneham Yard, Lavenham.

By Anna West

Introduction and Methods

Five samples were taken from archaeological features and deposits during a monitoring of ground works at Laneham Yard, Lavenham. The samples were processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

The samples were processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Once dried the flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant macro remains or artefacts were recorded in Table x. Identification of plant remains is with reference to New Flora of the British Isles, (Stace).

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts were retained for inclusion in the finds total.

Quantification

For this initial assessment, macro remains such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones were scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories.

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Remains that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

Context No	Feature/ cut no	Feature type	Approx date of deposit	Flot Contents
0010		Pit	Medieval	Charred cereal ###, Charred pulses #, Charred seeds #, Charcoal +++, Animal bone #, Un-charred seeds #, Rootlets ++
0018	0020	Pit		Charcoal +++, Rootlets ++, Snails +
0019	0020	Pit		Charred cereal #, Charred pulses #, Animal bone #, Charcoal +++, Un-charred seeds #, Rootlets ++

0026	0028	Pit		Fibrous roots +++, Round wood fragments +, Fibrous wood fragments +, Hazel nutshell fragment #, Un-charred seeds #
0033	0034	Pit		Charred cereal ##, Charred pulses #, Charcoal ++, Un-charred seeds #

Table 1 Results

The preservation is through charring and is generally good to fair although some of the cereal grains are puffed and fragmented with the honeycomb structure characteristic of combustion at high temperatures.

Contexts 0010 and 0033 both contained a number of cereal grains, predominately those of a naked Wheat (Tritium sp.) with the small rounded grains characteristic of a Bread wheat. A small number of Barley (Hordeum sp.) grains were also present and a number of cereal caryopsis which were too fragmented or abraded to identify. No chaff elements were observed within the scanned flots.

A small number of charred pulses were identified, with peas (Pisum sativum L.) in contexts 0010, 0019 and 0033 along with a single possible Celtic bean (Vicia faba L.) in context 0019.

Un-charred macro remains were rare, with normally only single specimens of Polygonacea species and Goosefoots (Chenpodium sp.) but the robust seeds of Elder (Sambucus nigra L.) were a little more numerous.

Context 0026 contained large quantities of what appeared to be fibrous or waterlogged wood along with round wood fragments, fibrous roots and stems, infrequent moss fragments and a single Hazel (Corylus sp.) nutshell, as well as small quantities of the un-charred seeds mentioned above, within the portion scanned. Charcoal was scares within this context.

Context 0018 contained only wood charcoal fragments, rootlets and snails, no plant macro fossils were observed within the portion of flot scanned.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In general the samples were poor to fair in terms of identifiable material. Charcoal was present in varying quantities within the samples.

The grains recovered are representative of the cereals grown during the medieval period. No chaff elements were observed, which would have been indicative of cereal processing or storage.

The small number of pea *(P. sativum)* seeds recovered may not be representative of their importance within the diet. As pulses do not need to be processed using heat in the same way as cereals, they are less likely to be exposed to chance preservation through charring and so are often under represented within archaeological deposits.

It is likely that the charred cereals and pulses represent chance lose during domestic processes, such as food preparation and that these activities took place

within the local vicinity, with the waste material was deliberately deposited within the archaeological features.

It is likely that the un-charred weeds seeds are intrusive within the archaeological deposits as a result of bioturbation.