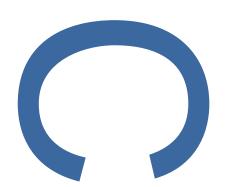
# LAND ADJOINING NO.8 THE STREET, DARSHAM, SUFFOLK AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION





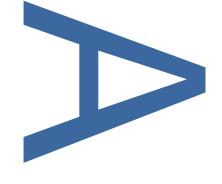
LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: EAST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING REFERENCE: DC/19/1462/FUL

**PCA REPORT NO: R14055** 

**SITE CODE: DAR048** 

**MARCH 2020** 



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

# Land Adjoining No.8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk: An Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

Local Planning Authority: East Suffolk Council

Planning Reference: DC/19/1462/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TM 41367 70202 (c)

Site Code: DAR048

Report No. R14055

Written and researched by: Judy Mlynarska, Christiane Meckseper

Project Manager: Christiane Meckseper

Commissioning Client: RPS Consulting on behalf of Hopkins & Moore

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

**Central Office** 

The Granary Rectory Farm

Brewery Road Pampisford

Cambridgeshire

**CB22 3EN** 

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: cmeckseper@pre-construct.com

Website: <u>www.pre-construct.com</u>

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land adjoining No. 8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 41367 70202) from the 12-14 August (evaluation) and 25-27 November (excavation) 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of Hopkins & Moore in response to a planning condition attached to the proposed development of the subject site.

The investigations identified a series of medieval ditches dividing the site into regular plots, parallel to the main road. Possible furrows were identified in Trench 7 and a pond in Trench 6. No structural features were present and the predominant use of the site would have been agricultural; hemp seed discovered in the base of the pond suggests that it may have been used as a retting pit. A post-medieval boundary ditch on the same alignment as the medieval ditches was located in the northern part of the site.

The features yielded pottery dating primarily to the 13th-14th century with residual pottery from the 11th-13th centuries. One of the boundary ditches contained a relative large assemblage of pottery (225 sherds), mixed with animal bone, cockle shell and charcoal. This most likely represents a deliberate rubbish dump from settlement activity on the south side of The Street.

The site is comparable to similar excavations in the immediate vicinity at Land West of Mill House to the east and at Fox Lane to the south-east. Here medieval enclosures and boundaries point to the existence of a medieval enclosed landscape, largely of agricultural character, that expanded outwards along existing roads from the core of the medieval village of Darsham. Evidence on all three sites also suggest that they were located close to a potential green-side settlement, as there is historical evidence for a green called 'China Green', marked close to the site on Hodskinson's 1783 map of Suffolk.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on Land adjoining No.8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk, IP17 3QJ (TM 41367 70202 (c) between the 12th and 14th of August 2019 (Figure 1). A subsequent programme of archaeological excavation was undertaken by PCA at Land Adjoining No. 8 The Street from 25th to 27th November 2019 (Figure 6).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of Hopkins & Moore in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the residential development of the site including 26no. dwellings, access, car parking and open space (Planning Reference: DC/19/1462/FUL). This was due to high archaeological significance of the proposed development area (PDA). The work was undertaken in line with National Planning Policy Framework 2019, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Ben Hobbs of PCA (2019) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT)
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of seven 30m and four 25m evaluation trenches totalling 310 linear metres of trenches were excavated and recorded with a subsequent single excavation area of 20m x 20m focussed on the eastern end of Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 6).

This report describes the results of the evaluation and excavation. Following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store.

#### 2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### 2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area is that of Crag Group Sand, a detrital sedimentary deposit of shallow-marine origin forming interbedded sequences of fine to coarse-grained material in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods: The local environment previously dominated by shallow seas (British Geological Survey 2019).
- 2.1.2 The superficial geological deposits are Lowestoft Formation Diamicton, detrital sedimentary deposits glacigenic in origin created by actions of ice and meltwater within glacial and inter-glacial periods in the Quaternary Period, the local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (BGS 2019).

#### 2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 The proposed development area is currently an open grassed field located adjacent to the north of the junction of The Street and Fox Lane, Darsham, and to the west of new housing development at Millfields.
- 2.2.2 The land of the proposed development area is located at a height of c.30m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Land rises gently to the west at 33m AOD and declines slightly to a level of 22m AOD in the base of the valley c. 500m to the north, and more gradually to the south towards the valley of the Yox/Minsmere River at 17m AOD.

#### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The archaeological background detailed below has been taken from the WSI (Hobbs 2019). This account has been taken from the current data held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, an HER search for the relevant data was purchased for this report in July 2019 (HER Invoice no. 9228139). Site references relate to Suffolk HER designations.
- 3.1.2 The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological interest, as recorded by information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). Due to the rural nature of the locality the incidences of development-led archaeological investigations are limited. Archaeological artefacts are mostly limited to chance finds.

#### **Prehistoric**

3.1.3 Prehistoric activity in the immediate area is represented by a fragment of Neolithic flint axe (SHER DAR002) found at Priory Farm located c.370m to the north of the proposed development area (PDA) and two flint flakes found c.650m to the south (SHER DAR005). An archaeological evaluation between Station Garage and Railway Cottage 815m to the south-west of the PDA found a single sherd of prehistoric pottery (SHER DAR021). A watching brief at a location c.1km to the south of the site found several prehistoric flints (SHER DAR033). A site located c.1.2km to the south of the proposed development site on the Main Road revealed a ditch containing Bronze Age pottery and a pit containing Bronze Age struck flint (SHER DAR040).

#### Roman

3.1.4 Evidence for Romano-British occupation is represented by the location of a villa site with tessellated floor and hypocaust c.800m to the east of the PDA with pottery and a fragment of quern stone (SHER DAR003). Find spots of Romano-British material have been made in the vicinity including Roman tegula, building material, a coin 985m to the south-east (SHER DAR016) and an early Roman silver Denarius 870m south-east (SHER DAR015). Two possible truncated Roman cremations were found during archaeological investigations in the field

just to the east of the site (SHER DAR030).

#### **Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

- 3.1.5 Darsham is listed in Domesday c.1086 with land held including 30 acres with a church that indicates a Saxon village was situated here. A scatter of Anglo-Saxon artefacts including a cruciform brooch have been found c.800m to the south-east of the PDA (SHER DAR015). The 12th century Grade I listed church of All Saints is located 775m to the east (SHER DAR011).
- 3.1.6 Several medieval moated sites in the area are recorded; Cheney Moat (SHER DAR010) located 400m to the east; a moat and possible croft 570m to the south-west (SHER DAR001) and at Lymball's Farm c.1km to the north (SHER WLN002). A possible medieval barn with medieval finds scatter is recorded c.650m to the south (SHER DAR005). An 11th to 16th century field system and enclosure is located 160m to the south-east of the PDA (SHER DAR035). Fragments of Dutch floor tile from the 14th -16th centuries with medieval roof tile have been found at a site 830m to the east (SHER DAR003).
- 3.1.7 Darsham Old Hall and grounds (SHER DAR012) is located c.500-600m to the south-west of the PDA and includes monuments such as a medieval ditch, moat and pond and the hall itself dating from the 15th century. Medieval ditches and pottery were located at a site 815m to the south-west (SHER DAR021). A medieval or post-medieval lead disc weight was found 940m to the south-east (SHER DAR032). Medieval field systems and enclosures have been identified by archaeological investigation 100m to the east of the PDA (SHER DAR030) and 150m to the south-east (SHER DAR035).

#### **Post-medieval**

- 3.1.8 Monuments from the post-medieval period in the vicinity of the PDA include Mill House (SHER DAR007) a large post mill with two-story roundhouse 125m to the north-east and a Methodist chapel dating from 1873, 90m to the south on Fox Lane (SHER DAR028).
- 3.1.9 The parkland of Darsham Old Hall, 560m to the south-west, (SHER DAR012)

is shown on a map of 1675 as an empaled park with the hall centrally placed. Later additions to the park and gardens date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Part of a large rectangular cess pit from the 18th century and a witches bottle were found at Garden Cottage 860m to the south-east (SHER DAR006).

3.1.10 A post-medieval finds scatter located 585m to the south-west included a Tudor purse bar and copper-alloy sphere (SHER DAR026). An evaluation 720m to the south-west of the PDA revealed a post-medieval pit, posthole and land drain (SHER DAR027).

#### 3.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 3.2.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeological Solutions in 2014, 100m to the east of the proposed development area, in advance of a housing development. The excavations revealed a medieval rural landscape dating from the 12th to 14th centuries including an enclosure and field boundaries. Evidence of a possible croft at the location was uncovered including refuse pits, a possible well and quarry pit. A feature thought to be a possible medieval pond was also recorded. The evaluation also encountered two Roman cremation burials carbon-dated to the 1st or 2nd century A.D (Mustchin, 2015).
- 3.2.2 In the summer of 2017 Archaeological Solutions undertook an archaeological excavation on land to the rear of 1-2 Chapel Cottages, Fox Lane, Darsham, c.200m to the south-east of the proposed development area.
- 3.2.3 The excavation found two phases of an enclosed medieval landscape characterised by several linear boundary ditches, most along the alignments of existing roads in the vicinity. In addition, a trackway and area of possible strip fields in the north-west of the site were recorded. Medieval activity was represented by clusters of postholes and pits, some of which were associated with episodes of domestic rubbish disposal. A possible fence line was recorded in the north of the site and a beam-slot and posthole structure possibly represented a small animal pen. In the south-west of the site a series of ditches in a grid pattern were also interpreted as stock pens. A possible post-medieval enclosure was also identified in this area.

3.2.4 Finds and environmental evidence indicated a locally mixed agricultural economy based on cereal cultivation and animal husbandry dominated by cattle with some remains of sheep/goat and swine. The medieval pottery assemblage from the site collectively spanned the 11th to 14th centuries (Mustchin, 2018).

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised 7no. 30m long and 4no. 25m long x 2m wide trenches. These were distributed evenly across the site in order to provide a representative sample of the development area. The excavation comprised a 20m x 20m area focussed on the eastern end of Trench 2 (Fig. 2).

#### 4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 Ground reduction during both stages of work was carried out using a 21 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator. Topsoil and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

#### 4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

- 4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.3.2 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary

and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated during the evaluation and excavation are listed in Appendix 1. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

- 4.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.
- 4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

#### 4.4 Sampling Strategy

- 4.4.1 Discrete features, such as the pond in Trench 6, were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). Where large or significant finds assemblages were present during the evaluation, like in ditch segment [203], features were subsequently 100% excavated (as revealed within the trench) for finds recovery.
- 4.4.2 Linear features were investigated by 1m wide segments. Where stratigraphic relationships between features could not be discerned in plan, relationship slots were also excavated and these were recorded as part of the GPS survey and noted on the relevant context sheets.

#### 4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 A total of 3 bulk samples (40 litres in volume) were taken to extract and identify micro- and macro-botanical remains. The aim of this sampling was to investigate, where possible, the past environment and economy of the site, the diet of the ancient inhabitants and the agricultural basis of the settlement. An additional aim of the sampling was to recover small objects that are not readily recovered by hand-collection, such as metalworking debris and bones of fish and small animals. These samples were taken from sealed deposits.

#### 5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

#### 5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	11 (same as trench sheets)
Context sheets	128
Plan registers	0
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	15
Trench record sheets	11
Photo register sheets	5
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	1

### 5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	298
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

## 5.3 Physical Archive

Struck flint	1
Pottery	285 sherds (2084g)
Ceramic building material (CBM)	7 fragments, 972 g
Animal bone	12 fragments
Metal finds	1
Environmental bulk samples	3
Shell	64g

#### 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS BY TRENCH

#### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The trenches and excavation area are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. (Appendix 1). Features and deposits are first split into feature type, and then described in numerical cut order. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the topsoil or subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

#### 6.2 Trench 1

- 6.2.1 Trench 1 contained a single ditch [103].
- 6.2.2 Ditch [103] was linear in plan and aligned ESE-WNW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 1.22m wide and 0.12m deep. The fill (102) was a hard, mid orangish-brown silty clay. There were no finds present within the ditch.

#### 6.3 Trench 2

- 6.3.1 Trench 2 contained a tree throw [207], natural feature or pit [211], ditches [203] and [205] and natural feature [209].
- 6.3.2 Tree throw [207] (unexcavated) was irregular in plan. It had a single fill (206) of mixed mid orangish-brown and mid greyish-brown silty clay.
- 6.3.3 Natural feature [211] (unexcavated) was sub-circular in plan. It had a single fill (210) of mixed mid orangish-brown and mid greyish-brown silty clay.
- 6.3.4 Ditch [203] was linear in plan and aligned NNE-SSW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 2.6m wide and +0.3m deep. It had a single fill (202) of compact, dark greyish-brown silty clay. It contained 128 sherds of pottery, dating to the 12th-14th century, a late medieval peg tile, 2 fragments of cattle-sized animal bone and a small assemblage of 13 complete cockle shells (Turner, below).
- 6.3.5 Environmental remains within sample <1> taken from fill (202) showed a poor preservation of material with no seeds present and a large number of fine roots suggesting post-depositional disturbance. The moderate amount of charcoal within the sample may constitute spent fuel from domestic activity, perhaps

deposited by wind scatter (Turner, below).

6.3.6 Ditch [205] was linear in plan and aligned NNE-SSW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.58m wide and 0.16m deep. It had a single fill (204) of compact, mid greyish-brown silty clay. Linear feature [209] remained unexcavated and represents a natural variation of the geology.

#### 6.4 Trench 3

- 6.4.1 Trench 3 contained a single ditch [304] and natural feature [306] which was sub-circular in plan. It contained a single fill (303) of mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay.
- 6.4.2 Ditch [304] (unexcavated) was linear in plan and aligned ESE-WNW. It contained a single fill (303) of mid greyish-brown silty clay. The ditch also appeared in Trench 5 as Ditch [503] and in Trench 10 as Ditch [1006]. Ditch [103] in Trench 1 may represent its NW continuation.

#### 6.5 Trench 4

- 6.5.1 Trench 4 contained Ditch [403], which was linear in plan and aligned ESE-WNW. It had moderately sloping sides and a v-shaped base (Section 4 Figure 4). It contained a single fill (402) of compact, mid greyish-brown silty clay. It contained 12 sherds of 12th-14th century pottery.
- 6.5.2 Ditch [405] (unexcavated) was linear in plan and aligned ESE-WNW. It contained a single fill of mid greyish-brown silty clay.

#### 6.6 Trench 5

- 6.6.1 Trench 5 contained two ditches [503] and [505].
- 6.6.2 Ditch [503] was linear in plan and ESE-WNW aligned. It had moderately sloping to steep sides and a flat base. It measured 1.96m wide and 0.56m deep (Section 5 Figure 4). It contained a single fill (502) a hard, mid brownish-grey silty clay with moderate inclusions of stones and flints and rare charcoal. The fill contained two fragments of 11th-17th century pottery, an iron buckle and a residual fragment of a Roman tegula as well as a late medieval Dutch brick. Further abraded clay fragments were too small to be identified. The ditch

- truncated ditch [505]. Ditches [304] in Trench 3 and [1006] in Trench 10 (both unexcavated) represent the continuation of this ditch.
- 6.6.3 Ditch [505] was linear in plan and NNE-SSW aligned. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.48m wide and 0.11m deep. It contained a single fill (504) of hard, mid orangish brown silty clay. It was truncated by Ditch [503]. There were no finds present within the ditch. It is possible that this ditch is a continuation of ditch [604] in Trench 6.

#### 6.7 Trench 6

- 6.7.1 Trench 6 contained a single ditch [604] and a pond [612].
- 6.7.2 Ditch [604] was linear in plan and NNE-SSW aligned. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 1.00-1.20m wide and 0.28m deep. It contained two fills: (602) a compacted gravel fill and (603) a backfill of compact, mid brownish-grey.
- 6.7.3 Pond [612] was tested by means of a machine excavated slot. It had steep sides and was approximately 7.5m in diameter at the top and over 3m deep. It contained seven fills (Section 8 Figure 4). From the top down these comprised: (605) a backfill of compact, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions, (606) a backfill of compact, mid to light greyish-brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions, (607) a backfill of compact, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions, (608) a backfill of compact, mid to light greyish-brown silty clay with moderate chalk inclusions, (609) a backfill of compact, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions, (610) a backfill of compact, black, organic silty clay and (611) a lens of compacted white chalk, curvilinear in plan.
- 6.7.4 A sample <2> was taken from basal fill (610). This is described in detail in Section 7.6 below. In summary, the fill contained a rich assemblage of waterlogged plant matter, wood and seeds, as well as mollusc and eggs of water flea, suggesting an aquatic pond-like environment with weed taxa indicating disturbed or waste land. Seeds of fruit-bearing plants such as bramble and stone fruits, as well as hemp seed, were also present.

#### 6.8 Trench 7

6.8.1 Trench 7 contained a series of ten linear features: [703], [705], [707], [709], [711], 713], [715], [717], [719], [721]. The features were spaced from 0.80m to 2.56m apart. Feature [703] was tested by means of a hand dug slot (Section 9 Figure 4). It had gently sloping sides, uneven base and was 0.08m deep, with a fill very similar to the clay natural (Plate 12). The linear and parallel nature of the features suggests that they represent furrows, however they are too closely spaced to be medieval furrows and only occur in this part of the site. It is more likely that the features represent natural variations of geology.

#### 6.9 Trench 8

- 6.9.1 Trench 8 contained two ditches [803] and [805] and a tree throw [807].
- 6.9.2 Ditch [803] was linear in plan and aligned ESE-WNW. It had gently to moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.86m wide and 0.17m deep (Section 3 Figure 4). It contained a single fill (802), a compact, mid greyish-brown silty clay. It contained 33 sherds of 13th-14th century pottery.
- 6.9.3 Ditch [805] was linear in plan and aligned ESE-WNW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.94m wide and 0.19m deep. It contained a single fill (804) a compact, dark greyish-brown silty clay. It contained 1 sherd of 13th-14th century pottery. It was truncating tree throw [807] (Section 5 Figure 4).
- 6.9.4 Tree throw [807] was 1.52m long, 0.48m wide and 0.18m deep with an irregular shape in plan and section.

#### 6.10 Trench 9

- 6.10.1 Trench 9 contained a single ditch [903].
- 6.10.2 Ditch [903] was linear in plan and aligned NNE-SW. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 1.56m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained one fill (902) a compact light greyish-brown silty clay.

#### 6.11 Trench 10

6.11.1 Trench 10 contained three features [1004], [1006] and [1008]. The features

were overlaid by a layer of modern demolition (1001).

- 6.11.2 Ditch [1006] (unexcavated) was linear in plan and ESE-WNW aligned. It contained a single fill (1005) of a mid orangish-brown silty clay. It represents a continuation of Ditches [505] (excavated) and Ditch [304] (unexcavated).
- 6.11.3 Features [1004] and [1008] were either natural variations of geology or represent disturbed ground. The construction compound for the neighbouring construction site was located in this area, which may account for the layer (1001), and it is likely that this also led to more widespread and deeper disturbance of the ground in this area.

#### 6.12 Trench 11

- 6.12.1 Trench 11 contained three features [1104], [1106] and [1108]
- 6.12.2 Ditch [1104] was linear in plan and NNE-SSW aligned. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (1103) a compact, mid reddish grey silty clay.
- 6.12.3 Feature [1106] (unexcavated) was linear in plan and WSW-ENE aligned. It contained a single fill (1105) a mid greyish-brown silty clay. It is most likely natural in origin.
- 6.12.4 Ditch [1108] (unexcavated) was linear in plan and ESE-WNW aligned. Its fill (1107) was a mid greyish-brown silty clay. The ditch may represent a continuation of Ditch [803] in Trench 8 and possibly Ditch [403] in Trench 4.

#### 6.13 Excavation Area

- 6.13.1 The excavation area focused on Ditch [203] at the eastern end of Trench 2 and aimed to clarify the potential presence of settlement activity in the immediate vicinity to the large pottery assemblage recovered at evaluation from the ditch (Plate 13).
- 6.13.2 The excavation area uncovered the continuations of Ditches [203] and [403] investigated in the evaluation. Two shallow postholes were also identified. No evidence for buildings or other settlement related features were found.

Ditches [2011] and [2013]

- 6.13.3 Ditches [2011] and [2013] were both uncovered running through from the centre of the northern baulk to the southern baulk on a NNE-SSW alignment. They were both truncated by Ditch [2015].
- 6.13.4 Ditch [2011] was linear in plan and contained a single fill. It was a continuation of Ditch [203] which was excavated in Trench 2 during the evaluation. The feature measured at 0.88m in width and 0.4m in depth. 128 sherds of pottery (871g) were recovered from fill (2010) of ditch [2011] and were dated to the late 14th century. The fill also contained five fragments of animal bone.
- 6.13.5 Ditch [2013] was running parallel to Ditch [2011] on the same NNE-SSW alignment. The ditch was 1.33m wide and 0.4m deep. Eight sherds of pottery (214g) were recovered from the feature, dating from the late 11th to the 14th century, and two fragments of animal bone.
- 6.13.6 The two ditches had no stratigraphic relationship (Section 15 Figure 4, Plate 15) but they represent the re-definition of this boundary over time.

Ditch [2015]

6.13.7 Ditch [2015] was uncovered at the northern edge of the excavation running on an E-W alignment. It was c. 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep (Section 16 Figure 4). It was a continuation of previously recorded Ditch [403] which was uncovered in evaluation Trench 4. The ditch contained one fragment of a post-medieval peg tile (15g).

Postholes

- 6.13.8 Posthole [2006] was 0.40m in diameter and 0.15m deep. It had the remains of a rotted post within a post-pipe at its centre, represented by darker fill (2003) (Section 13 Figure 4, Plate 14).
- 6.13.9 Posthole [2008] was located 7.5m to the south-east of [2006] and was 0.56m in diameter and 0.15m in depth (Section 14 Figure 4). The postholes were subcircular in plan with steep sides and uneven bases and contained no finds. The function of the postholes is unclear, they were not part of any structure or fenceline.

#### 7 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

#### 7.1 Lithics

#### Ella Egberts

- 7.1.1 Archaeological investigations at the site resulted in the recovery of one struck flint, found in context [402], a fill of a Medieval ditch (403). The flake is in very chipped condition with some recortication, especially along the chipped edges. The flint is translucent black/brown. The flint used to produce the flake may have been obtained from Pleistocene glaciogenic diamicton or sand and gravel deposits from the Lowestoft Formation, present at the location of the site (BGS 2019). The dorsal face of the flake is almost entirely covered in cortex, except for a flake scar along the left edge and two small flake scars along the right edge. The flake has an unprepared, obtuse striking platform. This possibly suggests a later prehistoric date (later second or first millennium BC) for the struck flint, although, especially early in the knapping sequence, flakes with obtuse striking platforms may occur in assemblages of any period.
- 7.1.2 No lithics were present during the mitigation.
- 7.1.3 The struck flint material indicates that prehistoric activity occurred at the site, possibly during the later prehistoric period though an earlier date cannot be excluded.

#### 7.2 Pottery

#### Sue Anderson

Introduction

7.2.1 Two hundred and eighty-five sherds of pottery weighing 2084g were collected from six contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 1.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt/g	eve	MNV
Roman greywares	RBGW	1st-4th c.	1	1		1
Early medieval ware	EMW	11th-12th c.	11	14		9
Medieval East Suffolk coarseware	MESCW	13th-14th c.	112	1060	0.57	22
Medieval East Suffolk coarseware chalky	MESCWC	13th-14th c.	95	443	0.44	14
Hollesley coarseware	HOLL	L.13th-14th c.	8	61		1

Total			285	2084	1.43	56
Late medieval and transitional wares	LMT	15th-16th c.	25	170		2
Hollesley glazed ware	HOLG	L.13th-14th c.	11	282	0.38	2
Medieval South Suffolk blackware	MSSBW	12th-14th c.	16	41	0.04	3
Waveney Valley coarseware micaceous	WVCWM	L.12th-14th c.	6	12		2

Table 1: Pottery quantification by fabric

#### Methodology

7.2.2 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series (Anderson 2019a). Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an Access database, which forms the archive catalogue.

Pottery by period

Roman

7.2.3 A small body sherd of Roman greyware was recovered from ditch fill (2010).

Early medieval (11th-M.13th c.)

7.2.4 There were eleven small sherds of handmade early medieval pottery, in the fine sandy black thin-walled fabrics typical of north Suffolk and Norfolk. One small piece of a simple everted jar rim was found. Seven sherds were recovered from sample <1> in ditch fill (802), and other small fragments were from ditch fills (2010) and (2014).

Medieval (12th-14th c.)

- 7.2.5 The majority of pottery in this assemblage dated to the high medieval period. This group was dominated by Medieval East Suffolk coarseware, a sandier version of Hollesley-type ware (previously recorded as 'Hollesley-type' at other sites in Darsham), the latter being relatively uncommon in this assemblage. A number of sherds with moderate chalk inclusions were also found, and there were some other medieval coarsewares of possible local origin.
- 7.2.6 Identifiable forms in this group comprised eight jars (from rims), a ?bowl (body

sherd) and two jugs (one handle and one comprising 57 rim, body and handle sherds). The rims present were mostly 13th-century types, although one square-beaded example from ditch fill (202) was of later 13th–14th-century date. Decoration was noted on some vessels: two rims were thumbed, two MESCW jars had fingernail/tip impressions at the shoulder, and a thick body sherd, probably from a bowl, had diagonal dragged fingermarks at the neck or shoulder. The jug handle was stabbed along the central groove. The more complete jug had fine vertical grooves on the handle and at least two bands of incised horizotal lines on the body. Fragments of seven base angles were all from sagging bases.

7.2.7 Six large sherds of a Hollesley glazed ware jug with a collared rim and wide strap handle were found in ditch fill (2014). The jug was decorated with applied ?rouletted brown strips and green/yellow glaze, and the handle had multiple randomly applied stabmarks. Five fragments of another Hollesley glazed ware, comprising a sagging base and body sherds, were found in ditch fill (2011).

#### Late medieval

- 7.2.8 There were two small joining body sherds from a fine, thin-walled vessel with internal green glaze, probably late medieval and transitional ware, in ditch fill (502). The glaze inside had been overfired or burnt and was heavily blistered. The sherd could possibly be a waster.
- 7.2.9 Twenty-three sherds of an LMT ?jug, comprising fragments of a strap handle, sagging base and dark green-glazed body sherds, was found in ditch fill (2010).

#### Pottery by context

7.2.10 A summary of the pottery by trench and feature is provided in Table 2, with suggested spotdates based on pottery finds only.

Trench	Fill of	Context	Interpretation	Fabric			Dates			
2	203	202	Ditch	EMW	MESCW	MESCWC	MSSBW L.13th-14th c.			
				WVCW	M HOLL					
4	403	402	Ditch	MESC\	W MSSBW		12th-14th c.			
5	505	502	Ditch	MESC\	N LMT		L.14th-M.16th c.			
8	805	804	Ditch	MESC\	N		13th-14th c.			

Exc	2010	2011	Ditch	RBGW EMW MESCW MSSBW HOLG L.14th c.
				LMT
	2014	2015	Ditch	EMW MESCW HOLG L.13th-14th c.

Table 2: Pottery types present by trench/area and feature

#### Discussion

7.2.11 This assemblage is the second from Darsham to have been recorded using the new Suffolk fabric series (Anderson 2019a). Previous work in the parish (Sizewell project, Anderson 2019b) established correlations between the old fabrics used for other assemblages from Darsham, and showed that MESCW tends to be the most frequent fabric used in the village. The group from The Street shows some elements which place it slightly earlier than the Sizewell assemblage, with some vessels appearing handmade and wheel-finished, and the rim forms and fabrics suggesting a high or later medieval date for several ditch fills. The sherds from ditch [203] represented up to 46 vessels, all of which were abraded, and the 285 sherds in the overall assemblage represented only 56 vessels in total. The fact that large parts of several vessels were present is suggestive of occupation in the near vicinity as rubbish appears not to have travelled far from its point of breakage. The entire assemblage should be retained in the archive.

## 7.3 Ceramic Building Material

#### **Amparo Valcarel**

Introduction and methodology

- 7.3.1 The small assemblage (7 fragments, 972 g) comprises a small quantity of fired clay, tegula, roof tile and bricks recovered from fill of ditches in Trench 2 and Trench 5 (Table 3). One further example (15g) was collected from the mitigation.
- 7.3.2 The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10). Fabrics unique to Darsham were prefixed with DAR1, DAR2 etc.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL (5 fragments, 969 g.)

- 7.3.3 A single fragment of tegula was found in the fill (502) of Ditch [505], made of fabric DAR4, a sandy fabric with frequent quartz, moderate fine black iron oxide and occasional coarser red iron oxide. The fragment is highly abraded and probably is related to the Roman villa located c.800m to the east of the area.
- 7.3.4 A peg tile was recovered from fill (202) of Ditch [203] in Trench 2. The roof tile is made of a local sandy micaceous fabric, very course with abundant chalk and small red iron oxide and occasional flint inclusions (DAR1). The course moulding sand indicates a medieval or late post-medieval date.
- 7.3.5 A possible late medieval Dutch brick was collected from fill (504) of Ditch [503], and from the same context two abraded fragments of post-medieval brick were found, dating the context AD1450-1900.
- 7.3.6 The fired clay fragments in fill (504) of Ditch [503] are too small to be interpreted.
- 7.3.7 Post medieval peg tie made out of a local sandy brickearth fabric comparable to 2276 (1480-1900) was recovered from the fill (2014) of ditch [2015]. It had fine moulding sand so dates to the later post medieval period (1700-1900).

#### Conclusions

7.3.8 The ceramic building material is poorly represented on this site, recovered in just three contexts. The Roman tegula is highly abraded and merely represents redeposited material probably from the Roman villa nearby. The peg tile and the bricks indicate late medieval and post-medieval occupation of the area. In summary, this is a very abraded assemblage, representing different phases of redeposition.

										Spot		
Context	Cut	Trench	Fabric	Form	Quantity	Range material		Range material		Range material Latest date		dates
				Late medieval						1200-		
202	203	2	DAR1	peg tile	1	1100	1500	1100	1500	1500		
				Abraded								
				Roman tegula;								
				late medieval								
				Dutch brick;						1450-		
502	505	5	DAR4	post-medieval	4	50	1900	1450	1900	1900		

				brick						
				Small abraded						
				fired clay						1100-
504	503	5	3102	fragments	2	1500BC	1700	1500BC	1700	1700
				Post medieval						1700-
2014	2015	exc	2276	peg tile	1	1480	1900	1480	1900	1900

Table 3: Distribution of CBM

#### 7.4 Metal Finds

#### Märit Gaimster

7.4.1 A single metal object was retrieved from the evaluation, in the form of an iron buckle from Ditch [505] in Trench 5. It was associated with late medieval pottery. The buckle is of a simple one-piece rectangular form and may have had its pin set either on the long or the short side (cf. Goodall 2011, fig. 12.6 nos K117 and K138). The material and form indicate a function as a strap or harness buckle, further supported by its size with a potential width of 50mm (Egan 1995, 55).

#### Catalogue:

7.4.2 Context [502], fill of Ditch [505]. Iron buckle; two conjoining parts of complete rectangular form with square-section frame; heavily corroded; W 50mm; L 40mm

#### Conclusion

7.4.3 Complete iron harness buckles dating from the medieval period are relatively unusual and provide an important reflection of the presence and use of horses at the time.

#### 7.5 Animal Bone

#### Karen Deighton and Kevin Rielly

#### Introduction

7.5.1 A small amount of animal bone was recovered from the fills of four ditches during trial trenching. Material from the sieved (2mm and 10mm) residue of an environmental sample was also included. During the excavation animal bone was collected from fill (2014) of ditch [2015] and from a sample taken from the

fill (2010) of ditch [2011].

#### Method

7.5.2 Material was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references) and recorded onto an access database.

#### The taxa present

Context	Cut	Feature	Cattle size	Sheep size	Horse	Fish	Ind.	Total
102	103	ditch			1			1
202	203	ditch	2	1*				3
502	505	ditch	1					1
804	805	ditch	1					1
2010	2011	ditch		2**		1	2	5
2014	2015	ditch	1					1
Total			6	3	1			12

Table 4: Taxa by context

#### Preservation and description

- 7.5.3 Fragmentation was heavy with all bone at the fragment stage and bone surface erosion varied from moderate to heavy with context. Both factors rendered identification and the detection of any modification difficult.
- 7.5.4 The hand recovered collection amounted to 2 fragments (reducing to one following refitting), these from the fill (2014) of the west-east ditch [2015]. In addition, 5 bones were recovered from the sample (No 3) taken from the fill (2010) of the north/south ditch [2011] (this an extension of the Trench 2 ditch [203]). The former consisted of a cattle-size fragment, possibly a cattle mandibular piece; while the sample provided 2 sheep-size limb bone fragments, two indeterminate pieces and a dermal denticle of a thornback ray. While obviously fragmented, the surface condition of these bones is indicative of a good state of preservation.

#### Conclusions

7.5.5 These few bones, in combination with those recovered from the previous incursion, are in relatively good condition but obviously highly fragmented. There are just two identifiable pieces, the equid bone from Trench 1 ditch [103] and the thornback ray from ditch [2011], these and the other bones most likely

<sup>\*</sup> sample <1> \*\* sample <3>

dating to the medieval era. It can be suggested that further excavation will be equally disappointing with any additional bones most probably too fragmented to provide more than a very minimal amount of information concerning animal usage.

#### 7.6 Plant Macrofossils

#### Kate Turner

#### INTRODUCTION

- 7.6.1 This report summarises the findings of the assessment three environmental bulk samples taken from the fills of a linear boundary ditch, [203], a linear ditch, [2011], and a pond [612]. The former dates to the Medieval period, whilst the latter is undated.
  - The aim of this assessment is to:
  - Give an overview of the contents of the assessed samples;
  - Determine the environmental potential of these samples;
  - Establish whether any further analysis is necessary.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

- 7.6.2 Sample <1> and <3> were processed using the flotation method; the sample was washed through a modified SIRAF recirculating system, with material being collected using a 300 μm mesh for the light fraction, and a 1 mm mesh for the heavy residue. As sample <2> was observed to be waterlogged, and good preservation of plant and organic remains was likely, three of the four collected buckets were wet sieved; the sediment was gently washed between 10 mm and 2 mm metal sieves suspended over a flotation tank with the flot being collected using a 300 μm mesh. A 10 litre sub-sample was retained, should further analysis be required.
- 7.6.3 The heavy residue was air-dried, sieved at 1, 2 and 4 mm and sorted to extract artefacts and ecofacts. The abundance of each category of material was recorded using a non-linear scale where '1' indicates occasional occurrence (1-10 items), '2' indicates occurrence is fairly frequent (11-30 items), '3' indicates presence is frequent (31-100 items) and '4' indicates an abundance of material

(>100 items). and the clean residue then dried and sorted as described above.

- 7.6.4 The flot (>300 μm), once dried, was scanned under a low-power binocular microscope at 10x magnification, to quantify the level of environmental material, such as seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Abundance was recorded as above. A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material. Macro-botanical identifications were carried out using standard reference catalogues (Jones, Taylor and Ash, 2004; Jacomet, 2006; Cappers, Bekker and Jans, 2012; Neef, Cappers and Bekker, 2012). Nomenclature for economic plants follows Van Zeist (1984) and for other plant taxa follows Stace (1991). Molluscs were identified with reference to Kerney (1999).
- 7.6.5 Material collected from the heavy residues was catalogued and passed on to the relevant specialists for further assessment. A full account of the sample contents is provided in table 1.

#### RESULTS

#### Preservation

- 7.6.6 Archaeobotanical remains were preserved by carbonisation in samples <1> and <3> and waterlogging in sample <2>. Whilst recovery of plant material was relatively poor in the former, with only fragmented charcoal and a small amount of carbonised grains being reported, sample <2> produced a large quantity of seeds, fragmented plant matter, wood and molluscs.
- 7.6.7 Roots and fine rootlets were observed throughout samples 1 and 3, which presents the likelihood of post-depositional disturbance in the sampled contexts.
  - Sample <1>, context (202) fill of Ditch [203]
- 7.6.8 Sample <1> consisted of 40 litres of sediment, collected from the fill of a linear ditch encountered in Trench 2. Provisional dating suggests that this deposit was formed in the Medieval period. Preservation of environmental material was poor in this sample; a moderate concentration of wood charcoal was reported, between thirty and one-hundred specimens, however the bulk of these were

recovered from the smallest sieved fraction, <2mm, and less than thirty pieces of a suitable size for species identification (>4mm in length/width) were identified. Seeds were absent, and only a small number of mollusc shells, of the terrestrial gastropod Carychium minimum/tridentatum were recognised. The cultural assemblage consisted of a small amount of animal bone and pottery, which was found in the heavy fraction. The flot for this sample contained an abundance of fine root material, which suggests the likelihood of post-depositional disturbance.

Sample <2>, context (610) – fill of Pit [612]

- 7.6.9 Sample <2> was taken from the waterlogged and highly organic fill of a pond, feature [612]. Plant remains were well preserved in this context, which produced a large quantity of fragmented plant matter, wood and seeds. The weed assemblage yielded an abundance of pondweed (Potamogeton spp.), buttercup (Ranunculus spp.), sedge (Carex spp.), bittersweet (Solanum dulcamara) and branched bur-reed (Sparganium erectum), and smaller amounts of gypsywort (Lycopus europaeus), duckweed (Lemna spp.) and water-plantains (Alisma spp.), all of which indicate a damp or waterlogged environment. Seeds of taxa known to inhabit disturbed or waste land, for example goosefoots (Chenopodium album) and black-bindweed (Fallopia convolvulus) were also recognised, as well as seeds of fruit-bearing plants, such as bramble (Rubus spp.) and stone-fruits (Prunus spp.). A significant number of specimens that appear to be hemp seed (Cannabis sativa) were identified in this sample.
- 7.6.10 The mollusc assemblage was comprised of largely aquatic specimens, with a lesser concentration of terrestrial snails. Over one-hundred shells of the freshwater genus Gyraulus were reported, along with less than ten each of Succinea putris/Oxyloma pfeifferi, and Anisus cf. leucostoma, which are found in wetlands and/or aquatic habitats. Low to moderate numbers of the terrestrial gastropods Vallonia, Discus rotundatus, and Vertigo were also noted, and juveniles and indeterminate shell fragments.
- 7.6.11 Eggs of water flea (Daphnia ephippia) were common in this sample, with 'shells' of seed-shrimp (ostracods) also being recovered, both of which develop in

aquatic environments, such as ponds. Due to the waterlogged nature of the deposit, insect remains were relatively well-preserved; a small collection of what appear to be animal coprolites were also extracted. Wood charcoal was present, but few sizeable specimens were reported.

Sample <3>, context (2010) - fill of Ditch [2011]

7.6.12 Sample <3>, comprised of twenty-four litres of sediment, was taken from the fill of a ditch cut, [2011]. Wood charcoal was frequently observed in this sample; a large quantity of fragments were recovered from the flot, including over one-hundred smaller specimens, less than 2mm in length/width, and between one and ten pieces of identifiable size. A number of carbonised cereal grains, of bread wheat (Triticum aestivum/durum), and indeterminate cereals, were reported, along with un-burnt seeds of orache (Atriplex spp.), the condition of which would suggest are intrusive. The mollusc assemblage contained specimens of the freshwater snail Anisus spp., in addition to shells of terrestrial molluscs, including Vallonia spp. and Carychium spp. Animal bone, pottery and broken shell were recognised in the retent, and a minimal concentration of coal in the flot

#### DISCUSSION

7.6.13 Whilst there is little of diagnostic value in the fill of Ditch [203], the fill of Pit [612] produced a rich environmental assemblage. The taxa represented in this feature are indicative of a significantly wet, or damp environment, in an area that also contains disturbed or waste ground. Species recognised include those commonly found growing in water saturated places, such as ponds or marshes, for example Ranunculus subsp. Batrachium (water crowfoots), Sparganium erectum (branched bur-reed) and Potamogeton spp. (pondweed), along with grassland indicators, including Ranunculus acris/bulbosus/repens, and plants of cultivated, disturbed or waste ground (Chenopodium spp.). Seeds of edible plants, notably stone fruits (Prunus spp.) and brambles (Rubus spp.), a family which contains raspberries and blackberries, were also identified, an indication that these species may have been growing in the local area, either wild or as cultivated plants, and may have been consumed as part of local diet. A quantity of hemp seeds were reported; hemp has been cultivated in Britain since the

Anglo-Saxon period (Gearey et al., 2005), for use as a fibre and an oil, having been originally imported during the Roman period. Like the botanical remains, the mollusc assemblage is suggestive of a predominantly wet environment, with surrounding grassland.

7.6.14 Wood charcoal was present in moderate to abundant amounts all of the assessed samples, with the highest concentration of viable specimens being reported in the fill of Ditch [2011]; these remains may constitute the spent fuel from domestic activity, perhaps deposited by wind-scatter. Ditch [2011] also produced a small cereal assemblage, including specimens of bread wheat, which may be an indication that cereals were being grown and/or consumed in the area of the site.

#### 7.7 Marine Shells

#### **Kate Turner**

#### INTRODUCTION

7.7.1 A small assemblage of whole and fragmented cockle shell (Cerastoderma edule) was recovered from the fill of a medieval boundary ditch, [203]. The aim of this assessment was to: (1) determine the degree of fragmentation and preservation of the shell assemblage, and (2) quantify the number of shells.

#### METHODOLOGY

7.7.2 Shells were collected via handpicking by on-site archaeologists, and handcleaned with a soft toothbrush to remove any residual soil. In order to record
these remains, whole valves and fragments were identified and separated, with
the complete specimens then sub-classified into measurable and unmeasurable shells; measurable shells being those with a complete apex and
umbone. Both measurable and un-measurable shells were then counted. As
the sampled context did not contain a statistically significant (containing over
100 valves) number of specimens, no further recording was carried out. The
results are presented in Table 5.

#### Discussion

7.7.3 This assemblage comprised a total of thirteen complete cockle shells, and four unmeasurable fragments, with a total weight of 64 grams. The small size of the

shell assemblage means it is of limited interpretive value. Preservation of this material was good, with the bulk of the shells being considered measurable. All of the specimens present were observed to be common edible cockles (Cerastoderma edule), which are ubiquitous in coastal environments throughout the British Isles. This species inhabits the intertidal zone, and occasionally subtidal areas, and is a surface burrower, occurring no lower than 5cm into the substratum (Richardson, Ibarrola and Ingham, 1993). As well as being consumed during the Medieval period, cockles were used as raw materials in lime production (Somerville, Light and Allen, 2017).

						edule	edule
Context No.	Context Type	Feature No.	Feature type	Date	Weight (g)	Cerastoderma	Cerastoderma (frags.)
			Boundary				
202	Fill	203	Ditch	Medieval	64	13	+
Total					64	13	+

Table 5: Quantification of shell

#### 8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The earliest evidence of human activity consisted of one late prehistoric struck flint residually deposited in the fill of medieval Ditch [403].
- 8.2 The primary result of the evaluation and subsequent mitigation was the identification of a series of medieval ditches, either parallel or perpendicular to The Street. No direct settlement was identified and the ditches are likely to represent field boundaries. The majority of the ditches date to the 13th and 14th century.
- 8.3 A large quantity of pottery (128 sherds and 97 sherds) was recovered from two segments, [203] and [2011] respectively, of a north-south aligned ditch in Trench 2 and subsequently within the excavation area. The vast majority of the pottery dated to the 13th-14th century with a very small number of residual fragments dating to the 11th-12th and 12th-13th century. While abraded, the assemblage contained significant numbers of sherds likely to come from the same vessels, implying the material had not travelled far and may represent primary dumping. The pottery was mixed with a small number of cockle shells and animal bone. Charcoal retrieved from a sample from the same ditch segment may represent windblown waste from a domestic hearth. Both segments cut into the ditch were located relatively close to The Street frontage and it is very likely that the open ditch was used as a location to dump refuse from nearby settlement, or that the material from a midden heap once located here had slumped into the ditch.
- 8.4 Ditch [2014] was re-defined as a boundary by ditch [2011], or vice versa. Ditch [2014] contained a very small amount of pottery, compared to ditch [2011] which may demonstrate that the former is the earlier ditch. If had already been silted up to some degree, before the later ditch [2011] was cut and the pottery deposited, there would have been little chance for pottery to have been incorporated into its fill.
- 8.5 Smaller pottery assemblages were retrieved from both ditches in Trench 8, dating to the 11th-12th and 13th-14th century.

- 8.6 Two postholes [2006] and [2008] were present west of the N-S boundary ditch [203]/[2011]. The postholes were spaced c. 7m apart and do not form any structure of fenceline. They were undated but given the evidence of a rotted wooden post it is likely that they are part of the post-medieval phase of the field system. Their function is unclear.
- 8.7 A later ESE-WNW aligned ditch, continuing through Trenches 3, 5 and 10, parallel to The Street and dating to the 15th-16th century, most likely represents the recutting of an earlier medieval field boundary. It was originally thought that this could be a continuation of a late medieval ditch on the adjacent site excavated by Archaeological Solutions (AS) (Mustchin 2015) but the two features do not correlate very well (Figure 4). The ditch probably went out of use as fields were amalgamated before the drawing up of the tithe map in 1843 (Figure 5).
- 8.8 A N-S aligned post-medieval ditch, located in Trench 11, is aligned parallel to an existing field boundary. Parallel boundaries are also shown on the 1843 tithe map and a parallel ditch was excavated in the excavations by AS to the immediate east (Figure 4). It is difficult to precisely locate the AS excavation areas, so it is possible that the two ditches are the same feature, mapped in different locations. However, they could also represent a trackway, bordered by a ditch either side, preceding the current eastern field boundary. This may have been short lived as it is not shown on any map.
- 8.9 A large pond [612] was excavated in Trench 6. This may be contemporary with the medieval field system or slightly later in date. Weed taxa recovered from its basal waterlogged fill suggests that is was located in disturbed or waste land. However, seeds of edible plants, notably stone fruits, brambles and hemp also suggest consumption and possibly cultivation of those species, either nearby or on the site itself. The presence of hemp seed also suggests that the pond may, on occasion, have been used as a retting pit.

#### 9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 The evaluation at Land Adjoining No. 8 The Street, Darsham, revealed a series of ditches that likely represent a field system, including a pond, dating to the 13th-14th century, with amalgamation of the fields, chiefly used as pasture, through continuation to the present day. A large amount of pottery retrieved from two segments of a ditch, comprising up to 46 vessels mixed with small amounts of animal bone, cockle shell and charcoal from domestic hearths, most likely represents rubbish dumping from settlement in the immediate surrounds, probably to the south side of The Street.
- 9.2 Overall the evidence suggests that the site was part of the agricultural land around Darsham village and may have been located close to green-edge settlement to the north-west of Darsham (Mutschin 2019). The site did not form part of any direct settlement area. Environmental evidence from the pond suggests that the immediate area around it was heavily overgrown prior to backfilling, and its is possible that the wider field could also have been abandoned. The hemp seed may also suggest occasional use of the pond as a retting pond.
- 9.3 The site compares well with two areas of medieval enclosures and settlement excavated in the immediate vicinity: Land West of Mill House (Mustchin 2015), now the 'Millfields' development adjacent to the site in the east, and Fox Lane to the south-east of the site (Mustchin 2019) (Figure 5).
- 9.4 At Land West of Mill House a 12th-14th century medieval enclosure and toft and croft type features including refuse pits, a possible well and quarry pits, dating to the 13th and 14th century were excavated (Mustchin 2015). The features were concentrated on the eastern part of the adjacent site with no features, apart from two possible Roman cremations, close to the present site. At Fox Lane two phases of enclosures with internal features representing fencelines and a small agricultural structure, as well as a series of field boundaries and possible animal pens were present (Mustchin 2019). The features dated to the 13th and 14th century with residual pottery from the 11th and 12th centuries. Mustchin interprets the site as a 'typical rural site, probably

used for agricultural purposes, in the vicinity of settlement' (ibid, p 26).

- 9.5 Mustchin (2019) gives a detailed background to medieval settlement in and around Darsham and suggests that the Fox Lane and Mill House sites are part of a medieval enclosed landscape, characterised by rectilinear systems of ditched enclosures which mirror the alignment of adjacent roads. At Darsham this may reflect the expansion of settlement along the line of The Street and away from the medieval core of the village located c. 700m to the south-east. At the same time, settlement may have developed along the edge of a green, located to the north-west of Fox Lane and probably adjacent to the site at No.8 The Street. A green called 'China Green', is marked in this approximate location on Hodskinson's 1783 map of Suffolk, though this does not necessarily imply that the exact same layout existed 400 years earlier in the 14th century.
- 9.6 The site at No. 8 The Street fits into this pattern of agricultural sites in the vicinity of settlement identified by Mustchin. In comparison to the Mill House and Fox Lane sites, which had identifiable enclosures with structures represented by internal postholes and beam slots, No. 8 The Street represents agricultural boundaries with no internal activity. The rich deposit of pottery in one of the boundary ditches, mixed with evidence for domestic refuse, still points to domestic activity nearby, which suggests that it is very likely that there was a direct settlement adjacent to China Green, probably immediately to the south of the site around the junction of The Street and Fox Lane.

#### 10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank RPS for commissioning and funding the work on behalf of Hopkins & Moore. PCA are also grateful to Rachael Abraham, Senior Archaeological Officer of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed for RPS by Richard Mortimer and for PCA by Christiane Meckseper. The evaluation was supervised by Judyta Mlynarska and the site team comprised Eleanor Attwood and Chloe Gibson. The excavation was supervised by Harvey Furniss with fieldwork by Stu Stokes. All figures accompanying this report were prepared by Rosie Scales of PCA's CAD Department.

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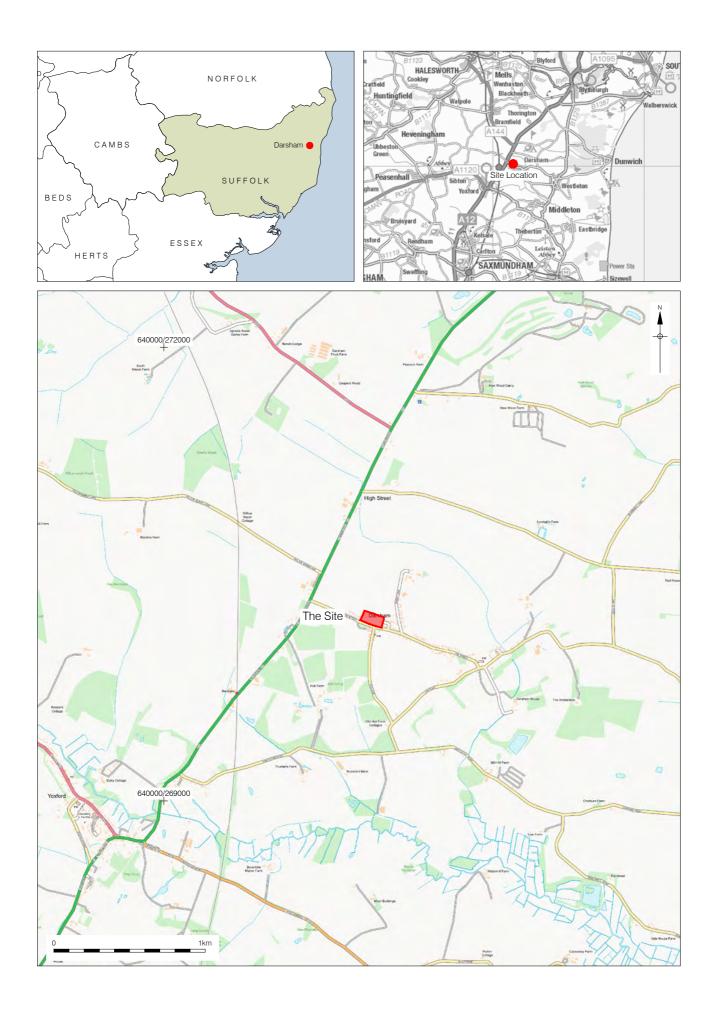
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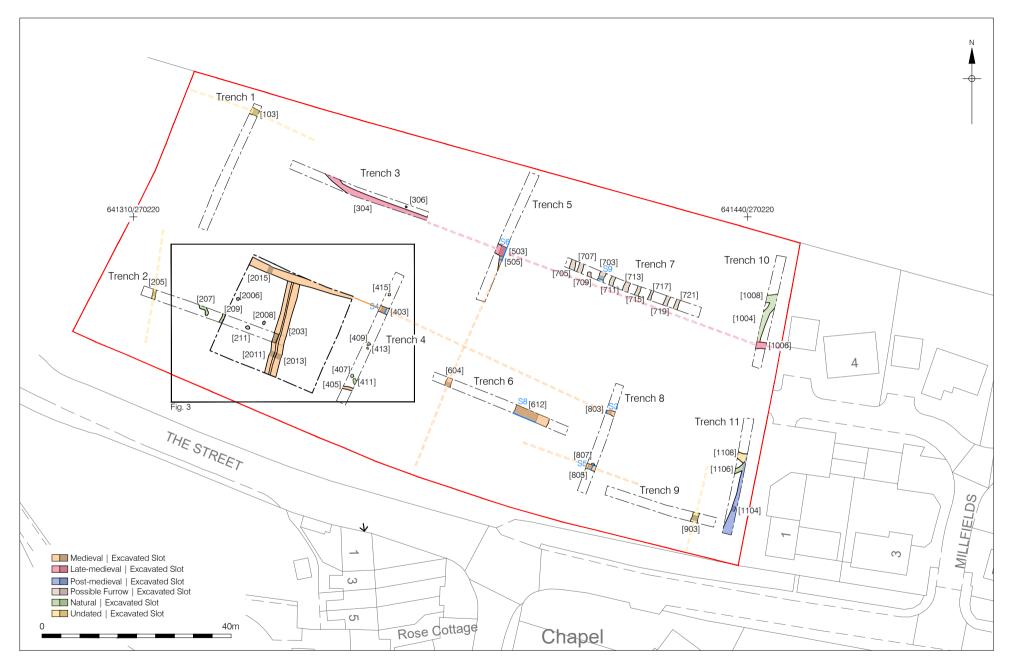
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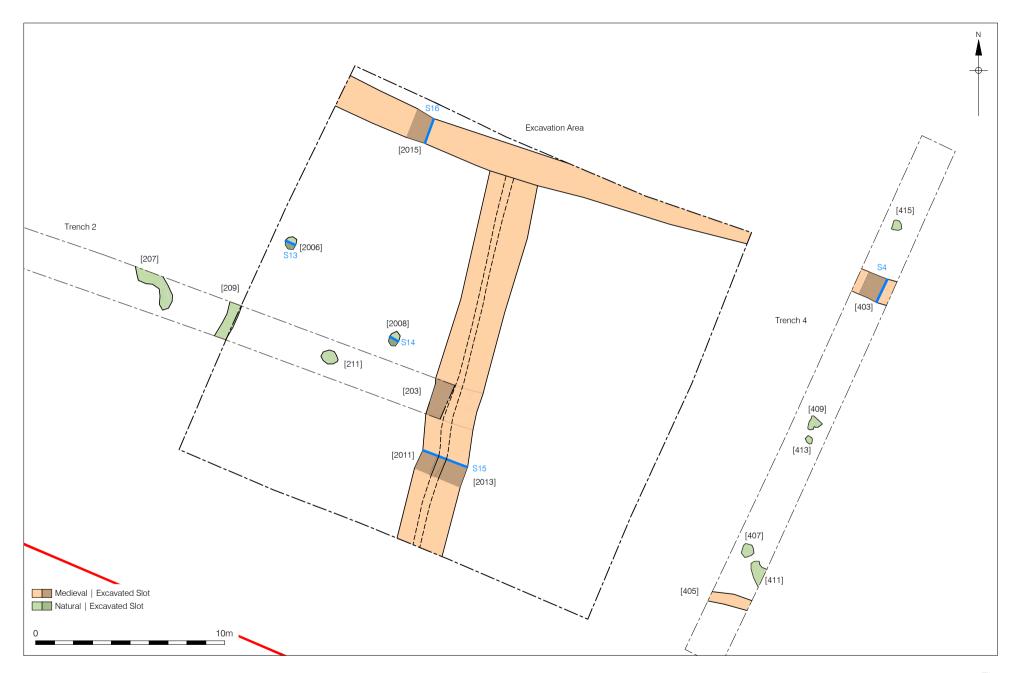


Figure 3 Detailed plan of Excavation Area 1:200 at A4

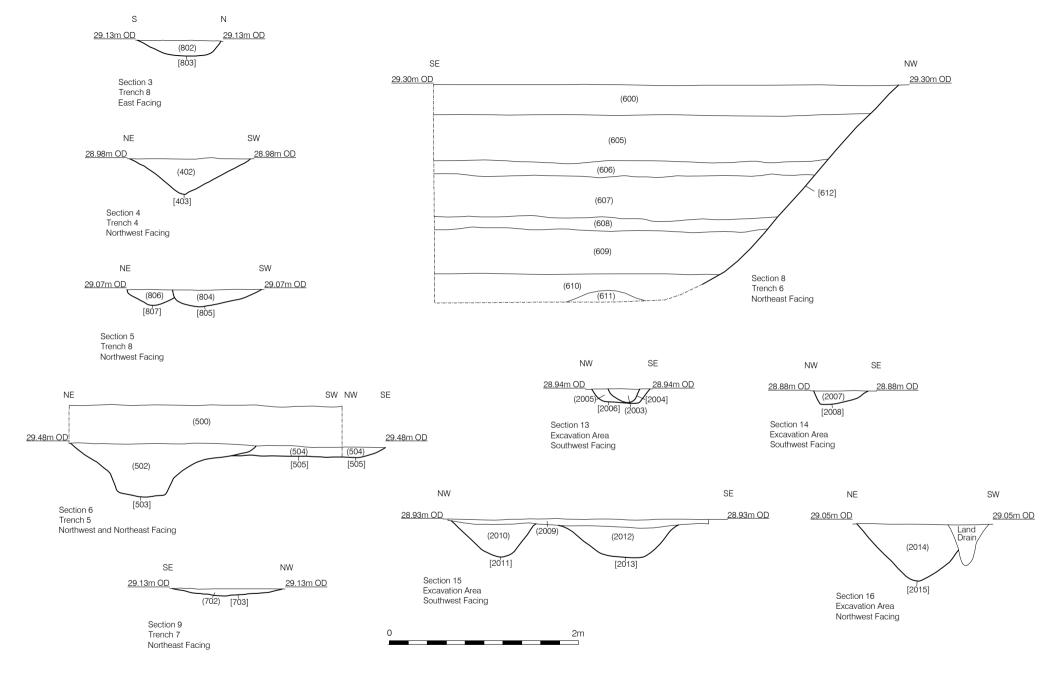


Figure 4 Selected Sections 1:40 at A4



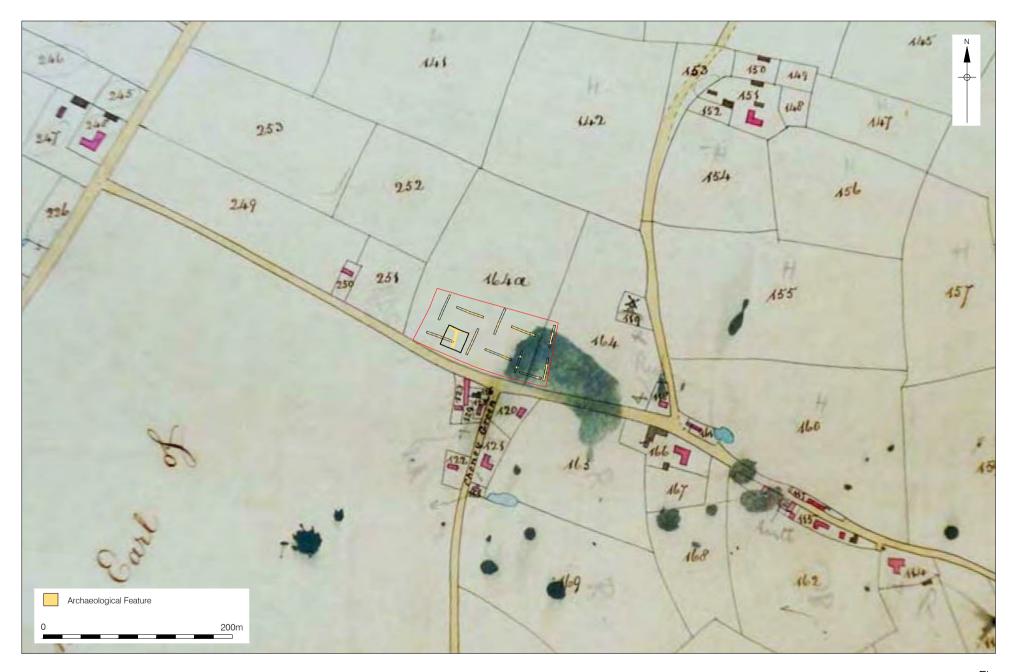


Figure 6 All Features Plan on 1843 Tithe Map 1:4000 at A4

#### 13 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site before excavation, view ESE.



Plate 2: Trench 2 with Ditch [203] before excavation, view WNW.



Plate 3: Ditch [203], view NE.



Plate 4: Trench 4, view SW.



Plate 5: Ditch [403], view ESE.



Plate 6: Ditches [503] and [505], view ESE.



Plate 7: Trench 6 and pond [612] pre-excavation, view WNW.



Plate 8: Machine excavation of pond [612] to reach lower deposits.



Plate 9: Pond [612], machine slot, view SW.



Plate 10: Chalk lining (611) in Pond [612].



Plate 11: Trench 11, Ditch [1104], view NE.



Plate 12: Trench 7, excavated possible furrow [703]



Plate 13: Excavation Area, looking towards The Street



Plate 14: Posthole [2006] with internal darker fill (2003) of [2004], looking north



Plate 15: Ditches [2011] and [2013], looking north

# 14 APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DETAILS AND CONTENTS INDEX

Trench	1		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.37	0.35
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.41	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0.04	0.01

Ditch [103]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
100	100	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.38	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown silty clay.
101	101	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.04	Compact, mid to light yellowish brown silty clay.
102	103	Fill	Ditch	1	1.22	0.12	Hard, mid orangish-brown silty clay.
103	103	Cut	Ditch	1	1.22	0.12	Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base, ESE-WNW oriented.

Trench	2		End 1	End 2
Alignment	WNW- ESE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.4	0.4
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.41	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0	0.1

Ditch [203], Furrows [205] and [209], Treethrow [207], pit or natural feature [211]

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
200	200	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Firm, dark greyish brown sandy clay.
201	201	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.01	Compact, mid to light yellowish brown sandy clay.
202	203	Fill	Ditch	1	0.86	0.3	Compact, dark greyish brown silty clay, moderate sub- angular stones.
203	203	Cut	Ditch	1	0.86	0.3	Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base, NE-SW oriented.
204	205	Fill	Ditch	1	0.58	0.16	Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.
205	205	Cut	Ditch	1	0.58	0.16	Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base, NE-SW oriented.
206	207	Fill	Treethrow	2.8	1.6	0	Mid orangish brown mixed with mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.

207	207	Cut	Treethrow	2.8	1.6	0	Irregular in plan, unexcavated.
208	209	Fill	Natural feature	2	0.66		Mid orangeyish brown mixed with mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
209	209	Cut	Natural feature	2	0.66		Linear in plan,NNE-SSW oriented, unexcavated.
210	211	Fill	Natural feature	0.75	0.9		Mid orangeyish brown mixed with mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
211	211	Cut	Natural feature	0.75	0.9		Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.

Trench	3		End 1	End 2
Alignment	WNW- ESE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.4	0.5
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.57	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0.02	0.07

Ditch [304], posthole or natural feature [306]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
300	300	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.5	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay.
301	301	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.25	Compact, mid to light yellowish brown silty clay, occasional chalk.
302	302	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.07	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay, occasional chalk.
303	304	Fill	Ditch	23.5	1.4		Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
304	304	Cut	Ditch	13.5	1.4		Linear in plan, ESE-WNW oriented, uneaxcavated.
305	306	Fill	Natural feature	0.4	0.4		Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
306	306	Cut	Natural feature	0.4	0.4		Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.

Trench	4		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.4	0.37
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.42	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0.02	0.05

Ditches [403] and [405], possible pits or natural features [407], [409], [411], [413], [415]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
400	400	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Firm, mid to dark greyish brown sandy clay.
401	401	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.05	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay.
402	403	Fill	Ditch	1	1.3	0.37	Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional small pieces of chalk.
403	403	Cut	Ditch	1	1.3	0.37	Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides, v- shaped base, ESE-WNW oriented.
404	405	Fill	ditch	2	0.4		Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.
405	405	Cut	ditch	2	0.4		Linear in plan, WNW-ESE oriented, unexcavated.
406	407	Fill	Natural feature	0.76	0.65		Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
407	407	Cut	Natural feature	0.76	0.65		Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.

408409FillNatural feature0.790.68Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.409409CutNatural feature0.790.68Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.410411FillNatural feature1.31.04Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.411411CutNatural feature1.31.04Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.412413FillNatural feature0.460.37Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.413413CutNatural feature0.460.37Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.414415FillNatural feature0.570.570.2Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.415415CutNatural feature0.570.570.2Sub-circular in plan, undercutting sides.								
410411FillNatural feature1.31.04Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.411411CutNatural feature1.31.04Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.412413FillNatural feature0.460.37Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.413413CutNatural feature0.460.37Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.414415FillNatural feature0.570.570.2Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.415415CutNatural feature0.570.570.2Sub-circular in plan, undercutting undercutting	408	409	Fill	Natural feature	0.79	0.68		brown silty clay,
brown silty clay, unexcavated.  411 411 Cut Natural feature 1.3 1.04 Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.  412 413 Fill Natural feature 0.46 0.37 Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.  413 413 Cut Natural feature 0.46 0.37 Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.  414 415 Fill Natural feature 0.57 0.57 0.2 Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.  415 415 Cut Natural feature 0.57 0.57 0.2 Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.	409	409	Cut	Natural feature	0.79	0.68		plan,
Plan, unexcavated.  412 413 Fill Natural feature 0.46 0.37 Mid greyish brown silty clay, unexcavated.  413 413 Cut Natural feature 0.46 0.37 Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated.  414 415 Fill Natural feature 0.57 0.57 0.2 Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.  415 415 Cut Natural feature 0.57 0.57 0.2 Sub-circular in plan, undercutting	410	411	Fill	Natural feature	1.3	1.04		brown silty clay,
brown silty clay, unexcavated.  413	411	411	Cut	Natural feature	1.3	1.04		plan,
plan, unexcavated.  414 415 Fill Natural feature 0.57 0.57 0.2 Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.  415 415 Cut Natural feature 0.57 0.57 0.2 Sub-circular in plan, undercutting	412	413	Fill	Natural feature	0.46	0.37		brown silty clay,
greyish brown silty clay.  415 415 Cut Natural feature 0.57 0.57 0.2 Sub-circular in plan, undercutting	413	413	Cut	Natural feature	0.46	0.37		plan,
plan, undercutting	414	415	Fill	Natural feature	0.57	0.57	0.2	greyish brown
	415	415	Cut	Natural feature	0.57	0.57	0.2	plan, undercutting

Trench	5		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.35	0.38
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.48	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0	0.1

Ditches [503] and [505]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
500	500	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.38	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay.
501	501	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.1	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay.
502	503	Fill	Ditch	1	1.96	0.56	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, moderate small to medium stones and flints, rare charcoal.
503	503	Cut	Ditch	1	1.96	0.56	Linear in plan, moderately sloping to steep sides, flat base, ESE-WNW oriented.
504	505	Fill	Ditch	0.89	0.48	0.11	Hard, mid orangish brown silty clay.
505	505	Cut	Ditch	0.89	0.48	0.11	Linear in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base, NW-SE oriented.

Trench	6		End 1	End 2
Alignment	WNW- ESE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.38	0.38
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.45	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0	0.07

Ditch [604], quarry pit/ pond [612]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
600	600	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.38	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay.
601	601	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.07	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay.
602	604	Fill	Ditch	2	1.26		Compacted gravel.
603	604	Fill	Ditch	2	1.26		Compact, mid brownish grey silty clay.
604	604	Cut	Ditch	2	1.26		Linear in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base, NE-SW oriented.
605	612	Fill	Pond	5	4.6	0.5	Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional chalk.
606	612	Fill	Pond	5	4.1	0.18	Compact, mid to light greyish brown silty clay, moderate chalk.
607	612	Fill	Pond	5	4	0.44	Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional chalk.

608	612	Fill	Pond	5	3.6	0.12	Compact, mid to light greyish brown silty clay, moderate chalk.
609	612	Fill	Pond	5	3.5	0.5	Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional chalk.
610	612	Fill	Pond	5	3	0.3	Compact, black, organic silty clay.
611	612	Fill	Pond	5	0.6	0.1	Compacted white chalk, curvilinear in plan.
612	612	Cut	Pond	7.5	0	3	Steep sides, base not reached.

Trench	7		End 1	End 2
Alignment	WNW- ESE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.33	0.47
Trench length (m)	30	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.49	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0.01	0.02

Ditch [703]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
700	700	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.47	Firm, mid to darkk brownish grey sandy clay.
701	701	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.02	Compact, ligth yellowish brown silty clay.
702	703	Fill	Furrow?	1	1.17	0.08	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay.
703	703	Cut	Furrow?	1	1.17	0.08	Linear in plan, gently sloping sides, uneven base, NE-SW oriented.
704	705	Fill	Furrow?.	2	1.4		Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
705	705	Cut	Furrow?	2	1.4		Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
706	707	Fill	Furrow?	2	1.07		Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
707	707	Cut	Furrow?	2	1.07		Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.

708	709	Fill	Furrow?	2	1	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
709	709	Cut	Furrow?	2	1	Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
710	711	Fill	Furrow?	2	0.84	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
711	711	Cut	Furrow?	2	0.84	Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
712	713	Fill	Furrow?	2	1.28	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
713	713	Cut	Furrow?	2	1.28	Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
714	715	Fill	Furrow?	2	0.85	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
715	715	Cut	Furrow?	2	0.85	Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
716	717	Fill	Furrow?	2	0.75	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
717	717	Cut	Furrow?	2	0.75	Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
718	719	Fill	Furrow?	2	0.94	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.
719	719	Cut	Furrow?	2	0.94	Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
720	721	Fill	Furrow?	2	0.95	Hard, mid brownish grey silty clay, unexcavated.

721 721 Cut Furrow? 2 0.95 Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.

Trench	8		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.4	0.33
Trench length (m)	25	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.42	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0.01	0.04

Ditches [803] and [805], pit [807]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length	Width	Depth	Description
800	800	Layer	Topsoil	<b>(m)</b> 2	<b>(m)</b> 0	( <b>m)</b> 0.4	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay.
801	801	Layer	Natural	2	0	0.04	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay.
802	803	Fill	Ditch	1	0.86	0.17	Compact, mid greyish brown silty clay.
803	803	Cut	Ditch	1	0.86	0.17	Linear in plan, gently to moderately sloping sides, concave base, ESE-WNW.
804	805	Fill	Ditch	1	0.94	0.19	Compact, dark greyish brown silty clay.
805	805	Cut	Ditch	1	0.94	0.19	Linear in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base, ESE-WNW oriented.
806	807	Fill	Natural feature	1.42	0.48	0.18	Compact, mid orangish brown silty clay.
807	807	Cut	Natural feature	1.42	0.48	0.18	Sub-circular in plan, moderately sloping sides, concave base.

Trench	9		End 1	End 2
Alignment	WNW- ESE	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3	0.4
Trench length (m)	25	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.4	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0	0

Ditch [903]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
900	900	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay.
901	901	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay.
902	903	Fill	Ditch	1	1.56	0.15	Compact, mid greish brown silty clay.
903	903	Cut	Ditch	1	1.56	0.15	Linear in plan, gently sloping sides, concave base, NE-SW oriented.

Trench	10		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.4	0.3
Trench length (m)	25	Subsoil depth (m)		
Max machine depth (m)	0.48	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> )0.05	0.2

Ditches [1004], [1006] and [1008]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
1000	1000	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay.
1001	1001	Layer	Made Ground	0	0	0.1	
1002	1002	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.2	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay.
1003	1004	Fill	Natural feature/	12.43	1.4		Mid orangish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
1004	1004	Cut	Natural feature/	12.43	1.4		Linear in plan, NE-SW oriented, unexcavated.
1005	1006	Fill	Ditch	2	1.28		Mid orangish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
1006	1006	Cut	Ditch	2	1.28		Linear in plan, ESE-WNW oriented, unexcavated.
1007	1008	Fill	Natural feature/	2	1.48		Mid orangish brown silty clay, unexcavated.
1008	1008	Cut	Natural feature/	2	1.48		Linear in plan, ESE-WNW oriented, unexcavated.

Trench	11		End 1	End 2
Alignment	NE-SW	Topsoil depth (m)	0.2	0.4
Trench length (m)	25	Subsoil depth (m)	0.25	
Max machine depth (m)	0.58	Natural depth (m O	<b>D</b> ]0.03	0

# Summary of archaeological features

Ditches [1104], [1106] ad [1108]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
1100	1100	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0.4	Firm, mid greyish brown sandy clay.
1101	1101	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0.25	Compact, mid brownish yellow silty clay.
1102	1102	Layer	Natural	0	0	0.03	Compact, light yellowish brown silty clay.
1103	1104	Fill	Ditch	17.5	0.5	0.4	Compact, mid reddish grey silty clay.
1104	1104	Cut	Ditch	17.5	0.5	0.4	Linear in plan, steep sides, concave base, NE-SW oriented.
1105	1106	Fill	Natural feature	2.3	1.13		Mid greyish brown silty clay
1106	1106	Cut	Natural feature	2.3	1.13		Linear in plan, WSW-ENE oriented.
1107	1108	Fill	Ditch	2	1.67		Mid greyish brown silty clay
1108	1108	Cut	Ditch	2	1.67		Linear in plan, WNW-ESE oriented.

Trench	12		End 1	End 2
Alignment	n/a	Topsoil depth (m)	0.3	0.34
Trench length (m)	20	Subsoil depth (m)	0.25	0.26
Max machine depth (m)	0.55	Natural depth (m Ol	<b>D</b> ]0.55	0.6

# Summary of archaeological features

Excavation Area. Ditches [2011] [2013] [2015]. Postholes [2006] and [2008]

Context	Cut	Туре	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
2000	0	Layer	Topsoil	0	0	0	Firm, mid to dark greyish-brown sandy silt
2001	0	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0	Compact, mid to light yellowish brown silty clay
2002	0	Layer	Natural	0	0	0	Hard, mid orangish-brown silty clay
2003	2004	Fill	Posthole	0.33	0.33	0.14	Moderately compact, dark greyish-brown silty clay
2004	2004	Cut	Posthole	0.33	0.33	0.14	Sub-circular in plan, steep sided, uneven base
2005	2006	Fill	Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.15	Moderately compact, mottled mid yellowish- brown, silty clay
2006	2006	Cut	Posthole	0.4	0.4	0.15	Circular in plan, moderately sided, flatish base
2007	2008	Fill	Posthole	0.56	0.56	0.15	Moderately compact, mid reddish-brown silty clay

		· '					
2008	2008	Cut	Posthole	0.56	0.56	0.15	Circular in plan, steep sided, uneven base
2009	0	Layer	Subsoil	0	0	0	Moderately compact, mid reddish-brown silty clay
2010	2011	Fill	Ditch	0	2.21	0.4	Moderately compact, mid greyish-brown silty clay
2011	0	Cut	Ditch	0	2.21	0.4	Linear in plan, moderately sloped sides, concave base
2012	2013	Fill	Ditch	0	1.33	0.4	Moderately compact, mid greyish-brown silty clay
2013	0	Cut	Ditch	0	1.33	0.4	Linear in plan, moderately sided, uneven base
2014	2015	Fill	Ditch	0	1.4	0.6	Firm, mid greyish- brown silty clay
2015	0	Cut	Ditch	0	1.4	0.6	Linear in plan, steep sided, concave base

# 15 APPENDIX 3: POTTERY CATALOGUE

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	MNV	Spot date	Dates
202	MESCW			7	114	5		13th-14th c.
202	MESCW	Jar	THEV	20	145	1		13th-14th c.
202	MESCW	Jar	UPEV	1	12	1		13th-14th c.
202	MESCWC			36	137	5		13th-14th c.
202	MESCWC	Jar	THEV	2	7	2		13th-14th c.
202	MESCWC	Jar	THEV	11	61	1	13	13th-14th c.
202	MESCWC	Jar	UPEV	38	216	1		13th-14th c.
202	MSSBW	Jar	THEV	7	26	1		12th-14th c.
202	WVCWM			6	12	2		L.12th-14th c.
402	MESCW			4	13	3		13th-14th c.
402	MSSBW			8	14	1		12th-14th c.
502	LMT			2	2	1		15th-16th c.
502	MESCW			2	5	2		13th-14th c.
502	MESCW	Jug		1	40	1		13th-14th c.
802	EMW			6	5	5		11th-12th c.
802	EMW	Jar	SEV	1	1	1		11th-12th c.
802	HOLL			8	61	1		L.13th-14th c.
802	MESCW			8	44	3		13th-14th c.
802	MESCW	Jar	EVSQ	2	34	1	L.13-14	13th-14th c.
802	MESCWC			8	22	5		13th-14th c.
804	MESCW	Bowl ?		1	27	1		13th-14th c.
2010	RBGW			1	1	1		1st-4th c.
2010	EMW			3	7	3		11th-12th c.
2010	MESCW			7	106	3		13th-14th c.
2010	MESCW	Jug	TRBD	57	516	1		13th-14th c.
2010	MSSBW			1	1	1		12th-14th c.
2010	HOLG			5	72	1		L.13th-14th c.
2010	LMT	Jug?		23	168	1		15th-16th c.
2014	EMW			1	1			11th-12th c.
2014	HOLG	Jug	COLL	6	210	1		L.13th-14th c.
2014	MESCW			1	3			13th-14th c.

 $\label{eq:Key-rims} \mbox{Key-rims: EVSQ-everted square-beaded, SEV-simple everted, THEV-thickened everted, UPEV-upright everted} \\ - \mbox{upright everted}$ 

# 16 APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL RESIDUES

Context Number		1	2	3
		802	610	2010
Cut Number		803	612	2011
Trench Number		8	6	N/A
Context Type		Fill	Fill	Fill
Feature Type		Ditch	Pit	Ditch
Period		MED	UND	UND
Volume of bulk		40	30	24
Volume of flot (millilitres)		47	260	50
Method of Processing		F	WS	F
Subsampled Retained?		N	Υ	N
RETENT		1		
Finds				
Pottery		2		3
Biological Remains			l	
Animal bone		1		1
Coprolite			2	
Mollusc shell (indeterminate				
frags.)				1
FLOT			l	
Charcoal				
Charcoal >4 mm		2	2	1
Charcoal 2 - 4 mm		2	2	1
Charcoal <2 mm		3	3	4
Seeds	Common name		l	
Ajuga spp.	Bugles		1	
Alisma spp.	Water-plantains		2	
Anthemis cotula	Stinking chamomile		1	
Apiaceae spp.	Carrots		1	
Atriplex spp.	Oraches		1	1*
Bryonia dioica	White bryony		2	
Carduus spp.	Thistles		1	
Carex spp.	Sedges		4	
cf. Cannabis sativa	Hemp		4	
Chenopodium spp.	Goosefoots		3	
Fallopia convolvulus	Black-bindweed		1	
Lemna spp.	Duckweed		2	

Sample Number		1	2	3
Context Number		802	610	2010
Cut Number		803	612	2011
Trench Number		8	6	N/A
Lycopus europaeus	Gypsywort		1	
Persicaria spp.	Knotweeds		1	
Potamogeton spp.	Pondweeds		4	
Prunus spp.	Cherries		2	
Ranunculus				
acris/bulbosus/repens	Buttercups		4	
Ranunculus sceleratus	Celery-leaved buttercup		3	
Ranunculus subsp.				
batrachium	Crowfoots		4	
Rubus spp.	Brambles		4	
Rumex spp.	Docks		4	
Salvia spp.	Claries		1	
Solanum spp.	Nightshades		4	
Sonchus spp.	Sow-thistles		2	
Sparganium cf. erectum	Branched bur-reed		4	
Thorns - indeterminate			3	
Buds - indeterminate			1	
Seeds - unknown			2	
Carbonised Cereals				
Triticum aestivum/durum	Bread wheat			1
Cereal - Broken/distorted				1
Other Plant Macrofossils				
Wood			4	
Fragmented plant matter			4	
Roots/tubers		3	3	3
Molluscs	Habitat	I .	1	
Anisus spp.	Freshwater		1	2
Carychium				
minimum/tridentatum	Terrestrial	1	1	2
Discus rotundatus	Terrestrial		1	
Gyraulus spp.	Freshwater		4	
Succinea spp.	Terrestrial		1	
Vallonia spp.	Terrestrial		3	3
Vertigo spp.	Terrestrial		1	1

Sample Number	1	2	3
Context Number	802	610	2010
Cut Number	803	612	2011
Trench Number	8	6	N/A
Juveniles - indeterminate	1	3	2
Shell fragments	1	3	3
Fragments	•		
(terrestrial/freshwater)			
Biological Remains			
Daphnia ephippia		4	
Ostracods		1	
Insect remains/puparia	1	3	
Industrial Waste	•		
Coal			1

### 17 APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM EVALUATION

OASIS ID: preconst1-359154

Project details

Project name Land Adjoining No. 8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk. An Archaeological

**Evaluation** 

Short description of The evaluation identified a series of medieval ditches dividing the site into

the project

regular plots, parallel to the main road and existing field system. The ditches are most likely cotemporary with a series of furrows identified in Trench 7. A well or pond was discovered in Trench 6. A post-medieval boundary ditch illustrated on historical OS mapping was discovered in Trench 10. The remains encountered during the evaluation are thought to be indicative of a medieval field system close to a medieval enclosure excavated on adjacent land. A large amount of 12th-13th century pottery in a ditch slot in Trench 3 suggests medieval occupation close by.

Project dates Start: 12-08-2019 End: 14-08-2019

Previous/future

Yes / Not known

work

Any associated DC/19/1462/FUL - Planning Application No.

project reference

codes

Any associated DAR048 - Sitecode

project reference

codes

Any associated DAR048 - Museum accession ID

project reference

codes

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m

Monument type DITCH Medieval

Monument type FURROW Medieval

Monument type POND Uncertain

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT Medieval

Significant Finds COCKLE SHELL Medieval

Significant Finds BUCKLE Medieval

Investigation type "Part Excavation"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL DARSHAM Land adjoining No. 8 The Street

Darsham Suffolk

Study area 1.02 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 41372 70204 52.276310196069 1.538698020942 52 16 34 N 001 32 19

E Point

**Project creators** 

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Organisation

Project brief Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

originator

Project design Ben Hobbs

originator

Project Christiane Meckseper

director/manager

Project supervisor Judyta Mlynarska

Type of Developer

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Metal", "Animal Bones"

Digital Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Digital Media "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"

available

Paper Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Section"

available

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land adjoining no. 8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk: An Archaeological

Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Mlynarska, J.

Date 2019

Issuer or publisher PCA

Place of issue or Pampisford, Cambridge

publication

Entered by Christiane Meckseper (cmeckseper@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 13 September 2019

### 18 APPENDIX 6: OASIS FORM EXCAVATION

OASIS ID: preconst1-387157

Project details

Project name Land adjoining No. 8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk. An

Archaeological Excavation

the project

Short description of Mitigation phase, following on from evaluation (preconst1-359154). An area measureing 20m x 20m was opened around Ditch segement

[203] in order to further classify the feature and any possibly adjacent settlement evidence. Ditch [203] had contained a large quantity of medieval pottery (128 sherds) and a further segment excavated into the same ditch retrieved an additional 118 sherds of mainly 13th-14th century pottery. Two postholes were also present. They did not form a structure of fence ine and their function is unclear. The excavation confirmed the character of the site as a medieval agricultural field system, most likely adjacent to possible green-side settlement by 'China Green' c. 700m north-east from the medieval core of Darsham

village.

Project dates Start: 25-11-2020 End: 27-11-2020

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated preconst1-359154 - OASIS form ID

project reference

codes

Any associated DAR048 - Museum accession ID

project reference

codes

associated DAR048 - Sitecode Any

project reference

codes

Recording project Type of project

Monument type **DITCH Medieval** 

Monument type **DITCH Post Medieval** 

Monument type POSTHOLE Uncertain Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL DARSHAM Land Adjoining No. 8

The Street, Darsham

Postcode IP17 3QJ

Study area 400 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 41367 70202 52.276294458698 1.538623437289 52 16 34 N

001 32 19 E Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Organisation

Project brief Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeology

originator

Project Christiane Meckseper

director/manager

Project supervisor Harvey Furniss

Type of Developer

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Physical Archive ID DAR048

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Digital Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Digital Archive ID DAR048

Digital Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"

Digital Media "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

available

Paper Archive Suffolk County Council

recipient

Paper Archive ID DAR048

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Section"

available

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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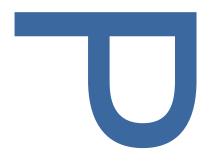
Description pdf file

Entered by Christiane Meckseper (cmeckseper@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 3 March 2020

# 19 APPENDIX 7: WRITTEN STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION

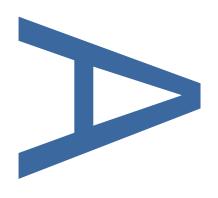
WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION FOR A
PROGRAMME OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
ON
LAND ADJOINING NO. 8 THE
STREET, DARSHAM, SUFFOLK





LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

PLANNING REFERENCE: DC/19/1462/FUL



**OCTOBER 2019** 

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Excavation on Land Adjoining No. 8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk ©Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, October 2019

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Excavation on Land Adjoining No.8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk

Local Planning Authority: East Suffolk Council

Planning Reference: DC/19/1462/FUL

Parish Code: DAR048

Central National Grid Reference: TM 41367 70202 (c)

Written and researched by: Christiane Meckseper

Project Manager: Christiane Meckseper

Commissioning client: RPS Consulting

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

**Central Office** 

The Granary

Rectory Farm

**Brewery Road** 

**Pampisford** 

Cambridgeshire

**CB22 3EN** 

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: cmeckseper@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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October 2019

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### 1 INTRODUCTION

# 1.1 General Background

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) has been commissioned by RPS Consulting on behalf of Hobson Homes to undertake a program of archaeological excavation at the site of proposed development on Land adjoining No.8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk, IP17 3QJ, National Grid Reference TM 41367 70202 (c) (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The 1.018ha (10177m²) proposed development is intended for 26no. residential dwellings, access, car parking and open space (Planning Reference DC/19/1462/FUL). A condition for planning consent requiring archaeological work has been placed on the site due to the high archaeological potential of the proposed development. This is in line with National Planning Policy Framework 2019.
- 1.1.3 An archaeological evaluation, undertaken in July 2019, identified a series of medieval ditches dividing the site into regular plots, parallel to the main road. A large quantity of medieval pottery, dating to the 11th-14th century, mainly from a ditch in Trench 2, implied the presence of medieval settlement activity in very close proximity. Hemp seed recovered from a pond, in one of the evaluation trenches, suggested that this may on occasion have been used as a retting pond (Mlynarska 2019).
- 1.1.4 On the basis of the evaluation results, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) set a requirement for an archaeological excavation.
- 1.1.5 This document comprises the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological excavation and conforms to the SCCAS/CT Requirements for Archaeological Excavation 2012 Ver 1.1.

## 1.2 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 The archaeological background detailed below has been taken from current data held by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record, an HER search for the

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relevant data was purchased for this report in July 2019. Site references relate to Suffolk HER designations.

1.2.2 The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological interest, as recorded by information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). Due to the rural nature of the locality the incidences of development-led archaeological investigations are limited. Archaeological artefacts are mostly limited to chance finds.

### **Prehistoric**

1.2.3 Prehistoric activity in the immediate area is represented by a fragment of Neolithic flint axe (SHER DAR002) found at Priory Farm located c.370m to the north of the proposed development area (PDA) and two flint flakes found c.650m to the south (SHER DAR005). An archaeological evaluation between Station Garage and Railway Cottage 815m to the south-west of the PDA found a single sherd of prehistoric pottery (SHER DAR021). A watching brief at a location 986m to the south of the site found several prehistoric flints (SHER DAR033). A site located c.1.2km o the south of the proposed development site on the Main Road revealed a ditch containing Bronze Age pottery and a pit containing Bronze Age struck flint (SHER DAR040).

# Roman

1.2.4 Evidence for Romano-British occupation is represented by the location of a villa site with tessellated floor and hypocaust c.800m to the east of the PDA with pottery and fragment of quern stone (SHER DAR003). Find spots of Romano-British material have been made in the vicinity including Roman tegula building material and a coin 985m to the south-east (SHER DAR016) and an early Roman silver Denarius 870m south-east (SHER DAR015). Two Roman cremations have been found during archaeological investigations in the field just to the west of the site (SHER DAR030).

# **Anglo-Saxon and Medieval**

1.2.5 Darsham is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 with land held including 30

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- acres with a church that indicates a Saxon village situated here. A scatter of Anglo-Saxon artefacts including a cruciform brooch have been found 832m to the south-east of the PDA (SHER DAR015). The 12th century Grade I listed church of All Saints is located 775m to the east (SHER DAR011).
- 1.2.6 Several medieval moated sites in the area are recorded; Cheney Moat (SHER DAR010) located 400m to the east; a moat and possible croft 570m to the south-west (SHER DAR001) and at Lymball's Farm c.1km to the north (SHER WLN002). A possible medieval barn with medieval finds scatter is recorded c.650m to the south (SHER DAR005). An 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century field system and enclosure is located 160m to the south-east of the PDA (SHER DAR035). Fragments of Dutch floor tile from the 14th -16th centuries with medieval roof tile have been found at a site 827m to the east (SHER DAR003).
- 1.2.7 Darsham Old Hall and grounds (SHER DAR012) is located c.500-600m to the south-west of the PDA and includes monuments such as medieval ditch, moat and pond and the hall itself dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Medieval ditches and pottery were located at a site 815m to the south-west (SHER DAR021) A medieval or post-medieval lead disc weight was found 937m to the south-east (SHER DAR032). Medieval field systems and enclosures have been identified by archaeological investigation 100m to the west of the PDA (SHER DAR030) and 150m to the south-east (SHER DAR035).

### Post-medieval

- 1.2.8 Monuments from the post-medieval period in the vicinity of the PDA include Mill House (SHER DAR007) a large post mill with two-story roundhouse 125m to the north-east and a Methodist chapel dating from 1873, 92m to the south on Fox Lane (SHER DAR028).
- 1.2.9 The parkland of Darsham Old Hall, 562m to the south-west, (SHER DAR012) is shown on a map of 1675 as an empaled park with the hall centrally placed. Later additions to the park and gardens date from the 18th and 19th centuries. Part of a large rectangular cess pit from the 18th century and a witches bottle were found a t Garden Cottage 862m to the south-east (SHER DAR006).

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1.2.10 A post-medieval finds scatter located 586m to the south-west included a Tudor purse bar and copper-alloy sphere (SHER DAR026). An evaluation 718m to the south-west of the PDA revealed post-medieval pit, posthole and land drain (SHER DAR027).

# 1.3 Previous Archaeological Work

- 1.3.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeological Solutions in 2014, 100m to the east of the current proposed development area, in advance of a housing development. The excavations revealed a medieval rural landscape dating from the 12th to 14th centuries including an enclosure and field boundaries. Evidence of a possible croft at the location was uncovered including refuse pits, a possible well and quarry pit. A feature thought to be a possible medieval pond was also recorded. The evaluation also encountered two Roman cremation burials carbon-dated to the 1st or 2nd century A.D (Mustchin, 2015).
- 1.3.2 In the summer of 2017 Archaeological Solutions undertook an archaeological excavation on land to the rear of 1-2 Chapel Cottages, Fox Lane, Darsham, c.200m to the south-east of the current proposed development area.
- 1.3.3 The excavation found two phases of an enclosed medieval landscape characterised by several linear boundary ditches, most along the alignments of existing roads in the vicinity. In addition a trackway an area of possible strip fields in the north-west of the site were recorded. Medieval activity was represented by clusters of postholes and pits, some of which were associated with episodes of domestic rubbish disposal. A possible fence line was recorded in the north of the site and a beam-slot and posthole structure possibly represented a small animal pen. In the south-west portion of the site a series of ditches in a grid pattern were also be interpreted as stock pens. A possible post-medieval enclosure was also identified in this area.
- 1.3.4 Finds and environmental evidence indicated a locally mixed agricultural economy based on cereal cultivation and animal husbandry dominated by cattle with some remains of sheep/ and swine. The medieval pottery

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assemblage from the site collectively spanned the 11th to 14th centuries (Mustchin, 2018).

1.3.5 The evaluation undertaken on the development site itself identified a medieval field system, possibly associated with the enclosure on the neighbouring site. Pottery from some of the ditches similarly dated to the 11th - 14th centuries, and the quantity of sherds retrieved suggests settlement in close proximity. A pond, revealed in one of the trenches, may have been part of the same field system. Hemp seed recovered from its lower fills suggests that on occasion this may have been used as a retting pond (Mlynarska 2019).

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### 2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

# 2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area is that of Crag Group Sand, a detrital sedimentary deposit of shallow-marine origin forming interbedded sequences of fine to coarse-grained material in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods: The local environment previously dominated by shallow seas (British Geological Survey 2019).
- 2.1.2 The superficial geological deposits are Lowestoft Formation Diamicton, detrital sedimentary deposits glacigenic in origin created by actions of ice and meltwater within glacial and inter-glacial periods in the Quaternary Period, the local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (BGS 2019).

# 2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 The proposed development area is currently an open grassed field located adjacent to the north of the junction of The Street and Fox Lane Darsham and to the west of new housing development Millfields.
- 2.2.2 The land of the proposed development area is located at a height of c.30m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Land rises gently to the west at 33m AOD, and declines slightly to a level of 22m AOD in the base of the valley c. 500m to the north, and more gradually to the south towards the valley of the Yox/Minsmere River at 17m AOD.

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### 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Broad Aims

- 3.1.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigations will be to seek to contribute to an understanding of the character, condition, date and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.
- 3.1.2 The excavation will include a comprehensive appraisal of the context in which the archaeological evidence rests and should aim to highlight any research priorities relevant to any further investigation of the site (see 3.6).
- 3.1.3 The excavation will provide a model of the archaeological remains present on the site and include an appraisal of their significance. The archaeological remains will be examined in their local and wider regional context in order to fully contextualize the results. Particular attention will be given to tying in the results of excavation with related remains that have been previously excavated on adjacent sites and during the evaluation. Based on the evaluation and known archaeological and historical context of the area, medieval remains dating to the 11th-14th century are anticipated.
- 3.1.4 The excavation will aim to put the results a local, regional and national context, as appropriate, with reference to the East Anglian regional research agendas:
  - -Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1.

    Resource Assessment (Glazebrook 1997)
  - -Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2.

    Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
  - -Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region (Medlycott and Brown 2008)
  - -Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011)
- 3.1.5 In particular it is anticipated that the excavation will have the following aims,

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although others may become apparent as the project develops:

- -To characterise and record the archaeological remains on site in order to inform mitigation on the impact of development
- -To examine the nature, date and function of any features on site
- -To retrieve information to reconstruct past landscapes and environment
- -To determine the human impact on the landscape
- -To disseminate the results to the wider archaeological community and other interested parties
- 3.1.6 The excavation report will aim to use the full spectrum of environmental techniques appropriate for this aspect of investigation to attempt to model the past landscape of the area and how it was transformed throughout various phases of land use but also through natural processes.
- 3.1.7 The excavation assessment report will include a comprehensive appraisal of the geological, topographical, historical and archaeological context of the excavated evidence and will highlight any research priorities relevant to further post-excavation research.

# 3.2 Site Specific Research Aims

3.2.1 Site specific aims are to clarify the nature of the medieval ditches and any other activity on the site and to identify whether the site is part of the medieval infield/outfield system of Darsham - or whether any potential settlement or other features, that may be associated with the large amounts of pottery found in ditch segment [203] in Trench 2, can be identified.

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### 4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 The scheme will comprise an open area excavation measuring 20m x 20m in extent (Figure 2). Should settlement-related archaeological features be revealed, the excavation area will be extended to clarify their nature and extent. The scope of the area extension will be discussed during the first monitoring meeting, to be held after the initial 20m x 20m area has been stripped.
- 4.1.2 All aspects of the investigation shall be conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (ClfA 2014), the Suffolk County Council Requirements of Archaeological Excavation (SCCAS 2012) and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occasional Paper 14, 2003).

# 4.2 Machining and site planning

- 4.2.1 Within the excavation area the topsoil, subsoil or man-made made ground deposits will be machine stripped by a mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket down to the archaeological horizon or geological horizon, whichever comes first. Upon encountering any archaeological features the procedure followed is detailed below.
- 4.2.2 Excavation edges will be stepped to create safe working area within the trench appropriate to the depth of the stripped deposits. Where extensive deposits of made ground are present a phased approach to machining may be required in localised areas.
- 4.2.3 Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools.
- 4.2.4 Metal-detecting will be carried out of any stripped deposits throughout the excavation process and all archaeological features and spoil heaps will be surveyed by metal-detector as they are encountered. The metal detector will not be set to discriminate against iron.

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4.2.5 Limits of excavation of all trenches, pre-excavation and post-excavation plans of archaeological features and heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) will be recorded using a Leica 1200 or Geomax Global positioning System (GPS) rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

# 4.3 Recording and Sampling

- 4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.3.2 All features will be investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.
- 4.3.3 Drawn records will be in the form of survey plans, drawn plans and section drawings of all archaeological features at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50) while all individual deposits and cuts will be recorded as written records on PCA pro-forma context sheets.
- 4.3.4 Linear features will be investigated by means of slots excavated across their width and measuring at least 1m in length, positioned to avoid areas of intercutting/ disturbance in order to provide uncontaminated finds assemblages. If stratigraphic relationships between features are not visible in plan, slots will also be positioned at feature intersections to determine relationships in section with the aim to assist with phasing the site as required in consultation with the project manager and site supervisor.
- 4.3.5 Discrete features such as pits and postholes will be at least 50% excavated and when considered appropriate 100% excavated. Postholes associated with buildings will be initially 50% excavated, sampled for sieving and 100% excavated if appropriate.
- 4.3.6 Significant features such as structural remains (e.g. eaves drip gullies, sunken

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feature buildings and beam slots), industrial features (kilns, ovens, domestic hearths, metalworking furnaces) and burials (cremations and inhumations) will be recorded and excavated in plan and suitable cross-sections will be recorded (except for inhumations). These features will then be 100% hand excavated. Appropriate sampling (including bulk sampling and sieving) will be implemented for all significant features.

- 4.3.7 High-resolution digital photographs will be taken at all stages of the monitoring process. Digital photographs will be taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs will be taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.
- 4.3.8 Artefacts and ecofacts will be collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from site (ClfA 2014; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).
- 4.3.9 A metal detector will be used during excavation in order to enhance finds recovery.
- 4.3.10 Bulk samples, 40 litres in volume, will be taken by the excavator and in consultation with the project's environmental specialist where practicable, in order to recover micro- and macro-botanical environmental remains. The broad aim of such sampling is to recover evidence relating to the past environment and agricultural economy of the site, and how these changed over time under both natural and anthropogenic influence.
- 4.3.11 Buried soils and associated deposits will be inspected on site by the PCA project manager in consultation with the PCA geoarchaeologist whose advice will be sought as to whether soil micromorphology or other analytical techniques will enhance understanding of depositional processes and transformations at the site.
- 4.3.12 Some of the questions that will be addressed, in terms of plant remains are:

-the nature of biological remains;

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- -a broad indication of habitats represented;
- -indications of origin of material;
- -range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- -concentrations of macro-remains
- -are there differences in remains from undated and dated features (thus the degree of likely association/disassociation)
- -variation between different feature types and areas of site
- -the approximate proportions and types of mineral and organic components, including comments relating to presence/absence of industrial spatter and hammerscale or other technological material;
- -research questions that should be formulated if full analysis of any material is recommended;
- -Waterlogged organic materials will be dealt with following guidelines set out in the English Heritage documents Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather (1995) and Waterlogged Wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood 3rd edition (2010). Subsamples of waterlogged remains will be retained and considered for absolute dating where appropriate.
- 4.3.13 Environmental sampling will make reference to the following guideline documents:
  - English Heritage, 2011, Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition).
  - Association for Environmental Archaeology, 1995, Environmental archaeology and archaeological evaluations. Recommendations concerning

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the environmental archaeology component of archaeological evaluations in England. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 2, 8 ff. York: Association for Environmental Archaeology;

- Dobney, K., Hall, A., Kenward, H. and Milles, A., 1992, A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology. Circaea 9.1 (1992 for 1991), pg. 24-26;
- Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis.
- 4.3.14 On site sampling will largely comprise bulk environmental sampling of 40 litres (where the feature allows for this volume) to be hand collected and retained for analysis in suitable sealed containers (10L buckets). Additional sampling on site may include pollen and soil micromorphological tins (ranging from 10cm to 50cm in length) which will be either sterile plastic or metal containers which will be taken form appropriate features and deposits and sealed on site to prevent modern contamination.
- 4.3.15 Radiocarbon samples will be hand collected on site or in the office during processing of finds and environmental samples and will be selected, noted and contained in a sealed foil packet to be sent to the relevant specialist. The need for any other forms of sampling (and any associated costs involved with this) will be discussed on site with a suitable specialist, SCCAS/CT and the consultant/client.

### 4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The first monitoring meeting will be held after the initial site strip, clean and presentation of the base plan, but prior to major excavation work. Subsequent monitoring meetings will be held and arranged during the course of the project.

### 4.5 Treasure

4.5.1 All finds defined as Treasure will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended by the Treasure Designation Order 2002 No. 2666). Where

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removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. Any finds that could be considered treasure under the terms of the Act made during the process of fieldwork will be immediately reported to the Finds Liaison Officer, so that it is properly reported to the appropriate Coroner within 14 days of discovery in line with the Treasure Act.

### 4.6 Human Remains

4.6.1 If human remains are encountered, SCCAS/CT and the consultant/client will be informed. No further excavation will take place until removal becomes necessary, and will only be carried out in accordance with all appropriate Environmental Health regulations and only after a Ministry of Justice license has been obtained. Excavation may be required where the remains are under imminent threat or dating/preservation information is required for costing purposes. Due to the wide range of variables, costs of excavation, removal and analysis of human remains are not included in any statement of costs accompanying or associated with this specification.

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### 5 ACCESS AND SAFETY

- 5.1.1 Access to the site will be arranged by the client. The client will secure safe access to the site for archaeological personnel and provide suitable welfare provision. The client will also ensure that all deep excavations are adequately shored, conforming to current health and safety regulations and that the archaeological investigations are enabled through the provision and operation of adequate water extraction/pumping equipment.
- 5.1.2 Any costs incurred to secure access or incurred as a result of withholding of access will not be PCA's responsibility. The costs of any delays as a result of withheld access will be passed on to the client in addition to the project costs already specified.
- 5.1.3 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected. The Health and Safety policies will be those of Pre- Construct Archaeology Ltd. and in accordance with all statutory regulations. A Health & Safety Risk Assessment for the site will be produced and made available to all staff.
- 5.1.4 There is a duty of care for the client to provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and the location of live services before site works commence.

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### 6 TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

### 6.1 Timetable

- 6.1.1 The duration of the excavation is intended to be 5 days (excluding any contingencies). The excavation is timetabled to start in autumn 2019.
- 6.1.2 Working days are based on a 5-day working week, Monday to Friday.

# 6.2 Staffing and Support

- 6.2.1 The project will be managed and led by Christiane Meckseper, Project Manager of PCA Central who will ensure all staff are familiarised with the site, the archaeological background of the area and the ground conditions to maximise the effectiveness of the monitoring programme.
- 6.2.2 Key team members will include Christiane Meckseper, Project Manager of PCA Central and a PCA Supervisor. Additional Site Assistants will be drawn from a pool of qualified and experienced staff if required.
- 6.2.3 The following staff will form the project team:
  - 1x Project Manager
  - 1x Supervisor
  - 2x Site Assistant
  - 1x Survey Supervisor
  - 1x Finds Supervisor
  - 1x Finds Assistant
  - 1x Illustrator for post-excavation work.
- 6.2.4 Specialists will be employed for consultation and analysis during postexcavation work as necessary. Specialists will be approached to carry out analysis as required from the list in Appendix 1.

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### 7 REPORTING

- 7.1 The site will use the Event Number/Site Code DAR048. This reference will be used to identify the archive.
- 7.2 A brief site summary can be made available within two weeks of leaving site. Post-excavation tasks and report writing will take approximately 20-26 weeks following the end of fieldwork. Specialists will be employed for consultation and analysis as necessary. If warranted by the results and in discussion with SCCAT/CT, PCA will either provide a Post-Excavation Assessment (PXA) and Updated Project Design (UPD) to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval, which will outline timetabling for further analyses and publication as necessary. Alternatively, the project may proceed straight to full analysis and a final archive report.
- 7.3 Following approval of the draft version by SCCAS/CT, PCA will provide the client with a copy or copies of the PXA/archive report. A final digital copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS/CT.
- 7.4 Publication plans as outlined in the UPD will be completed in accordance with the guidelines contained in Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015). The final consultation with SCCAS/CT will occur on presentation of the archive report and draft publication report and at this time SCCAS/CT will be able to fully discharge the archaeological condition.
- 7.5 Further to its acceptance the contractor will supply an additional copy for inclusion into the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER). Contingency will be made for the publication of results. The minimum requirement will be for an appropriate note to be made available in the Archaeology in Suffolk section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. This summary should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

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# 8 OWNERSHIP OF FINDS, STORAGE AND CURATION OF ARCHIVE

- 8.1 To assist with the creation and curation of the project's archive, the Project Manager will contact the SHER office to obtain an Event Number at the outset of the project. The Event Number DAR048 that was used for the evaluation will be continued for the excavation. SHER use this number as a unique identifier linking all physical and digital components of the archive. The unique event number will be clearly indicated on this specification once received for this project. It will be shown on all paperwork created on site (context forms and plans etc), on relevant ensuing reports and on the OASIS data collection form. The Event Number will also be used as the unique Site Code for the site.
- 8.2 During production of the PXA, PCA will seek the transfer title of ownership of the complete project archive to the Suffolk County Council depository or store by issuing a "Deeds of Transfer Agreement" form.
- 8.3 During post excavation analysis all artefactual material recovered will be held in storage by PCA Central. Arrangements for the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and SCCAS/CT before or during the reporting stage. Transfer of title and the transfer of the ownership of the archive to the County Archive Facility or another local registered depository will be finalised during the completion of the PXA and indicated in the UPD.
- 8.4 PCA will recommend that ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to the relevant authority to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to treasure act legislation separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated following full analysis and assessment of the objects by the appropriate specialist.
- 8.5 The project archive shall be compiled in accordance with SCCAS/CT guidelines (SCCAS Conservation Team 2014 Archaeological Archives in Suffolk. Guidelines for preparation and deposition) and the advice contained in Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term

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- Storage (UKIC 1990), and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992).
- 8.6 A copy of the report will accompany the archive when it is deposited with the SCCAS/CT archaeological stores.
- 8.7 The Suffolk Historic Environment Record is registered with the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. PCA will provide appropriate details relating to this project by completing the OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis, in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage and the Archaeology Data Service.

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# 9 FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

# 9.1 Insurance

9.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd is covered by Public and Employer's Liability Insurance: Public & Products Liability £10,000,000 (Aviva Insurance Ltd & AIG Europe Ltd), Policy nos: 24765101CHC/000133 & 25035008, Employers Liability £10,000,000 (Aviva Insurance Ltd) Policy no: 24765101CHC/000133; Professional Indemnity £5,000,000 RSA (Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd) Policy no: 9446188, Hired in Plant and Equipment £250,000 (Aviva Insurance Ltd) Policy no: 24765101CHC/000133.

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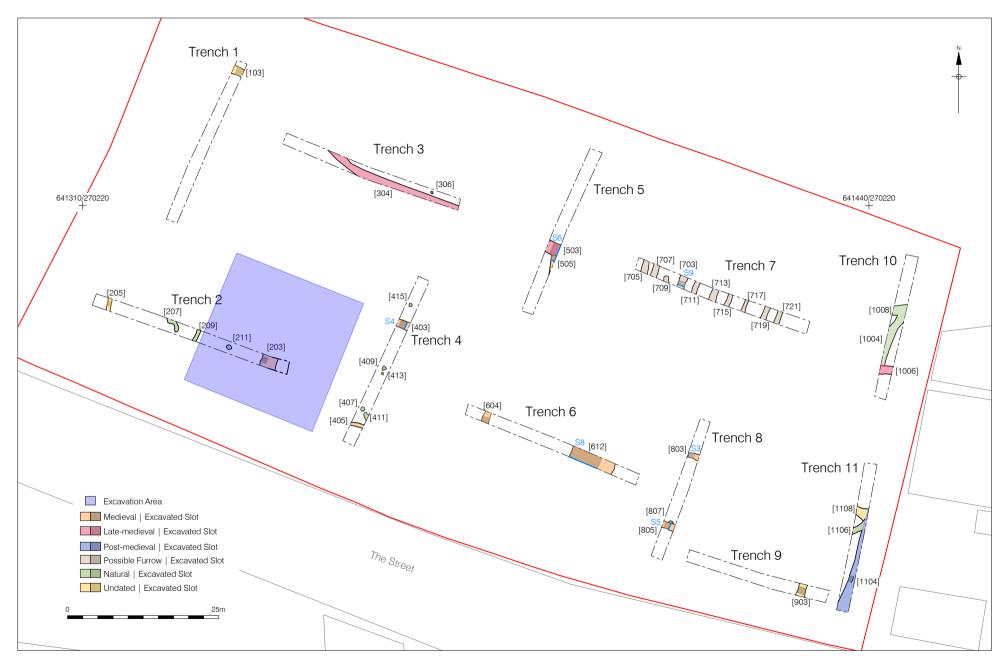
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## APPENDIX 1: FINDS, ENVIROMENTAL AND OTHER SPECIALIST SERVICES

Prehistoric Pottery: Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne (in house), Matt Brudenell, Sarah Percival, Adam Tinsley, Louise Rayner, Jon Cotton, Mike Seager Thomas Roman Pottery: Katie Anderson (in house), Eniko Hudak (in house), Alice Lyons, Kayt Hawkins, Jo Mills (samian), Gwladys Monteil (samian), Joanna Bird (decorated samian), Margaret Darling (North), Brenda Dickinson (samian stamps), Kay Hartley

(mortaria), David Williams (amphora)

Post-Roman Pottery: Chris Jarrett (in house), Berni Seddon (in house), Lucy

Robinson (in house), Luke Barber (Sussex)

Clay Tobacco Pipe: Chris Jarrett (in house)

CBM: Berni Seddon (in house), Kevin Hayward (in house), Amparo Valcarcel (in house), Su Pringle, Ian Betts

Stone & Petrological Analysis: Kevin Hayward (in house), Amparo Valcarcel (in house), Mark Samuel (moulded stone), Chris Green

Glass: John Shepherd (Medieval and Post-medieval Glass), Hugh Wilmott (Medieval Window Glass), Jill Channer, Harriet Foster

Coins: Murray Edwards (in house), James Gerrard (in house), Ruth Beveridge, Mike Hammerson

Inscriptions & Graffiti: Roger Tomlin

Animal Bone: Kevin Rielly (in house), Karen Deighton (in house), Ryan Desrosiers (in house), Philip Armitage (fish and microfauna), Robin Bendrey

Lithics (inc Palaeolithic): Barry Bishop

Osteology: James Gerrard (in house)

Timber: Damian Goodburn, Nigel Nayling (Wales)

Leather: Quita Mould

Small Finds: Ruth Beveridge, Marit Gaimster (post Roman; in house), James

Gerrard (Roman; in house), Hilary Major (Roman), Ian Riddler (esp worked bone)

Metal slag: Lynne Keys, David Starley

Metal detecting: Dave Curry (in house)

Textiles: Penelope Walton Rogers, Sue Anderson

Conservation: Karen Barker, Pieta Greaves (Drakon Heritage)

Dendrochronology: Ian Tyers

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Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Excavation on Land Adjoining No. 8 The Street, Darsham, Suffolk ©Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, October 2019

Archaeomagnetic dating: Mark Noel

Environmental: Kate Turner (in house), Kath Hunter, QUEST (University of Reading)

Documentary Research: Guy Thompson (in house), Chris Phillpotts, Frederick

Hamond (NI), Gillian Draper, Jeremy Haslam, Roger Leech

Industrial Archaeology: David Cranstone, David Starley

Finds Illustration: Cate Davies (in house), Vicki Herring, Heidi Hauser

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### **PCA CAMBRIDGE**

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD **CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN** t: 01223 845 522

e: cambridge@pre-construct.com

### **PCA DURHAM**

THE ROPE WORKS, BROADWOOD VIEW CHESTER-LE-STREET **DURHAM DH3 3AF** t: 0191 377 1111

e: durham@pre-construct.com

### **PCA LONDON**

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE 96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY **LONDON SE4 2PD** t: 020 7732 3925

e: london@pre-construct.com

### **PCA NEWARK**

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD WINKBURN, NEWARK **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG** t: 01636 370 410

e: newark@pre-construct.com

### **PCA NORWICH**

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD **HONINGHAM NORWICH NR9 5AP** T: 01603 863 108

e: norwich@pre-construct.com

### **PCA WARWICK**

UNIT 9. THE MILL. MILL LANE LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN t: 01926 485 490

e: warwick@pre-construct.com

### **PCA WINCHESTER**

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD **WINCHESTER** HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX t: 01962 849 549

e: winchester@pre-construct.com



