

# SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

## Land at 36, The Street Cavenham, Suffolk

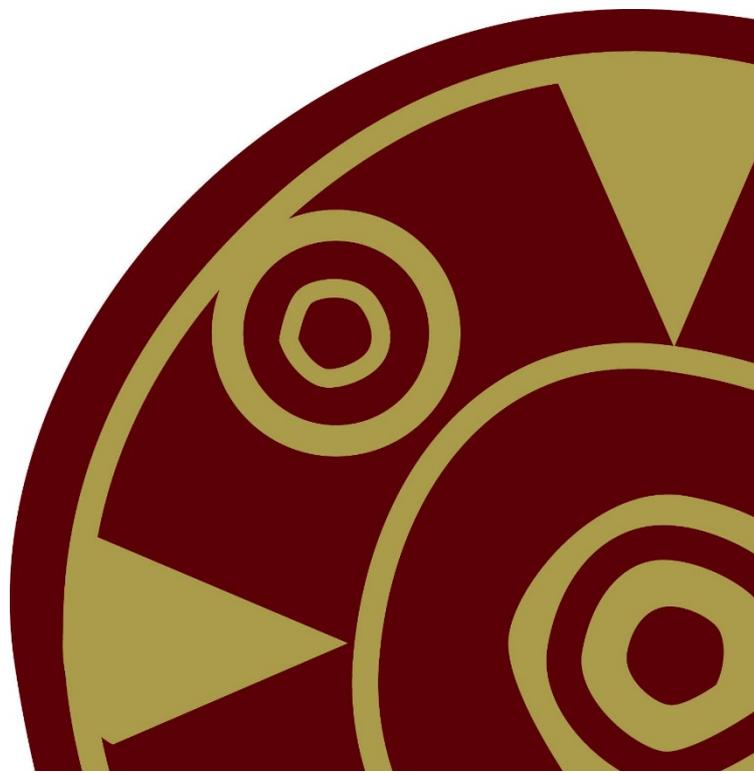
**Client:**

Rede Developments

**Date:**

July 2015

CAM 063  
Archaeological Monitoring Report  
SACIC Report No. 2015/052  
Author: M. Sommers  
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Land at 36, The Street, Cavenham  
*(now known as No. 38, The Street)*

**CAM 063**

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SACIC Report No. 2015/052

Author: M. Sommers

Report Date: July 2015



## HER Information

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**Site Code** CAM 063

**Site Name:** Land at 36, The Street, Cavenham

**Planning Application Nos:** DC/14/0911/FUL

**Date of Fieldwork:** 22nd June 2015 to 24th June 2015

**Grid References:** TL 7614 6978

**Oasis Reference:** suffolka1-213056

**Curatorial Officer:** R. Abraham

**Project Officer:** J. Meredith and M. Sommers

**Client/Funding Body:** Rede Developments

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Prepared By: M. Sommers  
Date: 17th July 2015

Approved By:  
Position:  
Date:  
Signed:



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## **Summary**

Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a single dwelling on land at 36, The Street, Cavenham, revealed a further section of a rectangular shaped clay-lined pit that had been partly exposed and recorded during a preceding evaluation. Despite this additional exposure, the full extent of the feature was not established and no conclusive evidence for its possible purpose was recovered although a probable interpretation is that it was the remains domestic bread oven. A small group of unstratified pottery sherds were collected from the vicinity of this feature, which comprised pieces dating from the late medieval through to the early post-medieval periods. (Jezz Meredith and Mark Sommers, Suffolk Archaeology CIC, for Rede Developments).



# 1. Introduction

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Planning permission has been granted for the construction of a house and cart lodge on land at 36, The Street, Cavenham, Suffolk (application number DC/14/0911/FUL), to form a new dwelling to be known as 38, The Street. One of the conditions attached to the planning consent called for an agreed programme of archaeological work to be put in place in advance of this development.

The first stage of the programme of work was the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present. This was undertaken on the 14th May 2015 and consisted of the excavation of a single trench across the footprint of the proposed dwelling. Within this trench a clay-lined pit of unknown purpose, a rough chalk surface and a single posthole, both probably contemporary with the pit, were recorded. A small amount of medieval pottery was recovered from the backfill in the pit but this was not enough to provide a secure date for the features.

Due to the confirmed presence of archaeological features on the site a further phase of the archaeological work was stipulated. It was to comprise archaeological monitoring of groundworks on the site and for this a further Brief was produced by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team. Based on this brief an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the monitoring was produced (Appendix 1).

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TL 7614 6978. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

The archaeological monitoring was carried out on the over three days in June 2015 by Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company (SACIC) who were commissioned by the developers, Rede Developments.

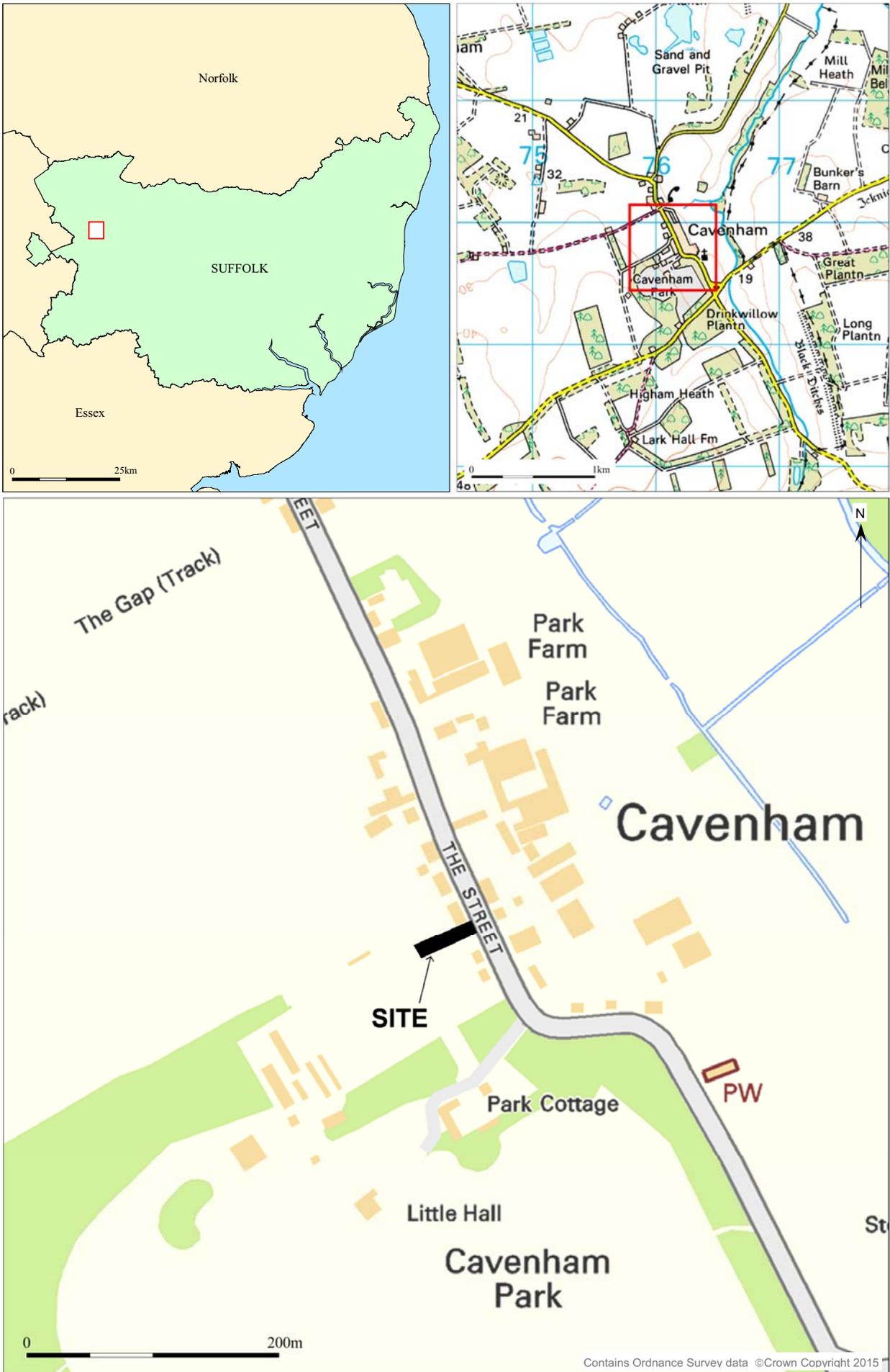


Figure 1. Location map

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The underlying geology in this area consists of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation, which is overlain by River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel or possibly a localised pocket of clay and silt (British Geological Survey website).

The local topography consists of flat or very gently rolling plateaux of freely-draining sandy soils. The development site is located at c.23m above sea level on a gentle east facing slope that descends into a small valley drained by an unnamed stream, some 400 to the east, which flows northeast before draining into the River Lark at a point approximately 2.6km to the east.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The site lies within the medieval historic core of Cavenham and is close to the medieval parish church of St. Andrew. Anglo-Saxon activity and the presence of Saxon burials have been recorded on sites within about 200m of the development site. A background of prehistoric and Iron Age/Roman activity has also been recorded in the vicinity.

A recently undertaken archaeological evaluation (SACIC Report No. 2015/036) exposed part of a rectangular clay lined feature and a possible post-hole or small pit within the footprint of the proposed dwelling. The internal faces of the clay lined pit were scorched red suggesting an *in-situ* heating although the precise purpose of this feature is unknown. A small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the pit fill, which may be contemporary.

## **4. Methodology**

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The monitoring was achieved through the visual examination of the excavated footings for the new structure along with groundwork associated with the realignment and installation of services. This was undertaken during and after their excavation by the building contractors in order to identify and record any significant archaeological features and/or deposits that may be exposed. The spoil was also examined in an attempt to recover datable finds. Plans and section of significant features were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. Unique context numbers were issued as required. A number of digital photographs were also taken as part of the record.

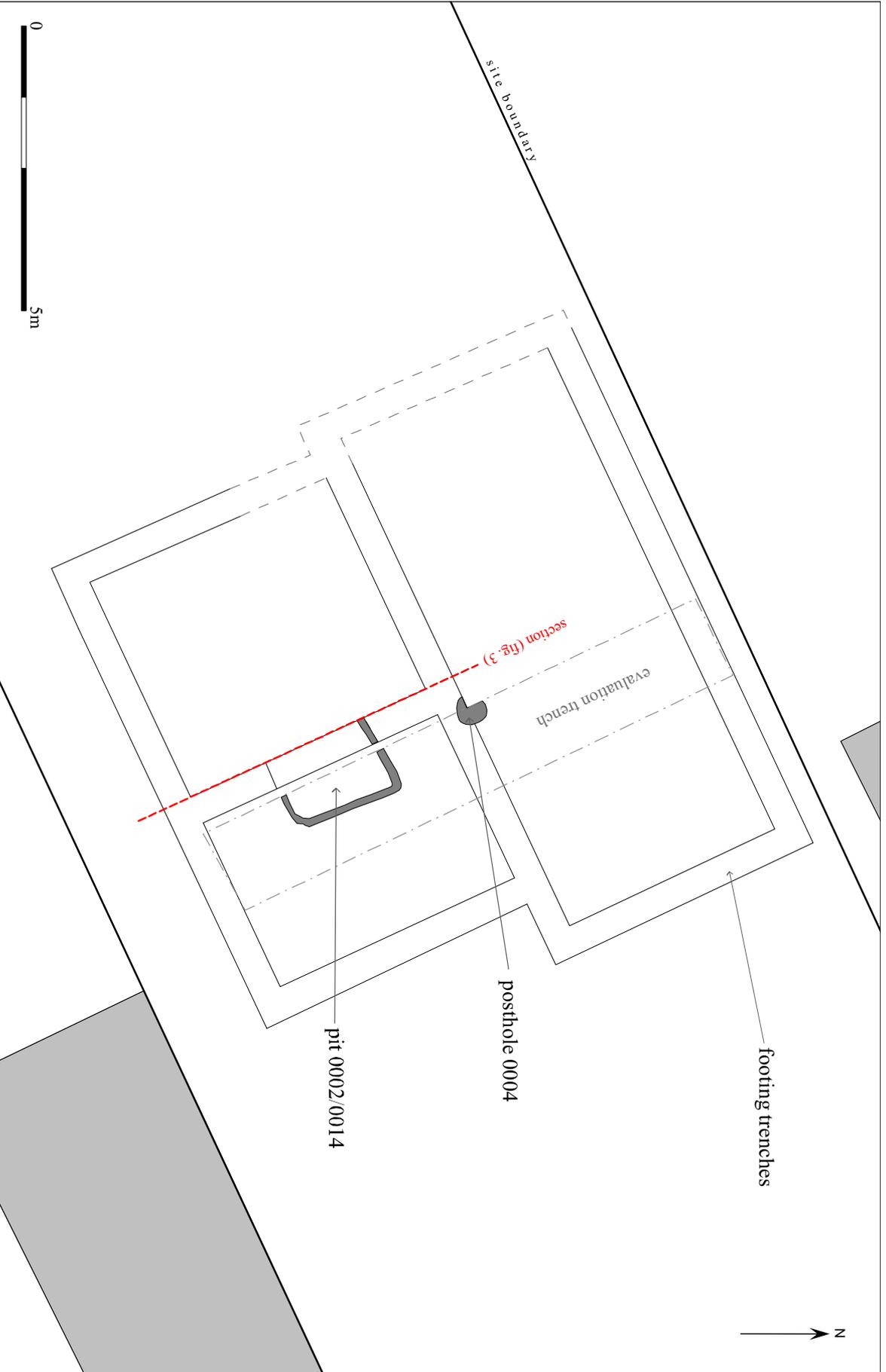


Figure 2. Plan of monitored footings and results from the previous evaluation

## 5. Results

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The site was visited on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th June 2015 by Jez Meredith of SACIC to monitor the ongoing groundworks.

The removal of an existing foul water drain was undertaken on the first day. This service originally ran from the northern corner of the new house in a southeast direction before terminating in a large septic tank. All of the existing was grubbed out and a new service laid to the northeast. The original work had clearly involved large-scale excavation and the monitored excavations revealed only previously disturbed ground.

Over the following two days the footings for the new house were excavated. These were generally 0.5m in width and dug to a depth of c.1.2m. Figure 2 shows a plan of the footings in relation to the evaluation trench and the features located within. All footings, bar those marked with dashed lines, were monitored. Other than the original clay-lined feature and the single posthole seen during the evaluation, no further features were identified.

The clay-lined pit (0014) was exposed in the northwest-southeast footing for an internal wall, which ran just to the southwest of the evaluation trench (Plates 1 and 2), and was recorded in section in the southwest face of the footing trench (Fig. 3). A handful of finds dating from the medieval through to the post-medieval periods were recovered from the vicinity of the feature but their exact provenance was unknown.

Context numbers were issued during the monitoring phase, the full list of which can be found in Appendix 2.

The pit cut (0014) extended along the footing for 1.8m and corresponded with the cut (0002) identified in the evaluation trench. It lay at a depth of just over 0.6m below the present ground level below an overburden of dark grey topsoil (0012) and a layer of disturbed topsoil and occasional rubble (0011). The pit was lined with pale yellow brown clay (0017) with occasional darker lenses (0016 and 0018) which was occasionally scorched red in places. The pit was backfilled with mid to pale yellow brown clay with chalk, charcoal and fragments/lumps of heat reddened clay (0015).

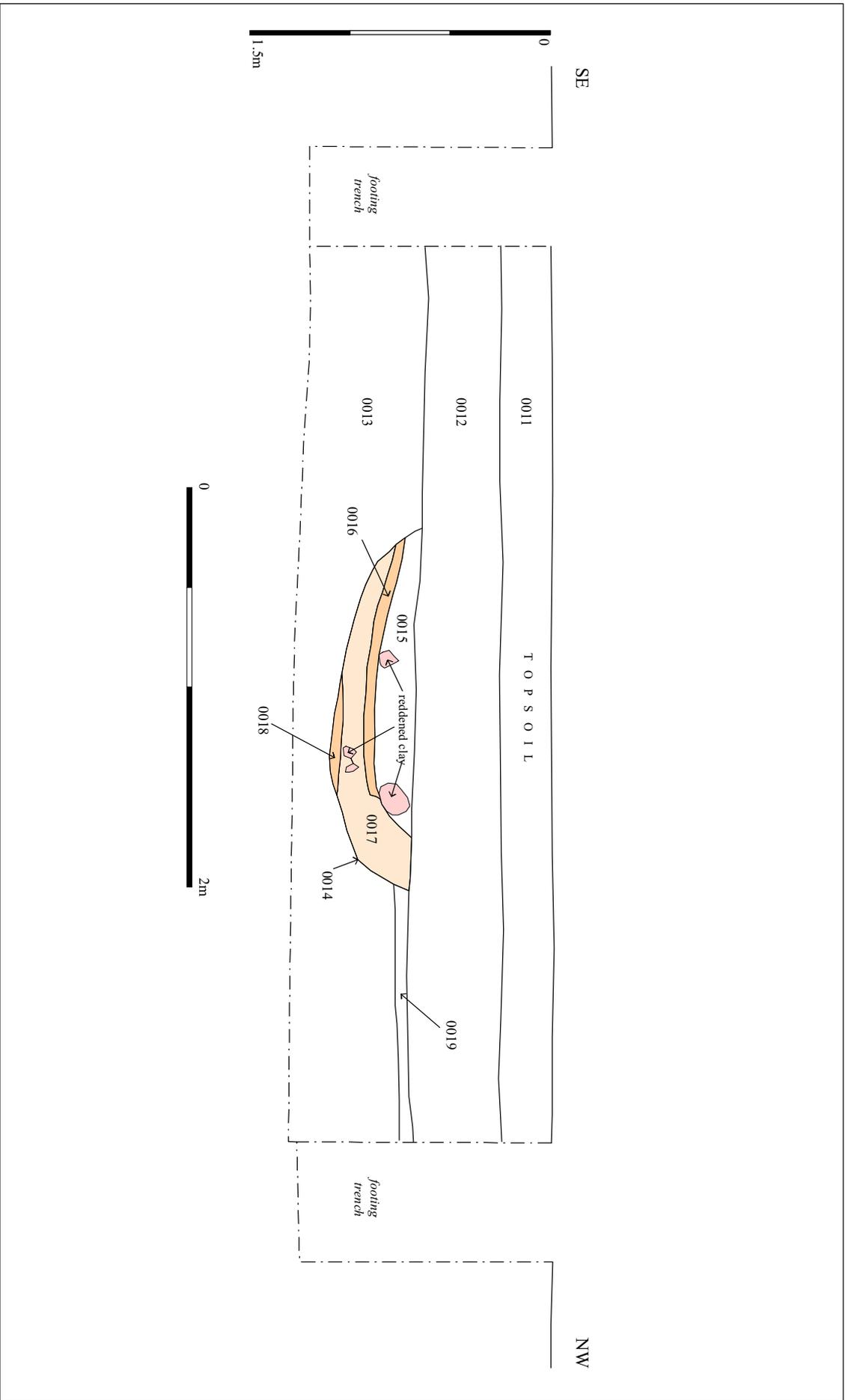


Figure 3. Section

A thin spread of chalk lumps within pale brown chalky clay (0019) was present at the base of the overburden to the northwest of the pit cut and this corresponds to the probable surface (0007) identified in the evaluation trench.

## **6. Finds**

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A small number of artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring. These have been assessed and identified by Richenda Goffin as the following:

One fragment from the base of a Köln/Frechen drinking vessel (GSW4) weighing 61g. It has two cordons at the base and the very start of another cordon at the junction of the shoulder and neck. It dates to the 16th century, probably the first half and was imported from the Rhineland.

One fragment of a Glazed red earthenware (GRE) handle, 16th-18th century (14g).

Two fragments of medieval wheelthrown coarsewares, both sooted (21g). They are similar to coarsewares found in Bury (BMCW). L12th-14th C.

One sherd of an oxidised flat base with sparse chalk, probably part of a modern flowerpot (LPME) (7g) 18th-20th C.

1 fragment of very burnt and deteriorated base, not much external surfaces remaining (30g). Fine dense fabric. Internal residue. Probably medieval but very heat-altered.

The fabric codes in brackets correspond to the recognised Suffolk fabric series.

## **7. Discussion**

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No further archaeological features were revealed in any of the monitored excavations although a further section of what is likely to be the same feature recorded in the evaluation trench was exposed. This additional exposure adds little to what is already known but does give a minimum southwest-northeast dimension of c.1.4m. Unfortunately, no conclusive evidence relating to its use was recovered and consequently its precise purpose is still a matter of speculation. Given its dimensions it is possibly a revetting tank associated with flax and linen production and that the evidence for burning relates to events after it went out of use. A more likely interpretation is that it is some form of oven or kiln and that the lumps and fragments of fired clay from the fill are remnants of a covering structure. Similar features were noted at a site in Orford (Boulter 1999), which were interpreted as bread ovens that dated from the medieval period (13th to 15th century).

## **8. Archive deposition**

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Paper, digital and photographic archive will be sent to the County HER, ref. CAM 063. A summary of this project has been entered into OASIS, the online database, under the reference: suffolka1-213056.

## **9. Bibliography**

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Boulter, S. (1999) *Archaeological Monitoring of Groundworks Associated with the Land-plots Previously Occupied by Everard and Dunrovin, High Street, Orford*. SCCAS Report No. 99/37

## 10. Plates

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Plate 1. View of pit 0014, as seen in section, camera facing Southwest



Plate 2. General view of the footing trench and pit 0014, camera facing South



## Appendix 1. Written Scheme of Investigation

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### **36, The Street** Cavenham, Suffolk

**Client:**  
Rede Developments

**Date:**  
June 2015

CAM 063  
Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment –  
Archaeological Monitoring  
Author: John Craven  
© SACIC

## Project details

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Planning Application No:	DC/14/0911/FUL & DC/15/0669
Curatorial Officer:	Rachael Abraham (SCCAS)
Grid Reference:	TL 761697
Area:	c.600sqm
HER Event No/Site Code:	TBC/CAM 063
Oasis Reference:	213056
Project Start date	TBC
Project Duration:	c.1 – 2 days

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Client/Funding Body:	Rede Developments
SACIC Project Manager	John Craven
SACIC Project Officer:	Mark Sommers
SACIC Job Code:	CAMSTR002

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## 1. Introduction

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- Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) has been contracted to monitor groundworks for development at 38 (formerly part of No. 36), The Street, Cavenham, Suffolk.
- The archaeological monitoring is required by a condition on the approved planning applications DC/14/0991 and DC/15/0669/FUL, in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and is subject to a Brief produced by Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), the Archaeological Advisor to the planning authority, dated 04/06/2015.
- The condition has been placed as the site lies within an area of archaeological interest, the historic settlement core of Cavenham (Suffolk Historic Environment Record No. CAM 051). A trial trench archaeological evaluation of the site (CAM 063, SACIC Report No. 2015/036) identified a rectangular clay lined feature and a possible post-hole or small pit. The internal faces of the clay lined feature were scorched red suggesting an *in-situ* heating although the precise purpose of this feature is unknown. A small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the pit fill, which may be contemporary.
- Ground works for the development therefore have the potential to damage archaeological deposits. The aim of the monitoring is to record all such deposits which are damaged or removed by the sites development.

## 2. Archaeological method statement

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- SACIC will be given 2 days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork to enable the works to be monitored effectively.

- An OASIS form has been initiated for the project and a new Suffolk HER event number requested. The project will continue to use site code CAM 063.

## 2.1. Fieldwork

- The Brief requires observation of the ground works for any soil stripping and foundations on site. These ground works will be monitored as they progress by an SACIC Project Officer or Supervisor, in close liaison with the developer/contractor. Adequate allowance has been made within the quote cost to cover the recording of exposed archaeological deposits.
- Fieldwork standards will be guided by '*Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*' (Gurney 2003) and '*Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*' (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).
- The exposed surface from the soil strip/trenching will be examined for archaeological features and finds and limited hand cleaning will be undertaken to clarify small areas as necessary and as health and safety considerations allow. Exposed archaeological features will be sectioned by hand with sampling at a normal standard for medieval and earlier deposits (i.e. 100% of structural features or graves/cremations, 50% of contained features e.g. pits, and 10-20% of linear features). Cremations will be 100% bagged and taken as samples. If thought appropriate and of archaeological benefit a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.
- Normal SACIC conventions, compatible with the County Historic Environment Record (HER), will be used during the site recording. Site records will be made using a continuous numbering system. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, either by hand or using a RTK GPS. Plans and sections of individual features, soil layers etc will be recorded at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. A digital photographic record will be made throughout the monitoring works.
- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. All finds will be brought back to the SACIC office at the end of each day for processing. Much of the archive and assessment preparation work will be done inhouse, but in some circumstances it may be necessary to send some categories of finds to specialists working in archaeology and university departments in other parts of the country.
- Bulk environmental (40 litre) soil samples will be taken from selected archaeological features where possible and retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeo-environmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following this assessment. If necessary advice will be sought from the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science, on the need for specialist environmental sampling.
- In the event of human remains being encountered on the site a Ministry of Justice

licence for removal of human remains will be obtained. Any such find would require work in that part of the site to stop until the human remains have been removed.

## 2.2. Post-excavation

- The post-excavation work will be managed by Richenda Goffin. Specialist finds staff will be experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field. Members of the project team will be responsible for taking the project to archive and assessment levels.
- All site data will be entered on a computerised database compatible with the County HER. All site plans and sections will be scanned to form a digital archive. Ordnance Datum levels will be on the section sheets.
- All finds will be processed, marked and bagged/boxed to County HER requirements. Where appropriate finds will be marked with a site code and a context number. Finds will be recorded and archived to minimum standards laid down by relevant groups (e.g. the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery or the Medieval Pottery Research Group). Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by OP and context with a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Metal finds will be x-rayed if appropriate and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to Institute for Conservation (ICON) standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- Environmental samples will be processed and assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidance (Campbell *et al* 2011).
- A full monitoring report summarising all the findings and containing a full assessment of all finds and samples will be produced, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), to a scale commensurate with the archaeological results. A draft digital copy will be submitted to SCCAS for approval within 6 months of completion of fieldwork. The report will contain all appropriate scale plans and sections. The report will include a statement as to the value and significance of the results in the context of the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). The report will form the basis for full discharge of the relevant condition.
- The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History.
- On approval a digital .pdf, and a printed and bound copy of the report, will be submitted to the County HER. An unbound copy of the report will be included with

the project archive. A digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software, will also be supplied.

- A digital .pdf copy of the approved report will be supplied to the client, together with our final invoice for outstanding fees. Printed and bound copies will be supplied on request.
- The online OASIS form for the project will be completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A copy of the completed project OASIS form will be included as an appendix.
- The finds from the project will be deposited in the SCCAS archaeological store together with the project archive. The project costing includes the fee charged by SCCAS for this service. A form transferring ownership of the archive to SCCAS will be completed and included in the project archive.
- The project archive will be consistent *with Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2014). The project archive will also meet the requirements detailed in 'Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk' (SCCAS 2010).
- Exceptions from the above include material covered by the Treasure Act which will be reported and submitted to the appropriate authorities, and human skeletal remains which will be stored within the archive until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.
- The client and/or landowner will be made aware that if they choose not to use the SCCAS storage facility they will be expected to make alternative arrangements for the long term storage of the archive that meet the requirements of SCCAS.

## **Project Staff**

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Project Manager:	John Craven
Site monitoring:	SACIC Project Officer or Supervisor
Finds Manager/Post Roman finds:	Richenda Goffin
Roman Pottery/General finds:	Stephen Benfield
Prehistoric pottery:	Anna Doherty (Archaeology South-East)
Prehistoric flint:	Sarah Bates (freelance)
Faunal remains:	Julie Curl (freelance)
Human remains:	Sue Anderson (freelance)
Environmental samples:	Val Fryer (freelance)

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## Appendix 2. CAM 063: Context List

*Evaluation contexts run from 0001 to 0009 and are in shaded cells*

Context Number	Feature Number	Feature Type	Description
0001		Finds	Unstratified finds - consists of material recovered whilst cleaning across the top of the clay-lined tank 0002.
0002	0002	Pit Cut	Rectangular feature cut within the base of 0008. Measured 2m in length and had a width of at least 0.75m with near vertical sides and a flat base. Lined with very pale yellow clay with occasional chalk flecks, approximately 12 to 15cm thick. Inner face and base were scorched red.
0003	0002	Pit Fill	Fill within feature 0002. Consists of friable clay and chalk nodules mixed with charcoal giving it a darker yellow colouring. Frequent pockets/lenses of red fired clay were also present. (Bulk Sample No. 1)
0004	0004	Pit Cut	Sub-circular feature on southwest edge of trench, situated to the northwest of feature 0002. Vertical sides down to a bowl shaped base. Measured 0.52m by at least 0.30m and had a depth of 0.4m.
0005	0004	Pit Fill	Lower fill in cut 0004. Consisted of pale yellow sandy clay with occasional lenses of slightly cemented material (Bulk Sample No. 2). Upper fill within the feature (not separately numbered) comprised a mass of pale yellow clay.
0006	0006	Layer	Layer of clay with chalk, c.0.05m thick, located immediately adjacent feature 0002.
0007		Layer	Layer of clay and chalk, c. 0.05m thick, seen in section only.
0008	0008	Pit Cut	Large shallow cut into the surface of the natural subsoil. Measures approximately 3.4m in length and has a width of at least 0.75m. Feature 0002, is a deeper section at the southeast end of this cut. The clay lining of 0002 continues up the southeast edge of the 0008. The probable surface (0006 and 0007) lies within this cut.
0009	0008	Pit Fill	Layer of friable clay with chalk, charcoal, with occasional fragments/lenses of dense clay and red fired clay (probable origin of finds bagged under 0001).
0010		Finds	Unstratified finds recovered during archaeological monitoring.
0011	0011	Layer	Mixed turf, rubble and loose topsoil.
0012	0012	Layer	Dark grey brown humic loam topsoil with frequent chalk, mortar and charcoal flecks.

0013	0013	Layer	Natural subsoil- mid orange brown silty sand with small flints.
0014	0014	Pit Cut	Rectangular feature cut seen running across footing trench. Measured 1.82m in length and had a width of at least 0.5m with sloping sides and a flat base. ?same as Pit 0002 in evaluation trench.
0015	0014	Pit Fill	Fill of cut 0014 above clay-lining (0016, 0017 and 0018). Comprises mid to pale yellow brown clay with chalk and some heat reddened clay.
0016	0014	Pit Fill	Continuous lens of dark grey clay with frequent chalk flecks (part of clay lining?).
0017	0014	Pit Fill	Continuous layer of very pale yellow brown chalky clay with occasional chalk flecks.
0018	0014	Pit Fill	Continuous lens of dark grey clay with frequent chalk flecks (part of clay lining?).
0019	0019	Layer	Layer of chalk lumps within spread of pale brown chalky clay. ?same as 0007.

## Appendix 3. OASIS data collection form

<b>OASIS ID: suffolka1-213056</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	CAM 063 36 The Street, Cavenham
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of groundwork associated with the construction of a new dwelling only exposed a further segment of a clay-lined pit first recorded in the preceding evaluation, the purpose of which is still a matter of speculation.
Project dates	Start: 22-06-2015 End: 17-07-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	CAM063 - HER event no. suffolka1-210408 - OASIS form ID DC/14/0911/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH CAVENHAM CAM 063 - 36 The Street
Study area	95.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7614 6978 52.2974171846 0.583373227615 52 17 50 N 000 35 00 E Point
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk Archaeology Community Interest Company
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Mark Sommers
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Physical Archive ID	CAM063
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Digital Archive ID	CAM063
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk HER
Paper Archive ID	CAM063
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Correspondence","Report","Section"
<b>Project bibliography</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring Report: Land at 36, The Street, Cavenham, Suffolk
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