Archaeological Evaluation on land opposite Ivy Farm House Mellis Road Gislingham Suffolk

Grid reference: TM 076 720

Planning Application No: 383/12
HER no: GSG 045
Oasis No.: 214498

Prepared for:
Burgess Homes Ltd

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by two trial trenches on land adjacent to Ivy House Farm Mellis Road Gislingham Suffolk, on the 25th - 26th of June 2015. This was in advance of the erection of a single new dwelling. The work was carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Richard Hoggett of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services Conservation Team, dated the 11th of June 2015.

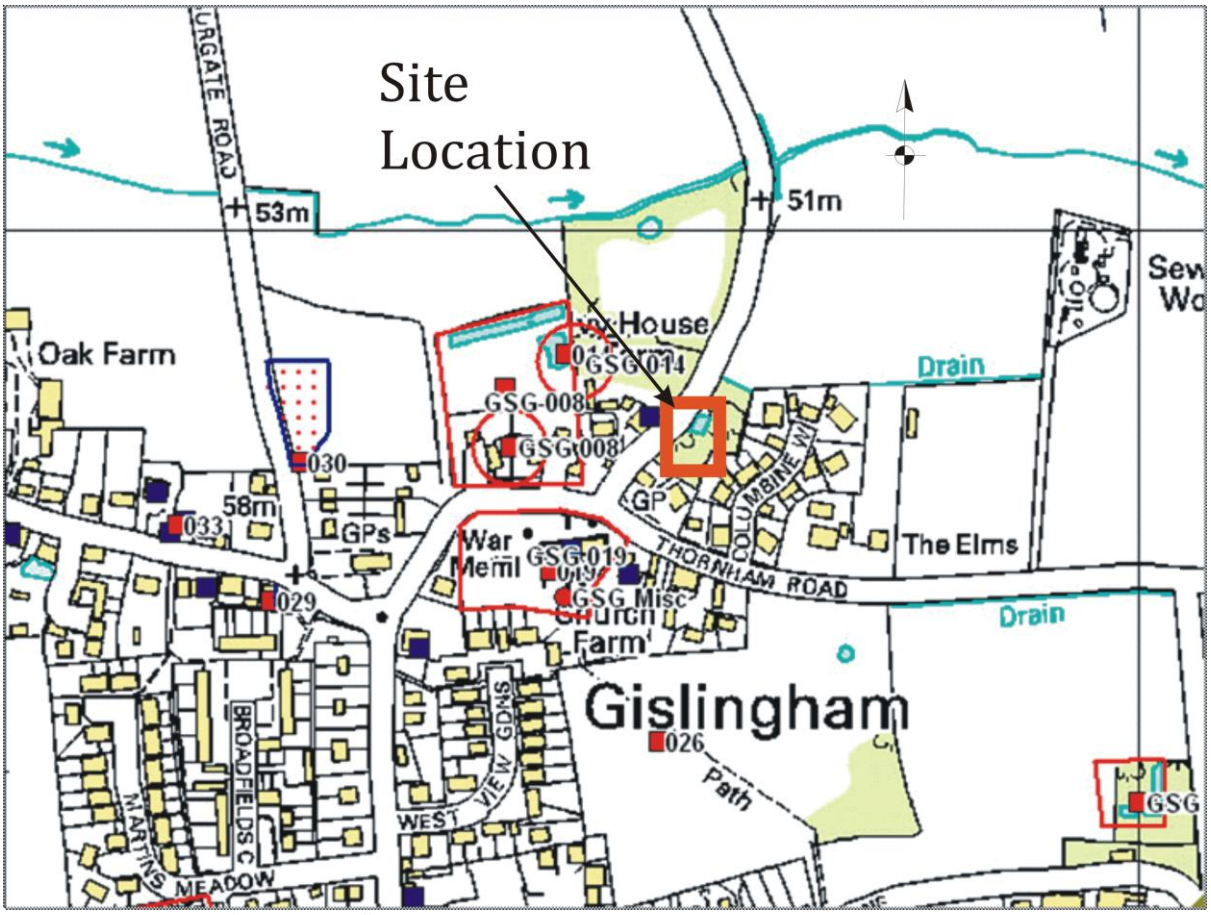
Two linear trenches 10.00m long x 1.8m wide were excavated to cover the footprint of the single dwelling and a further trench to cover the new driveway.

A single linear ditch, containing no dating evidence, was located. The direction of the ditch, towards the road and its small size was interpreted as a property boundary and probably medieval in date. A further feature was a foundation wall for a building; this building is shown on Hodskinson's map of 1783. The brick sample from this feature appears to be post-medieval, possibly 18th century in date.

1 Site Geology Location and Description

Grid Ref: TM 076 720

The site is generally on fine loam over clay soil with slightly permeable subsoil (BGS 1990).



Ordnance Survey, licence No. 100047655

Figure 1. Gisligham site location

The site is located within the historic core of the village, c 100m to the north-east of the parish church, in Mellis Road Gislingham.

2. Planning Background

The planning application No. 3813/12, was granted by Mid Suffolk District Council, for the erection of a single dwelling on land adjacent to Ivy House Farm Mellis Road Gislingham Suffolk (TM 076 720) .

In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and to comply with Policy of the Council's Local Plan, the condition states "*No development shall take place within any part of the application site until the applicant, or developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: To allow proper investigation and recording of the site, which is potentially of archaeological and historical significance.

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).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological Background

The Brief for this project, written by the SCCA/CT states: *This proposal affects a site of archaeological interest, less than 100m from the medieval church of Gislingham (County Historic Environment Record GSG 019). There is a medieval moated site immediately to the west of Ivy Farm (GSG 008) from which Roman and Saxon pottery are recorded. Whilst there has not been systematic archaeological investigation of this site, there is potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains to exist on the site, particularly dating from the medieval period. Any groundworks associated with the proposed development have the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets that exist.*

3.2 Gislingham has received two archaeological intervention in the form of an archaeological evaluation with four trenches opened (SCCAS, 2001), which did not reveal any features, only finds of worked flint and pottery and Monitoring at Ivy House Farm, which recorded a post-medieval pit. (Payne, D. Ivy House Archaeological Monitoring at Ivy House, 2009.)

3.3 The H.E.R., records eight entries of archaeological interest within 500m of Gislingham. These include finds of Roman date; a Saxon pottery (GSG 014) and a medieval moat (GSG 008).

3.4 Historical Background

Gislingham is listed in ``Whites Directory of Suffolk``, and states: '*Gislingham is a pleasant village and parish, 5 miles W.S.W. of Eye, and 3 and a half miles S.S.E. of Botesdale, contains 669 souls, and 2251 acres of land. The parish is in two manors, (Swattisfield Hall and Rushes and Jennings), of which Lord Henniker and Geo. St Vincent Wilson, Esq., are lords,'* (White.W., History, Gazetteer and Directory of Suffolk, 1844

4. Cartographic Information

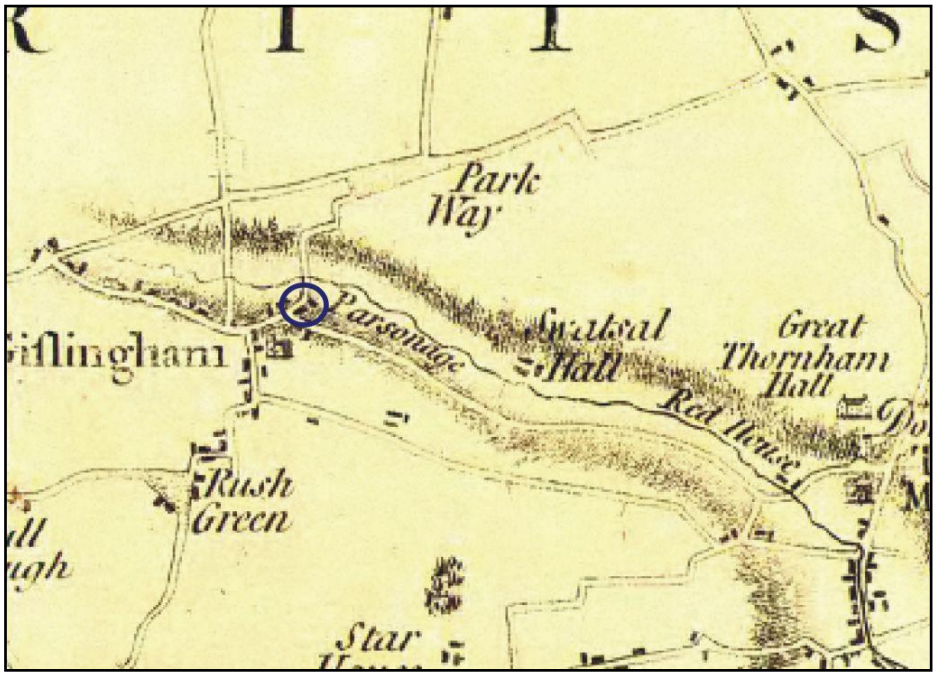


Figure 2. Hodskinson's map of Gislingham, 1783 showing site with buildings on

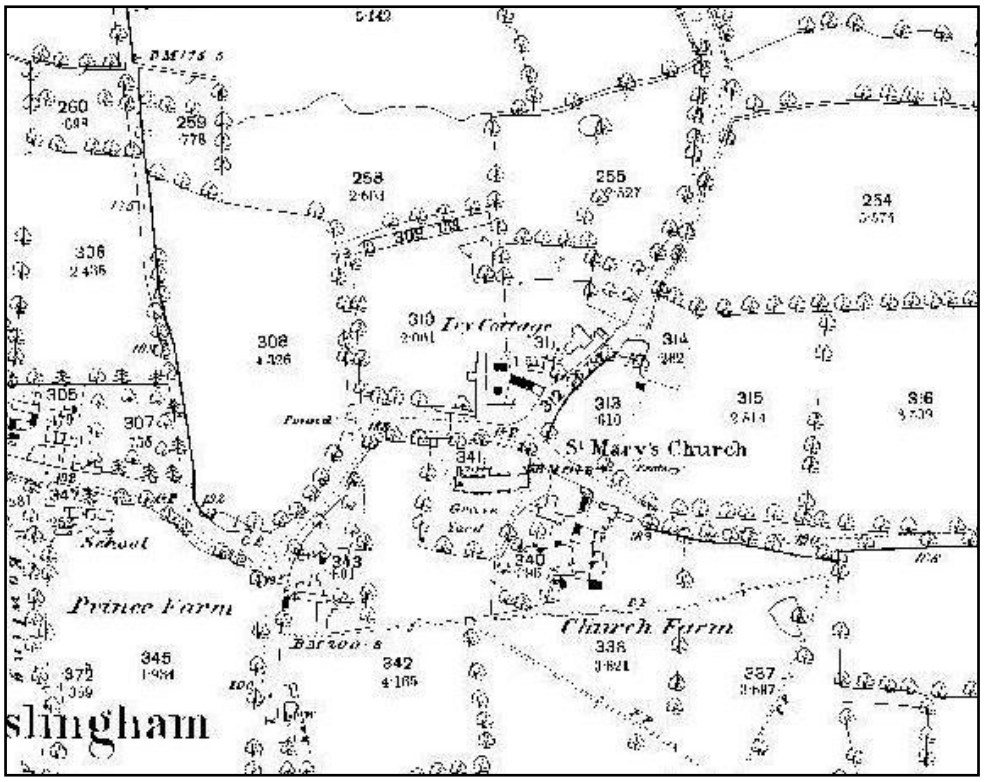


Figure 3. 1880's OS map of Gislingham with no buildings shown on map by this date

5. Results

5.1 Fieldwork

5.11 Two 15m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated to cover the footprint and the new driveway for the proposed new dwelling.

5.12 Trenches 1 and 2 were drawn to a scale of 1:50; a section of each trench was drawn to a scale of 1:20.

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

5.14 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.

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

5.16 All features were described in detail.

5.17 The evaluation was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to IFA standards. The work also considered the eastern counties frameworks standards as laid down in : Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeology. Occ. Paper. 24

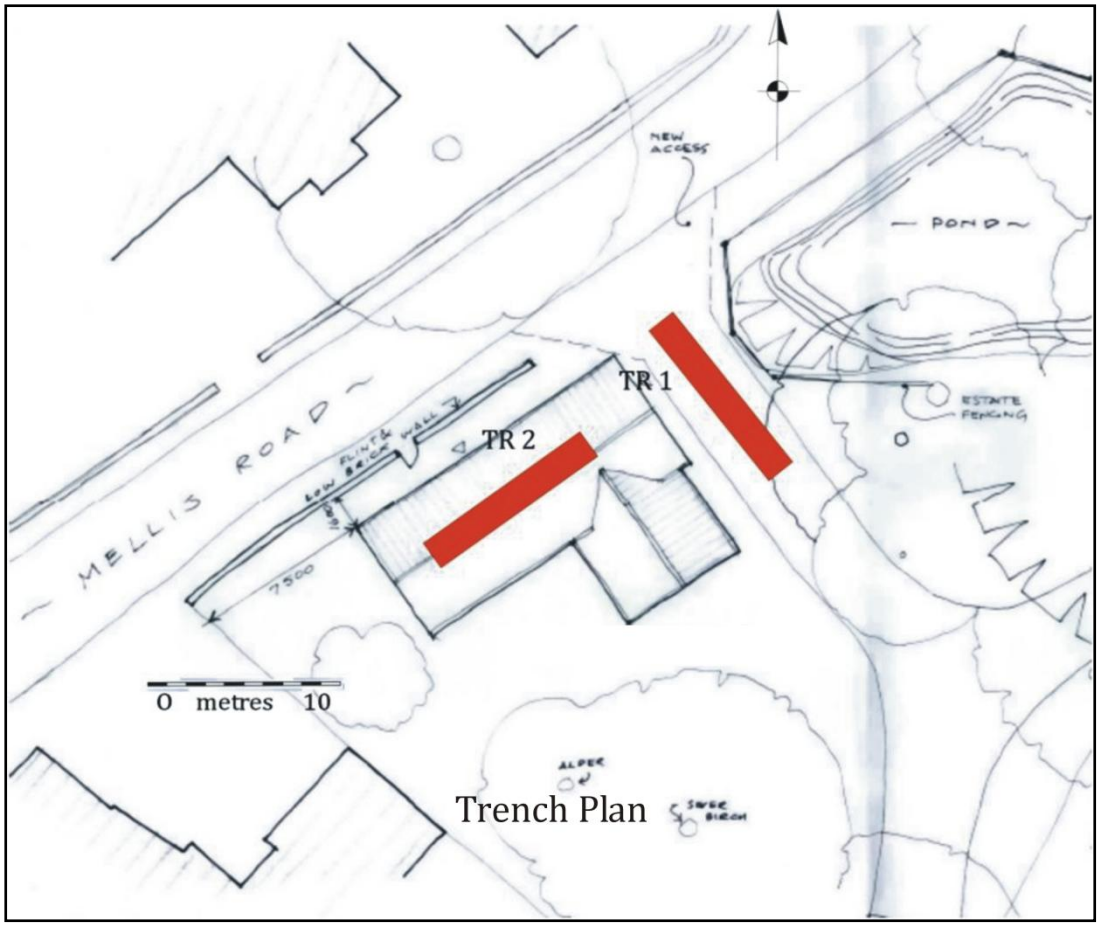


Figure 4. Plan of trenches

5.2 The Evaluation Trenches

5.21 Trench 1, orientated north-south (fig. 4) was excavated over the footprint for the new driveway, measuring 10 m long by 1.8 m wide, to a maximum depth of 0.85 m. The topsoil (1000) was removed to a depth of 0.15m by machine to reveal a mid-light grey made-up layer of silty clay with cbm (1001) to a depth of 0.45m, below this was a pond-derived silty deposit (1003) to a depth of 0.25m the final layer below this was the natural (1002) a yellowish light brown sandy clay.

The area through which this trench was placed was once part of the pond, which still exists immediately adjacent to the trench. The initial deposit (1001) was a silty clay, mid-light grey in colour containing crushed building material, it was also derived from being part of the pond silt; below this a further silty deposit(1003) was a further pond silt of a yellowish-grey silt exposed at the north end of the trench. Between these deposits was a foundation wall of one course depth (1005); adjacent to the foundation wall was demolition spread of cbm, greyish-yellow in colour (1004), presumably from the same building seen on the Hodskinson map of 1783. The wall crossed the trench in a diagonal line, on an east-west alignment. No further archaeology was noted.

5.22 Trench 2 (fig. 4) was located over the new driveway area north-east - south-west, measuring 10m in length by 0.40m depth. The topsoil (1000) was removed by mechanical digger to a depth of 0.20m to reveal the natural (1002) to a depth of 0.20m.

Trench 2 produced a post hole, much truncated [1007], filled by a silty deposit (1006) to a depth of 0.10m by 0.34m width, no finds were present and therefore un-dateable. A large spread of dark material (1008), 0.40 m in length by o.90m width by 0.17m depth, which was excavated by two sections to confirm that it was merely a spread [1009] of brown silty clay which masked and cut a small ditch [1011] on a north--west - south-east alignment. This feature was filled by a single fill (1010) of mixed yellowish brown, gravelly silt; depth 0.50m, width, 0.70m, length 0.60m. No finds were present within any of these features, therefore un-dateable; no further archaeology was present within this trench.

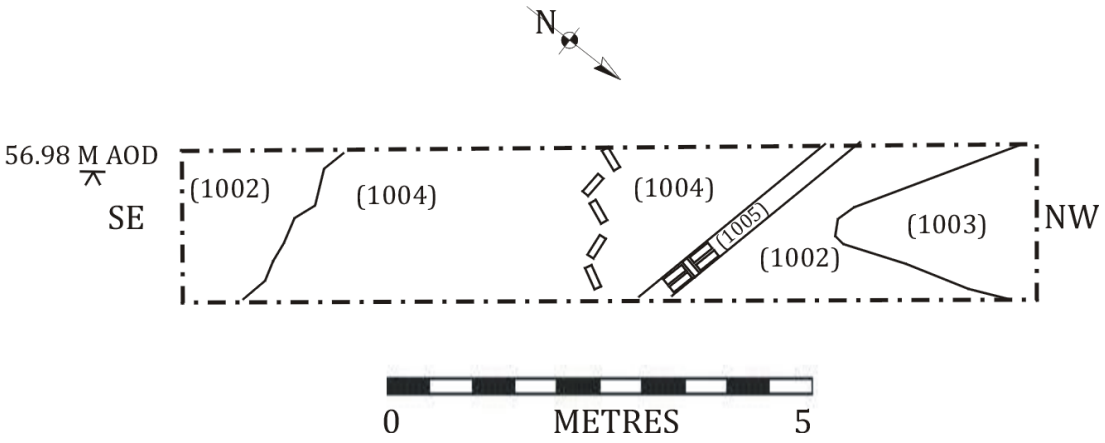


Figure 5. Plan of Trench 1 at 1:50

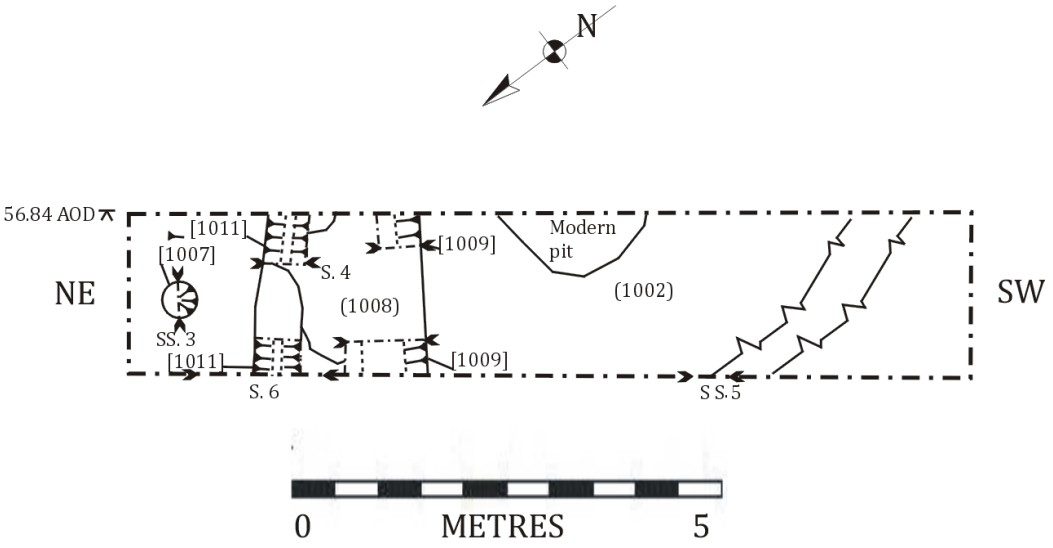


Figure 6. Plan of Trench 2 at 1:50

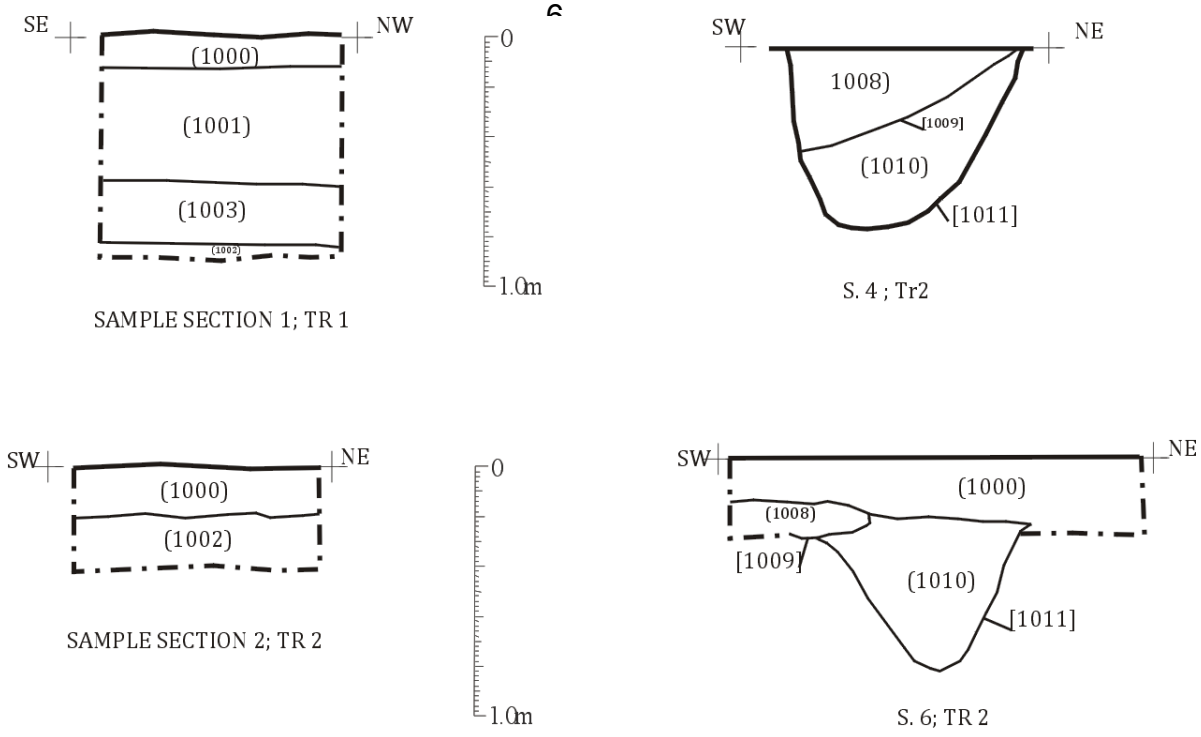


Figure 7. Sections at scale 1:20

6. Interpretation and Discussion

The northern area of the site had been part of an existing pond which is located immediately to the north of the site. Trench 1, within the proposed new access area revealed the pond's previous extent, oddly though a building had been present here at one time evidenced by a single foundation wall in Tr 1 (fig. 5), which must have existed before either the pond was extended or after it was filled in; it most likely pre-dates the pond as to build on this area would have been very difficult with the deep silts from the stagnant water. A building was certainly present here, which is shown on the Hodskinson map of 1783 (fig. 2); therefore the foundation wall in Tr 1 possibly relates to that building and if so , would pre-date 1783, the date of the map.

In Tr 2, a ditch was discovered (figs, 6, 7), masked by a later feature or spread. The ditch was fairly small and ran towards the road and could be a property boundary dating from the medieval or post-medieval period; it could be related to the building evidence from Tr1. No finds were made on this site so dating was not possible except for the brickwork in the foundation wall, which appears to be post-medieval. A much truncated post hole was found adjacent to the ditch and could also be related to it. A post hole located in the eastern end of the trench was considered to ephemeral to produce any firm evidence of its origin, date or usage, only 0.02m depth.

7. Conclusion

The evaluation was successful in demonstrating that little archaeology was present within the area sampled. Evidence for occupation on the site was attested by the brick foundation wall and the ditch and post hole. It is likely that all of these features pre-date the pond's incursion onto the site.

With the exception to the above aforementioned evidence, no further archaeology was present within the area sampled.

This evaluation therefore was successful in showing that no important archaeology will be damaged by the current proposal.

8. 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.

9. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Simon Burgess who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

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

Richard Hoggett of the SCCACT produced the brief for this project.

Bibliography

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White, W, (4th edition), 1884. ***History, Gazetteer and Directory of Suffolk,*** **Sheffield.**

ONLINE REFERENCES

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

Appendix I: Digital Images

Plate 1. Pre-excavation, general site view, from the north-west

Plate 2. Pre-excavation view of the site from the west

Plate 3. Pond silts (1003), Tr 1, mid-excavation

Plate 4. Foundation wall (1005) exposed under pond silt in Tr 1

Plate 5. Trench 1, post-excavation from the south-east

Plate 6. SS. 1 in Trench 1

Plate 6. Pre-excavation of Trench 2 with feature [1009] masking a ditch [1011]

Plate 7. Post hole [1007] in Trench 2

Plate 8. Sample section of Trench 2

Plate 9. section 4 through [1009, 1011], Trench 2

Plate 10. Sections through features [1009 , 1011]

Plate 11. Trench 2, post-excavation from the south-west

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: dennispa1-214498

Project details

Project name	GSG 045: Archaeological Evaluation on land opposite Ivy Farm House Mellis Road Gislingham
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by two trial trenches on land adjacent to Ivy House Farm Mellis Road Gislingham Suffolk, on the 25th - 26th of June 2015. Two linear trenches 10.00m long x 1.8m wide were excavated to cover the footprint of the single dwelling and a further trench to cover the new driveway. A single linear ditch, containing no dating evidence, was located. The direction of the ditch, towards the road and its small size was interpreted as a property boundary and probably medieval in date. A further feature was a foundation wall for a building; this building is shown on Hodskinson's map of 1783. The brick sample from this feature appears to be post-medieval, possibly 18th century in date.
Project dates	Start: 17-06-2015 End: 25-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	POST-HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NA None
Methods & techniques	""""Targeted Trenches"""""
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK GISLINGHAM LAND ADJACENT TO IVY HOUSE MELLIS RD GISLINGHAM EVALUATION
Postcode	IP146JR
Study area	400 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 076 720 52.306313617842 1.045500234676 52 18 22 N 001 02 43 E Point

Lat/Long Datum	Position derived from charts
Height OD / Depth	Min: 56.84m Max: 56.98m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	ARCHAEOSERV
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	RICHARD HOGETT
Project director/manager	DENNIS PAYNE
Project supervisor	DENNIS PAYNE
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	s burgess

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	St Edmunsbury Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Paper Archive recipient	St Edmunsbury Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on land opposite Ivy Farm House Mellis Road Gislingham
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