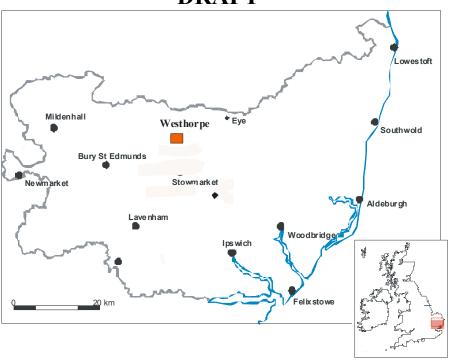
# Land adjacent to 12 Church Road Westhorpe Suffolk

# Archaeological Evaluation Report

# **DRAFT**



Planning Application No: 1286/08 Grid Reference TM 0457 6919 Oasis Ref: 91925 HE R No: WTP 012

(Dennis Payne Archaeological Services) January 2011

Dennis Payne Archaeological Services Commissioned by Mr Patrick Barker and David Barker

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### **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by trial trench on land adjacent to 12, Church Road, Westhorpe, Suffolk, between the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. This was in advance of a development for a new domestic dwelling. One 12m long by 1.8m wide trench was sited, partly to cover the footprint of the proposed development and also to target any potential roadside activity to the immediate south of the development.

A number of archaeological features were encountered within the trench.

These features were interpreted as medieval. The earliest of these was a ditch running parallel to Church road. Pottery from the site gave a date range from Late Saxon to late medieval.

#### 1. Introduction

Planning permission was granted for the development of land (erection of a new dwelling) adjacent to 12 Church Road Westhorpe by Mid Suffolk District Council. To allow proper investigation and recording of the site which is potentially of archaeological and historic significance condition 5 stated that "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." This permission was subject to a condition requiring archaeological investigation of the site prior to the development commencing. An initial brief and specification by Jess Tipper, Suffolk County Council Conservation Team required a trenched evaluation of the property in order to inform the potential for archaeological remains present on the site, and enable a suitable mitigation strategy to be developed should archaeological remains be present on the site.

## Site Location and Description

Grid Reference: TM 0457 6919

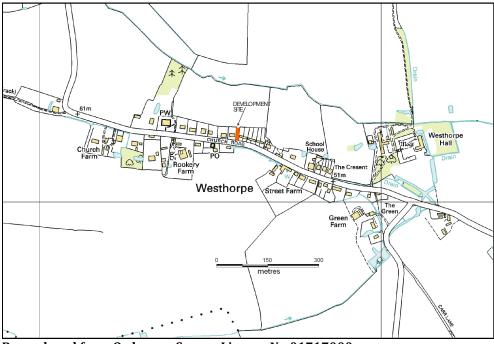
The site is located on the north side of Church Road at c. 55.00 OD. It lies between Midway and 12, Church Road, Westhorpe. The land has been used as a field entrance from at least the 1950's, prior to that – before any of the housing was built - it was part of a meadow which extended to the present hedge boundary to the north, pers- comm. Mr D. Barker.



Figure 1. General view of site, pre excavation

# Geology

The site is situated on deep loam to clay derived from the underlying chalky till of the Ashley Series (BGS 1990).



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# Figure 2. Site location

(site located in orange)



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Figure 3. Modern Ordnance Survey map of site showing trench location.

(Scale 1:1250)

## 3. Archaeological and historical background

## 3.1 Archaeological Background

There have been four archaeological interventions in Westhorpe. Two of these were at Westhorpe Hall and a survey: (ESF15635, excavated by Thurley S (Event - Intervention. Ref: -Thurley, S); (ESF14545Survey by OS (Event - Survey); (ESF16085Excavated by SAU (SB) (Event - Intervention. Ref: SAU (SB); Land adjacent to Cherry Croft, Church Road, Archaeological Monitoring (SAU; 2008) and Archaeological Monitoring and Building recording at Rookery Farm Barn Church Road, (DPAS, 01/2009).

### 3.2 Historical background

Westhorpe is first recorded as having one manor held by Wulfric Hagni in 1066, belonging to Eudo, son of Spirwic, and by 1086 the manor was held by Geoffrey (Domesday Book Suffolk 34, Morris, J., ed.), presumably in the same ownership as no further information was added at the time. By 1240, Walter de Westhorpe was owner of the manor.

The church, St Margaret's, is believed to date from the fourteenth century and is first recorded in 1402.

When the Domesday Survey was made, Westhorpe belonged to Gilbert de Blund. Wm. de Ellingham, or Elmham who obtained a grant for a market and fair here in 1371, (which continued until the sixteenth century). It was the manor of Wm. De la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, when he was beheaded in 1450. It was afterward granted to Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk, who married his third wife, Mary Tudor in 1571. (White, 1844)

Westhorpe was the residency of Mary Tudor (1496-1533 – widower of Louis XII of France), daughter of Henry VII and sister of Henry VIII, as mentioned above, who lived at the manor, now known as Westhorpe Hall, owned by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, whom she married (Carlford, Colneis, Gosford, Hartismere, Copinger, Vol III, 1909). In 1554, Sir Thomas Cornwallis was the owner of Westhorpe Hall.

In 1674, Westhorpe was noted as having eighteen inhabited houses – it is not possible to know how large Westhorpe was before this record but, however the size of the village probably remained small in-spite of its importance with the royal connection.

# 4. Map Information

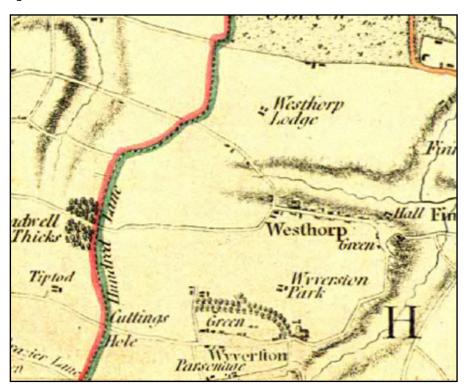


Figure 4. Hodskinson's map of Westhorpe, 1783

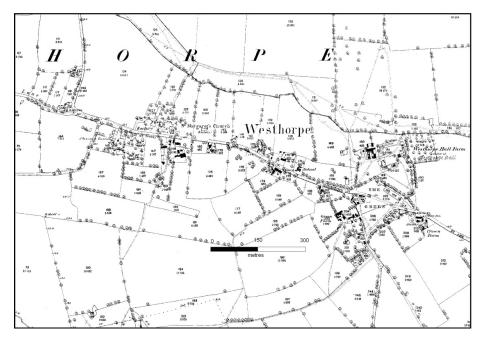


Figure 5. Ordnance Survey of Westhorpe, 1880's

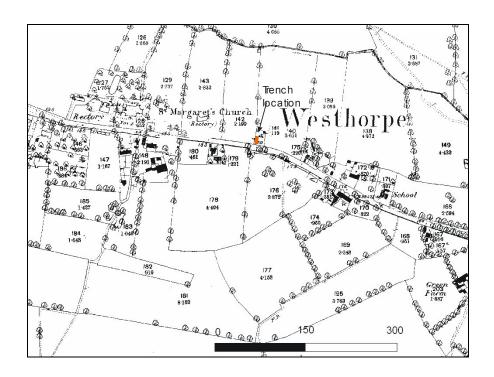


Figure 6. Trench location on old field boundary, OS map 1880's

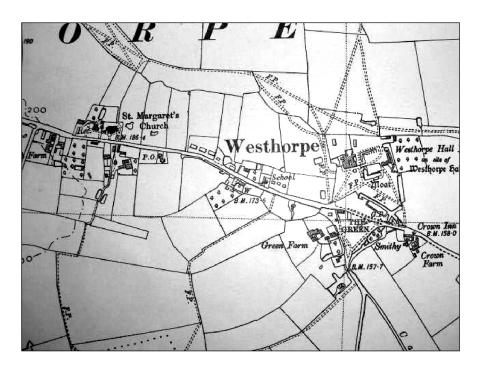


Figure 7. Ordnance Survey of Westhorpe, 1950

## 5. Methodology

#### 5.1 Fieldwork

A single 12m long trench by 1.8m wide was opened over the area for development, and was orientated north-south. The trench was excavated using a JCB digger with a 1.5m toothless 'ditching' bucket. The JCB was supervised at all times throughout the excavation.

The topsoil was removed to depth of 0.35m revealing the subsoil, which was removed to a depth of 0.40m to reveal the natural.

A plan of the trench was drawn to a scale of 1:50; sections were drawn to a scale of 1:20.

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

Prior to excavation, all features were manually cleaned.

Linear features were excavated at one metre intervals or sampled up to 50% of their fills.

Bulk environmental samples (up to a maximum of 40 ltr) were taken from all fills where it was deemed appropriate.

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.

#### 5.2 Post Excavation

All finds were processed by the staff of DPAS (washed, labeled and bagged) and sent to the relevant specialist for their assessment, which will form an integral part of this report.

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

Finds dating, and stratigraphic relationships were combined to produce phasing of the features encountered.

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

All information received from the specialist reports was assimilated to produce an archaeological interpretation

# 6. Results

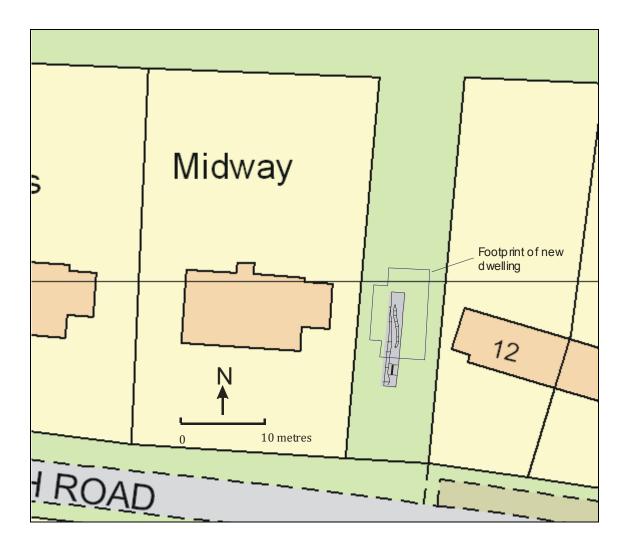


Figure 8. Location of features within area of development

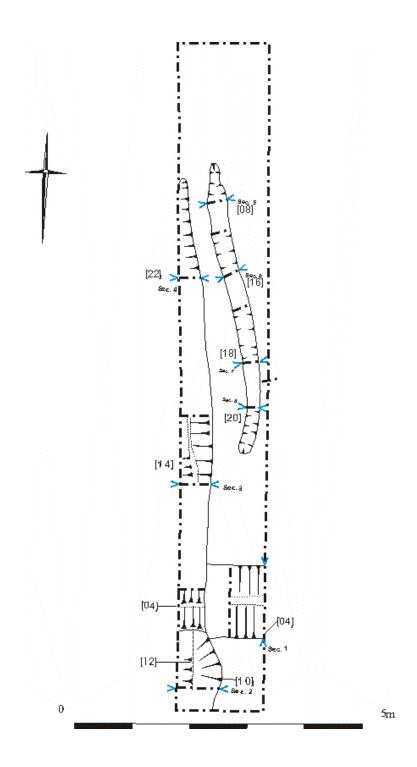


Figure 9, Plan of trench

Context	Type	<b>Description/Dimensions</b>	Interpretation	Find Types
				/comments
(001)	Layer	Turf	Top soil	Modern crushed
				building material
(002)	Layer	Grey brown clayey silt. 0.35 m	Plough soil	Modern pottery,
	across	deep		Ceramic building
	trench			material
(003)	Fill	Greenish grey clayey silt. Very	Tertiary fill of	Medieval pottery
		rare small sub angular flint.	ditch	from the 9 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>
				century. (St Neots
				ware is 9 <sup>th</sup> -mid
				12 <sup>th</sup> century)
[004]	Cut	Linear ditch running parallel to	Possible	
		existing road	medieval	
			roadside ditch	
(005)	Fill	Mid grey silty clay	Fill of	Charcoal, small
			property	bones
			boundary	;hammerscale
(006)	Fill	Orangey yellow silty clay with a	Primary fill of	Charcoal, small
		reddish brown silty lens	ditch	amount cereal
				grains
(007)	Fill	Yellowish grey silty clay	Slump from a	None.
			bank or side of	
			ditch	
[800]	Cut	Curvilinear feature	Property	
			boundary?	
(009)	Fill	Dark greenish brown silty clay,	Fill of pit	Pottery 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>
		with occasional subangular stones		century; charcoal
[10]	Cut	Shallow feature	Shallow pit	
(11)	Fill	Dark greenish brown silty clay	Fill of	No finds
			possible	
			boundary ditch	
[12]	Cut	Linear feature?	Possible	
			boundary ditch	
(13)	Fill	Dark greenish brown silty clay	Fill of	Pottery, St Neots
			boundary ditch	ware (9 <sup>th</sup> -mid 12 <sup>th</sup>
				century) Medieval
				pottery (12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>
				century); late
				medieval roof tile
				; oyster shell;
				bone;
				hammerscale
				flakes and
				spheroids
[14]	Cut	Linear feature?	Boundary	
(1.7)	E.11	NC 1 14 1	ditch?	34 1 1
(15)	Fill	Mid grey silty clay	Fill of property	Medieval pottery;
			boundary	early medieval
				ware, (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>
				century); late
				medieval pottery,
	1			(15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century);

				post medieval floor tile and roof tile; oyster shell
[16]	Cut	Curvilinear feature	Property boundary	
(17)	Fill	Mid grey silty clay	Fill of property boundary	Medieval pottery (12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century)
[18]	Cut	Curvilinear feature	Property boundary	
(19)	Fill	Mid grey silty clay	Fill of property boundary	No finds
[20]	Cut	Curvilinear feature	Property boundary	
(21)	Fill	Dark greenish brown silty clay	Boundary ditch	No finds

# **Table 1. Context description**

A ditch [04] running perpendicular to the trench was located at its southern end. Possibly the earliest feature is ditch [04]. The tertiary fill (03) consisted of mid greenish-grey silty clay. Fill (07) was a yellowish-grey silty clay with a heavier emphasis of silt, interpreted as slump on top of (06), a softly compacted orangey-yellow silty clay with mottled grey and reddish-brown lenses.

Feature [10] was interpreted as a shallow pit filled by (11) a dark greyish-brown silty clay, which cut a much larger feature [12], interpreted as a former boundary ditch, filled by (13) a yellowish-brown silty clay. Ditch [12] was equivalent to [14] and [22].

A curvilinear feature, 4.40m in length, was investigated with four sections of roughly 0.5m [08], [16], [18], [20]; the fills correspondingly were (05), (15), (17), (19) and consisted of a mid-grey silty clay. The features were sealed by a grey, silty, clay subsoil (02), interpreted as an old plough soil under a top soil (01) of dark brown soil with modern building debris, presumably from when the adjacent houses were built.



Figure 10, Ditch [04], (section 1) from the west



**Figure 11**A shallow pit [11] truncating a further ditch [12]



Figure 12, Ditch [04], cut by ditch [12]



Figure 13, Section 3 (left) and section 4 (right) through [14], [22] of the ditch (?)



Figure 14, Curvilinear feature, possible property boundary



Figure 15, The trench looking north, post excavation.

#### 7 Discussion

Ditch [04] was running parallel to church road, although now lying some 7m from the road edge, it could be interpreted as former roadside ditch mirroring the ditch seen today on the opposite side of the road. The long feature partially revealed in the west side of the trench is probably an old boundary ditch; a boundary ditch is shown, coming in from the north, vertically, on the 1880's OS map, approximately where the trench is located. The curvilinear feature could be interpreted as a property boundary [08, 16, 18, 20], on a close alignment to the possible boundary ditch. Early medieval pottery was encountered in contexts (13) and (3), from the two ditch features, but much of it was very small and abraded, suggesting it may have been disturbed from its original context. The better preserved pottery was late medieval (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century), coming from the curvilinear feature, a possible property boundary.

Evidence from the pottery finds, the bone, hammerscale, (indicating smithing) along with the floral and faunal remains from the environmental samples gives an indication that medieval activity was taking place on or near the site. The evidence takes the form of domestic settlement activity with a date range from the mid11th century until at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The small quantity of 9<sup>th</sup> century pottery from two of the features also shows that activity in this location dates from at least the late Anglo Saxon period.

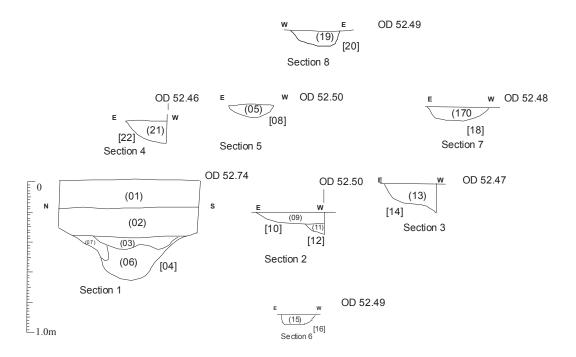


Figure 16. Sections, all at 1:20

# 8: Finds and Environmental Samples

#### Introduction

The single trench produced a small pottery assemblage of 12 sherds, weighing 0.065kg, from five contexts including the sampled material. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded and the average sherd weight from individual contexts is low at 5g.

The pottery was assessed by Carole Fletcher and Paul Spoerry of Oxford Archaeology East (Cambridge).

Assessment of the assemblage was carried out acknowledging 'The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG)' and documents A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG, 1998) and Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG, 2001).

Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification was carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds were counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
3	MCR	Jar	1	0.004	Mid 12th-14th century	Mid 12th-14th century
	NEOT		1	0.005	Mid 9th-mid 12th century	
9	EAR (?Hollesley- type ware)	Jug	1	0.002	13th-14th century	13th-14th century
13	MCR		1	0.002	Mid 12th-14th century	Mid 12th-14th century
	NEOT		1	0.005	Mid 9th-mid 12th century	
15	UPG	Bowl	2	0.025	15th-16th century	15th-16th century
	LMT		1	0.013	15th-16th century	
	LMT (Hopton?)	Jug	1	0.002	15th-16th century	
	EMW		1	0.001	Mid 11th-end of 12th century	
17	SHW		1	0.002	Mid 12th century-mid 14th century	13th-14th century
	EAR (Hollesley- type ware?)	Bowl	1	0.006	13th-14th century	

**Table 2: Pottery dating** 

### 8.1: Pottery Assemblage

Two sherds of pottery were recovered from Context 3, sample 1, a single sherd of NEOT and a lightly sooted sherd of MCR. From context 9, sample 4, a single glazed body sherd decorated with white slip was recovered and has tentatively been identified as part of a Hollesley type ware jug. A single sherd of MCR was recovered from context 13, sample 5, alongside a residual sherd of Neot. Context 15 produced two sooted UPG whiteware sherds from the (slightly convex) base of an internally glazed bowl or possibly a skillet. Also present were a single sherd from a glazed jug tentatively identified as Hopton LMT, a base sherd from a second unprovenanced LMT vessel and a small abraded sherd of EMW. Context 17 contained a single abraded sherd of SHW and an externally sooted sherd from an internally glazed EAR bowl tentatively identified as Hollesley type ware. A small amount of NEOT and single sherd of EMW suggests some Late Saxon-early medieval activity in the vicinity of the excavation.

The remainder of the assemblage is medieval and late medieval-transitional suggesting domestic activity from the mid 12th century until the end of the 16th century.

The majority of the assemblage is local in origin including MCR similar to that described by Sue Anderson as Bury Medieval Coarseware and LMT for which kilns have been excavated at Hopton and Rickinghall (<a href="http://www.spoilheap.co.uk/lmt.htm">http://www.spoilheap.co.uk/lmt.htm</a>). Both lie to the north of Westhorpe with Rickinghall approximately 9km and Hopton 16km distant.

#### **Discussion on the pottery**

An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site. The Late Saxon-early medieval material is abraded and this and the medieval material have been disturbed by activity on the site, probably in the post-medieval period. None of the pottery is likely to be located in its place of primary deposition.

# 8.2 Ceramic Building Material

#### **Assemblage**

A small assemblage of fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 0.341kg, was recovered from three contexts. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded and the average fragment weight from individual contexts is moderate at approximately 56g, due to large fragments of brick and tile in context 15. (Fletcher, C., and Atkins, R., Oxford East)

Context	Form	Count	Weight (kg)	Comments	Range
13	Roof Tile	1	0.015		Medieval-late medieval
	undiagnostic (possibly brick fragments)	2	0.009		Not closely datable although post medieval is most likely
15	Floor brick or tile	1	0.201		Post medieval, 16th century or later
	Roof tile	1	0.085	Lime mortar on both surfaces	Late medieval
17	Brick	1	0.031	Hand made brick	15th century or later.

Table 3: Ceramic building material

# 8.3 Non-Metalworking Slag

#### **Assemblage**

A single fragment of non-metalworking slag was recovered from context 15, weighing 0.028kg. The fragment is mainly glassy with a many small bubbles and crystalline structures visible under the microscope. The slag is adhering to and incorporates several fragments of slate or oil shale.

The slag is probably domestic in nature and is 15th century or later, possibly as late as the 19th century. (Carole Fletcher and Peter Boardman OAE)

#### 8.4 Faunal Remains

Twenty fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation with 15 fragments identifiable to species. Context 17 contained no identifiable fragments. The largest number of fragments was recovered from context 15, a possible property boundary. These consisted of butchered cattle vertebrae and metacarpal along with fragments of adult cattle mandible (with a partially worn M3 still in place). Context 9 contained a worn cattle M1 and pelvic fragment. A single butchered sheep/goat tibia was recovered from context 13, along with several common frog long bones and a bird digit. The assemblage is too small to draw any conclusions from but most likely represents general settlement debris. (Chris Fane, Oxford East)

#### 8.5: Mollusca

A total of 0.030kg of shells of marine molluscs was collected. The shells were collected by hand from two features of various dates across the excavated area. The majority of the shells are well preserved and do not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed. (Chris Fane OAE)

Context	Туре	Weight (kg)
13	Oyster :Ostrea edulis	0.014
15	Oyster Ostrea edulis	0.000

Table 4: Mollusca

#### 8.6: Environmental Remains

### Methodology

Five bulk samples were taken from features within a single evaluation trench in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Forty litres of each sample were processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 4 Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
1 (40 ltr)	3	Ditch	Charcoal rich. Two wheat grains, fish vertebra, charred nutshell	Pot, bone, flake hammerscale
2 (40 ltr)	6	Ditch	Charcoal, one wheat grain, 3x cereal indet.	No finds
3 (40 ltr)	5	Gully	Charcoal only	Small bones, flake hammerscale
4 (40 ltr)	9	Pit	Sparse charcoal. Flot comprised of modern plant material	Bone, flakes, spheroid and small Fe fragments
5 (40 ltr)	13	Pit	Flot comprised of modern plant material, charcoal and two wheat grains	Pot, bone, small bones, flakes and spheroid

Table 5: Results of environmental assessment

#### 8.7: Results of environmental assessment

Preservation is by charring with no evidence of preservation by waterlogging or mineralisation. Preservation of charred material is poor with the cereal grains appearing puffed and fragmented/abraded. Charcoal is present in all of the samples. Samples 1 (fill 3) and 2 (fill 6) from ditch 4 contained the highest density of wood charcoal.

Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets, plant stems and a few common weed seeds such as brambles (Rubus sp.) and nettles (Urtica dioica) are present in most of the samples and are abundant in Samples 4 (pit fill 9) and 5 (pit fill 13).

Charred plant remains are in the form of cereal grains and a single fragment of nutshell, probably hazelnut (Corylus avellana). Wheat (Triticum sp.) grains were recovered from Samples 1, 2 and 5 and fragments of unidentified cereal grains occur in Sample 2. No chaff elements are present.

Pottery sherds, animal bone fragments and small rodent/amphibian bones were recovered from the residues. Hammerscale in the form of flakes and spheroids were also noted in all of the residues other than Sample 2, context 6.

Discussion

In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist of cereal grains that were all poorly preserved, either because of taphonomic factors or because they had been charred at a high temperature. Although they are present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised, although possibly not to any great extent. These grains, along with other dietary remains, namely animal bone and oysters, are probably derived from low-density deposits of domestic refuse and/or hearth waste.

The presence of hammerscale in this assemblage indicates that metalworking activities such as welding and smithing were taking place in the near vicinity.

Further Work and Methods Statement on Environmental

The low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage limits interpretation of the features sampled. It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this and further work is not recommended. (Rachel Fosberry OAE)

#### 9. Discussion

Evaluation by trial trench has been successful in showing that a number of archaeological features were found. They were of medieval (12th century) to late medieval (16th century) date. This suggests domestic activity and occupation. There is no evidence for any evidence after this period when this area possibly became ploughed land.

#### 10. Conclusions

In such a small sample, medieval remains were discovered showing the potential of the site for further features existing close by. The residual remains of late Anglo Saxonearly Norman pottery also shows that activity in this period, within the vicinity, is also attested. Any further opportunities to add to this knowledge would be advantageous to the historical and archaeological record.

# 11. Archive deposition

The paper and photographic archive is held at DPAS Tudor Cottage Church rd Westhorpe, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SU

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.

Finds and environmental archive are held at the County Store, Suffolk County Council Archaeology ,Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

## 12. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr David Barker and Patrick Barker who commissioned and funded the archaeological work.

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

This project was assisted in the field by Margaret Bridges.

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